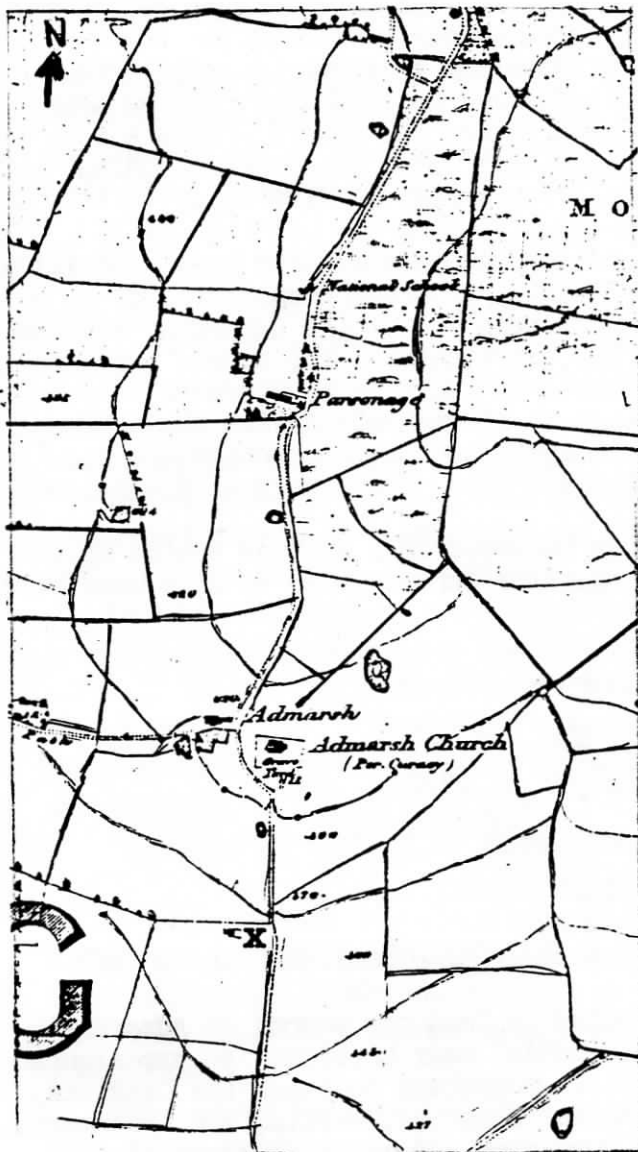


ON THE MAP



OS Map 1845 showing
Bleasdale National School

It was the Ordnance Survey map of 1845 which started me off on a journey of discovery. Just North of Vicarage Farm - then named Parsonage Farm - was Bleasdale National School and yet talking to local people no one appeared to have heard of it. It seemed surprising that nothing had been passed on by word of mouth. A visit to the site showed no apparent clues of its whereabouts. That led me to ask, why was a school situated there, only about one mile away from the present school, built in 1850? Yet it was shown clearly on the map. During the middle part of the last century the Church of England National Society was at the forefront of education and certainly supported parishes where there was an interest in educating the children of the poor. During the previous century the clergy played a major part in the actual teaching of the children and were to continue to do so. The fact that a school was built in 1833 indicates the success of the teaching which had gone before.

X marks the position of Bleasdale School,
from 1850 to the present day.

The previous school, Bleasdale National School,
1833 - 1850, is shown further north.

BUILDING IN PROGRESS

Letters written by William Fenton, the incumbent of Bleasdale in 1833 show that discussions had been held proposing that a school should be built. On October 15th 1833 he writes to the Bishop:-

Parsonage,
Admarsh.
Nr Garstang.

"Rev'd. Sir,

Would a Conveyance of the school to the Trustees in something like the following terms be satisfactory to the National Society?

We the undersigned Promoters of the school at Admarsh in the Township of Bleasdale, Lancashire do give, grant and convey, and by these precedents have given granted and conveyed all that Building and appurtenances lately erected by us, (upon land devised in the year 1702 by the will of Richd. Parkinson unto Trustees for the benefit of the school and Poor of Bleasdale) unto Wm. Sharp, Andrew Parkinson, and Richd. Atkinson Esqrs. (Trustees of the said land) in Trust that they the said Wm. Sharp, Andrew Parkinson and Richd. Atkinson will cause the aforesaid Building to be forever used as a school in connexion with the National Society for the instruction and benefit of the poor inhabitants of Bleasdale."

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