

Albert Dennis Conyngham 3rd son of 1st Earl. 1805-1860  
MP for Colchester 1841 & from 1847  
1st President of British Archaeological Association 1843.

The Old School built 1849 by Marquess Conyngham  
1859: Richard Wells, master, National School, Mrs Sophie Sayer, mistress  
1871: Mr & Mrs R Wye, first government teachers  
1874: Robert Wye, Mrs Mary Wye, Miss Ellen Wye  
1878/90: Robert Wye, Master, Mrs Susan Emmeline Wye, Mistress, Miss Fanny Wye, Infants Mistress  
1893: Robert Wye, master, assistant overseer (at the Union) and collector of tithes and Queen's taxes; Miss GF Wye, assistant, boys' school, Mrs Wye girls, Miss Wye, infants  
1893: Robert Wye, Miss GF Wye, Mrs Wye, Miss Wye  
1903: John George Andrews, Master (Robert Wye retired in 1911)  
1907-18: JG Andrews, Master, Miss F Wye, Infants  
1918: JG Andrews Master, Miss CG Wye, infants  
1924: WJ Billing, Master, Miss M Bell, infants (KCC control)  
1940: Public Elementary School

Mrs Olive Knight retired as headmistress December 1970, after one term in the new school, and was replaced by Miss W Tomlin.

**Interesting Presentation at Bridge:** There was a pleasant gathering at the school on the 24<sup>th</sup> when Miss Wye was presented with a purse of gold, subscribed for by the managers, scholars (past and present), parents, and friends, as a token of esteem and appreciation of her 44 years work as headmistress of the infants' school. The presentation was made by the Vicar (Rev. H Knight), who spoke most highly of Miss Wye's work, as testified by the uniformly excellent reports of inspectors eulogising her skill as a teacher and her tact in the management of the little ones to whom she had been a second mother. (Kentish Gazette, January 1 1916) (*Williamson 435*)

**Diamond Wedding:** Mr[b 1847] & Mrs[b 1844] R Wye, retired head teachers, who celebrated their diamond wedding on Tuesday, have resided in Bridge for 58 years. Mr Wye, after serving as a pupil teacher at Warrington, was trained at St Peter's College, Peterborough, and secured his certificate in 1867. He was appointed headmaster of the CE Boys' school at Shepton Mallett, Somerset, where the future Mrs Wye was then headmistress of the Infants' school. They were married at the Parish Church, Shepton Mallett, by the Rev. Canon Pratt on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1869. Resigning their posts there in 1871, they were appointed to the headships of the Boys' and Girls' Schools at Bridge, from which they retired in September 1900. Mr Wye has led a strenuous life at Bridge. Whilst at the school he was organist of Patricxbourne, conducted a large Band of Hope, and almost before lay readers were thought of, took a week night cottage service in an outlying part of the parish. He also held several public appointments, such as Assistant Overseer and Rate Collector for three parishes, Collector of Taxes for 12 parishes, collector of Tithes, etc. For over 45 years he has been connected with the Marquess Conyngham estate office, which he still attends, and has for 25 years been lay reader, churchwarden and school manager at Bridge, a post which he still occupies. At Christmas 1871, Mr Wye's sister, Miss F Wye, was appointed headmistress of the Infants' School, from which she retired in 1914. During their tenure as head teachers all three departments received meritorious mention in the Education Office Blue Books, and whilst the 'Excellent' Merit Grant was in vogue, it was awarded to each department. Their respective ages now are: Mr Wye 82, Mrs Wye 85, Miss Wye 78. One of their old scholars is now a clergyman, another a doctor and specialist in New Zealand, and another, now deceased, obtained a post in the Chinese Diplomatic Service. - not a bad record for a village school. (*Williamson 186*-no source or date)