

The Tudhoe Schools: Tudhoe Academy, Tudhoe House and Tudhoe Place

By Jeremy Hutson

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Arthur Storey and the Tudhoe Academy

The first school in Tudhoe was the Tudhoe Academy, founded in about 1778 by Rev. Arthur Storey, a Roman Catholic priest who was chaplain for the Salvin family of Croxdale, and missionary for the neighbouring villages of Sunderland Bridge and Tudhoe as well as Croxdale. For most of the 18th century it was illegal for a Catholic to operate a school, and the English Catholic gentry sent their sons to be educated overseas, at establishments such as the English Catholic Colleges at Douai and St. Omer in Flanders. These colleges both educated lay Catholic boys and offered more advanced training leading to the priesthood. However, the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 relaxed the law, and a few Catholic schools opened in England, including Tudhoe Academy and Rev. John Potier's school at Old Hall Green, near Ware in Hertfordshire.

Storey's Academy was a boarding school for boys aged from 8 to 14 and was located adjacent to the present St. Charles's Catholic Church (which was not built until 1869-70). Tony Coia (*Parish of Tudhoe St. Charles*, 1983) quotes an advertisement for the Academy in the Catholic Directory of 1794:

The Rev. Mr. Storey, Tudhoe, near Durham. Terms: Board, Washing, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English, French, Latin, Greek. Languages are taught and lessons are given in Geography and History for twenty-two pounds per annum, to be paid half-yearly. The first quarter is to be advanced at admission. Two guineas entrance. Six hand towels, knife, fork and silver spoon. Dancing half a guinea entrance, and half a guinea a quarter. Recreation is allowed on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. On these days the students walk out, attended by the instructors and proper care is taken, that no injury is received from intense cold. Parents who wish to place their children under the care of the president of this school, may depend upon attention being paid to their morals, behavior and mental improvement. Age for education from eight to fourteen.

A letter dated 1805 from Storey to F. F. Turville, who subsequently sent his son William to Tudhoe, says that Storey then had 25 pupils from the ages of 8 to 12, "generally the sons of Catholic gentlemen or very reputable merchants" (Leicestershire Record Office DG39/1678).

The naturalist Charles Waterton spent 1792 to 1796 at Tudhoe Academy, when he was 9 to 13 years old. He wrote a colourful account of it in March 1862, 3 years before he died, which is quoted in Norman Moore's biography in the 1870 Warne edition of Waterton's *Essays on Natural History*. His account tells anecdotes of the village, its people, and its surroundings. It tells of the Easter tradition of Pasche eggs, of the 17th-century gibbet known as Andrew Mills' stob, and of the famous Tudhoe village ghosts of the headless horseman and the Tudhoe Mouse. It tells of the Douai students (see below), and how Waterton raided the larder to keep them fed. And it tells of Waterton's escapades, which usually seem to end in a birching from Storey or his assistant Rev. Joseph Shepherd, whom Waterton describes as "a very correct disciplinarian":

One morning whilst he was treating me to the unwelcome application of a birch rod, I flew at the calf of his leg, and made him remember the sharpness of my teeth. I wish I had them now; but no one has a right to lament the loss when he is fourscore years of age. In the days of Mr. Shepherd priests wore breeches and worsted stockings, so these were no defence against the teeth of an enraged boy, writhing under a correctional scourge.

The wider history Storey's Academy is closely tied in with that of Douai and of Ushaw College, which succeeded it. The information that follows is culled mostly from David Milburn's *History of Ushaw College* (1964).



Figure 1. The Tudhoe Academy building, with St. Charles's church in the background.

The English Catholic College at Douai was overrun by the French Revolution in October 1792. Some of its students had left for England by then, but the remainder were imprisoned in Doullens. They were released to return to England only in March 1795, but a few escaped from prison. Some of the initial refugees were housed at Old Hall Green, but by January 1794 it had reached capacity. When 11 new escapees arrived in London at the end of January, the five of them who were from the north were sent by William Gibson, Bishop of the Northern District of the Catholic Church, to be lodged with Mr. Storey at Tudhoe. They arrived in March 1794 and were joined in the summer by John Lingard, who had left Douai before them, as their principal. Lingard went on to become an important Catholic historian. The Douai group stayed until September 1794, when they moved on, briefly to Pontop Hall and then to a temporary College that was established in Crook Hall. It was to be another 14 years before more permanent accommodation was found for them.

As soon as Douai was overrun, a search began for a site for a new Catholic College in the north of England. An early proposal was to enlarge the Tudhoe Academy into a new general College to train Catholic boys for the priesthood, in the same way as at Douai. Sir John Lawson, who owned the Academy, gave the building and adjacent lands to Bishop Gibson and his associates. Building plans were drawn up, and in June 1794 an appeal was published, jointly by the Bishops of the Western, Southern and Northern Districts, seeking funds for the proposal from the Catholic gentry of England:

The unhappy events which have taken place in a neighbouring country, having deprived the English Catholics of the greater part of those places of Education, in which hitherto the succession of the Clergy has been preserved; and to which also, they have been accustomed to send their children for instruction; we the undersigned Apostolical Vicars, have taken into our most serious consideration the dreadful consequences of such a failure to the rising generation, and we feel it to be our duty, most earnestly to exhort and solicit the body at large, to concur with us in supplying the said deficiency, by setting on foot a proper place of Education in this Kingdom; from which the Ecclesiastical Ministry may be supplied, and in which the Catholic Youth in general may receive a solid, pious and learned education.

An establishment for that purpose will be commenced immediately at Tudhoe in the County of Durham, which for cheapness of fuel and provisions, healthiness of climate, and other considerations, has been an eligible situation for such an undertaking.

The Plan of studies will be the same as that which was pursued at the English College at Douay. Such alterations only will be admitted as shall appear from circumstances to be advisable.

To provide and furnish such a School must be attended with a considerable expense far beyond our resource, without the assistance of the Zealous and the Charitable. We therefore earnestly exhort all Catholics, whom Providence has blessed with the means, to concur with us in this plan for the support of our holy Religion. And as the greatest part of those Foundations, on which a considerable number of the Clergy have hitherto been

gratuitously maintained during their studies, is now lost in the general wreck of religious property in France, we are under the necessity of soliciting the zealous and opulent members of our body, to remedy that evil either by new foundations or by annual subscriptions for the important purpose.

Contributions to the commencement, or to the subsequent support of this Establishment, will be gratefully received at Messrs Wright and Co., Bankers, Covent Garden, London, at Sir John Lawson & Co., Bankers, Richmond, Yorkshire, and by the undersigned Apostolical Vicars.

Right Rev. CHARLES WALMESLEY, Bath

Right Rev. WILLIAM GIBSON, York

Right Rev. JOHN DOUGLAS, London

London, June 20, 1794

The proposal for a Catholic College at Tudhoe was soon superseded by other ideas. Old Hall was developed into a Southern College, and the Jesuits founded Stonyhurst to replace their former College at St. Omer. But Bishop Gibson hesitated for 10 years over a site for the North. Eventually building work started in 1804 on what was to become Ushaw College. At this point it was clear that the Tudhoe Academy would soon be redundant, and the Academy buildings and lands were sold to Bryan John Salvin in 1805, presumably to raise funds to build Ushaw. Storey's Academy did not close immediately, but Bishop Gibson promised its premises to a community of English nuns, the Poor Clares from Rouen, who had also been ejected during the French Revolution. Salvin agreed to lease the Academy for this purpose. The nuns were in temporary accommodation provided by Sir Carnaby Haggerston at Ellingham in Northumberland, where they operated a girls' school, but Sir Carnaby was keen for them to move on. The situation came to a head in May 1808, and Storey's Academy was closed, though in the end the nuns moved to Scorton Hall in Yorkshire instead.

Eighteen of Storey's students who were destined for Ushaw were sent to the temporary College at Crook Hall. However, this had reached its limits, and in July 1808 the whole community from Crook Hall moved to Ushaw College, still far from finished, with unflagged floors and unglazed windows. The following winter they were decimated by typhus.

Charles Waterton's account of Tudhoe gives a schoolboy's perspective on both Bishop Gibson and Sir John Lawson:

[Mr. Storey] was very frugal in his establishment apart from the school, saving all he could spare to comfort the poor. Bishop Gibson, a learned and holy prelate, was his guest, together with his faithful servant, Thomas, for more than a year and a half while I was there.

and

My first adventure on the water made a lasting impression, on account of the catastrophe which attended it. There was a large horsepond, separated by a hedge from the field which was allotted to the scholars for a recreation-ground. An oblong tub, used for holding dough before it is baked, had just been placed by the side of the road. I thought that I should like to have an excursion on the deep; so taking a couple of stakes out of the hedge, I got into the tub and pushed off – *Ripae ulterioris amore.* I had got about half way over, when, behold the master and the late Sir John Lawson, of Brough Hall, suddenly rounded a corner and hove in sight. Terrified at their appearance, I first lost a stake and then my balance; this caused the tub to roll like a man-of-war in a storm. Down I went to the bottom, and rose again covered with mud and dirt. *Terribili squalor Charon.* My good old master looked grave, and I read my destiny in his countenance: but Sir John said it was a brave adventure, and he saved me from being brought to a court-martial for disobedience and having lost my vessel.

He also tells an anecdote involving Bryan John Salvin, who bought the Academy in 1805 and reappears later:

But now let me enter into the minutiae of Tudhoe School. Mr. Storey had two wigs, one of which was of a flaxen colour, without powder, and had only one lower row of curls. The other had two rows, and was exceedingly well powdered. When he appeared in the schoolroom with this last wig on, I know that I was safe from the birch, as he invariably went to Durham and spent the day there. But when I saw that he had his flaxen wig on, my countenance fell. He was in the schoolroom all day, and I was too often placed in a very uncomfortable position at nightfall. But sometimes I had to come in contact with the birch-rod for various frolics independent of school

erudition. I once smarted severely for an act of kindness. We had a boy named Bryan Salvin, from Croxdale Hall. He was a dull, sluggish, and unwieldy lad, quite incapable of climbing exertions. Being dissatisfied with the regulations of the establishment, he came to me one Palm Sunday, and entreated me to get into the schoolroom through the window, and write a letter of complaint to his sister Eliza in York. I did so, having insinuated myself with vast exertion through the iron stanchions which secured the window; 'sed revocare gradum.' Whilst I was thrusting might and main through the stanchions, on my way out -- suddenly, oh, horrible! the schoolroom door flew open, and on the threshold stood the Reverend Mr. Storey -- a fiery, frightful, formidable spectre! To my horror and confusion I drove my foot quite through a pane of glass, and there I stuck, impaled and imprisoned, but luckily not injured by the broken glass. Whilst I was thus in unexpected captivity, he cried out, in an angry voice, 'So you are there, Master Charles, are you?' He got assistance, and they pulled me back by main force. But as this was Palm Sunday my execution was obligingly deferred until Monday morning.

Mr. Hussey's Account for his Attendance at Arthur Story's for Master John Hussey's Board Appaid to from 2 ^d June to the 20 th August 1806	
To Mr. Story's Taylor & Shaver	£ 3 0
4 Pocket Handkerchiefs	7 2 11
Paper Book	0 5 6
Combs and Barber	0 3 6
New Hat	0 10 6
Shaving	2 3 0
Chaises of Mr. Story's	30 10 10
Pocket money	0 5 6
Paper Stated Periods	0 2 0
For 4 Servants each 4	0 16 0
August 20 1806 Board 2 Months 2 Weeks	5 5 0
Ormel's Spelling Dictionary	20 13 11
	3 6
Mr. Hussey's Cash by Cash of Balance	134 11
	7 11 11

Figure 2. An account for John Hussey's attendance at Arthur Story's Tudhoe Academy in 1806. [Image from Alan Taylor]

*Tudhoe House Academy for boys and Tudhoe Place Seminary for girls:
George Simpson 1811-1830 and John Chapman 1831-1839*

Dodd (1897) writes:

Mr. Storey gave up the school in 1805 (sic), and his successor, Mr. Simpson, a Protestant, appears to have ruined Tudhoe for boarding school purposes. The success of the boys' school prompted him to commence a similar institution for young ladies in the house now occupied by Mr. Crone, but the young ladies used to walk with the young gentlemen in the green lane of Tudhoe Wood, now known as Lovers' Lane, and the parents got to know about it, and withdrew their patronage and support. Subsequently Mr. Storey's school was used as a Catholic Chapel, but since the erection of the present church it has served as a Home for 40 Catholic girls, maintained in it at the cost of various Unions in the diocese. The establishment is managed by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

George Simpson was the eldest son of Edward Simpson, who ran a school at Woden Croft Lodge, near Barnard Castle, from 1792 until 1824. Edward Simpson was an interesting character, who married three times and had at least twelve children. His ancestors are described in a genealogical article in the Teesdale Mercury of 23 November 1870. He had pretensions to scholarship: in 1803 he wrote an article in Vol. 12 of the Agricultural Magazine in support of a design for bracing wooden gates by Charles Waistell, who was one of his London agents. Waistell's article on the same subject in Vol. 11 of the Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry and the Arts (1805) then presents Simpson as an authority on the hanging of gates, referring to a certificate from him on the advantages of the design.

This was the period of the Yorkshire Schools, set up to allow parents in London and elsewhere to consign inconvenient children to far-flung places. Charles Dickens satirised such schools in *Nicholas Nickleby*, and visited Barnard Castle to interview local schoolmasters as part of his research for the book. It is believed that Dickens's one-eyed Wackford Squeers was based on William Shaw, the principal of Bowes Academy, whom Dickens met on his travels, but the advertisement he wrote for Dotheboys Hall may nevertheless have been inspired by the Simpsons: it even mentions the same public house (the Saracen's Head in Snow Hill, on the site of the present Holborn Viaduct). Compare Edward Simpson's advertisement in the Times for 27 July 1798:

EDUCATION – At Mr. SIMPSON’s Academy, Wodencroft Lodge, near Greta Bridge, Yorkshire, Youth are boarded and accurately instructed in the English, Latin and Greek Languages, Writing, Arithmetic, Merchants’ Accounts, and the most useful branches of the Mathematics, at 13 guineas a year, if under 10 years of age; and above that age 14 guineas. French taught by a Native of France, at 1 guinea per annum extra. Cloathing found upon reasonable terms. Further particulars may be had of Mr. Waistell, No. 99, High Holborn; Mr. Hunter, No. 93, St. Martin’s Lane; Mr. Robinson, No. 48, Basing-lane; of Mr. Bott, No. 74, Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square; Mr. Richard Kendal, Paddington New Road, St. Pancras, opposite Portland-street; and of Mr. C. Johnson, Coal Exchange, Thames-street. Mr. Simpson is now in town, and may be treated with every day at the Saracen’s Head, Snow-hill, from 11 until 2.

and his son Ralph’s from the Morning Post of 4 July 1831

ECONOMICAL EDUCATION – At RALPH SIMPSON’S ACADEMY, Newsham Hall, near Richmond, Yorkshire, young Gentlemen are boarded, furnished with every necessary, and educated in whatever their future prospects may require, at 21 guineas a year; no extra charges, and no vacations. The provisions are of the best quality, and without limitation at any meal. The treatment is truly parental, and the situation salubrious. Cards, with references, to be had of Mr. Jones, 8, Cold Bath-square, Clerkenwell; and of Mr. Simpson, who attends from twelve to two o’clock, at the Saracen’s Head Inn, Snow-Hill.

with this from *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838):

EDUCATION. -- At Mr Wackford Squeers's Academy, Dotheboys Hall, at the delightful village of Dotheboys, near Greta Bridge in Yorkshire, Youth are boarded, clothed, booked, furnished with pocket-money, provided with all necessaries, instructed in all languages living and dead, mathematics, orthography, geometry, astronomy, trigonometry, the use of the globes, algebra, single stick (if required), writing, arithmetic, fortification, and every other branch of classical literature. Terms, twenty guineas per annum. No extras, no vacations, and diet unparalleled. Mr Squeers is in town, and attends daily, from one till four, at the Saracen's Head, Snow Hill. N.B. An able assistant wanted. Annual salary 5 pounds. A Master of Arts would be preferred.

George Simpson’s activities may be traced through advertisements in 19th-century newspapers and parish records. He married Margery Archer in Deptford in 1807, and set up a school independently of his father in 1808. In the Lancaster Gazette of 25 June 1808, “Mr. Simpson, Jun., Late of Woden Croft House” announced that he had opened an Academy at Mount Pleasant House, “on the road between Barnard-Castle and Bowes, Yorkshire”. His first daughter, Eliza Mary, was born there on 2 August 1808, but was not christened there. By 1811 he had moved to Tudhoe: his son George Archer Simpson was born there on 3 January, and the two children were christened together at Brancepeth on 24 April 1811. He advertised his school as “Mr. Simpson’s Academy, Tudhoe House” (Lancaster Gazette, 22 June 1811):

At Mr. SIMPSON’S ACADEMY

TUDHOE HOUSE, near RUSHYFORD,

DURHAM,

YOUNG GENTLEMEN are taught the English, Latin and Greek Languages; Writing, Arithmetic, Merchants Accounts, and the most useful Branches of the Mathematics, including Board, on the following terms, viz.

From Six to Nine Years of Age, 20 l Guineas per

From Nine to Fourteen, 21 l

From Fourteen to Sixteen, 23 l annum.

The French Language taught by a Native of France, at 3l. 3s. Drawing, 3l. 3s and 10s 6d Entrance; also, Mechanics, and the Use of the Globes at 1l. 1s. per annum extra.

The health and morals of Mr. Simpson’s pupils are strictly attended to; and, in order to expedite their education as much as possible, he does not allow them any vacation; but innocent recreations, out of school hours, are permitted and encouraged. They dine with himself, and every indulgence is granted which is consistent with their present welfare and future happiness.

Washing, 7s 6d. per quarter.

Much of this wording is almost identical to his father’s advertisements of the same period (e.g. Bristol Mercury, 10 Jan 1820), including the text about health and morals and the “no vacations” policy that is so reminiscent of Dickens.

George Simpson advertised his Academy in cities across the North, including Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and must have spent a lot of time travelling to recruit students; the advertisements often specified dates and times when he would be available “to be treated with” in a local inn. By 1815, the advertisements for Mr. Simpson’s Academy were sometimes accompanied by ones for Misses S. and M. Simpson’s Seminary for Young Ladies (Lancaster Gazette, 8 July 1815). The location of the seminary was initially given just as “Durham”, so at that time it may not have been in Tudhoe: it was probably the same as Misses M. and A. Simpson’s establishment in Darlington, advertised in the Morning Post of 13 October 1820. This advertisement mentions Lionel Simpson, another of Edward Simpson’s sons, born in 1795, who at that time lived at 4 Nelson Square, Blackfriars; his services are offered to take charge of new pupils and accompany them on the long journey north, presumably by stage-coach; a railway route from London to north of Darlington was not established until the Newcastle & Darlington Junction Railway was opened in 1844.

The men of the Simpson family seem to have opened their schools shortly after marriage, when they were in their late 20s or early 30s. Edward himself married Nanny Bayles (his second wife) in 1791 and opened Woden Croft Lodge in 1792, when he was aged 35. George Simpson’s date of birth is unknown, but Lionel married Elizabeth Birkbeck in 1820 and opened a school at Croft Hall, Darlington in 1823, when he was 27 (York Herald, 4 January 1823). Ralph’s school at Newsham Hall was open by 1821, when he was 24 (Times, 6 October 1821), and he married Euphemia Maria Brumwell in 1822. Edward’s daughters started younger than their brothers: Sarah and Mary (Misses S. & M.) Simpson were George’s half-sisters by his father’s second wife Nanny, and were 23 and 21 respectively when their school is first recorded in 1815. Nanny’s third daughter Ann was only 18 when Misses M. & A. Simpson advertised their school in 1820.

George Simpson’s original Tudhoe House Academy operated in the same buildings as Storey’s Academy, near the present church. The Academy is shown in this location on a sketch plan of the Tudhoe farms in 1813 (Durham Record Office D/Fle 2/18/5), where George Simpson is named as the tenant of Academy Farm. In 1818, George Simpson renewed the lease of "that capital messuage or mansion house and farmhold known as Tudhoe House" from Bryan John Salvin (D/Fle 2/18/7). The lease includes the Academy building itself and describes in detail extensive repairs that the tenant is to make. The room names (play room, housekeeper's bedroom, high bedroom, old school dining room, teacher's room, new school room late the chapel, etc.) make it clear that it was already serving as a school, and the mention of a former chapel confirms that it had been Storey’s Academy.

In 1820, George Simpson bought most of the site of the present Tudhoe House, opposite Tudhoe Hall, from Michael Wheatley. In 1821 he started advertising a girls’ school alongside the boys’ school (Lincoln, Rutland & Stamford Mercury, 12 January 1821):

The young Ladies will be under the charge of Mrs. SIMPSON. Having her own daughters to educate, she has for that purpose engaged, as Governess, a lady of eminent attainments, and of considerable experience. It having been thought highly desirable, that the sisters of the pupils at the academy should be educated on the same principles, and in the immediate neighbourhood of their brothers, a most suitable house, at a convenient distance, has been procured.

By 1822 the Simpsons had built Tudhoe House in essentially its modern form. They called it Tudhoe Place, and the advertisements for Tudhoe House Academy for Young Gentlemen were accompanied by ones for Tudhoe Place Seminary for Young Ladies. One in the Liverpool Mercury of 18 October, 1822 described Tudhoe Place as “recently erected”:

AT TUDHOE-PLACE SEMINARY, near Durham, YOUNG LADIES are received under the care of Mrs. and Miss SIMPSON, assisted by a competent Governess from London – Board, with tuition in the English Language, Writing, Arithmetic, and Plain and Ornamental Needle-work, at from £25 to £50 per annum. Respectable Masters will instruct the Young Ladies in Geography and the Use of Globes at 2 Guineas per annum; French or Italian, at 4 Guineas; Drawing, 4 Guineas; and Music, 4 Guineas per annum. Entrance, one guinea. Washing, 15s. per quarter. N.B. – No Vacation.

Tudhoe Place has been recently erected, and combines elegant exterior with appropriate internal accommodations; and the Young Ladies receive every attention and indulgence consistent with their present and future welfare.

Respectable references can be given on application.

Tudhoe Place, Oct 1, 1822.



Figure 3. Tudhoe House (George Simpson's Tudhoe Place) in the 1940s.

George Simpson's father Edward died in 1824, allegedly while in London recruiting for his school (Northern Echo, 25 May 2013). Lionel moved from Croft Hall to run his father's school at Woden Croft Lodge (Yorkshire Gazette, 23 July 1825), while his school at Croft Hall was taken over by John Cranshaw (Newcastle Courant, 14 April 1825). Lionel seems to have been a keen hunter: he is recorded obtaining a game certificate in 1824 and 1827 (Yorkshire Gazette, 25 Sept 1824 and 15 Sept 1827) and was prosecuted for trespass in pursuit of game twice in 1827; he then attempted to prosecute one of his accusers, Edward Unwin of Lartington, for possession of game out of season. This led to a complex legal case, finally ending with a memorandum of compromise in 1832 (DRO, Hanby Holmes papers).

George Simpson was the main beneficiary under Edward's will (Marion Moverley, private communication). There are advertisements for the Tudhoe Academy until at least 1827 (Leeds Mercury, 23 June 1827), and the Glasgow Herald of 28 April 1826 advertised that "Miss Simpson accompanies her father for submitting to his friends the Terms of a Ladies' Seminary". If this was Eliza Mary, born on 2 August 1808, she was just 17 at the time. However, in about 1829 George decided (or was forced) to give up his schools, and advertisements in the Newcastle Courant from 30 January 1830 offered the Tudhoe House Academy to let:

TO BE LET

For such a number of years as may be agreed upon, and entered upon at May-day next TUDHOE HOUSE ACADEMY, with a Garden, Stable, Cow-House, and other Conveniences, for such an Establishment. It is capable of holding 60 Students, stands in a good healthy Situation, about one Mile from the great Road leading from Edinburgh to London, five Miles South from the City of Durham, about 200 Yards from the Turnpike Road leading from that City to Bishop-Auckland, with 47 a. 2r. 27p. of good Land, if required. Mr. Thos. Scott, of Tudhoe, will shew the Premises. Further Particulars may be had on Application to Mr. F. B. Taylor, Aldin Grange, near Durham – January 27th, 1830.

The description of the premises as 200 yards from the turnpike road confirms that this refers to the old Academy building near the church, rather than the new Tudhoe Place (the present Tudhoe House, opposite Tudhoe Hall). It seems it was let to John Chapman, because in 1831 advertisements started appearing for Mr. Chapman's Academy at Tudhoe House (Morning Post, 22 July 1831). Chapman was initially described

as “late of Headlam Hall, near Darlington”. Advertisements for Chapman’s Academy at Tudhoe House appeared until at least 1836 (Morning Post, 19 July 1836), but in 1839 it was once again offered to let, with wording quite similar to that of 9 years before (Newcastle Courant, 22 February 1839). This time it seems there were no takers to use it as a school, though it may have been let as a private house. Chapman moved on and established himself in an Academy at Barnard Castle (York Herald, 25 September 1841).

The next few years were a period of enormous change in the vicinity of Tudhoe. Spennymoor started to develop as a mining town from 1839 onwards, and in 1841 had 150 inhabitants. The Clarence railway opened, providing a link to Stockton, and rail services from London to Newcastle through Ferryhill began in 1844.

In January 1844, William Fleming became Land Agent for Mr. Marmaduke Salvin of Burn Hall. He initially lived at Burn Hall, but after his marriage later the same year he moved to the Academy building. The 1851 Census shows him still there, with the building now named Tudhoe Academy House. In about 1854 the Flemings moved on to Tudhoe Villa (now known as Woodlands, and sadly roofless and derelict). From about 1857, Salvin made the Academy available for the local priest, and a room in it was used as a chapel until St. Charles’s Church opened in 1870. Coia & Hall quote an 1865 trade register: “The Catholics have a small place of worship and also a school now attended by 70 children. Rev. Joseph Humble, Canon of Hexham is the priest”. However, Canon Humble died in December of the same year.

We now return to the fate of George Simpson’s new house, Tudhoe Place (now Tudhoe House). In addition to giving up the Academy, George Simpson began placing advertisements offering the house for sale or let. An advertisement in the Newcastle Courant for 1 May 1830 read:

TO BE SOLD OR LET

And entered upon immediately, in the pleasant and healthful Village of Tudhoc, five Miles South of the City of Durham,

A GOOD HOUSE, with a Garden behind, well stocked with Fruit Trees, being a Residence well adapted for a Ladies’ Boarding School, or a large Family. The Front View or Ground Plan may be seen at the Office of the Durham County Advertiser, and further Particulars known on Application to Mr Simpson, of Tudhoc.

Any Person taking the above may be accommodated with a few Acres of Land.

George Simpson left Tudhoe and by April 1831 had replaced his brother Lionel as principal of his father’s old school at Woden Croft Lodge (Newcastle Courant, 9 April 1831). He evidently decided to sell the new house by auction, and flowery advertisements for the sale appeared in the Examiner (14 August 1831) and the Newcastle Courant (20 August 1831):

Near the City of Durham. – A spacious Freehold Mansion, suited to a Family of Consideration, with large Walled Garden; also, at a short distance, Twenty-three Acres of valuable Land, adjoining the Clarence Railway, possessing Coal. – To be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. George Robins, at the Auction Mart, opposite the Bank, on Tuesday, the 30th inst., at Twelve, in Two Lots,

A Desirable FREEHOLD MANSION, in every respect suited to a family of the first respectability, situate at Tudhoe, facing TUDHOE HALL, formerly the seat of the ancestors of Bryan John Salvin, Esq., about five miles from the city of Durham, fourteen from Darlington, five from Bishop Auckland, and within a mile of the Great North Road.

The house contains ample and very superior accommodation, with numerous domestic offices; and from a cupola erected in the centre of the roof the most delightful and extensive panorama is presented, including Durham Cathedral, Whitworth Hall, Brancepeth Castle and Church, Merrington, Westerton Folly, &c. There is an extensive walled garden attached to the residence; also, at about half a mile, a cottage, stable, and twenty-three acres of meadow, pasture, and arable land, with a small thriving plantation, adjoining the river Wear and Clarence Railway. The land is surrounded by the COAL MINES of the Marquis of Londonderry, Lord Durham, Bishop Auckland, &c.; and there is not the slightest doubt but that the seams of coal now at work on their estates pass through this land. Mr. Robins has, therefore, great pleasure in calling the attention of the speculator to this property.

The mansion may be viewed until the sale, and particulars had; also at the Queen’s Head, Durham; Golden Lion,

Sunderland; George, Newcastle; Eldridge's Hotel, York; the Auction Mart; and at Mr. G. Robins's Offices, Covent-Garden, where a drawing and elevation of the house and grounds may be seen.

George Henry Robins (1778-1847) was London's premier auctioneer, famous for his high-flown descriptions of the properties he had to sell. James Grant wrote over 40 pages eulogising Robins's skills in *Portraits of Public Characters* (1841). Railways were a new venture at the time, and the Clarence Railway was still under construction; in fact the Byers Green branch that ran just south of Tudhoe did not open until 1837. The cupola offering a panoramic view from the roof of Tudhoe House sadly no longer exists.

The auction was unsuccessful, and an advertisement in the Newcastle Courant for 8 October 1831 announced

EDUCATION

Woden Croft Lodge Academy, Yorkshire

NEAR Barnard-Castle

G. SIMPSON takes this Medium of tendering his most grateful Acknowledgements to his Friends and the Public, for the liberal Patronage afforded him for so many Years, and respectfully adds that the Attention and Care which have so far given Satisfaction, will be assiduously continued.

Mr. S. is now in Newcastle, at Mr. Hall's, opposite the High Bridge, Pilgrim-Street, where he may be seen daily, from 12 to 2 o'Clock, until the 13th instant.

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT

ALL that valuable MANSION and LAND, situated at Tudhoe, within 5 Miles of the City of Durham. Further Particulars may be known by applying to Mr. Simpson, the owner, as above.

Further advertisements offering the house for sale or let appeared (Newcastle Journal, 12 May 1832), and eventually an advertisement in the Times for 1 August 1834 offered

BOARD and LODGING for single gentlemen, at Tudhoe-place, Tudhoe, nr. Durham.— The house is an elegant building, commanding an extensive prospect; the accommodations are very superior. Mrs. Simpson is now in town, and may be seen daily from 12 till 2, at 65, Coleman-street, city. Terms £40 per annum. Respectable reference will be given and required.

It was not enough. Simpson had funded the building in part with a mortgage for 500 pounds from the Rev. George Bowness, of Rokeby, York. He eventually defaulted on the mortgage, and in 1840 Bowness wrote to the executors of Bryan John Salvin's estate:

Rokeby Rectory.

Greta Bridge May 8th 1840

Sir,

I shall have no objection to dispose of the house and premises at Tudhoe, now tenanted by Mr. Arkness. In the present improving state of property in that neighbourhood I should not be willing to take a less price than six hundred pounds. I should have more satisfaction in transferring it to Mr. Salvin than any other purchaser, as it naturally forms an integral part of his estates. The premises I have always understood cost Simpson 1850, which I can believe from the fanciful and expensive way in which they are finished. Waiting your early reply, I am,

Sir,

Your obt. servt.,

Geo. Bowness

There is a sketch plan that shows the outline of the house, confirming that it had its present size by 1840, despite the fact that it is shown as narrower on the Tithe Plan of 1839. Bowness eventually settled for 550 pounds.

An advertisement in the Newcastle Courant of 16 June 1848 offered Tudhoe House to let, describing it as

... contains a Drawing Room, Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Pantry, Kitchen, Back Kitchen, Bed Room with Dressing Room, 5 Bed Rooms, Store Room, Bath Room, Servant's Bed Rooms, Water Closet, and Cellaring complete, with Garden and Summer House, etc., Coach House, Stable, Harness Room, Byre, etc. A Cottage with 3 Rooms may either be Let with the Premises or not.

This seems unlikely to be the Academy (which William Fleming lived in from 1844 to after 1851), so it is probably the present Tudhoe House (which is named as such on the Ordnance Survey of 1857). It seems likely that it had been tenanted since Salvin bought it from Bowness.

The history of George Simpson and his wife after 1834 is unknown. However, the Pall Mall Gazette of 12 February, 1867 records the death in Islington of Sarah M. Simpson, "daughter of the late Mr. G. Simpson, of Tudhoe House, Durham, at Regina-road, Tellington Park, 31st ult.". Funeral records show that she was 53 years old.

Ralph Simpson's school in Newsham lasted longest. It opened at Newsham Hall in about 1821. In 1824, Ralph's advertisements mentioned that "Mr. Simpson particularly solicits enquiry into the treatment of his Pupils, in consequence of the late Prejudice entertained against the Yorkshire schools" (Morning Post, 8 July 1824). This was before the publication of *Nicholas Nickleby*, so the prejudice he referred to was probably that arising from the prosecution of William Shaw for ill-treatment of his scholars in 1823. The school remained at Newsham Hall until 1834 (Morning Post, 10 October 1834) and then moved to the nearby Earby Hall (Liverpool Mercury, 3 July 1835), where it continued for more than 40 years. Ralph died in 1856 and was buried at nearby Barningham; the 1861 Census listed his wife Euphemia Maria as Head of Household. Advertisements throughout the 1860s described Earby Academy as "conducted by Mr. Simpson" (probably Ralph Jr., born in 1832), but the 1871 Census listed Euphemia Maria as "Schoolmistress" and Ralph Jr. as "Assistant Master", with two other assistants and six scholars aged from 11 to 16. Euphemia Maria died in 1875, but Ralph Jr. continued to advertise Earby Academy until 1879 (Liverpool Mercury, 7 January 1879). However, he seems to have given up school-keeping by the time of the 1881 Census, where he is listed as "farmer of 180 acres", still at Earby Hall.



Figure 4. The headstone of Ralph Simpson (1796-1856) and his wife Euphemia Maria (1796-1875) in the churchyard at Barningham.

The Tudhoe Orphanage and St. Mary's Home

In the 1860s, the growing Catholic community became concerned that destitute Catholic children were being forced into Anglicanism when they found themselves in workhouses run by Protestants. There was a movement to establish Poor Law schools to cater specifically for Catholic children. In 1867, Marmaduke Salvin sold the old Tudhoe Academy premises to the Catholic Diocese to become a school for such children, and donated the proceeds of the sale to build the adjacent St. Charles's Church (Coia, 1983). It opened as the Tudhoe Certified Poor Law School in 1870, and was taken over by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary in 1878. (S. P. Power, PhD thesis, Durham University, 2003).

The original Academy buildings were demolished in 1889 or later, and a much larger new building was constructed. <http://stmaryshometudhoe.weebly.com/history.html> gives the date of demolition as 1889, but this seems doubtful: Dodd described the Home in the present tense in 1897, housing 40 Catholic girls, and St. Mary's Home is shown on the OS 1:2500 map of 1897 (<http://www.oldmaps.co.uk>), with buildings similar in footprint to those shown on the 1:10560 map of 1861, but smaller than and quite different from those on the 1919 map. Different sources give dates from 1898 to 1901 for construction of the new buildings, and construction may well have taken some time. The new building was variously referred to as St. Mary's Home, the Tudhoe Home for Destitute Girls, or Tudhoe Orphanage. The *Englishwoman's Year*

Book for 1900 listed “Tudhoe Orphanage (B.C.). 5s. a week. Very Rev. Canon Watson”. The 1911 census listed 213 people in the St Mary's Home for Roman Catholic Girls. It remained a home for girls until 1939 and for boys after that. It closed in about 1965 and was demolished a few years later. The houses of St. Mary's Close now stand on the site.



Figure 5. St. Mary's Home, which was built on the Tudhoe Academy site around 1900.

Tudhoe School: Old Wilkinson and Jacky Lister

The Education Act of 1870 provided for the establishment of school boards in underprovided areas, and from 1876 government-funded schools were built in the areas of Tudhoe Grange and Tudhoe Colliery (A.M. Lilley, PhD thesis, Durham University, 1982). Before that, however, there was a day school in the village itself, known as Tudhoe School and located across the village green from the old Academy; the building was demolished in 1913 or soon afterwards (Lilley).



Figure 6. The Tudhoe School building, shortly before demolition around 1913.

Dodd (1897) wrote that "fifty years ago" the master of Tudhoe School was "an old pensioner named Wilkinson, who used to get drunk at regular intervals". Wilkinson was succeeded as schoolmaster by John "Jacky" Lister, who had originally been his pupil. Whellan's Directory of 1856 says

Here is a very good school, which was established several years ago by the principal inhabitants of the township. It is supported by the Rev. E. D. Shafto, M. C. Salvin, Esq., the Weardale Iron Company, and the township. It is well attended, and efficiently conducted by Mr. John Lister.

Lister was a recent memory in Dodd's time, and Dodd wrote 5 enthusiastic pages about him. Here are some samples:

He was a beautiful penman, a good mathematician, and a master of whom those who were privileged to be educated under him still speak with enthusiasm and affection. His school speedily became famous all over the country side, and regularly every Monday morning a fresh batch of scholars presented themselves. [etc.] Jacky was at his wits' end to know where to put them. A time came when, incredible as it may seem, he had no less than 300 children crowded into the little building on Tudhoe Green, in fact many of them were compelled to sit on the floor, there being no room for them in the desks. [etc.]

Yet he was one of the cruellest of tyrants to his scholars. He was a firm believer in corporal punishment, his favourite weapon being a hazel stick. Sometimes he would send a boy out to cut one for him, and in the mean time he was content with a ruler, or anything else that was handy. [etc.]

The ruler was a long flat one with a bevelled edge, and his usual method of administering punishment with it was to catch the boy with his lame arm, loose down his nether garments, get his head between his legs, and then lay on with the edge of the ruler. [etc.]

Even the girls came in for a taste of the ruler, but the old fellow had a sufficient sense of propriety to take them into the porch for the purpose.

There was, however, one day in the year when the school was given up to the excitement of utter lawlessness, and that was Royal Oak Day. In conformity with the recognised custom the boys barricaded themselves in the schoolroom and barred out the master. Old Jacky was furious; he yelled at them through the keyhole and swore the most terrible vengeance. Finally he would obtain assistance and force the door. Some of the boys escaped by the window, but the rest were thrashed just as he could catch them, some of them writhing on the top of the desks. On one barring-out day nobody would say who was the ringleader, and so he thrashed everybody in the school.

Mr. Lister was very popular among all classes in the district. He acted as assistant overseer for many years, was secretary to the Tudhoe Flower Show, leader of the choir at Tudhoe, and a frequent singer at the local concerts.

In 1877, Jacky Lister decided to travel to Edinburgh for an operation on his lame arm. Dodd writes:

On the very night of his arrival in Edinburgh he sang a rollicking comic song. He died under the operation on the 8th of August, 1877, at the age of 57, and his body was brought to Tudhoe for burial. People came from all parts to attend the funeral, and the scene at the graveside will never be forgotten by those who met there to do honour to his memory.