

Flaxbourne
Grassmere
Kekerangu
Mills
Mirza
Ward
Wharanui
Woodbank

Flaxbourne (1891-1892, 1899-1901)

South of Lake Grassmere (Salt Works) off Marfell's Beach Road

1891	4	Flaxbourne	Duhig	J G		Master	£	14.00
1892	10	Flaxbourne	Vacant					
1898	Closed	Flaxbourne	Jeffries	Alice		Female	£	41.00
1899	10	Flaxbourne	Jeffries	Alice		Female	£	45.00
1900	9	Flaxbourne	Winchester	Alice	E2	Female	£	41.00
1901	8	Flaxbourne	Winchester	Alice	E2	Female	£	45.00

4th August 1891 A letter was received from Flaxbourne Station asking that the matter of establishing an aided school be held over till Mr Clifford's views could be ascertained

13th September 1898 FLAXBOURNE. Mr T. G. Corbett wrote asking that an aided school be established at Flaxbourne. The request was granted, and it was resolved to reply that capitation would be supplied, and, with regard to the request for furniture, the Secretary would, make enquiries during an approaching visit to that district.

1905

13th November 1905 FLAXBOURNE. The Commissioner of Crown Lands (Mr H. Trent) wrote asking whether the site for the school at the township of Ward had been definitely fixed. The Secretary (Mr Smith) reported that, on receipt of his letter, he wrote to the Flaxbourne Settlers' Association for information. He read the reply, which expressed complete satisfaction with the site recommended by Mr Duncan (Board's chairman) and Inspector Strachan. It was suitable in every way was level and dry, and well sheltered by a plantation. He (the Secretary) had written to Mr Trent conveying this information. A communication was received from the Flaxbourne Settlers' Association asking that the school be erected as soon as possible. There were a large number of children, and more were expected. The communication contained the names of 26 children.

Mr Ferguson moved that application be made for a grant for the erection of the school at Ward—or Flaxbourne, as he thought it should have been called—and that the other necessary steps be taken to secure expedition. The motion was carried. It was stated that a larger school would be required than that at Grassmere

29th December 1905 Wanted for a new School at Ward (Flaxbourne). Salary, according to the Education Amendment Act, 1905, and will probably be about £110. Application for this appointment will be received by the Secretary up to SATURDAY EVENING, January 6th, 1906.

1866/22195

Wallace

Elizabeth Ann

Martha

Thomas

1920/10632	Elizabeth Annie	Wallace	Charles William	Thomas
1944/20156	Thomas	Elizabeth Anne		78Y

1883-1888 Elizabeth Ann Teaching sewing at Russell's Flat in the Selwyn District of North Canterbury. This appears to be the case in several schools where young women were employed as pupil teachers but were paid as sewing teachers

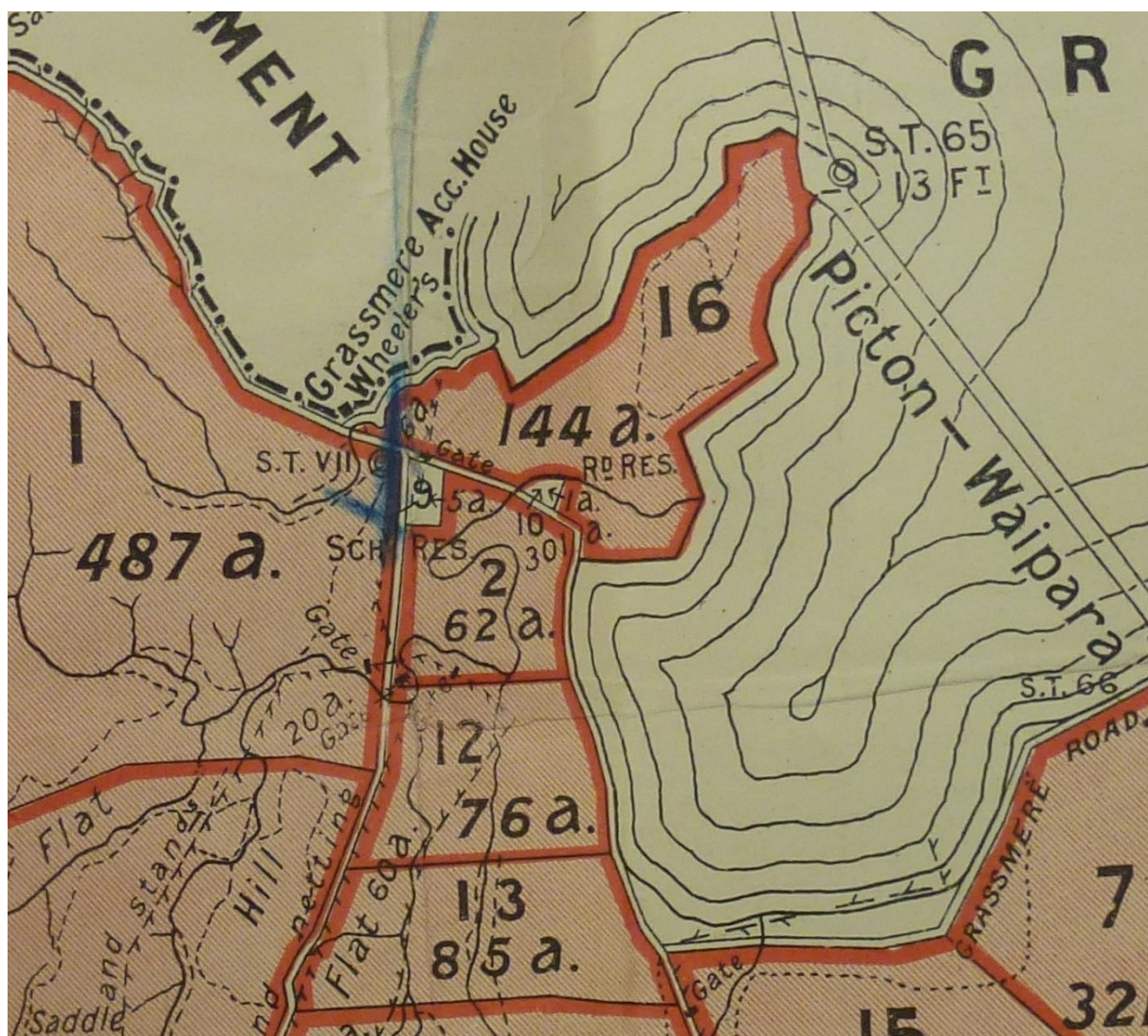
1889 Teaching at Taipo with 7 children on West Coast

1890-1903 Teaching at Little Akaroa Side School A side school was part of the bigger school but was administered by a host schools head Teacher and School Committee

1904 Tai Tapu (Canterbury) as assistant mistress

1919 Teaching at Gladstone School East Of Carterton

Grassmere (1907-1923)



A sole charge school at Lake Grassmere on the Southern side

Grassmere

1906 285 square feet

1935 Removed

1908 Residence 2 rooms built

Condemned 22nd December 1933 and Housing Allowance paid to teacher

Sale of School Building to Public Works Department for £150 6/3/1940

Block II Cape Campbell SD Section 9

Area 5 acres

21st May 1948 Minister agrees to take 1 rood 28 perches to the Public Works Department free of charge

29th March 1951 Transferred to Crown

1905

15th August 1905 THE FLAXBOURNE SETTLEMENT.

PROVISION FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES,

At the meeting of the Education Board yesterday reference was made to the educational needs of the newly-established Flaxbourne settlement in particular and the Awatere district generally. The Chairman (Mr Duncan) reported a visit paid to Flaxbourne by Inspector Strachan and himself, with a view to provision being made to the necessary school buildings. They found that the settlers in the vicinity of Lake Grassmere wished for a school in addition to the one proposed to be erected near the old homestead. They were given the names of twelve children as probable attendants at Lake Grassmere, and forty names were noted at the more central position. This, however, was probably not the full number of children who would be forthcoming; and they informed the settlers whom they met that complete particulars should be collected and forwarded to the Board, which would apply to the Department for the necessary funds. With regard to the school site at the township, a number of settlers wished to see the school placed in another and more suitable locality; and a petition had been forwarded to the Land Board asking that the Government be recommended to set aside instead a site at the plantation fronting Duncan Street. It was remarked that with the erection of a school at Sea View (for which work the Board had received a grant of £207 10s) there would be four schools within a radius of 15 miles if two were put up at Flaxbourne. Would not that be too many? The Chairman said that the distance between the Flaxbourne township and Lake Grassmere was 10 miles. It was suggested that the Blind River school should be shifted nearer to Flaxbourne, the completion of the railway would help matters. Mr Litchfield remarked that in the case of Flaxbourne there might be a good opportunity of centralising the school system on the American principle. One central school to which the children living over a considerable area could be conveyed would be better staffed and more efficient and economical than several small schools scattered over the district. It was resolved to ask the Land Board to hold in abeyance the question of the school site, as the settlers had expressed preference for another position. An application from Mr G. B. Gilmour for the use of the educational site was deferred.

11th September 1905 The suggestion was made at the meeting of the Education Board today that, pending the erection of a school at Grassmere (Flaxbourne Estate), the children in that locality should be conveyed by vehicle to the Blind River school. Mr Ferguson said he hardly thought the parents would take the risk with the roads in their present bad condition.

13th November 1905 GRASSMERE SCHOOL. The Education Department notified that a grant of £210 was available for the erection of a school at Grassmere. (Flaxbourne Settlement). It was stated that the site had been fixed.— It was resolved to call for tenders.

11th December 1905 GRASSMERE SCHOOL. Mr Millar, representing parents of children of school age in the Grassmere district, interviewed the Education Board to-day re the site of the

proposed school. A letter was also received from several settlers, which proposed that Mr Haines's offer of a site on section 15, Block 2 (five acres), be accepted. A subsequent wire from Mr Raines said that on secondary consideration he refused to grant the site. Mr Millar said the site originally proposed was not within 1 ¼ miles of any of the children concerned, being on the other side of the Lake. All he could now ask was that the whole matter be deferred till next meeting, to allow of a public meeting of settlers.

A motion by My Chaytor in that direction, to include holding over the tenders, was carried. The inspector undertook to attend the meeting of settlers

8th January 1906 THE GRASSMERE SCHOOL SITE.

At the monthly meeting of the Education Board this morning, the Inspector reported that he and Mr Ferguson attended a public meeting at Grassmere anent the site of the proposed school. It had been resolved unanimously, after discussion, that the Board be asked to build the school on skids, to enable future removal, if necessary. The Inspector himself preferred the original reserve, failing the securing of one to' the south. Mesdames Bullock and Moran waited on the Board on the matter (their husbands being too busy to attend). The former urged that an endeavour should be made to secure a site on either Mr Haynes's or Mr Kennington's lease. If I rely a one-acre site could be secured, Crown land might be leased for a run for horses. The ladies of the deputation contended that some of the largest families would have to walk about 4 miles, going right round the Lake, if the present site was retained. They claimed to represent all the married settlers of their locality. They took no account of bachelors, whom they did not recognise in the matter. The Inspector stated that Mr Haynes had been interviewed since the meeting, but had still declined to front a site. He said he had not much at land, and could not spare five acres.

The Chairman suggested the deferring of the question, pending a more unanimous public opinion amongst the settlers; also to secure a more representative Board.

The Inspector considered that the reserve would ultimately be the most central site.

Mr Chaytor suggested that in the meantime Messrs Haynes and Kennington be written- to, with the object of securing a small section for a temporary school. A motion embodying the Chairman's and Mr Chaytor s suggestions was carried.

Tenders for the erection of the school were consequently held over till next meeting.

1906

1906 10 Grassmere King May Female £60.00 £10.00

9th January 1906 GRASSMERE SCHOOL SITE.

AN INTERESTING PROBLEM

The Flaxbourne Settlement is now enjoying all the interesting experiences of the early days period. The controversy which has taken place in reference to the Grassmere school site, and which is not yet settled, appears to have been entered into and sustained with a good-humoured enthusiasm which shows the propensity of the British settler the world over, for capably taking his part as an intelligent member of the community in which his lot is cast. The community, in this case appears to be comprised very largely of bachelors—"what susceptibility of improvement," indeed and in the folkmoot" of the settlement these lonely householders, joined together in a common interest—albeit rather an accidental one of position—have had the prescience to look a few years into the future and picture groups of children leaving their thresholds every morning for the village school. One of the ladies who waited upon the Education Board yesterday, who said she possessed three children, laid great stress upon the fact that the bachelors had been allowed as much say as the married men. She explained, too, that the motion to remove the school site was only defeated by seven votes six bachelors and one married—to six votes—five married men to one bachelor. The "married" party had not taken the trouble to secure the attendance of the bachelors living on the of side

of Lake Grassmere (who would be in favour of removal), whereas the "stickfast" party had mustered up every available householder, and had even gone the length of urgently telegraphing to the North Island to one of their singly-blessed number to come over, poste-haste, for the meeting. Woman-like, the fair deputationist ruthlessly laid bare the real (as she alleged) motives which prompted the bachelors to advocate the non-removal of the school. They were looking at the improved value that would be given to their properties—what did they care about the children Lists of the names of householders were read out, and the oft repeated designation "bachelor" irresistibly aroused the imagination to a comparison of the present social life of the settlement with the state of things to come, When house warmings, christenings, and such-like functions will be the order. From these lists it certainly appeared that the convenience of six or seven children would be served by the erection of the school at the original site, as against that of 19 if a new site on the other side of the Lake could lie obtained. Apart from the present convenience of the children there is probably a good deal of interest attached to the question of the site of the school-house from the fact that such a building in a new country settlement—being the place of public meetings and entertainments generally—is equivalent to a town hall in a borough. It is to be hoped the Grassmere people will come to a more unanimous conclusion on the site question than the Blenheim folk have done

12th February 1906 GRASSMERE SCHOOL. Messrs Miller and Kennington, settlers interested in the site of the Grassmere School, waited upon the Board. Mr Miller again asked that the .site be removed. Failing Messrs Haines and Kennington, who had withdrawn their offers of land, Mr O'Dwyer would be willing to give a site, which adjoined that of Mr Kennington. Mr Kennington favored the present site. He also put in a letter from Mr Orchard, his neighbour, to the same effect. This settler said there were nine children of school age, whom the reserve site would suit.

Mr Miller said that Mrs O'Dwyer, whoso children were mentioned by Mr Orchard, had expressed her preference for a removal, and had offered a site on her own ground. Mr Ferguson, who acted as chairman at the meeting of settlers, said he would have given his casting vote for the reserve site. His own opinion, too, was against removal. The school was wanted for all time; and the Board should adhere to the present site.

Mr McCallum pointed out that the Government had planted the school nearest the smaller agricultural holdings, on the south or the Lake, and this would in the future undoubtedly be the most thickly populated part in that vicinity. The Board might even take the present school further away from the Lake, and so, in say ten years' time be in a position to place an extra school on the Cape Campbell side of the Lake. Mr White suggested a referendum of the householders.

The settlers having withdrawn, the Board resolved, on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr Ferguson, that the original site be adhered to. Tenders were then opened as follows:—
~Geo. Gibson, Blenheim, £209. 12s; W. Carr, £220 10s. The lower tender was accepted. Mr Ferguson was deputed to define the site of the school, and see to the removal of old fencing. The Board adjourned at 1.10 p.m.

27th February 1906 The absence of foot-bridges to enable the children to get to school dry is being severely felt by those having the Needles Creek and Flaxbourne river to cross. It is hoped that the school at Grassmere will be proceeded with now that the site has been fixed definitely, as children at this end of the settlement have already missed several months of schooling. The attendance at the temporary school at Ward continues very satisfactory, there being 25 scholars and every likelihood of an increase in numbers shortly. Many settlers have recently taken the opportunity of getting stock for their holdings, but there, is still a good area unstocked, and feed is very plentiful. The local cricket club has not been very successful as

regards matches, but has provided several really good days' sport. Both matches played against Starborough were noticeable for the good feeling which evidently exists between the adjoining settlements.

17th April 1906 Residents at the northern end of the settlement (Flaxbourne) are still anxiously waiting for their school at Grassmere, and at the present rate of progress there seems to be every chance of the children completing twelve months on the settlement without schooling.

14th May 1906 A NEW DISTRICT. Mr Ferguson, on behalf of seventeen petitioners^ asked the Board to authorise a new school district at Grassmere. It would not come into operation until next year. An independent Committee was necessary. The Chairman pointed out that this district' was enclosed in the Flaxbourne school district. It was resolved that the desirability of establishing a new school district at Grassmere be affirmed, and the execution left to the new Board

4th July 1906 TEACHER wanted for the new school at Grassmere (Flaxbourne) salary, according to attendance; probably at first £54 per annum. Applications will be received for the appointment up to WEDNESDAY, 18th July, and must be accompanied by statement as to qualifications, age, previous experience, etc. JOHN SMITH, Secretary. Education Board Office, 3rd July, 1906

2nd August 1906 The school at Grassmere is finished, but the teacher has not yet been appointed

14th November 1906 Grassmere. —The Board's architect recommended that the teacher be accommodated at the schoolhouse by the addition of a room. As it was she had to live at an inn in the vicinity.—The Chairman said the Hon. Mr Fowlds's scheme was not to build special residence accommodation for small schools if board could be secured. The inn referred to was one of the nicest little places in the country. —Resolved to take no action

12th December 1906 NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT AT GRASSMERE. A number of settlers memorialised the Board praying that the Grassmere school area be constituted a separate district, owing to the distance from Ward, the present head-quarters of" the Flaxbourne school district. The interests were in no sense similar. On the motion of Mr Penny, the Inspector was asked to confer with the Ward Committee and report to the Board.

1907

1907 11 Grassmere King May Female £66.00 £10.00

14th May 1907 Grassmere. —It was resolved to ask the Department to make a grant for a teacher's residence and a shelter-shed, and that the Secretary provide what is customary in the- way of school furnishing

9th July 1907 Grassmere. —The architect was requested to report on the stability of the Grassmere school.

27th August 1907 Last Friday evening found Grassmere en fete to add to the small amount allowed to the school for incidental expenses. Friends to the number of seventy or more attended from far and near, and spent most "of the night at the little school, which was taxed to its utmost. 'mere was abundance of refreshments provided by the ladies; excellent music discoursed by Mrs Andrews (of Ward) and Miss McCabe; songs by Mrs Bulcock, Miss O'Dwyer, Messrs Scott, Blackburn, Quelch, Waddington, Gilmore, Roberts, Russell, Gill, etc., and a recitation by Mr G. Orchard. The committee's thanks were given to all who helped, but especially to Miss McCabe and Mrs Andrews

0th September 1907 TREES FOR WARD AND GRASSMERE,

The Lands Department wrote, in reply to the Board's request for 500 trees for planting in the Grassmere school grounds, regretting that the request could not be granted, as the Chief Forester advised that the Department had only sufficient for its own requirements. The Secretary was instructed to get 250 trees and divide pro rata amongst the school grounds already prepared at Ward and Grassmere;' also to state price if the Nursery would not sell.

15th October 1907 Grassmere. —The architect reported on the shelter shed, and a tender was received for the work of £19. The Inspector reported having stated to the architect that the whole cost, including his fee, must not exceed £15.—The matter was referred to the Committee

1908

1908 15 Grassmere King May Female £99.00

11th February 1908 Grassmere. —Subsidy was granted on £6 12s raised by school concert.

12th May 1908 £95 for the erection of a residence at Grassmere.

9th June 1909 At the meeting of the Education Board yesterday afternoon it was resolved that tenders be called for the erection of a lean-to at the Grassmere School

14th July 1908 TENDERS. Terriers were received for the addition of two rooms to the Grassmere School, and the lowest tender was accepted

15th September 1908 Our Grassmere correspondent writes: —The annual social in aid of the Grassmere School Fund was held, on Friday last, and was very largely attended, there being over 100 present, who thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings, in spite of cramped accommodation. Songs were given by Miss Lawrence, Messrs Humphreys, Lawrence and Wemyss. Splendid music was provided by the Flaxbourne Orchestra. The catering was in the hands of the ladies, who provided an excellent supper. A most enjoyable evening terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the ladies, to- Miss King (for the use of her piano), the musicians, the M.C., and all who assisted to make the social such a great success.

May Ella Agnes King was born in Motupipi (Takaka) to Robert Blundell King and Anna nee Burt. Her father came from old and distinguished Anglo-Irish family, being the oldest patrilineal descendants of William King, Archbishop of Dublin and being landowners in County Wexford. A great Uncle was Governor of Hong Kong.

Her father farmed at Motupipi, near Takaka, having emigrated as a younger son, from Ireland.

May began her teaching career in 1887 at Motupipi School, as a pupil teacher. She rose to the rank of Probationer before leaving in 1890. For the next 10 years it appears as though she didn't teach, remaining at home by the looks of things.

She returned to teaching in 1900 when she was appointed to Wairau Valley school. She remained here until 1902 when she transferred to Port Underwood. The following year she was at Head School followed by Onahau Bay in 1904 and Scarborough Run in 1905.

In 1906 she was appointed to Grassmere School, a step up from her previous postings. She remained here until early 1909, when she was dismissed, and with "good" reason. She was pregnant. Despite being near 40 she gave birth in Wanganui (near where her brother was farming) to a son, Trevor Carlisle King.

She returned, alongside her brother, to Motupipi after this, obviously having a child out of wedlock would be a great shame, especially at her age.

In 1913 she returned to teaching at Ronga Valley, another small school near Carluke. Presumably Trevor was left with his Grandparents. She next shows up in tiny Otarawao, in the Croixelles in 1919, resigning in 1920 in order to finally marry.

The husband was James Harris Ching, a butcher from Spring Grove, and the two settled there, May finally giving up her travels. She died in Nelson in 1946.

1909

1909 21 Grassmere Cameron Lilly I C4 Female £90.00

6th April 1909 GRASSMERE SCHOOL. The acting chairman, of the Grassmere Committee applied for information as to when the money for free books would be forthcoming, and also as to what the Board intended doing in connection with the chimney at the school and the erection, of the porch. It was explained by the secretary that the money would be forwarded as soon as it came to hand from- the Government. It was decided that the Board subsidise the committee £ for £ up to £5 for the erection of a porch, and that £1 be granted for repairing the chimney

6th April 1909 During the year new schools a.t Carluke and Spring Creek, and a teacher's residence at Grassmere, were erected.

11th May 1909 The Secretary reported that Seddon, Grassmere, Okaramio and Linkwater had failed to elect school committees, and asked for authority to call for fresh elections.—It was decided that the third Monday in June be the date fixed for the elections.

21st May 1909 The Minister for Education, the Hon. G. Fowlds, accompanied by Mrs and Miss Fowlds and Messrs A. McCallum. J. Duncan, M.P., S. Neville, and Messrs Hylton and Strachan, visited Seddon yesterday. The Minister inspected the Seddon school, and authorised the grant for adding another room to that institution. The party was driven, to the Lake Grassmere and Richmond Brook schools, and generally a good tour of inspection was made

8th June 1909 The Education Department or the Marlborough Education -Board seems to have a mania for building small schools, and appears to think that the world is standing still. The Richmond Brook and Grassmere buildings are mere pepper-boxes, and now it is proposed to enlarge the Seddon school by the addition of the enormous length .of 14 foot, thus making two rooms 22 foot by 20 foot. A room of this size is. not large enough to-accommodate 30 children after allowing for class space, teacher's table, and the use of modern desks. An overcrowded school is an abomination to teacher and pupils, and very unhealthy.

15th June 1909 Grassmere.—The Grassmere School Committee wrote requesting that the Inspector, pay a surprise visit to their school, and 'submit a report to be placed before the meeting of house- Holders.—The Inspector explained that the school had increased, and they were entitled to a certificated teacher, and he recommended that the present teacher be given notice of the termination of her present appointment, and that applications for the position of a certificated teacher be called for.—Mr Penny asked what the Board intended to do with the teacher.—Mr Strachan said there were a number of appointments she could fill.—The recommendation was agreed to.

17th June 1909 The election of a School Committee at Grassmere on Monday last resulted as follows:—Messrs Sheehan (chairman), Kennington, Bright, Bulcock, and Beamsley.

13th July 1909 Grassmere Committee asked the Board if it would carry out the alterations to the school, mentioned in the Inspector's report, and also to appoint a new teacher at once, as

the school was anything but satisfactory at present. It was decided to obtain an estimate of the work, and that it be done

15th July 1909 Miss Newman has been appointed to take charge of the Grassmere school, vice Miss King, resigned.

10th August 1909 The Chairman of the Grassmere School Committee advised the Board that Miss Isabel Cameron had been selected for the position of sole teacher for that school, and that in the event of that teacher being unable to accept the position, that Mr M. D. Flaherty had been selected. Approved

12th October 1909 HOUSE ALLOWANCE. Miss Cameron, teacher at the Grassmere school, wrote stating that the residential rooms attached to the school were too inconvenient for her to live in, and asked the Board to sanction the use of them for school purposes and to grant her house allowance. The Inspector reported favourably upon the application. The Chairman moved, and Mr White seconded that the letter be referred back to the Committee. LEAVE OF ABSENCE It was decided that Miss Cameron be granted leave of absence in order that she might sit for an examination

SCHOOL GARDEN. The Chairman of the Grassmere School Committee wrote asking the Board to fence the children's garden in at the school. The matter was left in Mr Parker's hands to deal with

14th December 1909 An application was received from Grassmere to have the school enlarged. The letter was referred back, as it should have been sent through the committee

1910

1910 20 Grassmere Cameron Lilly I C4 Female £120.00

26th April 1910 For the coming year the most important requirements are better teaching conditions at Riverlands, Nopera Bay, Onauku, Grassmere and Richmond Brook,

19th May 1910 A farewell social was largely attended in Grassmere school on Friday, May 6, in honor of Mrs G. Orchard, who is leaving for Christchurch. During the evening Mr Jones made a presentation, on behalf of the settlers of Grassmere, of a very handsome silver cake-dish, and to Miss Elsie Orchard a nice silver buckle from her school-mates.

14th June 1910 GRASSMERE. The teacher of the Grassmere school wrote asking to be provided with more comfort than that obtainable at present. In connection with this matter the Secretary for Education wrote stating that the Board's proposal to convert the living-rooms provided into school rooms offered two serious objections, the principal of which was that if the school were so enlarged it would be exceedingly unfit for school purposes. It was decided to advise Miss Cameron of what is being done in this matter.

16th June 1910 GRASSMERE. M. Sheehan (chairman), W. J. Bright, J. Kennington, J. Moran, T. Neal. School Committee

12th July 1910 Owing to having had some serious allegations made against him by the school mistress regarding his moral character, the chairman of the Grassmere School Committee yesterday applied to the Education Board for an inquiry into these statements. The Board appointed Messrs Chaytor, Conolly and Parker to conduct an inquiry in town on a day to be decided upon.

5th September 1910 Some time ago it was mentioned that an inquiry was to be by the Marlborough Education Board into a complaint made by Mr Sheehan, Chairman of the Grassmere School Committee, that the teacher of the school would not recognise him in any way or even answer his letters. The inquiry was held in due course, with the result that Mr

Sheehan was unseated owing to the fact that: he was not a resident of the Grassmere school district. The boundaries have been altered, however, and Mr Sheehan will be eligible for election at the next meeting of householders should he desire to contest a seat. The lot of the female teacher in the backblocks is a hard enough one at any time, and members of School Committees should remember, that fact and make matters as easy as possible for these pioneers.

16th September 1910 A correspondent at Grassmere writes to contradict a statement recently made in this paper that the Grassmere school district was in the backblocks. "The Kaikoura-Seddon mail coach passes every day; the railway station is only a mile and a quarter away; the grocer calls four times a week, the butcher three times, the baker twice. I fail to see that we are so isolated, being only eight miles from Seddon and 26 from Blenheim."

1911

1911 12 Grassmere Jeffries Emily V Female £120.00

4th May 1911 Only mention by inspector was for gardening

13th May 1911 Meetings of householders in the Grassmere and North Bank districts will be held on June 5 for the purpose of electing School Committees for those districts for the ensuing year.

24th May 1911 After a wedding The usual toasts were duly proposed and heartily responded to. A number of the residents assembled at the Grassmere school, in the evening, where dancing and merry-making were engaged in until the "wee sma' 'oors."

13th June 1911 The Grassmere School Committee wrote asking that the teacher be asked to resign. The Chairman moved that Messrs Conolly, Ferguson, and the Inspector be a committee to inquire into this matter and report to the next meeting.

11th July 1911. THE GRASSMERE SCHOOL. The committee set up to go into the complaints relative to the conduct of the teacher at the Grassmere school reported having held an inquiry and gave the result of their investigation. The report was taken in committee, and the Board decided that a copy of the report be sent to the teacher for a reply thereto.

12th September 1911 Miss Cameron resigned from the teachership of the Grassmere School

10th October 1911 Miss E V Jeffries appointment to THE Grassmere School was approved

1912

1912 14 Grassmere Greville Lillian Female £108.00

13th February 1912 A subsidy of 25 shillings was granted to the Grassmere for the library

23rd April 1912 For Arbor Days 12 trees were planted

9th July 1912 It was notified that Mr John Costello had been appointed a member of the Grassmere Committee

10th September 1912 Miss Veronica Jeffries resigned, the teachership of the Grassmere school as from the end of September.—The Secretary explained that Miss Jeffries's sister was acting as teacher.—The matter was held over till the end of the year

1913

1913 12 Grassmere Fraser Ernest M Master £90.00

24th January 1913 Mr E M Fraser appointed to Grassmere

11th April 1913 A pasture sown with happy faces and with holiday," aptly described the Seddon Domain when the children of Seddon, Marama, Blind River, Sea View, Tetley Brook, Waterfalls, Ward, and Grassmere assembled one day last week for the purpose of holding a combined sports meeting and a picnic. At the instance of the Seddon School Committee a movement was set on foot to have as an annual event a gathering of all the school children of the Awatere and Flaxbourne districts, together with their parents and friends.

17th April 1913 Libraries have increased both in number and in size, Nopera Bay, Nydia Bay, Ward, Grassmere Fairhall, Flat Creek, Ocean Bay, and St. Mary's leading in this respect

18th April 1913 candidates for proficiency certificates failed to attain the minimum in arithmetic, The Junior National Scholarship test was somewhat dominated by a geometric conception of arithmetic, and the decimal idea was strong in it. Both of these ideas are to a certain extent modern grafts on the arithmetic of practical life. The best schools of the year in this subject were Pukatea Bay, Marlboroughtown, Rapaura, Canvastown, Grassmere,

3rd May 1913 School Committee Grassmere: J. J. Costello (chairman), Mrs Wheeler, J. Kennington, O. Quelch, and T. Neal.

14th May 1913 The Schools: There are buildings in 45 localities. In 20 of these new school buildings have been erected during the last nine years. The following new schools have come into existence: —Ward, Carluke, Grassmere, Riverlands, Redwoodtown, Onahuku, Nopera Bay, Pelorus Bridge, **Tahuahua**, and Blenheim Technical School.

Residences have been provided or rebuilt at nine schools—Tua Marina, Grovetown, Koromiko, Seddon, Te Rou, Omaka, Deep Creek, Ward, Grassmere (rooms). These are mostly very good buildings, compared with those of olden time

1914

1914 13 Grassmere Fraser Ernest M Master £ 99.00

27th January 1914 A meeting is advertised to take place in the schoolroom, at Grassmere on Friday evening. The business is 'To draw up a petition against the present Government's action in land ballots

3rd February 1914 A well-attended meeting was held in the Grassmere school-room on Friday. After discussing the Government's action in refusing to give young married men and bachelors an equal chance at land ballots, especially with new arrivals, a petition was drawn up and largely signed, to be forwarded to the Minister for Lands, asking for equal rights

27th August 1914 Marlborough War Effort Grassmere School Children's Social £6-0-3

The annual social for the Grassmere school children's, prizes was held last Friday evening. The children, however, with a praiseworthy patriotic spirit, gave up their prizes, and asked that the proceeds be "devoted to the fund for equipping the Expeditionary Force. Five small girls collected the sum of £1 0s 4d by singing "Please Give Me a Penny, Sir." The proceeds of the social amounted to £6 0s 3d.

18th December 1914 On Thursday evening a very pleasant concert and social evening was held in the Grassmere school in connection with the annual prize giving. All the children's items were good, especially that of Miss D. O'Connor, "Please give me a penny sir, which resulted in the sum of £1 .2s being thrown on the stage. -Songs were also rendered by Mr Quelch, Miss Milliard, and Mr Thrower. The prizes were distributed by Mr Smith, chairman of the school committee.

1915

1915 11 Grassmere Hilliard Madeline Female £ 110.00

18th December 1915 On Thursday evening a very pleasant conceit and social evening was held in the Grassmere school in connection with the annual prize giving. All the children's items were good, especially that of Miss D. O'Connor, "Please give me a penny which resulted in the sum of £1 ,1s being thrown on the stage. -Songs were also rendered by Mr Quelch, Miss Milliard, and Mr Thrower. The prizes were distributed by Mr Smith, chairman of the school committee

1916-1917

1917 16 Grassmere Hilliard Madeline Sole £110.00

31st July 1916 A special effort was hold on Friday," Belgian Day. At the **Grassmere** school to raise funds for; the Belgian children. Various methods/were adopted to collect money, including the sale of sweets};; cakes and- farm produce. A, small charge was made for afternoon tea, .and a very enjoyable evening brought a successful' day to a Close. The, children were very enthusiastic and the sum of £15 14s -was collected

30th June 1917 Rifleman Ernest Fraser, who has made the supreme sacrifice-at the front, was for five years a member of. the teaching staff at the Renwicktown school before- his appointment to the charge of the Te Awaite school. He resigned the teachership of the Grassmere school to enlist for the service of his King and Empire. His sterling personal qualities gained for him the esteem of all with whom he came into contact, and deep sympathy is felt for his widowed mother, a resident of the Renwick district, where the gallant soldier was born and bred.

14th September 1917 Appointment Sole Teacher Miss Hilliard. Wellington Education Board. *Presumably had been relieving before*

1918-1919

1919 15 Grassmere Mead D Sole £140.00

10th January 1918 Proficiency Examination Grassmere: I. Snowden, F. Moran, B. Kennington Entitled the winners to a free place at Secondary School

19th October 1918 Wellington Education Board: and the matter of new gates at Grassmere was referred, to the local committee for a report

5th December 1918 Grassmere: £3 was granted for a cyclone gate.

29th January 1919 Miss M Hilliard resigned *I Presume she had a year's leave of absence*

30th January 1919 Miss Hilliard to Fairhall,

1920-1921

1921 10 Grassmere Hicks Phoebe M D Sole £220.00

23rd July 1920 Miss D L Mead resigns

6th August 1920 very 'Successful social evening was held in Grassmere School on Friday last, the occasion being a farewell to Miss Mead, the local teacher, who is -leaving the district to be married. Over fifty people sat down to supper, which was much enjoyed by all. The chairman of the committee, Mr J. Reid, on behalf of the local residents, presented Miss Mead with one dozen stainless knives, one dozen forks, and a set of aluminium kitchenware. He said that the residents of Grassmere were very sorry, to lose Miss Mead, who was much

"esteemed by all and loved by the children; and he assured her of their sincere good wishes for her future. Mr Lucas responded. A feature of the evening was the programme of music rendered by local talent. Songs were contributed by Mesdames Gavin, Glucyas, A. C. Reid, Blackburn, and J. Reid; Misses Woodgate and Reid; and "Messrs Stewart, Beamsley, J. Reid, D Wheeler, and Woodgate. The chairman called for three cheers for Miss Mead and Mr Lucas, which were heartily given; and the singing of "They are jolly good fellows" and "God Save the King" brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

18th November 1920 Tenders were accepted for a water supply at Koromiko, and repairs to the residence, at Grassmere.

1920/8829	Doris Louisa	Mead	Edward Alfred	Lucas
1977/27897	Lucas	Doris Louisa	18/1/1896	81Y
1976/42516	Lucas	Edward Alfred	3/2/1896	80Y

1922-1923

1923 12 Grassmere Elder James A C-212 Sole £195.00

7th March 1928 Miss E E Muir Sole Teacher Grassmere

21st December 1929 Miss L F Bade Sole Teacher Grassmere

27th May 1935 Miss E Nelson Sole Teacher at Grassmere

9th December 1935 Primary Schools' Sports The primary schools' sports were held at Lansdowne Park and the weather being ideal, the big crowd of school children had a thoroughly enjoyable day. A programme of 100 events had been arranged and the officials in charge had no easy task in getting through such a big programme. About 1783 children from the follow- schools competed:—intermediate; Blenheim, Springlands, Renwick, ,Grovetown. Wairau Valley, Marshlands, Rapaura, Riverlands, Linkwater, Tua Marina, Redwoodtown, Leefield. Dillon's Point, Spring Creek, Omaka, Wairau Pa, Fairhall. and Grassmere.

21st September 1937 As a result of consultations between the Marlborough representatives ,on the Wellington Education Board and the parents of children attending several of the country schools in the district, the policy of consolidation introduced by the Minister of Education (the Hon. P. Fraser) is to be brought into effect in the Ward, Seddon, and Rai Valley districts.

In the Ward district two small schools have already been closed, the pupils being conveyed to the Ward School by motor-bus, and in the Seddon and Rai Valley districts several schools will be closed as from the beginning of the new school year. At Rai Valley the schools affected will be those at Opouri, Pelorus Bridge, Ronga, and Carluke. Pupils at present attending the schools mentioned will be conveyed to Rai Valley School by three separate bus services, one for Pelorus Bridge, one for Opouri, and one for Ronga and Carluke. The attendance roll of the Rai Valley School will thus increase from 37 to 122. The provision of extra accommodation at Rai Valley will be necessary, and a building programme will shortly be put into operation, the intention being to build along open-air lines as far as possible.

Taimate and Mirza Schools, in the Ward district, have already been closed. The pupils are being brought into the Ward School by two motor-bus services.

It is Intended to adopt the consolidation policy to a further degree in one area in the Seddon district. Seaview, Marama, Blind River, Grassmere, and Tetley Brook Schools will be closed as from the beginning of the new school year. The attendance rolls at Ward and Seddon Schools will be increased from 86 to 111 and from 91 to 145 respectively. Education Board representatives commented that in a very great majority of cases parents appeared to agree

with the Minister and the Wellington Education Board, which was strongly in favour of the scheme. The policy had been in operation in a number of districts in the North Island, and a start had also been made in Canterbury. This was the first occasion that anything of the kind had been attempted in Marlborough



National Archives

1906 285 square foot building

1908 Residence of 2 rooms built

Condemned 22nd December 1933 and Housing allowance paid to teacher

Consolidation on Seddon approved 18th December 1937

Sale of School Building to Public Works Department for £150 6/3/1940

Block II Cape Campbell S D Section 9 Area 5 acres 1908

21st May 1948 Minister agrees to take 1 rood 28 perches to the Public Works Department free of charge

29th March 1951 Transferred to Crown

Grassmere

12th September 1905 Chas Fergusson wrote to Mr Strachan school inspector for Marlborough Education Board included Conveyancing the children would be difficult because the children are scatted , floods would cause problems etc.

26th September 1905

Application for a school at Grassmere

No of families in Settlement 9

Even school age children. 22 children in all

Blind River 5 Miles away 500 square foot 1904 Attendance 12. 1905 March 9 June 11

Seddon 7 ½ miles away

Sea View 11 miles

School to be 16 feet x 20 feet, 11 foot stud

To be made of Rimu with Iron roof

Outbuildings Closet

Sect 9 Block II

Site Education Reserve 5 acres

53 chain of fencing Posts and wire

Estimated Costs School £150, Furniture £20, Fencing £30, Outbuildings £10 Total £210

Cartage costly because of bad roads

Inspector's Notes

Blind river flows between Grassmere and the Blind River School

Mr. Wheeler an old resident nearly drowned recently

The site on part of the Flaxbourne estate lately settles and may increase but not greatly

John	Moran	12	3 miles
Libby		9	
Bernard		7	
Walter		5	
Francis		3	
Florence	Kennington	7	2 Miles
William		5 ½	
Bernard		4	
Mary		2 ½	
Albert		1 ¼	
Alexander	Miller	3	4 Miles
Gladstone	McInnes	7	¼ Mile
Arthur	Bulcock	6	3 Miles
Alice		5	
James		3	
Mita Lyell	Close	2	
Minnie M	Bright	4	4 Miles
May Lillian		5 mths	

William	Berryman	8	3 Miles
Albert		7	

6th November 1906 minister approves grant for school

28th July 1907 School Committee urgently request a teacher's residence

14th January 1908 No residence but a shelter shed and fuel house built

30th April £25 given for a residence for the teacher

22nd February 1910 Secretary of Marlborough Education Board writes to Secretary of Education

1 285 square feet of floor space for 28 children in attendance

The Board members who visited the school recommend that the 2 living rooms attached to the school be made into an additional classroom and the teacher be granted a house allowance

Department objects to above. One the rooms were built because there was no accommodation for a teacher and if enlarged the schoolroom would be unfit for teaching

10th May 1910 A long letter from Miss I Cameron to Minister of Education included

- a) You have recently remarked about how so many teachers leave teaching and take up law. Is it any wonder!
- b) There is a pill box of a school in a very windy climate with no porch
- c) A shelter shed with no floor gets so wet that the children must stand on the seats
- d) The so called residence is not fit for a respectable female to be in alone there not being healthy not convenient accommodation for 2
- e) Miss King occupied the rooms and then went to Wanganui to have a little son (after being dismissed)
- f) It was while working here Miss King got into trouble
- g) The Landlady (Presumably of the hotel) is the worst tempered women I have ever met
- h) The maids respectable and otherwise leave on short notice but I cannot afford to do so.
- i) The Richmond Brook teacher had two tiny rooms similar to those here and had to abandon them on account of being molested by a man entering a window
- j) Because I went to London to improve my knowledge I am to receive the Minimum
- k) Before going to England my salary was one hundred and thirty and a four room cottage into which I could invite a friend for company
- l) The school itself could easily be turned into an office
- m) The Blind River schoolhouse can accommodate a family of 10 and their parents and their roll is only a dozen
- n) Ward has a schoolhouse of 6 or 7 rooms

1st April The Secretary of Education states the dances can only be stopped being held

In the schoolroom by the School Committee letter to Miss Cameron. Her letter included The men are becoming rather a nuisance and it is best to stop things before they go too far

25th October 1933 Education Board ask for house allowance for teacher. The residence was still two rooms lean to

Each room was 9 foot 3 inches by 15 foot (2.7 meters x 4.5 meters)

15th November 1933 Ministry approves

23rd November 1933 Teacher is Ethel May Callant Clarke

Single

Appointed 31st September 1931

27th June 1935 Buildings remodelled for £92

School closed by 1939

New File

7th June 1921 Miss Phoebe Hicks Appointed from Arthurton School Otago

30th July 1921 Letter from Mr. H J Glayas Mrs Armstrong relieved from the 21st to the 29th

She set three days' work by the older children to be examined by Miss Hicks later

1st June 1992 In a letter to the Wellington Education Board signed by Mrs A E Reid, F N Blackburn Included

- a) we the undersigned wish to lay a complaint against Miss Hicks Teach for partiality shown to some children to the detriment of the rest of the children
- b) We have decided to withdraw our children 6 in number and send them to Blind River School until the teacher has been replaced by a more just one
- c) Trusting you will see into this matter
- d) PS I have reported this to the local Committee and have had no reply

21st June 1922

Reply from inspector Warren who visited the school

- a) There were only four pupils at Grassmere
- b) Three Reid Children and 3 Blackburn children were attending the Blind River School
- c) I had an informal meeting with Miss Hicks and four members of the Committee
- d) I am sure that Miss Hicks has not consciously shown any partialist to any of the pupils of her school
- e) The four members of the Committee endorsed this opinion
- f) Still the fact remains that she has given offence to these two families in some way and by sending their children to another school they have the power to reduce the Grassmere school to the status of an aided school
- g) I do not think they will send their children back while Miss Hicks is here
- h) It is necessary to arrange Miss Hick's transfer
- i) I recommend that she go to Blenheim Borough School who is entitled to an additional teacher. She is willing to accept
- j) It needs to be pointed out to Miss Hicks and the School Committee that this is necessary to stop the school dropping to Grade 0
- k) That no blame is attached to Miss Hicks in any way for the sudden drop in roll numbers

b) There is also a suggestion that this trouble is being used as a lever to establish another school halfway between Ward and Grassmere (Huawai) I have not seen the list, but think there is some truth in it

30th June 1922 Letter to Mr. Beamsley Chairman Grassmere Miss Hicks is being transferred because of roll drop. There is no blame whatever attached to Miss Hicks for the sudden shrinkage in roll numbers

11th July 1922 Olive Philpott telegram to Wellington Education Board Unable to commence duties until Thursday morning

27th November 1922 J A Elder appointed Mr. Elder is a certificated teacher and is just completing the second year of his training college course

5th December 1922 Mr. Elder's appointment confirmed by Wellington Education Board

31st January 1924 Miss Grenside will arrive on Monday Afternoon Train

4th March 1924 Mr. J A Donaldson Appointed Sole Teacher Makairo (Out of Pahiatua) School, 2 years' service

10th March 1924 Letter from Mr. Beamsley Miss Grenside is getting on very well the children She appears a very capable teacher she would be willing to stay if appointed permanently

12th March 1929 She did't apply for position and she has already been appointed to Infant Mistress position at Pirinoa School

25th June 1924 Letter to E J Ham Chairman School Committee We have decided to transfer Mr. Donaldson from 1st July

Parents of an aided school must provide free board and lodgings

3rd July Telegram from Mr. Ham to Wellington Education Board Decided to carry on teacher's board and balance of salary guaranteed appointment as soon as possible

10th July Miss Eunice Henderson appointed

9th July Another telegram from Mr. Ham Kindly advise what doing regarding school Ham Grassmere

10th July Miss Henderson asked to reopen school Monday. Kindly notify parents

18th July Letter from Web saying that the y are corresponding with Blind River re amalgamation

7th November Eunice Henderson still teaching Roll now 5

11th April 1925 P Martin writes to Board that he will not pay any costs towards a teacher at Grassmere

7th May 1925 Letter from E Ham stating on reopening there will be seven children

20th May 1925 Mrs. J McIlwraith appointed Sole Teacher will start as early as possible

29th May Telegram Mr. D McCallum (Board Member) No teacher Grassmere what is he position

29th New teacher appointed start ASAP

2nd June Mrs. McIlwraith to start Monday 8th. We trust your Committee will do utmost to assist Mrs McIlwraith to satisfactorily establish herself in the living rooms attached to the school

25th June Mrs McIlwraith withdraws have appointed Miss Woolley to begin immediately

21st July 1925 Letter from E J Ham saying Miss Woolley is earning £5.10 per month totally £66 per annum and she is not happy with that rate

Newsletter from Wellington Education Board to all aided schools. That the teacher be not required to perform household duties other than the care of her own room

4th December 1926 Letter from Mr. H Gulyas (School correspondent) that Grassmere has not asked their teacher to do household duties

4th December Letter from Mr. Gulyas including What is called the residence is a two roomed lean-to attached to the school and is not suitable for any lady teacher. The rooms have only been used for a few weeks during the past seven years by a male teacher

12th February Gulyas Huawai Miss Bayliss selected for teachership Address is Grahams Street Tinwald

13th April 1927 F C Bayliss applies for leave for Flaxbourne A and P Show

1st February 1928 A teacher is coming Wellington Education Board

3rd February 1928 Miss Ward requested to take temporary Charge

5th April 1928 Miss E Muir Sole Teacher asks for leave to attend Ward Show. The 8 children at school expect to attend that day

3rd October Erima E Muir applies for leave for Blenheim show over two days

12th February 1929 A letter from W W Avery to Wellington Education Board asking to make Grassmere a Grade One school

- a) Our circumstances are extraordinary
- b) Some of the children have 6 miles to travel
- c) Others have 5
- d) Miss Muir has 11 children to teach
- e) But because of travel affecting attendance we may not have enough to be Grade 1
- f) The teacher has her work to do and think she is entitled to a Grade 1 salary
- g) The children from Tetley Brook travel by service car and miss Muir has offered to stay with children until the car picks them up in the afternoon which means waiting at the school until 4.30 pm

Reply You have to have the average

26th March 1929 Saying if school rises a grade the Education Board would promote Miss Muir without advertising the position

5th July 1929 Letter from Miss E E Muir included

- a) I enclose 3 cheque books empty/ could I have a new one
- b) Last term the average roll was 10.6 is this not sufficient

8th July For the first term we has a roll of 11. We have not been promoted to Grade 1 though Miss Muir was paid at Grade 1 rates

9th July Letter to Miss Muir your grading is not high enough we have to advertise the position

9th August Miss D I Dodson appointed 5 ½ years' service Currently Relieving

14th August A long letter from Mr. Avery Including In the first place we f it is entirely due to Miss Muir's work and influence that the school has advanced to Grade 1 and therefore as she is qualified to fill it we owe her the position

During the past nine years we have had thirteen teachers

You advertise Grassmere residence attached no teacher could possibly live in two small rooms
Miss Muir conducts a Sunday school on Sundays thus testifying to her interest in their general welfare

Reply the Board will retain Miss Muir until the end of January when they will reconsider the matter

1st October If the school wanted to retain Miss Muir the school would be regraded to Grade 0 and Miss Muir could stay

23rd October 1929 Grassmere, Huritini and Manaroa were classed as remote . This meant an extra days holiday in months when there were no school holidays

5th December 1929 Miss L F Bade appointed Presently Assistant at Flat point. 7 Years' service

27th August 1930 Miss Bade cannot return because of ill health and Mrs A J Weir appointed

25th September 1890 Letter from Mr. J Schwass Chairman The residence is being used the following repairs and additions need to be installed

A wash house and tank, Drainage from Kitchen sink, Papering bedroom and painting kitchen

1st October As Mrs Weir I only temporary we may look at repairs if Miss Bade doesn't return

2nd November 1930 Mrs Weir has been appointed to Linkwater as Infant Mistress could she stay on until the end of Miss Bade's leave of absence. Wellington Education Board agreed but you forfeit the job at Canvastown you have been appointed to

Mr. Schwass writes as Mrs Muir and her husband are leaving and there is no word of a replacement

29th July 1931 Miss C Goulton appointed as temporary teacher

6th August 1931 Miss Bade intends to resign her position

12th August 1931 Miss E M Clarke appointed. Sole Teacher at French Pass 7 years' service

28th October Miss Clarke writes that Proficiency exam is on Marlborough anniversary date could they take it next day?

Approved

5th January 1934 Housing allowance paid Residence condemned

5th January 1935 An angry letter signed Grassmere Parent to Board complaining about two children being removed from Grassmere because they are not getting along etc.

15th May 1935 Miss E Nelson appointed Sole Teacher Waitahuna School 10 ¼ years' service

20th May 1935 Mr. T Lambert appointed Temporary Teacher

11th October 1935 Miss Elsie M Nelson writes for holiday for Blenheim Show

14th March 1936 Elsie M Nelson applies for holiday for Ward Show

30th March 1936 Elsie Nelson writes apologising for not notifying the Board for the Annual Excursion to Picton on Friday 12th February

9th October 1936 Elsie M Nelson applies for holiday for Blenheim Show

30th March 1937 Elsie M Nelson applies for Flaxbourne Show holiday

19th August 1937 letter from Chairman of Grassmere School that Mrs Nelson has resigned and everything is in order

School Log (From National Archives)

Please Note This log was photographed in the order of pages presented but clearly it was not in date order. Therefore though all entries are correct there may be errors in actual dates of entries. I have tried to refit the jigsaw

Log Book Grassmere School

Log started with a list of all school appliances

2 Dozen ink wells

12 desks

2 maps (New Zealand)

1 Cupboard

4 Blinds

1 table

2 Blackboards and easels

1 Globe

1 Ball- Frame

1 Door Mat

1 Fire Shovel

1 maps (The World)

1 Thermometer

1 Hyloplate blackboard

1 bucket

2 scrub brushes

1 nail brush

1 kitchen table

2 saucepans

1 enamel billy

2 enamel dishes

Library cupboard and books

Maps of Australia, Marlborough, North America

Page Missing

Fixing in the schoolroom. Received the Hyloplate and a parcel of books at noon

Planted sunflower seeds

4th Planted leeks, onions, Blue Gums and spinach, carrots, peas, beet, gladiolas, swedes, cornflowers, lettuce beans

5th Door put in leading to the kitchen (On leave of absence for exam

8th School social 15th letter from S E B (*Southland Education Board*)

21st Visit from Mr. Small. A talk about Mr. Sheehan slandering John Small.

Mr. Bruce Agriculturist visited us, looked around the gardens and also talked to the children about gardening the nature of plants and how they grow

22nd Planted peas and beans brought us by Mr. Bruce

26th Posted doll and water colour entries for the exhibition- for Jessie Small and Doris Woulfe

27th Planted Cosmos, Candy Tufts, Coreopsis, and Nasturtiums, (tall) , Frost

29th Broke up for Jubilee Holidays. Received October cheques of £7-10-0 Made out and posted monthly return Total attendance 931 for 42 half days – average 22.1

Planted pumpkins in Mr Bruce's style – on clod beds

Mrs. Small sent a table for the Girls' cookery work

Received by post January Exam papers for 1909 and Ditto for December 1908

15th September Received supplementary Inspection report. Marked off beds in the piece of ground dug by the children. E Woulfe began working Standard I arithmetic. Standard V worked examples in the relation of Kilometres to Miles. Standard II multiplication and subtraction, one operation

September 16 Planted flowers in the garden. A lead pencil was stolen. The person who took it is known and to be watched in future.

22nd Received summary register (21st) and filled it in up to date.

1st Frost cut balsams, cosmos, pumpkin etc., tomatoes

Planted violets and pansies from Miss McIsaac Carnation cuttings from Willie Kennington

31st Catholic missions to be held in the schoolroom till Monday 4th April. Morning and Evening.

Materials for fence left at school

15th November School reopened. Unable to continue usual school work owing lack of cupboard key

22nd November Resumed usual work. Received notice of examination centres, also of annual exam and centres

Wrote to SEB for two extra desks

Planted out cornflowers, sun flowers, cosmos. Wallflowers and beet

26th November Received report of annual examination.

Admitted Thomas W Neil to Primer 1 class

29th November Leslie Quine made his first attendance

2nd December Received 2 small desks

3rd December Received from Secretary Marlborough Education Board a circular re temperance.. Notice of lectures on Agriculture, railway passes being still available and November cheque 1909

26th May 1909 D Strachan signs log

14th June Sent letter about Standard III Geographies and Histories

Sent letter to Secretary about plasticene

19th July Commenced duties as relieving teacher Margaret M Neumann

1st August Received notice re date of Annual Visit of inspector also salary for July

5th August Received packet of envelopes from Education Board

23rd August 2 dual desks received

Sept 2nd Cheque for August Salary

6th September Inspector's visit

7th September Commenced duties Sent requisition form to Secretary for blackboard and garden seeds. The boys began digging their gardens. Margaret Sheehan made her first attendance

Mr. Jones took a photograph of the children and teacher present 19

8th September Examples in division worked on Black Board for Standard II to V. Present 16.
Strong Southerly wind. Entertainment in aid of school funds held in the school during the evening

1910

1st February Resumed school work. One new pupil Lily Christie

2nd February Received daily register, also exam schedule and cheque for January

9th Three members of the Education Board inspected the school premises. Mr. McCallum (Chairman) Mr. Parker, Mr. Chaytor (Mr. Richards)

23rd Received memo for a number of children on roll at present time

2) Number of children in district under school age

Received 21 Vere Foster's New Copy Books from Mr. Penny Blenheim. Post 8d

Half hour allowed for seed planting in plots pegged off for each pupil

March 1910 Sent in monthly return and requisition for 2 No. 0 spades and Sum register

2nd Received cheque for £10-16-8 and circular re maritime essay also school journals, the same number as last month

7th Received circular re apparatus for agricultural classes £6 £1 to £1 subsidy to be given from Education Department

9th off from "Singers" agent for a machine for the school for £ 7-10

15th Visit from Mr. Bruce

16th Committee meeting Garden fence and school picnic decided upon

21st Planted bulbs given by Mrs Orchard. Pulled one pumpkin planted

Rape and lettuce and a little prickly spinach

9th June Friday no cheque sent for May

20th June Tuesday As no cheque has been sent I have written to ask the Secretary why

7th July An inquiry was held in the schoolroom on account of a letter written by the chairman of the Committee to the Education Board and a recommendation by the Inspector of schools that the present teacher be dismissed

There were present Messrs. Conolly, Hylton, Ferguson, Strachan, and Kennington also Mr. And Mrs Wheeler

Their arrival was a surprise to me

The chairman of the Committee told a number of falsehoods

17th September Received a parcel of books from Mr. Penny Blenheim. Average attendance 24: the best this year

18th September Horses got into school grounds trampling over our gardens

20th Received circulars from S E B re Free Railway Tickets and the use of the Glebe

Planted peas in the garden

21st Planted cabbage plants

23rd Planted pumpkins, marrows and pie melons in the large garden also four sets of potatoes in the small garden. Received plasticene for the S E B Blenheim

27th Planted lettuce plants Flowers, beans, Dates, Parsnips, beet, swedes, radishes, snowball turnips, artichokes, Rhubarb

29th Received notice from S E B that a sheet of hyloplate and a frame are at Seddon awaiting the Committee's conveyancing and

8th December Received schedule from the inspector E Woulfe failed in Standard VI. Held annual examination

10th December Received form from SEB for information as to roll number, days of meeting, hour, individual practical work and date of commencement of agricultural class

13th December Visit of Mr. Brice Agriculturist

April 1910

1st Received monthly cheque for £10-16-8

School Journals

4th Received letter saying that house allowance had been referred to Department in Wellington

8th Memo for someone to call at Ed Office (*In Blenheim*) for this year's supply of foolscap for the school also requisition forms and Railway Tickets

9th Received this year's supply of foolscap

13th Received notice that spades had been sent from Briscoe and Company Wellington, also forms re number of cadets at school

16th Paid 2/66 freight to Union SS Co and 2/6d wharfage and railage to stationmaster Blenheim. The wharfage and railage included 4 packages for Ward school

19th Requisitioned scheme of work book. ~~Sent in receipts for amount paid on tools~~

25th Few moments visit from Mr. Bruce as he was on his way to Ward

Meeting of householders not enough to elect a committee

2nd May 1910 Signed by D A Strachan, Inspector

2nd May Received cheque for £ 7-10-0

Holiday on account of election for Road Board members, the school being used as a polling booth

5th Windows cleaned voluntarily without knowledge of teacher by children during the lunch hour

6th Desks and tables scrubbed during the lunch hour

A social was held in the school room, the floor being left filthy from the use of candle grease

10th Holiday King George V Proclaimed (6th May 1910)

11th Received Promotion and Examination register also Mr. Strachan's inspection report

13th June School Committee Election. Sheehan tried to induce the Committee to interfere with educational matters- cookery and gardening

16th Letter from Sheehan refused by teacher on account of his horrible remarks

19th Sheehan prowled about the school grounds staring in at the bedroom window, unauthorised by the Committee and on a Sunday morning

24th Received "Castles" from Education Department

28th Very wet, stormy day. No Attendance

19th August Annual Social. School closed in the afternoon for preparation

22nd Mr. Watkins sent a selection of flower and vegetables seeds for school garden planting

30th Annual visit by Mr. Strachan. Present 22 Grass mere 6 Tetley Brook

5th September Planted 15 packets of flower seeds given by the teacher and 6 of Mr. Watkins

12th Small set of models received, also reading sheets

December 1910 Annual examination Present 25

5th Annual Examination Present 25

6th Annual examination for Standard 6 at Ward. E Christie being the only candidate

February 1911

1st Open school after holidays

27th March 1911 Received attendance register for Agriculture class also form for same

Received for attendances at handwork classes for 1910

7th April Received cheque for £7-9-6 £2-18-10 extra being deducted for superannuation beside the usual 9/5

5th May received cheque for £7-9-6

23rd May The school broke up for term holidays

A dance was held in the evening in honour of a wedding. The schoolroom was left in a very dirty condition, the powder on the floor not being as much as swept off

31st May Resumed after the holidays

24th August Annual Inspection Present 13

29th Received a letter from the Secretary saying that he had enclosed a cheque for three months in advance; The letter did not contain a cheque

I Cameron

5th September Commenced duties as relieving Teacher E V Jeffries

Received form for list of free books purchased by the Grassmere School

9th- 20th November school closed (Measles)

30th November Half Holiday Mr. McCallum addressed the electors in school room

7th December General Election

14th December 2nd Ballot

15th December Closed for Summer Holidays

1912

5th February Opened school after the holidays

April 5th- 12th Easter holidays

April Meeting of householders. Not enough to form a Committee

25th April Received report of the Education Board and Inspector Schools

6/11/12 Signed by D A Strachan

2nd July Commenced school as Relieving teacher A Jeffries

16/7/12 No School Flood

2/8/12 Received a modulator

August 21st Annual Inspection Present 17

August 28th Received Inspector's report

22nd to 27th August Holidays granted by School Committee after examination

30th August Children planter 18 packets of seeds

September 1912

9th Two children left the school. Their names were removed from the attendance register. Columns 15 to 18 in attendance register filled Figure 1st Annual School Social

1st November Anniversary of the province

15th November Commenced duties as relieving teacher L Greville For examination

28th November Received class list forms and circular

25th November Received Florence Kennington's certificate of proficiency and C Lawrence's Certificate of Competency

13th December 1912 Broke up school

27th March 1913 D A Strachan Inspector signed
4th February D G Jeffer Commenced duties as relieving teacher
Received School Journals and Registers
Received receipt for 10/7 from Clyde Redshaw relief fund
Marlborough Express 14th July 1913 The total amount collected for the little boy Clyde Redshaw, who lost his hands in an accident at Huntly last year, reached the sum of £1679 6s. of which £1338 7s was subscribed by schoolchildren throughout the Dominion.....
Ethel Neal made her first appearance
Received annual examination schedules
3rd March E Fraser commenced duties
8th School picnic held on the beach
27th Had a visit from Mr. Strachan
3rd June Holiday King's Birthday and Empire Day
10th Visit of H M S New Zealand
Closed school 4th July Reopened 21st
The annual examination held on 20th August by Mr. Sturrock inspector
Holiday 22nd September Dominion Day
3rd November Anniversary of province- Picnic at Seddon
17th November Attendance below half- Very wet day
2nd December no attendance weather very rough
19th December School closed for summer holidays
Reopened on February 2nd 1914
2nd June 1914 Mr. Sturrock signed
Mrs O'Conner started as sewing mistress on Friday 26th June 1914
School closed 27th November 1914.
Reopened January 25th 1915
School closed March 9th Election of licensing Committee
Also closed on March 17th St Patrick's Day
25th March David Sturrock signs with following note Scheme of work to be drawn out for the year before the 1st of march each year (See regulation 5a)
29th March E Mason Commenced duties as relieving teacher
Received a box of chalk
2nd April Easter Holidays
7th April Received School Journals
26th July Received Doctor's Certificate stating that Veronica O'Connor is unfit for school until the end of November
9th August David Sturrock Signed.
6th September 1915 M Hilliard Commenced as relieving teacher
24th September Received Box of Chalk
27th September Holiday Dominion Day
Received Journals for October 1915

15th October Holiday for Labour Day

1st November Holiday for Anniversary Day

8th November Holiday Annual Picnic to the Beach

1st December Quarterly examination

17th December Annual School concert held handed £1-2-0 to wounded soldiers fund

17th December School closed for summer holidays

1916

January 31st Reopened

1st February received box of ink powder

Undated letter from I M Topp to Miss Muir

Re your letter of the 20th inst I am awfully sorry the children are continually late for school thus putting you about in your work

The children leave home at 8 o'clock or a few minutes after this giving them 1 hour to get the school as it almost impossible for me to get them away any earlier as the winter is approaching and as the days get shorter it will not be light until well after 7 O'clock but I don't want to make stipulation at your school but I suggest that you keep our girls in at play time but I don't want to interfere with the other children's play

I remain

Yours respectfully

I M Topp

(No punctuation used)

3rd February Received school journals

March 10th Received school journals. No holiday for St Patrick's Day

27th March Received Continuous Readers from Education Department

10th April Received School Journals (April)

20th -26th April School closed for Easter Holidays

17th April Meeting of Householders. Not enough to elect a new School Committee

12th May Received School Journals for May

9th May 1916 Leonard Snowden made his first appearance

28th May No attendance on account of rain

8th June David Sturrock Inspector signs log

29th June School closed for winter holidays

17th July Reopened

17th July Received Journals for July

28th July Belgian Day. Half Holiday

Children collected £ 15-14-0

3rd August No school on account of rain

14th August Received school journals for August

21st August Annual Visit Roll 15 Present 15. David Sturrock

25th August Holiday after examination

28th August John Bugler made his first appearance
28th August Joan Kennington made her first appearance
October Received October Journals
26th October School Closed for Annual Picnic (Too Wet)
28th October Picnic Held
1st School Closed
2nd November School Journals for November arrived
15th November School closed for A and P Show
2nd December Annual School Concert held £2 sent to Auckland in aid of Belgian Father
Christmas Fund. Balance 29/- in hand
2nd December School closed for summer holidays
1917
30th January School reopened
December 2nd (1916) John Bugler made his last appearance
December Received six packets of seeds from Education Department
2nd December Veronica O'Connor made her last appearance
17th February 4/- (Shillings) concert money to buy bat and ball for children Leaving 15/- in hand
February School Journals received
20th February Thomas and Ethel Neal started school
9th March March journals arrived
5th April School closed for Easter Holidays
11th April Reopened
16th April April Journals arrived
17th April Muriel Scott made her first appearance
17th April Pearl Scott made her first appearance
23rd April Anzac day Half holiday
30th April Householders meeting held in the school to elect Committee
10th May May Journals arrived. Walter Moran left school during the winter months
14th May No attendance on account of rain
28th May Inspectors visit Roll 20 Present 15 David Sturrock
3rd 4th June Holiday King's Birthday
June Journals received
12th June No attendance on account of rain
22nd June School closed for winter holidays
10th July School opened after winter holidays . July Journals arrived
10th July William and Moran Costello returned to Tetley Brook
16th July Walter Moran started school again
16th July Children collected £ 2-4-0 for London Children's Fund
26th July Charles Gaul made his first appearance
1st August Lavinia Scott made her first appearance

1st August George Scott made his first appearance
10th August Received School Journals for August
16th August Estcourt Griffith made his first appearance
20th August Dorothy Smith made her first appearance
27th August Estcourt Griffith returned to Kaikoura
8th September. September Journals received
24th September Holiday Dominion Day
1st October October Journals received
22nd October Holiday Labour Day
28th October Kathleen Kennington made her first appearance
1st November Holiday
1st November Annual school picnic held at the beach
13th November Annual visit David Sturrock, Inspector
14th November Holiday Show Day
20th November November Journals received
December School closed for summer holidays. Concert held £3 money towards prizes etc.
December 1917 Irene Snowden, Albert Kennington and Francis Moran gained proficiency certificates

1918

5th February 1918 School reopened after summer holidays
February Journals received also Daily Attendance Register
December 1917 James Corrigan made his last appearance
8th February Leavett Carpenter made his last appearance
11th March. March Journals received
12th March Holiday Licensing election held in schoolroom
12th March Visit from Inspector of Agriculture
18th March Patricia Willis made her first appearance
Annie Willis made her first appearance
25th April School closed for Easter Holidays
9th April School re-opened after Easter Holidays
9th April Football Cricket set Bat and Balls Kindergarten games bought for children from balance of Concert Money
15th April Bert Neal made his first appearance
13th April April Journals received
16th April Inspector's Visit Roll 21 Present 21 David Sturrock
25th April William Torrance made his first appearance G Scott left for D. School for 3 weeks
25th April Half Holiday Anzac Day
10th May May journals received also copies of War Pictorials from Education Department
15th May William Torrance returned to Blenheim
17th May William Torrance returned from Dannevirke

28th May Muriel Scott left school. She gained her proficiency Certificate
21st May Visit of Inspector of Agriculture
3rd June Holiday King's Birthday
30th May June Journals arrived
3rd June Annie Willis left school during the winter months
13th June Visit of Mr. Just Physical Drill Instructor
18th June Tom Neal left school on account of ill health
14th June Received box of seeds from Ed. Department
24th June David Sturrock signed. Roll 18 Present 15. Annual visit
2nd July No attendance on account of rain.
July Journals arrived
Collected 12/- from children for Xmas parcel fund
Bert Neal left school during winter months
3rd August School closed for winter holidays
20th August School reopened after winter holiday
August Journals received
21st August Jack and Lucy Blackburn made their first appearance
30th August Continuous reads received from Education Board
7th September Received school journals for September
18th September Holiday Returned Soldiers Day
23rd September Holiday Returned Soldiers Day
6th October Holiday to celebrate war news
10th October Journals received
13th October Mary Blackburn made her first appearance
13th October Eric Smith made his first appearance
24th October No attendance on account of rain
28th October Holiday Labour Day
1st November Holiday Anniversary Day
4th November Lottie and Leonard Snowden made their last appearance
8th November Half-holiday to celebrate the Peace News
12th November School closed on account of influenza epidemic
1919
4th February School reopened after summer vacation Commenced duties as relieving teachers. D L Mead
7th February Received letter re Agriculture and also Manual Instruction forms to be filled in
4th February Cyril and Phyllis Reid made their first appearance at school
13th February Wet Day Attendance poor as some of the small children that have a long distance to come were absent
17th February received from Education Board a supply of large envelopes, requisition forms, quarterly return forms and a summary of attendance register

18th February Received from Education Board New Zealand Journal of Public Schools and Teachers

24th February Lucy Blackburn attended school again after a week's absence through sickness

7th March Received school journals for March There were no journals printed in February on account of the Influenza Epidemic

17th March to 24th March Mary Blackburn absent from school on account of having several teeth out

18th March Received the New Zealand Journal of Education

23rd March Received from Wellington Education Board one Weekly Work Book (*Wellington Education Board took over Marlborough Education Board in 1915*)

7th April Jill McNamara made her first appearance at school

7th April Received from Education Board April School Journals

10th April Holiday. School used as a polling booth for Licensing Election

16th April Inspector's visit Roll 17 Present 17. David Sturrock Inspector

17th April School closed for Easter vacation

29th April School closed after Easter Term Holiday

9th May Received from Education Board the monthly school journals and a supply of vegetable garden seeds.

12th May Eric and Dorothy Smith left his school for a time and attending Picton School Cora and Connie Burroughs from Tetley Brook commenced school here

19th May Received from Education Board one tin of Black Ink Powder

28th May Received from Committee two bags of coal and a supply of wood

3rd June Holiday to commemorate King's Birthday

12th June Received from Education Board the monthly school journals

20th June Dorothy Smith readmitted on school roll

25th June Mr. H Lawton, Agriculture Instructor paid a visit to the school

27th June Very poor attendance for the week on account of the severe southerly weather and some of the children have long distances to come.

2nd July Held 2nd quarterly examination

4th July Very bad attendance for on account of several children being ill with influenza colds

4th July Received parcel of sample tubes of toothpaste to distribute among children

19th July School children taken into Blenheim to celebrate the signing of the Peace Treaty

21st July School closed for Children's Peace Day

24th July Received from Education Board a new school cheque book

28th July Severe Southerly storm. Only 5 children present

1st August School closed for winter Term holidays

19th August School reopened after Winter Term Holidays

19th August Dorothy and Russell O'Connor left this school. Dorothy Smith also left

22nd August Arnold Smith left this school and went to Picton

28th and 29th August Very stormy weather and floods. No attendance

8th September Received Monthly school journals

11th and 12th September Very severe South easterly storm. Streams flooded and no attendance

16th September Arthur Reid made his first appearance at school, also James and Patrick Corrigan

29th 30th September Held third quarterly examination. Very satisfactory for all classes.

22nd September Dominion day holiday

6th October Wet Day. Very poor attendance as most of the children have a long way to come

15th October half Holiday. Six children and teacher went to Seddon to attend a lecture on "War on the Western Front" given by Lieutenant Colonel Charters, E.M.G. D.S.O. M.A.

21st October Annual visit Roll 17. Present 17 David Sturrock

22nd October Holiday given by Inspector after Exam. Alick Kennington gained his proficiency Certificate

27th October Holiday granted for Labour Day

3rd November Holiday taken for Anniversary of province. Received Inspector's Report

5th November Received forms from Education office for annual examination

21st November Very poor attendance for the past fortnight on account of some of the children being absent with bad colds

24th and 25th Held Annual Examination for all classes

13th December Held School Picnic at the Beach

16th December School closed for summer Vacation

1920

19th February School reopened after Summer vacation Received from Education Board Daily Roll and New Syllabus of Instruction

20th February Received from Education Board the following books:- 4 A Little Norman Maid, 4 Neddy Bray's Story, 3 there was a Little Man

8th March Influenza prevalent. Burroughs and Kennington children absent on account of being in their homes

26th March Visited school today without notice Roll 15. Present 11 F H Bakewell Senior Inspector

27th March Chairman of School Committee granted for school:- 3/- Foolscap paper; 2 packets crayons; 6 boxes of paint

27th March Received from Education Board re change of holidays etc.

1st April School closed for Easter Holidays

13th April School reopened after Easter holidays. Were supposed to open on April 7th but teacher absent owing to illness of her mother

13th April Received from Ed a supply of Quarterly Return Forms and Form H 2

14th April Mr. H Lawton Agricultural Instructor paid a visit to the school and left a supply of flower seeds

19th April very bad weather. Poor attendance on account of the long distances the children have to travel

10th and 11th May School closed to enable children to see Prince of Wales and also visited the Jf M S Renown

14th May Wellington and Marlborough Schools at special request of H R H Prince of Wales

17th May Received from J Jeffrey by order of Education Board 6 boxes of paints and 3 lbs (Pounds) of grey Plasticene

24th May Received from Education Board one Big Been Clock

27th May Received a copy of H R H The Prince of Wales's letter to the school children of New Zealand which is to be read to the children on Monday 31st May

3rd June Holiday granted for King's birthday

4th- 7th June Two days holiday granted by the chairman to enable the teacher to spend the weekend at home and this school was only closed 4 days on account of influenza and did not take any May term holidays

7th June Received from agricultural instructor a supply of vegetable seeds for school garden

25th June very wet stormy day and creeks flooded. No Attendance

28th June Holiday given to all Marlborough Schools at the request of General Birdwood

1st July Sara Willis's name replaced on school roll

1st July Lucy Blackburn and Jack Blackburn put up into Standard 1

14th July Received from Education Board the following 1 box white chalk, 1 box coloured chalks, 1 tin red ink powder

21st July Cold, wet day. Attendance less than half school roll. Half-holiday granted by Committee

30th July D Mead resigned position as teacher to this school

18th Au M E Wiseman commenced duties as teacher. Only 8 present out of 12 owing to 2 families being unaware of my arrival

19th August Full attendance Received from Education Board July-August journals

1st September No. Present 10. Mary Blackburn as gone to Christchurch until end of September during which time she will attend school there

9th September Received from Education Board 6 Reed's greyhound Pastel Books

21st September Albert A Wedde Organising Teacher signed log And left following notes

24th September Completed Visit.

Recommendations

1. Daily preparation of work for next day. This is kept in a "Daily Work Book" also on part of BB (*Blackboard*)
2. Use amended timetable
3. Draft new schemes for 1921 using schemes left by organiser in conjunction with those left by Miss Mead
4. Give special attention to Oral and Written composition and to mental arithmetic
5. Insist upon full oral expression
6. Carry on schemes (as set under way) in oral study civics Oral and written compositions, Singing etc.
7. Bring Exam register up to date

6th October Visit from Mr. Lawton Agricultural Instructor

29th October Mr. Warren examined school. 7 present

1921

11th February Reopened school after Xmas holidays. Present 8

14th February A A Wedde Organising Teacher

18th Concluded Visit

The efficiency of the school has increased to a marked degree. I would recommend a closer attention to detail in the work e.g. full oral expression always. Articulation and enunciation in mistakes corrected on the B.B. A very high standard demanded in all written work and to secure this test work in the main subjects to be given at least once a week

The weakness seem to be still Composition and Oral answering

Fuller expression in both spoken and written language should be obtained.

10th April E Thompson promoted to Standard 5

25th April Anzac Day Children assembled at 9 a.m. and saluted the flag and sang "God save the King" then talk on Anzac Day by teacher *Clearly in a different handwriting. Reliever?*

4th May Visit by Mr. Lawton Agricultural Inspector

14th June Thos Warren Inspector Roll 10 Present 7

15th June A A Wedde completed visit Present 10 I will be here for a while tomorrow completing clerical work

21st July V M Armstrong Commenced duty as relieving teacher

Received June and July Journals, also parcel plasticene Roll 10 Present 8

29th July Completed duties as relieving teacher. Children have all made full attendance during the week. I have set all the older children work to do at home and have told them to bring it for correction when school reopens

6th August Phoebe M E Hicks Commenced duty as permanent teacher. Only 5 present out of 10 owing to the uncertainty of school reopening

16th August Received Bylaws of Wellington Education Board and Booklet on teaching of free drawing

10th August Mr. Lawton Agriculture Instructor and Mr. Laughton Truant Officer visited the school this morning. Attendance is satisfactory

16th August Received August copies of School Journal

9th September A A Wedde At this school today and tomorrow

3rd October School closed in lieu of Dominion Day to enable teacher to go to Blenheim for cheque

31st September George ? Gibson admitted to this school

26th October Thos. Warren Mrs Armstrong. Ward in charge for one day for grading purposes

19th December School closed for Summer vacation

1922

9th February School reopened after Xmas Holiday present 10. Three Warring children and Phyllis Ham admitted

Reopening delayed by two days owing to illness of teacher

21st March School closed to enable teacher to go to Blenheim to consult a Dr. And also to sign an oath of allegiance before a JP

14th- 18th April Easter Holidays

25th April Anzac Day Children assembled at 9.00 Sang "National Anthem". Saluted flag Short talk on Anzac day by teacher. Dismissed rest of day

18th May Inspector Warren visited this school today

22nd May 6th June School closed for first term holidays

4th July Phoebe N E Hicks concluded duties as Permanent Sole Teacher

13th July O M Philpot Commenced duties as relieving teacher. Roll 5 Present 9 *(As written)*

25th August 12th September Term holidays

22nd August Inspector Warren visited school

25th September Dominion Day

27th September Very wet stormy day, creeks flooded No Attendance

9th October Re. Braddock visited school and gave some stories from the Bible

24th October School closed in Lieu of Labour Day

25th October Show day

1st November Anniversary of Marlborough

3rd November School closed half day. Teacher sick . The attendance from October 23 to November 10th very poor on account of children having influenza

15th November Miss Greenwood Physical Instructress visited school Full attendance

21st November Holiday given by chairman to enable children to attend unveiling of Flaxbourne memorial by Lady Jellicoe

30th November School closed Standard 6 attended proficiency examination at Seddon

7th December School used as polling booth for the election

1923

J A Elder commenced as permanent teacher

1st February School reopened after summer vacation. Nancy Blackburn admitted. 11 present

2nd February received School Journals for February also a pamphlet entitled "The Health of Children"

8th February Mr. Lawton came. Recommended a Taupata hedge for school garden

19th February Mr. Laughton Truant Officer visited the school . 2 pupils absent

23rd February Received copies of the school journal for march

12th March Thos Warren Inspector visits First Visit Roll 12 Present 11

30th May 2nd Visit Roll 13 Present 12. Thos warren

3rd Au Influenza Prevalent Attendances for the past fortnight have been very poor

22nd August Mr. Lawton visited the school Roll 12 Present 8

16th August 11th September term Holidays

11th September School reopened John Reid admitted

Roll 13 Present 10

Received from Mr. Lawton vegetable and flower seeds

14th November Mr. Webb Drill Instructor visited school

26th November 30th November School closed. Teacher in hospital

17th December School closed Proficiency exam in Seddon

20th December School closed for summer vacation. Concluded duties as Permanent Teacher at Grassmere. Jas A Elder

1924

Miss Grenside Commenced duties as relieving teacher. School opened after summer holidays. 10 pupils present. Received journals for month also daily roll, scheme of work book from Education Board Received pamphlet from Red Cross Society

12th February Committee meeting decided to hold picnic on February 15th at the beach- providing the weather is fine.

15th February Picnic at Grassmere Beach. Weather was fine and children seemed to enjoy day's outing

Included in Grassmere Log at national Archives



18th February Heavy rain only four children attended school

19th February Received visit from Mr. Lawton Agriculture organising officer. Received outline of work to be carried on during the year

19th February Received a weekly work book from Wellington Education Board

5th March Received from Education Board some circulars

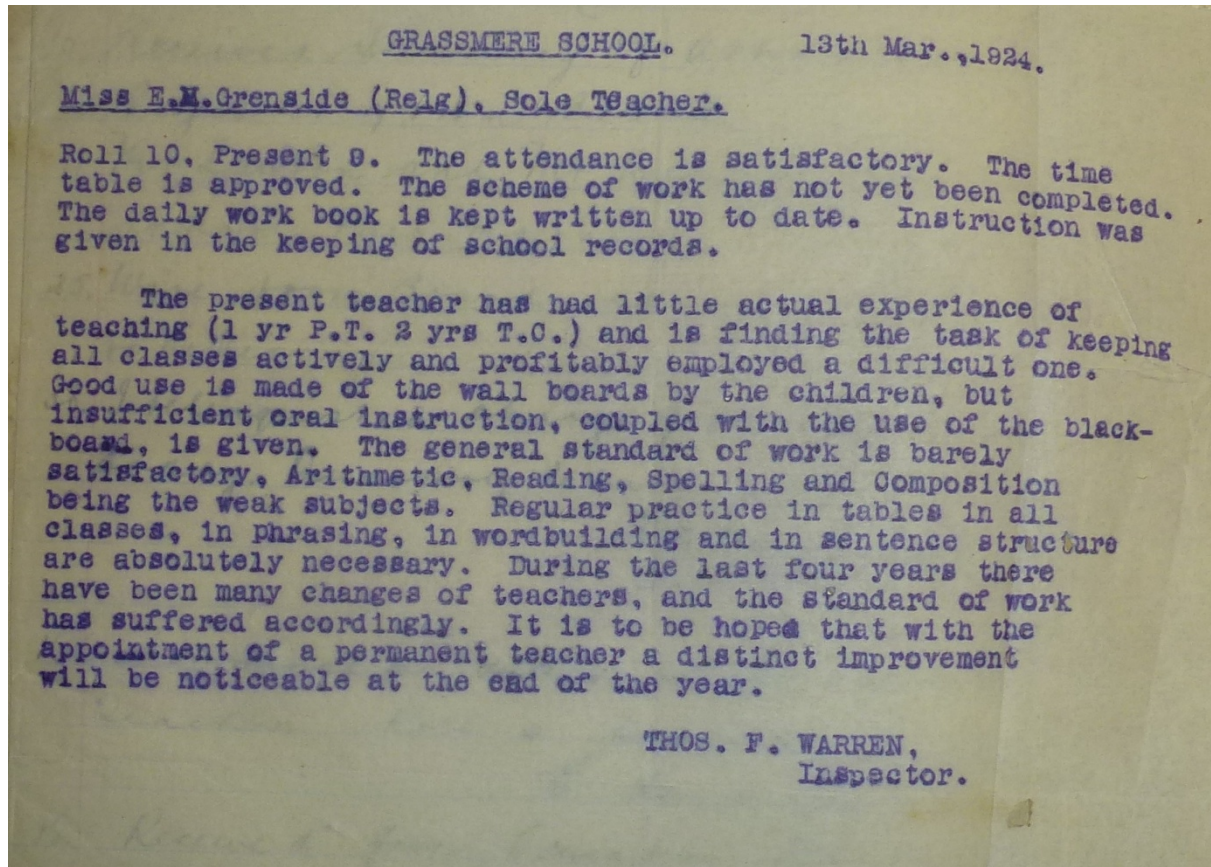
12th March Received Journals for month of march also circular for handwork material for 1925

1st March took children to Picton to see over the Jf M S Chatham Cup. Presumably by train. Premier New Zealand Soccer (Football) trophy given by the crew of the Jf M S Chatham

13th March Thos Warren visited school Roll 10, Present 9. Miss E M Grenside in Temporary Charge

21st March Received from Wellington Education Board some handwork material

27th March Concluded duties as relieving teacher at Grasmere. E M Grenside



1st April Jf A Donaldson Took Charge today. On arrival I found everything in order. Seven children were present in the morning and eight in the afternoon

8th April Mr. Lawton Agricultural Instructor, visited school today and explained work for the year
Journals received

11th April Constance Burroughs has attended only three days this week. Although her home is approximately 5 1/2 miles by road it is only two miles over the hills. She does not arrive until 9.30 by the mail car She leaves again at noon

17th April School closed this afternoon for the Easter holidays

23rd April School reopened this morning. Constance Burroughs absent.

17th April Received from Board 1 thermometer and 1 rain gauge complete

25th April School closed for Anzac day. A short ceremony and Saluting of the flag was performed yesterday after school

28th April John Macdonald Reid withdrawn. Joyce Evelyn Martin and Frank Donald Martin admitted

29th April Conveyance returns for George and Nancy Blackburn completed and returned to Board

1st May very heavy frost this morning

5th May School Journals received today. Began term examination today
 12th May Finished 1st term examination . Results very satisfactory
 9th May School closed today for 1st Term vacation
 26th May School reopened this forenoon. Constance Burroughs Absent. John, Lucy, Alice Nancy, and George Blackburn withdrawn from register
 3rd June School closed for Sovereign's birthday School flag hoisted
 29th August Received seeds from Education Board
 26th August School closed for second term holidays
 9th September School open Roll 11 Present 4
 12th September School closed in afternoon on account of teachers' sickness
 11th September Planted seeds
 16th September Received seeds for month of September
 13th October Phyllis Ham absent sickness
 14th October Received journals for October
 16th October Mr. Wyn Irvine, inspector visited the school
 24th October School closed for the Blenheim A and P show
 27th October School closed Labour Day
 25th October Joyce absent sickness
 13th November Received school journals November
 17th November Joyce and Frank Martin and Phillip Lucas absent on account of measles
 1st December Joyce and Frank Martin and Phillip Lucas attend after a fortnight absence in quarantine
 2nd December Received from Education Board 1 scheme of work, 1 daily work book, Time table, Good attendance certificates, Term Reports, Daily Attendance register and a summary of attendance register and return of attendances forms
 9th December Joyce martin absent sickness
19th December School closed for summer vacation

20th April School reopened roll 4-5 Present 5
 30th April E Henderson resigned position as teacher of this school
 15th June M E Woolley Commenced duties as sole teacher Roll 5 Present 4
 Received from Education Board handwork material also letters re annual examination forms
 16th June Joyce Martin Came today Present 5
 17th June Richard Boddington admitted Roll 6
 8th June Received School Journals June
 30th June Filled in quarterly report and posted July 1st
 1st July Frank Martin absent from school- sick
 9th July Wet day. Present 5
 6th February Commenced duties as relieving sole charge teacher at Grassmere. O A Ward (*my Cousin's Uncle*) Grade 0. 4 attendances
 8th February Received February journals also parcel of material from Board.
 Parcel contained two boxes of chalk one white, one coloured, brown paper drawing books, plasticene boards, paper for paper folding, scissors, brushes, carton knife and gum Arabic. Gazette also received
 Phillip Martin was re-admitted on the 6th
 21st February Supplement to gazette received

2nd March Concluded duties as relieving sole teacher at Grassmere

5th March Miss E E Muir commenced duties as permanent sole charge teacher at the Grassmere School
Attendance 3. 4 Tapps absent

Erima Elsie Muir Born in 1908 After leaving Grassmere she became a Catholic nun first in Blenheim then she went to the church in the UK before being part of the Sister of Mercy nunnery in Victoria Australia where she died in 1968 at Makveru

Received cheque Book from Education Board

8th March Government Insurance Policy Men called

19th march admitted Roy McKenzie

30th March Visit of Inspector Burns Aline Gluyas came back. First day since I started teaching. She has been on a holiday with her mother

19th April holiday for Ward Show

Entries from school

Laura Topp Drawing over 11 years

Hazel Topp Drawing under 11 years Writing under 11 years

Joyce Martin Drawing under 11 years Writing under 11 years

Phillip Martin drawing under 9 years Writing under 9 years

Graham Avery drawing under 9 years

Laura Topp Drawing 1st Prize

23rd April Householders meeting in school Committee appointed Chairman Mr. E W Avery, Committee men Mr. Gluyas, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. B Kennington, Mr. Smith

25th April Received parcel of raffia from Board also 5 boxes of pastels

25th April Anzac Day Services at Ward and Seddon. School holiday

24th April Mr. Price Drill Instructor called

30th June School clock taken during the week end and nothing else missing

2nd July Sent report of things missing from school to Police Constable Bynne

Articles missing Clock, Waterproof coat, box matches, box of cardboard cans, biscuits belonging to euchre party

4th July P C Bynne called for statement

18th July P C Bynne called bringing back Clock, Waterproof Coat, Empty Biscuit Tin, signed form for receipt

16th July Committee (School) had meeting in school. A request made to consider raising funds for a gramophone and addition of books to the library

1st August Tree in front of school chopped down and others topped

2nd August Committee chopped up wood and cleared it away

Undated The Chairman of the School Committee handed me a note which read thus:

"Mr. Martin- Phillip has been very rude with one of our girls L Topp

He asked me to investigate this

I have found that only 1 child in the school, Aline Gluyas is innocent. Joyce Topp aged 7 is evidently the cause of all the trouble, knowing far more than a little girl of that age should know. She and Phillip Martin have been acting in a serious manner for some time past. Ila Topp also has been involved. The day previous to the day on which this trouble was discovered graham Avery also was drawn in, when the smaller

children were set to gather cones for the fire. He however did the slightest wrong that could be expected of any child under the circumstances. I have dealt with the following correspondence in connection with him

August 2nd

To the teacher Grassmere School

Dear Miss Muir

Mr. P J Martin has given me a note to pass on to you; he also says that his daughter (Joyce) told him that Graham was misbehaving himself

Please enquire and let me know as soon as possible whether Graham is guilty or not

Yours Faithfully

(Signed) E W Avery

I sent the following reply

Dear Mr. Avery,

In reply to your letter of August 2nd I have to say that I have investigated the matter of Graham's behaviour at school and have to report that although Joyce Martin has no foundation for her remarks concerning him since she has openly confessed to not knowing of anything that was going on, yet, unfortunately Graham was led, on the afternoon of Wednesday August 1st into the knowledge of the wrongdoing at that time, and for some time previous to it be carried on here, by 3 young children. But I am sure that no one who knew the circumstances could think of blaming him for the wrong he did do. In the first place he was not conscious of the wrong he was doing and he certainly did not go to any extent whatever. I wish to say that I consider that very few children who were the victims of such circumstances would have acted more commendably and it is very unfortunate that a child, whose conduct is at all times so excellent, should be led into such behaviour, through no fault of his own

Yours Faithfully

Erina E Muir (S.T)

Philip Martin was kept at home 2 days August 3rd and 6th as punishment

Mrs Topp, Mrs Walker, Mrs Avery, Mrs Martin were each interviewed re this trouble, and each knows how much her children were involved

August 18th September 3rd 2nd term Holidays

14th September School closed early (2 pm) too enable the children to go into Blenheim to see Squadron Leader Kingsford Smith and Flight Lieutenant Wm--- land in the Bristol Fighters

28th September Holiday "Southern Cross" arrived in Blenheim from Christchurch. Children all went into see it.

October 1st and 2nd Fred Walker left this school He said if ~~my teacher~~ Miss Muir ever attempted to put a dunce's cap on my head or to give me the strap Mother said I was to hit at her and run off home. His mother said she had told Fred to say this, and let him come to school on Tuesday October 2nd on condition that he did not apologise and was not punished. As I did not comply with her conditions, she took Fred away from the school

8th October 4 Topp children arrived back at school after about a month away

15th October Rev Kimberley gave scripture lesson. To come every month

22nd October School inspected by W G Blackie

Copy of Inspection report

Classes	On Roll	Present
Standard V	1	1
Standard III	2	2
Standard 1	2	2
Primers	3	3

Teacher Miss E B Muir. Grading No 215. Sole Teacher

Classification is approved. Discipline and Tone Good. Attendance Satisfactory

Teaching: The pupils appear very happy in their work and work with a good spirit. Very satisfactory work is being done

Buildings are in a satisfactory condition though the walls of the classroom are unpainted. The cleanliness of the room is very creditable, it is evident that some pride is taken in its condition

16th November Children gave a concert in the school. Parents and Friends brought afternoon tea

1st December Received from Education Board 1 scheme work book, 2 work books, 1 school register of daily attendance, 1 summary of attendance register

1 Dozen large envelopes, 13/4 dozen small envelopes, 2 time table sheets, 1/2 dozen Report Forms

10th December School Doctor called and looked at progress cards

13th December Mr. Longworth and Mr. Price called there were 3 children present

14th December H Gluyas's name was entered on register. He was five years old yesterday

19th December School closed for Xmas Holidays

1929

4th February Reopened school after Xmas holiday

Admitted Arnold Marfell and Owen O'Dwyer

Present 7

Mr. Pyke (Education Board) called and noted that this school required painting inside

4 Tapps have left for Blenheim Borough School. Progress cards mailed away

Mr. Avery Chairman of School Committee called and promised to have tanks cleaned as early as possible

5th February Admitted Michael Casey from Blind River

8th February Held School Picnic at Marfell's Beach

Received parcel from Education Board containing

1 box white chalk, 1 box coloured chalk, 5 boxes Reeves pastels, 5 pastel Drawing Books,

2 pairs scissors, 1 tin gum Arabic powder, 1 bundle white paper

1 carton knife

16 Plasticene modelling tools

4 plasticene boards

4 bundles coloured raffia

11th February Admitted Maureen Watson, John and Michael McKee all from Letley Book and coming by service car

Round tank has been cleaned out during weekend and grating fixed

14th February Rev Riley gave scripture lesson 2.30 - 3.00

15th February Mrs Casey replied to letter in scripture classes in school. She desires that her child does not attend classes

18th February Letters from Mrs Watson and Mrs McKee Tetley Brook stated that they did not want their children to attend scripture lessons

Mrs Marfell called and said Arnold was to attend scripture lessons but Owen was not to do so

25th February Inspector of fireplaces called. And gave me to understand that all the chimneys were in good order

Received 6 syllabuses from Education Board Delay through incorrect addressing was caused

Sent letter to Education Board requesting that address should be changed to "Private Bag Blenheim as all mail not so addressed goes first to Seddon

February and March Mr. Lawton Instructor in agriculture called and discussed scheme

16th April Mr. Bowden Inspector called

17th April Admitted Noela Pettie

22nd April Mr. Price Instructor in Drill. Household meeting

28th April Anzac Day. Service could not be held in school as 6 children come over 3 miles to school. Children were asked to attend either Ward or Seddon memorial Services. A wreath was made for each memorial and placed on by 2 of the children

16th April Copy of Inspector's Report

Classes	On Roll	Present
Standard 4	1	1
Standard 3	2	2
Standard 2	1	1
Standard 1	1	1
Primers	6	5

Miss E Muir Grading 20%

Order, tone and discipline are Good

A number of the pupils have been recently admitted to this school and the standard of work is barely fair

The buildings are in a very fair condition

The grounds are tidy and the flower pots are quite attractive

W J Boden Inspector

May 10th- 26th 1st term holidays. Schoolroom painted white

27th May Sir Joseph Ward Pin Awatere. Gave schools holiday. Children allowed to leave this school at 1.30 pm. Some stayed to help with replacing pictures, blackboards etc.

28th May Planted ferns and tree ferns

7th June Mr. Powell and Mr. McCallum (Members of BE for Marlborough) called and noted that painting had satisfactorily been completed

17th June A very severe earthquake. Made exit to playground and watched chimneys shaking about and tank tipping about

3rd July During the past week we have planted around the school various shrubs donated by Mrs E W Avery

The shrubs are as follows

1 Sumach, 1 Spindle Tree, 2 Acacia Baileyana, , 2 Australian Mint, 1 Budlea, 6 lilacs, 2 Double Mays, 2 Single Mays, 3 flowering gooseberries, 2 lucerne trees, 2 peach Trees, 3 Rose Bushes

3rd July Wrote to Secretary Education Board asking for new cheque book and explaining that although the average attendance at the school was 11 last term it was not raised to Grade 1 as promised

8th July Mailed form to Education Board re septic arrangements

11th July Received word from Education Board that the position is to be readvertised in view of the fact that my grading is not as high as some of those who apply for positions in Grade 1 schools

25th July Mr. Lawton Agricultural Instructor visited school

29th July Teacher absent- Sickness

24th August 10th September School Holidays

10th September Admitted Viola McNeilly

25th September Ward Bulb Show Entered 6 varieties of daffodils in Novice class Gained First Prize

28th September Committee men and others worked in afternoon. Dug plots for gardening, chopped and sawed up wood Cleaned out outhouses

Decided to give 6/- each towards Mecanno Set for school Also to have afternoon and evening entertainment to raise funds for school purposes

10th October Very successful entertainment given by pupils in the afternoon. All expressed surprise at having such a good concert and I believe it went off well considering the lack of talent in the school. Mrs Gavin held stall. Mrs Avery saw to afternoon tea. In the evening about 40 enjoyed a euchre tournament. Mrs B Kennington looking after supper. Altogether slightly over £10 was taken for school funds (Good!)

2nd December Dr Heath visited school

19th December Prize giving in school Many parents and friends attended

20th December School breaks up for holidays

Erima E Muir

Sole teacher

Grassmere

1930

3rd January Reopened school after Christmas Holidays taking up my position here for the first time Eight children present One new child (Brian Schwass) admitted. I find no new register, work book or scheme book. Perhaps they will arrive in the course of a few days

Leila F Bade (*Leila Florence Bade*)

6th February Necessary registers and other books were found on Tuesday. There are not sufficient progress cards

11th March A visit was made today by Mr. Bowden inspector who stayed all afternoon. Owing to the addition of several new children the school roll now stands at fifteen

There was a very good attendance at the school picnic at the Cape Campbell beach. Parents and friends were well represented

12th March received a supply of Brown paper from the Education Board

20th March received a supply of Modelling Clay from Education Board

Bought a supply of library books to be subsidised by the Board

14th April Mr. Lawton Agricultural Instructor visited the school this morning, his lesson dealing with the aims and objective of lupin sowing mainly

28th April We resume school this morning after a week's holiday which included the usual Easter Break and Anzac Day

The annual Householder's meeting takes place this evening

29th April Mr. Schwass elected chairman for the coming year. All members except Mr. Jeffries elected to a place on the Committee

1st May The term examinations are now in progress

17th June Mrs Avery has donated a further supply of shrubs for the school garden. These have been duly planted on the eastern side of the school. Last year's shrubs have been earthed up and new protecting sticks placed around them

For the first time this year cocoa was made for those children who have joined the Cocoa Club. Each child pays 3d towards the cost of cocoa and sugar, while he brings his own milk. When the supply is used up another 3d levy is made

I sent particulars of attendance for last term of those children who receive conveyance allowance

24th July Mr. Lawton Agricultural Instructor again visited the school He suggested that a daily talk be given by the children themselves on material bought for nature study

18th August Mr. Price Drill Instructor visited this school. The children enjoyed his instruction

Examinations are over Arithmetic is still the weak spot

8th September A J Weir Commenced duties as relieving teacher

9th September Received parcel from Education Board Glue, string (Coloured) crayon, paper. Very wet day. Only 8 children present. Worked through lunchtime hour. Dismissed the at 1.00

10th September Started Dorothy Avery on Standard 1 sums also Maureen Watson

Minister took Bible Study II. 30 to 12.00

23rd September Received amount of monthly cheque £17-11-11 Wrote to Mr. Schwass re additions and repairs to dwelling

19th September Visit from Mr. Little Attendance officer going to give good report on attendance

2nd October Mr. Lawton visited school. Gave a good report. Pleased with way children spoke up

7th October Received Gazette forms to fill in for conveyance of children and letter from Miss Bade telling me what to with her books etc.

No further log until

3rd August 1931 Commenced duties as relieving teacher C E Goulton?

14th August Obtained supplies of soap, school towels and a hearth brush from Committee

17th August Message from Mr. Watson to the effect that his children would not be required to attend services in Seddon which necessitated them leaving at 2 pm on Mondays

Apparently Mr. Watson was impressed with the remark that the children missed too much school already owing to the long distance they have to travel

20th August Found an old cheque book last Entry August 1 1930 and as no other was in evidence made use of it

8th September Commenced duties as permanent teacher at Grasmere E M Clarke

18th December School closed for summer holidays

1932

1st February Reopened school Roll No 15

19th February School Picnic Dull Day Fair attendance of parents. All pupils present

24th February Visit by Mr. Lawton Agricultural Instructor

April Received a supply of scientific apparatus which was applied for by Mr. Lawton

19th April Householder's meeting held last night. Only 3 of last year's committee attended No Meeting

6th May School closed term Holiday

23rd May During the holidays several of the Committee men- altered the fireplace- putting in a grate and bringing the back forward and so causing the fire to throw out more heat. This is a big improvement

24th May Householder's meeting last night Committee elected Mr. B Kennington Chairman, Mr. Avery, Mr. Gluyas, Mr. Merrifield, Mr. Schwass

During the holidays previous chairman had obtained a new football from the Marlborough Rugby Union

July Received from Education Board two blinds. Which Mr. Kennington put up

Committee bought 1 door mat which effects a great saving in the number of stones and amount of mud brought in

August Received two second hand desks from the Blenheim school but the seats were in bad repair so Mr. B Kennington kindly fixed them

14th March 1933 Inspector make entries regularly on topics of school interest

1933

1st February 1933 School opened with roll number of 20

14th February School Picnic held at Picton. This school combined with Seddon, Bird River, Taimate school. Children enjoyed themselves

14th March Visit from inspector Mr. E Partridge He stayed all morning

24th April Made two wreaths at school one to be hung over frame of Mr. Fraser's photo and other to be laid at Seddon Memorial on Anzac day (Tomorrow)

26th April Householder's meeting held Monday 24th April Committee as follows Mr. B Kennington (Chairman), Mr. Avery, Mr. Gluyas, Mr. Merrifield, and Mr. Schwass

29th June Two new desks (second hand from Blenheim School) arrived. These were large ones as some of the children had been sitting in desks that were too small Two small spare desks were put in back room

3rd July Mr. Lawton at school- Stayed for about an hour this morning. Talked to the children on cones- and to Standard 5 and 6 on legumes and bacteria and formation of nodules

7th July Received parcel of books ordered from Whitcombe and Tombs for school library £3 was granted by the Committee this was first order £1-9-0 worth. Books much appreciated by children

Received a load of shingle- used in shelter shed- and also in front of school and on paths. A big improvement

4th September School reopened Five pupils absent. Four because they had gone to the opening of Come to Blenheim week and one who has been taken off the roll as is attending school in Rangiora for the present

I brought back books valued at £1-2-6 for the school library- Mainly for standard 2 and 3

5th September Mr. Hylton the Secretary of Wellington Education Board and the Chairman and the two Marlborough representatives of the Board and the Board's architect Mr. Powell visited the school today. Mr. Kennington, chairman of the Committee met them and pointed out repairs needed. Mr. Powell noted these and promised to have them attended to

Mr. Hylton promised to send new Hyloplate to replace the present damaged Hyloplate. The chairman of the Board Mr. Forsyth announced that a special holiday for the "Come to Blenheim" week had been granted and it had been left to the Committee to decide which day of the week it would be taken

7th September School will be closed Friday 8th September as that has been the day chosen by the Committee for the holiday for The Come to Blenheim Week

19th September Received 6 foot hyloplate (Blackboard) from Education Board

5th October Mr. Partridge Inspector visited school and commented favourably on the work

30th November Proficiency exam Classes from Standard 5 down holiday for the day

1st December received a parcel of various coloured wools from Education Board

18th December Received results of Proficiency Examination both candidates Pauline Reid and Graham Avery obtaining their certificates

20th December School closed for term holidays E M Clarke

5th February School reopened Roll Number 18 9 Girls 9 Boys. No new scholars

8th February Mr. Lawton agricultural instructor visited school in connection with filling in returns of materials

19th February School Picnic held on Friday 16th The schools in the district combined and had a special train to Picton. A very enjoyable day was spent. All the parents were present and a large number of parents

21st March Mr. Polson Inspector visited the school during the afternoon

April Received a supply of tools from the Education Board 4 spades, 2 forks, 4 rakes, 2 push hoes, 2 trowels, 2 hand forks, also further supplies of methylated spirits, Fehling solution and glass test tubes to replenish the stocks

23rd April AS collection for the RSA taken at school resulted in £2-1-0

24th April Two wreaths made at school today One hung over Mr. Fraser's photo the other taken to Seddon and placed on memorial there

1st May Householders meeting held last night. Committee elected as follows Messrs B Kennington (Chairman) Avery Schwass, Jeffries and C Marfell

June Repairs to school carried out by Mr. C Butt of Ward

17th August School closed for Fortnight's Holiday

3rd September School reopened with roll number the same as previous term Boys 9 Girls 10

October 18th Seen J G Polson

6th November Visit of Agricultural instructor Mr. Dwyer

18th December School closed for summer vacation

1935

5th February School reopened Roll No Boys IIIIIIO Girls 11

Four new scholars. New books for library

18th February On 14th February received material from Education Board for Needle, loom work

15th February School picnic to Picton A dull day with showers, nevertheless the children enjoyed themselves

13th March visit from Messrs Gascoigne and Pike Members of the Wellington Education Board also three members of the School Committee to discuss proposed alterations to the school. In the afternoon Mr. Dwyer agricultural instructor visited the school He took a lesson showing proportion of oxygen in the air

18th April School closed from 3 pm until 9 am 29th April for extended Easter Holidays

May 7th May 6th a public holiday to celebrate the King's Jubilee

9th May School breaks up for term holidays Tomorrow Friday 10th May Children to be taken to town and to the Pictures. This is being done to celebrate the King's Jubilee

Ethel M Clarke
Sole Teacher

27th May Opened school for 2nd term T Lambert

12th June Visit by Marlborough Ward Board Members also Wellington Board Architect

28th June Left her to take up relieving duties at Taimate School Tom A Lambert

3rd July E Nelson Commenced duties at Grassmere School. School closed two days previously- Travelling time from Waitahuna (Otago) to Grassmere

17th July Visit from Mr. Smith Minister of Education, Mr. Pike MP for Marlborough, and Board members met by Committee Mr. Kennington (Chairman), Mr. Avery, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Schwass. Mention made of proposed improvements to school, which are to be made shortly. Mr. Smith spoke to children. Half-holiday granted in honour of his visit

19th July Minister of Education half holiday

26th July Basketball court laid out. Girls commence play

9th August Blind River School children come to school for basketball practice

10th August Combined Grassmere Blind River school basketball team journey to Blenheim to take part in Primary Schools Tournament

12th - 16th April Second Term examinations

23rd August Sports afternoon- Basketball and Football (*In Modern terms Rugby and Netball*) teams from Seddon travel to Grassmere. Grassmere combines with Blind River for teams

School closed for term vacation

[The sports afternoon was most successful approximately eighty people including children present. Boys won football Girls were defeated at basketball]

9th September School reopened for term 3. Daphne Green (Standard 4) admitted from Mirza School

10th September School closed owing to flood rains which made roads impassable

21st September First effort made to raise funds for school wireless (*Radio*) Euchre tournament held with bring and buy stall. Proceeds amounted to £5

27th September Boys travelled to Seddon to play football match with Seddon school against Ward School

2nd October Visit from Mr. Watson School Inspector

9th October Visit from Mr. Dwyer Agricultural Instructor

17th October School closed Blenheim Show

1st November School closed Anniversary Day

27th November Election Day School closed

29th November Proficiency Examination (Arnold Marfell and John Watson candidates. School closed

11th December Carpenters work on remodelling school

13th December Mr. Kennington has interviewed Mr. Pike who states that Board have decided that new type of windows will not be installed in school

16th December Received Proficiency results. Both candidates gaining their proficiency

19th December School closed for summer holidays. Concert given by children to entertain parents. Afternoon tea and sports

1936

3rd February School reopened. Alterations have been completed- hand basin yet to be installed

Roll Number 21 12 Girls and 9 Boys

10th February Hand basin installed with plug for wireless

14th February School excursion to Picton. Electric Light installed with plug for wireless

17th February Visit from Mr. Dwyer. Agriculture Instructor Possibility of purchasing a lawn mower!

25th February received supply of wood for woodwork for boys. Tools to be forwarded later

28th February Parcel containing hand work requisition received from Board

2nd March Commence collection of insects etc. For school museum

3rd March Committee meeting proposals to dig gardens and prepare plots for hedges

Wireless ordered from Rabone Blenheim

14th March Wireless installed- Lawn mower ordered

15th March Children listen to broadcast from Christchurch- reception good
Received supply of woodwork tools from Board

19th March Children listen to broadcast from Wellington Reception Good

30th March Received Lawn mower from Briscoe Mills Ltd Blenheim. Ordered by Education Department

1st April School closed Flaxbourne Show

10th - 14th April School closed Easter vacation

29th April Grass cut for basketball court

30th April Visit from Mr. Pike (Board member) and Inspector of buildings- proposed grant for concrete for shed and paths. New desks- larger size for Standard 2- to be sent out

8th - 29th May School closed for Term vacation

23rd June School closed King's Birthday

29th June Midyear examinations commenced

2nd July Committee meeting- arrangements made for digging of portions of the garden and plots for planting hedge and ornamental trees

Grant of £10 from Board for concreting shed and paths

6th July No school sickness of teacher

13th July Gravel arrived for paths

14th July Arbor Day Trees obtained from Nursery in Blenheim- Red Gum, Pink Gum, Rowan, Silver Birch, Scarlet Oak. Donation from Mrs Avery- lucerne plants for hedges. Acacia trees

From Mr. B J Kennington- Tamarisk

Juniors plant acorns and walnuts and small Kowhai trees

18th July Boys mended desks and oiled and varnished them

4th August Boys and Girls travelled to Ward for football and basketball games with Ward and Seddon

Michael McKee and Arthur Wilkie chosen for school football representative trials

8th August Basketball team journeyed to Blenheim for inter school tournament

21st August - 7th September School closed for term holidays

7th September David Pattie admitted from Taimate School

Concrete paths and Floor of shed laid down during holidays

18th September Admitted Humphrey Kennington

28th September Wrote some time ago to enquire when there would be a visit from the school medical officer- (There has been no medical inspection here for over three years)- received letter from the Secretary of Education Board stating that the school medical officer Nelson has been instructed to inspect the school

1st October Letter from the school medical officer stating that she will visit the school during the next four weeks

10 October A case of chicken pox in the school (Joan Schwass) Betty and Brian Schwass to be excluded from school for ten days

12th October Visit from Mr. Dwyer Agriculture Supervisor

21st October School closed Blenheim Show

26th October School closed Labour Day

2nd November School closed Anniversary Day

3rd Received new vice and bradawl from manual Training School

5th November Visit from School Inspector Mr. Boden Children examined Dorothy Avery, Maureen Watson, Betty Schwass accredited for proficiency

Henry Gluyas, Michael McKee, Arthur Wilkie to attend examination at Seddon on 1st December

9th November Visit of school medical officer and nurse

19th November Received Inspector's annual report

1st December School closed for Proficiency Examination- held at Seddon

Michael McKee, Henry Gluyas gained Proficiency, Arthur Wilkie Competency

11th December Form II and II pupils went to Blenheim to take part in school sports

Michael McKee won 880 yards and sack race. Brian Schwass won High Jump

14th December School closed Proclamation of King George VII King's birthday

15th December Break Up in morning. Department has ordered all schools to close because of outbreak of Infantile paralysis in the South. Mr. Schwass came to school to distribute prizes. The concert had to be postponed

E M Nelson

15th December 1936

1937

22nd February Returned to school this date- Children not to return until 1st March

Gardens in a sorry state

22nd - 26th Spent week at school- work in gardens, library books catalogued, records put in order. Time Table prepared

1st March Children returned to school- 13 present Roll number for this will be raised to 14. David Pattie is at present attending Ward School

9th March Visit from Mr. Dwyer Agriculture Supervisor Carrot crop dug and weighed Lesson given on insects to be found about school grounds

9th April Mr. Crockett took senior boys for lessons in woodwork. Sharpened woodwork tools

12th April Work done at school- fences repaired goal posts erected glass put in door, tank cleaned

16th April School closed Ward Show

Entries of composition (S6) Writing (S3, S6) Drawing (S1) have been sent in

12th May Coronation Day- children assembled at school- Flag salute- national Anthem- Address by Mr. Gavin- Coronation medals and flags presented by the Chairman of School Committee (Mr. Schwass. Kowhai tree planted to commemorate the occasion (Tablet to be placed by the tree had previously been made by the boys)

Children then went to Seddon where they assembled at Post Office to hear the Coronation Address

They were treated to a luncheon in the hall. Games and Sports were held in the afternoon

13th May School closed for first term vacation

Received supply of methylated spirits and a filter funnel for science

Notice received that Maurice Marfell will be granted allowance for conveyance to school

26th May Joan Schwass promoted to Standard 2

1st June Received supplies of mustard and Brown Top and Fescue

9th July School closed for Christchurch session of Education Fellowship Conference

19th July School reopened

30th July Visit of Mr. Pike Mr. Duckworth (Board) and Mr. Drummond (Board Architect) who inspected the school and grounds

4th August Tom Jeffries admitted

11th August Arbor Day Received 6 trees from Education Board

2 silver birch, 2 elms, 1 copper beech, 1 lace bark

13th August School concert held in the afternoon Invitations had previously been sent out to parents
Two plays given by children songs, recitations and choral speaking
Afternoon tea dispersed by children. The concert a great success. The children playing their parts extremely well. About 40 parents and friends were present

20th August School closed for term vacation. Left the school to take up duties at Kirwee School Canterbury
Elsie McMahon 20th August 1937

6th September School opened after the vacation
8 pupils present- very wet day. School was visited by Mr. Deavoll (*Assistant Secretary of Education Board
Later Secretary of Wellington Education Board. Lived in the 1950's in a school house at Eastbourne. Causing
a fuss in the place*)

11th October School visited by Mr. Dwyer Agriculture supervisor. Discuss the collection of pond life
available also sugar beet seed

17th September Sent lawn mower to be sharpened

25th September Attendance very erratic

14th October flu and colds prevalent

20th October School closed for Provincial Show - owing to erratic attendance the children were unable
to have exhibits ready

25th October School closed for Labour Day. Wrote to Education Board re the supply of sugar beet seed for
the school

1st November Anniversary of Marlborough. Children attend sports at Seddon Domain. Relay Cup lost by a
small margin

Received Sugar Beet Seed
Children planted same in experimental plot

12th November School was visited by nurse
Commented on the good health of the children

24th - 28th Held the annual examination

3rd December M. P Sports Maurice, Bernie and Brian attended

6th December Maurice 1st in High Jump and 2nd in Hop Step and Jump

5th December Concert given by children parents very much impressed by costumes and ability of children
As the school is being consolidated with Seddon a Christmas tree instead of usual prize books
This proved quite a success each child received from Father Christmas (Mr. Gavin) a parcel, balloon, bag of
sweets and an orange
Supper provided by ladies

17th December
Daphne Green
Frances Blackburn
Bernard Kennington
Noela Pattie
Brian Schwass

Received Primary School certificates
Attendance certificates to
Noel Merrifield
Bernard Kennington
Mary Gluyas

Francis Blackburn

Helen Glynn

School dismissed at two thirty for Christmas vacation

Ceased duties as relieving teacher

I E Price

Kekerengu (1878-1904, 1909-1923)

On State Highway 1 68 Kilometres South of Blenheim

AKA Kekerengu, Kekerenga

1925 320 square feet

1956 Additions 136 square feet

1956 1 classroom 376 from Wharanui

1977 Residence 5 rooms 931 square feet

1 acre purchased



X marks site of 1st Kekerengu School

Pre-1878

18th March 1871 Awatere County Board EDUCATION BOARD. Mr Lovegrove stated his wish to establish a school at Kekerengu, and applied to the Board for assistance. On the motion of Messrs McRae and Templeton, it was resolved that £50 a year be devoted to the maintenance of a school at Kekerengu, if it be established.

14th March 1874 It is not generally known that a School at Kekerengu was opened on November last under the mastership of Mr J. Chalmers Reid. The Education Committee controlling this School consists of the Rev. T. Porritt, (Chairman) and Messes Samuel Carter, Samuel Elliott, and Henry Stretch. *A Rev T Porritt was at Greytown school as Headmaster in 1879*

27th January 1875 Inspector Lee's report included My returns are made for the month of November last, when there were fifteen schools in operation, of which four Kaikoura, Kowhai Plain by Kaikoura, Kekerengu, and Mahakipawa are subsidised schools, the

remaining eleven being under the control of County Boards. All the schools in operation, except, the two Blenheim Schools one for boys and one for girls only are mixed as to sexes.

Table of Result for Kekerangu

No on books Boys 4. Girls 6 all present at inspection

Passed in Standard 1; 2 girls 29 per cent pass rate

Passed Standard 2; 0

Average age of whole school 11 years 4 months

Time the Head Teacher has charge 2 months

Small Public Room. Teacher Mr Ball who was also teacher at Kowhai Flats

26th June 1875 Anchor Line of steam packets Lyttleton leaves Blenheim for Kekerangu on or about Thursday next

29th January 1876 Mr Lee's Report. Mr Robert Lee was Inspector of Wellington Schools. His reports were open and honest. There are now fourteen schools actually in operation, though two others, one at Kowhai, and one at Kekerangu, have been open during the year. The Kowhai school is closed until the new school-house is built the Kekerangu school is closed on account of the absence of the master

Awatere Education Board was the same as the Awatere county Council

18th March 1876 Awatere Education Board. Copies of letters sent "by authority were also read, and the following were received From N. Edwards and Co. referring to the lease of the school at Kekerangu, and from the Provincial Government, asking for returns. The Secretary reported a balance to credit of £9 10s 7d that the education rates collected last year were £87 4s 6d, and the arrears due were £99. A voucher was passed for the payment of £4: 6d to Mr Griffiths. Resolved that the Board accept the terms offered by N. Edwards and Co., and will keep the school in repair. Mr B. T. Chaytor informed the Board, as Chairman of the Kekerangu School Committee, that the Committee had appointed Mr Noakes as master of the Kekerangu school. It was resolved that the appointment of Mr Noakes be confirmed, subject to his obtaining a certificate of competency. The Board then adjourned.

10th June 1876 Vouchers were passed for Secretary and Collector, postages, &c, £4; Express 15s 6d, and grant to Kekerangu school £50. Mr B. T. Chaytor reported that the Schoolhouse at Kekerangu was undergoing repair, and that Mr Noakes would undergo an examination in July

10th January 1877 First meeting of Marlborough Education Board after passing of Education Act. Kekerangu School. The Chairman said that since the last meeting he had been in communication with Messrs N. Edwards & Co. on the subject of the Kekerangu School and had received a letter from them which read as follows "Nelson, N. Z. 28th Dec. 1876. "Sir, We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst. making certain inquiries respecting the School Buildings at Kekerangu.. In reply the said property belongs to us, and we shall be very pleased to lease the buildings to the School Board, for School and Church purposes only, at a nominal rent for a term of say seven years, the Board undertaking to keep the buildings in good repair and hand them over at the termination of the lease in good condition. We have previously been in communication with Mr Griffiths. Secretary of the Awatere Education Board, with reference to this property, and in reply to his letter of the 27th Jan last in which he stated £30 would be required to be spent, we replied on the 31st. of the same month agreeing in effect to the above terms. We are, &c, N. Edwards & Co. The attendance at the school was but small averaging about 15, but during the ensuing year it would be about 17 or 18. The schoolmaster was to be paid £100 per annum after the 31st of

last month, finding his own board and lodging. He would suggest that the Board should authorise him to get a lease of the premises drafted. Mr Dive thought it would be better for the Board to vote a certain sum of money and leave it to those interested in the matter to see after the school. Mr Goulter then moved— That the offer made by Messrs N. Edwards & Co. with reference to the Kekerangu school be accepted, provision being made allowing the Board to abandon the lease, if it deems it necessary to close the school. Mr Ingles seconded the motion which was carried unanimously

7th April 1877 Mr Lee, Inspector of Schools will leave Wellington for Kaikoura m the Tui on Wednesday next. After examining the Kaikoura and Kekerangu schools he will examine those of Blenheim

6th June 1877 It was resolved That the books asked for by the Kekerangu School Committee be forwarded by the Lyttelton

9th June 1877 Kekerangu. The room has been much improved by a new floor and fire place. It was j generally well appointed except as to the desks. If the 'master prove diligent m his work, I think he will do well. The results were generally satisfactory, good passes being made.

5th September 1877 KEKERANGU. A letter was read from Mr B. Chaytor. Chairman of the Local Committee, and its consideration was postponed.

3rd October 1877 KEKERANGU. It was resolved on the motion of Mr Paul, seconded by Mr That the application for repairs stand over.

5th December 1877 Mr E. S. Noakes' resignation of his appointment at Kekerangu was read. Lt was resolved that it be accepted. The Secretary was instructed to 'write to the local committee, and request to be furnished with the ages, of the children attending, and whether a female teacher would suit the appointment

15th December 1877 Mr Hart's Application was ordered to be sent to the Committee.

1878

1878	Kekerangu	Hart	J I	Head	£	80.00
John Irwin Hart						
1879	Canvas Town	Hart	John I	Master	£	120.00
1880	Canvas Town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1881	17 Canvas Town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	108.00
1883	17 Canvas Town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1884	18 Canvas Town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1885	16 Canvas Town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1886	16 Canvas Town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1887	19 Canvas Town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1888	22 Canvas town	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1889	25 Canvastown	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1890	25 Canvastown	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00
1891	21 Canvastown	Hart	John Irving	Master	£	120.00
1892	33 Canvastown	Hart	John Irving	Master	£	120.00
1893	21 Canvastown	Hart	John Irwin	Master	£	120.00

9th January 1878 A letter was received from Kekerangu stating that the appointment of a female teacher would not be satisfactory. It was explained that the former teacher lived in the accommodation house, which was really the only place available, which of course would not be suitable for a female. Other applications had been received but it was resolved that Mr Harts appointment be confirmed.

9th February 1878 Messrs B. T. Chaytor. McLauchlan, Lyford, Stretch, Hamilton, Dewdney, Scott

2nd March 1878 Kekerangu.— A. meeting of the School Committee was held on the 19th February, for the purpose of electing the Chairman. Present McLauchlan, Lyford, Stretch, Hamilton, and Dewdney. Proposed by Mr Lyford, seconded by Mr Hamilton, that Mr McLauchlan take the chair. Carried. The Chairman referred to a circular from the Education Board, forwarded to each member of committee, instructing them of the meeting to be held this evening for the purpose of electing the Chairman. It was now for the members to say which one of their number they wished to place in that position. Proposed by Mr McLauchlan that Mr B. T. Chaytor act as Chairman of Committee, seconded by Mr Dewdney, and carried. The Chairman here stated that it would be as well to appoint a Secretary, he would therefore propose that Mr John J. Hart act as such, seconded by Mr Stretch, and carried.

11th May 1878 Marlborough Education Board wanted a Teacher's residence at Kekerangu costing £150

18th May 1878 The following are the minutes of a meeting of the School Committee held in the School-house on 7th May, to consider the matter of schoolmaster's salary. Present Messrs McLauchlan (in the chair), Lyford, Stretch, Hamilton, and Dewdney. The Chairman stated that no doubt all the members were aware that the schoolmaster was dissatisfied with the salary received, and talked about resigning. For his part he was well pleased with how his children had progressed. He was of opinion that he should have the same salary as the master before him, but would hear what other members had to say. Mr Stretch said that his children had got on far better than he expected, and that the master took every pains with them, as the examination last month by the Rev. Mr McAra proved, who spoke very highly of both him and the school.

He thought the salary too small altogether to support the position.. Mr Lyford would do all he could to get the master's salary raised, as his children got on first-rate, and if we lost Mr Hart we might not get one to take the same interest in the school. He thought the matter ought to take the form of a proposition in favor of the Board" granting an increase. Mr Hamilton here stated that the only thing the master wanted was to get the Committee's opinion as to what satisfaction he had given.. He would most cordially wish his children had done more good within the short time Mr Hart had been here than he ever thought they could do, and for careful attention, ability, and kind interest taken by him, he must say we would lose a good man if we lost him. He moved That the Committee have every reason to be satisfied with Mr Hart as master of the Kekerangu school, and that he has given entire satisfaction to them in every respect, and would recommend him to the Education Board for an increase in salary, and that a copy of the minutes of this meeting be forwarded to them." Mr Dewdney said he should have great pleasure in seconding the motion. He must say Mr Hart spends more time in mailing out books and exercises for the general interest of his scholars than many masters would do, and he thought he was the right man in the right place. If he left it would be a chance ;if they, would get one that would suit as well. We all know he has done a great deal of good in the short time he has had the school, and would be sorry to lose him.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

9th October 1878 Kekerangu had 18 students at 15 pennies each a total of £1-2-6 capitation

19th October 1878 Census Kekerangu Total 46. 23 males, 23 females

6th November 1878 Inspector Mr Hodson reported So long a period has elapsed since the Marlborough Schools were last reported on, that I thought the interests of the Board would be best consulted by my sending in this report at once, without waiting until I had examined the small school at Kekerangu.

16th November 1878 Inspectors Report

Roll 20 Present 18 Passed in Standards 5 passed Standard 3 only Teacher Mr Hart

11th December 1878 Kekerangu School.— "We received the following note from Mr Hart, the teacher at Kekerangu School, and although late, we consider it only right to publish it in justice to all parties concerned:

Sir, Knowing your great zeal in all matters educational, I take the liberty of forwarding examination schedule embodying results of Inspector's examination of above school on 11th instant. He expressed himself highly pleased, and classed the school very high indeed. His remarks thereon will, he stated, be embodied in notes annexed to report which he will forward to Secretary of Education Board. He spoke highly of their arithmetic, geography, and history, and praised writing very much. The questions are somewhat difficult, but his kind gentlemanly manner gives encouragement and hope to the children, and has a wonderful effect in keeping down any trepidation or flurry, which is often fatal to the working out of difficult questions. You will find Isabella McLauchlan has got the highest number of marks in the district for Standard 111. I made a mistake in not placing her for Standard IV., which she would have passed." The number of pupils presented for examination was 12, and the result 100 per cent, as will be seen For Standard I. R. Scott 170, A. Hamilton 165, Margaret Hamilton 144, Carry .Stretch 149 Standard II. H. Stretch 181, F. Stretch 176, Clifford Lyford 151 Standard III. John Lyford 166, Isabella McLauchlan 211, Christina McLauchlan 198, Margaret McLauchlan 188, Elizabeth Stretch 190

1879

1879	Kekerangu	Smith	M J	Master	£	80.00
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[Matheson James Smith](#)

No reports on Papers past for Kekerangu Published May 2018

8th January 1879 8th January 1879 LEAVE OF ABSENCE. The following teachers requested leave to attend the Normal School of Christchurch for a few months : Miss Anne Macklin and Miss Kate Macklin from Blenheim School, Messrs C. Peake, Tua Marina School, J. J. Hart, Kekerangu, W. Andrews, Grovetown. It was agreed that leave be granted to the three male applicants and one of the Misses Macklin the committees to make arrangements with the teachers as to the time for their going, and other details

29th January 1879 Kekerangu. The following gentlemen were elected a school committee for this district: J. C. Chaytor, Alexander McLauchlan, John Lyford, W. H. Hamilton, G. C. Dewdney, H. Stretch, G. Scott

8th March 1879 *I have included this long piece on training by Mr John Hart who by the end of 1879 was teaching at Canvastown because it is the only document on teacher training I have seen.*

THE TRAINING SCHOOL.

We have received the following interesting letter from Mr Hart, (*Teacher at Kekerangu at beginning of year went to Canvastown later in the year*). one of the Marlborough teachers who was allowed to go to the Training School at Christchurch at Christmas. Although a private letter, it, contains so much useful information, which will be of interest to many of our readers, that we have deemed it right to publish it ,

“Christchurch. 1st March, 1870. “Sir, — Fully impressed with the good you have for many years done the Teachers of Marlborough, and your general interest in the parties to he taught, I will take the liberty of trespassing on your time in Jetting you know how we are getting on here. I enclose a photo of the School Building, which will give you some idea of the formation and size thereof, also list of scholars, salaries of teachers, &c.' School commences at nine a.m.. and lasts for children till three, and for students till four p.m.

“Students Studies.—Monday forenoon—Music. Algebra, Science; afternoon Euclid, History Method. Tuesday forenoon—Geography. Arithmetic, Grammar; afternoon—Algebra, Method. Euclid. Wednesday forenoon—Reading, History, Method ; afternoon—Physical Geography, Arithmetic, Grammar. Thursday forenoon— Music, Algebra, Science; afternoon—Euclid, History, Arithmetic. Friday forenoon—Grammar (generally); afternoon—Geography, Examination of Students' Classes.

“Examination of Students' Classes means this; —So many of us are tolled off for teaching duties for the week. On Friday we have to bring our classes into the lecture room before the Head Master and two Professors, besides all the remainder of students not occupied on the teaching staff. Each teaching student has to examine and give a lecture to his pupils on one particular subject. When finished, his ability in teaching and general handling of his lesson is analysed ; the good points set against the bad, the maximum or minimum on either side determining the praise or censure allotted to him. The criticism in some cases is very strong, but a wonderful deal of good is done thereby, for every student does his best to post, himself well in the matter he has to expatriate on. Before leaving school, the parties lecturing call on the Head Master for his report on how his lesson was delivered, and often with no pleasant feeling awaits the verdict.

We are remarkably well treated here; the head of the department (Mr Howard) taking a great deal of trouble with us. We have three private lectures every week on school management, and general useful methods of conducting schools, interspersed with remarks of his own personal experience therein. He is a gentleman of wonderful ability, and has an extraordinary explanatory power, which he uses most liberally for our benefit-, and his kindness fully equals his talents. Owing to the classification of Schools by our inspector. Mr Hodgson, I will have to attend an examination in Blenheim instead of here.

This is a glorious Institute, a credit to any country. Splendidly conducted, and no expense spared to make it as useful and instructive to the young of the colony as almost any parent

could desire. The children are very far ahead of anything I have ever seen in public school institutions or the Old Country.

I believe I speak the feelings of the Teachers sent by your Board here, that they have all derived great benefit and instruction from their having the good fortune to be able to take advantage of the practical teaching afforded them in this school. Mr Hislop, of the Education Board, Wellington, was at our school on Friday and Saturday and told Mr Peake and myself that Mr Howard had reported very favorably of your Marlborough Teachers ; —some little satisfaction to us.

There is connected with this establishment what is called “ The Kindergarten School.” It was just brought into practical use by a German named Fichel. It is based on the principle of amusing and at the same time gradually instructing by the amusement the minds of the children. They are taught by various amusing toys, to make many figures and forms ; some of the toys being of various colors, so that their young minds are impressed with the difference of color. Beads on strings are part of the apparatus by which they are gently and gradually taught to count. It is a very pleasant sight to see the little ones under the able guidance of their head mistress march to their places, singing their little songs, most of them keeping extraordinary good time. Mr Peake and I are to take charge of a class each in that department next week. There is also a very large gymnasium, with all modern appliances, including fencing and sparring for the students, provided over by a professor of that art, kept for the purpose. All the boys and girls are well drilled.

I am very much afraid that I have overtaxed your patience with so long a description, but it would take half a day to do justice to the matter.

I see by to-day’s paper of another fire in Blenheim, for which I am sorry; being an old resident therein, everything connected with it and its prosperity interests me far more than any other part of New Zealand. With many thanks for your kind interests in the profession to which I have the honor to belong.

I remain Sir, &c., John Irwin Hart

10th May 1879 KEKERANGU. A letter was read from Mr J. J. Hart, secretary of the School Committee, stating that they wish to draw the attention of the Board to the fact that the Telegraph Department owns a piece of ground measuring two acres, and that there would be plenty of room for building a teacher’s residence on it, and suggesting that an application should be made to the Telegraph Department for it. Mr Hart desired to know whether the Committee should make the application, or whether the matter rested with the Board. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr Hart’s letter, and to inform him that the matter rested with the Board.

4th June 1879 Kekerangu A letter was read from Mr Maginnity of the Telegraph Department, Wellington, stating that the request of the Board that a portion of the Telegraph Reserve. Kekerangu, be set aside for a School House and Teacher’s Residence could not be complied with

17th June 1879 Mr M J Smith elected master of Kekerangu

11th November 1879 Marlborough Education Board Mr Matheson Smith, of Kekerangu, wrote, claiming one week’s salary that had been omitted to be paid him. The circumstance having been explained the Board directed the amount owing to be paid.

12th November 1879 KEKERANGU, Mr M. Smith. (Present 18, on roll, 18) This school which had been most carefully taught by the present master of Kaituna, Mr Hart until within

a few months of my examination, is not likely to lose ground under the teaching of his successor. All the children succeeded in passing in every subject that they tried

3rd December 1879 KEKERANGU. The Chairman of the Kekerangu School Committee wrote asking for a grant of £50 for repairing the school building. The Secretary stated that the property on which the building stood was private, and as they had never been able to obtain a grant of the land they had not undertaken the work.

It was resolved to refer the matter to Mr Symond's agent

1880

1880 Kekerangu Smith M James Master £ 120.00
28th January 1880 School Committee Messrs Chaytor, Dewdney, Hamilton, Lyford, McLauchlan, Stretch, and Watson.

9th September 1880 The Chairman of the **Kekerangu** Committee wrote, informing the Board that during the recent gale on the 20th and 21st August, the school chimney was blown down and the building partially unroofed, rendering it untenable. The Secretary was directed to write to the Committee and authorise them to do such repairs as might be necessary

4th November 1880 Revived that plans be drawn for a new school' at Kekerangu to accommodate 30 children

6th November 1880 Letter from Geo Henderson re inspector of schools included It was a subject of conversation at the Board about the difficulty of the Inspector getting to Kekerangu, having to go round by way of Wellington, and the question of trouble and expense was spoken of by other members of the Board. I observed by the way that the expense of inspecting the Marlborough Schools was just as much again per scholar as the inspection of the Nelson schools; that while Nelson costs 2s 4d per scholar Marlborough cost 4s 6d. A member present said that we should take into consideration the smallness of the schools in our district and their scattered nature. I replied "Certainly I am not complaining of the cost of ours, but only noting that our circumstances cause thee costs.

20th November 1880 Inspector's Report I have examined nineteen schools, the flooded state of the rivers having hitherto prevented me from examining the remote little school at Kekerangu. It is the wish of the Board, however, that I should publish my report without waiting for the result of the examination of that school

7th December 1880 the following tenders were received for the Kekerangu Schoolhouse:—W. Newman £150, F. Beamsley £128 10s (accepted), A. Peddie £220, O. Norgrove £ 127

1881

1881 17 Kekerangu Smith Matheson J Master £ 108.00
5th January 1881 Mr Smith, of Kekerangu wrote complaining that there had been no Inspectoral visit to the Kekerangu school

2nd February 1881 Mr Smith, of Kekerangu wrote asking for extended leave of absence from the school until the new school building is completed.

20th May 1881 Census Kekerangu 66

1882

1882 20 Kekerangu Smith Matheson J Master £ 120.00

2nd May 1882 Mr Smith, of Kekerangu, wrote, stating that the teacher's residence at Kekerangu had been destroyed, it being useless through age and asking the Board to vote the sum necessary, to add two rooms to the school building for this purpose

5th December 1882 Mr Smith, of Kekerangu, wrote forwarding the following resolutions passed at the last meeting of the Kekerangu Committee:—That the Committee having been informed by the Secretary to the Education Board that the Board would- on the lease of the school- ground, being, handed to them. free of expense, erect a teacher's residence,, and such lease having been so handed over, and accepted by the Board the said Board be respectfully requested to erect such residence, of, not less than three rooms.— That in view of the highly dangerous state of the building at present used as a teacher's residence, and the fact that it is to be pulled down during the month of January next The Education Board be requested to proceed with the erection of the said. residence, without delay. —

That the Education Board be informed that this is the most favorable time for the conveyance of ,building materials, steamers being now in -frequent communication with Kekerangu.

It was resolved that the architect be instructed to prepare plans for a teacher's residence at Kekerangu, the cost of which is not to 'exceed 100 pound and that tenders be called for and the Chairman authorised to accept

1883

1883 15 Kekerangu Smith Matheson J Master £ 120.00

3rd April 1883 Mr Smith, of Kekerangu wrote, stating that the work of erecting the teacher's residence there had not been commenced by the contractor, F. Beamsley, though since March 3rd he had rendered himself liable to a fine of £3 a week. It was decided to cancel Beamsley's contract and to offer the work to the next lowest tenderer, W. Adams, of Kaikoura, at £120, and failing his accepting, that fresh tenders be called. The Board also ordered steps to be taken for supplying two desks and two forms for the school.

18th September 1883 *A long article about salaries and Marlborough Education Board income Kekerangu paid £120 in salary but only earned £78 whereas Wairau Valley teacher was paid £63 and earned £89. The argument being some schools are being subsidized*

26th September 1883 *Another long article stating £6-18-1 per pupil was spent at Kekerangu and Wairau Valley £3-11-0*

1884

1884 14 Kekerangu Andrews Walter Master £ 45.00

1st July 1884 The chairman gave notice for the next meeting: to consider the question of making the Kekerangu an aided school. Pending this, it was decided not to advertise for a successor to Mr Smith. Mr Sinclair moved that Mr Smith's resignation be accepted, and that the Board express its satisfaction with his conduct during the many years he had served them. Seconded by Mr Parker, and carried unanimously

5th August 1884 The Chairman moved, pursuant to notice, 'that the Kekerangu be in future made an aided school. He contended that with the small attendance at that school,' and the present state of the Board's funds, the course adopted should be similar to that of the Wairau Valley.

The attendance at Kekerangu was only 13, and the Board could not afford to continue paying a salary of £1120. There was no prospect of increase in numbers, and the settlers there might fairly be called upon to pay part of the cost of the school. Mr Sinclair

suggested that the matter should stand over for a month for further enquiries. Mr Ward, in justice to other schools all over the district, seconded the Chairman's motion. The Secretary said he had been informed that the attendance would probably decrease instead of increase. The motion was carried unanimously

An aided school was paid a per head capitation fee, usually £6 per child on the average roll, the School Committee covering all other costs. A Board school covered all costs

2nd September 1884 Letter from Mr J E. Heaven, Secretary of the School Committee, stating that Mr W, Andrews, had been appointed teacher, and requesting that the capitation grant be paid as from the 1st July last. The Board agreed to the request, and approved Mr Andrew's appointment,

15th November 1884 Kekerangu Festivities. The anniversary of the province of Marlborough was celebrated at Kekerangu by a concert held in the large room of the accommodation House, kindly given for the occasion by that genial host, Mr George Dewdney. The entertainment consisted of songs and step dancing &c. Notable among the songs that were rendered during the evening were "The Old Musketeer," given with much effect by Mr W; Boyens, of Kaikoura; "Teddy O'Rourke," by Mr W. O. Walshe, in true Irish character "Studying Economy," Mr H. Dinham Wait till the Cloud rolls by," Mr K. J. Taaffe, was nicely rendered a Swedish song, Mr H. Silvius and a Danish song. Mr N. Wolfe an Irish jig and hornpipe by Messrs Chris and Taaffe, and the song, Slavery Bays," by Mr J. Preston, of Kaikoura, were also well received by the audience. Several other gentlemen contributed largely to the success of the evening

I have included this because it seems that only men performed and no lady appears to even have provided the supper

1885

1885 16 Kekerangu Andrews Walter Master £ 51.00

5th May 1885 Letters were received from the School Committee and the teacher, making certain charges of inaccuracy in the Inspector's report. On the motion of Captain Baillie, seconded by Mr Ward, Mr Andrews' letter was referred to the inspector for his remarks thereon.

6th May 1885 THE KEKERANGU TEACHER AND INSPECTOR HODGSON.

The following is then read to the Education Board yesterday, and referred to Mr Hodgson for his remarks thereon

From the School Committee to the Board

,"We beg to submit to the Education Board, the enclosed letter from our teacher (Mr Andrews) relating to the Inspector's report. The letter has been fully looked into and discussed by the Committee who judge that the teacher has strong grounds for complaint. Knowing the statements to be, wholly incorrect, we willingly and unanimously accede to the desire by forwarding it to your honourable board and requesting that the report be rectified or annulled. The Committee and parents are well satisfied with the teacher and the results of the examination

From the teacher, Mr Walter Andrews, to the School Committee

I respectfully call your attention to the Inspector's report of this school for 1884 and 1885. The report is incorrect from beginning to end, and does me gross injustice from beginning to end, as will be seen by the following analysis The inspector states For the first time during five years the scholars have acquitted themselves badly, failures hitherto unknown, This is

Again, he states, 'The present master has been at work about six months. This is likewise incorrect as the school had in my time only been open 97 days, and by my predecessor 50 days (total for the year 147 days) Lastly he states more than two months having intervened between his taking office and the departure of his predecessor. This is true, and it would be equally true

had he stated more than two days instead of more than two months, This clause is misleading, and implies more than two months but certainly less than three months. The school was closed fourteen weeks less two days on that occasion. The Inspector had every facility of learning to a day how long I had been at work, and how long the gap was between teachers, during which the school was closed, because he asked for and examined and enclosed the school's daily register. The inaccuracy of the report and the suppression of the truth touching on the subjects in the report do me great injustice and injury; Had the palliating circumstances been truthfully and fully set forth, the result (63 percent.) of the examination is favorable; but as it now stands, it is most damaging to me. Let the Committee compare the following "truthful report of facts" with the Inspector's report, and mark the difference "This school, as might be expected, has not obtained the passes of previous examinations the school having only been open 117 days during the year (97 days of the present master, and 50 days by his predecessor). The change of masters necessitating the closing of the school for nearly 14 days. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, 63 per cent of those present passed. Some of the very favorable reports of previous years may be attributed to the fact that 25 months and 18 months intervened between two examinations Did passes on the first examination being 86 per cent, and on the other 92 per cent, showing the failures to be only 14 and 8 per cent, Your Committee are aware that a very large proportion (31 per cent) of the sixteen pupils was infants aged from 5 1/2 to 6 3/4 years, which accounts for the apparently small number presented for examination (but this is quite foreign to the matter of complaint). The report lengthens my time at work, lessens the interval between the two teachers, and states in the most emphatic and unqualified manner failures being hitherto unknown.' The Report is, throughout, a masterpiece of inaccuracy and prevarication and must mislead any person who does not know the real facts. I therefore request your Committee having the matter placed before the Education Board, requiring that the Report be rectified or annulled."

13th June 1885 RATHER MYSTERIOUS

[To the Editor of the Express,]

Sir,— I notice in your issue of May 6th letters from the Committee and teachers of the Kekerangu school showing that the inspector's report on that school is wholly incorrect and unreliable. Understanding that the letters were referred to the inspector for his remarks thereon, I certainly looked forward to the Board meeting of June 2nd for some explanation, but I fail to see anything in your report of the Board meeting of that date touching on the matter, Can it be that the inspector had not thought fit to make any remarks, and if not why does the Board not sit in the matter— I am &c., Edward Rogers.

[Nothing whatever was said at the June meeting as to the complaint lodged by the Kekerangu Committee against the Inspector. We cannot say why not,— Ed. M. Express]

1886

1886 15 Kekerangu Andrews Walter Master £ 45.00

4th February 1886 Mr M. J. Smith, formerly schoolmaster at Kekerangu, and recently book keeper at the Criterion Hotel, met with a serious accident at 9 Maxwell Road last night. He

was driving one of Messrs Clark and Pickering's buggies towards town, and was observed by the passers-by to be incapable of managing the horse, and to be swaying from one side of the road to the other. The horse went round Dr Nairn's corner, and, through the sudden lurch, Smith was pitched on to the roadway, sustaining cuts and bruises about thon face, ear, and parts of the body.....

20th April 1886 Relics op the Past. Hanging upon the wall of the Kekerangu Schoolhouse is a pair of Dunce's Caps, made of brown paper and fantastically decorated with long feathers. One seemed to be rather more tastefully designed than the other, the prettier one being of course intended for the girls and the plainer one for the boys. The teacher, Mr Andrews, evidently believes in the old methods of punishment, and we can imagine that his school, with a couple of dunces stuck in different corners, would vividly resemble the scene m Wilkie's well known picture of the rural school and its Dominie It is to be hoped Mr Andrews finds that dunces' caps aye more telling punishments than corporal inflictions, though, from our knowledge of the average colonial boy and girl, we should say that their sense of the ridiculous would be heightened instead of humiliated, and that they would enjoy the joke. Dunces' caps, even with the feathers thrown in, are decidedly survivals of the unfittest

1887

1887 12 Kekerangu Andrews Walter Master £ 30.00

16th February 1887 Many persons will regret to hear of the death in the Hospital of Mr M. J. Smith, formerly teacher of the Kekerangu School. It will be remembered that he resigned that appointment in order to take a position at the Geelong Grammar School. Mr Smith was a man of considerable attainments

18th July 1887 Mr Andrews is listed as one of the not classified as a teacher

1888

1888 10 Kekerangu Rogers Anna Female £ 28.00

24th April 1884 **KEKERANGU**. The following were elected yesterday:— Messrs McLauchlan, Rogers, Coward, Silvius, Rankin, Dupley, and Lyford.

2nd May 1888 *Marlborough Education Board discussing Inspector's report* included With regard to some of the other schools, Kekerangu had been dismissed with a few lines, and it was very clear that it was a school on which the Inspector did not care to waste many words. They would not be doing justice to those small outlying districts if they allowed anybody to be put mas teacher. He moved that Miss Morgan and the teacher of the Kekerangu school be asked to furnish an explanation as to why their schools had received such bad reports. Mr Lambert had much pleasure m seconding the motion, stating that Mr Conolly had only followed out the line he had endeavoured to indicate. He wished to make the schools in Marlborough as efficient as possible. That was his only wish. The motion having been put and carried, Mr Henderson said We hardly know what that involves. The. Chairman: I have no doubt we shall have lots of correspondence. Mr Henderson Perhaps that induced Mr Hodgson to say so few words m reference to Kekerangu.

7th August 1888 Mr Rankin, of Kekerangu, wrote half protesting against the frequent use of the schoolroom for Divine Service and choir practice. He also notified the resignation of Mr Dunphy from the Committee, and the succession of Mr W. Raynor

20th August 1888 Mr John A. Rankin of Kekerangu, writes us, protesting against the statement (m our Education Board report) that he half protested against the use of the

schoolroom for Divine service and choir practice. It appears that Mr John A. Rankin merely wrote on behalf of the Committee, asking whether that body might have the sanction of the Board for letting the school as indicated, and our report was misleading. It occurred through an accidental misunderstanding, which we regret

4th September 1888 Mr G. S. Rogers wrote stating that the Chairman of the Kekerangu School Committee had refused to call a meeting when asked, and enquiring whether (1) the Chairman could confirm minutes on a slip of paper (2) whether the committee might dismiss the teacher, at a month. The Secretary was ordered to forward a copy of the Act and to state that the Committee could not do as suggested in the case of the teacher

2nd October 1888 . Mr Andrews, teacher (aided), Kekerangu, notified his intention to resign in a month. The Chairman wrote also, notifying the Committee's acceptance of the resignation.

LOCAL SQUABBLE. Some correspondence was read from Kekerangu. It will be remembered that some members recently complained of the Chairman's refusal to hold a meeting of Committee when desired so to do. The Chairman (Mr Rankin) now wrote a voluminous letter giving a circumstantial account of the squabble, winding up with the following, "You will see that their (viz the obstreperous committee men) important business only resulted in a display of their ignorance and a getting of themselves held up to ridicule by the public press. It is strange what ignorance dressed with a little brief authority will do for the sake of notoriety. I am, &c, J. A. Rankin, C.S.C.

Having read this and other letters, the Chairman enquired, "And now what is it all about?" (Laughter). Major Baillie thought it was absurd to take up the Board's time about a storm in a tea-cup. The matter then dropped

6th November 1888 The Kekerangu Committee wrote notifying the temporary appointment of Miss Rogers to their aided school. The Board sanctioned it pending the Inspector's re- PP Mr Conolly protested strongly as a rule against the appointment of unknown persons without credentials. He did not oppose the present request, but he would like the principle kept in view

27th December 1888 On Monday at the Accommodation House, Kekerangu a very pleasing ceremony took place. Mr McLauchlan the manager of the Kekerangu station is severing his connection with that property after many years of office," and as his reputation stands remarkably high among the employees, the men determined not to allow him to leave without some token of their goodwill and regard. Accordingly they put themselves in communication with Messrs Dalgety and Co.. the station agents, who took charge of their proffered subscriptions and obtained for them a splendid tea and coffee- service of silver suitably inscribed. The presentation of this was the business of the occasion on Monday. All the hands were present and Mr Matthew Beattie, the head shepherd" made the presentation, accompanying it with a telling speech in which he eulogised the integrity, ability and kindness of the recipient. Mr McLauchlan replied in a most feeling manner and the proceedings terminated

1889

1889 14 Kekerangu Sumner Mary T Female £ 52.10
Mary Teresa Sumner

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

3rd April 1889 KEKERANGU. A letter was read from Kekerangu, asking for an addition of two rooms and a Chimney. The Board decided, as the property was not vested in them, to communicate with the Committee and acquaint that body with the nature of the tenure, which precluded them from doing anything.

12th April 1889 The Inspector (Mr H. E. Collett) reported as follows I have the honor to report that 200 of this season's ferrets were turned out under my supervision at Kekerangu on March 14

5th June 1889 It was decided to ask Mr Simons (Kekerangu) to give a perpetual lease of certain school ground, to enable the Board to put up suitable accommodation for the married teacher

2nd July 1889 From Mr A. T. G. Symons, Kekerangu, expressing his willingness to grant a lease of land for school purposes at a peppercorn rental. Accepted.

6th August 1889 From the Kekerangu Committee asking for an addition of two rooms to the house. Referred back for suggestion and details

2nd October 1889 It was resolved to ask the Committee to make suggestions as to alterations at Kekerangu

5th November 1889 From the Kekerangu Committee, asking for two additional rooms and a kitchen chimney. The Board resolved to allow the committee to call for tenders for the work as per plan to be drawn up by the Board's architect.

3rd December 1889 TENDERS. The following tenders for additions at Kekerangu were received: R. Dixon, £125 H. Honor, £143 E. C. Turner, £144 12s J- Fawcett, £132; Peddie and Wilson, £133. The tender of B. Dixon was accepted

1890

1890	15	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	52.10
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1891

1891	13	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary S	Female	£	45.10
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7th April 1891 Kekerangu allocated £9 for repairs by Marlborough Education Board

7th July 1891 The Manager of the Kekerangu station wrote pointing out that the addition to the school stood on land which had not been transferred. The matter was referred to the Secretary, who is to confer with Mr Rogers on the matter.-

19th August 1891 Mr Inspector Smith last week paid a visit to Kekerangu, and Starborough schools, and was much pleased with the work that is being done there. He hopes shortly to get to the Sounds, and then he will pretty well have completed the rounds of his first visit: Wairau Valley being almost the only spot he will not then have been at

1892

1892	10	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	32.00
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23rd January 1892 The Kaikoura Star has the following Much indignation is expressed at Kekerangu with respect to school matters there. The school was last examined in February 1890, and since February 1891 the examination has been postponed no less than seven different times, and at present the examination stands postponed until after the holidays—very likely next winter's holidays! The Inspector appointed New Year's Day for the examination, and when the Kekerangu people very rightly objected to that, he appointed the following day, an almost equally objectionable day. Since then the inspection has been

deferred,, as stated. The whole thing is most unjust, to children and parents, as is self-evident. The last election of the Committee caused a lot of unpleasantness, and when the Secretary to the Board enquired into the matter, at Kekerangu, he admitted that the election was not legal, but nothing has been done to remedy the illegality of the proceedings

1893

1893	13	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	52.60
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1894

1894	12	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	51.00
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1895

1895	11	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	48.00
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10th September 1895 The Inspector was granted leave of absence from next meeting, for the purpose of visiting Kekerangu.

1896

1896	12	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	51.00
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1897

1897	13	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	54.00
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13th October 1897 KEKERANGU. The correspondent wrote saying that Mr Symons would be willing to grant a formal lease of the school site at Kekerangu. It was resolved to write to Mr Symons on the subject

11th November 1897 KEKERANGU. A letter was received from Mr Symons, saying that with respect to the school site, he was having a lease prepared in favor of the Board.

1898

1898	13	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	54.00
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16th February 1898 The aided schools have done as a whole remarkably well, particularly Brightlands, Grove, Kekerangu, Port Underwood, Taradale, Te Weka and Tira Ora. At only one of the aided schools were the results entirely bad, and this has now changed hands.

1899

1899	13	Kekerangu	Sumner	Mary F	Female	£	52.00
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1900

1900	6	Kekerangu	Trolove	I M	Female	£	29.00
1908/2657		Isabella May	Trolove	Herbert Cochar	Henderson		

1901

1901 9 Kekerangu Trolove IM Female £ 37.00

15th April 1901 Mr McCallum reported that Mr Parker and himself visited Seddon, and met about fifteen householders to discuss the question of forming a central school committee there for the Awatere district. Objections were raised by those who thought that Seddon might appropriate for its own benefit money that should be expended on other parts of the district; but eventually it was unanimously decided to form a central committee and give it a trial for one year. It was resolved that the notice for the holding of a householders' meeting at Kekerangu on the 22nd be cancelled, and the Secretary give notice that a -general meeting would be held at Seddon on May the 6th.

17th April 1901 The Kekerangu Committee was granted £2 For repairs and firewood

1902

1902 6 Kekerangu Trolove Mabel Female £ 56.00

13th January 1902 It was resolved to ask Mr Rutherford, Kekerangu, to accept the position of correspondent there, the gentleman who had acted in the past having resigned.

18th February 1902 Kekerangu. The shepherds of Kekerangu held their annual dance in the schoolroom on February 1st. Dancing commenced at 8 p.m., and was kept up until 4 a.m. About half-past eleven the dancers adjourned for supper, which was laid out in the long room at the boarding-house. Songs were given during the evening, and altogether a very enjoyable time was spent by all present.

26th November 1902 The late Mr Walter Andrews, whose funeral took place at Picton on Saturday, was well known in Marl borough. He arrived is Blenheim twenty-two years ago as second teacher in the Blenheim Borough School, and he was afterwards in charge of the Grovetown and Kekerangu schools, another in the Pelorus Sound, and still lately in Port Underwood. As a teacher Mr Andrews was first class, especially in arithmetic. He had had an eventful life. He went to America when a young man, bought land there, joined a cavalry regiment, went through the great civil war, getting wounded near its close. He subsequently returned to his native Ayrshire, Scotland. As an Ayrshire man, he was a great admirer of Robert Burns. When he came to New Zealand his father was a banker in Girvan South, Ayrshire, and also factor for several estates in that locality. His youngest brother, David, is manager of the Union Bank of Scotland in Girvan. Mr Andrews had failings like the rest of us, but had generous, noble feelings, and was a man never afraid to speak the truth. He died in the Picton Hospital on Friday, at the age of 68, and was buried as above. Many would have liked to attend his funeral (says the Press) had they only known. The Rev. R. J. Allsworth conducted the service.

1903

1903 9 Kekerangu Rutherford Isabel Female £ 64.00

3rd March 1903 Sib, —Some months ago I wrote you 'on the subject of the Children's Section of the Cook Memorial Fund, asking you for your kindly co-operation in our object. In respond« you posted me a paper with a. generously worded leading article on the subject, showing that at least you had done your best Now, may I remark that only one school in the whole of the Marlborough province has returned an answer. The name' of that school is Kekerangu, and the contribution was 7d. I believe there were only four pupils attending the school, so you may see I am not referring to the amount on account of its smallness, though it

is not unlike the widow's mite. They gave more than their mite, while the rest of Marlborough looked on in silence.....

Money was for the memorial at Ship's Cove

12th October 1903. The correspondent at Kekerangu asked if the aided school there was entitled to incidental expenses.—It was resolved to reply that expenses would be forwarded under grade 1, providing for 10s per head per annum. *There was 20 shillings in a pound*

19th October 1903 Mr E. G. Gooch. writes to the Kaikoura Star as follows in correction of mistakes appearing in the articles, published recently, dealing with Maori nomenclature Mr J. D. Tetley did not nominate the station Kekerangu in 1851, for he did not come out until 1857; He rented the place in 1858 from the late Mr Fred. W. Trolove, who originally took it up in connection with Dr. Shaw, who was also out here. Wai Keene was named by Mr Geo. Ruck Keene, and is the boundary between Greenhills (then Keene's) and Kahutara, Mr Geo. Fyffe's. Archdeacon Grace is wrong on both counts. Mr Tetley altered the name to Kekerangu after his return from England in 1864 or 1865.

1904-1908

1904 10 Kekerangu Nielsen Emma M K Female £ 56.00

8th August 1904 The appointment of Miss Neilson as teacher at the Kekerangu school was approved

28th February 1905 Kekerangu school had 92% attendance in 1904

13th June 1905 The appointment of Miss McAlister as teacher at Kekerangu, vice Miss Neilson, resigned, was approved

15th August 1905 The Postmaster at Kekerangu declined the position of correspondent.— The Secretary was instructed to write again with a view to an appointment

The average attendance is twelve.

[Miss Emma Marie Kirstine Nielsen](#) , Sole Teacher of the Three Channel Flat Public School, was born at Palmerston North. She was educated at Cullensville, where she was for some time a pupil teacher. For about two years Miss Nielsen was at the Stephen's Island school, and was afterwards for one year and three months at Port Underwood. She then took charge of the Kekerangu school for one year before she received her present appointment in July, 1905. In company with her father, Miss Nielsen visited Denmark a year or two ago.
Cyclopeida of New Zealand 1905

School listed as closed at December 1905

1906 Listed as closed,

1907 listed as closed. In each of these years an effort had at some time to reopen the school for a short time

15th January 1907 Kekerangu. —Mr O'Leary asked whether the school was to be closed. There would be 10 children for the school after the holidays.—It was decided that enquiries be made, and if satisfactory, the request be granted

Not mentioned in 1908 A to J report to parliament

1909

1909 9 Kekerangu Hutchinson Sara Female £ £10.00

11th May 1909 Miss Sarah Hutchinson wrote asking whether she was still the chosen teacher for the Kaituna School, or if there had been another teacher appointed. If she was still the teacher, she asked that the correspondent (Mr Ingram) be advised, and also that she be notified, so that the school could be opened as soon as possible, as she' was becoming tired of the way the Board had dealt with her in connection with her recent applications. She had no desire to write to headquarters if that could be avoided, but would do so if she was to be kept down by the Board. She claimed that her teaching qualifications were equally as good as those teachers who had been selected by the Board in preference to herself.

A further letter was received from Miss Hutchinson, dated April 28th, in which she stated that, with Mr J Strachan's approval, she would accept the position of teacher at Kekerangu School, and would commence her duties the following week. Mr P. McLaughlin, postmaster at Kekerangu, write informing the Board that Miss Hutchinson had arrived from Havelock, and wished to start teaching school there on Monday, May 10th. He presumed the young lady had previously written to the Board on the subject. The Chairman suggested that Mr McLaughlin be advised to take Miss Hutchinson for a month on trial.

1904	3	Wakaretu Bay	Hutchinson	Sarah
1905	3	Wakaretu Bay	Hutchinson	Sarah
1906	4	Bulwer	Hutchinson	Sarah
1909	9	Kekerangu	Hutchinson	Sara
1910	10	Kekerangu	Hutchinson	Sara
1911	12	Kekerangu	Hutchinson	Sara
1914	10	Kekerangu	Hutchinson	Sarah J

15th June 1909 The Commissioner at Kekerangu wrote informing the Board that the present school belonged to Mr Rutherford, and suggested that application be made for the old post office there to be used as a school. The Chairman pointed out that the Board in the past had spent money on the present school; and now it transpired that a private individual owned it. Mr Parker said, as an old member of the Board, he could explain that the money was spent on the understanding that the Board should have the use of the site and school for all time, rent free, but the then owners had sold out, and the Board was in a peculiar position. The matter was referred to Mr Smith, Inspector Strachan and Mr Hylton to report to the next meeting of the Board.

18th June 1909 The Marlborough Education Board has been advised by the Public Works Department that the Minister is prepared to lease one of the rooms in the old post office at Kekerangu to the Board for school purposes at a nominal rental. A formal lease, embodying the usual terms and conditions, is to be drawn up and forwarded, for the Board's signature.

14th September 1909 A LEASE. The Public Works Department forwarded a formal lease of the old post office building at Kekerangu for the purpose of a schoolroom. It was resolved that the Board's seal be affixed to the lease

12th October 1909 RESIDENTIAL ROOMS. Miss Hutchinson applied to have the use of the front room adjoining the Kekerangu school room to live in. It was pointed out by members that the teacher had to walk at present about five miles. The application was granted. The Board then rose.

1910

1910	10	Kekerangu	Hutchinson	Sara	Female	£	90.00	£10.00
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6th October 1910 The Kaikoura Star says:—A paragraph from a recent MARLBOROUGH Express, which we reprinted, stated that "Kekerangu," the name of Mr E. S. Rutherford's station, meant "green beetle." A very well-informed native resident says that this is quite wrong. "Kekerangu" was called after a North Island Maori (from the Wairarapa) so-named, who one night was found asleep in the vicinity and barbarously killed by a South Island tribe. "Kekerangu" is really symbolical of "The Man from Ngatikahukunu."

21st December 1910 A' correspondent at Kekerangu writes as follows:—The residents in and around Kekerangu were treated to an unusual, event ,last Saturday night in the shape of a children's concert, given by the school children under the able tuition of Miss Hutchison, their teacher. Judging by the frequent applause, the concert must have proved gratifying both to the teacher and to the parents; and considering the short time in which-the children have been preparing for the event they are to be congratulated, and also the teacher. The audience was very numerous, and as the concert was prepared and given for the special purpose of purchasing prizes for the pupils of the school, it returned a very fair amount. Amongst the audience were settlers and residents, some of the former coming even from Seddon and as far south as Kaikoura. The hall, which was kindly lent by Mr. Rutherford, was well filled. Extra items were contributed by several outsiders, whose efforts were very welcome. Mr A. Cummings ably filled- the position of chairman, and performed his duties in a masterly manner and at the conclusion thanked those present for their assistance in placing such a good sum in the hands of the treasurer for the benefit of the children. The first part of the programme opened with a song, "The Tarpaulin Jacket.' by the school children, and was followed by the dialogue "Seven Days of the Week." In this the performers all did very well. "The Clucking Hen" (Fyffe Clemett and, Kitty McLaughlin) was very well performed for so young a pair, and the crowing of the rooster fairly "brought down the house." "Froggy at School" was nicely given by Maria Cummings. "When the harvest moon is shining," by E. and M. Clemett and A. Cummings, was given in excellent tune and time. "Disappointments" and "How do you like your Neighbour?" were games in which the children enjoyed the fun as well as the onlookers. A recitation was given by E. Clemett and A. Cummings. The song, "The poor old man," by M. Clemett was really well rendered, and the old-man part was filled, by an employee, and caused great amusement. W. Flower and Enid Clemett gave a recitation, and did it well for such tiny folks. The dialogue, "Arbor Day," was interesting. The recitation by M. Clemett deserves special praise, and the performer must be considered as one of the "stars" of the evening. The song "John Peel," by the children, was very well given.

The extra contributions were supplied by Mrs Bennett, who sang very pleasantly, Mr McKennon gave a recitation in first-class style; Mr Flower's' rendition of "The Phantom of the Forest" showed that he-was no new chum at reciting, Mr Thompson, as the tramp singing and acting, was above the ordinary; Mr George Thomas recited "The Fireman's Wedding" in quite an heroic manner, and was asked for an encore, -.but was excused, as he was fatigued. The music was supplied by Mr McKennon, and gave .every satisfaction, It was very amusing and touching, after' one of; the little dots had finished reciting, to see the welcome given her by her aged great-grandmother The concert concluded by the singing of "God Save the King."

1911

1911	12	Kekerangu	Hutchinson	Sara	Female	£	90.00	£10.00
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14th March 1911 KEKERANGU. Mr P. McLaughlin chairman of the Kekerangu School Committee wrote asking the Board to supply them with desks and other requisites. The Chairman moved, and Mr Storey seconded, that the matter of desks' be referred to the Inspector with power to act, and that the other requisites asked for be granted

10th October 1911 The Kekerangu School Committee wrote asking the Board to approve of the appointment of Miss A. Ogg as teacher at their school.—Agreed to

14th November 1911 THE KEKERANGU APPOINTMENT. Miss Annie Ogg who was at the last meeting of the Board appointed sole teacher at Kekerangu, wrote notifying that she had received another appointment under the Wellington Board (*Whakapuni in the Wairarapa out of Martinborough*), and therefore declined the appointment. Miss Godfrey was appointed to the Position

1912

1912	11	Kekerangu	Twemlow	Alice	Female	£	90.00	£10.00
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23rd April 1912, Inspectors report only mention of Kekerangu School was in enunciation

11th June 1912 Two applications for the teachership at Kekerangu were ordered to be forwarded to the Committee

1862/15985	Twemlow	Alice D'Oyly	Emily Rossetta	Frederick Ford
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1913

1913	9	Kekerangu	Hutchinson	Sara	Female	£	90.00	£10.00
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15th April 1913 The secretary was instructed to write to the chairman of the Kekerangu School Committee regarding a number of matters mentioned in a letter from the teacher

17th April 1913 Among the requirements of the near future are a site at Kekerangu and improved residences at Flat Creek, Marlboroughtown, Marama, and Okaramio. Inspector's Report

10th June 1913 Kekerangu, Miss S. Hutchinson appointed

1914

1914	10	Kekerangu	Hutchison	Sarah J	Female	£	90.00	£10.00
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9th June 1914 KEKERANGU. Correspondence was received from the teacher and Mr J. Johnston, of the Health' Department, with regard, to the insanitary condition of the school building at Kekerangu. The structure was over 40 years old, and was abandoned by the Post and Telegraph Department as out of date. Mr Johnston visited the school at the instance of the Inspector, Mr D. Sturrock. It was resolved to apply, to the. Education Department for a grant for a new school and to request it to endeavour to secure a more suitable site from the Post and Telegraph Department

11th August 1914 The resignations of Miss S. Hutchinson, at Kekerangu, and Mr G. Dry, at Te Awaite, were received and steps were taken for the filling of the vacancies. The Inspector was instructed to make inquiries with a view to secure, by way of gift, two acres at Kekerangu for the school site.

1915

1915	11	Kekerangu	Logan	John	Male	£	110.00
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12th January 1915 Kekerangu, Mr Percy Rhodes appointed
 9th February 1915 A letter was received from Mr V. H. Rhodes stating that ill-health compelled him to resign his appointment to the Kekerangu school.
 9th March 1915 Mr J C Logan appointed (Temporary)
 11th May 1915 It was resolved to have meeting of the householders in Kekerangu called for the election of a school committee.
 15th June 15th June 1915 Kekerangu: The Department wrote stating that it was not advisable to give grants for schools at out of the way places where the attendances were small and where there were no probabilities of their increasing.—It was decided that the application for a school at Kekerangu be renewed, and that steps be taken towards securing a suitable area. *There was always conflict between Education Boards and the Department The Boards having to go cap in hands for every request for buildings*
 28th August 1915 The Kekerangu children gave 4 shillings for relief funds

1916-1917

1917	12	Kekerangu	Paine	Ivy	Sole	£110.00
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From 1917 Teaches were only listed every 2nd year

11th April 1916 J C Logan resigned from Education Board

3rd August 1916 School children's appeal Woodbank and Kekerangu £2.16. *Woodbank School had opened in 1914 with Dorothy Trolove in charge. In 1921 it was called Woodbank Kekerangu School. Woodbank was at the mouth of the Clarence River*

1918-1919

1919 Woodbank was open with 22 children and Kekerangu was closed

10th October 1918 The Marlborough East Coast Ladies' Committee recently hold a most successful fair at Kekerangu in aid of their general funds. The Kekerangu school children had been working for some time, and a small stall well stocked with fancy articles, including a good collection of rafia work, was the result of their labors

29th January Miss I Paine Sole Teacher Kekerangu resigns

It appears that the school closed. Wellington Education Board took over Marlborough Education Board schools in 1916

1920-1921

1921	6	Kekerangu	Northe	Muriel	Sole	£190.00
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No Mention on Papers Past. Papers past has not copied any Marlborough paper after 1920

1922-1923

1923	11	Kekerangu	Moore	William S	Sole	£170.00
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Post 1923

10th December 1924 It was stated that the Department, had approved a grant for a Site of a school at Kekerangu

21st January 1925 Fairly large grants have been made by the Education Department for additions or remodelling at the Hataitai, Paekakariki, and Springlands Schools, and for a small new school at Kekerangu.

23rd August 1926 Wellington Education Board reported a new school had been erected at Kekerangu

12th March 1927 Mr. K. R. Larabie, sole teacher, Kekerangu appointed

11th April 1928 Mr K C McIntyre appointed Sole Teacher

27th May 1930 Miss H C Wilson Sole Teacher appointed

11th June 1936 Mr D F Hall appointed

2nd May 1939 Miss M J Ward Appointed

National Archives

20th June 1921 Wellington Education Board notifies Secretary of Ed that Kekerangu School has been reopened

20th June 1921 Letter to Mr Gifford Kekerangu that the school would be open as soon as a suitable teacher becomes available.

Have you got all the furniture and requisites you need.

Please ask the local applicant for the teachership to send full particulars of her qualifications

Application for new school included the following information

All children go to Clarence Bridge school 14 Miles away

All were farmers or farm labourers except for E Raines who was a Roadman and lived 3 miles away

The application form included

Number of Families 12

Number of children 30

Number of children going to another school 2 Lillian Gifford Redwoodtown and Thomas Gordon Fielding School

Nearest Schools Clarence Bridge 14 Miles. Ward 18 Miles. Blind River 30 Miles

No railway

Building available 16 foot x 20 foot. Owned by A Todd year to year lease 1/- per year

No timber is available locally

Other building material available from Blenheim 50 miles away goods would be transported by rail and wagons 5/- per 100 feet

School reserve site clear and level with thirty five yard frontage. 35 x 43 yards

Can procure teacher locally residing at home Female

Nearest Post Office Kekerangu

Signed W R Gifford

T F Warren inspector recommends school reopens

24th June 1921. Department approves that school reopens

Telegram to Gifford from Education Board Stating cannot approve local nominee, can send experienced male teacher if suitable accommodation available

As written Telegram from Gifford Kekerangu recommends Marston The Ned. Warren (Inspector)

14th July 1921 Suitable accommodation Available. Gifford

22nd July Letter from Wellington Education Board to Inspector Warren included

- a) Recommend F G Carson formerly of Bideford School (*North of Masterton*) and has 10 ½ years' experience
- b) With reference to the suggestion that Mr Marston might be considered for this position, I have to say that correspondence received in this office from this teacher seems to indicate that he has not yet reached a standard of education which would justify the Board in appointing him to such a position

1st August 1921 from Secretary Wellington Education Board to Mr Gifford

Introducing Miss E Clougher

23rd August 1921

- a) The board has arranged for the bearer Miss Clougher to reopen and take temporary charge until the permanent teacher Mr Carson can take up duty on or about 1st September 1921
- b) I hope there is suitable accommodation

20th August 1921 Wellington Education Board Telegram to Miss Clougher. Wire average attendance if less than nine inform Committee Mr Carson's appointment must be cancelled

23rd August 1921 Letter from Mr Stewart Secretary Wellington Education Board to Mr Gifford included

- a) Average attendance has only been 7 when you guaranteed an attendance of nine
- b) The whole arrangement will have to be cancelled and Mr Carson be appointed to another school
- c) Enclosed are the Bylaws See Page 11
- d) It will be necessary for the parents to provide free board and lodgings as from the date Miss Clougher commenced. Viz. 1st August
- e) Miss Clougher has been directed to remain at Kekerangū until she received further instructions

1st September Reply from Mr Gifford

- a) We are extremely sorry some of the children are not sending their children
- b) We hope after Xmas there will be at least nine
- c) We thank you for leaving Miss Clougher here
- d) She will board with Miss North who is a local girl living close to the school and in our opinion is quite capable to take the children as there is no pupil in the First Standard
- e) We hope you appoint Miss North

Reply Miss Clougher is better qualified. The staffing for next year will depend on attendance this year (Paraphrased)

16th September 1921 Letter from Miss Clougher included

- a) One child has left attendance now 6
- b) Only two families sending children and the teacher's salary has to be made up to £120 which we do not altogether agree
- c) One man has already taken away his child as he does not wish to pay anything
- d) They didn't expect a female teacher
- e) A male teacher could perhaps "Put Up" with things down here better than could a woman

- f) There is really no accommodation for a woman. At present I am a guest of Mrs North (She refuses any board money from the settlers)
- g) When Mr Warren was here he interviewed Miss Muriel North and he stated if she was willing- and she was _ to undergo a fortnight observation in Blenheim she might be chosen to teach here
- h) Miss North has heard nothing more

Letter from Mr Stewart to Inspector Warren asking what can be done at Keckerangu as the parents do not seem to agree amongst themselves

16th September Mr Gifford wrote

- a) There were complaints at the School Committee meeting that Miss Clougher was too hard on the children
- b) That she left strap marks on one girl's legs
- c) Thrashed one of mine until she wet herself
- d) And the ruler us used over the head a little too
- e) The Committee moved that a male teacher would be more suitable
- f) That an aided male teacher be sent asap
- g) There has been one child taken from the school on account of the teacher
- h) We are taking the teacher month about to try and get the average up

20th September Telegram from Gifford Closing school till another is sent teacher leaving on account of board letter later

3rd October Letter from Mr Warren I have arranged for Miss Muriel North to commence a fortnight's training at the Borough School tomorrow. If found suitable I shall recommend her appointment to the Keckerangu School

10th October 1921 Mr Warren saw Miss North at work and recommend her appointment to Keckerangu School

23rd April 1923 Miss north resigns as teacher on account of her being without suitable accommodation

30th April

- a) The Committee are not willing to pay Board as there are 14 children on the roll
- b) The present teacher will continue until things are settled
- c) There is board for her for another term
- d) Then we can get a male teacher
- e) The School Committee wish the truant officer to be more strict
- f) Children stay away as it pleases them and the parents take no notice

23rd May Another letter from Mr Gifford included

- a) The teacher cannot be provided with board with the people she is boarding with as to some private business concerning the teacher and the people she was boarding with
- b) The Committee have Board for a mail (sic) teacher to take her place

10th September Letter form Mr Gifford

- a) There are about 18 children awaiting for the school to reopen

b) The school have had no word for some time

12th September Telegram from Education Board understand Mrs Savage experienced teacher staying Wiffens. Board suggest you endeavour arrange for her to reopen school

13th September Mrs Savage left Wiffens no address accommodation found for male teacher only Telegram

6th October 1923. Mr Warren writes. I have a suitable candidate in Mr W S Moore who has four years high school education and holds a Senior Free Place Certificate
I think he would be suitable person to send to Kekerangu
It will be three weeks at least until he can take up an appointment

20th October Telegram to Mr Warren Are you prepared to appoint Mr Moore temporarily to Kekerangu Reply Recommend More Kekerangu

14th November Mrs W R Gifford asking if the school was going to be closed over Christmas as school had been closed so long
Reply suggest holidays be reduced by two or three weeks

29th November 1923 Mr G F Gordon a long letter complaining about having to pay board for the teacher The Wharanui has less children and the teacher is paid by the board
A long letter (rant) Another thing is there is no plank over the Kekerangu river and they have to take off their boots every morning and if it rains they cannot get to school and still we are to pay teacher's Board

29th November 1923 At School Committee meeting It was decided to close the school from the 3rd December to 14th January. The teacher is going up for an examination for a fortnight from the 3rd December

18th March 1924. Telegram from Mr Warren. Is teacher appointed to Kekerangu? 23 pupils here.
Reply No certificated applicants

16th April 1924 Mr D O'Brien Chairman Kekerangu School Miss E J N Willis appointed as temporary teacher. Accommodation should be provided at reasonable cost

24th April We need a more experienced teacher at Kekerangu and have notified Mr Moore of this

30th April 1924 No accommodation for female as we all have large families G Satherley Secretary School Committee

2nd May Mr Moore still at Kekerangu

31st May 1924 Telegram Mr Burton new permanent teacher. Take charge from Monday second June Education Board

6th June Telegram to Education Board from O'Brien. Moore Available wiring him Blenheim commencing Monday

10th June Moore not available until next Monday have you another teacher please reply today Satherley

12th June Moore returns till end of June. Hope appoint Mr Yates beginning July

10th June 1924 Letter from Mrs E Smith Kekerangu to Mr McCallum Wellington Education Board member Blenheim Long letter complaining about no teacher "This school seems to be a joke to Education Board"

17th June 1924 Reply explaining reasons for no teacher and suggesting that Mr H A Donaldson of Grassmere may start on 1st July

22nd April 1925 Lester to Mr O'Brien we are going to replace Mr Donaldson with a certificated teacher and Mr Donaldson has formal notice of termination as from 31st May

22nd April 1925 Miss M Fahey appointed D certificate 8 years teaching at present Relieving

27th April Letter from Mr D O'Brien We cannot accommodate a lady as all the parents of children are wages men and the families are confined to small houses

20th May 1925 Appointment of Mr N Bragg D certificate 5 years' service. Relieving

25th May 1925 Committee pleased to accept Male Teacher. O'Brien

28th May Mr Gifford Chairman wanted another copy of appointment letter of Mr Bragg

Telegram Mr O'Brien chairman of Keckerangu not Mr Gifford. Telegram

31st August Letter from Mr Gifford Complaining that he was Chairman of School Committee and who had notified them he was not?

4th September Reply as we had a letter signed by D O'Brien Chairman we presumed there had been a change

12th October 1926 A long letter from Mr Bragg included

- a) Re low attendance Influenza and whooping cough wer responsible for 374 half day absences
- b) The Keckerangu river has no bridge over it children are often compelled to wade across All the children have either to cross the river or several small creeks which rise rapidly with little rain
- c) Naturally parents are diffident about allowing their children to wade through icy cold water when they have cold etc.
- d) Three children have not attended at all during winter as they live four miles from school and have to leave home at 7.30 and arrive home at
- e) Three other children are living in tents under poor conditions
- f) Another boy has a ride of 5 ½ miles down the river bed before he reaches school
- g) Under the circumstances it is difficult to keep the attendance up during winter. During fine weather I have no trouble keeping the attendance up

14th February 1927 Letter from J L Scott Chairman Keckerangu School Committee

- a) With reference of transfer of Mr Bragg
- b) As Mr Bragg has been teaching here for the last 20 months and he has made great progress with the children
- c) Also in the education of backward children We wish him left at this school
- d) Gladys M Todd, Jean West, Emma A Gifford, L W E O'Brien, A Berry, Jas Paton, J L Ritchie
- e) Reply No alternative but to transfer Mr Bragg

1st March 1927 Mr K R Lambie appointed C 4 years' service. At present at Training College

Long letters from K R Lambie re non attendance of children at least 4

11th August 1927 Telegram from Lambie. Only half pupils attending school here whooping cough
Committee desire commence holidays Sat next to ensure better attendance after holidays
Approved by Wellington Education Board

1st October Low attendance meant Mr Lambie may be shifted wanted to know before Xmas
holidays

28th January 1928 Telegram to Mr Gifford Mr Lambie being replaced because of falling roll

30th January 1928 Telegram from Gifford. We want a male teacher

14th February Teacher paid £20 housing Allowance

19th February 1928 Miss M Whiteside appointed 5 years' service Unemployed

5th March Gifford On my account send lady teacher as only board available for man as have to
share room with another man

7th March After public meeting No board for Lady repeat telegram above

10th March Rivers flooded no school since Tuesday should be right by Monday Would like to know
how much longer I am to stay

13th March Mr McIntyre appointed

5th April Holiday for Elaxbourne A and P Show signed by Kenneth McIntyre

10th July Eleven children on roll but only 1 in attendance Letter to Mr Kenneth C McIntyre
K C McIntyre responded with a detailed chart

7th May 1930 Appointment of Miss H C Wilson 5 ¼ years at present relieving

14th May 1930 Miss LM Shearer as Reliving teacher

28th August Letter to three women saying advertisement for position left out that it was not open
to Female teachers

Mr F D Gillespie selected. 6 ½ years' service at present relieving

Female applicants disregarded. Letter to McCallum Wellington Education Board member

2nd September 1930 Miss F W Hforton relieving

10 September 1930 Hilda Wilson writing from Kaituna School I left the returns at Keckerangu
correctly made out

30th March 1931 Letter from Douglas Gillespie

- a) 16 Wharanui transferred to this school on the 23rd am informed by the Chief Engineer
they will be here till the end of the year
- b) How does it effect the grade of the school?

Reply Grading changes after three terms of returns

25th September 1931 Letter from E L Good Secretary Keckerangu School Committee

- a) On a wet day about 9 or 10 children turn u out of 18-20 children The master at present
closes the school
- b) We also want to know if this master stays here after the end of the year
- c) Could the residents fund a higher graded teacher?
- d) At present they are not satisfied.

27th February 1932 Since the South Island railway works closed the roll has fallen at present it is
only 9

The average attendance has been a fraction under 9

28th April Mr A A Fowke appointed Service 9 years S T Te Rawa School present position

19th June 1934 A A Fowke Roll is 10 and two more leaving saw a decrease to 8 Includes 1 boy in Standard 7

6th September Roll still 8 including one temporary girl

21st September 1934 Letter to E L Good Secretary Keekerangu School Committee from Wellington Education Board As roll is 8 we will have to change the grading of the school to Grade O. This means the teacher will need free board and lodgings

9th November 1934 Montague Wiffen, S E Ritchie, E W Moore, A E Thomson and E L Good sign an agreement to provide free board and lodgings as long as the teacher's salary does not exceed £120

6th November Unless the Board receives a reply to its request for confirmation the school will not open next year from Wellington Education Board

17th January 1935 Miss Hardy received another appointment we appoint Miss Scott

29th January We appoint Miss F A Kerins

19th February 1935 There are 4 children attending school I wish to resign from end of year Frances Kerins

26th February 1935 Miss Kerins writes asking for Kaikoura Show day as a holiday 11th March 11th

March 1935 M Wiffen Secretary asking what is to happen to the school with a meagre attendance I might mention that pupils that would come to this school are debarred from doing so by the mail car refusing to carry them

29th March 1935 Francis Kerins applying for a holiday for the Ward Show

5th April 1935 Letter from Francis Kerins

She had an unhappy time at her last boarding place. She was expected to work to pay for her board. Mr and Mrs once went for two days and she was left in charge of two children one eight and one twelve etc.

18th April No applicants Keekerangu. Strong notice to parents that teachers were not expected to any work except keep her room tidy

29th April reply from Mr Wiffen re teacher 'Past two years we have had three male teachers and four female teachers to board etc. We have always treated them well

1st June Telegram from M Wiffen any information regarding teacher parents anxious

1st June 1935. No applicants for position. Suggest enrolling children in correspondence

5th June 1935 Board sent secondary enrolment forms rather than primary school ones

4th July 1935 M E Bruce started Roll 3

11th July Mrs Bruce handed me a slip from Newman Bros I think this in order

13th September 1935 Roll is now 6 M E Bruce

28th March 1936 M E Bruce Roll is 7

8th May 1936 J L Rollason Chairman School Committee Had an inspection and Mrs Bruce has left everything in order

10th October 1936 Roll will be 11. The teacher has agreed to transport the children at no extra cost to himself. A Apps Secretary

32st August 1937 School closed Only 3 children

7th November 1937 The Shades School 4 ½ miles north of Kekerangu A I Simmonds Woodbank is approximately 8 miles South and has an attendance of 11 permanent children

12th November 1938 Letter from A W J Apps asking for school to be reopened as there are now 5 children

21st December 1938 Memorandum for Wellington Education Board

Kekerangu- Shades Educational Facilities

Included

- a) Kekerangu closed and parents refused to transfer children to Shades
- b) Shades will have a roll of 18 in 1939. Seven are permanent residents
- c) The school is conducted in a temporary building moved from Wharanui The board does not own a site at The Shades
- d) When the railway is finished the buildings cannot stay at the Shades
- e) After discussion with Mr Hall teacher at the Shades Kekerangu should be open in 1939 as a Grade 1 school
- f) That the school at Shades be continued during 1939
- g) That in 1940 The Shades school be closed and the children be conveyed to Kekerangu
- h) Accommodation after the Public Works employees have left the Board negotiate the purchase of a Public Works Hut
- i) That in 1940 The teacher shall run the service and reside at the shades so as to reduce running costs
- j) That the railways be approached for a piece of land for the hut

30th January Letter to AJ Apps stating the school will reopen

Mr H I N Watt has been appointed. New regulations means the parents don't have to find any portion of the cost of board and lodgings for the teacher at Kekerangu

25th February 1939 School Closed for Kaitoura Show H Watt

15th March ROLLASON CHAIRMAN MR WATT RESIGNING THIS WEEK STOP SHADES EXPECTED READY TRANSFER KEKERANGU END TERM STOP IN CIRCUMSTANCES BOARD CANNOT PROVIDE RELIEF AND DESIRES TO KNOW WHETHER KEKERANGU RESIDENTS WILL AGREE TO CHILDREN BEING CONVEYED TO SHADES UNTIL PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES MOVE ON AND CHANGEOVER EFFECTED. PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY AS BOARD MEETS EARLY NEXT WEEK

17th MARCH KEKERANGU SCHOOL COMMITTEE IMPERATIVE CHILDREN NOT LOSE FURTHER SCHOOLING PARENTS RESPECTIVELY WISH RELIEVING TEACHER APPOINTED TRANSPORT HERE DIFFICULT CHILDREN RESIDING SCATTERED LOCALITY INFORMATION HER PUBLIC WORKS NOT MOVING UNTIL AFTER WINTER

24th March 1939 D Hall Shades School c/- Shades Camp Private Bag Blenheim

The chief engineer says closing this school should be delayed until August next year as work is ongoing

As far as Kekerangu goes Esther O'Laughlin will return to Wharanui School (Being brought in to raise numbers). The Nell Child is to cycle to Shades Leaving three Rollason Children

23rd March School not to be reopened Wellington Education Board

29th March 1939 One householder has obtained a private teacher Miss Ward and she will take charge of the school

Board replied We would like to know more about Miss Ward

28th March J Stewart wrote re Joy Ward She gained a partial pass in School certificate and only missed University Entrance by failure in maths

She was not outstanding as a pupil showed no sign of leadership. I recommend her as suitable to direct the studies and behaviour of a small group of young children under conditions

18th May 1939 Miss Ward may commence duty Kekerangu school from today

15th June 1939 Consolidation Commencing Monday Education Board

31st August 1939 J L Rollason and A W J Apps be appointed school commissioners
(Instead of a School Committee)

29th August 1939 Children being conveyed by car to Kekerangu

10th October 1939 Mr D F Hall Head Teacher

2nd November 1939 Salary £50

8 Miles South by Motor from Wharanui Average roll 14

Suitable for a single male teacher only If the teacher is prepared to convey approximately 5 children from the Shades to Kekerangu in his own car payment of not less than 10/6d per week will be made. (Approximately 36 miles of running daily would be involved) The ability to drive a car is essential in order to maintain the advertised grade of the school

18th November 1939 D F Hall had resigned but couldn't get a permanent job so offered to stay as a reliever on an agreed rate of car allowance for 15/- per weeks

New File

Accommodation 1919 1948

This is a different file from the Department (The above file was from the Wellington Education Board and may contain information as the above

23rd March 1919 Mrs Clifford asking for the school open from the Department

20th August 1921 Letter from J C Logan clerk of works The building being used is just opposite the Post Office and is the original building of the settlement, probably 50 years old and very bad with the borer

The lighting is Easterly and good and there is a large open fireplace

The road serves as playground. No latrine exists but steps are to be taken by the residents to shift one from a neighbourhood property Some of the parents who signed a requisition for the opening of the school have not sent their children and only seven are at present attending

29th November 1919 the convenience remains unfinished as do door and roof and what's more that the approach steps to the school are unsound As the Board is paying 100 pound per year towards this school it is considered that the matters under discussion be remedied

12th February 1924 The School Kekerangu Letter from Mr Moore

I am bound from regard to the health of my pupils to inform you of the filthy degrading and unhygienic state of affairs at the school

The only privy accommodation is a small tin lean to with no roof and placed on the corner of a woolshed facing a public bog is in an extremely disgusting and filthy condition and as it is used by both girls and boys must tend to a certain extent to moral degradation

There is also an entire absence of water for the use of the children They are compelled to drink from a spring nearly one hundred yards from the school and it being on the roadside is also used by cattle sheep and horses.

The building itself belongs to a private individual and is being let rent free for use as a school

It is in a very dilapidated state and has already been condemned

A fire will be impossible until the chimney is rebuilt as on the last Occasion a fire was alight the building caught fire and was extinguished only by the prompt assistance of the postmaster and a fire extinguisher

There are also numerous windows wanting replacing

If a visit was paid by your local representative no doubt he could explain the mater more minutely

There are over 23 pupils on the roll it is time something commenced

I trust the matter will receive your earliest consideration

William S Moore

23rd February 1924 List of school properties

11	Dual Desks	2	Wooden Blackboards and easels
1	Wall Blackboard	1	Table and Chair (Broken)
9	Wall Maps	1	Bead Frame
3lbs	Plasticene	10	Plasticene Boards
1	Bead Frame	1	School Globe 6 inch
1	Clock (Broken)	6	Boxes Pastels
1	Royal Reading Sheet	6	Boxes Water Colours
1	Box Coins		

The building is in a dilapidated condition. Several windows need replacing, the building is riddled with wood borer. A number of piles have sunk, there is no drainage, the doors will not close as they have no locks. The windows have to be propped up with sticks myself do not think the building is worth repairing as such extensive operations would have to take place

W S Moore

9th December 1924

Classroom 16' x 20' Porch 5 foot wide

Buildings £400, Furniture £271.12.6, Fencing £26, Outbuildings £135, Metaling £10

5th March 1925 Three tenders received. Gray and Waters £793 Cresswell and White £789 £217.16 over the estimate because of the heavy cost of Haulage from Blenheim

11th November Woodbank unanimous in wanting an amalgamations

8th April 1946 January consolidation at Kekerangu Woodbank Roll 21, The Shades 4, Kekerangu 18, Wharanui 26

One of the residents is willing to donate 3 or 4 acres of land for the school

9th October 1950 Residents of Woodbank, The Shades, Kekerangu and Wharanui have made an application for a consolidated school at Kekerangu

Site 1924 1969

16th April 1924 Telegram to Secretary Wellington Education Board Three acres obtainable at Rutherfords Value according to officers of survey department about 20 pounds per acre

Scribbled at bottom Will you send me Mr Todd's offer of a site at Kekerangu

G Satherley Mr Todd's is a most unsuitable place for the erection of a school It is damp, unhealthy and not level. The site recommended by this Committee is well sheltered by surrounding hills is dry and level. Satherley Secretary Kekerangu School Committee to Education Board Wellington Mr Todd's site

15th May 1925 A begging letter from Wellington Education Board to Mr Rutherford asking him because he has a lot of land to give the Wellington Education Board the site for a new school

24th May 1924 Mr Rutherford replies I have no good site which would be near enough for a school

The present site is the most central and a new building is all that is needed

12th June 1924 Letter to Post Office asking for an acre of their site

25th June 1924 G S Rutherford writes In reply to your note re school site at Kekerangu. You have not given the place or the amount of land you require. I am not going to give my little paddocks I use with my sheep yards

4th August 1924. Mr Logan Clerk of Works writes That the Post Office site is best. Though Mr Rutherford has many little paddocks *Inferring that he wouldn't miss a few*

Road is 44y yards to State Highway 1 on Kekerangu Road

4th September 1968 The Kekerangu School and Site has been consolidated on Ward School The residence is used by a Teacher Driver the old school which is on a separate site of 1 acre will not be required again

1969 Kekerangu School Site DP 1009 Being part section 60 Waipapa Road Block XV Whernside S D Area 1 acre

Mills (1915)

Mills was a community between Mirza and Kekerangu

1915 19 Mills Walshe Edward Male £ 110.00 £20.00

Edward Beresford Walshe Taught at Kakariki between Pahiatua and Eketahuna in 1919 and Havelock in 1921 and 1923 and then went to Canterbury

Mirza (1911-1924, 1921-1923)

Mirza is south of Seddon on State Highway 1

1922 288 square feet Sale of site 2 acres 1st June 1939 to public works

1911	12	Mirza	Woulfe	Katherine	Female	£	42.00	
1912	16	Mirza	Woulfe	Kathleen	Female	£	90.00	£10.00
1913	11	Mirza	Woulfe	Kathleen	Female	£	108.00	£15.00
1914	6	Mirza	Woulfe	Kathleen	Female	£	117.00	£15.00
1921	11	Mirza	Noble	Eileen M	Sole		£170.00	
1923	13	Mirza	Bell	Susan C	D	Sole	£185.00	

11th July 1911 MIRZA SCHOOL. Mr Ferguson, in consequence of a petition received from the residents of Mirza, on the South Island Trunk railway route, for a school to be established there, moved that the application be granted. Mr Fulton seconded the motion, which was carried

10th October 1911 A NEW COMMITTEE. Mr Craven wrote forwarding the names of the members of the recently appointed school committee at Mirza.

16th April 1912 The Mirza Committee asked that the school-room be lined and provision for heating be made. It was resolved to refer the requests to the Public Works Department.

22nd April 1912 Report of school inspector A new schoolroom -was provided at Mirza by the Public Works' Department in the previous year

10th June 1913 Mr Wooding recommended the Board to invite Mr Woulfe to act as correspondent for the Mirza School. —The secretary was instructed to write accordingly

31st January 1914 Marlborough, have been temporarily reserved for the preservation of native fauna. A large number of sections in the Cape Campbell district, the areas of which total some 155 acres, are proclaimed in the Gazette as taken for the purposes of the Picton-Hurunui railway, including road diversions and approaches., They are required for Mirza, Mills, and Keckerangu sections of the line.

9th June 1914 The changing distribution of population in the Awatere district has brought about a peculiar set of conditions as regard the Blind River, Sea View, and Mirza schools. The facts were brought under the notice of the Education Board yesterday by Mr D. A. Sturrock, Inspector of Schools. The commodious school erected on the Blind River settlement several years ago is now attended by only four children; and at Sea View two of the pupils have reached an advanced stage of education, and one is a visitor, leaving only one child under the absolute jurisdiction of the Board. What the position really amounted to, said Mr Sturrock, was that the Board was spending £100 a year or so for one child. Six or seven children were attending the Mirza School, but they were in that scenario the vanishing-point would be reached in the near future. The Board, having the prospects of extended settlement in mind, had decided not to shift, the Sea View School; but it was suggested that the Mirza School building, which is in sections, should be removed to Starborough Downs, and the few children in the outlying localities mentioned be conveyed to central schools. It might be possible to save £350 a year in this way, and at the same time serve the cause of efficiency by saving the present waste of teaching power. The members generally agreed that the present position appeared to untenable, and agreed to a motion that the Executive Committee, with

the ward members and the Inspector and secretary, investigate the conditions and make recommendations. Mr R. McCallum said that he could see the merit of the Inspector's observations so far as the national aspect of the question was concerned; but he was not at all enamoured of the idea of making readjustments which would save the State a lot of money now being paid out in salaries, but would burden the Board with the expense of conveying the children to a central point. The State allowance for the expenses of conveyance was quite inadequate

20th June 1914 £50 for the removal of the Mirza School to Starborough Downs, to provide for the centralisation of the scholastic system in that district;

11th August 1914 The Under-Secretary for Education, in a communication received by the Education Board yesterday, regretted that the Minister was unable to see his way to make a grant for the erection of a school at Starborough Downs. With regard to the proposal to move the building at Mirza, that structure might be further required by the Public Works Department as the railway extended further south. The Board decided to give the matter further consideration later in the year

3rd November 1914 Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department for the erection of station buildings at Mirza and Mills stations'.

15th June 1916 the Mirza school was shifted to Mills Inspectors Report to Education Board

19th July 1923 Unused schools at Tahuahua and, Wairere (Bush) were removed and re-erected at Mirza and Ngaumu (Wairarapa) respectively.;

24th July 1930 Mirza Mrs E M Peters appointed

27th May 1935 Mr C Wisely appointed

21st September 1937 MARLBOROUGH MOVE

SEVERAL SCHOOLS CLOSED

BLenheim, This Day.

As a result of consultations between the Marlborough representatives, on the Wellington Education Board and the parents of children attending several of the country schools in the district, the policy of consolidation introduced by the Minister of Education (the Hon. P. Fraser) is to be brought into effect in the Ward, Seddon, and Rai Valley districts.

In the Ward district two small schools have already been closed, the pupils being conveyed to the Ward School by motor-bus, and in the Seddon and Rai Valley districts several schools will be closed as from the beginning of the new school year. At Rai Valley the schools affected will be those at Opouri, Pelorus Bridge, Ronga, and Carluke. Pupils at present attending the schools mentioned will be conveyed to Rai Valley School by three separate bus services, one for Pelorus Bridge, one for Opouri, and one for Ronga and Carluke. The attendance roll of the Rai Valley School will thus increase from 37 to 122. The provision of extra accommodation at Rai Valley will be necessary, and a building programme will shortly be put into operation, the intention being to build along open-air lines as far as possible. Taimate and Mirza Schools, in the Ward district, have already been closed. The pupils are being brought into the Ward School by two motor-bus services.

National Archives: Yes

Ward (1906-1923)

45 Kilometres from Blenheim after Seddon on State Highway 1

Flaxbourne Station was established in the area around 1847.^[4] In 1905, most of the station was subdivided, and Ward Township was formed. Wikipedia

1906

1906 19 Ward Wallace E A E3 Female £ 110.00 £10.00

2nd January 1906 held at the Lodge Boom THIS EVENING at 8 o'clock, A. R, THOMSON, S3cretary. MARLBOROUGH EDUCATION BOARD, Teacher Wanted for a new School at Ward (Flaxbourne). Salary, according to the Education Act Amendment Act 1905, and will probably be about £110. Applications for this appointment will be received by the Secretary up to SATURDAY EVENING,

27th January 1906 The already strong Canterbury element has been further strengthened by the appointment of Miss Wallace of that province, as teacher at Ward and the school there will be started in temporary premises at the conclusion of the present school holidays

12th February 1906 . Ward—It was resolved that the Department be informed that the £300 wanted for the Ward school is insufficient, and that an increased grant be made.—Several requisites for the temporary school were, granted. Mr Loe, the correspondent, forwarded agreement leasing the building for signature.—The Board recommended that the Committee election be deterred till the usual elections in April.

27th February 1906 The absence of foot-bridges to enable the children to get to school dry is being severely felt by those having the Needles Creek and Flaxbourne river to cross. It is hoped that the school at Grassmere will be proceeded with now that the site has been fixed definitely, as children at this end of the settlement have already missed several months of schooling. The attendance at the temporary school at Ward continues very satisfactory, there being 25 scholars and every likelihood of an increase in numbers shortly. Many settlers have recently taken the opportunity of getting stock for their holdings, but there, is still a good area unstocked, and feed is very plentiful.

10th April 1906 In forwarding the estimates for the Ward school the Education,, Board might easily be exceeded, an nowadays prices were liable to be jumped np the slightest pretext, mainly in consequence at the rate of wages result from unionism. He took, the precaution of allowing a margin his estimate making it £300 to £350. As it turned out, one tender was tor £349 and the other for £450

10th April 1906 Eighteen settlers wrote objecting to a proposal mooted to change the site of the school.—It was stated by a member that a deputation was to have waited upon the Board urging removal, but had not arrived.—The Board took no action. C. W. Thomas, Flaxbourne, wrote on behalf of the ' Settlers' Association urging speed with the erection of the school, and requesting that a level floor be put in.—Resolved to reply that a level floor was proposed. The architect forwarded plans for the new school, also two tenders, as follows:—C J. A. Lawrence, £345 with £15 extra if concrete piles; W. Carr, £450. The Secretary stated that the Government grant was £300. He had written to the Department stating that the amount was too small, and the reply had been that lenders should be called first. On the motion of Mr McCallum, Mr Lawrence's tender, with concrete piles, was accepted.

17th April 1906 The local store and the smithy have both been moved to their permanent locations, and when the school is built the township of Ward will be fairly started.

18th April 1906 The Department notified that the grant for the Ward school had been increased from £300 to £364. Mr Lawrence, the tenderer whose offer was accepted for this school., wrote stating that he had made a mlstake. He in His tender of £349 had overlooked the fact that he would have to cart, his own material. This being the case, his tender should have been £389. He asked the indulgence, otherwise it would pay him better to lose his deposit. The Board's Architect reported upon Mr Lawrence's tender, stating that it was unfair

to allow the tenderer extra for totara piles, whereas concrete piles could be put in for £8. Mr Fell thought the contract was now "off," and it would be better to call for fresh tenders. The Chairman explained that the Department had been asked for an additional grant, owing to the high tendering, and the members had heard the reply. The only other tender was £109 above Mr Lawrence's. Mr Fell moved that Mr Lawrence forfeit his deposit if not prepared to proceed, in which case fresh tenders to be called. This was carried. On the motion of Mr Parker, it was decided that the Architect specify for concrete piles. The Board granted a cupboard and stove for the school. Thirty-five residents of Flaxbourne petitioned for the removal of the Ward school site. The Chairman said that the site chosen, close to the plantation, had stood fixed for eight or nine months. On the motion of Mr Chaytor, it was decided to reply that the Chairman and Inspector had selected the best site available; and it was now too late to alter

3rd May 1906 There was a large attendance at the householders' meeting at Flaxbourne, showing that interest is being taken in school matters there. Messrs Thomson (Chairman), Elvy, Davidson, Francis, and Hoare were elected to form the first committee for the district, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr Elvy for his services while acting as correspondent. The contractors have commenced building the school at Grassmere and the Ward school will be commenced shortly.

14th May 1906 The Department notified that the grant for the Ward school had been increased from £300 to £364. Mr Lawrence, the tenderer whose offer was accepted for this school, wrote stating that he had made a mistake. He in His tender of £349 had overlooked the fact that he would have to cart, his own material. This being the case, his tender should have been £389. He asked the indulgence, otherwise it would pay him better to lose his deposit. The Board's Architect reported upon Mr Lawrence's tender, stating that it was unfair to allow the tenderer extra for totara piles, whereas concrete piles could be put in for £8. Mr Fell thought the contract was now "off," and it would be better to call for fresh tenders. The Chairman explained that the Department had been asked for an additional grant, owing to the high tendering, and the members had heard the reply. The only other tender was £109 above Mr Lawrence's. Mr Fell moved that Mr Lawrence forfeit his deposit if not prepared to proceed, in which case fresh tenders to be called. This was carried. On the motion of Mr Parker, it was decided that the Architect specify for concrete piles. The Board granted a cupboard and stove for the school. Thirty-five residents of Flaxbourne petitioned for the removal of the Ward school site. The Chairman said that the site chosen, close to the plantation, had stood fixed for eight or nine months. On the motion of Mr Chaytor, it was decided to reply that the Chairman and Inspector had selected the best site available; and it was now too late to alter.

7th June 1906 As there is no suitable accommodation within reasonable distance of the school site at Ward on the Flaxbourne settlement, the Committee there is applying to the Education Board to have a teacher's house built when the new school is erected.

12th June 1906 WARD SCHOOL. The Flaxbourne Committee requested that the teacher be provided with a residence. The Inspector stated that a claim for £400 had long since been sent to the Department for a teacher's residence.

It was resolved to renew the application, the Committee's letter to be forwarded. The Committee asked that heating apparatus be provided, as the big iron building was now becoming very cold for the pupils.—Resolved to inform the Committee that they now had capitation sufficient for this purpose. The Committee's request that small trees be granted for

the planting of the school ground was also granted, the Department to be applied to for a grant for trees for Ward, Grassmere, and other adjacent grounds.

18th June 1906 The spread of settlement, more particularly at Flaxbourne, has rendered it necessary to make provision for several new schools. Special grants for buildings at Grassmere, Ward, and Seaview have been made, and by the time this report reaches you, that at Seaview will be finished, and contracts let for those at Ward and Grassmere. The new school at North Bank has been built, and was opened at the beginning of 1906. As a considerable number of Flaxbourne settlers had taken up their residence soon after the allotment of the sections, the Board decided to rent a building that was available, and to open a temporary school in the township of Ward, so that the children; should not waste their time while waiting for the completion of the new building. The fitting, up of this school was completed in time to allow of the opening of the school early in January.

9th July 1906 Mr Alex. Thomson, Chairman of the Flaxbourne School Committee, wrote to the meeting of the Education Board to-day stating that the heater granted by the Board had arrived safely, and was some help in the heating of the school; but parents were very unwilling to send their children to the present building in cold weather, and the Committee hoped that steps would be taken to get the building of the new school hastened. They had got some sacks to cover the concrete floor of the temporary premises, and were making the best of it, but would like some information as to when the building was going on. There were constant enquiries from the parents. At present there was no sign of timber on the ground, and the trees applied for could not be planted until the fencing was done.

The contractor (Mr Lawrence) waited on the Board, and explained the reason for the delay in the delivery of the timber for the new school. The timber would now, according to definite promise, be on the ground in 14 days. He applied for an extension of time, as one week had already elapsed. He asked for two months' extension.— On the motion of the Chairman, one month was granted.—Messrs Smart Bros, wrote to the Board guaranteeing to supply the timber in a fortnight.

16th July 1906 The police received intimation this afternoon that a man named David Bell, a carpenter holding two small township allotments at Ward, had dropped dead shortly after mid-day. The cause suggested is heart disease. Deceased came from the South, and was a man about 55 years of age. He has children attending the Ward school

An inquest will be held to-morrow

31st July 1906 . The timber for the Ward School building was taken out to Flaxbourne to-day by Messrs Smart Bros engine. It is thoroughly seasoned; so that the erection of the building should proceed at once.

2nd August 1906 A substantial bridge has been built across Mirza Creek, on the main south road, and footbridges are to be placed across The Needles and the Flaxbourne.

School is still being held in temporary premises, as the contractor for the Ward school has been unable to get on with his contract. The building is very unsuitable, and parents do not care to send their children to it in cold weather. There is an average attendance of about twenty at present, but there will probably be more when the school is available. The school at Grassmere is finished, but the teacher has not yet been appointed.

13th August 1906 It was decided to again write the Department re house for teacher at Ward.

10th September 1906 The Department, in reply to the Board's request, stated that the Minister could not see his way to make a grant for teacher's residence at Ward. —On the motion of the Chairman, it was resolved that a deputation proceed to Wellington in reference to the grants for the Ward and other schools

12th September 1906 At the Land Board meeting yesterday a letter was received from Mr C. J. A. Lawrence, of Ward, stating that the settlers on the Needles and Tachalls creeks would consider it a great favour if "Ward Street" were formed, as it will save the children a

considerable distance when travelling to the school. It was decided to recommend the Roads Department to form the street. A petition, signed by M. Cobeldick and 15 Crown tenants of Flaxbourne, praying that a small footbridge be erected over Tachalls Creek, was also referred to the Roads Department. Land Board Meeting

20th September 1906 As the storeroom in which school is held at Ward is needed by the owner early in October, and the new school is not likely to be available before November, the school children there will have at least a month's additional holiday. The first examination of the children was held on September 18.

10th October 1906 The Chairman of the Ward School Committee stated that Mr Loe was prepared to allow the shed to be further used as a school if other accommodation for his shearers was arranged for.

The Chairman wrote under the date Sept. 28th, again asking that some steps be taken to have a residence built at Ward. There was absolutely no place for a teacher to lodge. People on the settlement had only built for their own-requirements. The present teacher had secured good results, and they must have a Residence to retain her.

It was decided that the Secretary renew the application for a grant, say, of £300, plans to be prepared for submitting to the Minister.

The Architect reported having visited the Ward school. The floor was laid and the roof on. The failure to deliver timber was responsible for delay, and a further month's time would be necessary.

14th November 1906 The accounts included a progress payment of £72 for the Ward

3rd December 1906 A very enjoyable social was held at Ward on November 23rd in connection with the opening of the new school there. As it was really the first public social gathering held on the settlement a very large number of people turned out, almost every family from the south end of the district and many from the Grassmere end being represented. The building proved much too small to accommodate all inside, but the broad verandah which is built all-round the school-room was closed in with tarpaulins and served splendidly for a supper room. The design of the school and the conveniences attached to it met with the approval of all, but it was generally thought that the building will soon prove too small to accommodate all the young children who will soon be of school age. Dancing commenced at 8 p.m., and, with intervals for songs, continued until 2 a.m. From the start it was evident that all were out to enjoy an evening's amusement. Plenty of good music for dancing was supplied by Messrs Hay, Butt, Walker, Quelch, Edwards, Wooding and Scott: and Misses Bell, Barnes and Vallance and Messrs Quelch, Hay, Roberts, Davidson, Thomas and Bell supplied the vocal items. Supper was supplied by Mr Sames, and dispensed by a committee of ladies, who worked very hard to make the social a success. At the conclusion Auld Lang Syne was sung

12th December 1906 DISTRICT AT GRASSMERE. A number of settlers memorialised the Board praying that the Grassmere school area be constituted a separate district, owing to the distance from Ward, the present head-quarters of the Flaxbourne school district. The interests were in no sense similar. On the motion of Mr Penny, the Inspector was asked to confer with the Ward Committee and report to the Board

14th November 1906 Ward.—The Hon. Mr Mills forwarded a memo, from the Minister for Education that a grant for a teacher's residence could not be made. Miss Wallace, the teacher, was given three months' notice of re-appointment. The architect reported that the new school would be completed in a few weeks

1907

1907 27 Ward Wallace Elizabeth A E3 Female £ 144.00

15th January 1907 WARD. The Department wrote intimating that the sum of £300 had been voted for a school teacher-s residence at Ward. Members expressed surprised gratification, and it was decided to heartily thank the Minister. The Department also notified that if the attendance upon the new school being entered was increased to a certain extent, an application for special treatment would be favourably considered

13th March 1907 School open 424 Half days out of expected 420

10th April 1907 Ward.—The Education Department notified the increase of the grant for teacher's residence at Ward, Flaxbourne, from £300 to £400.

7th June 1907 A social in connection with the Flaxbourne library was held in the schoolroom at Ward on May 31st, and was well attended. Songs were contributed by Miss. Vallance and Messrs Elvy, J. R. Wallace, and C. W. Thomas, and dancing was continued until 2 a.m. Splendid music for dancing was provided by Mrs J. Andrews and Mr Edwards.

21st August 1907 The Flaxbourne settlers, according to one of their number, are satisfied with their prospects in every particular, save the delay in getting railway connection with Blenheim and Picton. The pupils at the Ward school now muster about forty, with the promise of a rapid increase.

10th September 1907 Marlborough Education Board The Lands Department wrote, in reply to the Board's request for 500 trees for planting in the Grassmere school grounds, regretting that the request could not be granted, as the Chief Forester advised that the Department had only sufficient for its own requirements. The Secretary was instructed to get 250 trees and divide pro rata amongst the school grounds already prepared at Ward and Grassmere

11th October 1907 The residents of Flaxbourne are again reminded of the meeting to be held in the Ward school next Monday to discuss matters of importance to the settlement. The hastening of the railway will be one matter for consideration, and the question of erecting saleyards and sheep dip will also be brought up. A full attendance is requested.

28th November 1907 A very successful social in aid of school funds was held at Flaxbourne on October 25th in 'the Ward schoolroom., Owing to a considerable amount of expense being incurred in fencing off shelter trees which had been planted at the school grounds, the Committee has had difficulty in making capitation allowance meet expenses. Residents, turned out in full force, and the Committee's funds benefited to the amount of £6. Dancing, interspersed with songs, was carried on until 2 a.m., and those present spent a very enjoyable evening. Supper was provided by the ladies. Mrs J. Andrews kindly supplied excellent music, and extras were played by Mrs Scrint and Miss Vallance.

1908

1908 30 Ward Wallace Elizabeth A E3 Female £ 144.00

14th January 1908 Ward —The architect reported that Mr Beamsley had offered to erect a soil bank as a breakwind for the School residence at 30 shillings (*There were 20 shillings in a pound*).-The Board authorised the work—Mr Parker reported having arranged to have dangerous long dry grass around the buildings cut

28th February 1908 The school has through the Settlers' Association, been fitted with an awning for enclosing the verandah, and a set of crockery tea-urn and other necessaries have been provided for use at socials, etc. A good percentage of the shelter trees planted there have grown in spite of the dry season. The number of children on the school roll is now over forty..

A bake-house has been put up at Ward, in connection with the store, by Mr C. W. Thomas. Previously the supply of bread had to be obtained from Seddon. *Is this the C W Thomas who married Elizabeth Wallace in 1920?*

12th May 1908 Report that a teacher's residence was built at Ward in 1907

8th September 1908 On Friday next, at the **Flaxbourne school**, Mr J. Knott will deliver a lecture on the licensing question— giving reasons Why licenses should no longer be granted to sell drink. Opportunity will be given to question the lecturer on the subject of his address.

12th November 1908 Ward placed in Good L1st of schools by Inspector Strachan. The top ranking to be achieved

4th December 1908 Cyril Elvy obtained proficiency (*Allows free place at secondary school*)

1909

1909 33 Ward Wallace Elizabeth A E2 Head Female £ 155.00

6th April 1909 The chairman of the Ward School Committee requested the Board to give instructions for repairs to the roof of that school, and also asked that a brick chimney be built in the wash-house and a copper installed at the master's residence.—

It was resolved to obtain an estimate for the work of the chimney and copper in the wash-house, and that a grant be made for the other work. The Secretary reported that he had arranged for the erection of a shelter shed at Ward at a cost of £15.— His action was endorsed by the Board.

8th July 1909 Miss E A Wallace raised to E2 status

14th September 1909 The Chairman of the Ward School Committee applied to have a copper built in brick placed in the school teacher's wash-house. The cost would be £7, and any extra cost "would be borne by the Committee. Granted

14th December 1909 The chairman of the Ward School Committee, applied for the sum of 25s towards the cost of fencing in the teacher's residence, and also forwarded aa' account for other repairs effected to the school and residence. It was decided to pass the accounts for payment

29th December 1909 FLAXBOURNE SCHOOL
PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

A very pleasant gathering was held at the Ward school, Flaxbourne, on December 22nd, when the presentation of prizes to the school-children took place. There was a good attendance of parents, and the Committee had a very suitable collection of books for distribution, and had arranged for afternoon tea and for games for the children. The prizes were presented by Mr W. Francis {chairman}, and at the conclusion hearty cheers were given by the children for their teacher (Miss E .A Wallace) and for the Committee. The following is the prize list

HIGHEST MARKS.

Standard VI.: Herbert Thomson 1, Frank Scrint 2.

Standard V.: Herbert Greig 1, George Barnes 2, Daniel Hoare and Vera Bell (equal) 3.

Standard IV.: Doris Thomson, Roy Greig 2.

Standard III.: Myrtle Robinson 1, Louis Lechner 2.

Standard II.: Phyllis Adams 1, Clarice Adams 2,

Standard I.: Violet Moyle 1, Eric Andrews 2, Robert Rentoul 3.

P II. Class.: Bernice Barnes, Mary Scrint, Bernard Chapman, Fred Adams.

PI. Class: Henry Simpson, John Wilson, Sidney Jenkins, Thomas: Meade, Alfred Barnes, Jane Hoare, Janet Schwass, Martha Hoare, Gladys Sharpe, Lexis Davidson, Gladys Rentoul.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES.

Long distance: Bernice Barnes 1, Robert Rentoul 2.

Short distance: Bernard Chapman 1, Eric Andrews 2.

SEWING PRIZES. Standard V., Florrie Elvy; Standard IV., Doris Thomson; Standard III., Myrtle Robinson; Standard II., Phyllis, Adams; Standard 1., Violet Moyle; P II., Bernice Barnes; PI., Gladys Rentoul.

BEST GARDENS. Boys: Daniel Hoare and Roy Greig. Girls: Dorothea Scrint and Myrtle Robinson.'

1910

1910 39 Ward Wallace Elizabeth A E2 Head Female £ 160.00

12th January 1910 A letter purporting to have been written by the chairman of the Ward, School Committee, but not signed, was received, asking that the Board effect certain improvements at the school. It was decided to refer the letter back for further information, and for the signature of the chairman

15th February 1910 The Ward School Committee wrote requesting the Board to obtain an estimate of the cost of the work required to be done at the teacher's residence. The Board decided that tenders be called for repairing the teachers' residence

26th April 1910 In 1909 10 schools were placed in Good Class including Ward

14th June 1910 The Ward School Committee applied for a grant for a coal and wood shed, and the Board decided to ask them how much they could do for £5

12th July 1910 The Ward School Committee wrote asking for a grant of material for certain improvements for the school, undertaking to do the work. It was decided to grant the request

2nd September 1910 Road formation is being carried on at Ward station, and the foundations for the station buildings are being put down. The only work in hand on the 3f miles of line authorised south of Ward is the carting of metal for concrete culverts.

School attendance is on the increase, there being 46 children at present on the roll at Ward, and when the extra railway buildings are occupied provision will have to be made for more room, as the schoolroom is already uncomfortably filled.

13th September 1910 Ward School Committee applied for some seeds for the school gardens, and also for some other school requisites. It was decided to spend £8 on the extension of the school shed, and that Mr. Ferguson report as to the advisableness of erecting a picket fence round the school.

11th October 1910 The Ward School Committee forwarded a further estimate of the cost of fencing the school ground, and asked in addition that a grant of £2 10s for ventilation purposes be made. They also suggested some modifications in the arrangements at the teacher's residence. A further communication was received urging some improvements connection with the sanitary arrangements. Mr Ferguson reported on these matters, and it was decided to grant the amount asked for, and also some fencing material

15th November 1910 The Ward School Committee wrote submitting an amended estimate of the cost of altering the windows at the school, and also explained the reason why 15s a night was charged for the use of the school for concerts, socials, meetings, etc. The Board decided to inform the committee that 15s was a fair charge for the use of the school for a night, excepting when used by churches and for educational purposes. Mr Ferguson protested against the decision of the Board, pointing out that it would be unfair to the Flaxbourne Settlers' Association, which held meetings monthly. It was explained by the chairman and Mr Chaytor that the committee had discretionary powers in these matters.

Mr Ferguson was satisfied with this explanation.

In connection with the alterations necessary at the school, it was decided to hold the matter in abeyance for the time being, but the Board decided to make a grant for new gates!

1911

1911 51 Ward Wallace Elizabeth A E2 Head Female £ 180.00
Ass1stant

1911 51 Ward Bell Susan C Licensed Female £ 90.00

14th February 1911 Miss S C Bell appointed ass1stant. Miss Susie C Bell was teacher at Tetley Brook for 3 years and Taught at Ugbrooke in 1907 and Sea View in 1906, all Sole Teacher positions with a small roll

22nd February 1911 PRESENTATION. After the annual meeting of the Ward Public Library the Chairman (Mr A. D. Loe), in behalf of the subscribers, presented Miss E. A. Wallace with a gold bangle in recognition of her services as librarian, and in doing so spoke very highly of the good work done by Miss Wallace, who feelingly responded

29th March 1911 The secretary to the Marlborough Education Board has received a telegram to the effect that Cabinet has voted a sum of money for the purpose of adding another classroom to the Ward school, Flaxbourne.

3rd May 1911 The Education Board invites tenders for additions to the Ward School

13th June 1911 The tender of Mr G. Gibson was accepted for the additions to the Ward

6th October 1911 A very encouraging meeting of the Flaxbourne Ladies' Sewing Guild was held yesterday at the residence of Mrs Brown. The plans of the new Anglican Church were examined and approved. It was resolved to hold a meeting in the Ward school to-morrow at 3.30 p.m., at which all ladies of the d1strict will be cordially welcome.

19th December 1911 WARD SCHOOL.

PRIZE PRESENTATION,

Our- Flaxbourne correspondent writes: —The Ward School closed for the Chr1stmas holidays on Friday last when the annual presentation or prizes was made by Mr J. J. Jenkins (chairmen). During the past year substantial additions have been made to the school buildings, and an additional teacher appointed in order to cope with the increased roll number, which is now 65. Although school work was interfered with by the necessity for closing the school during building operations, the examination report reflected credit on the teachers. Misses Wallace and Bell.

An appropriate collection of prize books to the number of 101 had been provided by the committee, and were allotted as follows: —

Standard VI., Ernest Elvy, Vera Bell, and Herbert Greig, proficiency certificates;

Standard V., Myrtle Robinson 1st, Louis- Leckner and Eric Cunliffe (equal) 2nd;

Standard IV., Cralice Adams 1st, Phyllis Adams and Moana Nicholas (equal) 2nd;

Standard III Daniel Wilson 1st, Violet Moyle 2nd

Standard II., Sidney Jenkins- 1st, Frederick Adams and Gladys France (equal) 2nd;

Standard I., Alexander Davidson 1st, Gladys Rentoul and Gladys Sharpe (equal) 2nd.

Attendance prizes: Long d1stance, Fred Adams 1st, Bernice Barnes 2nd;

Short d1stance, Eric Andrews 1st., Herbert Greig 2nd.

School gardens.; Girls, Gwendoline Jenkins and Myrtle Robinson. 1st; boys, Herbert .Greig and Robert Rentoul 1st.

Sewing, prizes: Standard VI., Dorothea Scrint 1st. Doris Thomson 2nd

Standard V., Myrtle Robinson 1st Gwendoline Jenkins 2nd;

Standard IV., Phyllis Adams 1st, Cralice. Adams-2nd;.

Standard III Maggie Forsyth 1st, Marjorie Jenkins 2nd;

Standard: II Bernice Barnes 1st, Gladys France2nd:

Standard 1, Gladys Renton 1st, Alexander Davidson 2nd;;
 P 11., Evelyn Fissenden 1st;;
 P 1., Freda Close 1st.
 Darning prizes: Dorothea Scrint and Gladys Rentoul.
 In. addition; all other pupils received a gift.

1912

1912	52	Ward	Wallace	Elizabeth A	E2	Head Female	£ 185.00
1912	52	Ward	Bell	Susan C	Licensed	Ass1stant Female	£ 90.50

19th March 1912 Considerable interest is .being taken at Ward in the proposal to build a town hall and library. The only building at present available meeting of any sort is the public school which 'is quite unsuitable. The library at present-is kept in the school porches, which are not large enough to allow of more books being procured. The Flaxbourne Settlers' Association has in hand over £50 gathered from proceeds of socials, etc., and have, through the agency of Mr McCullum, M.P., been promised a Government .subsidy in aid of the work when £150 has been procured.....

22nd April 1912 Inspector reported that a new room had been built at Ward.

23rd April 1912 Ward had good general writing, Grovetown, Marlborough and Ward appeared best in H1story

14th May 1912 An account for the concreting of the yard at the Ward school was passed for payment.

5th September 1912 A return match for the Cheesman Cup between teams representing the combined school d1stricts of Starborough and Flaxbourne was played at Ward on Tuesday (writes our correspondent). A very interesting game resulted in a win for Flaxbourne by 10 points to nil. For the winners, Elvy, Scrint, T. Cunliffe, and Goff played well, as did Ryan, Read, and Fuller for Starborough; and Cain, a very small player on their side, was noticeable for plucky play. There was a good attendance of spectators, and afternoon tea was provided by the ladies. Mr P. Casey kindly acted as referee, to the satisfaction of the players.0

15th October 1912 WARD. The committee was granted the usual library subsidy on a sum of £5, and £1 10s as a subsidy for a cupboard for the books

23rd December 1912 The annual d1tribution of prizes in connection with the Ward School took place on Friday afternoon. There was a good attendance of parents and residents, the grounds presenting quite a gala appearance. Afternoon tea was provided, and the children were treated to the ever-new "scramble" for sweets, etc., tasks and past penalties being quite forgotten in. the anticipation of the coming holidays. The chairman of the committee, Mr W. Francis, ass1sted by the other members, had provided a good selection of rewards, which were duly handed to the smiling recipients. In concluding the ceremony the chairman stated that .great credit was due to the teachers, Miss Wallace and Miss Bell, for the very creditable result of the inspection just concluded, the inspector's report being very satisfactory. The following is a detailed list of the prize-winner's:—

Standard VII.: Ernest Elvy.

Standard VI.: Eric Cunliffe 11st (proficiency), Roy Greig 2nd (proficiency), Louis Lechner 3rd (competency), Gwendoline Jenkins.

Standard V.: Clarice Adams: 1st, .James Goff 2nd, Phyllis Adams.

Standard IV.: Daniel, Wilson and Robert Rentoul (equal) 1st, Gordon Mason and Violet Moyle (equal) 2nd, Thomas Cunliffe, -Eric Andrews, Marjorie Jenkins, Maggie Forsyth, Dorothy Mason, Ruth Mason.

Standard III.: Fred Adams 1st, Sidney Jenkins, and Gladys France (equal) 2nd, Bernice Barnes, Mary Scrint, Lexie Davidson, Gladys Sharpe, Charles Tombs

Standard II.: Jack Wilson 1st, Gladys Rentoul 2nd, Jane Hoare, Jessie Waters, Ruby Waters.

Standard I.: Olive Gale 1st, George Davidson 2nd, Evelyn Fissenden, Nellie Forsyth, Bertha Francis Alfred Barnes, Thomas Meade, Leonard Meade, Duncan Rentoul, Claude Sharpe, Fred Waters.

Primer III Class: Freda Close, Huia Jenkins, Ethel Roberts, Martha Hoare, Maxwell Cooke, Ernest Fissenden, Alex. Forsyth, Jack Greig, Alfred Hoare.

Primer II. Class: Lawrence Devine, Leonard Francis, Lindsay Mason, Gordon Roberts

Primer I. Class: Daphne Gale, Myrtle Smith, Vera Tombs, Hedley' Cooke, Jack Devine, Harry McIsaac, Dudley Wilson, Norman Waters.

Attendance Prizes: Eric Cunliffe and Leonard Meade 1st, short distance; Thomas Cunliffe 2nd, short distance; Alfred Barnes and Bernice Barnes 1st, long distance; Daniel Wilson and Maggie Forsyth, 2nd, long distance..

Sewing Prizes: Standard VI., Gwen. Jenkins; Standard V., Phyllis Adams Standard IV., Violet Moyle; Standard III., Gladys France; Standard II., Gladys Rentoul; Standard I., Evelyn Fissenden;

P III., Huia Jenkins; P II, Myrtle Smith. Special prize for needlework in upper division, Phyllis Adams.

Gardening Prizes: Boys, F. Adams and D. Wilson (equal), L. Lechner and G. Mason (equal); girls, Gladys France 1st, Olive Gale and Martha Hoare (equal).

Special Prizes: Best general progress in lower division, Evelyn Fissenden; best in upper division, girls, Gladys Sharpe, boys, Eric Cunliffe.

1913

1913 55 Ward Wallace Elizabeth A E2 Head Female £ 190.00

1913 55 Ward Bell Susan C D4 Ass1stant Female £ 100.00

11th April 1913 A pasture sown with happy faces and with holiday aptly described the Seddon Domain when the children of Seddon, Marama, Blind River, Sea View, Tetley Brook, Waterfalls, Ward, and Grassmere assembled one day last week for the purpose of holding a combined sports meeting and a picnic. At the instance of the Seddon School Committee a movement was set on foot to have as an annual event a gathering of all the school children of the Awatere and Flaxbourne districts, together with their parents and friends. A strong committee was appointed. *See Seddon for full results*

15th April 1913 The Ward Committee represented that necessity of making the school building air-tight. There had been a shrinking of the timber. It was resolved that Mr J. Brown be asked to report on the state of the building. The sum of £5 was granted for repair of stringers and flooring.

18th April 1913 Ward was one of the schools leading in library growth. Ward was one of the best in teaching arithmetic for practical life. Also mentioned for having a quality school garden

29th April 1913 Our Ward correspondent writes:— A public meeting to discuss arrangements for opening the new Town Hall and Library was held on Monday evening

.....
WARD, The annual householders meeting was attended by a fair number of settlers. Mr John Cunningham occupied the chair. Mr Wm. Francis reported a credit balance of £5 10s.

A vote of thanks to the staff was passed, and the following committee was appointed for the incoming year: Messrs Francis (chairman, re-elected), Fissenden (secretary, re-elected), McIsaac, Hoare, Mason, and D. Wilson.

20th May 1913 That the School Attendance Act cannot be ignored with impunity was evidenced by a case heard in the Magistrates Court to-day. The Truant Officer (Mr Thomas) brought ten informations against B. Scollard, of Ward, in respect to the absences of two children in ten separate weeks. The father explained to Mr F. Loughnan, S.M., that the children had been kept away from school on various occasions on account of the rough weather. The magistrate remarked, that the elements had not been so persistently bad as to justify such a considerable number of nonappearances. If it was really desirable that children should be kept at home frequently their parents should go to the trouble of satisfying the teachers on that score. The teachers were reasonably-minded people, and would readily agree to what was best for the children. But, also, teachers had a duty to the education system to perform, and if the attendance fell off they had to answer to the authorities. In the event of lapses that were not satisfactorily accounted for they had to place the matter in the hands of the Truant Officer for prosecution. In this case the father would have to pay to the Court no less than £4 10s if only the minimum fine of 2s with 7s costs was inflicted in respect to each information, and in addition he would have had the expense of travelling in from Ward and losing a day's work. However, this being a first offence, and as he did not wish to be so severe as all that, he suggested to the Truant Officer that all but two of the informations be withdrawn, and the convictions confined to them. The Truant Officer agreed, and the magistrate imposed two fines aggregating £1, without costs. He pointed out, however, that a second appearance in Court would have rather serious results.

1914

1914 62 Ward Wallace Elizabeth A C2 Head Female £ 200.00

1914 62 Ward Bell Susan C D3 Assistant Female £ 110.00

13th January 1914 Eric Cunliffe won the Only National Scholarship in Marlborough 476 Marks (£10, plus £30 allowance. 3 Years)

16th April 1914 A request for a grant of £1 5s for repairs at Ward was granted

1st May 1914 WARD. Messrs T. Devine (chairman), J. Walters, J. Hoare, W. McIsaac, F. W. Francis, D. Wilson, and G. Hayes (secretary).

15th September 1914 The Ward Committee reported the closing of the school for one month on account of an epidemic of measles.

31st December 1914 WARD SCHOOL.

PRIZE-LIST

The following were the prize-winners at the Ward, school for the year 1914:

Standard VI.—1st, Daniel Wilson proficiency; 2nd, Dorothy Wallace (proficiency).

Standard V. —Frederick Adams and Sidney Jenkins, equal.

Standard IV.— 1st, Gladys Rentoul; 2nd, Jessie Waters.

Standard III—1st, Olive Gale; 2nd, Daphne Miller.

Standard II.— 1st, Claude Sharpe 2nd, Huia Jenkins.

Standard I.— 1st, Hedley Cooke; 2nd, Harry McIsaac.

GARDENING PRIZES. Duncan Rentoul and Alfred Barnes, 1st equal. Gladys France and Bertha Francis, 1 equal.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES. Maggie Forsyth, Nellie Forsyth Gladys Sharpe, Alfred Barnes, Daniel Wilson, John Wilson, 1st, long distance (equal).

Jessie Waters, Olive Gale, 1st, short distance (equal).

SEWING PRIZES.

Standard VI.—Dorothy Wallace 1st.
 Standard V.—Mary Srint 1st.
 Standard IV.—Gladys Rentoul 1st.
 Standard III Daphne Miller 1st.
 Standard II.—Huia Jenkins 1st.
 Standard I.—Myrtle Smith 1st.
 P. II Violet Meade 1st.
 P. I.—Iris France 1st.
 Good Conduct.—Tom Meade, Evelyn Fissenden, Martha Hoare, Len Francis.
 In addition gift-books were presented to each child.

1915

1915	69	Ward	Wallace	Elizabeth A	C2	Head Female	£ 210.00
1915	69	Ward	Gunn	Grace		Ass1stant Female	£ 110.00

9th February 1915 An application from the Ward Committee for the installation of a septic tank system and a windmill at the school was received, and, was noted for future consideration

4th May 1915 Ward: Messrs John Waters (chairman), R. M. Roberts.(secretary), John Hoare, Richard Smith, W. G. Dickens School Committee

28th June 1915 SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The first of a series of matches between the Awatere district schools for the cup is to be played at Ward on Wednesday next between the Seddon and Ward schools. The following will represent Ward:—Meade (2), Adams, Barnes, Rentoul, Simpson, Forsyth, Waters, Jenkins, Sharpe, Wilson, Davidson, Greig, Cooke. and Cunliffe (capt.); emergency, Devine.

27th July 1915 WARD SCHOOL V. SEDDON

The match between the Ward and Seddon schools, played last week, for the Awatere cup. resulted in an easy victory for the Flaxbourne team by 28 to 3. Cunliffe and Adams were responsible for the points scored by the victors, while Davidson, Mead, Water:, and Rentoul also played well. Linton secured Seddon's only try, arid Fleming, Walker, Lyford, and Orchard were also prominent on the losing side. The Ward school now holds the cup for the season.

10th August 1915 Miss S C Bell Leave of Absence owing to ill health

14th September Gifts for wounded soldiers: Ward: Stationery, soap, boot laces, socks, cigarettes, tooth' brushes, handkerchiefs.

12th October 1915 painting teacher's residence at Ward, W. J. Williams, £12 15s *£1679 in October 2015 terms*

19th October 1915 The school children are to give n concert next Friday, and the committee have decided to donate the proceeds, which have in the past been used as a prize fund, to_ the ladies' committee who are carrying on Red Cross work. The children have been under the tuition of Miss Wallace and other ladies for some time, and a good programme is expected. Several parcels of goods for wounded soldiers have already been made, up and forwarded by the pupils.

1916-1917

1917	61	Ward	Wallace	Elizabeth A	C-49	Head	£230.00
1917	61	Ward	Gould	Margaret C		Ass1stant	£117.00

4th April 1916 Patriotic Fund Soldiers Comforts: Children of Ward School, 24 housewives. 2 pairs pyjamas, 2 shirts, 1. mosquito veil, soap, chocolates, milk cocoa, extracts of meat, cigarettes, and jam *As written*

18th April 1916 School Committee Ward: Messrs F. Waters (chairman F. C. Potter, R. Smith, J. Hoare and R. M. Roberts.

Wellington Education Board took over Marlborough Education Board in 1916 First meeting was held on 10th August 1916

22nd July 1916 Marlborough Education Board . architect was instructed to proceed with the installation of septic tank system at Ward,, Carluke, and Omaka

31st October 1917 On Thursday last a large and enthusiastic gathering took place at the Ward railway station, to extend very hearty welcome home to Pvt. H. J Thomson, who had been invalided owing to wounds received at the battle of Messines. .Mr W. K. Smith, in behalf of the settlers of the district, expressed the. pleasure they one and all felt at seeing him homo again, and hoped lie would soon recover from his wounds and live a long life of happiness and usefulness among his many friends in the Flaxbourne district. The school children, who paraded under the charge of t0heir teachers, considerably enlivened the proceedings by their bright singing of "'Boys of the. King?" as the train approached the station. After Private Thomson had feelingly responded lie was freely bombarded with flowers by the ladies and children. Cheers for the boys still at the front and the. Navy were then heartily given. The singing of the National Anthem brought the pleasant gathering to a close.

24th November 1917 Items of interest to Marlborough were the recommendation of Miss Wallace (Ward) for appointment as head teacher at Gladstone

13th December 1917 A highly successful concert was given at Ward on Friday last by the school children to assist the Marlborough Patriotic Fund. There was a. very large attendance, and the different items were splendidly rendered by the children. An operetta, 'The Silver Penny,' in- which the leading characters were taken by Jessie 'Waters, E. Fissenden, Daphne' Miller, George Waters, Carter, and Alex. Forsyth, was well received, as were the items given by a troupe of minstrels who had been well trained by Mr H. Spencer. Items on the- programme were contributed by B. Francis, Daphne Gale, Olive Gale, Jessie Waters, Olive Carter, Alex. Forsyth, and Alfred Barnes, and the scarf drill, action songs, and dumbbell exercises by other children added to the enjoyment of the evening. At the conclusion Mr R. Smith thanked Miss Wallace (head teacher) and Miss Gould for training the children, Mrs McDonald for acting as pianist, and: those who provided supper for the children. The takings wore £15, and in addition the children hope to raise a considerable sum by a canvass of the district

1918-1919

1919	64	Ward	Howard	Kate A Mrs	D-49	Head	£300.00
1919	64	Ward	Maitland	Hazel M R		Ass1stant	£150.00

Kate Howard came from Korimako School

5th January 1918 Last Saturday evening the residents of Flaxbourne gathered at the Ward Town Hall to bid farewell to Miss Wallace, who has had charge of the; school at Ward since the Commencement of the. settlement over 12 years ago, and who has resigned in order to take charge of the Gladstone school near Masterton. Practically every family in the settlement

was represented at the social, and general regret was expressed at Miss Wallace's departure. Mr J. Waters in behalf of the School Committee and residents generally, in asking Miss Wallace to accept a dressing case as a souvenir of the district, expressed appreciation of Miss Wallace's ability as a teacher and thereat regret felt at her departure. Mr J. J. Jenkins, of the Library Committee, thanked Miss Wallace for the work she had done for the library, and Mr Thomson, in behalf of the committee which had had charge of the school in the earlier years of the settlement, expressed the satisfaction which residents had always felt at Miss Wallace's management of the school. Mr W. H. Smith suitably replied for Miss Wallace, thanking the residents for their good wishes and presents. Vocal items by Misses Farmer and Thomson and Mr Smith and dancing added to the enjoyment of the evening. Mrs J. I. Wallace, Miss Wemyss, and Mr Wilton assisted at the piano, and supper was provided by lady residents

25th January 1918 Owing to the falling attendance at the Koromiko School; Mrs Howard was appointed head teacher at Ward. She is to be congratulated on gaining this promotion.

22nd June 1918 A Porch was built over the south end of Ward School

7th August 1918 Christmas Parcel funds Ward School per Mrs Howard £1.10s

19th October 1918 The tenders of W. Hodson for the erection of an incinerator at Blenheim, and of Ward and Co. for additions at the Ward School, were accepted.

9th January 1919 A correspondent writes :That Marlborough teachers take as good a place as any in the ranks of the profession is shown by the fact that the pupils of the Gladstone school secured seven first and second prizes and one "highly commended" at the latest Carterton Show. In addition this school was awarded the usual first and second prizes for school gardens by the Wairarapa. A. and P. Society, as; well as one of the two special prizes competed for by schools in the Wairarapa district. The teacher of the Gladstone-school is Miss Wallace, formerly head teacher of the Ward school.

24th July 1919 On Monday the Ward School Committee arranged a peace outing for the children attending its school. Races and games were provided, and the children were entertained at tea, and this was followed by: fireworks and a social evening for children and adults.

20th November 1919 o-morrow afternoon the Ward school children are holding a display of work in the Ward Town Hall. In the evening a social will be held to welcome home Sergeant G. Barnes.

24th November 1919 display of school work from the children attending the Ward school was made at the Ward Town Hall on Friday (writes our correspondent) and was inspected by a large number of residents. Much surprise was expressed at the fine show which was made, and which would have been quite creditable to the scholars of a city school. The display of drawing was splendid, especially noticeable being the work of the very young children and the water-colour seascapes by Standard VI. Mr Wedde, organising teacher, was present, and affixed the order of merit in the different classes. He expressed satisfaction at the general excellence shown, and especially mentioned the crayon drawing, pencil sketches, an excellent spray of violets in perirodelle by four girls, a model of Gallipoli, and one of a naval base on the Flaxbourne River. There was a large attendance on Friday evening, when a social evening was held, followed by supper.. The headmistress (Mrs Howard) deserves great credit for the excellence of the work shown and the energy displayed in .arranging for its inspection.

In 1919 George Gubbins was a pupil Teacher at Albany Street Dunedin

1920-1921

1921	65	Ward	Howard	Kate A Mrs	D-49	Head	£370.00
1921	65	Ward	Monkhouse	Grace j		Ass1stant	£200.00

Grace Monkhouse was teaching at Sea View in 1919

Hazel Maitland was Teaching at Porirua in 1920 with Miss Wadsworth

Kate Howard went to Cross Creek School South of Featherston in the railway settlement

1922-1923

1923	69	Ward	Gubbins	George H	B-204	Head	£283.00
1923	69	Ward	Armstrong	Violet M Mrs	B-194	Ass1stant	£233.00

Appointed 9th October 1923 George H Gubbins

See Te Ara New Zealand Encyclopedia for a biography of Sir Joseph Ward Prime Minister of New Zealand

Post 1923

23rd September 1929 Mr F J Proctor appointed to Ward

Because Ward is common it has been difficult to research after 1920 and there could well be more information

29th August 1929 George Gubbins and his wife were both teaching at Owenga in the Chatham Islands; He was Head teacher

20th January 1947 Mr G. H. Gubbins & daughter (Motueka) were visitors to Clyde last week. Mr Gubbins, who is rector of the Motueka school, is a nephew of Mr H. G. Wright. Dunstan Times

Research by Grandson Sam: George Gubbins, born on October 3, 1901 in Dunedin, attended Caversham school for his primary education in the years 1907 to 1914. In 1915 he commenced his secondary education at Dunedin's Otago Boys High School, until 1918. The next 2 years were spent as a pupil-teacher at the Albany Street (Dunedin) School, then going to the University of Otago, graduating M A (Hons.) in History, and Dunedin Teacher's Training College, gaining his Teacher's "A" Certificate.

Mr Gubbins' first teaching position was at Ward (45km south of Blenheim, Marlborough) from 1924 to 1929, then followed a move to the Chatham Islands, where he was Head Teacher at Owenga School (1929 - 1932).

In 1933, a transfer to Apiti, in the Wanganui Education Board's area was Mr Gubbins' first North Island appointment. From 1936 to 1938 he was First Assistant at Mangapapa School, Gisborne. A succession of Headmasterships followed, as listed:

Waitotara (Wanganui) 1939 – 1941

Murchison District High School, Westland 1941 -1943

Martinborough District High School, Wairarapa 1943 - 1945

Motueka District High School, Nelson 1946-1949

Paeroa District High School 1949 – 1957

Paeroa Central School 1958

During the 10 years that he was at Paeroa, Mr Gubbins presided over the complete separation of Primary and Secondary departments. The primary department in Wood Street became Paeroa Central School, of which Mr Gubbins was the foundation Headmaster - his last permanent appointment.

The secondary department became Paeroa College (Mr W L McLean - foundation Principal) and the vacant Education Board site in Miller Avenue (occupied by the Manual Training School 1925 -1944) was the location of Miller Avenue School, dating from 1958 (Mr E W Wells, foundation Headmaster.)

Mr and Mrs Gubbins were given a public farewell in the Paeroa War Memorial Hall on December 8th 1958, and they moved to the Wellington area, residing at Paremata, where Mr Gubbins continued to teach on a part time basis. His final position was relieving Principal at Newlands High school at Johnsonville, from which he retired in 1971.

For some 5 years, Mr and Mrs Gubbins lived at Taupo, but in 1982, they moved to Raumati Beach on the Kapiti Coast. Mrs Marjorie Gubbins died in 1985, but Mr Gubbins, now 89 years of age, still resides at his Raumati Beach home.

In 1975 Mr Gubbins attended the Paeroa District High School/Paeroa Central School Reunion, at which he was the earliest Headmaster present

1929/978	Marjorie Annie	Cook	George Henry	Gubbins	
1995/33730	Gubbins		George Henry	3/10/1901	93Y
1986/44409	Gubbins		Marjorie Annie	2/9/1903	82Y

National Archives

Ward

1906 Original: 480 square feet

1911 Additional 480

1934 Above 960 removed

1935 946 square feet built

Residence built 1907 5 Rooms 1170 square feet

1953 Added 1578

1946 Dental Clinic Built

Area 5 acres Section 14 Block VII gazetted 1908

Section 15 Block VII area 14 perches purchased 28th September 1916

20th December 1905

11th December Letter to Marlborough Education Board from Department asking details of an application for a school at Ward

The Education Board applied for a school building 20 foot x 24 foot Cost £450

List of settlers has been supplied by the Flaxbourne Settlers Association

A large list of families listed at least 21 families included

Number of Children 35 with 20 more under 5

No other school within 7 or 8 miles

Room 20 foot x 24 foot Porch and shelter shed 20 foot x 8 foot

Wood building, iron roof, brick chimney

20 Dual desks needed 3 foot 6 inches and a Cupboard with lock and key. And Hat and Coat pegs
2 Closets

Section 1 Corner of Duncan and Carroll Street site is an educational reserve Size 5 acres

23 chains of fencing needed post and wire d=fence

There is no existing school. If the settlement flourishes as expected Ward should be such another township as Seddon. There is no reason to doubt the permanence of the settlement

D A Strachan Inspector

19th February 1906 Marlborough Education Board argues that £200 is not enough money because of the distance of transport for materials

Secretary of Education replies that difficulties of transport have eased and amount should be enough

21st April 1906 Tenders called by Marlborough Education Board cheapest was £329 plus £15 for concrete foundations Marlborough Education Board accepted Me Lawrence's tender and hopes Department will pay the same Department agreed to pay sum of £364

5th June 1906 New School Committee write to Marlborough Education Board asking for a residence

At present there are 6 families close enough to the school to house the teacher and as the roads get very muddy and there is a problem in crossing the rivers in wet weather . But there are no places to house a teacher It would also be helpful if there is a school residence and pupils could arrange to stay over if necessary Signed Alex Thompson, Chairman

14th July 1906 Letter stating the nearest house available is Mr. Loe's about two miles away and there are two streams to cross The Richmond Brook has two rooms attached and this would suit Ward

16th July 1906 Report on application for a school residence included

- a) The school is built for 40 children It would probably be a waste of money to build two rooms attached
- b) Secretary of Ed . Mr. Hogben stated it is not too much for a teacher to go two miles when a child can be compelled to go three

24th August 1906 Department turns down application for a school house

After many letters The House was approved the roll at Ward in March 1906 was 18 and June 1906 was 19

22nd December 1906 £300 granted for house later on tenders were too high and the grant extended to £350

13th May 1907 Grant from Department raised to £400 after copious correspondence

12th July 1907 Roll is now 28 in the new building

22nd July Letter from Marlborough Education Board

- a) The new school has been completed satisfactorily

12th October 1907 New residence finished for £407-8-0

5th May 1908 £ 15 for a shelter shed similar to the one at Grassmere

29th May 1908 Payment for temporary accommodation of school until new room built

8th March 1911 Application for extra space

- a) School erected in 1906
- b) Two teachers
- c) 1908 Roll 30, 1909 Roll 33 1910 roll 39
- d) Average attendance for last quarter 45
- e) No of eligible children (within 3 Miles) not attending any school 19
- f) Rail not available
- g) Grassmere 9 Miles, Tetley Brook 13 miles Blind River 13 miles
- h) The Board proposes to add another room
- i) Cost £225

28th March 1911 Money approved

9th May 1916 Asking for 14 perches of extra land to obtain a suitable water supply to the school there being no possibility of getting water on the site

9th June 1916 Addition approved

16th February 1921 One fire needs a surround There is no fire equipment in the school two CO2 fire extinguishers should be provided one in the school and one in the residence

14th May 1928 Application to enlarge school

1920 59, 1921 65, 1922 68 roll

Addition to girl's toilets of two seats (one for teacher) and to Boy's closet one seat

18th May 1923 Mother of Five writes to Director of Education included

- a) Shelter shed is now a cow shed and is used for milking purposes by the head master
- b) The playground is quite a cow yard and is covered with cow droppings
- c) One of the children pushed my little girl and she fell in a cow dirt
- d) The playground is in such a filthy state the children cannot help getting their clothes dirty
- e) You'll notice I have not signed my name as the head master would make it difficult for my little ones
- f) But you can send the Health Officer
- g) Trusting you will see to the matter

30th May 1923 Director writes to Wellington Education Board

9th July 1923 Wellington Education Board to Director We made immediate enquiries but have not had a reply

13th August Department still does not have a reply from Wellington Education Board

27th August 1923

Reply delayed as teacher has been ill

- a) Cow was in only temporarily and only milked once in shed
- b) The use of the playground was without the sanction of the School Committee
- c) But has been discontinued
- d) The Committee had dealt with the matter effectively

11th April 1930 Problems with drainage Minister Atmore visits and plans for a new septic tank and drainage suddenly happens

19th July 1933 Attendance 69

22nd May 1934 School destroyed by fire at 4 a.m. this morning

- a) Completely destroyed
- b) 3 small rooms attached to hall are immediately available as classrooms
- c) As there are 70 children and three small rooms there will need to be a third teacher
- d) The main hall has no heating arrangements
- e) Fire started near chimney

5th July 1934 £1089.16 cost of rebuilding

18th October Tree roots were- interfering with septic tank system going to be looked into

29th January 1935 Septic Tank system breaks down school moved back to hall

A few more files but this covers the main happenings in property at Ward school until 1940

School reports by Inspectors included

19th October 1965 T W Curr Head Teacher, M K J Robinson Assistant, Miss Mary-Clare Hickman Assistant Primers 25 Roll 89

The school is permanently staffed and are accommodated in modern convenient well heated buildings

The School Committee is to be commended on its work for the school

5th December 1968 Thomas Curr Head Teacher, Raymond Thompson Assistant, Joyce Curr Mrs Assistant. Primers 33. Roll 98

The extension of the bus run to allow children previously at Kekerangu School to attend has been a satisfactory arrangement

The children are usually diligent and well behaved

The high winds experienced in the district create a need for frequent maintenance and repair of doors and windows

Senior pupils travel to Blenheim Manual Training once a fortnight

27th July 1971 T W Curr, G M Moses, J Curr (Mrs T W) infants 17. Total roll 72

Roll numbers have fallen Music continues to reach a high standard the performance of the choir and band being an outstanding achievement for a small country school. The children are Courteous and diligent

17th July 1974 Mr. C G McLean Principal, Mr. R D Kennedy, Mrs J Curr 23 infants Roll 73

Mr. Mclean started in February 1973 has gained the confidence of eh staff, children and community. Under his positive guidance a purposeful atmosphere has been developed and we found the children Natural, friendly well behaved and willing to work

20th April 1977 Mr. M J Jordan Principal. Mr. R D Kennedy Teacher, Mrs J Carr Teacher 21 in infants total roll 68

At the time of inspection the principal had only been appointed, The teacher in the middle class was on the point of leaving to another position. The Junior Class Teacher has held this position for a considerable period.

The adventure playground is a decided asset to the school

Ward Education 1946 -1972

5th March 1946 Fuel Shed built for £ 40

Note to Minister of Ed 1950 Mr. T J Whitwell Head Mrs A C Eyles assistant Roll 73

Two classrooms erected 1935 Dental Clinic erected 1946 There is a swimming bath and a house for the head teacher erected in 1907

Buses run from Taimate and Mirza

2nd August 1951 application for new classroom 3 Teachers roll 71

Nearest School Seddon 13.4 Miles. Wharanui 8.3, Kekerangu 10 miles

28th July 1954 Application for a bus garage for the Departments Bus

23rd March 1962 Report on old house

- a) The house is really one bedroom short
- b) The old detached corrugated iron structure comprising laundry and toilet is due for removal
- c) Borer is fairly severe

17th January 1963 provision being made for a teacher drive to drive from Ward to Marlborough College each day

2nd April 1964 Ward School Earthquake Damage on 25th March 1964 £172

Cracks in tennis courts. Outside doors out of alignment, School residence doors and windows effected

17th July 1970 Ward School residence £400 worth of damage

Wharanui (1917-1919), Wharenuui 1923

On State Highway 1 between Ward and Kekerangu

1917	12	Wharanui	Bruce	Doris	Sole	£110.00
1919	10	Wharanui	Watson	Henry	Sole	£160.00
1923	13	Wharenuui	Brock	Charles L B	Sole	£195.00

15th June 1916 Report of Education Board for 1915 The school from Mirza has been removed to Wharanui to suit-the families of men employed in the extension of the railway

21st November 1917 Miss D Bruce resigns

8th February 1928 Also in the Marlborough ward is Wharanui, and here a new school is to be erected to replace an old building, formerly belonging to the Public Works Department, and used for school purposes

16th May 1928 New school completed

27th February 1930 Additions to be completed at Wharanui

31st July 1931 Miss F M Greenwood appointed

10th May 1938 Mr L Mallring Wharanui appointed

20th November 1941 Mr C F S McGreevy Sole Teacher from Auckland appointed. In 1944 Mr McGreevy was appointed to Waihakeke School in the Wairarapa

National Archives: Yes

Woodbank (1914-1923)

A the Mouth of the Clarence River on State Highway 1

Woodbank

1906 360 square feet

1917 380 added Concerted army building

1955 Residence 1146 Square Feet

1 Acre Section 1 Block XI Puha Puhi SD Gift from Mr A J Murray

1914	11	Woodbank	Trolove	Dorothy	Female	£ 36.00	
1915	11	Woodbank	Trolove	Dorothy	Female	£ 110.00	£20.00
1917	19	Woodbank	Taylor	Frances E	D	Sole	£110.00
1919	22	Woodbank	Taylor	Frances E	D-87	Sole	£190.00
1923	19	Woodbank	Green	William H M		Sole	£155.00
1921	20	Woodbank Kekerangu	Taylor	Frances E	D	Sole	£270.00

16th April 1914 Miss Dorothy Trolove Woodbank. Mr Fred Trolove farmed at Woodbank South Marlborough

15th June 1915 Woodbank: The secretary stated that the children at this place were taught in a room at Mr Murray's house. He now wanted the room for his own use There were eleven children in attendance. —It was decided to urge the Government to purchase a site and build a school

15th February 1916 Mr A. J. Murray again wrote urging the erection of a new school at Woodbank, Clarence Bridge.—Mr Murray to be informed that the matter was under the consideration of the Education Department.

11th July 1916 Mr Mackay moved that the secretary be instructed to bring under the direct notice of the Minister the urgent requirements, at Coniston, Deep Creek; Woodbank and Starborough Downs, -and requesting him at once to give effect to the resolution of the Board; and that Mr R. McCallum., M.P., be asked to do all he could -to further the request- of the Board with the Minister.

The chairman seconded the motion, which was earned, after various members had expressed the Board-had been badly treated by the Minister in connection with those matters.

22nd July 1916 A grant for the erection of a school building at Woodbank, Southern Marlborough has been approved by the Minister for Education, subject to the condition that the Education Board obtains the title to the site offered by the settlers. The secretary of the

Board,.-who reported that he was in communication with Mr Murray as to the acre of land offered, was authorised to call for tenders for the work.

1st August 1916 Final meeting of Marlborough A grant for the erection of a school building at *Woodbank*, Southern ,Marlborough has been approved by the Minister for Education, subject to the condition that the Education Board obtains the title to the site offered by the settlers. The secretary of the Board,.-who reported that he was in communication with Mr Murray as to the acre of land offered, was authorised to call for tenders for the work.

1st August 1916.

13th March 1917 Woodbank (near Kaikoura.) —Solo Teacher, £110 to £140 and £20 h.a (*Housing allowance*)

26th April 1917 The resignation of Miss Trolove was accepted

17th April 1919 Miss F E Taylor appointed

10th October 1922 Mr M I Wiggins appointed

25th March 1930 Mr W D Barnett appointed

15th November 1933 The Koromiko and Woodbank School Committees. Asked that the Marlborough Ward should continue to remain under the control of the Wellington Education Board

5th January 1935 The council of governors if Nelson College have made the following awards in connection with the Tinline Scholarship. Betty M Parker (Woodbank School) and Clarence Bridge

22nd May 1941 Miss K M Turner Sole Teacher from Canterbury

[National Archives](#)

Woodbank

National Archives Primary Schools 1914

23rd January 1915 Petition signed by 12 settlers of Clarence Bridge asking for a school

There were 14 children of school age

6th April 1915 Application included

Seven families, 17 children 1 on Kaikoura Roll and 11 on Woodbank aided school roll

Kekerangu was 15 Miles away. Woodbank 1 mile Mangamaumu 17 Miles

Rail was at Ward 33 miles

Propose giving 1 acre on North Side of Clarence River. A J Murray is owner

Nearest timber about 16 Miles away Rimu and Totara. About 14 shillings at Mill

Supplies from Kaikoura 25 Miles transport by wagon teams about 3/- per 100 foot

Site is Level dry and clear about 2 chains frontage

Teacher accommodation. Public Accommodation House about ¼ mile away from proposed site

Assistance? Site will be given

Name of Post Office where mail can be addressed Woodbank, Kekerangu or Clarence Bridge

Signed A J Murray Woodbank

		Distance From School	Nearest Existing School	Name	Age	Current School

John Elder	Sheep farmer	1 ¼	Kekerangu 16 Miles	Alice Elder	12	
				Lillie	9	
				John	5	
S P Askin	Sheep Farmer	¼ Mile	Kekerangu 15	Murray Askin	13	
				Allan	5	
Francis Garlick	Blacksmith	1 ½ Miles		Rachel Garlick	10	Kaikoura
				Frank	6	Woodbank Aided
David Johnston	Ploughman	1 ½ m	Kekerangu 16	Rita Johnston	8	"
				Bessie	6	"
W H Laugesen	Dairyman	1 m	Kekerangu 16	Annie Laugesen	10	"
				Theodore	7	
				Rainford	5	
A L Ross	Shepherd	1 mile	Kekerangu 16	John Ross	7	
				Alexander	5	
A J Murray	Runholder	1 M	Kekerangu 16	Isobel	9	
				Betty	6	
				Ross	5	

Current school is an aided school in a building lent by A J Murray Opened in 1914

No of children attending 11

19th April 1915 Letter from Department to Marlborough Education Board asking why there are 17 children but only an attendance of 5 at the aided school

There were 2 aided schools one at Clarence Bridge and one at Woodbank. Mr. Murray informs the Board that the Clarence Bridge one is closed

The plan is similar to the one erected at Dillon's Point

In another letter the Department querying rolls Kekerangu only has 9 children, Woodbank 11
16th June Marlborough Education Board to Department The school is in one of Mr. Murray's private room and is now needed

10th July 1915 Letter from Mr. Atkin Asking for a school It appears that Mr. Murray has closed the Aided school to others as Mr. Atkin writes "We have not had a school here for the past 12 months"

26th July 1915 Mr. Gibbes Secretary of Education writes

25th August 1915 MR. John Elder writes There are now 6 children here some of whom are 12 and have not had any education for a year. There are 11 children now being taught in one of the rooms at Mr. Murray's private house and Mr. Murray now advises me that he requires the room.

25th September S P Askin writes again. Those of us who live on the Canterbury side of the Clarence River have 5 or 6 children who receive no education what £so ever.

24th September Mr. Elder again writes to the Minister of Education

20th October 1915 Mr. Elder again writes

16th March 1916 Mr. Hanan Minister writes to Mr. Elder and apologises to him for not replying then stating he can only deal with Mr. Elder through the Marlborough Education Board and not directly

16th June 1916 Marlborough Education Board finally apply for a new school at Woodbank

The settlers now offer an acre of land and £240 for the erection of a building

18th July 1916 From Nelson buildings. The Marlborough Education Board had been taken over by the Wellington Education Board and they must have delegated some responsibilities

The only requirement was that the Board would get title to the land

£230 grant spent by Wellington Education Board

6th July 1917 School has been built but the Department has not yet seen the title to the land

6th September 1917 Department of Lands and Survey confirm that Section 6 formerly part of section 11, Block XI Puhi Survey District

7th April Assistant fire inspector reports that 3 fire buckets should be kept at Woodbank and always kept full of water

23rd February 1925 Telegram from D Byrne Constable Seddon to Education Department Clarence Bridge Public School damaged by fire to the extent of twenty pounds early on Friday morning inquiries being made

Fire enquiry report included

- a) Fire was seen by some workmen who broke a window to get in
- b) There was plenty of water in the tank
- c) The fire was deliberately lit from the outside
- d) Material from the bridge work was found under the building
- e) The school had been closed since in December and used only twice for church services

Repairs be made to the building and not to exceed £20 estimated by the policeman

The men who put out the fire were a gratuity by the Wellington Education Board The gratuity was £1 each man (9 involved)

12th May 1931 A Letter from E Scott to Mr. Atmore Minister for Education Writing from one of the Public works camps

- a) In the first place they are shifted from place to place
- b) Travel 10 miles to school in an open truck no seats and no cover in all sorts of weather

- c) The truck soaking wet from heavy dews
- d) The get to school about 10.00
- e) The weather is bitterly cold along the coast
- f) Do you not think a proper school could be provided

11th June 1931 Mr. Scott writes again

- a) We have been her 7 weeks and still no mention of a school
- b) I think something should be done to educate the children rather than have them running wild
- c) P S Also a cover to be put over the truck as the weather here is bitterly cold

27th June 1931 Public Works Department writes to Director of Education

- a) Children have been travelling on trucks between Conway and Parnassus
- b) The parents sign indemnity forms to say they wouldn't claim compensation in case of accidents

Undated but after the above letter Hane Te Reweti Waipapa A Camp asking for a native school as the Europeans will not let the Maori children attend their school Other schools are too far away over 10 miles

23rd June 1931 There is a school at the Paparoa camp but the Europeans will not allow the Maori children to attend One letter was written in Maori

14th July Letter from Wellington Education Board to Director

- a) School will be Woodbank
- b) The classroom measures 20 foot by 18 foot which provides for 30 children
- c) The teacher wrote and said there were a lot more children to come but he could not admit them
- d) Three children from the Canterbury area should go to school in that area or attend Correspondence school

Average attendance 1930, 19

28th June 1935 Woodbank application for a Urinal at Woodbank None at present £20

20th July 1936 Destruction of Boys' conveniences by fire

The boy who emptied the fire place had not put water on the ashes and there was a very strong wind which had blown out two windows

It also could have bene caused by swaggers there were three of them camped in the shelter shed last night I have been told

9th June 1939 Report on Woodbank School

Roll 13 Classroom 18 foot x 18 Foot thought to be about 80 years old Open fireplace in disrepair, floor parched and ragged, colours drab, W C's Pits Girl's toilets no concrete on floors, borer infested and decayed

Grounds about 1 ½ acres

5th May 1941 Letter from Wellington Education Board to Director of Education

- a) Roll now 42
- b) One head teacher and assistant
- c) One small classroom 18 foot x 20 foot
- d) Men will be involved in public works until the year
- e) We suggest moving the temporary building at The Shades
- f) Approved for £80

16th December 1944 Teacher accommodation has always been difficult at Woodbank

At present a single women is on war appointment there

The Soldier teacher is a married man with one child The man is back home and making enquiries about accommodation

I stopped here in my research but the school prospered for a long time.
