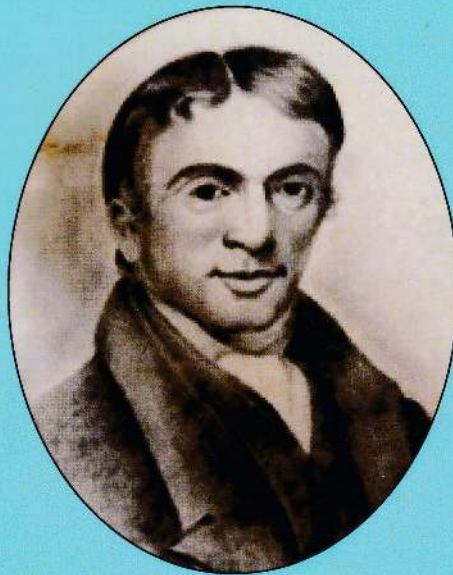


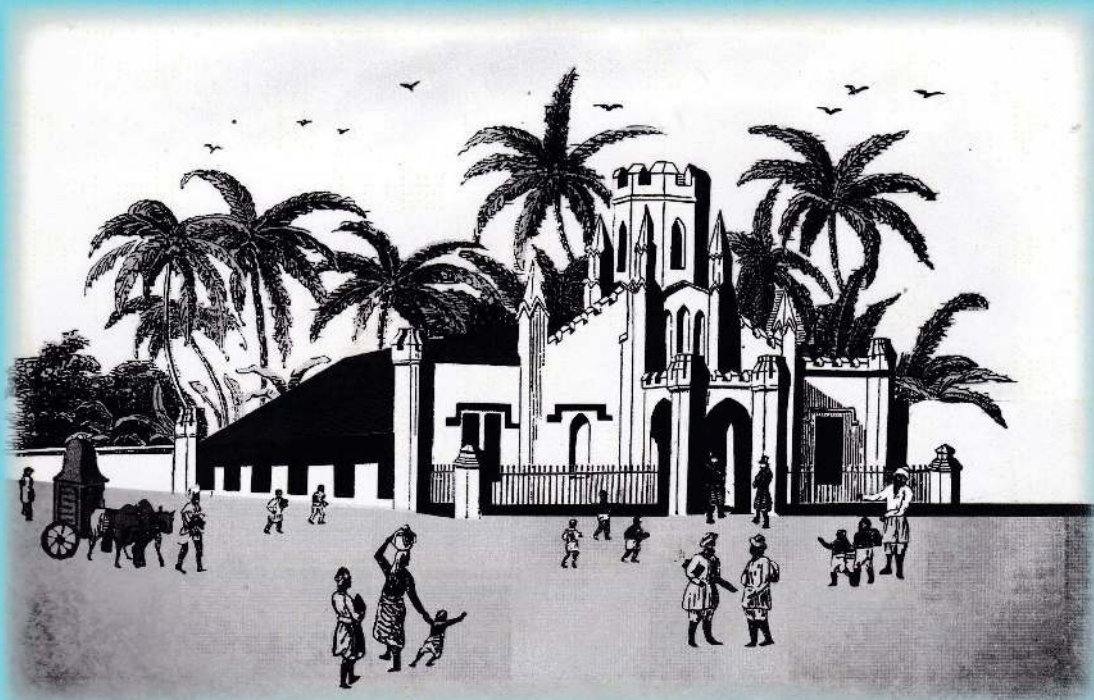
# In Commemoration of Rev. James Lynch



*Source: Archive, Methodist Church*

## **Rev. James Lynch**

*Founder of Jaffna Central College in 1815*



*Courtesy of Mr K Manickavasagar. Illustration by Rev. Dr P Percival, 1848*

## **Inception of Jaffna Central College**

*(Acquired by Rev. James Lynch in 1815 and  
Renovated by Rev. Dr P Percival in 1836)*

**September 2013**





## **In Commemoration of Rev. James Lynch Founder of Jaffna Central College in 1815**



THE COLLEGE CREST.

Designed by Mr W Romaine Cooke (1901)  
Source: JCC Centenary Edition (1934)

*Edited by*

**Prof R K Gugesanarajah**  
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons) Eng, DIC, DipStat, MICE, CEng  
Cambridge, United Kingdom

**16 September 2013**



# College Song

Wet the ground and Wind opposing,  
Just ten minutes, yet to play,  
Play up Central! No reposing  
On the gains of yesterday  
Now's the time for combined action  
Pass the ball from Man to Man.  
Never selfish play nor faction  
Proved worthwhile since sport began.

## Chorus

Central! rally for the school then,  
Take the field with one accord;  
Keep your courage, cool and clean then,  
Central's flag must never be lowered.

On the field of life, when striving,  
Keep your honour, true and bright.  
Play up central! Ever thriving  
On the fruits of grace and light,  
For your comrades of the old days  
Scattered far though they may be,  
For your school, and for her true praise  
Live in service, glad and free.

## Chorus:



Composed by Rev. P. T. Cash

Music by Mrs cash

# English Literature

For the purpose of this assignment, you are required to write an essay on the topic of the English Literature. The essay should be written in a clear and concise manner, and should be supported by relevant evidence. The essay should be written in a clear and concise manner, and should be supported by relevant evidence.

## Introduction

The English Literature is a vast and diverse field of study. It encompasses a wide range of literary works, from ancient Greek and Roman texts to modern British and American literature. The English Literature is a vast and diverse field of study.

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## Conclusion

The English Literature is a vast and diverse field of study. It encompasses a wide range of literary works, from ancient Greek and Roman texts to modern British and American literature. The English Literature is a vast and diverse field of study.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank Barbara Wibbelmann of Mott MacDonald Ltd and Mr K Manickavasagar for proof-reading this souvenir and for ensuring that a consistent standard is maintained within it.

My sincere thanks are due to our Principal, Mr K Elilventhan, for coordinating all the activities associated with the historic ceremony for unveiling the statue of our Founder-Principal.

My special thanks are due to Mr R Santhagunanathan – Australia, Mr K Mahendranathan, Colombo – OBA, Mr M Ravindran – Sri Lanka, Mr K Balakrishnan, President– UK OB&GA, Mr V Shivakumaran, Treasurer – UK OB&GA, Prof K Theivendirarajah, Secretary – Canada OBA, Mr Vernon Fernando, President – Colombo OBA and Mr Easwaran Kandiah – Canada for their assistance and immense support in organising this historic ceremony. Their relentless efforts and teamwork are the main driving forces behind the success of this ceremony.

*R. Kandiah Gugesnarajah*

**Prof R Kandiah Gugesnarajah**  
Cambridge, United Kingdom  
September 2013



## PREFACE



Rev. James Lynch

I have great pleasure and honour to publish this souvenir on the historic occasion of unveiling the statue of the founder-principal of Jaffna Central College, Rev. James Lynch. On this commemoration day, we also mark the bicentenary anniversary of the commencement of the voyage of our beloved founder-principal who sailed to Ceylon on 30 December 1813, with other Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries from Portsmouth in the UK. It was a difficult and risky journey and some members of the team lost their lives, but their determination, resilience and enthusiasm as well as their faith in God enabled them to fulfil their goals.

There is now sufficient evidence, which is presented in this souvenir, confirming the founding of Jaffna Central College in 1815. However, the official date of acquisition from the Government is 1 August 1816. As described in several historic publications, the college was founded as an English School in 1815, named Jaffna Wesleyan English School in 1817, re-named Jaffna Central School by Rev. Dr Peter Percival in 1834 and became Jaffna Central College in 1869.



Rev. Dr. Peter Percival  
Principal 1834-1851

**Rev. Percival enriched our college by enhancing the curriculum to make it equivalent to that of a university at the time.** The letter of 23 March 1848 by the then Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, Sir James Emerson Tennent, is an unequivocal testimony to this fact and brings further pride to us.

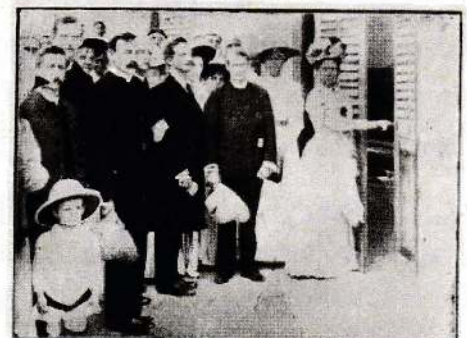
We achieved many milestones throughout our history, but elevation to collegiate status in 1869 was an unprecedented landmark for our college. Unfortunately, Rev. Rhodes, who was the principal at that time could not continue owing to the demise of his wife. At this critical juncture, Rev. Daniel Poor Niles at the age of 34 courageously accepted the request and with Rev. Edmund Rigg as Chairman and Manager, led the college to successes.



W. Romaine Cooke Esqr.  
Vice Principal 1901-1917

A new era of glory and optimism commenced from the very beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this historic era, Mr Romaine Cooke, our Vice Principal from 1901 to 1916, modernised and enhanced the image of our college. Mr Cooke was an engineer, architect and an academic with distinct talents. He was the designer and architect of **the Romaine Cooke Hall which was the first reinforced concrete structure built in Jaffna.** The hall was opened in 1910 by the then Chairman's wife, Mrs Trimmer.

It was in Romaine Cooke Hall that for the first time an English play, Shakespeare's 'The Twelfth Night', was staged by the teachers and students. This was another milestone in our history.



Opening of the Assembly Hall (1910)  
by Mrs. G. J. Trimmer





Rev. Percy T. Cash  
Principal – 1922-1939

We continued to make enormous strides forward, especially under Rev. Percy Cash who modernised the curriculum to meet the new challenges ahead and expanded the building facilities. He recognised the importance of sports, and its value in unifying students in a competitive environment. He achieved his goals by introducing the house system for internal athletic events and assigned to the houses the names of three prominent past Principals and a Vice Principal. Above all, he lifted students' spirits and raised their morale by composing the college



Mrs. P. T. Cash  
Music Teacher

song with the help of his wife who was a London Royal College qualified music teacher at Central. Rev. Cash retired in 1939 but his staff realised his vision for our College.



Rev. D. T. Niles

Our college was opened to all communities irrespective of caste or creed. We refrained from nepotism and cronyism and our previous principals advocated the policy of 'Opportunity for All' and promoted tolerance and forgiveness rather than ostracism. This opened the door for all, including socially deprived students, and further enriched our basic principles on multi-cultural pluralism. The importance of skills in elocution and communication to disseminate our views was promoted by Rev. Dr D T Niles. On several occasions worldwide, our popular scholar's congregations passionately requested him to prolong his speeches. He never declined but always obliged to their request and won their hearts and admiration.

## Heritage

The playground of this prestigious institution is located in front of the school and is surrounded by historic places including the Jaffna Public Library, Subramaniam Park and the Jaffna Clock Tower. It is also located close to the Dutch Fort in Jaffna.

**Above all, it was in this playground that cricket was first introduced into Jaffna in 1881 by the then Principal of the College, Rev. Fredrick Webster. This ground also holds the honour of introducing football into Jaffna in 1894 by our former Principal Rev. Gabriel Leese.** The historical records of the college indicate that cricket was played on turf wicket until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is our moral obligation to preserve the status of these features, which JCC inherited over a century ago, without any relocation.

On behalf of the Centralites and our teachers, I would like to thank Mr Sivapragasam for producing this beautiful statue of our Founder-Principal, Rev. James Lynch. My thanks are also due to all who helped me to successfully organise this historic ceremony.

Raised by the values in our college song and by our determination, our college flag will always fly high above other flags, as it has flown in the past. We will maintain JCC's status forever and preserve its culture and position as a leader in education and sports on the island.

**Prof R Kandiah Gugesanarajah**  
**PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)Eng, DIC, DipStat, MICE, CEng**  
Cambridge, United Kingdom





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Dip.in - School Management M Ed SLPS I

Jaffna

Srilanka

Principal

## முகவுரை



யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி 197வது ஆண்டில் வரலாற்று தடம் பதிக்கும் ஒரு முக்கிய செயற்பாடாக கல்லூரி ஸ்தாபகர் அதிபர் வணக்கத்திற்குரிய ஜேம்ஸ் லிஞ் அவர்களது உருவச்சிலை கல்லூரி வளாகத்திற்கு வைத்து மதிப்பளிக்கப்படுகிறது. 1814ம் ஆண்டில் இலங்கை கல்வி வரலாற்றில் நீங்காத இடத்தைப் பிடித்த வெஸ்லியன் மெதடிஸ் திருச்சபை பிரித்தானியாவில் இருந்து இலங்கை வந்த பிரதிநிதிகளில் யாழ்ப்பாணத்திற்கு வந்த வணக்கத்திற்குரிய ஜேம்ஸ் லிஞ் அவர்கள் யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியை 1816இல் உத்தியோகபூர்வமாக ஸ்தாபித்து கல்விச் செயற்பாட்டில் ஈடுபட்டமை ஓர் இறை செயலாகவே காண்கின்றேன். தீர்க்கதரிசனம் மிக்க ஒரு செயற்பாடு, பிற்காலத்தில் இலங்கையில் புகழ்பெற்ற முன்னணி கல்லூரிகளில் ஒன்றாக யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரி திகழ்ந்தமைக்கும் இலங்கையின் பல பாகங்களில் இருந்து மாணவர்கள் வருகை தந்து கற்று சிறந்து விளங்கியமைக்கும் ஆன்ம பலமும் இதயத் தூய்மையும் மிக்க இவரது தொடக்கமே காரணமாயிற்று.

இத்தகைய வரலாற்று புகழ்மிக்க கல்லூரி ஸ்தாபகரது சிலை ஸ்தாபிப்பு காலத்தி தேவையாகும். 200வது ஆண்டை அண்மிக்கும் எமது கல்லூரியின் வரலாற்று நாயகர்கள் நினைவு கூறவும் மதிப்பளிக்கப்படவும் வேண்டியவையே. வரலாற்று ஆவணங்களும் சுவடுகளும் ஆதாரங்களும் பாதுகாக்கவும் அடுத்த சந்ததிக்கு எடுத்துச் செல்ல காட்சிப்படுத்தப்பட வேண்டிய காலகட்டம் இதுவாகும். இச்செயற்பாட்டின் தொடக்கமாக கல்லூரியின் மூத்த பழைய மாணவரும் முன்னாள் “சிறீ” பல்கலைக் கழகத்தின் பேராசிரியருமாகிய கே. குகணேசராஜா அவர்களது முன் உணர்வு மிக்க சிந்தனையின் அங்குராப்பணமே இச் சிலை வைப்பாகும். வரலாற்று புகழ் மிக்க “ஹொமைன் குக்” மண்டபத்தையும் அதன் குழலையும் கல்லூரியின் புகழையும் வரலாற்றையும் எடுத்துக்கூறும். நூதனசாலையாக அமைக்க வேண்டும் என்பது அவரது எண்ணமாகும். இச்செயற்பாட்டின் தொடக்கமான இச் சிலை வைப்பு பேராசிரியர் அவர்களது பெருமுயற்ச்சியினால் அமைந்து நிற்கின்றது. உயிரோட்டம் மிக்க இச் சிலையை வடித்தவர் எமது முன்னாள் சித்திர பாட ஆசிரியர் அன்புக்கும்



மதிப்பிற்குமுரிய திரு. எஸ். சிவப்பிரகாசம் அவர்கள். அவரது தள்ளாத வயதில் பேராசிரியரது எண்ணத்தை நிறைவேற்றி இச்சிலையை வடிவமைத்து தந்திருக்கின்றார். அவருக்கு பக்கபலமாக திருமதி எஸ். சிவப்பிரகாசம் அவர்கள் இருந்து சிலை வடிக்கும் இச் செயற்பாட்டிற்கு உதவும் முறையைப் பார்த்து நான் பிரமித்துப் போனேன். அவரது மனைவி அவருக்கு உறுதுணையாக நின்று அவரது திறனை வெளிக்காட்ட உதவிய முறை ஒரு மனைவிக்கு இலக்கணமாக அமைந்து நின்றது. அவர்களை இந்த இடத்திலே வாழ்த்தி மகிழ்கின்றேன், வணங்குகின்றேன்.

இந்தச் சிலையானது எமது கல்லூரி முன்றலில் நிமிர்ந்து நிற்கிறது என்றால் அதற்கு காரண கர்த்தாவாக இருந்தவர் எமது கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர் திரு. கே. மகேந்திரநாதன் அவர்கள் என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது. பேராசிரியரின் இவ்வயர்ந்த எண்ணக்கரு ஈடேறுவதற்கு உறுதுணையாக நின்று அயராது உழைத்தவர் அவர். மற்றும் இச் சிலை வைப்பதற்கு எங்களுடன் பக்கபலமாக இருந்த இன்னோர் பழைய மாணவரும் பொறியியலாளருமான திரு. எம். ரவீந்திரன் அவர்கள். அவரது தொழினுட்ப உதவிகள் வழிகாட்டல்கள் அவரது முழுமையான மேற்பார்வை இப்பணியை சிறப்புற வைத்தது. அவருக்கும் எனது பாராட்டுக்கள். இவர்களுடன் இச்சிலை வைப்பு பணியின் போது எனக்கு பக்கபலமாக இருந்த ஆசிரியர்கள், பழைய மாணவர்கள், கல்லூரி கல்விசாரா ஊழியர்கள் நன்றிக்குரியவர்கள். வாழ்த்துகிறேன் இவர்களையும்.

நிறைவாக எனது அன்புக்கும் பெரு மதிப்பிற்குமுரிய பேராசிரியர் கே. குகணேசராஜா அவர்களது பணி தொடரவும் கல்லூரியின் ஒவ்வொரு செயற்பாட்டிற்கும் எனக்கு பக்கபலமாக இருந்து அதன் முழுமையான வெற்றிற்கு தன்னை அர்ப்பணித்து பாடுபடும் எனது அன்புக்குரிய திரு.கே.மகேந்திரநாதன் அவர்களையும் பாராட்டி பணி தொடர வாழ்த்து எமது ஸ்தாபகர் புகழ் எங்கும் பரவட்டும் கல்லூரி என்றும் சிறப்புடன் வளரட்டும் என்று வாழ்த்துகின்றேன்.

எஸ். கே. எழில்வேந்தன்  
அதிபர்

# MESSAGES

**THE FIRST REINFORCED CONCRETE AND IRON GIRDER  
BUILDING IN JAFFNA, BUILT IN 1910**

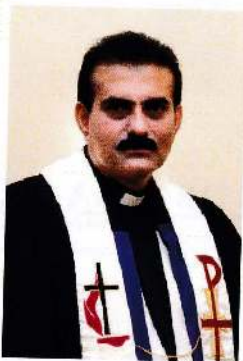


**ROMAINE COOKE HALL**





## Message by the President of Methodist Church Sri Lanka



Rev. Dr. A. W. Jebanesan

I have great pleasure in sending this message of felicitations to the souvenir, which is being published.

The first President Rev Fred de Silva of the autonomous Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, in his first Annual Methodist Conference message said, "The Church is in this land to bring the divine perspective to bear upon everything that happens here." The above verse came in my mind when I thought about the Jaffna Central College. We are here in this world not only to look after the needs of ourselves but to bring divine perspective to everything that happens in our country, whether inside or outside the Church. The Jaffna Central College has scattered light to drive darkness and illiteracy away.

All of us who have been benefited by the Jaffna Central College not forgotten our roots which need to be celebrated. We always look back and thank those who toiled to start and run this school at the initial stages. This recognition and expression of gratefulness is a value that is embedded in our tradition and culture. There no doubt that this will make the children to respect and be grateful to their parents and elders as well, hence we see this celebration as an event where we cherish the noble values of imparting knowledge, wisdom and human values which are the basis of our ancient traditions, culture and the religious values that enrich our nation.

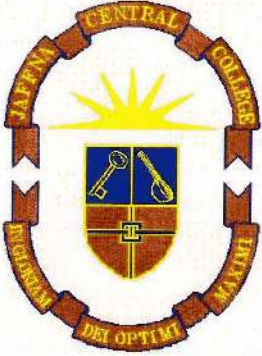
As we commemorate first and founding Principal Rev James Lynch, we wish all who have toiled to make this day a special day and pray God's Blessings on all who are committed to improve the school. The Methodist Church has associated with the College in various ways. We continue to look forward for greater association with this beautiful school.

Rev. Dr. A. W. Jebanesan

**President**

**Methodist Church, Sri Lanka**





# JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

OLD BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION - UK BRANCH

[www.jccobauk.com](http://www.jccobauk.com)

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## **Message from the President of JCC OB & GA UK Branch**

It is right and fair that the founder of our great College, Rev James Lynch, is remembered and honoured by this commemoration event. Our College was under the management of the Methodist Mission until it was taken over by the government. It is very appropriate that the President of the Methodist Mission, Rev Dr J W Jebanesan, has been invited to join the present Principal, Mr K Elilventhan, to unveil the statue of Rev James Lynch, carved by the Art Master of the College, Mr Sivapragasam.

I am glad that I am able to participate in this event through this message and I am delighted to note that our Association has provided the financial backing for this event and our Treasurer, Mr V Shivakumaran, has ensured the funds were remitted in time. I want to place on record the time and effort put in by Prof. K Gugesanarajah and the Principal in organising this event and the contribution of the Art Master Mr Sivapragasam and the support of eminent old boy, Mr K Mahendranathan.

On behalf our Association, I am sending our greetings and best wishes for a successful commemoration event.

K Balakrishnan





# JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

## OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION – COLOMBO BRANCH

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Nearly 200 years of an existence of excellence, leaves much to be boasted about. As an alumnus of Jaffna Central College, it gives me great honour to be able to represent my Alma Mater, as the president of the Colombo Branch of the Old Boys' Association. In writing this message for publication in the souvenir edition to commemorate the unveiling of the statue of the founder Principle of our Alma Mater; Rev. James Lynch I am delighted to be able to recount the myriad adventures and epitomes of excellence that Jaffna Central College has succeeded in producing.

The Reverend James Lynch was one of the Pioneer Missionaries to arrive in Sri Lanka in 1814. He was in the mission team headed by the Rev. Thomas Coke and five others. It was however not in God's plan, for Rev Coke to come to Sri Lanka and he died on the way and was buried at sea. The rest of the mission, though sad at their loss, was not discouraged and arrived at the Weligama beach in the Galle District in 1814. Rev. James Lynch and Rev. Thomas Squance were selected to proceed to Jaffna. Once in Jaffna Rev. Lynch lost no time in selecting a property opposite the Esplanade and started a School named the Wesleyan English School. This school in later years was named Jaffna Central College.

I consider myself, one of the most fortunate of Sri Lankans, as I attended Jaffna Central College. My two older brothers are also alumni of Jaffna Central College. I was a student at Jaffna Central College, from 1945 to 1949, when the Principle was Rev.C.A. Smith and the vice principle was Mr.J.C.Charles. They were both strict disciplinarians and they helped mould some of Sri Lanka's finest professionals.

I excelled in athletics during my period at Jaffna Central. In the year 1948, I was a Prefect of the school, House captain of Percival House and the College Athletic Captain. At the cost of sounding very much like a brag, I must also mention that I was a champion athlete at the Inter collegiate athletic meet in 1948. My achievements were those, that were backed by the discipline, training and dedication that Jaffna Central College and its staff, put into every student that passed through its portals.

Jaffna Central College has grown from its small beginnings to a prestigious world acclaimed institution that is to date, one of Sri Lanka's finest National schools. Jaffna Central College has produced a vast array of distinguished personalities in various fields of Education, Science, Medicine, Technology, Sports and Politics. It is indeed a fitting tribute to honour our Founder, Rev. James Lynch by the erection of a statue in the College premises.

I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Prof.R.K. Guganesharajah for his untiring efforts to produce this Souvenir as a tribute to the founder of our Alma Mater.

*"Central's Flag must never be lowered!"*

*To the Glory of God, in the Highest.*

**Vernon Stanley Fernando**



## இன்று நம்முன் சிலையாக நிற்கும் வணக்கத்துக்குரிய பேராசான் ஜேம்ஸ்லிஞ்



மெதடிஸ்த திருச்சபையினின் பிரதிநிதியாக 1814ஆம் ஆண்டு யாழ் மண்ணில் கால் பதித்து கல்விச் செயற்பாடுகளில் ஈடுபட்டிருந்த வணக்கத்துக்குரிய ஜேம்ஸ்லிஞ் அவர்களால் 1816ஆம் ஆண்டு ஆகஸ்ட் 01ம் திகதி உத்தியோகபூர்வமாக எமது கல்லூரி ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்டு எத்தனையோ கல்விமான்களை, விளையாட்டு வீரர்களையும் உருவாக்கி கம்பீரமான தோற்றமாக இன்றும் மிளர்கிறது என்றால் அதற்கு அத்திவாரம் இட்டவர் வணக்கத்துக்குரிய ஜேம்ஸ்லிஞ் அவர்களே.

மத்தியின் தாய் பெற்றெடுத்த அருந்தவச் செல்வங்களில் ஒருவரான பேராசிரியர் குகணேசராஜா அவர்களின் பெரு முயற்ச்சியினாலும், பூரண ஒத்ததுழைப்பினாலும் இளைப்பாறிய மத்தியின் ஆசான் திருவாளர் சிவப்பிரகாசம் அவர்களின் கைவண்ணத்தில் உருவாக்கப்பட்டு மத்திய கல்லூரியில் கல்வி பயின்ற, பயிலுகின்ற, பயிலப்போகும் மாணவ மணிகளுக்கு அழியாத அடையாளச் சின்னமாக அமைத்துக்கொடுத்த பேராசிரியர் குகணேசராஜா அவர்களுக்கு யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவர் (தாய்) சங்கத்தின் சார்பில் நன்றிகளையும் பாராட்டுக்களையும் தெரிவித்தோடு பேராசிரியர் அவர்கள் கல்லூரியின் வளர்ச்சியில் பல்வேறு வழிகளிலும் உதவி ஒத்தாசை புரிவதையும் நாம் நன்றியுடன் நினைவுகூறுகிறோம்.

என். இராஜதேவன்  
தலைவர்  
பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம்  
யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி.





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## Jaffna Central College

*Old Boys' Association of Canada*

### Greetings from JCCOBA-Canada

On behalf of Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association, Canada, I am delighted to extend my warm greetings to the principal, staff and students of Jaffna Central College on the occasion to commemorate Rev. James Lynch, the founder principal of the college.

You are here to pay tribute to one of our greatest Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries. It is most appropriate that Rev. Dr. A. W. Jebanesan, a distinguished old boy and the president of the Methodist church in Sri Lanka is paying the tribute by unveiling of the portrait of Rev. James Lynch.

I must congratulate Prof. K. Guganesharajah, the coordinator and organizer of this event today. He is a distinguished old boy with a great passion and affection towards our alma mater. I wish him well, his services and sincere dedication to the school shall flourish. Jaffna Central College, a leading public school, in the heart of Jaffna, the capital city of the north of Sri Lanka with a glorious history will be celebrating the bicentennial year (200yrs) in 2016. Centralites present and past must show their solidarity and celebrate the bicentennial year with Great Spirit and enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. K. Theivendirarajah  
Secretary, JCCOBA Canada  
August 30<sup>th</sup> 2013

NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION  
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**[www.jccobasydney.org](http://www.jccobasydney.org)**

**Phone: +61-2-98682857**

I have great pleasure and honour in sending this message on behalf of the JCC OBA Sydney Australia on the occasion of unveiling of the statute of Rev. James Lynch.

It is indeed a very welcome effort of the organizing committee and I wish to congratulate everyone involved and thank the art master Mr Sivapiragsam for undertaking this work of historical importance.

Rev. James Lynch is from a group of Methodist Missionaries from Britain, first came to Ceylon in the year 1814 .It was his vision and great efforts helped to establish this great school to help the local people. Our school is the oldest Methodist Mission institution in the North.

We should also remember at this time the long line of Principals who worked tirelessly to leave the school much better than when they entered and the staff who worked with devotion and dedication for our school to grow from strength to strength.

Jaffna Central old boys must be proud that the Central College was probably the first in Jaffna to have an old boys association. The inaugural meeting of the old boys association was held on 25 December 1906 in the College hall.

A college with such a glorious past must lead the way in providing the youths of Jaffna with a well balanced education to promote in academic studies, sports and cultural activities. Such youths will be required in bringing the region to the past glory, which for many years has been destroyed by the ethnic conflict.

We the old students of the JCC here in Australia are very proud to be the product of such a school.

We are looking forward to our school's 200 year anniversary and it is appropriate that we have the statue of the founder of our school unveiled before then. I am sure that the souvenir will help to bring the OBA's around the world to interact with each other to be in touch with their Alma Mater.

N. Ravindran  
President  
JCC OBA Sydney Australia



## Message from the President of JCC OBA (France)



It is a matter of great privilege and immense pleasure for me to be a part of the commemorative souvenir of our first Principal Rev. James Lynch. He arrived in Jaffna on 10 August 1814. On 1 August 1816, he purchased the site for the school from the Government. We should therefore be very thankful to Rev. James Lynch because he laid the foundation to our College.

In the past years, the France OBA helped to develop the College in many ways. In the future also we shall do our best. So I am sure that with the co-operation of all and with the blessings of the Almighty God, the College will continue to grow in every way in the years to come.

I would also like to thank Prof R K Gugesanarajah and the editorial board for their whole-hearted contributions to the success of the commemorative souvenir of our first Principal Rev. James Lynch. Blessings and wishes to our College from the France OBA once again. Thank you all.

"UNTO THE GLORY OF GOD THE BEST & HIGHEST"

" CENTRAL'S FLAG MUST NEVER BE LOWERED"

Kumarasingham Muthukumar  
President  
OBA ( France )  
Jaffna Central College



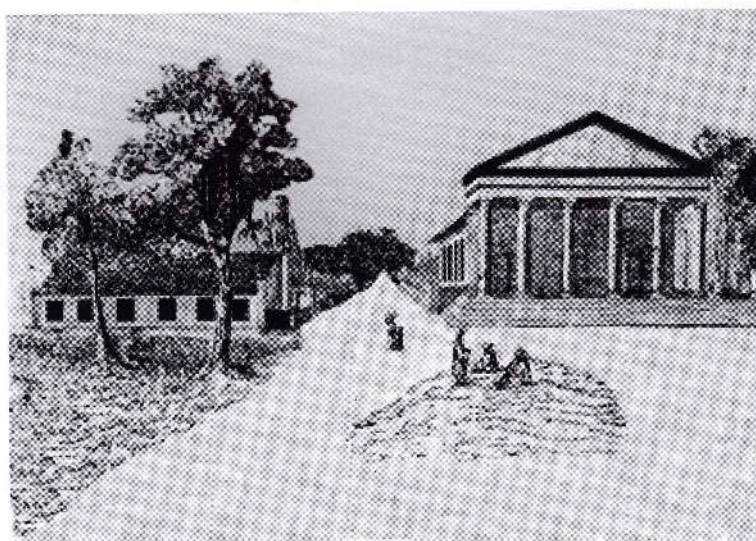


## ARTICLES



### **The Old Orphan House and Lutheran Church**

Courtesy of Mr K Manickavasagar



### **St. Paul's and Mission School**

Source: Centenary Edition, 1936





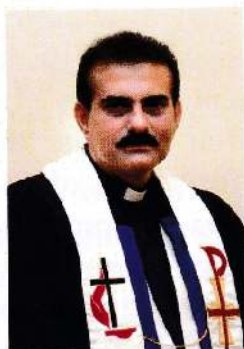
# FROM THE HEART OF ONE HUMAN TO ANOTHER

REV. JAMES LYNCH

THE FIRST PRINCIPAL OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

by

Rev. Dr A W Jebanesan



Rev. Dr. A. W. Jebanesan

I was asked to write some of my thoughts on Rev. James Lynch to the special souvenir being published on the occasion of commemoration and the unveiling of the statue of Rev James Lynch in the premises of the Jaffna Central College.

No one else can do the work, as you with your unique insights and courage can. Should we not - all of us, be working to make the world a better place? To underestimate your concern and true feeling for truth and humanity is a crime. Rev James Lynch, as a Wesleyan Methodist minister took seriously his duty to the Church and humanity. His originality and dedication, his responsibility and tireless consistent lifelong efforts for truth and good, his persistence and foresight, concern and vision are unique. He affected a number young boys from Jaffna to be true to themselves, to be independent, to have the tools for their future. In a corrupted world, where countless billions have been kept in ignorance and darkness, Lynch was an inspiration, a flame that kindled the sparks lying dormant in all humans of their own great possibilities.

James Lynch was born of Roman Catholic parents in Ireland in 1775. When he was about 17 years old he became a member of a protestant church. As a young person he was actively involved in the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) movement in Ireland. The YMCA movement played a central role in the spiritual life of the young people in Londonderry. In 1808, he entered the Irish Methodist Ministry and worked as an evangelist in various Circuits in Ulster. The hard training provided by the Irish Methodist Church to endure hardships in the rough and tumble realities of Irish life, his experience of long rides and simple travels prepared him for a good ministry in the days to come.

Rev James Lynch along with other brother missionaries joined Rev. Dr. Thomas Coke to embark on a journey to Ceylon in end of December 1813. Rev. Dr. Coke, their 67 year old grey-haired leader challenged all of them, "Here we all are before God, embarked on the most important and glorious work in the world.... and that he had not suffered parents, nor brothers, nor sisters, nor the dearest friends, to stop any of you going with me."



They travelled in a ship named 'Lady Melville' and reached Point de Galle on 29 June 1814. After much prayer they cast lots for their appointments. The lot that fell to Rev James Lynch and Rev Thomas Squance destined for Jaffna. Rev Lynch was then nearly forty years of age and a bachelor. Rev Lynch and Rev Squance reached Jaffna on 10 August 1814.

Time will not permit me to describe the kind of work Rev James Lynch did in Jaffna, Ceylon and later started the Methodist mission work in Chennai, India among the people. I am sure thousands and thousands of people would have remembered Rev Lynch as their much-loved one in their hearts.

In one of his letters to the Methodist Missionary Society written in April 1816, he proposed "a plan for establishing native schools... to promote efficient learning." On August 1st, 1816, the old Orphan House and the Lutheran church opposite the Esplanade were purchased from the Government by James Lynch for a sum of 646 Rix Dollars. It was the first property acquired by the Mission in Jaffna and provided with a well situated chapel and school. We can boldly say that we were fortunate to have a person like Rev Lynch in Jaffna because he challenged the Methodist Home Committee in London to approve his project. "There was a good deal of anxiety among supporters at home about the plan proposed by Mr. Lynch. However, the Home Committee gave its blessings to this project, and soon schools were established in many places." He fulfilled not only the promise he himself had as a human being, but also 'enabled' the promise all of us have, whether we are aware of it or not. Before knowing that such a person as he existed we might have had faith in human nature by extrapolation of my own self, but after knowing him we were fired to do our bit, to utilize every insight into thinking up ways to make a better world.

In 1818 Squance, in a letter to England, reported three Tamil schools at Vannarponnai, Navatkuli and Puttur. In 1819 there were 13 schools in the Peninsula, and in Jaffna alone there were 5 schools by 1823. They were the English school at the Orphan house, where 42 children, descendants of the Portuguese and Dutch, studied, and 4 native schools which were "the best on the station, at Vannarponnai, Weaver Street, Silver Smith Street and Nallur". Seven functioned at Point Pedro with 321 scholars. Trincomalee had 3 schools, one English school at the Mission House and two Native schools, one at the Little Bazaar and the other at the Great Bazaar, with 122 scholars, and Batticaloa had 5 schools with 186 pupils.

I know that human destiny is far more complex than can be worded in a little article like this. I know that for every person like Rev James Lynch, who makes heartfelt efforts to propagate a truth, there are hundreds who take his effort to heart and hundreds more who set up vested interest to suppress those truths. For every leap forward humans then take ten backward and still we are where we are and sooner or later we will arrive where we should be.



Rev Lynch believed visions of future are clouded in the fever of greed and short term perspectives. You may gain in the short-term but you ruin the future your children and grandchildren will have... There will be a time when humans will have learnt that long term perspectives are far more important than short term benefits...that the concern for your fellow human beings and their future and for everyone else who thinks and feels and will think and feel like you in future (for good), even if you will never know of them, is a far more important concern than securing gain for those in your immediate vicinity that you love the most. There will be a time when humans will have more strength of morals and principles and ethics and by those I do not mean anything like the constrained thought, constrained inquiry and constrained feeling that goes into making any religion ancient or modern, where only the status quo is benefited and there remain a million others in ignorance and fear forever, or at least for a very long time....

I also write to convey an important message: a message that there are other persons who, thinking and feeling like Rev Lynch can change an entire life. Lynch has always preferred the message to the messenger, both for himself and for the other person; the message and concern for fellow humans is the first priority, all other matters are secondary. Rev Lynch worked in Jaffna for three years and was asked to take over the mission work in India. He left Jaffna in a small boat to Madras, India in February 1817.

In a world where the harnessing of the weaknesses of human nature rather than the strengths is norm, in a world where whenever we find ourselves unable to act, we make ourselves free to redefine the unfortunate and all those unable to speak for their rights as sub-human, his was a message of Christian Gospel, hope and sincere dedication to the search for truth. In 1824 when Rev Lynch retired from his Chairperson's responsibilities, Robert Carver the new Chairperson wrote to the Home Committee, "We cannot permit our beloved Brother Lynch to take his departure for Europe, without expressing our high sense of his disinterestedness, his simplicity and his zeal. These qualities have made a great impression on all of us."

Rev James Lynch's struggle could be put in this way; can you be true to your God if you can't love your fellow human beings as yourselves? Rev Lynch's last years were spent in Leeds. In 1858 he died in the eighty-third year of his age and fiftieth of his ministry. His work is a loud call to us to be up and doing. Many have laboured and we have entered into their labours. I am certainly using this article as a platform to air views to all who have a chance to listen to this message because at least I think that these are important issues. Otherwise I could have restricted my article to the first few paragraphs but they would have been then – emotional recall of Lynch's life without a sense, they would have failed to explain and to satisfy in a very human.



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# THE HISTORIC VOYAGE OF THE METHODIST MISSIONARIES TO CEYLON AND FOUNDING OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE BY REV. JAMES LYNCH IN 1815

by  
Prof R K Gugesnarajah and Mr K Manickavasagar



Prof. R. K. Gugesnarajah

We are pleased to publish this article on the historic occasion of unveiling the statue of the founder-principal of Jaffna Central College, Rev. James Lynch. On this occasion, we also mark the bicentenary anniversary of the commencement of the voyage of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries who set sailing to Ceylon from Portsmouth harbour in UK on 30 December 1813. They encountered several setbacks, including the death of the mission leader, Rev. Dr Thomas



Mr. K. Manickavasagar

Coke, and Mrs Ault, wife of one of the missionaries, but their resilience, enthusiasm and determination enabled them to fulfil their goals. After their arrival in Ceylon, they progressively established more and more schools and churches which enhanced the education of all communities in Ceylon.

We Centralites have been remembering our beloved Founder-Principal Rev. James Lynch for almost two centuries in our hearts, but TODAY, on this historic occasion, we fulfil our dreams by unveiling his statue. This veteran scholar led the first Wesleyan Mission to Jaffna, along with Rev. Thomas Squance, in August 1814. In the following year, in 1815, our Alma Mater was founded by this great leader. His personal letters of 1815 to the Wesleyan Methodist Committee in London are an unequivocal testimony to the date on which JCC was established as English School. Since the inception of our college in 1815, our profound achievements in the arena of cultural, educational and religious activities have had a distinct and unique influence on the island. In this context, the relentless and untiring efforts of our past principals and leaders of the Wesleyan Mission have played a major role in bringing fame and honour to our Alma Mater.

## VOYAGE OF WESLEYAN METHODIST MISSIONARIES TO CEYLON



Sir Alexander Johnston  
Source: British Museum

British and American English-speaking missionaries started coming during British rule. Dr. Thomas Coke of the Wesleyan Methodist Society (WMS) was earnestly wishing to serve God in India and Ceylon. But the East India Company stood in the way and obstructed Dr Coke's ambitions. In 1802, Ceylon was ceded to the British Crown, and the Chief Justice in the island, Alexander Johnston, having heard of the good work done by the WMS, sent them an invitation. On 23 June 1813, British India also opened its gates to the Gospel by an act of Parliament. This decision sowed the seed for a new era in the religious and educational history of the island. After the preliminaries, the mission leader Rev. Dr Coke preached his last sermon in St Peter's

Chapel, Portsea in Portsmouth, on his favourite text 'Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God'.





Santa Churchas, Chapas & Places of Worship on Portsea Island, J Offerd

**St. Peters Chapel, Portsea**



Source: <http://www.historic-shipping.co.uk/robertwigram/lady-melville%2013.html>

**Lady Melville**

Then a group of missionaries under his leadership set sail to Ceylon in two ships: Dr Coke, Mr Clough and Mr and Mrs Harvard on board the ship 'Cabalva', and Rev. James Lynch, Rev. Erskine, Rev. Thomas Squance and Mr and Mrs Ault on the 'Lady Melvilla'. They left the shores of England on 29 December 1813 and sailed on the following day.



Source: Centenary Edition, 1936

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Coke**



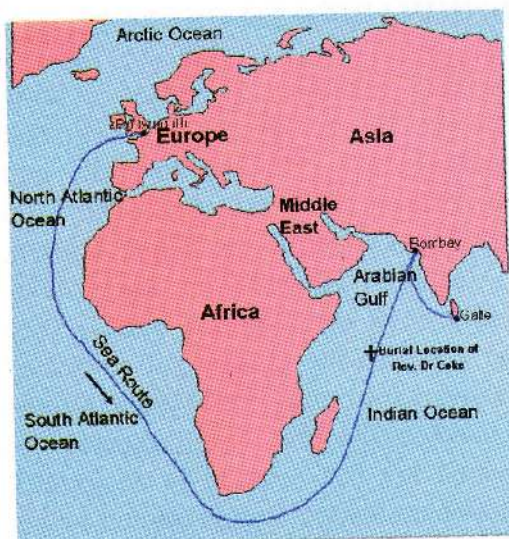
Source: Archive, Methodist Church

**Rev. James Lynch**



Source: Archive, Methodist Church

**Rev. Thomas Squance**



**Sea Route of the Missionaries**  
Source: Prof R K Gugesheharajah

The voyage ahead was difficult for the missionaries, extending over 12,000 miles through the English Channel, the North and South Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea until its destination Bombay, and then from Bombay to Galle via the Arabian Sea.

But it was the will of God that the spirit of Mrs. Ault, wife of the oldest missionary, came to rest with Him on 10 February 1814 and the same evening her remains were committed to the sea. On 3 May 1814 in the morning, Dr Coke was found lying dead on the floor of his cabin. He was buried at sea at latitude 2° 29' S and longitude 59° 24' E, which is some distance north-west of the Seyshelles.



The mission team landed in Bombay on 21 May 1814 without its leader. The unfortunate missionaries encountered financial difficulties because the captain of the ship had no authorisation from Rev. Dr Coke to hand over the money kept in his possession to any other member of the team. However, they were fortunate to get support from respectable banker Mr Thomas Money to whom Rev. Dr Coke had already written a letter of introduction. After about a month's stay in Bombay, the missionaries, with the exception of Mr and Mrs Harvard who remained in Bombay for some time, set sail to Ceylon on 20 June 1814.

The ships reached Welligama, near Galle, on 29 June 1814. This day thereafter became known as the Methodist Day in Sri Lanka. Sir Robert Brownrigg, the Governor of Ceylon, extended his welcome to them and suggested that they open English schools in some of the principal places to both teach the local people and to learn their language. The Governor also offered 50 Rix Dollars per month to each school and suggested Jaffna, Manner, Batticaloa, Galle and Matara as locations for schools.

On 11 July 1814, they met for the selection of the locations and their missionaries. Rev. James Lynch and Rev. Thomas Squance were selected for Jaffna. They left Galle on 14 July after thanking the Governor, proceeded to Colombo and stayed with Rev. and Mrs. Twisleton. Then they went on their way to Jaffna, starting their journey on 1 August and travelling through villages and jungles to reach Jaffna on 10 August 1814. The sub-collector in Jaffna, James N Mooyart, received them and was their host.

Their letters as well as those of their immediate successors describe the situation in Jaffna at the time after Portuguese and Dutch occupation. The most often repeated references are to the Dutch and Portuguese inhabitants, who formed the Christian nucleus. However, they were mostly illiterate and seemed in many ways non-Christian to the remnants of the indigenous Christian community under the Dutch, who were mostly baptised former Hindus. The indigenous population itself still practised cast distinction and idol worship.

Rev. Christian David, a Tamil preacher and Colonial Chaplain of Jaffna, also visited them and offered his help. Although Rev. Lynch and Rev. Squance proposed to open schools immediately, there was an inevitable delay for want of a building large enough to serve as a dwelling house and as a school. By then, Rev. Ault had died in Batticaloa and the next most senior missionary, Rev. James Lynch, had to be in the position of Chairman for the whole Ceylon District.

### OWNERSHIP OF THE COLLEGE

On 1 August 1816, the old Orphan House and Lutheran Church opposite to the Esplanade were purchased by James Lynch from the Government for a sum of 640 Rix Dollars, states the Centenary Edition, but Rev. Lynch himself has said in the two letters that of August 17, 1815 and November 15, 1815 that the cost was 505 Rix Dollars. It was the first property officially acquired by the Mission in Jaffna and marked the beginning of a new phase.

**In fact, the transaction was made months earlier than that. Yet, the College history book records that the College property was purchased on 1 August 1816. It is fair and scholarly to accept this as the beginning of ownership of the College. The fact is that the deed of the purchase was signed on this date in Colombo.**



## JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE WAS FOUNDED IN 1815

**Rev. James Lynch speaks:**

**Extract of a letter from Rev. Lynch to the Secretary of the Methodist Missionary Committee. Jaffna Patam, August 17, 1815....**

'... I have also made a purchase of a place, in one of the most airy and healthy situations, and in a central place. The purchase money is 505 rix-dollars or £40 sterling.

I have more than 60 boys, most of whom are heathens, learning English; and several of them, who have not renounced heathenism, read the New Testament, both in English and Malabar, with the Christian boys.'

**Extract of a letter from Rev. Lynch to the Missionary Committee:  
Jaffna, Ceylon, Nov 15, 1815**

'... I have lately made the purchase of a tolerably large house and garden, for 505 rix-dollars. The house is 90 feet in length, and 20 in breadth. The ground behind it is more than 100 feet long. The house being old and out of repair, I have been under the necessity of making repairs to the amount of about 40 dollars: and have now a chapel of 60 feet long and 20 feet broad. I keep the school in the other part. But after the present monsoon, which is just set in, I shall be under the necessity of taking off the roof, and altering the whole, for both a chapel and dwelling-house. As there are materials on the premises, I have the whole may be done or less than 100£ or about 1000 rix-dollars. All my brethren are decidedly of my opinion, that we should have a house and chapel in Jaffna. As a healthy situation is of the utmost importance in this country, I kept this in view, and the place I have purchased is certainly one of the most healthy and pleasant in Jaffna. It fronts a large esplanade and commands a view of the forte and sea. It is about a quarter of a mile distant from the fort, and about the same distance from the extremity of the Pettah.'

**The Governor Sir Brownrigg speaks:**

**'As a subject that will be interesting to you, I take the liberty to forward the last Annual Report of our Bible Society ...'**

**Kings House, Colombo  
Robert Brownrigg**



Sir Robert Brownrigg  
Source: British Museum

'At Jaffna the care of Government has provided a still more liberal establishment; for 36 youths are maintained, as well as educated, at the public expense, under the superintendence of Christian David, a native Hindoo, now a Christian Minister, who was himself brought up and educated by the venerable Schwartz. Beside the school, which is principally intended to form a nursery for the supply of native schoolmasters, catechists and proponents, **70 boys are instructed daily, by the Rev. James Lynch, one of the Wesleyan Missionaries;** and a Sunday-school is just now forming, under the patronage and direction of the Rev. James Glenie, one of the colonial chaplains.'



## CONCLUSION

The foregoing facts suffice proof that Jaffna Central College is the oldest permanent school founded in the area of the pre-Portuguese and Tamil Kingdom of Jaffna. It was founded as an English School by Rev. James Lynch in 1815, named Jaffna Wesleyan English School in 1817, re-named Jaffna Central School by Rev. Dr Peter Percival in 1834 and became Jaffna Central College in 1869.



**The Old Orphan House and  
Lutheran Church Building**

Illustration Sent by Rev Dr P Percival to London 1848  
Courtesy of Mr K Manickavasagar



**St. Paul's and Mission School (left)  
and St. Peters Church (Right)**

Source: Centenary Memorial Edition, 1936

Our founder, Rev. James Lynch, considered short- and long-term benefits and skilfully selected a central location for education with access for all communities.

Following this historic inception period, Rev. Dr Peter Percival took over the Chairmanship in 1934 and enhanced the image of our college with fresh ideas. Rev. Percival was a renowned scholar with marked managerial and academic skills. In 1834, he changed the name of the school to Jaffna Central School. The new name symbolises its central role for education in Jaffna.

Rev. Percival gave utmost priority to reviving the curriculum and logistic facilities of our school. In 1836, he refurbished the school building and the Lutheran Church and renamed it St Paul's Church. This new building was said to be the most beautiful structure in Jaffna at that time.



Rev. Percival enriched our college by enhancing the curriculum to make it equivalent to that of a university at the time. The letter of 23 March 1848 by the then Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, Sir James Emerson Tennent, is an unequivocal testimony to this fact and brings further pride to us, as he made positive comments in this letter on the examinations being conducted at Jaffna Central School after observing them. We are very proud to reveal that Central had its collegiate status and was affiliated to Madras University before university education commenced in Ceylon in 1921. But again, the Centralite Professors V A Kandiah, A Mylvaganam and several others led the University College of Colombo and brought fame for Central, placing our Alma Mater on the world map.



Rev. Lynch spent his last years in Leeds and passed away in 1858. The contribution of this great scholar to the establishment of our Alma Mater will always be recognised and remembered by the Centralites and Alumni. We are very proud of this charismatic scholar and pray for his soul to rest in peace in the hands of God and 'in gloriam dei optimi maximi' as engraved on our college crest.

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Source: JCC OBA, UK

Jaffna Central College and Play Ground: View from Jaffna Library





