

The document that was on Ebay concerning the Girls school in the churchyard at Shrivenham. It was sold before we could rescue it for SHS, but it alerted Neil Maw to the rest of the documents that were about to be lost in the same way. However, from a photo of the document on Ebay, were able to copy the text – as below. It is a transfer of the school house and the teacher's cottage adjacent to the churchyard at St Andrew's, Shrivenham, to the control of the Vicar of Shrivenham and the Churchwardens. This suggest strongly that Edward Berens, (Vicar of Shrivenham 1803 – 1859) paid for the construction of the two buildings.

I Edward Berens, under the authority of an Act passed in the 5th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled, An Act to afford further facilities for the conveyance and endorsement of sites for schools and of the Act of the 8th year of the reign of Her present Majesty explaining the same, do hereby freely and voluntarily and without valuable consideration, grant and convey to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of Shrivenham in the county of Berks, all that Cottage and School Room situate in the Parish of Shrivenham, now erected by the *** now bounded on the east by the church yard, on the south by the church foot path, on the west by premises of Thomas and George Haines and on the north by the premises of Mr John Fairthorne, with all easements, appurtenances and hereditaments, corporal and incorporeal belonging thereto. To hold the same unto the use of the Vicar and Churchwardens and their Overseers for the purpose of the said Act and upon Trust to permit the said premises and all buildings as are erected to be forever hereafter appropriated and used as and for a school for girls of the *** *** of the parish of Shrivenham and as a residence for the teacher of the school which teacher shall be appointed by the Vicar of Shrivenham for the time being and shall be *** by him for any malconduct or incapacity and shall also be obliged in consideration of and for the *** *** residence to teach and instruct in reading and needlework ten poor girls to be appointed by the Vicar without charge other than the payment by each child of one penny on every Monday and subject to such rules as to the Vicar for the time being shall deem fit. Which said school shall always be in unison with and conducted upon the principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the *** National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the established church.

In witness whereof, I Edward Berens have hereunto set my hand and seal this 2nd
September 1847.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Henry C. Crowdy, Solicitor, Highworth

Before me, Henry Crowdy

A master extraordinary in Chancery