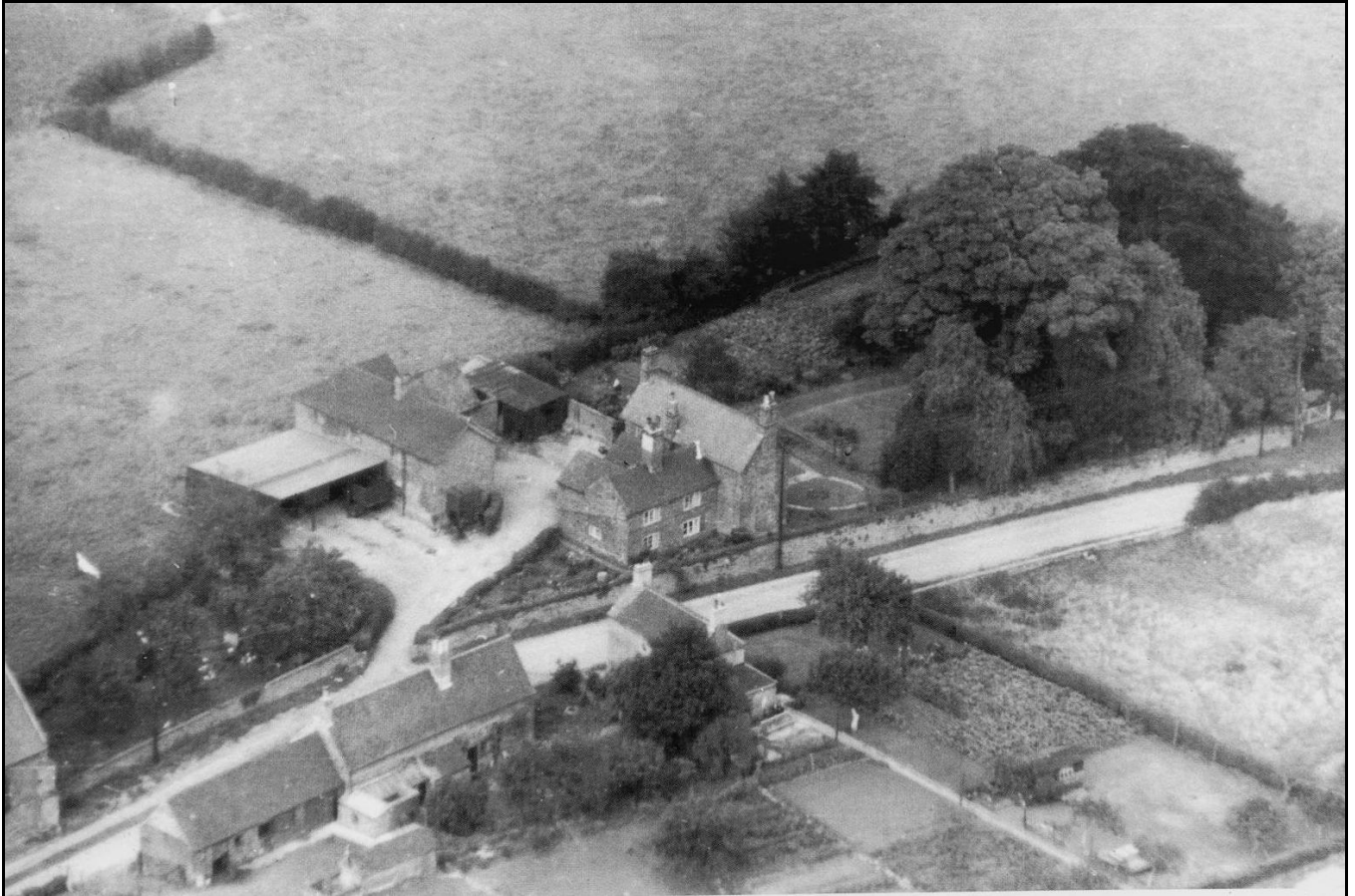


**PREPARATORY EDUCATION FOR YOUNG  
LADIES (CHILDREN) IN 1834/5 AT  
WORTHINGTON LODGE**



**Worthington Lodge is in the centre of the photograph taken c.1955.  
Extreme bottom left is the end of St. Matthews Church. Further to the right shows  
the rear of the former 'Swan Public House'**

**FIRST DRAFT**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MARCH 2025**



**Worthington Lodge in 1984**



**Worthington Lodge in 2025**

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In 1810, few children went to school. If there was a church or chapel near their home, they often went to Sunday School where they received a basic religious education.

Wealthier landowners sometimes employed Governesses or tutors to educate their children, and many middle and upper-class girls received their education at home, with their mothers or governesses teaching them reading, writing, arithmetic, and skills like needlework and music. The education of girls was often geared towards preparing them for roles as wives and mothers, with an emphasis on skills like sewing, cooking, washing and managing a household. Working-class girls had far fewer opportunities for education than middle or upper-class girls, and their education was often limited to basic literacy and skills needed for their jobs. The education of girls, as with boys, was a class based institution.

By 1831, the total population of England and Wales was nearly 14 million, a quarter of whom lived in the forty-three towns which now had populations of over 20,000. Relative world peace, the availability of money, coal and iron ore, the invention of the steam engine and the coming of the railways (the Liverpool-Manchester railway opened in 1830), all combined to facilitate the construction of factories for the mass production of goods, notably textiles. In thirty years, Manchester and Greater London doubled in size, raw cotton imports increased fivefold and coal production more than doubled (Lawson and Silver 1973:258).

England had great industrial and urban communities with high mortality rates, inadequate and unhealthy water supplies, large areas of insanitary and overcrowded housing and little or no local or national machinery to implement basic reforms. In this context, words like 'society', 'town' and 'education' had by 1830 come to have quite different implications from those of half a century before (Lawson and Silver 1973:259).

For the poor - in both town and countryside - education still seemed irrelevant. Indeed, any young man who attempted to 'improve his condition' was seen as a disaffected person, who was not satisfied with the station in which God had placed him.

Some villages had 'Dame's Schools', so-called because it was where a local woman taught small groups of young children, usually in a private house or cottage. The Dame was paid a small weekly sum, sometimes supplemented by the clergy or a local landowner, and she was rarely formally trained. These 'Dame Schools' generally provided a primary education, focusing on basic literacy and numeracy including the "four R's" (Reading, Riting, Rithmetic, and Religion), and sometimes included sewing and embroidery for girls.

In 1835, formal independent 'Preparatory Schools' for girls were rare, so it came as a surprise to the author to find that the small village of Worthington had its own Dame School in 1834/5 (for young ladies) which was run by Mrs. Hyde Kelk, as shown in the following newspaper article. This was located in

Worthington Lodge which at the time was the next building along from St. Matthews Church as shown in the front cover photograph.

The 'Worthington Preparatory School provided boarding facilities for a small number of girls (4) in 1834/5, and by the 18 guinea per annum charge, plus additional supplements for the subjects taught, it wasn't intended for the children of the poorer classes in the rural community. A few day pupils could also be catered for according to the newspaper advertisement. As the subjects included English, French, Drawing and Music, one would expect that Mrs. Hyde Kelk was well educated herself. The last subject is given as 'Washing' which presumably means 'Laundry'. Funding for the 'Preparatory School' may well have come from Earl Ferrers who was Lord of the manor at this time.

**Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1835**

**PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
FOR YOUNG LADIES**

**Worthington Lodge, Near Ashby-de-la-Zouch**

**MRS (Miss) HYDE KELK**

**PURPOSES**, after the Christmas Vacation, receiving under her care and tuition **FOUR YOUNG LADIES, from six to ten years of age.**

Mrs. Kelk that from the experience she has had in the management of children, she shall be able to give satisfaction to those parents who may place their children under her care

**TERMS**

<b>Board and English.....</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Guineas per annum</b>
<b>French.....</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>ditto</b>
<b>Drawing.....</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>ditto</b>
<b>Music.....</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>ditto</b>
<b>Washing.....</b>	<b>2 ½</b>	<b>ditto</b>

**NB. – A few Day Pupils will be taken  
Worthington Lodge, Dec. 31, 1834**

**KELK FAMILY BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Due to the paucity of research material / records, a number of educated assumption have been made with regard to the bibliography.**

A Dorothy Hyde Kelk (nee. Dorothy Hyde) was the daughter of Elizabeth Hyde of Whatton in the Vale, Notts and her husband the Rev. William Hyde who was the Vicar of Whatton.

Dorothy Hyde, the only surviving child of Elizabeth and William Hyde married a vicar by the name of William Kelk (b.1728, d. 1818) at Whatton in the Vale, Nottinghamshire by license on September 26th 1765 and became Mrs. Dorothy Hyde Kelk (Nottinghamshire parish registers - Vol1). It seems logical

to assume that the Rev William Kelk took over as Vicar of Whatton from his father in Law.



**The parish church of St John of Beverley, Whatton  
In 1808 the south transept was destroyed. The chancel was rebuilt 3ft shorter  
in 1846. Tower rebuilt in 1870 as it was in a dangerous condition.**

The 'Scope and Content' subsection in the 'Deed to Declare Uses of Fine' below help to confirm the previous details.

**Deed to declare uses of a fine** - A "deed to declare the uses of a fine" is a legal document, executed after a "fine of lands" (a type of medieval land conveyance) was levied, that explains the true intention and purpose of the fine, clarifying how the land will be held and used - **As stated, lands (approx 18 acres in total) near Rotherham and Tipton are to be held in trust for the Rev. William Kelk and his heirs.**

[31-F - Title deeds to Walker family lands near Rotherham and at Tipton](#)  
[7 - Title deeds relating to the same property as in 31-F/1/2 and 31-F/1/4-7.](#)

<b>Ref No</b>	31-F/7/7
<b>Title</b>	Deed to declare uses of a fine
<b>Description</b>	<p>Scope and Content</p> <p>1) Elizabeth Hyde of Whatton, Ntt, widow of Rev William Hyde and Rev William Kelk, clerk, vicar of Whatton and Dorothy his wife, only surviving child of William and Elizabeth Hyde.</p> <p>2) Rev George Staunton Brough, clerk, rector of Staunton, Ntt.</p> <p>- George Staunton Brough to hold property in trust for the uses of William Kelk and his heirs.</p> <p>= Vintin Close (8 acres 2 roods) and Dove Flatt Close (6 acres 1 rood) in Brinsforth, par Rotherham and parcels of meadow in Bradmarsh, Brinsforth: Three acre piece, Acre and half piece, Round Table (2 acres), Great Acre (1 acre) and one other parcel (1 acre).</p>
<b>Date</b>	29th April 1766
<b>Extent</b>	42 items
<b>Access Status</b>	Open

Dorothy and the Rev. William Kelk had a daughter Dorothy (Hyde?) Kelk (b.1769 / 70) and the author takes the view that they all moved to live at Worthington Lodge, Leics, at some point. It is assumed that William had moved to become Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Worthington and the lodge, which could have been the Rectory at that time came with the position. The Rev. William Kelk pre-deceased his wife in 1818, but it is not known when his wife died, although it would almost certainly have been prior to 1835

The preceding 1835 newspaper article shows that a Mrs Hyde Kelke was running a 'Preparatory School for Young Girls' at 'Worthington Lodge'. It is thought that Mrs. Hyde Kelk was actually Miss Dorothy Hyde Kelk, the daughter of the Rev. William Kelk and his wife Dorothy, as people in such positions were often referred to as Mrs, even though they were Miss, in order to give them some air of respectability.

There is no mention of a Kelk in the 1841 Worthington census.