

= The Vicar of Wakefield (1910 film) =

The Vicar Of Wakefield is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film was adapted from Oliver Goldsmith 's novel The Vicar of Wakefield , but covers only part of the plot and deviates significantly from the book to allow the story to be told within the confines of a single reel of film .

The film begins with the vicar and his family heading to a picnic with Squire Thornhill , during the course of which the vicar notices Thornhill 's interest in his daughter , Olivia . The vicar warns his family that Thornhill is a degenerate young man , but Olivia is seduced and elopes with Thornhill . Secretly , Thornhill arranges a fake marriage ceremony to capitalize on his sexual desires while avoiding the responsibility that would come with the union . Olivia learns the marriage was fake and that she has duped into a form of consensual prostitution with Thornhill , but escapes and returns home . Thornhill decides to take his revenge by having the vicar incarcerated for his debts . While in prison , the vicar learns that the marriage was in fact legitimate ; Thornhill 's uncle , Sir William , then forces his nephew to apologize to Olivia and fulfill his obligations .

The identities of most of the cast are known , but the role of director , often erroneously credited to Theodore Marston is not . The film was released on December 27 , 1910 and met with positive reviews . The surviving print is in the Nederlands Filmmuseum and has been released on DVD .

= = Plot = =

The Thanhouser production is an adaptation of only part of the novel . The film departs significantly from the original plot , such as in the omission of the double @-@ wedding scene . It begins with Dr Charles Primrose , the vicar of Wakefield , attending a picnic with his landlord Squire Thornhill . The vicar does not like Squire Thornhill , who is reputed to be a degenerate young man , but he has no reservations once he sees Thornhill 's interest in his daughter , Olivia . The next scene shows Squire Thornhill convincing Olivia to elope with him , so the two can be married . But Squire Thornhill has no intention of marrying her , and commissions a farmer to arrange a fake wedding ceremony . The farmer accepts , but shakes his fist in anger at the squire after he has departed .

Squire Thornhill leaves in a carriage with Olivia , whose departure is soon reported to the rest of the family . Stricken with grief , the vicar heads off to reclaim his wayward daughter . At the end of the marriage ceremony the farmer receives his payment , and the squire and Olivia embrace . The vicar arrives shortly afterwards , but after failing to persuade his daughter to return home with him leaves in despair . Olivia learns later that the marriage was a sham , but continues to live in Thornhill 's house until he offers her as a prostitute to an acquaintance of his . Olivia flees in a rage and returns home , where she is reunited with her family . Thornhill , now out for revenge , has the vicar arrested and thrown into jail for unpaid debts .

Olivia goes to meet her father in prison , and upon exiting the farmer who had arranged the marriage between Olivia and Thornhill appears and gasps in shock . The vicar explains that Olivia is his daughter , and the farmer reveals his role in the plot , but that out of hatred for Thornhill he procured the services of a real priest to officiate at the wedding . The farmer heads to Thornhill 's house and reveals that the marriage was in fact legitimate . Thornhill 's uncle , Sir William , forces him to take responsibility for his actions and beg Olivia 's forgiveness . Olivia accepts Thornhill 's apology and the couple embrace and kiss . Although not in the surviving print , the synopsis concludes with " Sir William then discloses his identity and asks for the hand of Sophia [another of the vicar 's daughters] . The vicar is released from prison , and he and his family look forward to a future of happiness and plenty . "

= = Cast = =

Martin J. Faust as the vicar of Wakefield
Frank H. Crane
Anna Rosemond

William Garwood
Marie Eline
Bertha Blanchard
Lucille Younger
William Russell

= = Production = =

The film was adapted from Oliver Goldsmith 's novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* . The complex plot was broken down to a single @-@ reel adaptation by Edwin Thanhouser and / or Lloyd Lonergan . Edwin Thanhouser 's wife Gertrude assisted with the scenarios and editing of the films , but it is not specifically known if she contributed to this production .

The film 's director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil or Lucius J. Henderson . Credit is sometimes given to Theodore Marston , an error that apparently originates with the American Film @-@ Index 1908 ? 1915 . Film historian Q. David Bowers consulted one of the co @-@ authors of the book , Gunnar Lundquist , and confirmed that the credit of Marston as director was in error . Marston worked with Pathé , Kinemacolor , Vitagraph and other companies , but there is no record of him working with Thanhouser . This error has persisted in several works including *The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film* . Cameramen employed by the company at the time the film was made include Blair Smith , Carl Louis Gregory and Alfred H. Moses , Jr . , but the role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . This production is unique for having the cast members known , because most of the credits in Thanhouser 's 1910 productions are fragmentary .

= = Release and reception = =

The single @-@ reel drama , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet long , was released on December 27 , 1910 . The film likely had a wide national release , theaters are known to have shown the film in Pennsylvania , Kansas , Indiana , and South Dakota . The film received positive reviews from trade publications including the *The Moving Picture World* , which praised the acting and the execution of the film as an education for audiences by exposing them to literary masterpieces . The *New York Dramatic Mirror* reviewer was less enthusiastic , writing that " The production gave a very praiseworthy portrayal of the period , but a moving picture needs such different treatment from a novel that its interpretation in a picture is bound to lose much of the original interest . The acting was in every way adequate , although not great . "

The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film lists this film as the first adaptation of the *Vicar of Wakefield* . It was followed by identically titled adaptations , including Pathé Frères 's *The Vicar Of Wakefield* in 1912 and the Kinematograph Trading Company 's *The Vicar Of Wakefield* in 1913 , Ideal Film Company 's *The Vicar Of Wakefield* in 1916 . The Thanhouser Company reproduced the *The Vicar of Wakefield* in 1917 . The two Thanhouser films differ in more than just length , as the feature @-@ length adaptation shows the progression of motion pictures from " essentially static tableaux , each announced by a title card , to a series of scenes and sequences analyzed by editing , most notably with vivid close @-@ ups of the great stage actor Frederick Warde . "

A surviving print held in the Nederlands Filmmuseum was the source of the modern re @-@ release of film . It is 13 minutes 20 seconds long and features a new original score composed and performed by Raymond A. Brubaker . The film was released on DVD as Volume 4 of the *Thanhouser Classics Video Collectors Set* . It was also released as part of the *Treasures from the Desmet Collection* at the EYE Filmmuseum .