

Benhopai
 Birch Hill
 Branch Point
 Hillersden
 Leefield
 Wairau Valley
 Wantwood

Benhopai (1909-1913)

A large Sheep Station on Waihopai Road near Power Station

1909	2	Benhopai	Haines	Annie	Female	£	12.00
1910	2	Benhopai	Mapp	Elsie	Female	£	12.00
1911	2	Benhopai	Mapp	Elsie	Female	£	12.00
1912	2	Benhopai	Mapp	Elsie	Female	£	12.00
1913	2	Benhopai	Brown	Josephine	Female	£	12.00

Birch Hill (1897-1902)

On State Highway 63 to St Arnaud near the Wairau River

1897		Birch Hill	Fisher	Gertrude			
1898	2	Birch Hill	Fisher	Gertrude	Female	£	10.00
1899	2	Birch Hill	Buchanan	Rhoda	Female	£	10.00
1900	3	Birch Hill	Buchanan	Rhoda	Female	£	15.00
1901	2	Birch Hill	Burns	Vera	Female	£	10.00
1902	2	Birch Hill	Burns	Vera	Female	£	10.00

14th September 1897 Mr William Lambey asked for assistance according to the aided school regulations of the board in the education of his two children-request granted

13th October 1897 The appointment of Miss G Fisher for the aided school at Birch Hill was confirmed

20th March 1901 Miss Vera Burns Birch Hill aided school Vice Miss Buchanan Resigned

Branch Point (1913-1914, 1916)

A Sheep Station at Bush Gully

1913	4	Branch Point	Western	Margaret	Female	£	24.00
1914	5	Branch Point	Western	Margaret	Female	£	30.00
1917	5	Branch Point	Wemyss	Phyliss	Sole	£32.00	

3rd June 1916 In regard to building a school at Branch Point. The secretary of Education suggested that the two settlers concerned or even one of them should erect a small building for which the Department would consider an application to rent

23rd October 1916 Mr Arthur McBeth, whose death occurred on Friday, was, the owner of, the Branch Point sheep run, Birch Hill, and resided there. He succumbed to an attack of

pleuro-pneumonia, being incapacitated a few days ago and removed to a private hospital in Blenheim. The deceased, who was 52 years of age was born in Picton, his parents being early settlers in Marlborough and he spent the greater part of his life in this, district. He joined one of the first-New Zealand contingents to proceed to South Africa on the outbreak of war there, and throughout the campaign, gaining several clasps. Mr, McBeth, who married Miss Dunn, of Nelson, (a sister of Mr R H. W. D. Dunn, of Blenheim) leaves a widow and seven children,, the eldest of whom is twelve years. Many friends will regret his death;
9th July 1918 The soldiers parcel funds Branch Point School (Per Miss Wemyss 4 shillings)

National Archives

1914 A McBeth Sheep farmer applying for a new school. Nearest School Tophouse 18 miles
Jean 10, Moira, 8, Ian 6. Nancy 6 James Douglas 4 Carrie 4
E Rennell Sheep Farmer Beatrix 14, Nellie 12, Joseph 10. Bertha 7, Grace 6, Phillis 3, Paul 1
There are older members of the Rennell family who have not been to school I don't know whether they could get capitation asked Mr Rennell
On the Branch River
At least 10 children would attend
Wairau Valley 22 Miles Top House 18 miles away
No building available for a school
Best Site would be Either on Andrews at Birch Hill or Austin
Building Materials from Top House 22 Miles or Blenheim 43 Miles
There is plenty of cleared land
Accommodation could be had this place or at The Branch at a low rent
We would help build as much as possible
Nearest Post Office Birch Hill
Arthur McBeth The Branch Birch Hill
26th August 1914 Inspector Sturrock recommends school be established. It is time to do something for these children
2nd September 1914 It is proposed to erect and equip a schoolhouse with a small porch 16' x 8' .
We ask for a grant of £80
Mr Rennell has three or four more children not mentioned in the papers herewith, but I understand all are over 15 years of age. None of them however, have ever been to school
Minister replies all right if land given is over 3 acres
Department of Education Mr Gibbes Secretary of Ed Department. This is an interesting case one of the parents lives on 54930 acres and the other on 6700 acres and none of the children have been to school
I have ascertained the rents are small however so the incomes are probably nominal
Grant of £80 recommended and to be available when a site is secured
3rd May 1915 Mr McBeth is now willing to let the Board have 3 acres of land he is at present leasing from the Crown

8th June 1915 Branch Point roll expectations 10

16th June 1916 As there are only 2 families it is difficult to see that the school will last.

6th November 1916 Letter from Senior Inspector Wellington Education Board to Director of Education included

- a) Conditions have somewhat altered since my last report urged that something should be done for these children
- b) What little education the Rennell Family have had has been given by the Mother, and by inquiry there are 11 in the family
- c) There are seven in the McBeth family, all young, eldest say about eleven. They are taught in the house by a young girl teacher. Mr. McBeth died a few weeks ago and the manager now appointed has one child of school age
- d) The Leathem Rn is occupied by two partners, one at the front, single and the other with three young children. The eldest attends Mrs McBeth's School
- e) Rennell lives 4 or 5 miles up the river from McBeth's and the river difficulty is now removed, as it is bridged
- f) If a section could be obtained on the Leathem say about two miles, it would, I think be central for three families and the Rennell Children could be compelled to attend, the school would never be of any great size, but it would keep in Grade 1 for 8 or 10 years at least

3rd February 1917 A third family the Lethem's involved. Wellington Education Board wants the school there

Mrs McBeth runs a school and the eldest Leathem attend. The Rennells lives 4 or 5 miles up the river

1st February 1917 The McBeth family have removed to Blenheim and a school should be abandoned Inspector

March 17th 1917 Branch Point School is closed temporarily

Hillersden (1915-1923)

On Highway 63 South of Wairau Valley

						£	
1915	14	Hillersden	Mason	Eva	Female	110.00	£20.00
1917	18	Hillersden	Mason	Eva	Sole	£117.00	
1919	16	Hillersden	Atkinson	May O	Sole	£170.00	
1921	17	Hillersden	Priestly	Marie L	C	Sole	£210.00
1923	15	Hillersden	Gifford	James R A	C-119	Sole	£185.00

11th May 1915 The Hillersden school committee for i, 1 the ensuing term is as follows: Messrs E. H Williams. (chairman), A. H. Murray (secretary), M. Peters, W. H. Atkinson, and S. Eagan. The opening of the new school on May 21st y will be marked by a social in the afternoon.

9th June 1915 On Friday a dance will be held in the Hillersden school,- the proceeds to be devoted to the fund in aid of the wounded Marlborough soldiers.

15th June 1915 On Friday a dance will be held in the Hillersden school,- the proceeds to be devoted to the funds in aid of the wounded Marlborough soldiers.

22nd December 1915 MARL-BOROUGH EDUCATION BOARD-. It is hereby notified that a school district has been constituted at Hillersden. with the following boundaries Hillersden School District: Bounded on the north by the Wairau River. On the east by "the Top Valley road and the eastern boundary of Section 33. On the south by the southern boundaries of Block VIII. and VII. Mt. Olympus S.D., to the south eastern corner of Section 23. On the west by the eastern boundary of Section 23 and Larkin's road through to the Wairau River. KS. HYLTON, Secretary

16th June 1916 The annual general meeting of the Wairau Valley Settlers' Association was held in the Hillersden school on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance of members

3rd May 1917 Hillersden: Messrs D H. Black (chairman), A. H. Murray (secretary), Jas Low, J. J. McCaskey, and M. Peters..

20th February 1918 Miss E Mason

National Archives Built 1915 Section 5 Block VII Area 5 Acres

For £302.18 schillings

23/6/1918 Removed to Wairau Pa

31st January 1921 Telegram from D Hart Chairman. Are you sending another teacher and when?

17th February 1921 Marlborough Education Board Miss Priestly certificated teacher instructed commence Hillersden next Monday. Transferring Miss McKinley

Miss Priestly has just completed a two years' course at the Wellington Training College, holds a C certificate. She has had 6 years' teaching experience

4th March 1921 Letter from John McCaskey thanking Wellington Education Board for sending an up to date teacher

1st February Letter from Wellington Education Board stating that Miss Priestly has been transferred to a school this side of Cook Strait And the Board has appointed Miss E Trischler to reopen Hillersden on 7th February

25th February Miss E Trischler appointed. She has just completed a training course at Wellington Training College and is filling in at Hillersden as a temporary teacher

4th February Hope the new teacher turns out as good as the one just gone D Hart

4th September Miss Trischler is being transferred to Seddon School and Miss J Coneys will take temporary charge. She will arrive by Mail car

21st October 1922 Mr. J R Gifford appointed 12 years' experience Relieving

23rd July Mr. J R Gifford being asked for attendance returns

27th May 1922. One child comes to school one day a week having to travel 12 miles to reach the school

When attendance is calculated with his removal the average is 92% some skin disease caused the absence of 1 pupil 2 weeks. 2 pupils 1 week and 1 pupil 3 weeks

The children who live within two or 3 miles attend well- rain does not keep them away

All further correspondence is transferred to the Wantwood File

7th February 1928

Hillersden School Section 5 Block VII Mt Olympus SD Area 5 acres

Wantwood School Section 3 Block VI Mt Olympus S D Area 5 acres

11th January 1929 Asking if above sites have been transferred to the crown

Leefield (1909-1917)

On a side driveway just past Omaka Downs Turnoff on the Waihopai Road about 40 kilometres from Blenheim

1909	2	Leefield	Cately	Mary	Female	£	12.00
1910	3	Leefield	McIsaac	Ella	Female	£	18.00
1911	3	Leefield	McIsaac	Ella	Female	£	18.00
1912	4	Leefield	McIsaac	Ella	Female	£	24.00
1913	4	Leefield	McIsaac	Ella	Female	£	24.00
1914	3	Leefield	McIsaac	Ella	Female	£	24.00
1915	3	Leefield	McIsaac	Ella	Female	£	18.00
1917	2	Leefield	Atkinson	May O	Sole	£	16.00

13th July 1909 Mr J. T. Barton applied for support for the education of his children at Leefield. He explained that he had three fit for school, and that he resided ten miles from the nearest school, and that he had appointed Miss Catley, of Renwick, to teach them from June 21st.—The Chairman moved, and Mr Parker seconded, that a household school be established at Leefield, and that Miss Catley be appointed teacher.—Carried.

15th March 1910 Miss E McIsaac Sole Teacher at Leefield

4th March 1916 Teacher is wanted for Leefield aided school

National Archives

Jan 15th 1931

- Mr E E Shrimpton Spray Point applies for boarding allowance for daughter Audrey, being some 22 miles from Leefield which is the nearest school. No other children within 7 miles. Intends to board daughter with Mrs W R Reynolds Omaka Downs. Receives 5/- per week from government

Jan 22nd "

- Mr P Stanwell, Benhopai Hydro Electric Power Station also applies for boarding allowance for his son Alan, being 12 miles from Leefield. Intends to board son with Mr Bassett, Leefield Station. Receives 5/- per week from Government.

Nov 3rd "

- M B Barton, Ashton Lea, applies for conveyance allowance for his two sons Robert and Cyril. Leefield is 3 Miles away, too far to walk. Will be driven in Trap by their father. Receive 6d per return trip per child

Nov 18 "

- M B Barton applies for backdated conveyance for elder son Robert, receives partial.

Jul 25 1932

- Barton's horse dies, now has to drive the children, will now receive 3d for one way trips as well

Mar 9th 1934

- Mrs Wooley of Valleyfield Station applies for horseback allowance for daughter Melva, declined on grounds that the roads are safe and passable for trap or car and Renwick school is closer anyhow.

Mar 20 1935

- P Stanwell applies for boarding allowance for another child, Erys, intending to board her with Mrs Cresswell. Receives 5/- per week.

Jan 24 1936

- M B Barton writes regarding the closing of the school due to lack of pupils and asks how much he would receive to board the children elsewhere. Also asks if a change of government would make any difference!

Establishment of a school at Leefield:

William Roy Cresswell, Farmer of 710 acres (Leefield Station), 3 children 10 ½ miles from Renwicktown School

John S Hildyard, Manager of Leefield Station, 2 Children 10 ½ miles from Renwicktown School

Application made by W R Cresswell 18th Nov 1922

Leefield School on Leefield Station, Waihopai Valley 18 Miles from Blenheim.

- 2 families in settlement
- 5 school age children
- 10 ½ miles from nearest school
- 16x12 Schoolhouse

Recommended by Inspector Jan 1923

Leefield School re-established 13th Feb 1923, as an aided school.

Reopened 1st Feb 1926

8th Jan 1922

- Letter from W R Cresswell stating he has built a schoolroom and requests a teacher for an aided school at Leefield Station, his property.

27th Nov "

- Letter from W R Cresswell asking for a teacher for Leefield, intends to open in Feb 1923 if allowed

23rd Jan 1923

- Letter from W R Cresswell, having not received a reply to his previous inquiry, stating he has been forced to teach his children himself and again asking for an aided school (with teacher) to be set up.

6th Feb "

- Inspector visits station and recommends an aided school be set up, the Board offering 75 pounds a year and Mr Cresswell offering to contribute 9 pounds himself, for a salary of 84. Cresswell and Hildegard to offer free board to the teacher as well.
- Miss Gibson appointed to Leefield

10th Oct "

- Leefield closed, Miss Gibson relieving at Seddon

20th Oct 1925

- W R Cresswell applies to reopen Leefield School

2nd Nov 1925

- 4 pupils with one more who will be 5 in April. Cresswell to top up salary to 90 pounds with free board. Students currently studying through correspondence

20th Nov "

- Board agrees to reopen school from 1st Feb 1926

17th Dec "

- Miss Alice Fryer, late teacher of Pukatea Bay transferred to Leefield

17th Nov 1926

- Board writes asking whether Miss Fryer is required to do any household chores etc when she is supposed to be receiving free board, as others have been caught doing so

29th Nov "

- Mrs E G . Cresswell responds saying that Miss Fryer is not obliged to do any household work but that by her own volition she insists on helping with dishes and does all her own washing and ironing. She states that they are very pleased with her and say they will be very sorry when she has to leave

2nd Dec "

- The Board again writes stating that in some places the teacher is required to clean the schoolroom which should not be part of the teachers duties

7th Dec "

- W R Cresswell writes stating that Miss Fryer is not required to do ANYTHING and that the boys do what is required in keeping the schoolroom neat and tidy

17th Dec "

- Mrs Cresswell writes that with deep regrets Miss Fryer is leaving for Training College and asks that whomever the Board sends be pleasant to live with (underlined!) alongside being a good teacher as they have to board her

1st Feb 1927

- W R Cresswell writes stating he has heard nothing in regards to another teacher being appointed to Leefield as the school year should be set to start.

4th Feb "

- Mrs Newton declined the job due to the low salary (60 pounds)

4th Feb "

- Mrs Cresswell writes as to the whereabouts of Mrs Newton, asking whether perhaps she does not want a country position. She then goes on to state that she would really like a "nice" girl, having just come out of hospital with a weak heart she cannot manage with an teacher that has to be waited on hand and foot!
- She again writes stating that the salary will be made up to 75 pounds by them, because Miss Fryer had been so good they made hers up to 90.

19th Feb "

- Miss Stevenson accepts appointment, commencing 1st Mar

11th Feb 1928

- School closed as roll falls to 3, Miss Stevenson appointed elsewhere and Cresswells return to Correspondence School.

16th Jul "

- Cresswell applies to reopen Leefield, another large family having moved to the District, composing of 4 school age children

18th Jul

- Board agrees to reopen school and find a teacher

25th Jul

- Night pupils will also be there

4th Sep "

- Ivy Maxwell, the teacher, writes to the board as there is no teaching aids or books at the school

15th Mar 1929

- As one of the families is leaving the district the roll will only be 4 at the beginning of the year, Mr Cresswell and Mr Pike offer to raise the guaranteed salary to 75 pounds.

19th Apr "

- Miss Jenkins, the new teacher, writes to ask about changing holidays due to illness

5th Jun "

- Miss Jenkins was unable to file returns as the school has none

7th Feb 1930

- Miss Mahony travelling to Leefield, to take charge

8th Feb 1931

- Miss E B Page resigned from her position at Leefield

9th Mar "

11th Mar "

- Having heard a man has applied, Mrs Cresswell states that whilst she has no objections to a man of "very good character" being appointed she asks them to tell him he will not have his washing and ironing done for him!

6th Aug "

- Irene Carty in charge by this point

27th Jul 1932

- Two children and Miss Carty have left, Mrs Cresswell wants a lady teacher if possible

6th Mar 1933

- Miss E M McConway in charge by this point

25th Sep "

- E J A Bown relieving

24th Apr 1934

- Miss Spring has turned down the job at Leefield, Miss L Whiteford has been appointed instead

1st Aug 1935

- Miss Whiteford has been appointed to Foxhill, in the Nelson board,

13th Nov "

- The school will need 6 pupils to be an aided school

29th Feb 1936

- School closed for some time

15th Feb 1937

- M Barton inquires about reopening the school

15th Sep "

- Board agrees to reopen school if roll is above 5
- Miss B Wiffen appointed

19th Jan 1938

- School has been held in Mrs McIntyre's living room which has been a very large inconvenience to her and she asks to close the school.

31st Jan "1938

- Leefield School closed.

Leefield education reserve rented by County Council from Oct 1926 onwards, from Wellington Education Board

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Researched by Grandson Sam

The log book was kept by teacher listing things that effected the school working. This log starts in 1928 and is copied with most entries except for ones that bear no interest like "closed for Easter". Original is in Marlborough Archives

3rd September 1928 I reopened the Leefield school on this date, it having been closed since February of this year, owing to not enough pupils on the roll to keep it going.

There were 8 pupils present and classified them as follows. 1 Standard V, 1 Standard IV, and 6 primers.

I found the pupils very well forward with their work on the whole, The standard pupils have been taking lessons through the correspondence course. Whilst three of the older primers are fit for Primers 2 and 3

4th Set I received a small desk from the Blenheim Borough School. I also wrote asking the Board for registers, work and scheme books and all the necessary books to be kept. With the exception of a few sticks of chalk, sticks for counting and term report forms, there was nothing else to commence with

11th September Received parcel of Registers etc from Board.

30th September Quarterly report sent Average Attendance 7.8

22nd October Holiday labour Day

25th October Holiday Blenheim A and P Show

1st November Holiday Anniversary Marlborough Province

7th November Inspector Burns visited this afternoon

14th November Holiday Election Day

19th December school closed for Xmas Vacation

20th February 1929 The school opened today for the first time since the summer holiday with a full attendance

Copy of Inspector Burn's report.

Miss Maxwell teacher

Classification Approved. Management Good/ Order, tone and discipline very good.

Attendance very Good

The school has been open for only two months. The pupils are well advanced in their work. The efficiency of the teaching is very satisfactory. There is sufficient accommodation and the school room is very clean

28th February Material received from Wellington Education Board

8th April Science apparatus received

3rd May School reopened after the term vacation with Board's permission, school was closed a fortnight earlier than other school's on account of the illness of the parents whose children attend school

23rd August term returns sent in

8th- 11th October School closed as teacher was ill. The attendance has been very irregular lately on account of illness

24th February School closed for Marlborough A and P Show

28th October School closed Labour Day

31st October Inspector Blackie visited the school

29th 31st October Teacher absent from school on account of illness, but school conducted by oldest pupil

1st November School closed for anniversary day

8th November 1929 inspector Blackie's report arrived.

There is a good tone and working spirit in the school. The standard of working the standard classes good, Fair in the primers. The accommodation is adequate and suitable

1930

E Page I commenced duty at Leefield School on 3rd April Three are six pupils attending the school 3 Primers with 1 standard VI 2 Other standards

9th May School closed for Term holidays. The children have done well with their term examination

28th May School reopened after vacation. Four children present. Two absent through sickness

10th July School closed for Sir Joseph's Wards death

12th August School closed half day for British Football match

9th September School reopened after vacation. Owing to the school opening a day late school was held on Saturday 13th. Another child has commenced school, making the roll number now seven- five boys and two girls

3rd November Governor General's Holiday to schools

24th November Proficiency Exam was held

25th November Inspector Broden visited the school. The Standard 6 pupil gained her proficiency

5th December Inspector Broden's report Accommodation is good. The pupils are working well in general good progress is being made

12th December Teacher absent from school on account of sickness, but school conducted by Standard 6 pupil

11th December Leefield school picnic was held

19th December School closed for summer holidays

2nd February 1931 School reopened after vacation- number of pupils present 8. Six boys and Two girls. The classes are One Standard 4, Two Standard 3, One Standard 2, One Standard 1, and three primers

11th February Received material from Education Board

16th March Two new pupils admitted to school- making number on roll Ten six boys and four girls

8th April The roll number at present is 7. 2 in primers

7th May School closed for first term holidays. This is one day early, but school was held on Saturday last to make up the time. There was a full attendance during the last week, the average roll for the term being 7.8

25th May The school reopened. Three children being absent through illness

10th July A supply of white Raffia received from Education Board

19th August 7th September School closed for school holidays

A supply of white raffia (1 lb: *lb = pound weight*) has come to hand from Education Board

Labour Day School was held on Labour Day

26th October The holiday taken on Friday 30th to suit the convenience of the children who board at Leefield- in this way they are able to go to their homes after the Show

Show Day A whole holiday was observed for the Marlborough A and P Show

Anniversary Day 2nd November As the anniversary of Marlborough Province fell on a Sunday this year the usual holiday was held on Monday November 2nd

One new pupil has enrolled The roll number 8

Standard II, 4, Standard I 1, Primers 4

18th December School closed I M Carty (*Probably Irene Myrtle Carty who married a Mr. Gane*) Irene was born in 1908

1st February 1932 First term commenced with a full attendance , the roll being 7 5 boys and 2 girls

Standard !V 2 girls 1 boy, Standard II 1, boy, Standard I 1 boy, Primer IV 1 boy, Primer 1, 1 boy

20th March Handwork supplies for the year were received- 14 small sheets brown paper and 28 sticks of chalk

25th April Anzac Day

5th May School closed for Term Holidays

23rd May School reopened for second term

5th September School reopened after term holidays, 3 boys, 2 girls

Usual holidays

1st February 1933 School reopened after holidays with attendance of 6, 5 boys 1 girl. One girl left while 2 boys came Then just usual holidays

2nd October Vera Dyer commenced duties

19th October A whole holiday was observed on account of Marlborough A and P Show

Labour Day and Anniversary Day also observed

5th February 1934 R M Graham commenced relieving duties at this school

Full attendance of 2 girls and 5 boys

Standard 6 One Girl, Standard 4 One Boy, Standard 3, One boy, Standard 2 Three Boys, Primer 3 One girl

16th February Holiday observed for Drill Refresher Course

6th March Mr. J Wyn Irwin, Inspector from Canterbury visited the school in the afternoon

21st May L Whiteford Commenced duties at Leefield School with full attendance

4th June King's Holiday observed

6th August Sent to Blenheim School for progress card of new pupil

17th August Term returns sent in and school closed for term holidays

14th November School was visited by Nurse Atkinson

5th and 6th November School closed on account of Teacher's refresher Course- Music and Art

7th December Annual School sports

18th December School closed for long vacation

5th February 1935 School reopened- two pupils absent one new pupil admitted

11th- 15th February School opened at 8.30 and continued till 12. Afternoon free owing to hot weather

8th March School visited in Morning by Inspector Watson

6th May A special holiday was observed for the King's Birthday

25th August School closed for term holidays. Returns sent in. I concluded duties at this school Lionie Whiteford

9th September M A Thompson commenced duties. 6 pupil on roll

18th October Agriculture Inspector visited the school

Usual 3 holidays

27th November School closed election Day

9th December M A Thompson concluded duties at this school Returns sent in

29th May 1944 I reopened this school on this date. This school has been closed since December 1935. We are in a different school room to that which they had before

There are six pupils on the roll, two in primers and four in the standards. Three of the standards have been taking correspondence and are well up in their work. The other standard and one primer came from Blenheim and are OK in their work. That last primer has just started and is progressing rapidly

30th May I wrote to the Board asking for log book, registers, slates etc. The furniture arrived on the 26th May except for one desk which was broken and arrived late

3rd I visited Blenheim and found out that our school was to be adopted by the Riverland School. I met the head teacher of this school Mr. Harford and he lent me quite a number of library books for our school

6th June King's Birthday

7th July The school and I went down to the Riverland School for the day. The children were looking forward to this visit and obtained a great deal of benefit from it. Mr. Harford was very pleased with their work

11th August I went to Riverlands School and Mr. Harford allowed me to teach his classes for the (day) Morning

11th August This afternoon the school nurse arrived accompanied by the Phys Ed Instructor and the Secretary of the Cripple Children's society.

The Phys Ed instructor took the children for drill and one by one the children went in to be examined by the nurse

The children hope to be in a new and better room next time

The nurse was shocked at the school room we're in and in her report she is going to ban the school room

18th August School broke up for !! term vacation

20th September School started today with 3 pupils

Final Entry

Wairau Valley (1878-1923)

The Marlborough Education Board did not include their Pupil Teachers in their returns, as did the Wellington Education Board

Teacher's Table

Table of Teachers and Picton School show the following data

Box Example .

1	1877	When the school was open at the end of the year as a public school
2	5	Roll at the end of the year
3	Picton	Name of the school as written (<i>Some minor corrections made</i>)
4	Smith	Surname of staff member
5	John N	Christian name as listed

- | | | |
|---|--------|---|
| 6 | B4 | Teacher's Grading B is a grade where A is the top and E the lowest. Lower Number is higher rating. Later a different ranking system was used e.g. D-123 Where D was the grade and the number ranked the teacher within that grade. These grading's were published |
| 7 | Master | Description of title as listed |
| 8 | £45 | Annual Wages |

On Highway 63 to St Arnaud 38 Kilometres from Blenheim

Note I have taken Wairau Valley Papers Past notes back before the 1877 Education act, which gave supposedly free education to all New Zealanders

11th January 1868 25th Day of January 1868 Election to be held for Wairau Valley School Committee to meet in the school house .

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons liable under the provisions of The Education Act, 1865, for the payment .of the Household Rate and Quarterly Fees for the year 1867, and who. have not paid them, are requested to pay the same to the respective Teachers m the several Districts of the Province, on or before Saturday, the First day of February next and it is hereby further notified that legal proceedings will be taken after the above date for the recovery of all rates and fees due to the Board. W V H. Eyes, Chairman of Education Board. Blenheim

14th March 1868 School Treat. A treat was given to the children attending. the Wairau Valley School on Monday evening last, when a number of parents and friends were invited. After a plentiful tea, comprising many luxuries, plum cake, ham sandwiches, &c, the assembly was enlivened at intervals by a selection of miscellaneous music and songs. The vocalists included Mr. W. and Miss White and Master Watson, and they were accompanied on the harmonium by Miss White. Dancing and amusements continued until an early hour, when the company retired, universally expressing the pleasure they had felt in the meeting

23rd May 1868 EDUCATION NOTICE. In accordance with the provisions of The Education Act, Session XI., No. 4, it is hereby notified that Monday, the Fifteenth day of June, 1868, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., is fixed for the payment of the Household Rate of Twenty shillings, for the year 1868, to be paid to the Schoolmaster or such other person as may be duly authorised to receive the same, at the School House in each district respectively, throughout the Province of Marlborough and notice is also given, that legal proceedings will be taken for the recovery of any rates not then paid. W. H. Eyes, Chairman of Education Board.

26th July 1873 *The Wairau County Board and the Wairau Education Board were the same Board. The Education Board meeting being held after the County meet. This date is the first meeting recorded in Papers Past,* A letter from Mr White, in reference to the Wairau Valley School, was received and ordered to stand over until Mr Carter was present.

8th November 1873 A letter was received from Mr T. Carter with reference to the Wairau Valley Schools, and one from Mr. Johnson, asking for certain information and return of money received on account of Education. The Clerk was instructed to furnish the necessary information. A letter and statement of accounts was received from Mr White of the Wairau Valley School

6th December 1873 The Board recommended that each local Committee conducted its own examination with the aid of the teacher, and that parents be invited to attend.

Mr Macaulay reported that it was desirable to add two more members to the Wairau Valley Committee. Resolved that the names of Edwin Barker and S. R. Buckman be added.

17th January 1874 A report was received from Mr White, Wairau Valley. The Clerk was ordered to return it to the local Committee, and ask their views on the matter.

7th February 1874 A letter was received from the Chairman of the Wairau Valley Committee, stating that they had given Mr White three months notice of dismissal and that in their opinion a schoolmistress would be better suited to the wants of the place. The letter also stated that the Schoolhouse required shingling and painting. As this matter had been passed by the Board some time ago Mr Carter agreed to see that the work was now done.

salary for Wairau Valley school £23 18s 9d.

21st March 1874 Wairau Valley School. A letter was received from the Chairman of the Wairau Valley Committee. The letter stated that the Committee could not consider itself responsible for the arrears of fees accumulated during the last two or three years. A sum of £20 was asked for to be expended in various repairs. The sum asked for was granted. The Clerk was directed to write to Messrs Bonnington, Onion, Timms, Kiernan, Kite, and Buckman that unless their arrears of school fees be paid at once, the Board will sue them for the same. It was also resolved to continue the same amount, namely £60, as a salary the Committee to engage either a master or mistress.

6th June 1874 Inspectors report showed that Wairau Valley school was not operating at the time of Mr Bowden's Inspection Visit

13th June 1874 WAIRAU VALLEY SCHOOL. I am unable to report upon this school, having received on the evening previous to the day on which I intended visiting it, a notice from the Secretary of the Education Board, informing me that it was closed, and I therefore thought it useless to make the journey.

11th July 1874 Resolved, that the fence round Wairau Valley School be repaired. Wairau Valley Same as last year. *School Committee Members*

5th September 1874 Squires' application would be governed by the minute of last meeting. A letter was received from Mr Buckman, Chairman of Wairau Valley School, requesting that the salary of Mr White, the late master be paid that the salary of master be raised from £60 to £80, at which rate he believed they would get a teacher also to have the school ground fenced in, and a small bridge erected)-which was estimated would cost about £15. An account was also sent for payment for work done by Messrs Ash and Bonnington at the school. Mr Carter said only 15 to 17 would attend if the school was opened. There were not many more that could attend. Mr Macaulay said there was not the number in the district to entitle them to have a school. He then reckoned up with Mr Carter and they made out a total of 16. Mr Hathaway proposed that £80 be the salary allowed. Mr Carter seconded, and the motion was carried. With respect to the estimate for fencing, &c, Mr Carter thought the amount was too high. Mr Hathaway thought perhaps it would be better to defer the matter until they had a teacher. Mr Carter would ask them to fix a maximum sum, he thought £10 should be the utmost for the work as proposed. Mr Parker suggested that Mr Carter confer with the committee, using his own judgment in the matter as to getting the work done. Ultimately it was resolved that Mr Carter be authorised to get the work done in conjunction with the committee. Mr White's letter contained an account for school fees, amounting to £16 17s. It stated that the committee refused to collect the arrears of School fees, and he felt that it was unjust that he should be deprived of the amount so long. Mr Carter explained that the school was in the hands of the Board for nearly two years, during which time there was no committee, and no school fees were paid. The present committee now refused to sue for them. Mr Parker proposed that the amount be paid to Mr White, which was carried

16th September Letter from Mr Tissiman of Renwick School included It would not be advisable to throw teachers into collision with parents on money matters this has bred great mischief always. I can point out to Wairau Valley and The Bush as instances. It would be far easier for all parties all ways if the Board would make a settled advance of salary

19th September 1874 Wairau Valley School. WANTED, a MISTRESS for the Wairau Valley School. Salary £80 per annum, with residence free. Applications, with testimonials, to be sent in to Mr Buckman, Chairman of the Local Committee, on or before the 30th September

14th October 1874 Mr Carter stated that an application for the teachership of the Wairau Valley School had been received from a lady at Napier, but that the application was deferred for further information.

27th January 1875 Inspectors Report that The Wairau Valley School was closed. Wairau Valley. I could not ascertain at Renwick Town whether this school was open or closed. I found on my arrival that it had been closed since April last. There is a very fine schoolroom, nicely fenced, with rooms attached for the teacher. It appeared, on enquiry that very few children could attend if the school were re-opened. There are more children on other side of the Wairau, but they cannot cross the river.

3rd February 1875 WAIRAU VALLEY SCHOOL. Mr Carter reported that he had ascertained the probable cost of making the required addition to the teacher's residence. The sum would give two additional rooms, and a new chimney. As it was, the place was wretched, and ought to be done at once, as the school was required. He had remarked that the people that objected to send their children before, are now getting clamorous to have the school reopened. On the motion of Mr Hathaway, it was resolved that instructions be given by Mr Carter to Mr Douslin, (*Board Architect*) who should be requested to draw up specifications for the proposed enlargement.

3rd March 1875 Plans for additions to Wairau Valley School were postponed till next meeting, when it was hoped Mr Carter would be present.

6th March 1875 Plan and specifications for additions to school at Wairau Valley were laid on the table, but were ordered to stand over to next meeting, when Mr Carter would probably be present

24th April 1875 ADDITION to the Wairau Valley SCHOOL HOUSE, according to Plans and Specifications to be seen at the office of the Education Board, Renwick. The timber will be carted from the Waihopai free. Tenders to be sent in to the undersigned before Tuesday, May 4. W. Tissiman, Secretary Wairau Education Board *Note Mr Tissiman was Head of Renwick*

8th May 1875 WAIRAU VALLEY SCHOOL. In reply to the advertisement for alterations at this school, only one tender had been received, from T. M. Pratt, at £185 The opinion expressed by the Board was that it was beyond all reason. After some discussion, it was ordered that the matter be left in Mr Carter's hands, and fresh tenders be called until 22nd May.

Plans for Wairau Valley school £2 2s.

9th June 1875 Tenders for the enlargement of the Wairau Valley School were received from Mr E. Bythell, £105 Mr D. Wemyss, £103 and Mr Fleming, £93 (accepted.) The chairman of the above school reported that Miss Dolamore, of Nelson had been appointed teacher

13th November 1875 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A letter from the Provincial Secretary was received, informing the Board of the clause in the Education Act relative to all school teachers obtaining a certificate and a letter from Miss

Dolamore, mistress Wairau Valley School, enclosing an account for £17 15s, salary due. It was resolved that the same should be paid as the Board were in possession of funds.

8th December 1875 The minutes having been read and passed, letters were read from Miss Dolamore, the teacher of the Wairau Valley School, acknowledging receipt of salary for September quarter, but reminding the Board that a balance was due for June quarter that she could not attend at Blenheim for examination on the day fixed, on account of the difficulty of travelling, that she would have to close the school for six days if she came down, while she had not received permission to do so and informing the Board that she held a certificate from the Nelson Inspector of Schools, which she enclosed further, that she wished to resign, on account of ill-health, and gave three months' notice, in accordance with the Act. An account, due to Mr Fleming for additions to the school, was also handed m. The Secretary said the balance at the Bank was £8 4s 3d. In reply to the Chairman, Mr Williams said there was a School Committee, but he did not think it acted.

After some conversational remarks, the following gentlemen were appointed a School Committee Messrs Williams, T. Carter, Buckman, Keller, H. Bonnington. The Secretary was instructed to write to them, and request them to meet and elect a Chairman and also to send them Miss Dolamore's letter. Mr Williams said he believed that Miss Dolamore considered that she had not been well used, as the school was insufficiently supplied with maps and other requisites essentially necessary for its proper conduct. The remarks on this subject were of a conversational character, and it appeared to be the opinion of the Board that this was a matter for the School Committee. Mr Williams reported that he had examined the work done by Mr Fleming, which, was very well executed. The Secretary was instructed to pay the sum of £ 6 3s 4d, due to Miss Dolamore. The Board then adjourned.

29th January 1876 Inspectors report Wairau Valley. A small school is being maintained, but the average attendance is very small. The children at present are in a primitive state as to their education. The mistress can teach all that is required, and her services should be retained. The property has been improved, but the schoolroom deprived of its fire-place

11th March 1876 A letter which had been received at the last meeting from the Wairau Valley School Committee, and ordered to stand over, was then considered. The Committee required funds for the purchase of school furniture, and the improvement of the teacher's residence. The Secretary stated in reply to a question that a quarter's salary, £18 19s 6d, was due to the mistress on Dec. 31st, 1875. After some discussion the Secretary was instructed to forward to the Chairman of the School Committee a cheque for £25, out of which the last quarter's salary due to Miss Dolamore was to be paid, and to inform the Committee that a further sum would be forwarded after the next meeting, when the Board expected to be in funds.

2nd August 1876 SCHOOL COMMITTEE. Mr H. D. Williams proposed that Messrs Kellar, Bonnington, Buckman, Timms, and Onion be the Committee for the Wairau Valley School for the ensuing year. The motion was carried

4th October 1876 WAIRAU EDUCATION BOARD

The Secretary brought before the Board the question of levying an Education Rate. Some little discussion took place in the course of which Mr Avery reminded the Board that there was a new School in the Fairhall district (Renwick New Road) which needed a provision making immediately, besides which there were some liabilities in connection with the Wairau Valley School. He then proposed that the maximum rate of 3d be levied, which was seconded by Mr Monro, and carried. The Board then adjourned.

7th October 1876 List of all ratepayers and what they owed as Education Rate

25th October 1876 The Secretary said the amount to credit at the bank, was £37 18s 3d, and the liabilities were a balance due to Mr Fleming of £13 for the alterations and repairs to Wairau Valley School, printing £1 14s, sundries 6s, teacher Wairau Valley £17, in all \$32,

besides which there was a request for a vote of £10 for fencing in school, and other amounts. The Chairman seconded the resolution and said he thought it a wise step, as he understood the new Act would come into force at the close of the session it was unnecessary. Some of the other Boards were not rating themselves and he thought therefore that they should not do so, otherwise it would be unfair. Mr Monro said he did not see the force of paying out of their own pockets when it would come out of the consolidated fund. Mr Ward said it would come out of their pockets all the same there would be plenty to pay by and by, and therefore they ought to be sure of every shilling. The motion was then carried. It was then resolved, That this Board at its rising do adjourn till Tuesday, the 5th December

WAIRAU EDUCATION BOARD.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The correspondence consisted of a letter from Wairau Valley School requesting votes for various purposes, including the fencing of the school ground. The financial condition of the Board being considered, the Board passed the following accounts Fleming £13 Express £1 14 Teacher's salary to Sept. 30, £17, sundries 6s. The balance remaining was ordered to be handed over to the School Committee. The Chairman having finished signing the cheques said that finished the work of the Wairau Education Board, to which Mr Ward replied that he always thought it a mistake to mix the two things up.

18th November 1876 The Marlborough Education Board will hold its first meeting on Monday next

1877

9th June 1877 Wairau Valley. The children, who passed Standard 1. last year, have all left. The children in attendance are all carefully and well taught by Miss Dolamore. The property has lately been fenced and put in good order.

2nd July 1877 School Mistress wanted. Education Board Office, Blenheim, 4th July, 1877. APPLICATIONS will be received until July 28th, 1877, for the Office of MISTRESS to the Wairau Valley School. Salary, £80 per annum, and residence. Applications, enclosing testimonials, to be addressed to John T. Robinson, Secretary. Militia and Volunteer Office, Marlborough, 2nd July, 1877.

4th July 1877 WAIRAU VALLEY. The Chairman of the local committee reported Miss Dolamore's resignation and stated that it would be necessary to advertise for another teacher. It was resolved That the Secretary be instructed to advertise for a teacher in the place of Miss Dolamore for the Wairau Valley School

The Chairman stated that an error had been made in calculating the amount of gorse to be cleared at the school and it was ascertained it would amount to £10. It was resolved That the Wairau Valley School committee be instructed to call for tenders for grubbing, clearing and ploughing the gorse on the school ground and that the Board do authorise the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £10 for this purpose

5th September 1877 WAIRAU VALLEY AND RENWICK. The Secretary stated that no applications had been received for the vacant appointments at Wairau Valley and Renwick. He had written to Miss Dolamore, informing her that a certificate, had been granted, and that her salary would be £90. Miss Dolamore had replied that she was willing to withdraw her resignation, and continue her duties until October, when if she intended to leave she would give a fresh notice. It was resolved on the motion of Mr Paul, seconded by Mr Dive, That Miss Dolamore be allowed to withdraw her resignation.

13th October 1877 We regret to hear that a little boy, seven years old, son of Mr W. Bell, Erina, Wairau Valley, was killed yesterday afternoon by a kick from a horse. Dr Cleghorn was sent for, but the boy died before his arrival

1878 Wairau Valley Dolamore Emma A Head £ 90.00

Francis Gordon Bell was born on 13 September 1887 at Grovetown, Marlborough, the son of Scottish-born William Bell, who ran merino sheep in the Wairau Valley, and his wife, Emma Amelia Dolamore, a schoolmistress and daughter of New Zealand's first Baptist clergyman, Decimus Dolamore

1855/4205	Dolamore	Emma Amelia	Emma	Decimus
1879/3101	Emma Amelia	Dolamore	William	Bell Junr
1882/11232	Bell	Janet Emma	Emma Amelia	William
1884/19388	Bell	Isabella Mary	Emma Amelia	William
1887/10745	Bell	Francis Gordon	Emma Amelia	William
1896/16984	Bell	Constance Pearl	Emma Amelia	William

MARRIAGE.

Bell Dolamore.—October 11, at the Manse, Blenheim, by the Rev. W. Shirriffs, William eldest son of Mr **Bell**, Erina, to Emma Amelia, daughter of the Rev. D. Dolamore, Caversham, Otago.

1927/10384 Bell William 74Y

1941/21151 Bell Emma Amelia 86Y

18th November 1927 Part of Obituary Mr. Bell married in 1879 a daughter of the late Rev. D. Delamore, of Christchurch. He is survived by his wife, one son and three daughters. The son is Dr. Gordon **Bell**, professor of surgery at Otago University.

9th January 1878 . Letter read from S. R. Backman, Chairman of the Local Committee, Wairau Valley, stating that the contract for clearing the school land was complete and had been passed. Also enclosing certain accounts, and m offer from Mr Kellar to the effect that as the school land consists of 4 acres, 1 acre of which is fenced containing the school buildings, grounds and garden, the other three being fenced but open to the church land on one side about 16 chains in length, if the Board will supply the wire and posts and place them on the land, Mr Kellar would undertake to erect the fence at his expense, if the Board would grant him the use of the three acres for the term of two years, at the end of the lease he would lay it down in the grass. The land in its resent unfenced state is 'of no use to the teacher or any one concerned, and if Mr Kellar's offer were accepted it would relieve the Board from any further expense m the shape of ploughing and harrowing. Resolved That the offer be accepted, provided Mr Kellar undertakes to deliver the land free of gorse, and laid down m cocksfoot, rye grass and clover

3rd April 1878 Wairau Valley.— Messrs Seymour, Fell, Baillie, Paul, Ward, Sullivan, Henderson, Conolly, Parker. School Committee

9th October 1878 Wairau Valley roll is 13 scholars 15 pennies capitation total paid 0 pounds 16 shillings and 3 pennies

6th November 1878 Result of first examination by inspector of Marlborough Education Board W G Hodgson WAIRAU VALLEY. Miss Dolamore. (17 present)'. The children here were backward for their years. The three who passed min the First Standard were respectively 9 1/2, 10, and 11 years old the four who passed in the second Standard being of just the same age as the four at Renwick who succeeded with the Fourth Standard. The attendance, however, I was informed, was by no means so regular as it has been at Renwick, and there may be other causes which I am not yet aware of that will satisfactorily account for this great

disparity in attainments. Geography was the best feature, Spelling the worst. Excellent order was maintained,

1879

1879	Wairau Valle	Flower	Elizabeth	Female	£ 90.00
1884/1283	Elizabeth	Flower	Arthur Douglas	Bird	
1940/15771	Bird	Elizabeth		81Y	

9th November 1878 A letter from Mr Buckman, chairman of the Wairau Valley School was read, enclosing account for £3 3s 6d. In reply to Captain Baillie, the Secretary (*Of Marlborough Education Board*) said that the school committees would have to provide for such expenditure out of their share of the capitation money after the 1st October the Chairman said the account appeared to be up to the 30th September, and they had better pay all except the firewood and let them start fair, which was agreed to.

16th November 1878 63% of passes. 17 children present 3 passed at std1 4 at Standard 2 No other children inspected . Only 14 schools in Marlborough Education Board

A Full description of Life for Elizabeth Flower after marriage is available at Nelson Historical Society Journal, Volume 7, Issue 1, 2009

A Post Office in the House



Half Way House. A W Wastney Collection.

Half Way House. A W Wastney Collection.

1880

1880 Wairau Valley Flower Elizabeth Female £ 90.00

Wairau. Valley. Miss Flower .-(Present, 20; on roll, 33.) The young mistress of this school has effected a-marvellous improvement during her eleven months' rule.- I found the scholars, formerly so dull and backward, bright and intelligent, all but two very young children passing in every subject. The Reading, Geography,, and Arithmetic were far beyond my expectation. The discipline was all that could be desired.; Sewing is well taught.

7th December 1880 Confining ourselves for the present to a general review of the Report, we naturally turn to see whether numerically the children being educated at Government expense have increased or decreased during the past year. In this respect we are pleased to note that there has been an apparent increase of no less than 138 children on the rolls, but as when the inspection of 1879 was made, the Canvastown and the Wairau Valley schools were closed and as in the report just issued 36 scholars are in the books of the former school, and 33 on these of the latter, the real increase may be stated at 69. Coming then to the number presented for examination, we find that last year there were 609, and this year 643

1881

1881 22 Wairau Valley Flower Elizabeth Female £ 66.00

18th January 1881 Wairau Valley School. An interesting ceremony took place the other day at the Wairau Valley School, when some twenty-two prizes of well-selected books were distributed amongst the school children. The prizes were distributed by Mrs Thomas Carter, of Hillersden. The order of the children was very good and very respectful, and the lady presenter gave a brief and suitable address to the children assembled, and said a few encouraging words to each when receiving a prize. After the presentation three cheers were given for Mrs Carter, for the kinds who had sent the hooks, etc., and for Miss Flowers, the respected teacher.

18th May 1881 Census Return Wairau Valley.— Males 108, females 56; total 164 dwellings
32

2nd August 1881 It was resolved to erect a chimney at the Wairau Valley school.

6th December 1881 It was resolved to clean the well at the school at the and supply a colonial oven.

1882

1882 22 Wairau Valley Flower Elizabeth Female £ 63.00

7th March 1882 An inquiry was received from the Wairau Valley School Committee, stating that the school-room was used for concerts, parties, and meetings, and asking whether, .the Committee had power over ;the School, The Secretary was instructed to give a reply in the affirmative. The Architect was instructed to see to the painting 'of the Wairau Valley School;

1883

1883 25 Wairau Valley Flower Elizabeth Female £ 75.00

26th September 1882 Total cost per pupil £3.11.0 One of the smallest amounts.

Average attendance 1882-1883 22.50. Total for Teacher's Salary £63. Amount per pupil £2.10.0

1884

1884 21 Wairau Valley Sumner Mary T Female £ 63.00

4th June 1884 The chairman of the Wairau Valley School wrote stating Miss Flowers had resigned owing to the state of her health. He also wrote recommending Mrs Sumner to fill the vacancy. Resolved that Mrs Sumner be appointed. At the end of 1883 a Mrs Sumner was running a private school in Picton which seemed to close then. Bertie Sumner competed in the sports at Picton

1885

1885 22 Wairau Valley Sumner Mary T
 1937/16692 Sumner Charles Austin 82Y

Three Mary Jane Sumners Died but No Mary Teresa Sumner in BDM

In 1889 Mary J went to Kekerangu and was there until 1899 All this does not necessarily compute. Charles Austin Sumner was a publican on the West Coast in the 1910's and then went to Christchurch.

This couple came out from England by ship to Wellington NZ in 1880. Can anyone help me find the ship. Rootchat. *Must have gone straight to Wairau Valley. Mary Jane was nee Weir*

1880/10091	Sumner	Hurbert Thomas	Mary Jane	Charles Austin
1882/1372	Sumner	Thomas Austin James	Mary Jane	Charles Austin
1885/16929	Sumner	Mary Iveleen Lillian	Mary Teresa	Charles Austin
1887/10821	Sumner	Monica Kate	Mary Teresa	Charles Austin
1889/5382	Sumner	Wilfrid Weir	Mary Teresa	Charles Austin
1896/11443	Sumner	Teresa Gladys	Mary Jane	Charles Austin
1901/1073	Sumner	Roy John	Mary Jane	Charles Austin

1886

1886 22 Wairau Valley Sumner Mary T Female £ 73.10

5th January 1886 *Part of piece about village settlements* In the Wairau Valley, for instance., where the holdings have diminished and the population grown less, and where the workmen cannot get homes nearer than at Renwick, the experiment might be worth considering. We shall be curious to know what the Board will do about it.

2nd March 1886 WAIRAU VALLEY. It was determined to call for tenders for roofing this school with iron

6th April 1886 The following tenders were opened for extensions, Wairau Valley Schools — A. G. Mills (accepted) £37 13s, D. Wemyss £53 7s.

7th December 1886 At the Wairau Valley (Mrs Sumner, sole teacher), the organisation and instruction are good, the order and discipline apparently excellent, and manners and behaviour apparently good. Inspector's report

1887

1887 17 Wairau Valley Sumner Mary T Female £ 52.00

11th January Nelson College Scholarship won by Ernest Rutherford of Havelock school. Alex Maclaine aged 13 years finished bottom of 16 candidates with 262/600. One of only two candidates not from Havelock or Blenheim

18th July 1887 Mrs Sumner was listed as not being a classified teacher. There were only 34 teachers in the Marlborough Education Board area of which 14 were uncertificated.

11th October 1887 Sumner.—On October 7th, at the Schoolhouse, Wairau Valley, the wife of C. A. Sumner, of a daughter (*Mary Kate*)

1888

1888 16 Wairau Valley Sumner Mary J Female £ 56.00

7th March 1888 Wairau Valley Mrs Sumner. On roll 20 present 19 The proportion, of scholars presented in standards to be number on' the roll (75 per cent) was unusually large. As was the case last year, none failed. But this is an instance of the fallacy of the percentage test taken alone. The scholars acquitted themselves badly in the class subjects, especially in geography, where several of the older pupils have escaped failure. The handwriting was also of poor quality throughout. Grammar, arithmetic and needlework are the strong points

1889

1889 18 Wairau Valley Macey Emily Female £ 63.00

8th January 1889 The Kekerangu School Committee wrote asking the Board to appoint Mrs Sumner of Wairau Valley, to be teacher. Agreed to.

2nd April 1889 School repairs Martin and Tozett £19 17s (accepted), R Storey .£20 16s, R. Ash £21 10s, E. Bythell £26, F. Beamsley £29 10s

3rd April 1889 The question of Miss Macey's-resignation and 'transfer from Renwick to Wairau Valley School came up and Mr Rawlings, who was in attendance, said though not deputed by the Committee, he had called in to say that they wished the Board to advertise the vacancy without delay. It would save time.

7th May 1889 From Miss Macey, Wairau Valley, asking that the house and furniture be repaired,, they being in a very dilapidated Condition.. The Chairman said, the Architect had reported that the building was not worth repairing. The Board authorised the expenditure by the Committee, of £5.

1890

1890 21 Wairau Valley Macey Emilie Female £ 84.00

Emilie was actually an Emily

1874/27043 Macey Emily Ellen William

This means Emily was about 15 when she started at Wairau Valley

1901/3072 Emily Macey Peter Miller

1st April 1890 From Mr B. McCallum on behalf of Mrs Sumner, claiming from the Board £3 10s, and from the Wairau Valley School Committee £8 5s on account of salary

That tenders be called for painting the outside and distemping the inside at Wairau Valley

2nd April 1890 Wairau Valley.— Miss Macey. On roll, 18, present 16. When it is considered that this little school has been closed for nearly six months before the present teacher took

charge, three months previous to my examination, the fact that none of the scholars proved unequal to what was required of them is very creditable. Handwriting is the weakest point
6th May 1890 Wairau Valley works: Iremonger £26 10s (accepted), Willis £34 10s, Peddie and Bott £37 10s

3rd June 1890 Wairau Valley, notifying the election of a Committee as follows H. Bonnington (Chairman), E. Timms, F. Thomas, W. Bird, H. Wadsworth, C. Timms, J. Hooper

1891

1891 19 Wairau Valley Macey Emilie Female £ 66.10

7th April 1891 ESTIMATES. The following estimates for building and repairs to be forwarded to the Department were read: included Wairau Valley £24, painting, building and contingencies £500, furniture £100

7th September 1891 Fire. News has reached town to-day of the destruction by fire of the Wairau Valley School, but no details were available at the time of our going to press

6th October 1891 WAIRAU VALLEY. The Committee and teacher reported the destruction of the school by fire. The Inspector said he had been at the place, and had ascertained from the teacher that no fire had been used in the building for six weeks, and the teacher's only explanation was that she thought it must have been caused by rats getting at the matches. The Committee had engaged, a building from Mr Onion, which was suitable for the purpose. Desks were required. In answer to a question the Inspector said the average attendance was 22. The school was now only an aided school. The Chairman suggested that the fire be reported to the Department, and they be asked whether they will rebuild and supply furniture,- or authorise the Board to see to it

11th November 1891 Education Department wrote stating that they would find the money for rebuilding the Wairau Valley School, the plans for which the Board's architect is to prepare forthwith

1892

1892 18 Wairau Valley Bird Mrs J C Female £ 63.00

5th January 1892 Lean to Residences.— Mr Carter entered a protest at the Education Board this morning against the erection at the Wairau Valley school of a lean-to residence, and blamed the architect for it, but the chairman defended the latter and stated that the erection had been so ordered by the Board, and the architect only carried out their instructions, At the same time it seems a pity to continue these erections

10th February 1882 Mr Carter produced the plan of the Wairau Valley School, and a sketch drawn out by himself of some alterations he would suggest. The alteration was approved of.
I can't find a J C Bird, Mr or Mrs anywhere in Marlborough and I think this must be some relative of Elizabeth Flower who married A D Bird and Possibly was her as a Mrs J D Bird left the Blenheim Sunday School in 1892

1893

1893 18 Wairau Valley Bird Mrs J C Female £ 67.10

8th February 1893 Of the 38 schools examined 17 show above 25 per cent of failures. Three of these, Okaramio, Spring Creek, and Wairau Valley, had not long been in charge of their

present teacher, and the results show a marked improvement on the past, with every promise of a satisfactory performance in the future.

2nd March 1893 We were shown this morning a nice setter pup imported from Wellington by Mr A. D. Bird of Wairau Valley. She is by Baron the champion dog of New Zealand, imported from Melbourne, where he also took high honors, cut of Countess, imported from England, and a well-known prize winner.

1894

1894 20 Wairau Valley Sullivan Laura Female £ 72.10

4th April 1894 FABIAN'S VALLEY. A series of letters was received from a resident near the Fabian's Valley aided school. It was requested that the charge of the school be transferred to the Wairau Valley Committee. The Secretary was instructed to reply that in the event of a committee not being elected steps would be taken to transfer the school to the charge of the Wairau Valley Committee. A sum of £5, making a total on further grants of £30, was granted to the school for building improvements

6th June 1894 Be Fabian Valley school, the Wairau Valley School Committee expressed willingness to take the school under its jurisdiction. It also informed the Board of Mrs Bird's resignation as teacher of the Wairau Valley school. It was decided to transfer the Fabian Valley School to the jurisdiction of the Wairau Valley Committee.

3rd July 1894 Miss M. Sullivan, of the West Coast, was appointed to the teachership of the Wairau Valley aided school

7th August 1894 WAITOHI. The Committee wrote recommending Miss M. Sullivan as mistress, vice Miss M. O. Williams, transferred. A deal of surprise was expressed that Mrs Wilmot, who had been a capable teacher, had not been selected. Mr Wilmot was the master of the school, and the Board, on hearing that the Committee had been governed by a wish not to give undue financial assistance to one family, expressed a general opinion that the motive was a very foolish one. It was resolved to reply that the removal of Miss Sullivan from the Wairau Valley School so soon after taking the position was dissatisfactory, as the continual change of teachership was prejudicial to education and asking that another recommendation be made.

1895

1895 22 Wairau Valley Jeffries Laura Female £ 76.80

9th July 1895 WAIRAU VALLEY. The Committee wrote that Miss Sullivan had resigned the position of teacher. It was resolved to reply that the Board would advertise for a teacher.

13th August 1895 FAIRHALL. The Committee wrote objecting to removal of Miss Jeffries as assistant teacher, from the Fairhall school to Wairau Valley without their being informed of the fact, and asking the reason of the transfer. The Secretary stated that the matter was an oversight, and he would at once communicate with the Committee. The reason of the removal was the overcrowding of the teaching staff

10th September 1910 A small quantity of school furniture was allowed for the Tua Marina school and a cooking stove for the Wairau Valley school

1885	43	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Female	£ 24.00
1886	50	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	Female	£ 32.00

							Probationer	
1887	47	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	40.00
1888	46	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	40.00
1889	44	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	40.00
1890	55	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	40.00
1891	53	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	40.00 60
1892	50	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	60.00
1893	51	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	60.00
1894	56	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura		Assistant Female	£	60.00
1895	22	Wairau Valley	Jeffries	Laura		Female	£	76.80
1896	18	Wairau Valley	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	110.50
1897	18	Wairau Valley	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	67.10
1898	9	Wairau Valley	Jeffries	Laura		Female	£	41.00
1899	31	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	110.18
1900	25	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	90.00
1901	24	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	90.00
1902	24	Fairhall	Jeffries	Laura	E2	Female	£	114.00
1869/21331		Jeffries		Laura		Bridget Thomas		
1949/31016		Jeffries		Laura		80Y		

1896

1896 18 Wairau Valley Jeffries Laura E2 Female £ 110.50
 13th May 1896 WAIRAU VALLEY, A request by the Committee for £1 for gravelling round the teacher's residence was granted.
 10th November 1896 . WAIRAU VALLEY. In accordance with a request from the Committee, the sum of £3 was granted for the purpose of protecting the well

1897

1897 18 Wairau Valley Jeffries Laura E2 Female £ 67.10
 12th June 1897 Addison.— Accidentally shot on the 10th instant at Wairau Valley, John Andrew Charles Bertie the only, beloved child of John and Alice Addison aged 12 years and two months. [English and Australian papers please copy.
 14th June 1897 The funeral of Bertie Edison took place yesterday at the Wairau Valley cemetery. A large number of town people were present, and over 200 followed to the respected lad's last resting place. The Rev H. Ensor conducted the service in a most impressive manner, and all around the grave were visibly affected. The scholars of the Wairau Valley School marched in procession, and each scholar placed a floral tribute on the coffin. The pall-bearers were Messrs McFarlane, Smellie, Bonnington, F. Dodson, Fuller, and Timms, and the chief mourners Messrs Addison, Bright, Anderson, Broadbridge, and Kirwin.
 15th June 1897 WAIRAU VALLEY. Firewood to the value of £3 was granted this Committee.

1898

1898 9 Wairau Valley Jeffries Laura Female £ 41.00

30th December 1898 Applications are invited by the Education Board (or the teachership of the Wairau Valley school

1899

1899 9 Wairau Valley McMahan Edith E Female £ 41.00

10th January 1899 FABIAN VALLEY. Mr Barker wrote asking if the compulsory attendance clauses of the Act could be applied to aided schools. Owing to irregular attendance at this school, there was some difficulty in retaining a teacher. The Board discussed the question of altering the boundaries of the school districts in that locality. Mr Barker's letter was referred to the Wairau Valley Committee (which has the supervision of the school) for a report.

WAIRAU VALLEY. The Committee wrote saying that, as they knew nothing of the two applicants they would leave the selection and appointment of the teacher in the hands of the Board. The Board appointed Miss Edith McMahan

4th February 1899 WAIRAU VALLEY. The Committee wrote stating that they had passed a resolution (in reply to Mr Barker's letter from Fabian's Valley) to the effect that they knew no reasons why the compulsory attendance clauses of the Act should not be enforced in the case of aided schools. It was resolved to send attendance notices to Fabian's Valley, and that the Onamalutu Committee be requested to prosecute for non-attendance of children at Fabian's Valley School

16th August 1899 Two ladies and one gentleman, residents of Fabian's Valley, waited on the Board, and expressed themselves as dissatisfied with the work and methods of the present teacher. They complained that the children did not make reasonable progress. A lengthy discussion took place. It was resolved that the Wairau Valley Committee (which has jurisdiction over the Fabian Valley School) be asked to ascertain the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants of the neighborhood, and report at next meeting.

12th September 1899 Fabian's valley. Correspondence was received from the Wairau Valley Committee, to which was referred the trouble that had arisen at Fabian's Valley and was brought before the Board at last meeting by three parents. This was accompanied by a petition from residents of Fabian's Valley asking for sanction to the formation of a Committee for the Fabian's Valley school. Two residents waited on the Board in support of the statements made by the deputation at last Board meeting as to the progress of pupils who had been attending the school. The Board decided to postpone the whole matter till the receipt of the Inspector's report, which will be made after his visit at the beginning of October. A member of the Board handed in correspondence addressed to him personally by a parent at Fabian's Valley

18th September 1899 Last Saturday evening Mr McDuff Boyd gave one of his popular concerts at Wairau Valley, and the school room was packed to the doors to greet this well-known violinist

13th December 1899 The Education Board requires teachers for the Deep Creek, Okaramio, and Wairau Valley schools.

1900

1900 8 Wairau Valley King Mary Female £ 37.00

9th January 1900 Miss King appointed

9th October 1900 Mr G. H. Broad bridge was appointed commissioner in charge of the Wairau Valley school district, and was authorised to procure certain requirements

1869/21727 King	May Ella Agnes	Ann Maria	Robert Blundell
1920/9505 May Ella Agnes	King	James Harris	Ching
1946/26465 Ching	May Ella Agnes		77Y

May and Mary seemed to be interchangeable for May as she taught in small schools in the Marlborough Education Board

1901

1901 9 Wairau Valley King May E A Female £ 37.00

20th March 1901 The Secretary asked the Board whether the "Commissioner" appointed at Wairau Valley by the Board had a right to vote in the election of a member of the Education Board. After consulting the Act, the Board decided that a School Commissioner is not entitled to vote at all. It was resolved that the Department be written to on the subject with a view to legislation if necessary,

17th April 1901 Inspector's report Poor: three, viz., Marshlands, Rai Valley, and Wairau Valley. *Only Te Awaite was rated worse as Bad*

14th May 1901 The Kaituna and Wairau Valley Committees were granted supplies of firewood

11th June 1901 Reports were received as to election of School Committee at Kaituna and Wairau Valley

12th August 1901 According to a correspondent, the entertainment at the Wairau Valley schoolroom on Friday in honor of returned troopers, was a huge success. Mr Sterling officiated as chairman, and Mr Broadbridge as vice-chairman, and a number of toasts were enthusiastically honoured. Regret was expressed at the enforced absence through illness of Troopers Scott and Casey. After supper dancing was indulged in, and kept up with spirit until daylight. There were 30 couples on the floor at one time, which taxed the accommodation to the utmost; however, all took the jostling in good part. At the conclusion of the proceeding a hearty vote of thanks to the ladies who conducted the catering, and to those who had arranged the affair was accorded. Mr Vannini presided at the piano with his accustomed ability.

9th September 1901 The Wairau Valley Church Trust wrote with respect to fencing between the church and the school at Wairau Valley.—It was agreed that the Board do the work, the Trustees to give an undertaking to pay for it as soon as possible

14th October 1901 Mr E. Barker tendered to repair 13 chains of new fence and 19 chains of old fence at Wairau Valley for £23. The matter was referred to the School Committee with power to accept. The Church trustees bear half the cost of the work

19th November 1901 The Wairau Valley Committee asked that Miss M. Slattery be appointed teacher in place of Miss King.—The appointment was approved. *Margaret Slattery taught for one year at Fabian's Valley in 1901*

1902

1902 15 Wairau Valley Slattery Margaret Female £ 56.00

In 1889 Margaret Slattery attended the Blenheim Convent School in the First Infant Class

3rd January 1902 A pleasant and most enjoyable gathering (writes a correspondent) was held at the Fabian's Valley schoolroom on December 28th to bid farewell to Miss Slattery, who has resigned her position as teacher of the Fabian's Valley school to take charge of the Wairau Valley school. Miss Slattery who gave the children a picnic and tea, and the residents

gave her a dance in the 1 evening, at which vocal items were given by Mrs D. Macleay, Mrs Joseph Bartlett, Miss Slattery, Mr Fred Eves, Miss Ivy Bartlett, Mr E Bartlett, Mr J. Smith Mrs J. Woodhouse. A song was also given by Mr and Mrs T. Bartlett, the former of whom is 70 years of age and the latter 68—two of the earliest settlers of Marlborough. One of the most enjoyable gatherings ever held in Bartlett's Creek was brought to a close by three cheers for Miss Slattery and Mrs D. Macleay

13th May 1902 Correspondence with respect to the lapse .of the householders' meetings at Wairau Valley where the proceedings were informal), Tua Marina, an 4 other places was received.

5h June 1902 On Friday evening last, writes a correspondent, a very enjoyable dance was held at the Wairau Valley schoolhouse. It was arranged by the bachelors of the Valley. The room was prettily decorated with flags, chrysanthemums and native creepers, and the supper served by the ladies was a great attraction. The dance was kept up until the early hours on Saturday morning.

1903

1903 18 Wairau Valley Slattery Margaret Female £ 80.00

21st April 1903 A letter from a Wairau Valley parent re the water supply was ordered to be forwarded to the Committee. *Marlborough Education Board*

14th July 1903 Correspondence of a legal character was received from the late teacher of the Wairau Valley School.—The Secretary was authorised to write and explain the position to the correspondent's solicitors. *Miss Slattery still teaching until 1908*

10th August 1903 The Wairau Valley Committee forwarded its approval of the Board's action in the Headmaster's appeal case *There were no men teachers at either Wairau Valley or Fabian's Valley so this School Committee must be in charge of another school as well Possibly Onamalutu where Robert McCallum was and the school closed in 1903 and started again in 1904*

1904

1904 18 Wairau Valley Slattery Margaret Female £ 82.16

10th May 1904 The Secretary was instructed to call again for meetings at Wairau Valley and Cullensville

2th July 1904 Mr Broadbridge was appointed Commissioner for the Wairau Valley School.

8th August 1904 education of two children at his household.—The application was granted.

The Wairau Valley Committee were authorised to effect certain building improvements, and to take steps for the eradication of gorse growing on the school ground

12th September 1904 A tender of £18 for the work of clearing gorse round the Wairau Valley School was considered excessive, and the matter of getting the work done was left in the hands of Mr Parker

10th October 1904 An account of £4 18s for clearing gorse round the Wairau Valley school was passed for payment

1905

1905 17 Wairau Valley Slattery Margaret Licensed Female £ 90.00

8th May 1905 Mr Broadbridge has been appointed School Commissioner for Wairau Valley, where no Committee had been elected.

13th June 1905 Mr Broadbridge wrote accepting the position of Commissioner for Wairau Valley

1906

1906 18 Wairau Valley Slattery Margaret Licensed Female £ 110.00

21st March 1906 Wairau Valley had one of the lowest attendance records at 76%. Only 3 schools were lower. Wairau Valley was open 439 half days out of the expected 420 half days

1907

1907 17 Wairau Valley Slattery Margaret Female £ 110.00

13th March 1907 Wairau Valley open 422 half days

14th May 1907 A communication was received from Wairau Valley- asking that Mr G. H. Broadbridge be re-appointed School Commissioner. —Approved.

3rd June 1907 THE CHILDREN'S FETE.

A GREAT SUCCESS

In the grounds of the Springlands School was to be seen, at about 10.30 this morning, an ordered assemblage of school children and their marshals that forcibly reminded one of the Peace demonstrations in Market Place that marked the close of the Boer War. Abreast the flag of Empire, waving in the northerly breeze of a sunny winter's day, the juvenile host paraded in columns, with the Springlands cadets in front. At a given signal, the "Present Arms" was sounded on the bugle (excellently played by Bugler Prebble), and the salute took place. There were no speeches—a wise precaution. Having received the orders for the day's proceedings from Mr D. A. Sturrock, and been particularly instructed to re-assemble for lunch at the sound of the familiar dinner-call, the children were dispersed, the elder ones marching off to Mr Adam Jacksons paddock, across the road, and the younger ones breaking off and remaining in the school grounds. The programme of events commenced right away with races and such competitive sports for all standards, each division being given into the hand of a committeeman. The children had come from far and near. The Blenheim schools of all denominations mustered about 400 children the Fairhall School (of which more below) sent about 40; Renwick 80; Wairau Valley (the party arriving by mail coach), about 15; and odd parties from both railway lines swelled the number.

11th June 1907 Mr G. H. Broadbridge was appointed correspondent at Wairau Valley, in lieu of a Committee

1908

1908 17 Wairau Valley Slattery Margaret Female £ 99.00

1909

1909 15 Wairau Valley Orr Charlotte E E4 Female £ 120.00

6th April 1909 Wairau Valley.—The Wairau Valley School Committee wrote recommending Miss Orr for the position of sole teacher for this school. Miss Orr was appointed.

12th July 1910 Miss Orr forwarded her resignation of the teachership of the Wairau Valley school, owing to having received another appointment. The resignation, was received

1910

1910 15 Wairau Valley Brooks Gordon Master £ 108.00

10th January 1910 Mr Gordon Brooks applied for a temporary position in a country school-received

26th April 1910 The worst school grounds are probably those of Onamalutu and Wairau Valley, where blackberry and gorse abound. Inspectors report

14th June 1910 A COMPLAINT. The secretary of the Wairau Valley School Committee wrote advising the Board that at its last meeting a resolution was passed by the Committee to the effect that owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which the school had been conducted the teacher be asked to resign. The Board decided to hold this matter over pending a report from the Inspector. The same Committee wrote advising the Board that the school-ground was over-run with gorse, briar, broom, and other noxious weeds, and suggested that in order to clear it it be ploughed and cropped. A sum of money was also asked for, for the purpose of improving the water supply. It was decided to grant £4, for the water supply improvement, and that the school section be let to a tenant who would destroy and eradicate the noxious weeds

6th July 1910 Miss L. E. Orr is leaving Wairau Valley shortly, having been appointed to another school

12th July Marlborough Education Board Miss Orr forwarded her resignation of the teachership of the Wairau Valley school, owing to having received another appointment. The resignation, was received

15th August 1910 The Marlborough Education Board, invite applications for vacant positions at Picton and Wairau Valley.

11th October 1910 The Wairau Valley School Committee wrote informing the Board that Mr Brooks had been appointed sole teacher at their school, and asking the Board to approve of the appointment. Mr Strachan recommended that the Board should advertise for a certificated teacher. He thought the children could be better served with a certificated teacher. Mr Storey thought that if this teacher were a good one he should be given a trial. Mr Ferguson favored the appointment of a certificated teacher, and moved in this direction. Mr Reader seconded the motion. The Chairman moved an amendment that Mr Brooks be appointed. Mr Storey seconded the amendment. The amendment was carried, Messrs Reader and Ferguson opposing

1911

1911 18 Wairau Valley Brooks Gordon Master £ 108.00

11th April 1911 Mr A. McRae has been appointed by the Marlborough Education Board to inquire into the state of education in the Upper' Wairau Valley. It appears that there are a number of children who are practically running wild',1 owing to there being no facilities for giving them an education, and it is with the object of ascertaining the best means of establishing a school there that Mr McRae has been appointed

11th July 1911 The Wairau Valley Committee wrote asking the Board to make a grant for clearing gorse and broom off the front part of the school premises, and for one chain behind the building. It was resolved that a pound for pound subsidy be granted

1912

1912 17 Wairau Valley Brooks Gordon Master £ 112.10

23rd April 1912 Inspector reported At Wairau Valley also great improvement was observed. Needlework a few fairly large schools under sole male teachers, failed to find a 'teacher of Needlework, namely: Deep Creek. Wairau Valley, Marama.

24th April 1912 School Committee Wairau Valley: Messrs G. d'Emden, R. B. Timms, 9. R. Slow, and J. V. Vorbach. There, is yet one vacancy to be filled in this Committee, and Mr J. R. Timms has been recommended for the position. Mr Timms accepted later

10th December 1912 Mr P. Vorbach wrote asking for the use of the ground behind the Wairau Valley school in return for his labor with clearing the ground of noxious weeds.—The letter was referred to the Committee for a report

1913-1914

1913 17 Wairau Valley Brooks Gordon Master £ 117.00

14th January 1913 The correspondent at Wairau Valley recommended that Mr Vorbach be given a year-to-year lease of the school reserve on condition that he keep the ground clear of noxious weeds and keep the fencing in order.—Agreed to.

15th April 1913 An application from the teacher at Wairau Valley that a-room in the residence be papered was granted

Note: As from 1914 lists of teachers was only published every 2nd year

14th January 1914 The following school buildings in the Marlborough district have, as a whole or in part, been in existence for over thirty years:—Tua Marina, Havelock Suburban, Picton, Havelock, Springlands, Blenheim, Marshlands, Wairau Valley, Fairhall, and Fabian's Valley. The list was mentioned in connection with the Education Board's scheme for the establishment of a reserve fund to provide for rebuilding as the occasion arises in each case.

14th July 1914 A report was received from the Inspector of Schools regarding the proposed site for a school on the Hillersden Estate. The site allotted by the Survey Department was most central, and a school established there would not interfere in any way with the attendance at the Wairau Valley School.—The secretary was instructed to take the necessary steps for the establishment of a school.

22nd July The annual meeting of the Wairau Valley Hack Racing Club is advertised to take place in the school at Wairau Valley in the afternoon of Wednesday of next week. All interested are invited to attend.

10th November 1914 Mr M. Parfitt made application for the establishment of an aided school at Wairau Valley. There were 12 or more children of school age in the locality.—The secretary was instructed to write informing the applicant that the Board had made arrangements for the erection of a school, in -that district, and asking for further particulars.

Presumably Hillersden district

1915-1916

1915 21 Wairau Valley Brooks Gordon Male £ 135.00

12th January 1915 Mr Parfitt, Wairau Valley, wrote asking the Board either to erect an aided school in his locality or to grant 'capitations' to enable the, settlers to do so.—It was resolved to point out that the regulations provided for a distance limit of four miles from the nearest school, and to inform Mr Parfitt that members would be pleased to acquaint themselves with the conditions whenever, they visited the locality.

From 1915 the Wellington Education Board took over control of Marlborough Schools

19th December 1916 A pleasant function was held last; Friday afternoon, when the Wairau Valley School broke up for the summer holidays. Prizes were presented to the children, and afternoon tea was provided by the parents. The chairman of 'the committee addressed the children on the work done during the past year. The proceedings closed with all present joining .in singing "God Save the King."

1917-1918

1917 23 Wairau Valley Brooks Gordon Sole £153.00

22nd May 1922 Wairau Valley School Picnic Patriotic Fund £26.0.0

28th August 1917 Householdors in the Wairau Valley district are invited to attend a meeting in the school on Saturday evening, to consider the question of having the school removed to a more central site.

6th September 1917 A meeting of the Wairau Valley householdors took place in the schoolroom on Saturday evening last. After considerable discussion a ballot was taken, which resulted in favor of the school being removed to a site on Mr W. Mark's section, fronting the North Bank road

8th January 1918 Joseph France obtained Proficiency (*This allowed him to go onto secondary school*)

19th April 1918 It was decided to confer with the Wairau Valley Committee as to the solution of the- water supply difficulty, and to suggest that a concrete tank would probably solve- the question

22nd June 1918 It" was reported that some additions were necessary to the school at Wairau Valley, and it was resolved to make application to the Department for a sufficient sum to make the alterations.

22nd August 1918 The cost of grubbing and burning gorse at the Wairau Valley school, .and refund the cost of clearing water-pipes at Okaramio, was passed. It was decided to refer the question forf increased accommodation at Wairau Valley to the Department, emphasising that the school inspector had strongly recommended the alteration.

13th September 1918 A very successful children's concert and fancy-dress dance was held in the Hillersden school on Friday, 30th August. The children attending the Wantwood, Hillersden, and Wairau Valley schools took part and contributed' a very enjoyable programme, and the manner in which many of the items were rendered showed that much care had been given to their preparation. The costumes of the children were extremely quaint and pleasing, and added a touch of gaiety to the scene. The programme consisted of songs, recitations, and fancy dances, and was much appreciated by those present. During the interval the chairman of the Hillersden School Committee (Mr E. H. Williams) thanked Mrs Murray and the ladies who assisted her for the trouble they had taken in teaching the children the dances, songs, etc., that comprised the programme, and also congratulated the children on their performance. Flowers and sweets were sold during the evening by the children, and a cake donated by Mrs E. IT. Williams and some eggs donated by Mrs J. W. Evans were disposed of, and helped to swell the proceeds. Mrs A. H. Roberts played the accompaniments, and Miss May Atkinson assisted in putting the children through their dances, etc. The takings, amounting to about £13, were for patriotic purposes

1919-1920.

1919 32 Wairau Valley Brooks Gordon Sole £220.00

30th January 1919 The question of water supply at Wairau Valley was referred to the clerk at Blenheim

5th March 1919 Lieut. "Murray, M.M., who has recently returned from Palestine, visited the Hillersden, Wairau Valley, North Bank Schools on Monday and gave a most interesting and instructive address to the pupils on the country traversed during the British advance from the Suez Canal to the Jordan Valley. Included in the trophies exhibited was a shell case from a 5.9 Turkish gun, known as "Jericho Jane," and many excellent photographs taken in Egypt and Palestine. Amongst the latter were points of the church of the Holy Sepulchre, at Jerusalem, and the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem. It was very gratifying to the children to be told by, Lieut Murray that the Y.M.C.A. coupons sent by them to the soldiers were greatly appreciated

14th April 1919 public meeting was held in the Wairau Valley school on Saturday evening to consider the question of the erection of a public hall. A vote was taken, and it was unanimously decided that a public hall should be built on the site set apart for that purpose-in the Wairau Valley township. A subscription was taken, up in the room and about £85 was collected.

Up to July

21st August 1919 Works authorised in the Marlborough ward were renewals to the residence at Wairau Valley

3rd April 1920 Wairau Valley: Messrs J. O Anstiss (chairman), G. R. Slow, R. E Timms, G. R. Davies, and Joseph Parfitt. School Committee

16th July 1920 The opening of the Wairau Valley Memorial Hall will be held on Monday next, with a concert and dance. Arrangements for the function are well in hand, and the Returned Soldiers' Orchestra will supply the music.

17th September 1920 Repairs authorised for outbuildings by Wellington Education Board

1921-1922

1921 28 Wairau Valley Mapp Elsie M D Sole £300.00

15th June 1921 Miss E M Mapp appointed

1894/18579 Mapp Elsie May Rose Richard

1936/14897 Mapp Elsie May 40Y

1910 2 Benhopai Mapp Elsie Female £ 12.00

1911 2 Benhopai Mapp Elsie Female £ 12.00

1912 2 Benhopai Mapp Elsie Female £ 12.00

1914 3 Blind River Mapp Elsie Female £ 90.00

1915 21 Pelorus Bridge Mapp Elsie Female £ 110.00

1917 23 Pelorus Bridge Mapp Elsie M Sole £125.00

1919 27 Pelorus Bridge Mapp Elsie Sole £200.00

1921 28 Wairau Valley Mapp Elsie M D Sole £300.00

1923 32 Wairau Valley Mapp Elsie M D-165 Sole £293.00

1923-

1923 32 Wairau Valley Mapp Elsie M D-165 Sole £293.00

1923 32 Wairau Valley Coleman Nancy A Probationer 2 £78.00

3rd June 1924 Wairau Valley Mr O L Watson Sole Teacher
6th September 1927 Miss H Gow Sole Teacher
3rd February 1931 Miss A G Lublow Sole Teacher
30th April 1935 Miss C M Harfort Sole Teacher
27th January 1936 Mr T A Jensen Sole Teacher
21st November 1940 Mr J K Alexander

National Archives

1891 350 square foot

1948 2 classrooms 1198 Converted army buildings

1957 Addition 96 square foot

1918 One room converted into bathroom school and residence combined

Part Section 14 Area 4 acres

2 acres back section being exchanged for 1 acre road section

Exchanged for a new section of 5 acres 1947

School Site 1919-1948

6th August 1919 Letter from School Committee to Education Board asking approval for back four acres of land so as to eliminate gorse and broom seeds. Only a small portion of land is needed for children's ponies and will need to be fenced

23rd August 5 year lease of land approved to J Venn and Charles Galloway

13th October 1919 Because School Committee is elected annually they cannot lease land for 5 years so offer to lease land with no term mentioned

9th December 1919. Small cost of fencing horse paddock of £5-16-0 . This is necessary for grubbing gorse etc. on Board land

6th May 1925 J Venn writes that he is relinquishing less of land as after clearing the noxious weeds off the resultant cropping has been unprofitable

Later in a letter the roots of the Eucalyptus trees outside the border have made the area unprofitable

6th April Mr. Vorbach offers to lease the back section. The land needs to be ploughed every year to keep down the Noxious weeds

4th July 1926 G Davies Junior of Wairau Valley Mr. J P Vorbach changed his mind as he would not carry out the condition in regard to grazing cattle

Mr. Davies didn't take up lease either

18th March 1927 A petition signed at the Householders meeting on 11th March 1927 asked That it be recommended to the Wellington Education Board to procure a site, build a school on and remove school to the township of Wairau Valley to a site 10 chains of the junction of Morse Street and the Main Road

9th May 1927 School Committee doesn't want to move but wants a teacher's residence at the back of the school because they want to retain the present teacher

1st November 1927 As the community differs in where the school should be the Wellington Education Board states it can't proceed with any plans

3rd February 1928 Secretary of School Committee writes stating the school has reopened they have no as they have no rain. The new tank hasn't arrived but it doesn't matter as there is no rain

13th April 1928 I am in contact with the teachers of Hillersden Wantwood and Wairau Valley requesting lists of children be handed into the Head Teacher of Wairau School

17th May 1938 Mr. Gleeson be allowed free use of the unused part the school site for five years

17th August 1938 Mr. H A Jensen Head Teacher writes asking to exchange land with Mr. Gleeson

6th April 1939 The Minister has approved the swap to Mr. Gleeson of 2 acres for 1. The school land is at the front of the school

Wairau Valley 1918-1966

9th July 1918 School size 25 foot x 20 foot Reduced to 400 square feet owing to 5 foot of length being screened off for porch

Roll 1915 21, 1916, 22 1917 23, Present roll 37

Hillersden 5 miles away 17. Renwicktown 18 miles, Wantwood 10 miles

Part Section 14 Block IV Mt Olympus SD. Area 4 acres

D A Sturrock asked that the porch be fenced off

1st January 1920 Wellington Education Board still asking for a grant to make alterations

8th June 1927 Mr. Mr. Stewart Sec of Education Board writes to Department asking for a residence. Teaching Mr. F M Pinfold is leaving. When he took up position he was told here was a residence but there wer only 3 rooms attached to the school/ The building is very old and lacking conveniences Mr. Pinfold took up duties on 1st July 1926

14th October 1927 Wellington Education Board writes building was erected in 1891 There is no toilet attached to the residence

27th January 1931 Residence still unaltered

27th January 1931 Miss Ludlow appointed as teacher Residence still the same. There is a proposal to amalgamate schools in this area onto a different site

28th July 1933 Roll 23 Staff 1. No change in school or residence

17th April 1939 Land swap approved 2 acres of school site for 1 acre owned by Mr. C H Gleeson and £20 on the understanding that Mr. Gleeson will fence the new boundary

File not proceeded with

Wairau Valley 1946-1970

30th May 1967 Purchasing a site for a residence. Section opposite school Owner N Henry Wadsworth £200

Tender cost \$9319 Note shift from pounds to dollars

Local builders complained because contract was let to a Wellington firm recently moved into Marlborough. They wer the only firm asked to tender

29th September 1968 There was also a house for a teacher driver to Marlborough College each school day. This house was in bad condition

29th April 1970 Old School residence sold

Wantwood (1915-1923)

On Highway 63. Power substation there

1915	10	Wantwood	Murray	Margaret		Female	£ 110.00	£20.00
1917	9	Wantwood	Murray	Margaret P Mrs	C-46	Sole	£136.00	
1919	10	Wantwood	Murray	Margaret P Mrs	C-43	Sole	£210.00	
1921	19	Wantwood	Murray	Margaret P Mrs	C	Sole	£270.00	
1923	19	Wantwood	Murray	Margaret P Mrs	C-94	Sole	£263.00	

1912/1665 Margaret Paterson Morrison Frank Leslie Murray

27th January 1914 Amongst the improvements on the estate are the homesteads and buildings at "Hillersden," "Wantwood," "The Flaxmill" Stronvar," and "Te Arowhena."

THE HILLERSDEN ESTATE.

SCHEME OF SUBDIVISION

Applications for the renewable leases of the Hillersden Estate, will be received up to Monday, March 2nd. The scheme of subdivision, with the rents and the description of the sections, appears in the Gazette of January 15th. GENERAL DESCRIPTION. The Hillersden Estate, formerly the property of Mr Thomas Career, is situated in the Wairau and Waihopai Valleys, about 25 miles westward (or inland) from Blenheim, and extending along those valleys from ten to eleven miles. The main Wairau Valley road, Blenheim to Tophouse and the Buller, traverses the northern portion of the settlement, and all sections in this part of the estate front on to this road, which is well-formed, and metalled throughout. Access to the southern portion of the settlement lying in the Waihopai Valley is obtained by the Waihopai road, which is a good serviceable trap and waggon road from Blenheim, passable at all times of the year, and now being shortened and improved by the Road Board.

15th July 1914 T. A. Williams applied for a section (for a building site) in the proposed township of Wantwood, Hillersden Settlement. —It was resolved to inform him that the Board, contemplated putting the sections up to auction.

11th August 1914 An application for the establishment of a school at Wantwood —(Hillersden) was granted

9th March 1915 The secretary was instructed to institute inquiries relative to the establishment of an aided school at Wantwood, application for which had been made by Mrs Murray. The applicant stated that there were seven children in the locality requiring tuition, as the new Hillersden. school was too far away for them to attend.

11th May 1915. Certain articles of furniture were granted to Wantwood

11th September 1915 Frank Leslie Murray enrolls in the army

14th September 1915 In reference to school building at Wantwood it was decided to inform the Department that; the matter was an urgent one. It was also decided to allow capitation for the school five miles beyond Hillersden. .

12th April 1917 'The Wantwood, and Hillersden schools held a combined, patriotic picnic at Hillersden on Easter Monday. There was a large attendance, and great interest was taken in the various competitions and children's races. The menagerie race created great amusement,, and was won by Tony Roberts's collie pup, With Miss Mera Murray's prize rooster a close second. The public were in a generous mood, and the Ladies Patriotic Association will

benefit to the extent of about £30. A dance was held in the evening, at which Messrs Ivan Fowler and P. Green, who are going to the front, were present, and occasion was taken to wish them godspeed and a safe return to the district.

10th May 1917 At the householders' meeting of the Wantwood school district the following Committee was elected:— Messrs J. W. Fowler (chairman) Evans,, McAlpine, Snowden, and Tom (secretary).

23rd October 1917 A most successful children's patriotic concert was held in the Hillersden school last Friday evening. It was given by the pupils of the Hillersden and Wantwood schools. The concert opened with a tableau of "Britain and her Allies," followed by a Japanese fan song, club swinging,, and recitations by pupils of the Wantwood school. Then came patriotic songs and Highland dancing by pupils of the Hillersden school—a camp-fire scene and song, and an exhibition of signalling, ambulance work, and Maori haka by the Scout boys under the leadership of their Scoutmaster,, the Rev. H. B. White.

Great credit must be given to the teachers, Mrs F. L. Murray and Miss Mason, and Mr White, for a most enjoyable and successful entertainment, which was fully appreciated by, an overflowing audience which came from far and wide.

The concert concluded by a gift auction of a large cake presented by the teachers, which was purchased by Mr Roberts in behalf of the school children and presented to the men of the district now in camp. Other items sold comprised goods presented by Mesdames Monro and Evans.

At the conclusion of the concert dancing was engaged in, and was much enjoyed. The Patriotic Funds- will be augmented to the extent of about £18.

12th December 1917 A very successful garden party was held at Mrs F. L. Murray's residence, Hartley Hills, Hillersden, last Saturday, in conjunction with the annual prize-giving of the Wantwood school. The gathering took the form of a patriotic function, and a number of willing workers toiled hard at the various stalls and booths, with the result that the patriotic funds will benefit to the extent of about £45. The money is to be forwarded to the Y.M.C.A. through the Hillersden Ladies' Patriotic Society. A splendid programme was contributed by the children of the Hillersden and Wantwood districts, and was much appreciated. Although harvest operations prevented many of the settlers being present, the attendance was very satisfactory, and included a number of visitors from Blenheim and elsewhere. Mr Corry (Mayor of Blenheim), and Mrs Corry were amongst the visitors, and Mrs Corry distributed the prizes. Mr Stansfield was also present, and conducted a very successful auction sale of produce, etc., on behalf of the funds. At the close of the proceedings Mr A. H. Toms, secretary of the Wantwood School Committee, thanked all those who had assisted in making the gathering a success.

19th April 1918 The application from Wantwood for a school building was endorsed, and it was decided to forward the same to the Department

20th July 1918 A grant of £160 towards the cost school building at Wantwood was intimated, and the authorisation of the amount has been advised to the settlers there. The Board, however, considered the authorisation too small, and decided to appeal again to the Department for a further sum in aid

5th December 1918 Wantwood: The department wrote notifying that the original grant would be increased by £50

16th January 1919 The personnel of draft No. 208 of New Zealand soldiers returning from active service in Egypt and Palestine includes the following Marlborough men: Lieut. F. L. Murray (Wantwood),

30th January 1919 The question of erecting a school at Wantwood was deferred to next month for a report on certain details, the amount granted by the Department being insufficient to provide for the complete erection of the building

17th April 1919 The tender for the Wantwood school exceeding the Department's allowance, it was decided to request the Department again to provide the additional amount necessary, and, to urge early attention.

24th May 1919 It was reported that the Department had agreed to provide sufficient funds to permit of the work of erection of the new school at Wantwood, and that the building would now be proceeded with

21st July 1919 A report was received that of the five acres surveyed and allocated for a school site at Wantwood the Education Department intended only to dedicate two- acres. Strong protest was made against any reduction in the area, and against the policy of the Department in reducing the -school site areas

23rd December 1919 WANTWOOD SCHOOL.

The annual "break-up" of the Wantwood school took place on Friday last. The Committee awarded prizes for general proficiency, and special prizes were donated by Mesdames Andrew (2), 'J. W.' Evans, A. McCallum, Murray, and Snowden, and by Mr F. I. Murray (2). Mr J. E. Snowden, in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, presented the prizes, congratulated the children on their work done during the year, and wished them, and all present a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. The special prizes were Made as follows Standard VII.—Mera Murray and George Toms (Sports). Standard III.—Mac. Toms (spelling), Jean Fowler. (drill and- sports), Nellie McCallum (most reliable child in school). Standard I.—Muriel Fowler. Infants Sport.—Jean Andrew, Alan Martin, Keith McCallum. There was an exhibition of drawing, painting, and basket weaving done by the pupils. After the children's sports afternoon tea provided by the ladies of the district, and sweets and fruit provided by Mesdames: Andrew, McCallum, and Murray, were dispensed.

3rd May 1920 A concert, to be followed by a dance, will be given by the Wantwood school children, assisted by the Wantwood Nigger Minstrel troupe in the Hillersden Town Hall on Friday evening

23rd August 1920 A social evening in aid of the Wantwood School Funds will be held in the Hillersden Hall on Friday evening.

17th December 1920 WANTWOOD SCHOOL, On Wednesday afternoon the prizes were distributed to the children attending Wantwood School. The chairman of the School Committee presided. After a short concert. programme consisting of drill, action, songs, and recitations by the .children, pianos solos by 'Jean Fowler and Gwynneth Roberts and a violin solo by Nancy Sowman, sports followed. :

Each. child' received a progress prize. Special prizes were given for the following: Sewing: Nancy Sowman and Muriel Fowler. _Most points for sports: Jean. Fowler (girls)' 1, Don Sowman (boys) 2, Alan Martin (juniors) 3. Best rider: Nellie McCallam (seniors), Jean Andrew. (juniors). Wood-chopping: Mac Toms 1, Jim Martin 2. Highest jump: Jean Fowler 1, Flora McCallum 2. Proficiency certificate: Gwynneth Robert. Nancy Sowman. A dainty afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies of the district.

16th November 1923 "I am sorry," remarked the Minister of, Public Works jocularly at Birch Hill, during his Marlborough visit, on Tuesday, but we have run short of bridges. The only things Mr. Furkert has left are a few approaches, and Mr. McVilly has a railway station in his pocket. If they are any use to you, you can have them." When the laughter which greeted this sally died down, Mrs. F. L. Murray replied smartly that she would like the railway station outside her front gate at Wantwood. The Minister gravely instructed Mr. McVilly to hand the station to Mrs. Murray

In 1948 Wantwood School was shifted to Wairau Valley School. It appears the school closed in 1945

National Archives: Yes