

Church Education in Rossendale

Blackburn Standard 4 Sept 1872

On Saturday afternoon, the foundation stone of a new day school, in connection with the Church of England, was laid (with full masonic ceremonial) at Edgeside holme, Newchurch, Rossendale, by Mrs Patrick of Cloughfold, wife of Captain Charles Patrick, Government Inspector of Factories. Captain and Mrs Patrick were the joint donors of the site of the school, and they have also, along with their nieces, Misses Ashworth, contributed very liberally to the building fund.

The new school will be built at a cost of about £1500, and will be ready for use about May 1872 – if not completed by then the trustees will lose a grant of £400 from various societies. Some £300 or £400 yet remains to be subscribed forwards defraying the cost of the building. The school will accommodate about 300 scholars; it will be built of Scout (local) rock, with a touch of Gothic in its architecture. There will be two principal rooms, one about 60 ft long and the other 30 feet, in addition to which two commodious classrooms, spacious playgrounds, and every necessary convenience will be provided. There is already a commodious national school in Newchurch, but although it is only a distance of about half a mile at the outside from Edgeside-holme, the great want of additional accommodation has led Captain and Mrs Patrick to initiate the erection of this school.

Prior to the ceremony of laying the corner stone, there was a procession through the principal streets of nearly 1,000 juveniles and adults, in the following order:-
Band of the 4th L.R.V. (Newchurch),
Scholars of the Newchurch day and Sunday school
Members of the district lodges of Orangemen, in full regalia, preceded by a magnificent banner, brethren on horseback (one representative of Wm III on a white charger), and the Stacksteads brass band
Members of the “Tranquility” (Newchurch) lodge of Freemasons No 274, wearing full regalia, and headed by the Egypt-terrace brass band.

The Rector of Newchurch, the Rev J.B. Phillips, past provincial grand chaplain of the masonic brethren, presented Mrs Capt. Patrick with a handsome silver trowel on behalf of the building committee. Mr Pereival, the architect, presented Mrs Patrick with a pair of white gloves, this being the ‘maiden’ occasion on her part of laying a foundation stone. Mrs Patrick then laid the corner stone in the customary manner. The Rev J.B Phillips then addressed the assemblage, which consisted of 2,000 or 3,000 persons. A masonic cheer of ‘nine times nine’ was then given for Captain and Mrs Patrick, after which the proceedings terminated.