

Extracts from Quorn National School log books (juniors/seniors) 1874-98

1874 September 28th

I, John Thomas Judges, late of St James's Boys' School, Curtain Road, London EC, took charge of this school. The school re-assembled after five weeks' holiday. 42 children present.

1874 October 16th

I wrote to Mr Underwood, hosiery manufacturer requesting him to make arrangements for allowing his factory children to attend school, one week in the morning, and the other in the afternoon, and so on alternately.

1874 October 20th

Mr Underwood replied to my letter of the 16th, stating that he would comply with my request.

1875 January 4th

Re-opened after Xmas vacation. 46 children present. Admitted three new boys.

1875 March 18th

Warned several of the lads of worrying a cow which is grazing on the green: the owner of the animal having complained to me.

1875 June 16th

Mrs Ainslie and Revd. R Stammers visited. (brother and sister). Mr Stammers impressed on the children the necessity of more regular attendance. Irregular children threatened with expulsion. Thin attendance on account of the Wesleyan Methodist children's tea meeting and many children being engaged in pea-getting and hay-making.

1875 July 5th

Many children are now at work in the fields, hay-making and pea-getting.

1875 July 21st and 22nd

No scholars were able to approach the school on either of these days on account of a most disastrous flood which rendered all the low-lying roads impassable.

1875 August 5th

Sent home Mary Judd for her school money and her mother sent word that she "was not going to pay it". I have suspended her till payment is made.

1875 August 13th

Broke up for the Harvest vacation - one month. We re-assemble on the 13th of Sept.

1875 Sept 13th

No school this week on account of the "Wake" falling in the week.

1875 Oct 7th

Very meagre attendance both today and Thursday owing to some children being away from home spending holiday, and many others kept at home on the most frivolous pretences and in some cases without sufficient cause. It is high time some more stringent measures were adopted.

1875 Oct 15th

54 children present. There has not been so good a school for months past.

1875 Oct 21st

No school this morning on account of the roads being under water.

1875 Nov 11th

Roads flooded in some parts of the parish, many absent in consequence. The prevalence of floods during the last four months has considerably reduced the attendance; and on several occasions the school has been closed through them.

1875 Nov 15th

Scarlatina and Measles has broken out in the parish. Thirteen children are absent today, either from an attack themselves or in some other member of their family. What with Measles, Scarlatina, the flood and Loughboro' Statute Fair, I have a very thin attendance this afternoon.

1875 November 17th

Eighteen children are absent through the measles and Scarlet Fever

1875 November 18th

Thirty-two absences from the aforesaid Epidemic, closed school on medical authority. I shall re-open on Monday if sufficient number attend.

1875 November 23rd

On sending word to Mrs Burrows that her children were negligent in their night lessons, I received word that she "wanted no schooling at home" and so it was not their faults but hers as she would not let them do their lessons.

1876 January 3rd

Reopened after Christmas Holidays. 52 present. Admitted two new children.

1876 June 13th

Discovered that Isaac Tuckwood had stolen a Poetry Book and torn the covers off and then bartered it to J Preston for a catapult. Addressed the school on the evil of stealing, and sent for Mr Stammers who likewise addressed the children on that topic. The thief having confessed his fault and expressed his contrition, punishment is deferred. Mr Stammers in the meantime will call on his parents.

1876 Dec 21st

The numbers are distressingly low; many children, especially the girls, are kept at home assisting in cleaning up for Christmas. Some are ill and will therefore not attend till after the holidays. Rev. Robt. Stammers examined the school in geography and scripture.

1877 January 1st

Re-opened School after Christmas Holidays. Numbers very low probably on account of the weather and the roads being flooded in parts of the village.

1877 January 4th

Only twenty-nine children were present this morning and as the waters were rising fast, I deemed it advisable to send them home till tomorrow morning.

1877 January 22nd

Mrs Ainslie visited and inspected the girls' sewing. *[This happens every few days].*

1877 April 20th

Mr Thornhill of Leicester, the Inspector of Factories and Workshops called at the school and inquired after irregular factory half-timers. He informed me that all Factory children must attend school till they are 14 years of age unless they pass Standard IV of the Code 1876.

1877 July 11th

Holiday. Church Sunday School Annual Festival. Tea etc. given by Mrs Warner of Quorn Hall where the children joined in their sports.

1877 July 16th

Quorndon and Neighbourhood Horticultural Exhibition this day. Holiday in afternoon.

1877 October 15th

Very boisterous morning - 52 children absent, many having gone getting sticks which have blown off trees.

1878 January 7th

No "Child's School Books" have reached us yet. Admitted Emma Canning who is transferred from the Infants' School. This being the first admission since Jan 1st. A Certificate of Age should have been presented, but as no "School Books" are to hand the presentation of Age Certificate stands over till such time as the necessary "Books" are received.

1878 July 18th

Sent Sarah Wykes home to have her head cleansed, it being in the most filthy state.

1878 Dec 17th

Several scholars have left to attend an inefficient free R.C school lately opened in the village.

1878 Dec 19th

Mr Geo. Bryan, Attendance Officer, called and left forms for monthly return (December). He directed that all scholars attending the inefficient School mentioned above should be reported as attending no school.

1879 January 21st

Full attendance 80 present in afternoon.

1879 January 22nd

82 present, some assistance sorely needed.

1879 February 4th

Sent Sarah Wilders home to be washed, her mother returned with her saying her child was not dirty. I pointed out to her the unclean parts and told her that when she (the child) had been washed I would allow her to re-join her class and not till then.

1879 April 28th

Received new globe from Leicester, with map of British Isles

1879 May 30th

I, John Thos. Judges, do this day resign charge of this school.

1879 June 9th

This is the first day of my charge here as Master of the Quorndon National School [George R Goodison] Admitted Edith & Annie York, Louise Brotherton and Samuel Davies. The attendance is very thin owing to many of the children being at Barrow Wake. Frederick Thornton commenced his duties as a monitor. The school is entirely without a supply of slates and more reading books are required for the efficient working of the school. The discipline is very defective, and the children very rough and ill-behaved. The Vicar visited the school a.m. [Rev Stammers visits the school every 2/3 days, sometimes more].

1879 June 25th

I have only been here as Master of this school about 17 days, but owing to the unwillingness of the Managers to allow me to conduct the school in my own way, and supply me with the needful apparatus for the efficient working of the school, I have found it necessary to resign the appointment, much to my own personal loss as I had furnished the School house ready for taking up my residence here.

1879 July 11th

The numbers are still very low, 69 present, at both meetings today. A great many children attend school very irregularly indeed. I am glad to say there is a decided improvement with respect to latecomers. Average for the week 66.4. No sewing taught this week; the girls have received their instruction with the boys.

1879 July 17th

The vicar visited the school a.m. and copied HM Inspector's Report in The Log Book. I asked the vicar about a supply of ink, as we have been without over a week and consequently have been unable to have copy-book work. The vicar directed me where to get the ink from in future.

1879 July 23rd

Thomas Lucas the father of one of the scholars came into the school this morning at 11.55 and accused me before the whole of the scholars with ill-treating his child by knocking one of her teeth out. This was entirely false as the child had not even been punished. He used most abusive and profane language, so much so, that I have thought to take legal advice in the matter.

1879 August 25th

57 present this morning and 62 this afternoon. Admitted Albert Henry Cragg and Jane Elizabeth Watts. As the additional building to the Infant School is not sufficiently complete for their reception, on their assembly after vacation, I have put up the folding doors in this school and given them the use of one room.

1879 August 28th

School closed this morning for Harvest vacation (one month) they will re-assemble Sept 29th. This is the last day of my charge here as Master of this school, as my notice will have expired before the re-opening of the school. Average for the week 63. Geo R Goodison

1879 September 29th

I Henry King commenced duties as Master of this school. Admitted two boys and five girls. Explained compound division t Standard IV

1879 October 6th

There are no slates belonging to the school and much trouble is given to the teachers in finding slates to some few who come without one.

1880 March 5th

Flogged George Howlett for insolence.

1880 May 31st

I have this day resigned the Mastership of this school, having had no assistance with an attendance generally of above 80 children and an insufficient supply of materials, I have found great difficulties in working the school to my own satisfaction. The Revd. R Stammers examined 1st and 2nd classes during the morning and in the afternoon brought me the supply of paper (nearly a quire) for the working of he Upper Standards.

1880 16th July - Summary of HM Inspector's Report

The children have been carefully taught and with better results than might have been looked for from a teacher working single-handed with so large an average attendance. The Master complains that he has an insufficient supply of reading books, stationary and sewing materials. Three more desks are wanted at once and probably yet another three will be shortly needed. The whole should be so arranged that the scholars may face all one way and be eyed by their teacher standing in front of them. Washing apparatus should also be supplied.

1880 August 18th

The Rev T W Richards visited the school. I stopped the work of the school soon after 4 o'clock for the children to present me and Mrs King with a silver inkstand and teapot.

1880 October 4th

Mr Wm Shannon, late Master of Doddington Endowed School, 2nd class was appointed Master of this school and entered upon his duties the 4th day of October 1880. Robert Stammers

1880 Oct 11th

Mr Jas Lucas ex P.T [*pupil teacher*] assumed duty as Asst. Master of the school. Visited by Revd. R Stammers.

1880 Oct 13th

Emily Disney having misconducted herself at prayers was "kept in". The Mother came to the school; used the most obscene language, threatened to break the windows and finally directed her daughter to unlock a side door and leave.

1880 Oct 14th

Gave E. Disney her copy book and excluded her from the school for the present. School interrupted at 10 am by Mrs Disney who again used strong and obscene language. John Kemp punished by detention after morning session. His Mother withdrew him from school treating me to the abusive language which appears characteristic of the women of Quorn.

1880 Oct 18th

While closing morning school Mesdames Armston and Daft, accompanied by another woman (who had no other business than to enjoy the scene) came into the room and without the slightest reference to me, withdrew their children. In the afternoon the boys presented themselves but of course I declined to receive them.

1880 October 19th

Visited in the afternoon by Revd. R Stammers and at his request re-admitted A Daft. It appears that the boys are required to carry their fathers' dinners to the Quarries at Mountsorrel. The Mothers assert that it has been customary to allow these boys to leave 5 or 10 mins before 12 o'clock. There is no record of such arrangement in the Log, nor are any attendances cancelled in last year's Registers (as would be absolutely necessary according to the timetable) The parents would not consent to the children losing the credit of the morning attendance. I have therefore no alternative but to adhere strictly to time-table.

1880 October 22nd

While dismissing morning school (strictly adhering to the time-table) Mrs Daft burst into the room and repeated the scene of Monday, forcibly withdrawing her 2 boys. In the afternoon Mrs Daft again sent her boy to school but I could not receive him without an apology, so I sent him home. A little later Mrs Daft presented herself, asking for some books the boy had left behind. While they were being looked out she stood at the open door talking and disturbing the school. I repeatedly requested her to withdraw, but she refused to do so. As I could not have the school thus disrupted I was reluctantly compelled to eject her. The work of the school is much interrupted by parents coming for explanation of their children being placed, perhaps, in a lower class. I had 3 this morning. It appears to me that the children were placed in the class selected by the parent though frequently unable to work with it. The school had to be completely reorganised.

1880 November 12th

Very thin attendance today. Wrote Mr Wright calling his attention to the very irregular attendance of "half-timers" working in his factory. Av. 73.7

1881 January 3rd

Reopened school, present 78

1881 January 7th

Mr Jas Lucas closes his engagement as Assistant in this school. Av. 77.6

1881 January 14th

Found the work very heavy as in addition to having no assistance, the rooms were very cold and constantly filled with smoke. In the upper room the thermometer registered 41 degrees F [5 degrees Centigrade] on Tuesday afternoon. Lessons were constantly interrupted by physical exercises resorted to for promotion of circulation. Av 78.7

1881 February 23rd

Great annoyance caused by the Infants Mistress refusing to allow the girls to use the closets during the time for Recreation. As I make a rule of not allowing a child to leave the school room at other times. It is necessary that no obstacle should be placed in their way during these 10 minutes. I am sorry to say that Miss Corlett's constant interference renders it almost impossible for a master to conduct this school with any degree of comfort. I have made the strictest inquiry into this matter on this and other occasions and find that the girls have misconducted themselves caused what would be annoyance to any sensible person.

1881 February 25th

Visited in the afternoon by Rev R Stammers who detained the girls to speak to them about impertinence to Miss Corlett but as no one child was named as guilty of the offence. I am afraid the matter remains in a rather unsatisfactory state.

School carried on in the Long Room. Av 81.2 Asked Rev R Stammers, again to supply the School with a map Easel as I find it very difficult to teach the Geography without so disarranging classes as to give room for disorder: placing a map to illustrate a reading lesson is out of the question. I have neither Arithmetics or xxx cards. Nor have we even a sufficiency of Blackboards. Consequently though the work a teacher is called upon to perform in this School is of the heaviest, the results are not what he would wish. I give as an example a feat I have just attempted this afternoon. Vide Time Table to give 1st class Geography lessons. Dictate from different books to 2 and ? classes (Standards I and II). I need scarcely say no one subject gave satisfaction.

1881 March 15th

The girls again complain that Miss Corlett will not allow them to use the closets. It appears the matter has been a subject of complaint for years back. A set of closets for the exclusive use of the girls of the mixed [junior/senior] school seems to be necessary.

1881 March 16th

Heard from N F Beardsley Esq that at meeting of the School Managers, held yesterday, it was decided not to grant any assistance in the school. It is quite impossible for one person to efficiently teach the larger numbers in daily attendance. I have selected 32 children whom I propose warning on Friday afternoon that they cannot be kept at school for the present. Communicated the names to Mr Beardsley.

1881 March 17th

Dismissed at 4.15pm. Master called away on business. Samuel Bodycott punished very severely for marking (drawing rude figures) one of our new Reading Books – “Glimpses of the Globe”.

1881 March 18th

Visited by Rev R Stammers who requests me to delay for a week reducing the school. He will in the meanwhile call another Committee Meeting and endeavour to make some arrangements to obviate dismissing so many children. Average for week 83.7

1881 March 28th

Miss Amy Thornton commenced duty as Assistant-teacher (not recognised by Code).

1881 April 28th

Master detained from School till 2.25. Complaints of the girls (one ill) that Miss Corlett will not allow them to use the closets.

1881 May 9th

2.30pm School interrupted by Miss Corlett who opened the door and standing with it in her hand, proceeded at the top of her voice, to make some complaint as to the 'shameful' noise made by the charwoman and my servant at the washtub. Requested miss Corlett to be less violent, as it was an example of rudeness to the children – or to make any of her other communications in writing. For five minutes afterwards the whole school could hear Miss Corlett explain her grievance to the neighbours opposite the Room. Our inquiry found that the women had not been noisy, the one being engaged in the bed rooms and the other at the wash-tub where she was not even singing. Had there been any great noise I must have heard it, as I was engaged in the upper Room (the windows of which open on the yard) with a class at Geography. Neither of the other teachers heard any noise during the afternoon.

1881 May 16th

Visited by Rev Robert Stammers who brought a copy of the Bye Laws of the School Attendance Committee of the Barrow upon Soar Union, which I placed in the portfolio. The children were at the time 'changing lessons' and the necessary stir, was I suppose, considered by Mr Stammers as indicative of disorder (though I could see no trace of it) for he beat the floor violently with his stick and reprimanded the children very sharply without taking the slightest notice of me, the master. He then turned to me and called me to account for having doors of closets lying in my garden and informed me that he had made an inspection of my premises on Saturday. I informed him these were not doors of closets and further that they had been there before I took residence, there is no lumber-house, consequently there is no

other place for them. Mr Stammers in a voice audible to every child in the School doubted my word and I in turn was forced to tell him that in going over my remises without permission, he was actually trespassing and that in this matter, as well as in addressing the children as he did, he was not treating me with the common courtesy due to the Master of the School. I have on previous occasions called the Rev Grutterman's attention to the impropriety of thus taking authority out of the Master's hand and I find on reference to the Log it has been the disagreeable experience of my predecessors. It certainly renders the maintenance of discipline and respect for teachers an exceedingly difficult matter.

1881 May 18th

Master not present in the afternoon.

1881 May 27th

I this day resign charge of this school. William Shannon.

Below this entry is an entry by Rev Robert Stammers:

The managers appointed Mr Edwyn Wardle from Low Bradfield Endowed School to the Mastership of this school. Mr Wardle's engagement commences on 1st of June inst, but being unable to leave his present school till after the inspection sometime in June, Mr Wardle engaged Mr Jas Cope as his substitute till he is able personally to take charge of the School.

1881 May 30th

I James Cope commenced this day as temporary Master of the Quorndon National School. The children are backward in their subjects and rather loose in their manners.

1881 July 4th

I Edwyn Wardle commenced this day as Master of the Quorndon National School. 70 children present.

1881 July 22nd

After teaching for the past three weeks, I find the order much improved, the children coming much cleaner and attending to lessons. I have found it necessary to punish several children for misbehaviour in going to and from school. I have detained the older children and spoke to them of the evil of copying. Also I have endeavoured to impress upon the children the importance of cheerful obedience to duty and to be truthful in work and act; the half-timers are especially wanting in this respect.

1882 January 2nd

Reopened school, only eighty-four present

1882 November 9th

Many children away am and pm. Find they are watching the erection of Archways in honour of the marriage of W E B Farnham Esq to Miss Scott, sister of Sir A Scott Bart.

1882 December 18th

Mr Stammers commenced examining each standard. Two prizes are offered for each class. The eight prizes, each costing half-a-crown have been given by E Warner Esq., and Mrs Philip Wright. A scripture prize is given by the Vicar to the value of ten shillings.

1882 December 22nd

Broke up for the Christmas holiday. The Vicar giving away the prizes and to each child a Christmas card.

1883 January 2nd

Reopened – only 85 present. Fever spreading.

1883 June 25th

4.15pm school interrupted by the Infants' Mistress entering by the upper door and demanded the Assistant Master to go with her to the Vicar. As I could not allow of this interruption I was reluctantly compelled to eject her.

4.30pm Miss Corlett and the Vicar re-entered by the principal door and asked me "what all this meant". As I knew that some misunderstanding had arisen between the above parties, I asked for an explanation. The Vicar seemed to take the part of Miss Corlett, so for the sake of justice I informed W E

B Farnham Esq and Mr Cradock, School Managers. I did not trouble Mr Warner with the matter owing to the death of that gentleman's sister.

1883 June 29th

Children not allowed by Miss Corlett to use the closets. This is mentioned also March 15th 1881. I find it a difficult matter to conduct the school with comfort.

1883 August 6th

Owing to the low state of the school funds, J D Cradock Esq., explained that it was necessary to drop all the salaries after Nov 30th next. Mine will be less by £20 and the Asst. Master's £5.

1883 August 9th

I [Mr Wardle] have sent written notice to three of the Managers intending to leave on Nov 30th 1883. The Assistant Master has sent one month's notice.

1881 November 19th

In a fortnight I resign charge of this school having been here two years and a half. The Managers have invariably treated me with the greatest courtesy and kindness excepting the Vicar whom I unintentionally offended through the influence of Miss Corlett whose interference is recorded June 25th 1883. Through this affair I have been reluctantly compelled to resign much to my own regret as only a short time ago I had spent a considerable sum in papering and cleaning the school house. I trust my successor may be fortunate enough to work amicably with the Infants' Mistress. My experience teaches me that the two schools are too near, consequently from constant interference on Miss C's part things cannot go on smoothly. One fact remains I have always given satisfaction to the parents and this with the decided progress of my pupils I consider a sufficient reward for my earnest work.

1883 Early December – Entry by Rev Stammers

Mr Wardle having inserted disparaging entries in the Log Book, truth and justice require the Vicar to make the following statement.

For about two years, that is from June 1881 to June 1883, Mr Wardle was upon the most friendly terms with Miss Corlett, and nothing unpleasant occurred with respect either to them or the managers. Indeed perfect harmony subsisted between all the parties concerned. A few days, however previously to the Inspection in June last, a marked change suddenly came over Mr Wardle. He manifested quite an unsociable disposition towards Miss Corlett and refused to give any explanation. Not only did he show this disaffection, but he made misrepresentations to two of the managers. This act and the question of salaries led to a meeting of all the managers. At this meeting on August 6th, the charges brought by Mr Wardle against Miss Corlett were fully investigated. With much warmth [*probably meaning heat*] and in a rambling manner, Mr Wardle stated his complaints against Miss Corlett: she was present to confront him, and so completely did she refute all the charges he brought against her, that the Managers at once unanimously decided that the case was not proved and must be dismissed. An entry to this effect was made at the time in the minute book. Moreover at this meeting Miss Corlett indicted both the Master and his assistant of sending an anonymous letter and further xxxed Mr Wardle of calling her an inappropriate name and threatening "to give her a good shaking some dark night". This was done in the Vicar's presence and hearing. Every impartial person, acquainted with all the particulars of this unfortunate affair, will readily ascent the cause of it solely to Mr Wardle's conduct. As far as one can judge, envy and malice seem to have been at the root of it. Previously to the Inspection Mr Wardle was conscious that his school could partially fail. This proved to be the case, for he passed only 75% while Miss Corlett passed 99%, and attained "the Merit Grant Excellent". Surely Mr Wardle would have been a wiser and a better man, had he borne this disappointment with a becoming spirit, instead of giving way to burning envy and bitter exasperation. He has yet to learn the lesson "Know Thyself", and the art of self-government. The want of these valuable qualities has produced disastrous consequences to himself. As a solace for his vexation he contrived to get up a case against his fellow Teacher in the hope that she would be disgracefully dismissed and himself honourably retained. But he has been mistaken. His tactics failed. He digged a pit for Miss Corlett and has fallen into it himself!

1883 December 3rd

John Dryden, Certificated teacher.

1883 December 21st

Xmas holidays till Dec 31st

School Staff

John Dryden

Wm Sutton Assistant

Wm Darker Monitor paid

Emma Dryden Sewing

1884 June 9th

Songs - Raindrops patter

Jack Frost

Morn amid the mountains

The old grey goose

The old house by the linden

Flowers wildwood flowers

Come soft and lovely evening

Murmur gentle lyre

Present: Boys 80, girls 59, total 139.

1884 June 10th

Mrs Ainsley, the Vicar's sister and a great friend to the schools died today. Much regretted.

1884 June 27th

Fifteen minutes out of the 2 hours are allowed for play in the morning school and ten minutes in the afternoon. Code 1884. 10.30-10.45am 3-3.10pm

1884 July 12th

Excursion to Hangingstone Rocks etc. kindly permitted by Mrs P Herrick

1884 Dec 16th

A. Armston and A Cross refuse to comply with the rule of the school respecting the fees. "That if the fee be not paid by Tuesday the child is to be sent back for it." Consequently they had to be sent home. Otherwise the rule seems to work well.

1885 Jan 5th

Children who paid 3d the week before Christmas pay 2d this week, those who paid 2d the week before Christmas pay 3d.

1885 March 18th

Mr Davis created a disturbance about his boy who was punished for running on to the girls playground. Mr D threatened to knock me down and put his fist through me before the school. The effect of such conduct is very demoralising among the children.

1886 Aug 14th

I, John Dryden resign charges of this school and gave up possession of the house and premises.

1886 Sept 20th

I Harry Poyner 1st Class (twice revised) Certificated teacher this day took charge of the Quorndon National School with the official recognition of the Education Department.

This being the first day of opening after a few weeks vacation during which a thorough painting, white washing and cleansing of the school had been going on and materials for the regular working as per timetable not being ready to hand I spent the morning in hearing the upper standards read and testing their knowledge of mental arithmetic.

Their knowledge of the meanings of words is very poor and with some dozen exceptions the same remark applies to their quickness and accuracy in calculations.

The Rev R Stammers visited and addressed the whole school on the importance of order, diligence, regularity.

In taking charge I note the by no means encouraging fact that I am the 6th Master appointed since June '79 mainly from one cause. The frequent changes suggesting some reflections, must be very detrimental to the real interests of the school.

1886 Oct 11th

Received 3 dozen slates: 1 gross copy books and 3 doz "Deserted Village" from Midd. Edc. Compy. Carriage being charged 1/-.

1886 Nov 26th

Began to give marks this week for lessons done in school as well as at home and find it lends additional life and interest to them and does not involve either much extra trouble or loss of time. 117 present on the 22nd, the highest since I took charge.

1887 Jan 20th

The atmospheric temperature is much higher than for several week's past, and the parents of many children who have been in enforced idleness will be able to resume work and thus able to pay the school fees. I have been compelled to send home and refuse to receive Alice and Wm Ball because I can extract no fees from them, they only having paid one week's fees during the past month.

1887 Feb 14th

Less than 20 children assembled for school this morning, the measles epidemic being so general that acting on the Vicar's advice these were sent home again and the school was closed.

1887 March 29th

Rev R Stammers called, tested Registers and exhorted children to make up for so many weeks of lost time by increased diligence and regularity. Also cautioned them against making a playground of the churchyard.

1887 April 21st

Barwell in S IV having stolen marbles during play time and denied their possession on being discovered I was obliged to extract them by sheer physical force giving him a sound shaking and probably disturbing his equilibrium somewhat and to an extent which will most likely have a beneficial effect on him and the whole school.

1887 June 15th

Holiday the whole day. Opening of new organ at 3pm. Presented by the High Sheriff E C Farnham. Esq.

1887 June 20th

Mrs Farnham came at 12.30 and most kindly and patiently placed jubilee medals on the necks of each child, an operation occupying some two hours.

The school being required as a Depot for the provisions on which the whole parish was fed in commemoration of the "Queen's Jubilee", there was no school today.

1887 July 15th

The attendance all through the week has been dreadfully irregular, reaching its climax this Friday afternoon so that I resolved not to mark the Register. I am tired to wasting the time of pupils in sending after absentees and receiving the same ridiculously absurd excuses so trivial that one is compelled to conclude that many children only attend school when they are wanted out of the way and when there is positively no counter attraction.

1887 Sept 12th

Myself and Assistant were present to re-open school after a month's holiday but only 3 children put in an appearance - Quorndon Feast having far greater attractions. Consequently I resolved not to re-open school till next Monday Sept 19th as to attempt to do so in the middle of the week would only have resulted in another failure.

1888 Jan 18th

Eight boys played truant this afternoon being led astray by the presence of Mr Farnham's Harriers in school neighbourhood just previous to commencement of school.

1888 Jan 26th

Consider the desks placed in form of a square with the open side towards my house a great improvement affording much more space enabling me to see more easily what transpires, to get at their books, to move easily, besides being a great bar against copying.

1888 April 12th

Gave some oranges to those children who had done during the week the neatest and largest amount of Arithmetic work on paper.

1888 May 10th

Being Ascension Day, Registers not marked. Children assembled for church tho' many were absent. Half holiday. Funeral of the Vicar Revd. R. Stammers, doubtless the best and most interested friend belonging to the school, who will not easily be replaced.

1888 May 31st

Thrashed Richard Hollingsworth for playing all this week (up to this day Thursday) and kept him in school all dinner time and again after evening school.

1888 June 8th

Mr Hollingsworth brought his boy to school. I kept him the whole day but did not beat him. Rec'd form IX in which Mistress' salary was stated as £156 19. 8. which did not tend to make me more contented with mine of £90 14.8.

1889 February 1st

Kept a stupid squad in after afternoon school to do Arithmetic they could or would not do in ordinary school hours.

1889 Feb 6th

Explained exhaustively and a second time how to multiply and divide by 5 and a half and 30 and a quarter respectively, a very knotty point with children of this class and age for they seem the most obtuse and unintellectual lot of children I have come in contact with during my extended experience a teacher. Drew on BB capital chalk map of Ireland going through it with S IV. Horspool began to remove gateway opposite my front door.

1889 March 22nd

Meeting of Managers at 6.30 to reduce the school fees of those receiving parish relief and also of those who had a considerable number of children in attendance at both schools, half a dozen Mothers attended. It was also resolved to summon a Manger's Meeting the 2nd Monday in each month and have before them for explanation the parents of children attending irregularly.

1889 January 30th

A low open mouthed vulgar ignorant woman came and shouted her girl out of school to take dinner, abusing Sutton, whom I defended for not letting her go, tho' it was barely 12.00. I closed the scene by shutting the door in her face. These unpleasant occurrences are exceedingly xxxx. This is not the first time with this ignoramus.

1889 April 2nd

Six boys rushed breathless into school at 9.20am. They had been on the track of a performing bear. Upon my turning my back for the cane, they being near the door, deliberately rushed out again and were absent all morning showing up in afternoon as if nothing unusual had transpired. On punishing them at end of afternoon. school and keeping them in, one father and one mother, Lovett and Bramley, came and made a slight scene.

1889 April 10th

Engaged "omnibus" to convey "Night Scholars" dwindled down to four in number to an exam at Shakespeare Board School Loughborough. Found Mr Dennis most kind and courteous.

1889 April 19th

Good Friday. Not a single child showed up for church so I went alone. The Infant Mistress had a very small number of very small children.

1889 June 14th

These two days' holiday have, as I expected been a perfect failure, skeleton classes, difficulty in getting even half fees. Evidently a majority of the lower classes consider education fees a cruel tax in any form, while they most slightly appreciate the value of the education imparted. Shocking meagre attendance this (Friday) afternoon and most unsatisfactory all week. Better give a week's holiday.

1889 August 12th

Re-opened after holidays. Mr Poyner ill and only able to visit the school for short periods. Miss E Wain commenced duties as Asst. Mistress.

1889 Sept 30th

Mr Poyner died on Saturday the 28th inst. Miss Corlett came in and asked the children to bring small sums towards a wreath for the late Master's funeral.

1889 Dec 2nd

Took charge of this school today. C Adams.

1890 Feb 3rd

Finding that the Needlework arrangement is in disorder, I have arranged each Standard in a group. The children seem to have been sitting just where they choose to place themselves. There is too, a great deal too much coming out of places during this lesson. It must be altered.

1890 March 6th

The grammar of the upper division is still lamentably weak. Some however are making good progress. It is a strange think but the children in this division seem to be incapable of distinguishing adjectives and adverbs when in a sentence . They must have constant and graduated practice in this subject.

1890 May 23rd

The Vicar took the First Class in Catechism and I then invited him to question in Mental Arithmetic. The class answered the majority of his questions very well indeed, in fact I am glad to chronicle a vast improvement in what appears to have been a greatly neglected. Subject.

1890 August 18th

Admitted a girl named Amelia Howes who left the school in July 1889. As she has gone to the factory to work it is necessary that she attends school again. She has passed Standard Four but is it impossible to place her in the Fifth as she has forgotten all the work of the Fourth. What to do with cases of this description is a knotty point.

1891 July 8th

A very heavy storm broke over the district this dinner time. The rain simply came down in torrents and the children taking dinner to the quarries must have been drenched as they are nearly all absent this afternoon, dropping our attendance to 127, the lowest for a long time.

1891 Sept 7th

The attendance this morning was 111, owing to the Village Wake. To reward these children I allowed them a half holiday this afternoon. This is the fist year school has been attempted on the Wake Monday and the result is gratifying as showing the improved taste of the parents, for the language of some of these van people is not fit for children to hear.

1891 Sept 21st

Wm Wisehall Standard VI has won a scholarship at Barrow Grammar School. He commences at that school this morning.

1891 Oct 30th

A very poor school this afternoon especially in the upper class. Sanger's circus is responsible for a few.

1891 Nov 30th

Miss Wain absent. Received a telegram later saying that she was ill.

1891 December 1st

Miss Wain at school but of very little use. These walks from Loughborough all weathers cannot but have an effect upon her constitution as if she gets wet it is impossible for her to change.

1892 March 8th

The room was full of coal gas this morning owing to the carelessness of someone at the choir practice last night. The burners had been left on and the meter not thoroughly turned off. We were compelled to remain in the yard till 9.30 while the room cleared and even then the smell was perceptible.

1892 May 27th

Taking a few dunces in St II while the school learns a new hymn.

1892 June 13th

Miss Wain absent from duty this morning. These repeated absentisms (sic) are very annoying and hindering to progress. I really shall have to make a formal complaint to the Managers about it.

1892 Sept 19th

Miss Wain still absent. At the Manager's meeting held last Friday I strongly represented the facts in Miss Wain's case. This long walk to and from Lobro' in all weathers is very unsatisfactory both to the health of Miss Wain and to the work of the school. The Managers have instructed the Secretary to write and ask her to reside in the place.

1892 Oct 18th

As I anticipated we have a poor school this afternoon as there is "A Wild Beast show" in the neighbourhood, and the Standard IV children imagine that their education is completed. It is quite time that the Exemption Standard was raised a step.

1892 Nov 3rd

Miss Wain resigned.

1892 Nov 17th

A very large school today 182.

1893 February 1st

Readmitted a girl who left last October and now has gone to the factory and of course comes to school half-time. She will therefore remain in the same standard.

1893 February 24th

The playground has been supplied with granite chips. It will be a deal more comfortable as on a wet day it was very bad, standing full of puddles in which of course the children dabbled.

1893 May 5th

Some boys playing with an iron roller in the fields adjacent to the school ran it over the foot of one of the fourth standard boys, severely injuring it.

1893 May 8th

A couple of casuals have arrived owing to work being opened on the new Reservoir.

1893 July 6th

Holiday on account of the Royal Wedding. [Note: This was the wedding of Prince George, Duke of York, and Princess Mary of Teck, later to be George V and Queen Mary.]

1893 July 7th

A thin school today owing to the treat yesterday, children tired I suppose.

1893 Oct 21st

Mr Sutton resigns his situation as he has a good opportunity of obtaining more lucrative employment and in consideration of his long services the Managers have allowed him to accept the post and leave at once on my acquiescing to the arrangement. I must therefore advertise at once and in the interval Georgiana Mary Adams, III St. will take charge of II Standard as a Monitor.

1893 Nov 2nd

Mr Geo. Auty Ex PT [*pupil teacher*] commenced his duties this morning.

1893 November 8th

HM Inspector reports that the school room has no proper open ventilation, that there are no cloakrooms, that the closets have no doors and that the approaches to the offices are not completely separate. These aspects must be remedied at once.

1894 Feb 23rd

Gave the children who had not been absent above three times for a fortnight a "Magic Lantern Entertainment". Shall try it again next month.

1894 June 4th

Admitted a girl. We shall have a fair number of "stars" this year owing to so many labourers coming to work on the new reservoir.

1894 July 2nd/3rd

Admitted a new girl this morning hails from Birmingham.

I find that the girl is a most awful dunce, and nearly ten and cannot do simple subtraction or any of Standard II work. She must be one of the irregular brigade to be in this state as she does not appear mentally dull.

1894 August 13th

Reopened School. Admitted 4 children, three of these being casuals. One boy of eight I was compelled to refuse as he did not know his letters. I sent him to Miss Corlett.

The cloakrooms will prove a great convenience and the room look a deal better without the array of hats and cloaks.

1894 August 17th

Average this week 164. Attendance very good throughout the week.

1895 January 7th

Re-opened School. A snowy morning. Children coming in very slowly.

1895 February 6th

Intensely cold this morning. The rooms are quite cold in places and some of the children look nipped. Gave two of the children their breakfast as there is a good deal of distress in the place, all the quarrymen being out of work. [*This was a period of thick snow*]

1895 February 7th

Still intensely cold. The Rooms are warmer today as I kept a fire in the tortoise stove all night.

1895 February 13th

Attendance diminished owing I expect to the severe weather. Many came late as they have a difficulty in getting water, part of the water mains being frozen.

1895 March 1st

From this date short time for recreation introduced at 10.30 and 3.30, consisting of the following items: Drill,

Tonic Sol Fa on liberty in playground. [*Tonic sol-fa is a teaching technique for music, often using do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do. It can also be used with stamping with the feet, nodding the head, clapping hands, or marching in time with the music, when 'at liberty', thereby being a good form of exercise.*]

1895 June 11th

Two my astonishment two girls came back this morning who have been absent about six months. Half-timers of course. What to do with them I don't know.

1896 January 6th

Admitted 3 children, one of them nearly if not quite, daft.

1896 April 2nd

Have at last succeeded in teaching the Alphabet to 3 out of 4 exceedingly deficient children but whether it will remain permanently with them I am yet unable to say.

1896 April 16th

Getting two of the deficient to learn little words. One is not quite so deficient as he looks and I have hopes of him.

1896 September 10th

I am taking twelve boys this afternoon to play a cricket match against some young gentlemen. Article 12f. Their attendances are marked as usual. This is an experiment, which if successful will probably be repeated.

1897 February 2nd

The weather is simply wretched. A good many children come soaked with wet.

1897 February 4th

The floods are rising rapidly today and the situation is becoming serious. It still rains heavily. Opened the doors at 8.40 and 1.30 to allow children to come in and shelter from the heavy rain.

1897 February 8th

The floods rose to their greatest height on Saturday morning when the waters rushed by the school like a river. Happily they have subsided so that the children can get to school today.

1897 March 19th

This week I have borrowed a small Travelling Library from the Band of Hope Union to encourage the Upper Standards in the habit of reading for themselves. They each take a book and read it through, consulting me when any difficulty arises.

1898 January 24th

Re-opened school. Closed for an extra fortnight by order of the Local Board under the order of their Medical Officer on account of an epidemic of diphtheria.