

A Well Respected Man

Philip Sandercock had been baptised in 1803 in Tresmeer, a few miles west of Launceston. In 1824 when he was just 21 and unmarried he was appointed as the new schoolmaster at North Hill Parish School. In 1828 he married Catherine Heard of Treneglos and they settled in North Hill.

In the 1841 census Philip was recorded as the schoolmaster living with his wife Catherine and their five children. Being a man of letters he also undertook the role of parish clerk. Many marriages in the parish church of St Torney were witnessed by him.



They had three more children before 1846 but their daughter Caroline died aged just fourteen months and was buried in North Hill. The surviving children grew up, married and produced grandchildren for Philip and Catherine. Two grandchildren are recorded living with their grandparents in 1861 and another in 1871.

Philip continued with his job in North Hill, proudly pronouncing himself as 'schoolmaster' on all censuses.

His dedication was recognised as shown in this cutting.

THE NORTH DEVON JOURNAL, MARCH 26, 1874.

Mr. Sandercock, who for upwards of fifty years has been a schoolmaster in North-hill village, near Launceston, has been presented with sixty guineas, as a mark of esteem by his late scholars and the parishioners generally.

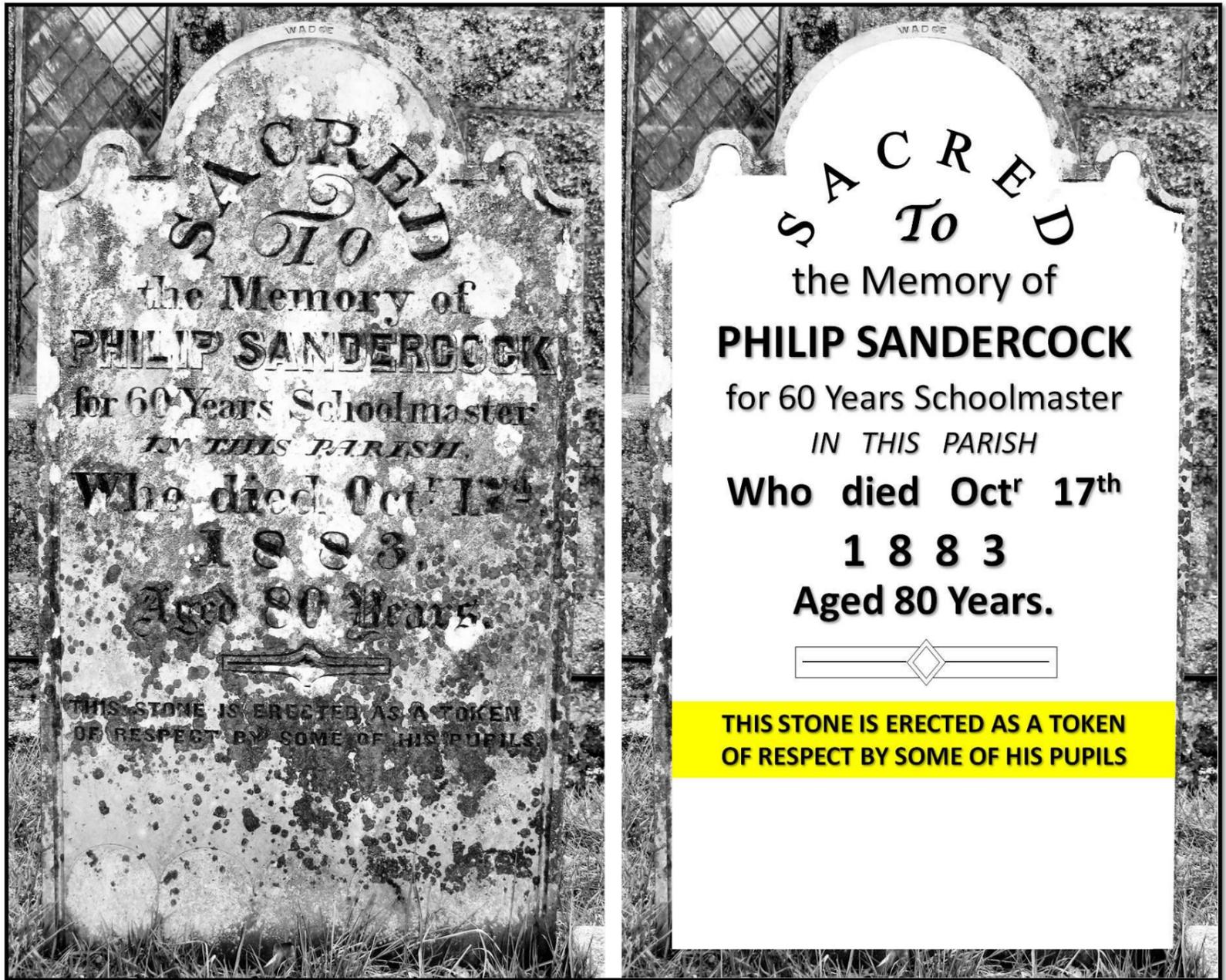
Philip was still the parish clerk in the late 1870s. By 1881 he had retired from teaching and gave his occupation as Sub-Postmaster of North Hill, aged 78 and living with his wife Catherine. All their children had moved away.

This devoted man died at the age of 80 and was laid to rest on 21st October 1883 in the churchyard at North Hill, the village he had served for so long.

His widow, Catherine, moved away from the village to live with a married daughter in Plymouth. Catherine died ten years later and her body was brought back to North Hill where she was buried alongside her husband.

Following the closure of the school the building has been converted into The Racehorse Inn, shown here.





Philip Sandercock's gravestone can be seen in the northern part of St Torney's churchyard.