



No. 9 The Close and then No. 65, The Close - Now Salisbury Museum

Margaret Duncan was the 1st Lady Superintendent of Salisbury Training School in 1841. She arrived in Salisbury in time to take charge of the new college which was to train young ladies for the National Schools. The National Schools which started up in 1831 were set up so poorer children could get a better education.

Although Salisbury college started out at 9 The Close it was realised that larger premises were needed. So, in the 1860's they moved on to Kings House at 65, The Close, which is where Salisbury Museum now is. It was then called Salisbury Diocesan Training College.

Classes were in all the subjects that they would be required to teach. English, history, geography, arithmetic, drawing, scripture, domestic economy, music and needlework. All the trainee teachers had to help out with the domestic duties in the college, which didn't come easily to the young ladies as they were mostly from a genteel upbringing where they had servants to do that sort of thing.

In 1860 during Margaret Duncan's time, Thomas Hardy's sister Mary was a student there. In 1862 when she retired the college was thriving to a very high standard.

The training college finally closed in 1978.