

He was born at
Headriples Manor
and died aged 45 at
Blensdon House
Blensdon, Wilts

Bradley House,
Dorchester-on-Thames
Oxford.
November 18th 1994.

Dear Mr. Tidwell,

Very many thanks for
your letter with its enclosures.

I enclose a photostat of William
Titley's letter dated 12th June 1861.

In a few days I will collect other
papers and photos which may
interest you.

The names of families as mentioned
in the will of his father, Anthony
Titley are: Thomas Bromet, Riley Smith,
with kind regards.
Yours sincerely Anthony Hodderitt.

Written by William Walker Tittley at the age of
eleven in ~~1861~~ 1861. Grandfather of A. M. H.
He was born at Headingley Manor
The name on the left is Mother's (Dorothy) 1850.

Bramham College,
June 17th 1861.

My dear Parents,

In forwarding for
your inspection and approval, a
Summary of my Studies, I have
pleasure in stating, that the Session
will close on the 1st of Inst.

With kindest love to all at home,
I am, dear Parents,

Your affectionate Son,

William W. Tittley.

1044

Part 3.

SOME ACCOUNT OF BRAMHAM COLLEGE, AND THE COURSE OF EDUCATION ADOPTED THERE.

NEAR the village of Bramham, to the south-west, is situated BRAMHAM COLLEGE, formerly known by the name of BRAMHAM BIGGINS; a place of great antiquity, and in days gone by, of great importance in the Parish; and once the residence of Sir George Allanson Winn, Bart., who, in the year 1797, was created the first Lord Headley, of the peerage of Ireland.

After his Lordship's death, (the second Lord taking up his abode in Ireland,) BRAMHAM BIGGINS was occupied by a succession of respectable families connected with the Aristocracy, among whom were the late Sir Edward Vavasour, Bart., William Lane Fox, Esq., and Captain Ramaden.

About the year 1849, the Rev. Benjamin Bentley Haigh, who had for several years occupied Grimston Lodge, near Tadcaster, as an educational establishment under Lord Howden, received an intimation

from his Lordship that he required (Trin-ston Lodge for the residence of some other party; and having for some time looked about in vain for a suitable place to which to transfer his establishment, he at length, at the suggestion, and we believe, through the recommendation of the late Sir Edward Vavasour, took BRAMHAM BIGGINS on lease, and transferred his establishment thither.

And to indicate the high and noble purpose to which it would thenceforward be devoted, he soon afterwards very properly changed its name from BRAMHAM BIGGINS, to BRAMHAM COLLEGE.

Since the premises have come into Mr. Haigh's occupation, they have undergone a variety of alterations and improvements. Many of the old unsightly out-buildings connected with the place, as a gentleman's residence, have been cleared away; and several handsome new ones erected for the accommodation of the College, at a considerable expense to the present occupier. And, while in their construction, necessity, utility, and convenience, have been principally kept in view, architectural taste, elegance of design, and some regard to exterior decoration, have not been lost sight of.

The approach to the College has been wonderfully improved. The neat rustic Lodge at the entrance, recently erected in a fancy-style of architecture, gives an air of elegance to it; and the superb iron gates, suspended on lofty posts of massive sandstone, and

flanked on either side by solid masonry, add to its appearance.

The gardens and pleally ornamented and re of course, to purposes of herbs, fruits, and vegetable the latter exhibiting, to the imagination, their shrubs, and choice every interwoven with the bl clematis; all intersperse and neatly-gravelled with Roman urns or vases other rustic devices: the with the delectable, or, phrase, "*miscens stile*!

In short, when view COLLEGE presents, as much more magnificent than it did when occupied residence. This is more is seen from the Lodge from thence with its mental appendages, displayed not only in but in the distant background strikingly impress! The site, or locality

Could your child write this letter?

A rare insight into Victorian schooldays

YOB CULTURE? Are sloppy educational standards to blame? You might begin to think so after reading an extraordinary letter penned in 1862 by 11-year-old William Titley.

It was discovered recently among family papers by Anthony Hoddinott, a retired farmer, at Dorchester in Oxfordshire.

Written in copperplate script, the letter — an extract is shown above — was the result of long hours of painstaking practice with scratchy nibs and messy ink.

It begins: "My dear Parents, In forwarding for your inspection and approving a summary of my studies I have pleasure in stating that the session will close on the 21st Inst.
"With kind love to all at home, I

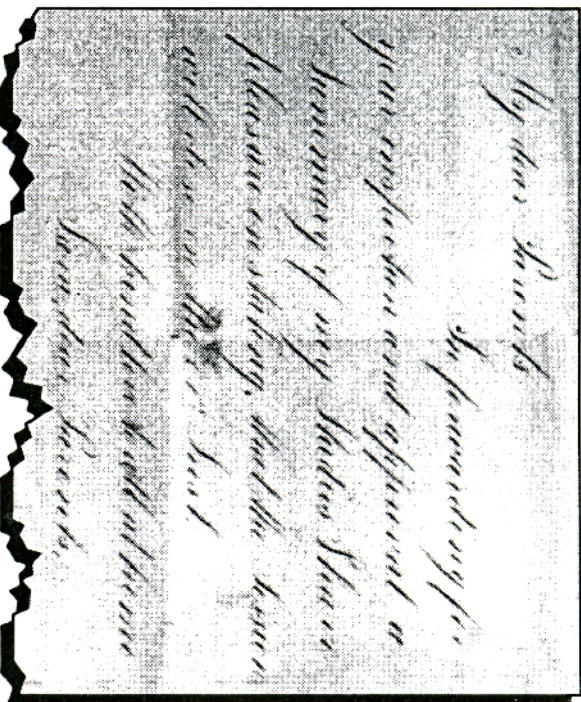
By Val Hennessy

am, dear Parents, Your affectionate son, William W. Titley." He goes on to list the schoolwork undertaken in the previous term at Bramham College, Yorkshire.

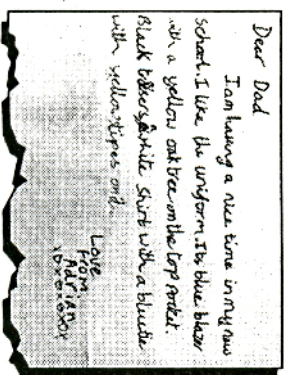
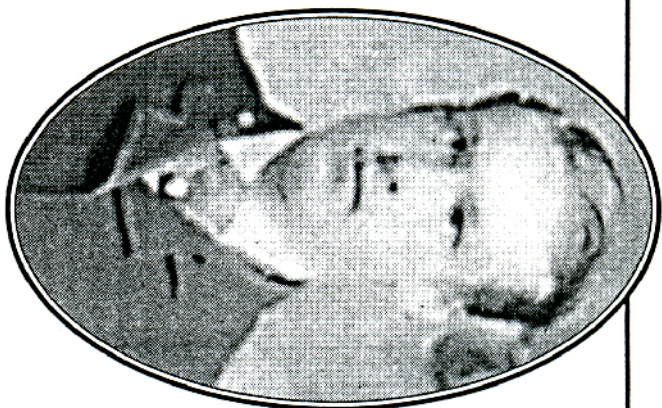
In the days before calculators, William writes: "In arithmetic, I have solved a great variety of sums in the Elementary Rules and in Simple and Compound Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, and been regularly practised in Mental Calculations and the Commercial Tables.

"Also undergone weekly a testing examination both in mental and slate arithmetic."

He writes: "In English, I have committed to memory and repeated in private the greater part of the etymology from Allen and Corn-



PAINSTAKING: William Titley (right) and the letter he wrote at 11



TODAY: Adrian's letter to his father well's Grammar, and written all the exercises connected with the same." He had recited aloud to his teachers 322 lines of classic poetry, and 40 verses of the Bible.

On top of this, he had also studied two mammoth tomes called Ince's English History and

Browne's History of Rome. He had read huge chunks of the Bible aloud, and had "been practised frequently on the countries of Europe and Asia."

No gazing at VDU screens for William, or watching blaring 10-second-attention-span educational videos.

As 80-year-old Mr Hoddinott points out, William would have worked in a room full of silent boys sitting at rows of desks.

"They started with the basics, they learned how to multiply, how to spell and how to speak properly. "Perhaps I'm old-fashioned, but it seems to people of my generation that educational standards have rather gone to the dogs."

He added: "If a modern-day pupil handed in work written in William's perfect handwriting, his schoolmas-

ter probably couldn't read it." The Sunday Express asked a present-day 11-year-old to write an account of his school work.

A liking for his uniform was a priority for Adrian, a pupil at William Ellis School in Highgate, London, in a letter to his father, part of which is shown here.

He writes: "Dear Dad, I am having a nice time in my new school. I like the uniform. Its blue blazer with a yellow oak tree on the top pocket. Black trousers, a white shirt with a blue tie with yellow stripes (sic) on it."

Today's 11-year-old is used to fast food and instant information, hence Adrian's enthusiasm for information technology.

"I've got my own disc," he tells his father. "After school I go to I.T. Club and I do my work there."

He concludes: "The food is nice and I have hamburgers, chips and pizza nearly every day."