

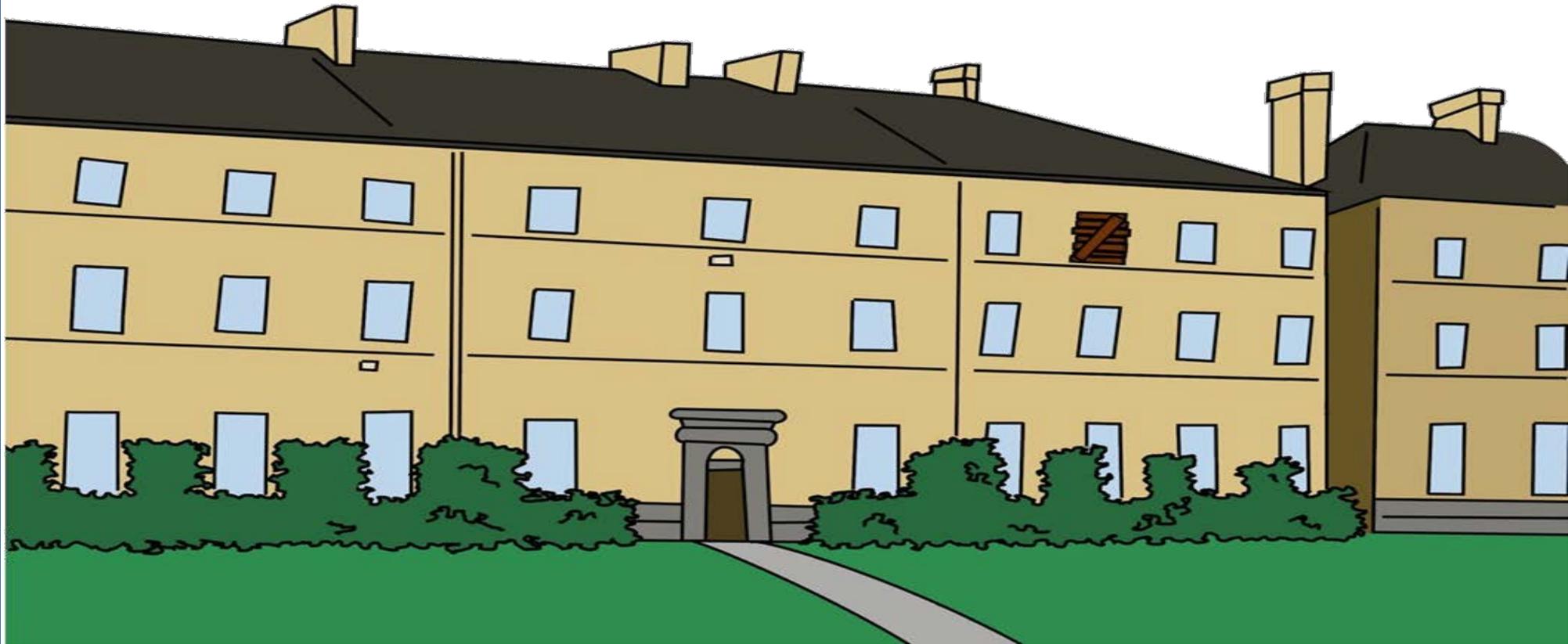
Baker Street Elementary

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary

The Life and Times in Victorian London
086 - The Playing Fields of Eton -- 11/18/2018





*Welcome to topic number 086...
Today, Master Stamford and I
will discuss the public schools
of our time...*



*Like Baker Street
Elementary, which we
attend?*





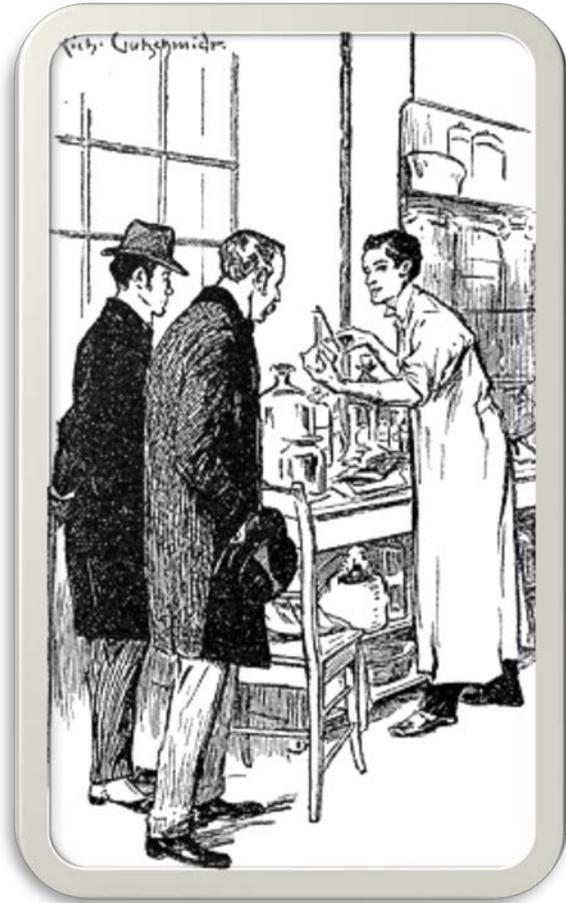
*Uh... no let's talk about
real schools...*



In "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter," you will note your country squire ancestry, and in "The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual" that you attend university for two years.



*In A Study in Scarlet,
you will be pursuing
independent studies at St.
Bartholomew's when you
and Watson meet.*



Given your gentry background and accepted practices of the times, you most likely will attend either Oxford or Cambridge for those two university years...

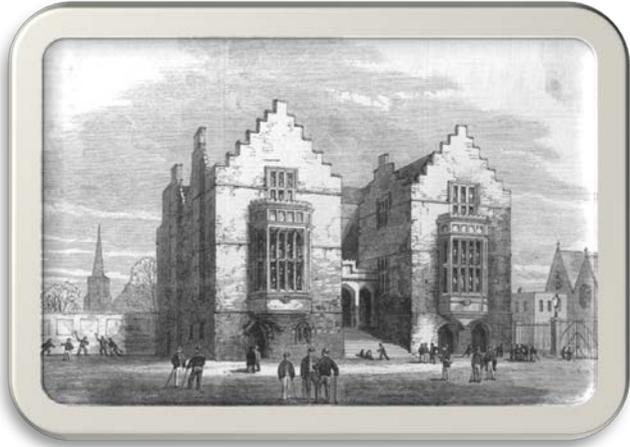


... and to prepare you for such studies, you may have attended Eton prior to that time.



While boys and girls might both be educated at home for the first few years, primarily through governesses or visiting tutors...





*... most middle- and upper-class families
send their boys to complete their
preparatory work at a "public school."*



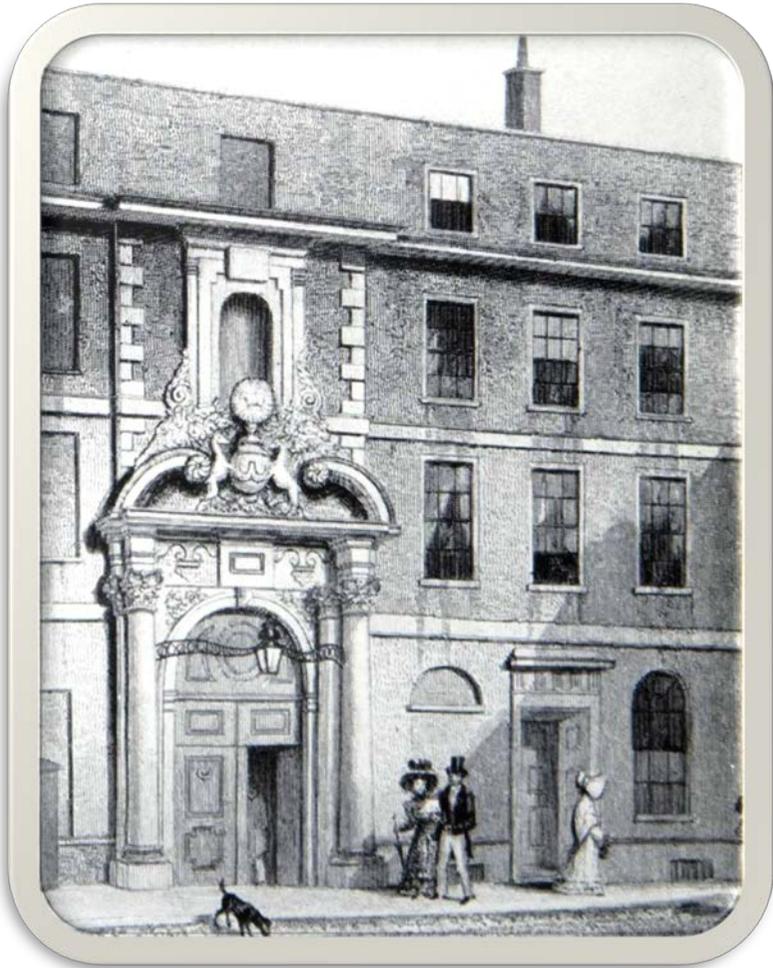
These schools were "public" in the sense they are open to boys regardless of religious background, provided they pass entrance examinations and can pay the tuition and boarding fees.



In the Victorian era, there are seven boarding schools: Eton, Harrow, Westminster, Rugby, Winchester, Charterhouse, and Shrewsbury.



Two additional schools in London educate boys during the day: St. Paul's and Merchant Taylors's.



By the beginning of the 1800s, many of these schools had deteriorated to teaching less-than-ideal subjects, using poor methods, and overlooking severe bullying of younger boys by the older ones.



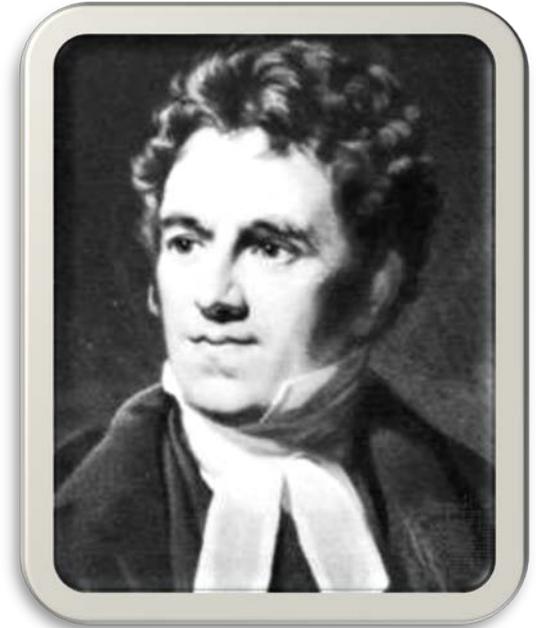
Their main focus had become to train young boys to be gentlemen with proper manners and diction...



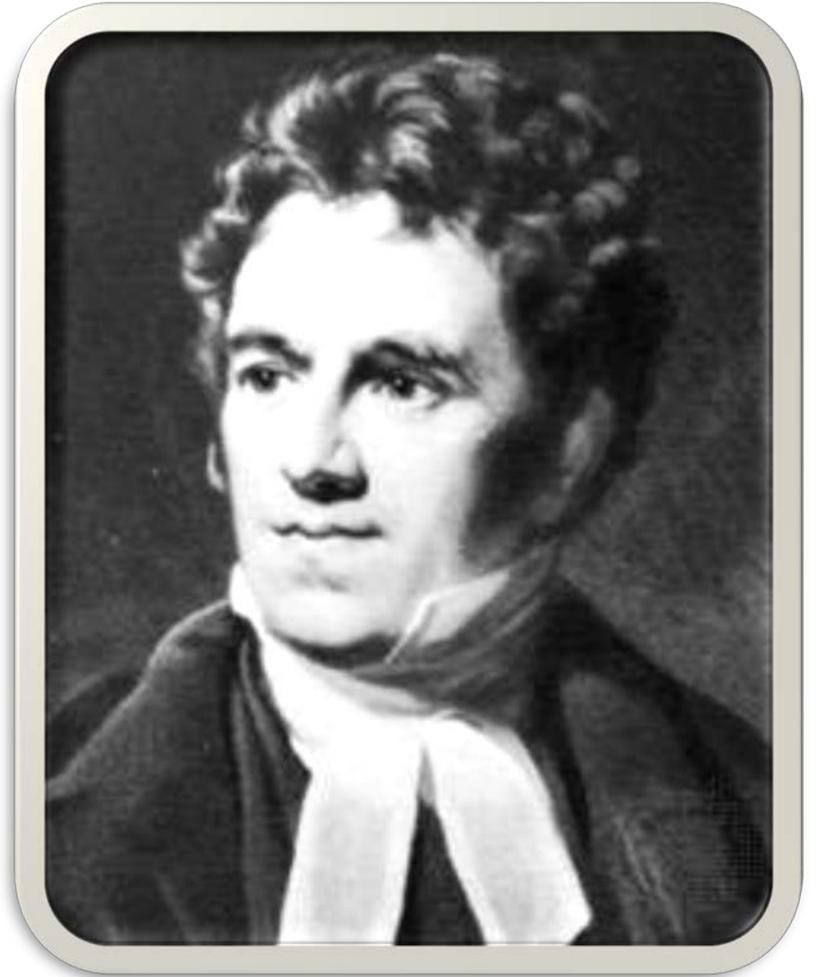
... and those in the upper-middle class used them as a means of upward mobility for their sons through the connections they made with the country's elite.



Shifts in the educational system in these schools were epitomized by Thomas Arnold, headmaster of the Rugby School from 1828 to 1842.



His belief in moral and spiritual discipline and the addition of more modern practices, such as art education turned that school's lagging reputation around.

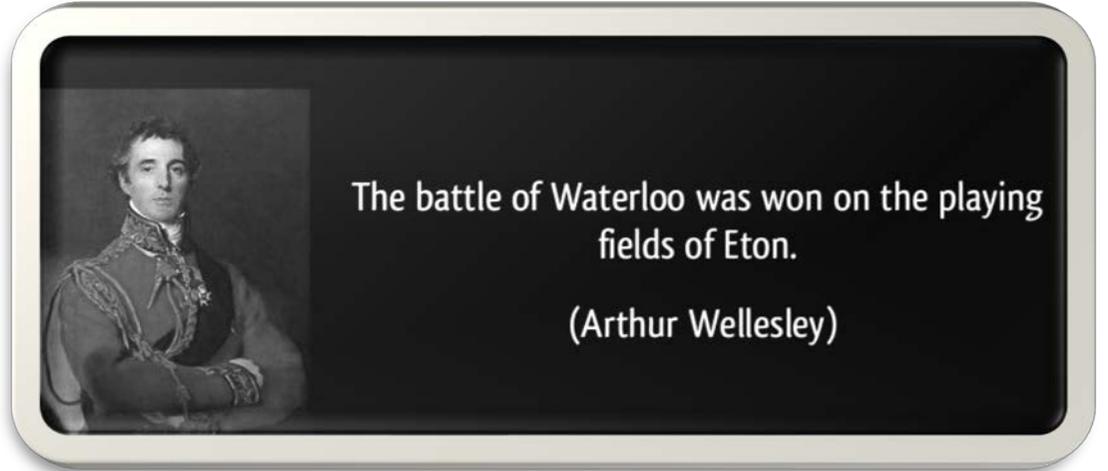


Other schools followed this example.

Emphasis was also placed on sports for further development of a boys' discipline as well as leadership and teamwork, cricket and "football" (soccer), being the most popular.



The quotation (disavowed by the Duke of Wellington) that "the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton" refers to this sense of loyalty and maintaining composure in the face of adversity.



The "stiff upper lip" of the Victorian gentleman is taught through such lessons in discipline.



Despite such efforts, reforms come slowly to the public schools throughout this period.



*While religious organizations
have created schools to
provide rudimentary instruction
to those in the lower- and
working-classes...*



... often through Sunday schools or Ragged schools—and pressure on the state grows to create a national system of secondary education.



The Taunton Commission (1864-1868) develops a plan for a series of secondary schools with instruction depending on the goal (terminal studies, technical studies, or entrance into a university).



PUNCH, OR THE LONDON CHARIVARI.—NOVEMBER 18, 1887.



The Education Act of 1870
leads the way to free
elementary education.



Later efforts support an increase in science, raising the age for compulsory education, and additional technical studies, but an emphasis continues to stress the traditional academics that includes Latin and Greek.



*You may have entered Eton,
or another public school, at
about age 13 (or 1867).*



After an examination by the headmaster, you will be assigned to a form (grade) and perhaps selected by an older boy to do errands and chores with the goal of being given guidance and friendship.



*At Eton, two of the
six-form boys are
selected as Praepostor.*



These and other older boys in such positions receive practical experience in leadership and management.



*By the time you will leave,
you will develop a moral
code, emphasizing
teamwork, loyalty,
obedience, and command.*



Such training will appear in your conduct toward his clients, but perhaps most importantly in your relationship with Watson.

What better way to describe your friendship than both teamwork and loyalty?



*So we have completed
topic 86 in our series...*

*... yes, but we'll be
back with another
topic soon...*



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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