

Saffron Walden School Song

Mother School of Walden, how shall we best show thee
All the love we bear to thee, pay back the debt we owe?
Here to us thou givest vigour for the battle,
Strength to fight and power to stand, What shall we render thee?

Though we be not granted laurels of the leader,
Though our rank be humble, and our service small;
Never mean dishonour, word of base betrayal,
Thought unholy, deed of folly, shall bring shame to thee.

Onward through the ages as we march undaunted,
Firm and loyal, ever bringing honour to the School,
Truth shall be our watchword in our noble conflict,
Every effort, every trial lead to victory.

Children who have left her, the Mother School still claims you,
Fellowship and Brotherhood their chains have round you cast;
Whether now far distant or dwelling in the Homeland,
Ne'er forget the golden dreams, the mem'ries of the past!

Walden's sons and daughters! Comrades in life's battle,
Whether we be victors who have won the world's renown,
Whether nameless heroes slowly pressing forward,
Whether in Life's sun or shade – for love of her, fight on!

The music was by John Farmer (1836-1901) – originally written for Harrow School where he was appointed Music Master in 1864, his best known composition being the Harrow School Song *Forty years on*. The tune was set to the words of Robert Browning's poem, *The Heroes – Thronging through the cloud rift, whose are they, the faces . . .* and appeared as a hymn in editions of the Fellowship Hymn Book.

This song appeared in *The Avenue*, March 1912.
The words were written by:

Marianne M Butler (May Amann) (1905-12)
May lived in Pennsylvania for many years

Margaret R Coates (1906-12) Known as Molly at School; after graduating she entered the (Anglican) Order of St Elizabeth of Hungary and was duly accepted as a Member of the Order as Sister Teresa.

Her contact with the School was restored in 1968 when she became an Honorary Member of the Old Scholars' Association. She revisited the School at the 1969 Reunion. She died in 1976. (See 1976 *OS Report* for further details).

Muriel A Baker (Hayward) (1908-12)
A Life Member of the Old Scholars' Association and a resident of Luton for many years; she died in 1965.



The Girls enjoy an Outing c1900



“The School on the Hill”

**Memories of Three Hundred Years of
Friends' School, Saffron Walden
1702 – 2002**

*by those who taught, learned
and grew up there*



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“The School on the Hill”

These words were coined by Albert C Linney as the title for an article he wrote for Past and Present, A Journal for Scholars, Old and Young, of Friends' Schools, 15 July 1907.

He wrote: “Here we have a School built specially for a School, something extraordinary among our Quaker Educational Establishments. It is within convenient distance of London, amid interesting and picturesque country, in a healthy situation. The Headmaster has a staff of unusual ability under him, and the premises are splendid (though I am told that if any one wants to benefit the School, there is still lacking a forge, an art-room, and a separate hospital).

For myself, having seen Walden in its ordinary aspect, two feelings stand clear. One, that of admiration for the well-appointed School, possessed as it is of so many attractive features; two, that of amazement because it is not always packed to overflowing. I do not know to what extent the Committee seek to attract pupils who are not Friends (of course, always supposing that they do not exclude those for whom the School was primarily founded), but I cannot understand why, if only they knew of its existence, scores of middle-class London parents should not be hurrying to place their sons and daughters at Walden.

.”

An earlier report, to a joint committee of Friends in 1876, when the School was looking for a new home, speaks of “. . . The Principal Building Developments ‘Situated on an open breezy hill’ . . .”

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All interspersed with the memories of Staff and Students



Postscript

I commend this fascinating book as a good read for all those who already have connections with FSSW, and as an excellent introduction for newcomers to our community. It adds substantially to an understanding of the history of the School, and our deep involvement with the Society of Friends. The personal stories and comments give us glimpses of the day to day reality of school life in the recent past, and I am sure they will act as a trigger to the memories of countless Old Scholars and Staff. We are truly grateful to all those who have been kind enough to contribute.

The idea for a new publication about the School came from a small steering group of Governors planning the Tercentenary Appeal and Celebrations with me, at least five years ago. We were all delighted when Hilary Halter with her wide experience of the world of publishing, agreed to take on the task of Editor, but I am sure she did not realise what a huge undertaking this would be.

Hilary has given this project countless hours and it is entirely due to her persistence in pursuing contributions, and her cheerful approach to overcoming all the difficulties surrounding publication, that we have such a wonderful finished product. It is a pleasure to know how much satisfaction Hilary has found in this work – it has indeed been a labour of love! I offer her heartfelt thanks on behalf of the School and all those who read this book.

The Old Scholars' Committee have supported the project throughout, providing practical assistance and the vital financial backing. I would like to thank them collectively for their enthusiastic help.

The publication of this book is a fitting tribute to the indefinable but enduring spirit of the School in its Tercentenary Year. We all look forward to the next instalment!

Jane Laing

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*The School, Old Scholars, Families and Friends welcome the new Millennium
 May 2000*

Photo Geoffrey Soar