

# FOUR INTO ONE

*The Story of Blue Coat School*



*Wotton-under-Edge Gloucestershire*

*by Beryl A. Kingan*

## ***FOUR INTO ONE***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

School log books always provide a fascinating insight into the lives of our ancestors, and those of Blue Coat and the Chipping Schools are no exception. From 1863 the Head Teachers of all government-inspected schools were obliged to keep a record of events in the school, but no expressions of opinion were to be entered. Fortunately few Head Teachers obeyed this injunction, Mr Dupere of Blue Coat School being particularly outspoken. Log books are no longer required, and other sources, such as the minutes of Managers' (later Governors') meetings, and Head Teachers' reports, have replaced them as a record of the life of the schools.

Punctuation in the nineteenth century was less conventional than now, and older forms of spelling, such as "shew" and "favor", were still in use. The extracts from the log books have been retained as they were written. In some of the extracts children have not been fully identified, to save potential embarrassment to descendants and relatives.

One characteristic of education in Wotton-under-Edge is the use of alternative names for the schools. Thus the name of the National School for Girls, in the Chipping, was changed officially in 1907 to Wotton-under-Edge Church of England Girls' School, but continued to be known locally as the Chipping School. For consistency this name has been kept throughout the book, except where the other names have been used in the school records. Blue Coat, in its earlier years, was sometimes known as the Blue School, or the Charity School. The Church Infants