

**KATHARINE LADY  
BERKELEY'S SCHOOL**



**1384-1984**

## PREFACE

The present year is important in the annals of Katharine Lady Berkeley's School of Welton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

On this account it seems a most suitable occasion for publishing a record of the School from its foundation in 1384 up to the Sixcentenary in 1984.

The undertaking of writing the history has been in mind for some 5 years and the research into the Archives which it has necessitated has been of engrossing interest.

The following record begins with the original Foundation Grant, followed by the School's chequered history through the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and concluding with the memories of the longlived of today, the 20th century.

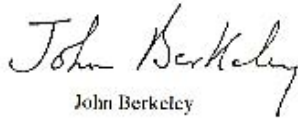
In this massive task, the Authors were faced with a vast amount of material, and apart from the Archives much more material has come to light. Co-operation from the Public has also proved a rich source.

The diligent research shows the conditions through the centuries which were to lead to the prosperity of this School.

The School can justly be proud of its traditions and of the zeal and industry displayed by those who directed the policies of education, and they will always serve as an inspiration for the future.

I am delighted to accept the invitation to write this Foreword because I am very conscious of my family's connection over the centuries with Welton-under-Edge, and with the School in particular. It is interesting to note that Sir John Cliveden, whose daughter Katharine founded the School, lived in nearby Charfield, and that Katharine's marriage in 1347 to Thomas Lord Berkeley took place in Charfield. I was particularly delighted and honoured to renew my family's connection with the School when for several years I served as a Governor.

I am certain that all who read this history will join with me in congratulating the School on attaining its Sixcentenary and in wishing it success in the years to come.

  
John Berkeley

## CONTENTS

I	“A Certain Schoolhouse” .....	1
II	Schoolmaster Priests .....	15
III	The Survival of a Chantry School .....	23
IV	Smyth of Nibley .....	34
V	Three Wotton Men go to Law .....	51
VI	Financial Security .....	63
VII	A Reluctant Awakening .....	78
VIII	Old School and New Century .....	104
IX	Hopes and Disappointments .....	131
X	Time and Tide Order change .....	157
XI	Last Years as a Grammar School .....	184
XII	Serving the Whole Community .....	205