



CHURCH AND SCHOOL, 1879-1899.



MRS WILKINSON AND SCHOOL—ABOUT 1916

Back Row, Girls.—Miss Wilkinson, Nellie Percy, Winnie Wilkinson, Mary Wallace, Gertrude Percy, Natalie Wilkinson,  
Kathleen Knight.

Front Row, Girls.—Nora McKay, Eunice Percy, Mary Wrigley, Gladys Wrigley, Flora Wilkinson.

Back Row, Boys.—Len Wrigley, Henry Percy, — Chapman (Mrs Wilkinson).

Front Row, Boys.—Stan Bergersen, —, Dick McKay, —, George McKay, Bill Bergersen, Don Carswell,  
Don Chapman, Pat Wallace, Seymour Chapman.

# Bideford School

Established 1879

Closed 2003

This research has been undertaken by Robin Carlyon. I went to school in the late 1940s and went to Wellington Training College in 1960. For all but one year I taught in schools run in the Wellington Education Board Area. For 36 Years I was Principal of a number of schools. Thirty Five of those years in the Wairarapa Bush area. This research project is presented with this background and experience.

Please acknowledge in any published work my research and the part played in the research by Gareth Winter and his excellent team at Wairarapa Archives

**Bideford:** 1888 to 2002. The school had 3 different sites. 22 Kilometres North East of Masterton off Te Ore Ore Bideford Road. The last site the school was on was originally named Glendonald

## Bideford

### 1879

5<sup>th</sup> December 1879 Miss Wilkinson has resigned. Moved that her resignation be accepted at the end of the present quarter. Miss Wilkinson had been governess to the Morrison Children. JB

Moved that the chairman write to the Secretary of the Wellington Education Board acquainting them of Miss Wilkinson's resignation and asking if he was willing to approve of another teacher chosen by the Bideford School Committee.

That the chairman advertise for a teacher upon the receipt of a favourable answer from the secretary of Wellington Education Board.

15<sup>th</sup> December, 1879 WANTED, a Mistress for the Bideford School; salary, £60 per annum, with board and lodging; must be able to teach music. Applications to be sent in to Jas. Miller, Chairman School Committee. PP

### 1880

14<sup>th</sup> January 1880 Eight applicants for a teacher:

Moved that Miss Morison be appointed Teacher.

Moved that Miss Robertson be appointed

Moved that Mr Millar be appointed

Moved that Mr Hood be appointed

After balloting for them Miss Morison was declared duly elected

26<sup>th</sup> June 1880 householders meet, 9 stood for local householders meeting of the district 7 were selected.

A letter was laid on the table from the secretary of Wellington Education Board in reference to Miss Morison's appointment

Proposed by Rev C H Cofsett? Seconded by John Morrison and carried. That the chairman interviews the school mistress with regard to testimonials and references, also to her willingness to go up for examinations for the satisfaction of the Wellington Education Board. The question having been raised by the Rev C H Gofsett as to bible teaching by the mistress out of school hours it was resolved: That this committee have no objections to such teachings so long as it does not encroach upon the school regulations under the Wellington Education Board

12<sup>th</sup> May 1880 The chairman reported having received the grant in aid amounting to 17 pounds That the teachers' salary of 15 pound for the quarter is paid.

That the chairman purchases a clock for the schoolroom not to exceed 30 shillings.

The chairman read a letter he had received from Mr C Minchin asking the committee to try and get some assistance from the Education Board towards educating the families of Messrs Saunders and Brannigan. Moved that the secretary write to the Wellington Education Board enclosing the letter re this matter.

Letter written by Mr Charles Minchin to the Bideford School Committee.

June 12<sup>th</sup> 1880

Mr J Miller Esq.

Chairman of the Bideford School Committee

Dear Sir, Allow me to lay before your school committee at your next meeting a case deserving some consideration and with the hopes you

will bring it before the notice of the education board. That there are two large families (The Brannigans and Saunders) in this very remote district trying to give their children what education they can. Would the Education Board grant them the 4 pounds per child in this instance without very strict compliance to their conditions as to qualified teachers and seeing how hard it would be for families circumstanced like those named be able to do so.

Hoping your committee will bring the matter before the education board and that they may take this exceptional case into favourable consideration

I remain

Yours very sincerely

Charles Minchin

7/12/80

*( Mr C Minchin farmed at Alfredton. Saunders and Brannigan worked for him. There was no school at Alfredton until 1887. This school was started by Mr Brannigan who couldn't read and signed his name with an X. The children would have had to board at Bideford and there was a boarding house next to Bideford School. It seems as though school rolls were supervised and children who came out of a tightly prescribed district would not be paid for by the State)*

7<sup>th</sup> August 1880. A circular from the Wellington Education Board stating that there would be a reduction of 10/- per head on the average attendance to take place from the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Also a letter in answer to an application made for assistance in educating private families.

*(The teacher did not attend meetings of the school committee and it appears as though all communication with her were made formal by being written).* Moved that the circular re reduction of salaries be sent to the teacher for confirmation.

Moved that a special meeting be held by the committee to discuss reduction of salary for teacher.

August 17<sup>th</sup> 1880. That in the Opinion of the meeting there is no necessity for reducing the teachers salary

Building insured with New Zealand Insurance for the sum of 100 pound.*(The equivalent of \$15,241.29 in December 2010. This shows how small the room was)*

Letter

Farmlands, Bideford, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1880

G Fannin Esq

Masterton

Dear Sir. I see by the paper that you are the Bishops Church Warden for the Masterton Parish, I take the liberty of writing to you to see if you can give me any information about the church property here. During Mr Teakles (Vicar) time in Masterton the settlers got permission to use the building as a public school. There was no fireplace in the building at the time that they got permission to put a stove in. When the stove was put in, it was understood that the building was insured for 100 pound. But as putting the stove in would entail an extra premium, the Bideford School Committee agreed to pay such extra premium, since then we have heard nothing of the matter.

As we are in occupation of the building and an accident might happen at any time, we would like to know whether the building is insured

for 100 pounds and whether the insurance company has been notified if the insurance company has been notified of the stove being put in.

Answer to the above letter

September 24<sup>th</sup> 1880

Dear Sir, I have been unable to reply to your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> as I did not get the information from Mr Girdlestone until this week.

Mr Girdlestone has written to Wellington on the subject and informs me that the building you mention is not insured at all. The policy having been allowed to lapse.

Mr Girdlestone will be glad to insure the building if you will communicate with him

I am Yours Truly

Geo Fannin

**1881**

24<sup>th</sup> January 1881

Write to Wellington Education Board with reference to the capitation grant.

March 8<sup>th</sup> 1881. Moved that the Chairman write to Miss Morison and inform her that it will necessary to make a reduction in her salary after the present quarter expires.

Bideford March 10<sup>th</sup> 1881

Dear Miss Morison. I am instructed by the committee to forward the following resolution for your information

That the chairman write to Miss Morison and inform her that it will be necessary to make a reduction in her salary after the present quarter expires.

I am yours Respectfully  
Jas Miller  
Chairman Bideford School

23<sup>rd</sup> April. Miss Morison put in her resignation as Mistress of this school

Moved that Miss Morison's resignation be accepted and that the school be temporarily closed from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Moved that the Chairman pay Miss Morison as soon as he receives the Wellington Education Board Grant.

May 12<sup>th</sup> 1881

Sec Wellington Education Board

Dear Sir. Owing to Messer's Morrison and Carman's Families having left this neighbourhood the Bideford School Committee were very reluctantly compelled to close the school at the end of April

The number of children being reduced to 9 the committee thought it advisable to close the school for the winter or till other families Settled in the place of those removed.

Signed Jas Miller

Farmlands Bideford

July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1881

Secretary Education Board

Dear Sir.

The settlers here are very anxious to have the school opened again. And they have asked me to write to you on the subject. Our position is this. We have nine children left, all over school age and who have

been attending school till it was closed. There are four others between four and five which would make the number up to thirteen

If the Wellington Education Board would pay us at the rate of 4 pound per head per annum on the average attendance of these children the committee would open the school again. It would be necessary to get a teacher at reduced salary as under the present arrangement we will have to pay for her board and lodging which before we provided free

Jas Miller

## 1884

It was announced that the following: had been elected a Committee for Bideford:— Messrs. H. Wilton, J. Miller, J. McRea, J. W. Lang, and D. Harold PP 27<sup>th</sup> June 1884

## 1885

The resignations of Mrs. Farrar, of the Bideford School, was accepted July 1885 pp (*No Minutes from the school committee but obviously the school is still running*)

## 1886

18<sup>th</sup> February WANTED, a Teacher for the Bideford Aided School references required. For particulars apply Chairman of Committee PP

## 1887

Farmlands January 25<sup>th</sup> 1887

Sec Wellington Education Board

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by the committee to ask the Education Board for a grant of 5 Pounds to erect a water closet at this school At present there is no convenience of the sort and with the number of children now attending it is very awkward.

We think we can get one put up for about 5 pound that will answer the purpose, but as our funds are very limited we are compelled to come to the board for assistance, hoping they will take case into their favourable situation

## 1888

A petition from residents at Bideford for an aided School was referred to the secretary. PP 25<sup>th</sup> January 1888

June 21 1888

*There is a teacher being paid but no notes.*

Teacher is still being paid according to School Committee minutes

## 1889

30<sup>th</sup> January 1899 WANTED, a Mistress, for the Bideford Aided School; salary, .£ 60 per annum(Equivalent to \$9,756.10 in August 2010). Must be able to teach music Address Chairman Bideford School Committee, near Master ton. PP

The following results of the examination of country schools by Mr. Lee, School Inspector Bideford aided school).— Total on roll, 15, of which 2 are in the junior class. Standard I. Presented, 9 ; passed, 9. Standard III. Presented, 4 ; failed, 1 ; passed, 3. PP 6<sup>th</sup> April 1889

Bideford (aided school).— School has been closed for six years. Very good writing is taught, and the instruction is generally satisfactory PP 26<sup>th</sup> April 1889

22<sup>nd</sup> May The matter of getting firewood for the school was left for Mr Carswell to arrange

That the chairman be authorised to arrange for the teacher for a six weeks holiday at Midwinter (if she is agreeable) so as to have a fortnight at the regular Christmas vacation.

That the committee approve the action of the Chairman in paying the teachers salary for the June and September Quarters respectively.

## 1890

March 14<sup>th</sup> Moved that prizes be given for first and second in each standard and also first and second for sewing and should funds permit a small present be given the rest of the children. It was suggested that the chairman and Mr Lang select the prizes

## 1891

27<sup>th</sup> February. It was decided that no prizes should be given children at the annual examination of the school, but they should have a treat instead.

27<sup>th</sup> April Application from the clerk of the Upper Taueru Road Board asking permission to use the schoolroom for an election of wardens on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Application granted.

## 1892

12<sup>th</sup> March. It was decided to have a treat for the children on the day of the examination and the ladies of the district to be asked to provide the tea.

The chairman was authorised to get some lollies and nuts for the scramble

Mr Lang agreed to have the closets attended to.

25<sup>th</sup> April. It was decided that the application from Charles Love and others for the use of the schoolrooms for a dancing class could not be granted

8<sup>th</sup> September. It was decided to apply to the Wellington Education Board for a cupboard as the inspector said one was required.

The report of the examination by Inspector Lee was read

## 1893

30<sup>th</sup> January 1893 A letter was read from the Wellington Education Board stating that owing to their carpenter having so much work on hand they were unable to supply a cupboard to the school.

It was decided to leave the matter of the School picnic in the hands of the families about Bideford. The picnic to take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February and the chairman was instructed to issue invitations and to get lollies, nuts etc.

March 21<sup>st</sup>. Miss Bannister's resignation to take effect from 30<sup>th</sup> June was received and accepted

An account of 10/- to J Lang for cleaning the school offices was passed for payment

June 26<sup>th</sup> The chairman was instructed to write to Miss Caldwell and inform her that as the inspectors report was favourable the committee

were willing to appoint her mistress of the school if she was willing to take up the position. And if Miss Caldwell did not accept to advertise for a mistress at one.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. The chairman submitted eleven applications in response for the position of mistress to the school.

It was moved that the chairman be authorised to select a mistress for the school from the following list of names. Subject to the approval of the Wellington Education Board. Miss I Shepherd, Miss Drake, Miss Hollis Miss Burns. The chairman to notify unsuccessful applicants that the position is filled.

27<sup>th</sup> September Misses Bannister and Shepherd to the aided schools at Kaiwhata and Bideford respectively were approved. PP

2<sup>nd</sup> October. The chairman reported having engaged Miss Shepherd as mistress of the school. And the school was opened under her management on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1893

Mr Miller (*Board Chairman and Teacher Appointer*) complained that in his opinion the school teacher was not treating the children properly in the matter of lessons and after considerable discussion it was decided she had not occupied the position long enough for the committee to form an opinion on the matter.

## 1894

January 19<sup>th</sup> Miss Shepherd tendered her resignation as mistress of this school which was accepted to take effect from the end of January. It was moved that the secretary write to Wellington Education Board asking them to appoint a temporary teacher for this school till such time as the committee can get a permanent one. The chairman to advertise at once for a teacher



7<sup>th</sup> February The applicants for the position of Mistress were read. It was moved that Miss Mason be appointed Mistress to commence her duties as soon as possible.

It was moved that Miss Shepherd be paid her salary in full to the end of January 1894.

10<sup>th</sup> April Fine only 14 children present. Removed the names Jane, John, James and Arthur Carswell from the roll

11<sup>th</sup> April Receipt of chemicals. (*Presumably for use with the lavatories*)

7<sup>th</sup> May. No school on account of road board elections

14<sup>th</sup> May. Caned M McWilliams for disobedience

8<sup>th</sup> June received a small box of pencils and a bottle of ink for school use.

15<sup>th</sup> August. Received cupboard from Education Board

31<sup>st</sup> August, and 3, 4,5,7 September Wet No school

17<sup>th</sup> September. Caned McWilliams and May Wilton for continued naughtiness.

19<sup>th</sup> September. Very wet day. Taught for two hours only, being wet through and very cold

28<sup>th</sup> September. End of quarter. Average for Quarter 18

15<sup>th</sup> October. Strapped M McWilliams and Bertram Sewell for naughtiness

14<sup>th</sup> November Strapped Bertram Sewell for throwing his book at a child in school.

## 1895

18<sup>th</sup> February Strapped Bertram Sewell for wilful untruth on account of which Mr Sewell kept him home in the afternoon.

21<sup>st</sup> February . The chairman was instructed to inform Miss Mason that the committee could not grant the closing of the school at 3.00 Clock on Wednesday for hymn practice.

22<sup>nd</sup> February Strapped M McWilliams and J Sewell for playing and inattention.

22<sup>nd</sup> March M McWilliams May Wilton and Harold go into Standard 1.

17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> April Bridge washed away Unable to get to school.

22<sup>nd</sup> April Moved that Miss Mason's application for a bonus of 10 pound be granted. The proposition not finding a seconder the motion lapsed.

Moved that the schoolroom be insured for 100 pounds out of funds in hand.

It was decided that Albert Lang should attend to the closets for the present year for 1 pound. (*This is the equivalent of \$174.52 in December 2010 terms*)

21<sup>st</sup> June Low weekly average attendance to be accounted for by the fact that most of the children are away picking up poisoned rabbits.

30<sup>th</sup> July School resumes with roll of 22

6<sup>th</sup> September. Strapped Bertram Sewell for damaging school property and for disobedience.

6<sup>th</sup> December. B J and Bertram Sewell's name withdrawn from roll.

## 1896

14<sup>th</sup> February Moved that Miss Mason's resignation be accepted. That the Chairman advertise for a teacher in the Evening Post.

The chairman was instructed to inform Miss Mason that her resignation was accepted. That her application for a bonus would be considered after the next examination.

3<sup>rd</sup> March. Moved that Miss Helena Killery application at a salary of 50 pound a year and board and lodging be accepted

25<sup>th</sup> March 1896 Miss Killery was appointed to succeed Miss Mason at Bideford. PP

31<sup>st</sup> March. Annual Examination Present 14 passed 6

8<sup>th</sup> April Roll 23. 10 Present in Morning and 11 in afternoon

25<sup>th</sup> May Kept as Queens Birthday.

1<sup>st</sup> June Moved that the fence round the school ground be put in repair from funds in hand

That the offer of H Wilton to board the teacher for one year 18 pounds the year be accepted.

Moved that if the passes are good at next examination and funds permit a bonus be given Miss Killery .

15<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Lee's Examination Report Received. A New teacher is taking charge, who is to reside near the school and I hope the school will much benefit by the change.

7<sup>th</sup> August Average for week 9. Owing to the flooded rivers and numerous slips on the roads the children are unable to attend. The Millar's have not attended since the winter vacation and the Scott's have attended only one day.

17<sup>th</sup> August. Arbor Day taken on that date.

8<sup>th</sup> September. Received a box of slate pencils, box of school nibs also a quire of foolscap from the chairman of the School Committee. (*Children used to use slates, similar to a blackboard to do all their work on especially in the junior school. Even in the 1960s old classrooms in the junior school would have blackboards around the*

*walls, or a pile of boards for children to work on. Paper was a lot more expensive then.*

*A quire is 24 or 25 sheets of paper. Which would have been used very carefully)*

28<sup>th</sup> September Average for quarter 16

11<sup>th</sup> No School. Closed on account of the county election The school being used as a polling booth.

18<sup>th</sup> December. School closed for quarter. Average 18

## 1897

20<sup>th</sup> January School resumed Roll 22

14<sup>th</sup> April Closed for Easter Holidays an extra week being given by the school committee

26<sup>th</sup> April Moved that a bonus of five pounds be given to Miss Killery for her good attention to the school children.

Moved that Mr John Macrae see Mrs Farrer with the view of arranging for a piece of land to build a school on

7<sup>th</sup> May School closed and used as polling booth in the road board election

11<sup>th</sup> May Small Attendance. Archie and May Wilton are attending so irregular and they cannot possibly go through all the arithmetic without better attendance.

4<sup>th</sup> June. 4<sup>th</sup> Standard have started fractional measures. They have been taught long tots and weights and measures in the new syllabus for Standard 4 .

7<sup>th</sup> June. Received notice of an extra weeks holiday in honour of the Queen's Record Reign

30<sup>th</sup> June 1897 A requisition sent in asking the Board to purchase a school site at Bideford was agreed to. PP

25<sup>th</sup> August The question of placing a school at Bideford was deferred until further information was available. PP

26<sup>th</sup> November. Fred Millar has attended only 15 days this quarter. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Standard scholars are rather dull; they forget so easily

10<sup>th</sup> December. Owing to Mr Scott's illness his children have been unable to attend

16<sup>th</sup> December Owing to shearing some of the children have not attended.

Bideford, a small farming settlement in the Wairarapa North County, is seventy-nine miles from Masterton. A coach runs from Masterton as far as Taueru, and the journey thence may be made on horseback, or by carriage or other conveyance. Most of the residents are engaged in farming and similar pursuits. For the education of the young there is a public school, at which the average attendance is about twenty. Mails for Bideford close at Wellington on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 6.45 a.m., arriving at Bideford at 5 p.m.; and close at Bideford on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 7.30 a.m., arriving at Wellington at 7.50 p.m.

NZETC. Cyclopaedia of NZ Wellington Provincial 1897

## 1898

19<sup>th</sup> January School resumed Attendance 11

24<sup>th</sup> January. Attendance 19. The attendance has been bad owing to harvesting.

19<sup>th</sup> February . That the chairman write to Messrs Hogg and Buchannan (Wellington Education Board Members) also to the Wellington Education Board for a school built at Bideford.

It was decided to have the picnic after the Exam.

23<sup>rd</sup> February . School Closed Masterton Show Day.

30<sup>th</sup> March Bideford applied for a new school, and the Wellington Education Board Chairman was authorised to have enquiries made as to how the present accommodation could be improved. PP

23<sup>rd</sup> February. Mr Fleming inspected school 18/21 passes

12<sup>th</sup> April. Moved that vote of thanks be passed to Mr L and Mrs Farrer for their kindness in presenting a site for a new school .

Moved that the surveying be left to the chairman to arrange.

Moved that the sum of 3 pounds be spent on books.. The chairman and Miss Killery to select them.

2<sup>nd</sup> May. No school. Meeting of ratepayers in school.

## 1899

6,7,8,9<sup>th</sup> February School closed because of floods.

17<sup>th</sup> February APPLICATIONS, which must be on forms . to be obtained from this office (Wellington Education Board), will be received up to Friday, the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., for the following positions : Teacher Bideford School, average, 20. Salary, .£ 90 17<sup>th</sup> February PP

14<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> February School closed as teacher has measles.

23<sup>rd</sup> February Resignation was accepted from Miss Killery (Bideford) PP

13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> March. School closed as river unfordable

12<sup>th</sup> April Miss Ussher, who has been promoted to the charge of the Bideford School, is to be tendered a " social " before leaving Carterton PP

1<sup>st</sup> May Martha K Ussher assumed charge today. The attendance number 18

5<sup>th</sup> May. I found the work of all classes very backward

13<sup>th</sup> May Contract for building a cottage at Bideford published

15<sup>th</sup> May The weather is still stormy and boisterous the river is quite unfordable, hence the attendance suffers and is confined to the Harold family 4 boys and 2 girls

18<sup>th</sup> May Roll 26. Entered Sybil and Stafford Farrer

1<sup>st</sup> June In Committee yesterday afternoon, the Education Board accepted the tender of Mr. C. E. Daniel for the erection of a school with rooms attached, at Bideford .PP

10<sup>th</sup> June Contracts have been signed with the Education Board for the following works: school and rooms at Bideford, C E, Daniell, £285-10-3 (two tenders) ; PP

16<sup>th</sup> June Withdrawn Gordon Laing and A Scott until the summer.

21<sup>st</sup> June The mornings are cold and frosty and very chilly, the children are still very unpunctual

29<sup>th</sup> June The question: of the purchase of the Bideford school site was left in the Chairman's hands PP

24 July School reopened today. The weather is exceedingly cold and wet and as there is no firewood. The room is like a Freezing Chamber...dismissed early

25,26,27,28 July. There has been no attendance at all this week. Roads are bad, rivers high, no firewood, measles in the district-hence no school

31<sup>st</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> August No Attendance

2<sup>nd</sup> October Admitted Janet Miller Roll 28

24<sup>th</sup> November The Millers are absent, this being the 6<sup>th</sup> week owing to shearing

27<sup>th</sup> November. The Millers are present. Entered Ronald Miller

6<sup>th</sup> December. General Election. School closed and used as a booth.

## 1900

15<sup>th</sup> January. School reopened

8<sup>th</sup> March School closed inspectors Holiday

20<sup>th</sup> March School globe received from Wellington Education Board

21<sup>st</sup> March. School closed used as a polling booth

6<sup>th</sup> Apr. The week's average is only 8. The attendance is suffering owing to continued sickness making good work an impossibility. Ever since the exam 6<sup>th</sup> March- the attendance has been very poor.

18<sup>th</sup> April MOVED INTO NEW SCHOOL .

The new school was directly opposite the church JB

21<sup>st</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> April No school for week as rivers flooded.

30<sup>th</sup> April. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> "wet no school" day this month

6<sup>th</sup> August Roll 20 Entered Alice McRae

3-7<sup>th</sup> September. Very heavy rains with flooded rivers. No school.

10<sup>th</sup> August Entered Harry and Fred Paulsen Roll 21

25<sup>th</sup> October. The attendance is suffering badly owing to so many children being required at home to help with sheep. The Millers and McKays are away on this account. The Carswells are away owing to very bad roads. They have attended one day since midwinter vacation. The unsettled weather is another hindrance.

28<sup>th</sup> November. The Millers (4) are absent owing to shearing

7<sup>th</sup> December F Miller left

11<sup>th</sup> December. Shearing operations in the district are interfering with attendance . The Millers have only attended 3 weeks this quarter.

21<sup>st</sup> School Closed

## 1901

21<sup>st</sup> January . School reopened Roll 21

22 January School closed Anniversary Day. School Picnic

29<sup>th</sup> March. Weeks average 11, Months average 16, Quarters Average 16. The attendance has fallen off since the examination

23<sup>rd</sup> Apr. Edward and Ivy Chapman have been absent five weeks

27<sup>th</sup> May Attendance very small viz 6. The children are suffering from an epidemic of colds to all on roll

12<sup>th</sup> June Distribution of prizes to all on roll held today

19<sup>th</sup> July. Left Fred and E Paulsen summer months

2<sup>nd</sup> Sep. From today and for the summer months school will be dismissed at 3.30 pm and one hour allowed for lunch

13<sup>th</sup> December. Present 10. Six of whom left at 2.00 to attend a children's birthday party in the vicinity .

15<sup>th</sup> October The Millers (3) are absent being required at home to attend the sheep.

19<sup>th</sup> December. Closed for summer holidays 4 weeks

## 1902

5<sup>th</sup> March. A very satisfactory year's work has been done by Miss Ussher, writes T R Fleming, Inspector

7<sup>th</sup> March. School closed for Inspectors annual holiday.

21<sup>st</sup> April Inspector's report received on Examination held 5<sup>th</sup> March in which he writes A tank is required (No water supply). A flagpole was being erected on the day of my visit.

9<sup>th</sup> May School closed to enable teacher to undergo medical treatment. Three weeks leave has been granted

2<sup>nd</sup> June Reopened Roll 15

9<sup>th</sup> June. Mona Macrae who will attend in the mornings only.

12<sup>th</sup> June The new tank ordered for the use of the children has been sent today

20<sup>th</sup> June School Flag hoisted by chairman of committee

28<sup>th</sup> July. I Louisa Isles took charge of Bideford School as temporary teacher.. Attendance and weather bad and some uncertainty as to the Coronation holiday accounting for bad attendance

1<sup>st</sup> August. Gave the primers and Standard 1 and 2 a first lesson in paper flower making. They seemed to like it very much indeed and gave some very bright answers to questions

11<sup>th</sup> August. Miss Isles left and I Helen Wiltshire assumed charge of Bideford school.

14<sup>th</sup> August Our resident school teacher has arrived at last. The relieving teacher has only been with us a fortnight WTPP

25<sup>th</sup> August The Bideford School Committee has approved the appointment of Miss Wiltshire to the charge of the school. PP

18<sup>th</sup> September. Received fire shovel and bucket from committee.

24<sup>th</sup> October This weather this week has been very fine and it seems a pity that children are kept home to work as there are so many wet days when most cannot possibly get to school.

6<sup>th</sup> November. Morning doubtful attendance 9 Just half the roll 2 boys and 7 girls. It is utterly impossible to do good work when the attendance is so irregular

10<sup>th</sup> November. Holiday for King's Birthday

25<sup>th</sup> November. Holiday for Election Day.

11<sup>th</sup> December. Held a written examination of all classes. Every child present. 10 Boys 9 Girls

19<sup>th</sup> December. Closed for Xmas vacation of 5 weeks

## 1903

26<sup>th</sup> January Reopened School No Children attended

27<sup>th</sup> January. Alice Macrae has left having a Governess at home

18<sup>th</sup> March. Wedding in district causes the absence of several children. Received seeds from the Education Board for planting in the school gardens

23<sup>rd</sup> March. Full attendance. Inspector's visit. Inspector Bakewell expressed himself pleased with all classes.

8<sup>th</sup> April Inspectors report received. He says. The results are more than creditable to the teacher as many of the children live from four or five miles from the school and attend very irregularly during the winter.

7<sup>th</sup> May Sole Teacher, Bideford; average 15. Salary £80 and house PP

1<sup>st</sup> July I William Bennett assumed charge of Bideford School today..

Mr Wilton commenced to fence part of the playground for the purpose of planting trees.

30<sup>th</sup> April Resignation of Miss Wiltshire PP

10<sup>th</sup> August. Received Notice of Mr W M Easthope has been appointed truant officer for the district.

7<sup>th</sup> October. Sent dimensions of school and residence. Residence has 3 rooms, dining, bedroom and kitchen

9<sup>th</sup> October. A very successful dance was held in Bideford School last night.

30<sup>th</sup> October. Mumps and Scarlet Fever in the district

2<sup>nd</sup> November. Bought 2 bats and a ball for the boys

6<sup>th</sup> November. Received the sum of 6 pounds 12/6 in aid of the school cricket fund as a result of subscriptions from residents of the district

## 1904

25<sup>th</sup> January School Opened attendance is below half vis 10

1<sup>st</sup> February Admitted Norman, Alexander and Lena Johnson. They previously attended the Wairere School

5<sup>th</sup> February The school picnic was to have been held today but owing to Mr and Mrs Macrae meeting with such a serious accident it has been postponed indefinitely .

25<sup>th</sup> February Weather fine attendance below half. This is due to the Wangaehu Picnic being held.

9<sup>th</sup> March. Inspectors Examination. Passed 18

17<sup>th</sup> March. The Truant Officer called and spoke to the children.

30<sup>th</sup> May On June 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a social and dance in connection with the Bideford School in the Hall—organised by the teacher, Mr Bennet. The programme, I am informed, will give full scope to the many and varied abilities of the children, not omitting songs and recitations, followed by a debate on a very interesting subject. If weather is propitious a bumper house is certain.

An incident showing how letters passing through a post office, may go astray, is herewith noted, so that preventative measures may be taken by the authorities to minimise, in the future, such possibilities, for a missing letter often leads to a great deal of correspondence,

without result, and to a considerable amount of annoyance to the officials concerned, and the addressee or poster of the correspondence. A letter was put into a person's hand at a sale yard, with the following remark " Oh !my wife found this in her newspaper." This case may serve to show the necessity of keeping letters apart from newspapers when mails are made up in the post office, for this is by no means an isolated case.

One of the commonest of birds in the old days was the kingfisher, with his brilliant plumage and formidable beak, with which he was wont to destroy the prey on which he lived. But he is now a thing of the past, for here he has disappeared entirely, for the imported birds with insectivorous appetites, which are legion here, have driven him out of the place.

Our roads are void of the consistency of better, with a faint possibility of their getting better before mid-winter comes to make them a permanent slough of despond. WTPP

29<sup>th</sup> July. The committee commenced to fence off a piece of land for cottage gardening.

4<sup>th</sup> August. A fierce snowstorm is raging

5<sup>th</sup> August The storm is still raging

9<sup>th</sup> August An exceptionally severe earthquake was felt at 10.25 am

9<sup>th</sup> September. Took the children to view the waterfall (Mangarei) and to study nature.

7<sup>th</sup> October. The attendance still keeps good. Av for week 26/27

22<sup>nd</sup> November. A meeting of the school committee decided to erect a urinal for the boys.

16<sup>th</sup> December. Closed the school for the summer vacation of five weeks. On almost every wet day the attendance falls below half, for all the children with the exception of 3 have more than two miles to come.

## 1905

24<sup>th</sup> January 22 present

3<sup>rd</sup> February two or three of the older boys have been absent seed cutting

10<sup>th</sup> March Annual Examination. Mr Bakewell

Promotions to

Class To	No of Children
Standard V11	4
Standard V1	1
Standard V	3
Standard 1V	5
Standard 111	4
Standard 11	2

12<sup>th</sup> April The Truant Inspector reports that at the Bideford (Wairarapa) School a number of scholars walk seven miles to school often over bad roads. Yet "the attendance is always good."PP

29<sup>th</sup> September Application to be made to the Department for the cost of additions to the teachers' residence at Bideford

16<sup>th</sup> October. Clerk of works called today in connection with alterations to the teachers residence

20<sup>th</sup> October. School Closed in commemoration of the Centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The children assembled in the morning at the usual time. Short addresses were given by the chairman of the committee and myself. A patriotic recitation was given and the flag saluted.

6<sup>th</sup> December. School closed Election Day

15<sup>th</sup> December. Broke up for the summer vacation of six weeks.

## 1906

29<sup>th</sup> January Resumed school Attendance 19

29<sup>th</sup> January additions to residence at Bideford £135 (\$20,839.89 in  
*December* 2010) PP

12<sup>th</sup> February Bideford NOTES.

(Special to Daily Times.)

Rain set in here on Saturday 3rd inst., and has lasted oil' and on all the week. Most of the oat crops are cut and still in the paddocks.

Mr and Mrs Carswell treated the school children to a picnic here on Thursday. The day was spent in playing various games. The children all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The Bideford Cricket Club will commence practices again on Saturday 17th. WTPP

14<sup>th</sup> March The Bideford School children's picnic was held on Friday, 9th inst., under unfavourable weather. The day was very cold, and there were occasional showers of rain. Plenty of events for the children had been arranged, also races for the young people and married women and men, Mr F. Miller, as lolly-man, gave the children a good run for what they got. The picnic ended about seven o'clock, after which a most enjoyable dance was held in the Hall, about sixteen couples being present. The floor was in splendid order, Messrs F. Percy and W. D. Bennett carried out the duties of M.C.'s in a most capable manner. Mr W. Percy obliged the company with a song. WTPP

29<sup>th</sup> March Contract awarded to Mr. W. Farrelly, £21 13s 6d. Bideford, residence, alterations, and" painting

5<sup>th</sup> April Mr Tenant inspected the school today. All pupils passed.

The annual examination of the Bideford School took place on Thursday last, Mr Tennant being the inspector. The result of the examination was very satisfactory, all the pupils passing their respective standards. Following are the names of the successful

scholars :—Standard VII.—R. Miller. Standard VI.—N. Carswell. Standard V.—A. McGovern, L. Wilton, Annie McGovern. Standard IV.—E. Chapman, A. Johnson, J. McCollough, I. Chapman, L. Johnson. Standard 111.- H. Carswell, A. Laing, Jas- McCullough, A. Swinn, M. Swinn. Standard II.—G. Carswell, H. Wilton, V. Swinn. Standard I.—T. McCollough, R. Chapman, M. Johnson. WTPP

30<sup>th</sup> April. Received rain Gauge, Thermometer, and barometer

1<sup>st</sup> May The addition to the school teacher's residence has now been completed. Two rooms have been built on to the back of the previous cottage, which will prove a great comfort to the present teacher. The school has also been painted, the present appearance of the building adding greatly to the beauty of Bideford. The work was carried out by Messrs Langridge and Co., builders, of Masterton.

The householders of Bideford held a meeting on Monday night, when the following school Committee were elected : —Messrs Carswell (chairman), McGovern, W. Percy, Swinn and J. Percy.

A terrific gale raged here for three nights. The wind was the heaviest that has been felt for some years.

12<sup>th</sup> May received a firescreen from the board

11<sup>th</sup> June son of Mr Fred Chapman, on his way to school, happened to pick up some dynamite from the new bridge, and not knowing what it was, was playing with it, banging it between two stones, when suddenly he found a large lump and doing the same with it, it exploded and caused very severe injury to his hand. Mr Chapman took him straight to a doctor, where he was attended to, and I hear he is doing as well as can be expected. WTPP

15<sup>th</sup> June School closed today until after Mr Seddon's Funeral.

22<sup>nd</sup> September. Telephonic communication will be extended to Bideford and a bureau established if £25 per year is guaranteed for five years WTPP



29<sup>th</sup> December Mr and Mrs Cockburn-Hood gave the Bideford School children a great treat, last Monday afternoon, in the form of a Christmas tree. Mr and Mrs Cockburn- Hood did all in their power to give the children a good time, and they were successful, as all the juveniles enjoyed themselves immensely.

## 1907

4<sup>th</sup> February Attendance 23.

7<sup>th</sup> March The Bideford School's children's picnic was held on Friday, in a paddock kindly lent by Mr Gray, on the banks of the Taueru, on Bowlands Station. The school Committee and their wives all deserve great credit, especially the Chairman (Mr Carswell) and his wife, for the capital day's sport enjoyed by both young and old. Mr W. D. Bennett acted as handicapper for all the races, and did all in his power to make the children enjoy themselves. The married woman's race was the most exciting, it being won in fine style by Mrs W. Percy.

A small sports meeting was also held, which proved an undoubted success, and also that there are great many more "sports" in Bideford than is previously thought. All events were heartily enjoyed by both competitors and onlookers. Mr McGovern kindly acted as judge, also Mr J. Thomas as time-keeper and Mr F. J. Miller as starter.

The results are as follows :

- a) Needle threading—V. Percy and D. McGovern (tie I. 1. Addition Race—D. McGovern, 1 : Y. D. Bennett/,'.
- b) Cigar and Umbrella Race—W. Percy. 1; A. Churchouse, 2.
- c) Apple Bobbing—D. McGovern. 1: AY. Percy, 2.
- d) Whistling- Race— H. A. Miller, 1; G. Laing, 2.
- e) Night Shirt Race—H. Falloon, 1; D. McGovern, 2.
- f) 120 Yards Hurdles (foot event)—W. Brains, 1: Y. D. Bennett.
- g) 120 Yards Flat—Selby. 1 : Brains. 2:

h) Ladies' Nail-driving—Mrs J. McKenzie 1, ; Mrs A. McKay, 2.

i) Ladies Apple Race—Mrs Churchouse. 1 ; Miss G. Miller, 2.

A dance was held at night, there being about twenty couples present, and a most enjoyable time was spent. Mr J. Thomas, in his usual capable manner, acted as M.C. Songs were sung during the evening by Mr J. Falloon (encored) and Mr J. Thomas (encored). A special trophy (a silver medal), presented by Mr A. Henderson, jeweller. Masterton was given for points prize and was won by Mr D. McGovern. Mr A. Churchouse, in a neat speech, presented the trophy and congratulated the winner. WTPP

22<sup>nd</sup> April (Special to Daily Times.)

Mr T. R. Fleming examined the local school on Tuesday. He found the children well up in all of their subjects. Every child passed in the school and several gained proficiency certificates. Taking into consideration the bad attendance ,of some of his scholars Mr Fleming congratulated Mr Bennett on his results, and mentioned that he was worthy of a better school

The proceeds of the dance to be held next Friday will go towards the erection of a supper room. Mr F. McKenzie has been engaged to provide the music, and the catering has been left in the hands of Mr Jas. Wickens of Masterton. It is hoped that lovers of dancing providing it is a fine night will be able to look forward to an enjoyable time WTPP

1<sup>st</sup> ,2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> , May. Weather very boisterous. Over 8 inches of rain fell. Largest Flood. That oldest residents can remember. No school for 3 days.

17<sup>th</sup> May. Rev Thompson B.A. held divine service in the schoolroom last night.

12<sup>th</sup> July Received map of local school district.

23<sup>rd</sup> July. Gave children a short address on Arbor Day. No tree planting done in the school grounds

30<sup>th</sup> August. A school concert in aid of the Bideford Hall Improvement Fund to be held tonight.

8<sup>th</sup> September A most successful concert and dance was given in the Bideford Hall on Friday night by Mr W. Bennett, our local schoolmaster, and children, assisted by local talent. Mr Iggulden, a well-known singer of Masterton, sang two songs, for which he was justifiably encored. A debate by sixteen school children on "Total Abstinence" was splendid. The other items supplied by the children were all very good, and greatly appreciated by the audience. Mr Bennett deserves every credit for the way he has worked and trained the children. The programme was as follows:—Overture, Violin and piano, Miss G. Miller and Mr F. Miller; song, Mr Iggulden; recitation, "The Origin of Scandal," Master G. Carswell; song, "Apart," Miss Hoar (encored); debate, "Total "Abstinence," children; song, "Banks of Allan Water," Mr V. R. Park; dialogue, "The Sick Doll," children; song, "The Old Scotch Songs," Miss . G. Miller; recitation, "To-morrow," Master J. Laing (encored); song, "Belle Mahone," Miss A. McGovern aud Mr H. Carswell; dialogue, 4 The Old Leaven," Messrs Olliver and Laing (encored); song, Mr Iggulden; recitation, "The Days of the Week," children; song, "The Bonnie Banks \_p' Loch Lomond," Mrs Madden; "Dirty Jim," Clarence song, "Please Give Me a Penny, Sir," Miss A. McGovern (encored); recitation, "Men Who Make England," boys; song, "Genevieve," Mr V. K. Park (encored). After the concert a dance was hold, there being forty-five couples present, a record for Bideford. Mr Carswell took this occasion for opening the new supper-room, for which there has been a good deal of time wasted by both the Hall Committee and a few others. Mr Carswell has gone to a good deal of trouble, and deserves credit; anyhow, it was declared open amidst a

din of cheers. Mr Bennett gave the concert in aid of this room, and the takings amounted to £10 clear.

19<sup>th</sup> December. Closed school for seven weeks. An extra week for teacher's course) WTPP

## 1908

10<sup>th</sup> February Reopened School Attendance 20

22<sup>nd</sup> May. Closed the school today for the first terms holiday. Held the first term examination yesterday. With the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> standard the work was satisfactory.

1<sup>st</sup> June Roll 24

3<sup>rd</sup> June. Closed for the Prince of Wales Birthday.

18<sup>th</sup> June. We are having glorious weather for this time of the year. There has been no heavy rain for six weeks.

*(There are no more log books available for Bideford School Unfortunately)*

## 1910

Bideford (near Masterton) — Head Teacher, £120 to £150 and house  
12<sup>th</sup> September 1910

11<sup>th</sup> October The following School appointments under the Wellington Education Board are announced :Bideford sole teacher, Mrs I. Wilkinson

## 1911

A school committee meeting was held last Thursday, and it was decided to hold the annual picnic on Friday, March 10th.

The school mistress's little girl, who met with an accident while playing with a knife and had to be taken to town to get the cut stitched up, is getting on splendidly. WTPP

## 1912

11<sup>th</sup> January The Bideford School was closed on December 13th for the midsummer vacation. The year's work was on the whole progressive, all the pupils gaining promotion, which is very satisfactory considering, the fact that the majority of the scholars live at long distances from the school. Creditable work, has been performed by the boys who are in the elementary agricultural class. A certificate of award was gained by the school for an exhibit of the pupils' work shown at the Wellington Coronation Industrial Exhibition, held last July. This exhibit, included writing, drawing, brushwork, nature study collection, and sewing.

The following is the prize list, etc.:

- a) Highest marks in the term examinations.—Annie Stoddart,
- b) Standard IV., first division; Nellie Percy,
- c) Standard I., second division.
- d) Spelling.—S. Wilkinson, Standard IV. ; V. Thomas, Class
- e) Proficiency Certificate. — Richard Chapman.
- f) Commended for progress. —Jean Stoddart,
- g) Standard V., Clarence Percy,
- h) Standard IV., V. Thomas, Isabel Wilton,
- i) Class P. Attendance Certificates. —
  - (i) First class.—Nellie Percy, Natalie Wilkinson.

- (ii) Second-class.—Archie Carswell, Archie Chapman, Annie Stoddart., Gertie Percy, Winifred Wilkinson, John Wilkinson.

Too much praise cannot be given to the teacher, Mrs Wilkinson, for the able way in which she has brought the school to its high standard of proficiency. WTPP

14<sup>th</sup> February The request was granted. Mr J. W. Carswell, chairman of the Bideford School Committee, wrote asking the Council to metal the cutting into the Taueru river at the Bideford ford to the schoolhouse. —It was resolved that the work be done at cost of £5. WTPP

15th February Bideford

On Thursday last the Bideford School children held their annual picnic in a paddock lent by Mr J. Falloon. The day was an ideal one and children and parents thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

The rain which has recently fallen was very beneficial to the rape and turnip crops in this district.

Satisfactory entries are being received for the Bideford sports and an interesting day's sport should result. WTPP

25<sup>th</sup> March When some of the school children were returning home last Thursday, one little girl, daughter of Mr Wallace, was knocked over by another's horse. At first it was thought the child's arm was broken, but on examination by Dr Prior it was found the injury was not so serious. More care should be taken by the children riding to school, and those children severely punished who take a delight in throwing clods of earth or other missiles at the riders' horses. No harm may be intended, but one never knows where this wanton mischief may end. especially if ponies are at all "skittish." WTPP

13<sup>th</sup> August An attempt was made to celebrate Arbor Day at the school but not on the day set apart. During one of the bright afternoons the elder children, assisted by one of the residents, planted a few healthy , shrubs. If these do well the appearance of the school grounds will be much enhanced.

Until lately mothers up this way have been congratulating themselves that their children were free, from the mumps and other troubles so common in the crowded areas of towns; but an ill wind has blown, several families having members laid up with mumps, and the attendance at the school is under half. WTPP

13<sup>th</sup> November

In spite of very changeable weather there was a good gathering of parents, children and friends at the School last Thursday afternoon. Specimens of the year's work were on exhibition. One would have thought at first glance that a bazaar was being held, but a second glance at exercise books, copy books, and drawing books arranged on long rows of white-covered desks, soon dispelled that thought. Every kind of work was shown in some way. Drawings and brushwork, hung on the walls, came in for a fair share of favourable criticism, while the sewing charmed the ladies, who are the best judges of that work, and certainly the junior and senior girls had worked well to make the cunning little bags and useful garments, either by hand or machine. The modelling was also pleasing. All took an interest in the coloured sketches on the hyloplates; these were to illustrate geography or natural history lessons, or to form subjects for composition. Fathers and mothers remarked that school is different now, and, no doubt, some think that the rising generation have things made a trifle too easy. The school gardens, freshened up by recent rains, were looking splendid. Mesdames Carswell, Cunningham, F. Chapman, J. Percy, W. Percy, W. Wrigley, C. Wrigley, Stoddart provided the refreshments, and a lovely afternoon tea was served at the Schoolhouse. Mesdames Thomson (Palmerston) and McLean (Featherston) assisted the ladies in arranging and serving the tea. During the afternoon splendid phonographic records were much enjoyed. The phonograph was kindly lent by Mr W. Percy. Towards the close of the function, Mr Carswell, chairman of the Committee, gave a kindly and appropriate address to the children, and called for

cheers for their teacher (Mrs Wilkinson). These were vociferously given. Mrs Wilkinson suitably responded to the expressions of goodwill, and thanked parents for their hearty co-operation in making a happy afternoon for all.

## 1913

14<sup>th</sup> January (From Our Own Correspondents.) A most enjoyable entertainment was given at Glendonald on Wednesday last by Mr and Mrs Cockburn-Hood, to the scholars attending the Bideford School and their parents. The weather was all that could be desired, a beautiful cloudless sky, while the heat of the sun was tempered by a gentle breeze. During the afternoon games and races were provided, and were entered into with great gusto by parents and children alike. After partaking of the ample refreshments provided, the guests reluctantly departed for home, sorry that the end had come to a most enjoyable afternoon. The Bideford Sports Club have decided, with a view to minimise the risk of accidents at their sports, to construct their hurdles so that when a horse strikes a hurdle the top rail will fall off. WTPP

27<sup>th</sup> January Early last Wednesday morning, a cloudy sky and showers threatened to spoil a day's outing, but before noon the sun broke through, and the weather was all that everyone desired. Mr J. Falloon kindly gave the use of his paddock for the school picnic. Luncheon and tea were served in the hall. During the afternoon Messrs Carswell, Cunningham and Miller assisted in the sports, and though there was not, the usual zest among the children, no doubt owing to the heat, some of the races created a great deal of amusement, especially the adult races. Numbers of friends came in

the afternoon, and by teatime a large crowd had gathered. The refreshments were excellent, and the ladies and young gentlemen worked indefatigably, attending to the wants of the children, who did full justice to the tea. Arrangements were made for the distribution of prizes after the tea. The School Committee, are to be congratulated on their liberality, and also friends who contributed towards the picnic and prize funds. The children were delighted with the beautifully bound presentation books.

Mr Carswell spoke to the parents and children, presented the prizes, and called for cheers for their teacher, the cheers being heartily given. Dancing -was indulged .in. During the evening, several musical items were given, and a pleasing recitation by Mr Falloon. Apart from the book presented by the committee to each pupil, the following special prizes were presented

- a) Highest marks in examination: — Senior division: Boys, Archie Carswell; Girls, Sylvia Wilkinson.
- b) Junior division: Boys. Seymour Chapman; girls, Nellie Percy:
- c) reading, Hazel Cunningham;
- d) arithmetic. Annie Stoddart;
- e) spelling. Jean Stoddart;
- f) writing, Hope Cunningham;
- g) highest marks in four subjects. Gertie Percy;
- h) improvement, James Wriglev, Kathleen Knight;
- i) sewing, (senior), 1<sup>st</sup> Jean Stoddart, 2nd Annie Stoddart. highly commended, W. Wilkinson, S. Wilkinson,
- j) Sewing (junior), 1<sup>st</sup> Eileen Percy. 2nd Nellie Percy, highly commended' Kathleen Knight and Gladys Wrigley:
- k) gardening, (senior) 1<sup>st</sup> John Wilkinson. 2nd Archie Chapman, Highly commended (h.c) Patrick Wallace and Cyril Wilton;

- l) girls. 1<sup>st</sup> Winifred Wilkinson, 2nd Annie Stoddart;
- m) gardening, (junior), boys, 1<sup>st</sup> William Percy. 2nd Seymour Chapman, h.c. Leonard Wrigley;
- n) gardening girls, 1<sup>st</sup> Natalie Wilkinson;
- o) good fellowship, Archie Carswell. Hope Cunningham. WTPP

3<sup>rd</sup> February The school re-opens to-day. A number of the elder children are leaving to attend secondary schools. It is pleasing that they are, for having received the foundation of their education it seems only right that the final structure should be formed, and the children receive the benefits of a full course. Although it is regrettable that the attendance will be smaller, no doubt the younger children, who will soon be of school age, will make an appreciable difference in the numbers. WTPP

30<sup>th</sup> April. The annual meeting of householders was held in the schoolroom. The following were elected: —Messrs J. "IT. Percy, V. Stoddart, F. Chapman, W. L. Wrigley, A. W. Carswell (chairman)

Mr Stuckey, inspector of Schools, visited the Bideford School, and was pleased to find the children working well. lie delighted the children by giving them some exercises while marching. After spending two hours at the school he left for Masterton, visiting Wangaehu on his way.

Good weather is prevailing, as yet there have been no heavy frosts, and everyone is enjoying the mild autumn days WTPP

10<sup>th</sup> July 1913 Surely the spirit of the world's unrest has reached Bideford . Many changes bring more in their wake, and yet another is being hoped for. The school committee is making a praiseworthy effort to have the school moved to a more convenient site. Ever since the school was established on the present site people who have had children attending have wished it were somewhere on the main road, and now when something definite in the way of making the change is being done, all those interested will wish the committee success,

and that the site selected will meet the requirements of the district. There is no reason why Bideford should not have a model rural school. In the event of the centralisation of small schools, why should not Bideford be a centre? Who knows Bideford might yet form Masterton's upper suburbs. When Masterton is a city, the toil-worn of the city could find up here congenial rest from the hurly-burly. Some of the cottages for the farm assistants, especially those occupied by small families, are scarcely beyond reproach. This is such a truly beautiful district, with very many advantages of good climate, and good main road and passable roads and fine residences, that perhaps it is carping criticism to write of the exceptions, but there are exceptions to the general rule as far as houses for married farm employees are concerned. In the days of years gone by, it was wonderful how some houses were built at all, so difficult were some of the means of access to the farms, but times are altered considerably, and material is not so hard to obtain as formerly. Possibly the labour offers more difficulty, and one wonders why country workers should not have some of the conveniences in their houses, the same as are seen in town cottages. In some instances there are comfortable convenienced houses for the workers, but in other cases there are cottages sadly out of repair, and others very old and apparently neglected, and those built low on the ground are the abode of veteran rodents, who are cunning enough to defy the best of ratters, be they dogs or cats. In these houses one can' well imagine there is a minimum of comfort, and a vast amount of discomfort, which would not encourage a very long residence on the part of those who by force of circumstance have to occupy the cottages. One seldom hears complaint of a lack of provisions. Most of the farm owners are most liberal in their provisioning. It is mostly due to other conditions that there are many changes of workers on some farms. Some of the employees would be dissatisfied in the most favourable or' surroundings and fair treatment. The much thrashed out domestic problem is ever present, and not all the labour saving devices that

necessity invents can lighten the work that falls to the lot of many a mother and housekeeper. There seems so little chance of obtaining casual help, to tide over some of the busier times, when perhaps one pair of hands has to do the work of two or three. WTPP

25<sup>th</sup> September An accident occurred yesterday. One of two lady cyclists, while coming towards Bideford , had the misfortune to go over a bank, somewhere about the ten-mile peg. Mr J. Wrigley took the ladies back to Master ton.. Wo' have not heard to what extent the lady was hurt, but her bicycle was very much damaged. ' The inspector will pay his annual visit to the school on or about 1st October .WTPP

7<sup>th</sup> October Friday was observed as a holiday, the school having on Wednesday been paid the annual visit by inspector Charters. Although half the children were suffering from influenza, they did very well, especially the upper standards. The Inspector expressed himself as pleased with the work and neat appearance of the school grounds.

The question of moving the school to the site at the corner of Bideford and Mangarei roads will probably come before the Education Board at the next meeting. Probably the cost involved will be against the moving of the school . It will be a costly undertaking, for the building would have to be moved in sections. That the school numbers are not on the increase is rather to be regretted. The average of this school taking good years with poor years. has been about 20 for seventeen years, and seems likely to remain at that. WTPP

## 1914

28<sup>th</sup> January 1914 On 25th November of last year the Wellington Education Board passed a resolution declining an application for the removal of the Bideford school to another site, and at yesterday's

meeting of the board Sir Walter Buchanan moved that the decision be rescinded. Sir Walter said that the proposed site was a better site than the present one and suggested that an estimate be obtained from the clerk of works as to the cost of removal. Upon the board deciding to adopt the suggestion Sir Walter Buchanan held over his motion. PP

11<sup>th</sup> March Bideford School

PRIZE LIST. The following certificates were awarded by the school committee, the prize money having been given to the Belgian relief fund:

- a) Senior Division. —General proficiency, Seymour Chapman 1, Nellie Percy 2.
- b) Arithmetic, Gertie Percy.
- c) Improvement, Mary Wallace.
- d) Sewing, Kathleen Knight. !
- e) Junior Division.—General proficiency, j Gladys Wrigley 1, Sidney Chapman 2.
- f) Arithmetic, Mary Wrigley. (
- g) SPORTS PRIZES. I Senior boys' running race; Patrick Wallace 1, H. McKenzie 2, Archie Chapman 3
- h) Junior boys' running race: W. Bergersen 1, Sid Chapman 2, S. Thomas 3. ,
- i) Preparatory boys' race: John Wrigley 1, D. Falloon '2, Ernest Wrigley 3.
- j) Senior girls' race: Kathleen Knight j 1, Mary Wallace 2, Nellie Percy 3.
- k) Junior girls' race: F. Wilkinson 1, Mary Wrigley 2, Eunice Percy I).
- l) Boys' three-legged race: H. McKenzie and S. Chapman 1, D. Carswell and ' W. Bergersen 2, L. Wrigley and .1. Wrigley 3.
- m) Girls' three-legged race: N. Percy and K. Knight, I. Bergersen and D. Munson 2, G. Wrigley and G. Percy 3

n) First visitors' race: Kathleen Percy 1, Alf. Percy 2, N. Mackay 3.

o) Second visitors' race: E. Percy 1, K. ', Percy 2. WTPP

29<sup>th</sup> April It is to be hoped that there will be a good attendance of householders at the annual meeting for the election of a school committee, on the 7th May. Generally these meetings are only attended by a few, and cannot be said to be representative of the householders of the district. Evidently the mothers and wives do not know that they as householders also have the right to vote, for few if any put in an appearance, and it would appear that a very lukewarm feeling prevails towards the education of the rising generation. The committee's annual report, ought to be interesting, for much activity was displayed over the removal of the school, and the householders will learn what has been done in the matter, for nothing has been heard lately. WTPP

12<sup>th</sup> May Although the householders' meeting was better attended than usual, only fifteen were present to elect a new school committee. A few ladies were present, and it was certainly a change, and now that some have come out, another year ought to see many more at the householders' meeting. All those present listened very attentively to the chairman's report, which showed that the finances were good, and there was a balance—in fact, a larger balance than has ever been in hand. Correspondence dealing with the removal of the school was then read, and afterwards a discussion ensued about the removal. The school is to remain where it is, the Board not having enough money to spare for the removal, which would be costly. Voting then took place, and resulted in the return of three of last year's committee and two who have been members previously. WTPP

26<sup>th</sup> August The school was visited on August 24th by Mr Cumming, Agricultural Instructor for this district. He is making a round of the

rural schools, and was pleased to see what was being done at the school, and left several suggestions to be acted upon. Although not able to make regular visits, he will come as often as possible to give all the aid he can. His bright, cheerful way with the children will make him a welcome visitor. WTPP

26<sup>th</sup> November A prolonged earthquake was experienced on Sunday evening, about 7.45. It caused the houses to rock, and the Swaying was most unpleasant. No damage was caused, but the sensation was very unnerving.

Last week Mr Direen, truant inspector, who was making a round of the country schools, visited the Bideford School No pupil was absent, and he had an opportunity of speaking to all on the importance of regular attendance. He looked through the registers, and found some cases that ought to have been reported. About the beginning of next year he will pay another visit. WTPP

18<sup>th</sup> November The School attendance has been excellent lately, in spite of the shearing. Children are often requisitioned at this time, often to their own loss of instruction. In some districts, at harvest time, the holidays are arranged, but as shearing is done on movable dates, it would hardly be possible. The Christmas holidays, too, are at hand. WTPP

## 1916

Anzac Day was observed in Bideford by the unveiling of an Honour Roll placed in the school by the school committee. The schoolroom, decorated for the occasion, was comfortably filled with parents, friends, and children. Mr J. Falloon, chairman of the school committee, opened proceedings with a few brief introductory remarks.

Following these, Mr Cockburn-Hood, who had been asked to unveil the tablet, expressed in every way what all felt about the occasion. Being so long in the district, and knowing from their infancy the boys whose names are on the roll, he knew their careers, and said something praiseworthy of each, but more especially of their heroism in offering their lives for the Empire. The speaker was heartily applauded during his speech, and when the handsome stone tablet was unveiled, everyone felt that the boys would indeed be remembered, so clearly and beautifully did the engraving show the names.

The ceremonial part was concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

An excellent afternoon tea, which the ladies of the district had liberally supplied, was partaken of, and a pleasant sociable hour was spent, a feeling of loyalty and patriotism being plainly evident. The children present will always remember the first anniversary of Anzac Day. WTPP

18<sup>th</sup> May CORRESPONDENCE.

While this column is open to all, it is understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.

BIDEFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

[To the Editor.] Sir, —Would your kindly allow me space in your columns to correct a small mistake which appeared in your issue of the 12th inst. In your report of the BIDEFORD householders' meeting you say: "The voting then took place, and resulted in the return of three of last year's committee." Now, as a matter of fact, only four of last year's members were nominated out of the six nominations received, and the result was the return of the four old members, and of course one of the new candidates. The mistake in itself is nothing, but might lend colour to various other reports which are going the rounds, if not checked, and make "it appear that the committee had suffered a defeat," which I assure you is not the case. Thanking you in



anticipation.—I am etc J. W. CARSWELL, Chairman of Committee.  
Bridge Creek, WTPP

9<sup>th</sup> August Owing to various ailments the children are not able to attend school regularly, measles and bad colds being prevalent. The children are to be commended for the way they give towards the various patriotic, or relief funds, also the heartiness in which they work to send parcels away. It is also apparent that they are greatly encouraged by their parents, many mothers having given material to be made up or wool for knitting.

The garden seeds collected at the Bideford School were sold at the recent produce fair held in Wellington for the Belgian Children's Relief Fund. WTPP

## 1917

5<sup>th</sup> July The settlers of Bideford met the schoolmistress, Miss Wilkinson, who has received an appointment at the Masterton District High School, and is leaving here shortly, and presented her with a purse of sovereigns and a leather hand-bag, writes our correspondent. The scholars of the school also presented Mrs (sic) Wilkinson with a handsome inkstand, suitably inscribed, and a gold wristlet watch. Mr Falloon made the presentation on behalf of the settlers, and Miss Gertrude Percy, on behalf of the scholars. Afternoon tea was provided by the ladies of Bideford, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent by all. WTPP

18<sup>th</sup> July Bideford, sole teacher, Mr. W. W. Kidd; PP

## 1919

21<sup>st</sup> August The .Wellington Education Board has' received and accepted the. following resignations of school teachers:—Mr W. W. Kidd, sole teacher, Bideford WTPP

5<sup>th</sup> September Bideford, sole teacher, Miss F. Wilson Head 4<sup>th</sup> November Mastership Bideford. £130 to £160 and house 22<sup>nd</sup> December Miss Fellingham, who has had charge of Bideford School for some time, and is now leaving the district, was presented by the pupils of the school with a handsome gold pendant set with pearls and neck chain, as a mark of the esteem in which she is held by them. WTPP

30<sup>th</sup> December There will also be a change in teachers at the school, Mr Carson having been appointed to- the charge of the Bideford School. WTPP

## 1921

Mr. A. E. Bird-; Bideford, sole teacher 18<sup>th</sup> February 1921

25<sup>th</sup> February 1934 *Miss McKay Teaching.* (She was to get prizes. The only business minuted at this meeting was in regards to the picnic.)

30<sup>th</sup> April. Proposed by J W Falloon Seconded by G Percy That Mr Wilton be asked to keep his cows out of the school house paddock and also off the school playground unless with the permission of the chairman

17<sup>th</sup> September Moved that the chairman arrange board for the new teacher.

Moved that the chairman's actions be endorsed as regards the digging and levelling ground for a lawn

The committee decided to purchase 21 records off Miss McKay at 2/- each.

13<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Mrs Stoddart asking for attendance forms. I beg to state that the attendance has been very bad on account of gastric influenza and rough weather and roads. Mr Falloon warned me that the Board understands that the attendance is affected by the flooded river which is dangerous at times.  
PS Please address all correspondence c/o Mr J Falloon. Otherwise letters lie in Masterton Post Office

## 1923

19<sup>th</sup> February letter from J W Falloon Secretary School Committee enquiring about a new teacher. Miss Stoddart resigns from 28<sup>th</sup> February and no replacement has been found Please let me know so we can organise board etc.

27<sup>th</sup> February. Appointed Mrs J B Ward. Grading 216 Cert D 6 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> years Assistant Hukanui. Appointed temporarily from 1<sup>st</sup> March subject to School Committee approval.

7<sup>th</sup> August 1923 In reference to junior Red Cross work, the following reports were received:— From the general secretary, Australian Red Cross Society, Victorian Division, stating that junior circles had 'been' formed in the schools of Geelong. From the secretary, Junior Red Cross. Bideford, asking for badges and "Junior Red Cross Bulletin," and stating that members of the circle at the school were about to undertake the planting of trees and growing of seeds and

vegetables for sale for the purpose of augmenting their funds and expanding their usefulness in the. district. PP

## 1924

27<sup>th</sup> February School to be closed March 7<sup>th</sup> for school picnic  
28<sup>th</sup> November Letter to Wellington Education Board from Mrs J B Ward. AS far as she can gather the roll will not rise above 11. There is a possibility of a sawmill being built locally, and if that is the case there could be more families in the district  
13<sup>th</sup> December Appointed Mr E C Millar. Cert C, 4 yrs service Just completed 2 years training college course

## 1925

January 15<sup>th</sup> Letter to Wellington Education Board Accepting Mr Millar's appointment. Is he going to live in the residence or does he need board. Wellington Education Board replied that he is going to use residence  
9<sup>th</sup> March. Telegram from Wellington Education Board :Millar Withdrawn Please telegraph number of children likely to attend this year  
Reply from Mr Falloon Without mentioning any numbers. Have several additional pupils hope Board makes satisfactory arrangements

11<sup>th</sup> March. Letter from J Falloon. In answer to your question after recess. A sawmill is starting with at least 30 hands. Only ½ mile from school

18<sup>th</sup> March. From J Fallon Number of children will be at least 21.

14<sup>th</sup> March. Letter from Mrs W Stoddart River Bend to Wellington Education Board . I take the liberty to write to you to inquire if there has been any teacher appointed to the Bideford School. All teachers were supposed to get back to their schools after their refresher classes but so far no one has come. Our children have been quite overlooked.

20<sup>th</sup> March Letter to Mr Falloon. From Wellington Education Board We have decided to transfer Mrs M Warner at present Sole Teacher at Rangitimu as from 1<sup>st</sup> April

13<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Mrs Warner asking for attendance forms. I beg to state that the attendance has been very bad on account of gastric influenza and rough weather and roads. Mr Falloon warned me that the Board understands that the attendance is affected by the flooded river which is dangerous at times.

PS Please address all correspondence c/o Mr J Falloon. Otherwise letters lie in Masterton Post Office

## 1927

11<sup>th</sup> October Letter from Mr McLeod Office of Minister of Lands. to Mr Falloon who was wanting an aided school to be opened in the Bideford Public Hall, the idea is not practical and would

probably result in re establishing Mrs Warner in the school. At the end of the period of Notice Mrs Warner ceases to be employed and should vacate the residence. The Department understands that most of the settlers are having their children taught elsewhere. If they can continue to do so for a while longer the Board will probably be able to open the school with another teacher

15<sup>th</sup> November 1927. Letter from Mr Falloon Asking that the school be reopened at as an early a date as possible. If not then at the start of next year. Pencil note on bottom. Question of vacating school residence. Another note. Mr Falloon stated that as far as he is aware no one except Mrs Warner's children are living here

## 1928

14<sup>th</sup> January A Letter from Mr Falloon to Wellington Education Board that a meeting of families representing 18 children of school age respectfully urges the Board to open the school immediately the holidays are ended. The action of the board in allowing Mrs Warner to leave the service shows that the parents were justified in their action. Facilities on the spot needing only a suitable teacher to take charge.

26<sup>th</sup> January Letter from Wellington Education Board That the parents be informed that the Board regrets that it cannot undertake to reopen the Bideford School before 1<sup>st</sup> May next

2<sup>nd</sup> February. Mr Falloon writing again. .... You will be aware that if we are not to have the school reopened before May 1<sup>st</sup> so that it will be 12 months from this time the parents decided not to send their children till the school reopens.

10<sup>th</sup> February. Office of Ministry of Lands to Wellington Education Board requesting they reopen the school.

14<sup>th</sup> May letter from Mrs Warner to the Prime Minister. I beg to ask you to examine my papers being put in the hands of the Teachers Advocate- T Irvine- Headmaster of Clyde Quay School. It is a question whether bribery and corruption were used to close Bidford School. Thus throwing me out of employment, losing me my superannuation and two valuable insurance policies and leaving me at my age to seek menial employment after serving Four Education Boards faithfully in out of the way places for a period of 36 years. I am a cousin of Mr David Walter Dunlop, Advisory Inspector of the Auckland Education Board.

Failing redress I am putting all papers and names of witnesses in the hands of Mr Holland to bring before parliament

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Warner

Te Kainga. Bell Street Featherston

6<sup>th</sup> June 1928

Mrs Warner to the Prime Minister

Kindly let me know at once what you propose to do regarding redress to me. I hear that Mr A N Burns (*Inspector*) has deliberately lied to the teachers advocate re a felonious transaction. I beg to warn you that to get to the truth you must not inquire of my persecutors.

However after the appeal board meets my papers are being put in the hands of Mr R Semple and the case of assault and intercepting a sealed packet is being put in the hands of the police. I have been quietly trying to get justice for about 6 months without undue exposure but now intend to have the utmost publicity

Prime Minister replied don't blame me. It's the Wellington Education Board's job. Gordon Coates was Prime Minister until November 1928

(1873–1955 R Semple would be Bob Semple MP the leading left wing politician of the time. )

From the jubilee booklet. In 1925 Mrs Warner came to a schoolhouse which was in such disrepair that Mrs Warner could write the piano was wheeled in the wheels went right to the floor. The next year her husband died and left her with eight children.. (*Children born to Margaret (nee Maxwell) and Francis Ashton Warner. Her children were*

<i>Born</i>	<i>Name</i>
1899	<i>Muriel</i>
1900	<i>Grace</i>
1902	<i>Francis Ashton</i>

1903	<i>Lionel Allen Cromwell</i>
1905	<i>Sylvia Died 4 days old</i>
1907	<i>Daphne Ella</i>
1909	<i>Sylvia Constance Ashton</i>
1910	<i>Norma Maurine Ashton</i>

*Margaret Maxwell and Francis Ashton Warner were married in 1898. She died in 1942 aged 72 )*

Sylvia Constance Warner was born in Stratford, Taranaki, on 17 December 1908, the fifth child of eight—five girls and three boys. Throughout her life Ashton-Warner was haunted by the ghost of a first Sylvia who died four days after birth in 1905; the name and dates suggest that the Sylvia who survived was intended as a replacement child. Her father, [Francis Ashton Warner](#), had arrived in New Zealand from England in 1877 at the age of 16 with a noble lineage (John Le Warner was a nobleman in the court of Edward III) and an impressive box of family heirlooms, but little else. After travelling the country as a manual labourer he managed to find work book-keeping in Auckland and there met his wife, feisty young school teacher Margaret Maxwell. The Maxwells were a poor Scottish family but, like the Warners, were rich in family legend. Storytelling, particularly the marvellous, exotic stories of her father, was a vital part of Ashton-Warner's childhood. She inherited an urge to fictionalise her frequently less than ideal situation into something more bearable. In 1904 Francis was left crippled after a sudden deterioration in his health, and Margaret became the sole breadwinner of their large family. Margaret was a determined and sometimes violent woman who followed an educational philosophy of discipline and rote learning. A result of Margaret's confrontational nature, the family came to expect trouble from school inspectors or landlords—they were often in debt—and their life was

patterned by packing up and moving on. Margaret took her family to small rural schools all over the North Island, including Raupuha and Koru in Taranaki, Te Pohue, Umutaoroa, Mangatahi and Hastings in Hawkes Bay, and Te Whiti near Masterton. NZETC

23<sup>rd</sup> May 1928

Letter to Minister of Ed Honourable Mr Wright

Points

- a) This is a petition from the parents of 12 children in the Northern End of the Bideford District Presented by Mr Daniells.
- b) It is requested that a school teacher live in the current residence and travel to Glendonald each day to teach. A distance of 3 1/2 miles
- c) That Glendonald is the centre of our locality. Parents have promised to send 12 children
- d) No expense for new buildings as M Williams of Glendonald Station has offered his up to date shearers dining room and cordially invited the Board to use it.
- e) That owing to no children being available interest in the Southern portion of the district has flagged. At the householders meeting last night 6 out of 9 were from the Northern End
- f) Should the current school be reopened only 5 out of the 12 children will be able to attend. Provision of vehicles and

maintenance too is expensive and the roads are dangerous for small children

At a meeting with Hon R Wright Minister, A D McLeod visited the Bideford school and afterwards met a deputation in Mr Percy's House.

Mr Falloon wanted to old school opened. He did not think the room at Glendonald would be big enough though it had 2 doors and 2 windows.

The school would be closed for 3 weeks at Glendonald while shearing was on.

The Minister went on to say. He would say emphatically that he did not think a teacher would travel 3 1/2 miles each way to Glendonald. And The Departments experience had been that the settlers as a rule objected to boarding the teacher.

On inspection the Inspector supported the Minister in reopening the old school. But that didn't happen

6<sup>th</sup> June 1928. On further inspection by Mr Burns inspector the Wellington Education Board opened a school at Glendonald in June 1928.

13<sup>th</sup> September 1928 Mrs Moss and Mrs Corlett would like to rent the house as they were living in poor conditions while their husbands worked a contract.

# Glendonald

Established 1928

Renamed Bideford 1931

See Glendonald School for this history

## 1935

28<sup>th</sup> February That the chairman purchase trees to replace those that died

That the secretary's arrangements with M Oliver for school sweeping be passed.

That the chairman to see Mr Wilton with regards to repairs to school fence and to see that his stock is kept off the school grounds

## 1936

17<sup>th</sup> August Proposed that the Dental Clinic account be paid and Mrs C Donald is to interview the secretary of the dental clinic about further payments.

The letter of the resignation from Miss Heenan which was accepted with regret

Proposed that £1 be the limit for a present for Miss Heenan.

*It appears as though pages had been removed from the minutes,*

From 17<sup>th</sup> August 1936 to 12<sup>th</sup> July 1939

12<sup>th</sup> July 1939 Write to Wellington Education Board asking them to provide a car shelter at the school and also school residence.

Moved write to Wellington Education Board with reference to school transport

That the fence be shifted out of the wet corner and 56 trees be purchased to fill gaps in hedges.

20<sup>th</sup> April 1941. Householders Meeting.

Statement by C J Percy at annual meeting. (*Chairman REG H McKay*)

It is the first time as far as he knows in the history of the Bideford School that the chairman has not executed himself to be present at a householders meeting. In spite of war conditions I think a greater endeavour should have been made to be present

Huge gaps between minutes. for instance It appears that in some years only the Householders meeting was held July 28<sup>th</sup> 1942 and next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> march 1943

July 28<sup>th</sup> 1942.

Motion of condolence was moved by the chairman to the late J H Percy a past committee man who had given many years service to the Bideford School. Members standing in silence

Miss Williamson had been appointed as teacher and her duties to commence the second fortnight of the second term. Mr Chapman's offer of board for the teacher was accepted with thanks.

J Donald was thanked for boarding the previous teacher.

The committee decided that in view of the poor attendance in the winter term that the teacher set work for the pupils during the period they may be absent. The meeting concluded with a general discussion on the ability of the teacher and the attendance of pupils.

## 1943

25<sup>th</sup> March 1943

A general discussion on the proposed installation of a battery wireless set in the school. It was moved that the secretary and chairman get quotations of a new or second hand set.

The secretary was to write to Wellington Education Board about new desks.

It was decided to procure old tanks to store wood in.

NB Teacher not present at any meeting it seems up to 1943

17<sup>th</sup> May 1943. A special meeting to discuss the purchase of a wireless set and the carriage of children to school

As battery sets were practically unobtainable I could only get a quotation of one set. A recent model a Philips for £17 after a lengthy discussion on the price of the set and its ultimate upkeep and it was also the opinion of those present that it would be a disadvantage in a single room school.

It was carried unanimously that she would buy a car if a suitable one was available, so as the children living a distance from school could attend regularly

The secretary was instructed to write to the Wellington Education Board to see if satisfactory arrangements and payments would be made for the running expenses of the car.

## 1944

1<sup>st</sup> May 1944 1<sup>st</sup> women at householder's meeting 7/19. Two were elected to School Committee . Mrs W H Percy, Mrs J Donald  
Children to have better lunch facilities.

Boys and Girls to play together under more exacting supervision by the teacher

Moved that meetings be held monthly

The teacher to be asked to attend part of the first meeting.

4<sup>th</sup> May 1944

It was decided to recommend to the teacher that the children should have lunch inside on cold days

It was proposed that there be a working bee on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> inst to fill in the air raid shelter.

It was decided that the teacher could come to the meetings at the invitation of the committee

It was proposed that if the present cleaner became unavailable the children could be organised to clean the school

It was proposed to hold the next meeting in June and then every 2 months

The recommendations were put to the teacher and the meeting ended after a general discussion.

6<sup>th</sup> April 1944

It was proposed to leave arrangement to the teacher for the cleaning of the school; Recommended that 1 senior child and 1 infant do it weekly

Also that the skipping ropes on the flagpole be replaced.

It was decided that the invitation extended by the teacher to committee and parents to visit the school during working bee be accepted.

Recommended that children use separate towels. The teacher has been asked and is willing.

Recommended that the teacher should be asked to see that the grounds are kept more tidy.

July 5<sup>th</sup> 1944

It was put to the teacher the supervision of the playground had not been exacting enough and that the children had not been permitted to have their lunch by the fire on cold days.

It was decided to give the teacher two weeks trial and if she still did not carry out the committees requests to write to the Wellington Education Board.

It was proposed that on fine days lunch should be for 1 hour. On wet days ½ an hour.

The axe has been lost and it was decided to purchase another one.

Moved that the trees be replaced in the hedge

26<sup>th</sup> July 1944

Moved that Bideford should hold a lamb competition. That the best lambs in the education board show.

It was decided to hold a school picnic between Xmas and New Year.

Moved that we purchase school prizes. Moved that the children canvas the district. The teacher to organise which children and when to canvas

Moved that offer to the cleaner for 7/6d for cleaning the windows and that they be done twice a year.

November 7<sup>th</sup> 1944

Moved that the lamb competition be held on the day of the picnic.

The date set for 28<sup>th</sup> December

A letter was written to the teacher concerning the rumour that she had applied for a transfer and that she would not be able to transport the children to school next year.

It was decided to wait for her reply and then write to Wellington Education Board explaining our case.



## 1945

March 15<sup>th</sup> The chairman welcomed the new Teacher Mr R L Tomlin  
Mr W H Percy's house has been let to the school teacher

The letter written by Wellington Education Board in reference to enquiries concerning the possibility of moving the old schoolhouse was read and discussed. It was decided to ring the Wellington Education Board member to get them to come out and see for themselves whether it could be moved.

11<sup>th</sup> December. A vote of thanks to Mr Tomlin for the able manner in which he canvassed the district

## 1946

5<sup>th</sup> February 1946 It was decided to have a picture party when a suitable film is showing in Masterton The cost of admittance and transport to be taken from the special fund.

16<sup>th</sup> April 1946

It had been reported to the committee that the children had not been having any physical training and the school teacher was asked if he could making arrangements for having it. Mr Tomlin was asked to take singing lessons. It was decided to write to Mr Young of 2YA station for singing books

The manner which the Wellington Education Board did not reply to our correspondence was discussed and it was decided that it was very unsuitable. It was decided not to take action at present.

1<sup>st</sup> May 1946.

Householders meeting

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr Tomlin concerning the way in which he had transported the children.

16<sup>th</sup> October. First Meeting since the May Elections.

Drill at the school was discussed. Mr Tomlin said the amount of Drill the children were getting was laid out in the agenda.

Water supply. It was decided the water supply was insufficient and unsuitable. It was decided to write to the Wellington Education Board and gain permission to connect up with the County Council's windmill. Closing school on Friday afternoon and opening on Saturday Morning was discussed.. We decided it was unsuitable in our case.

The boundary fence needed repairing . It was decided to leave the work to the County and pay half the costs.

28<sup>th</sup> November 1946.

The chairman (Mr E M Wrigley) addressed the meeting to point out that members had been criticising him. The two members concerned would not be corrected and walked out of the meeting absolutely refusing to obey the chair. It was proposed that the school teacher should go on the committee. Carried. It was moved that the teacher should become secretary.

It was then decided to ask Mr Coddington (A teacher) or Mr Bird whether the action was in order.

The school teacher read his report and was asked to modify it to some extent.

After discussing the irrational action of the two rebellious members who were guilty of contempt of committee. The chairman declared the meeting closed at 23.20 hours

## 1947

5<sup>th</sup> February 1947. Lapsed because of lack of quorum

A number of matters on the resignation of School Committee members was discussed. Only 4 members including the school teacher attended re the conveyance of pupils.

## 1947

15<sup>th</sup> February 1947

Moved to write to Wellington Education Board asking them to provide a station wagon for transporting children

It was agreed to write to the Wellington Education Board asking about connecting to the spring for water and the spouting be repaired.

Mr Churcher Moved that Mr Tomlin measure the distance of rope spanning the river for the cable car and the committee would replace the required length and put it in order.

18<sup>th</sup> May 1947

After a thorough inspection of the school buildings and grounds the meeting was held in the school playshed (Teacher was not at the meeting)

Mr Tomlin to asked if he would allow children to be taught off school grounds needlework.

31<sup>st</sup> July 1947

Mr Churcher proposed that the Secretary get in touch with Mr C J Percy re the cable car he has loaned to the School Committee .

After much discussion on the possibility of transporting the pupils to Lansdowne school. A householders meeting was called for August 5<sup>th</sup>.

5<sup>th</sup> August 1947 Householders Meeting

Mr Wrigley in chair. Mr Wrigley read a letter from Wellington Education Board explaining the Hercock?? Scheme For transporting

the children to the Lansdowne School and also emphasised the benefit the children would get regarding more competition in school and sport. Also there would be the opportunity for Secondary Education for many.

Mr D Falloon asking if accommodation was available at Lansdowne. Mr Nicol was reported as saying that accommodation was alright and the scheme if passed would be an excellent idea.

Mr K Russell offered free board and lodging to the bus driver if he stayed and left from Maringa.

After much discussion whether the driver would collect children from 5 roads. And the distance to be travelled

Moved Mr Cundy. That the Secretary write to the Wellington Education Board immediately seeing if a school bus could be procured to transport the children to transport the children to Lansdowne School. The bus to collect the children from the 5 main roads and a suggestion that the driver board at Maringa to save half cost of running. A letter also to be sent to Mr N R Nicol Chapel St, (Wellington Education Board member)

25<sup>th</sup> September 1947. Meeting held at Wrigley's (*Mr Jones new teacher. Mr Tomlin left with no mention in the minutes Went to Castlepoint School*) Moved that the cable carrying the cable car across

the Taueru River below Bowlands be taken down and returned to the owner Mr C J Percy who had kindly lent it to the school committee.

Mr Percy to be notified that the cable car was going to be dismantled.

Mr Jones given permission to purchase, Gramophone needles, sheets of cardboard, hammer, nails, seeds, glue, 2 cricket bats.

Moved that Mr Donald only had the grazing of the playground in the school holidays.

## 1948

11<sup>th</sup> March 1948 It was brought up that the question of the stopcock should effect the Roadman's water supply. To be carried over Authority was given to purchase Lupin, Mustard, and oats also a bottle of methylated spirits

Mr Jones is granted right to park a caravan in the school grounds.

The question of a phone in the school was raised. The secretary to write to Wellington Education Board asking for a subsidy. It was decided to have cocoa and sugar during the winter months.

The committee to canvas the residents for donations on their telephone lines. Mr Jones to do Messers Falloon and the 321 line. Other lines also done. Party lines

It was decided to have a bran tub at the picnic and 40 presents would be purchased.

Ice cream 2 gallons

Cordial 3 bottles

Fruit one case of apples

Sweets paper if possible.

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1948 Householders meeting. Mr Wilton stressed the depopulating effect of the absence of educational facilities in remote districts and urged the committee to make every effort to obtain better transportation for country school children.

Moved that at the committee meetings the school teacher after making his report and after attending to any business requiring his presence should withdraw.

In view of the serious reports concerning the health of Mr Jones's Father and the projected marriage of Mr Jones Mr Bunny suggests that if the occasion arose appropriate messages be sent to Mr Jones.

Proposed that a social be held to welcome Mrs Jones to the district and to allow her to make acquaintance of the residents.

24<sup>th</sup> May, Moved that the resolution concerning the teachers withdrawal from meetings be rescinded

Moved When the teacher is present by invitation at a meeting of the committee and one or more members desire the withdrawal of the teacher from the meeting the chairman accede to the request of the one or more members and to ask the teacher to withdraw.

4<sup>th</sup> June 1948 Parents Meeting

Reasons for meeting

- (1) To decide whether a plan could be devised whereby the existing service of conveyance of school children could be expanded to include the two Wilton children without exceeding the maximum daily limit of 41 miles set by the Wellington Education Board . A plan was agreed to be trialled.
- (2) Then followed a discussion on the unfortunate position in which many people living in rural areas found themselves with regards to the education of their children. It was unanimously agreed that neither the Correspondence School nor the boarding allowance were adequate alternatives for a primary day school. Instances were cited of families forced to towns, of others deterred from taking country positions and others in the country seeking a house in the town in order that better educational facilities be made available in rural districts such as more generous allowances be made and more suitable vehicles be provided in order that the conveyance of children to school could be extended. And also conditions for teachers be made for favourable especially with regards

- (3) It was decided to approach Mr Holyoake MP for the district with the above problems
- (4) It was decided to purchase a piano if money could be raised. Wellington Education Board would provide 50% subsidy.

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1948. Moved that the committee provide a private mail bag for the teachers and schools correspondence

Moved the committee run a ration hamper raffle consisting of 6 lbs sugar, 1 lb butter 1 dozen eggs and a 4 gallon petrol coupon.

3<sup>rd</sup> August 1948.

It was moved a vote of thanks to Mr Churcher for obtaining two new tyres for the teacher car.

It was moved that under no condition must the Committee interfere in matters which are the teachers jurisdiction. It was moved that all complaints irrespective of person must come in writing.

23<sup>rd</sup> September 1948. A piano to be purchased not exceeding £65.

IT was moved that the secretary write to the Masterton County Council asking them to replace the gates on the Mangara Rd with cattle stops. It was pointed out that the opening and shutting of these gates took an appreciable amount of the teachers time in his daily transport service.

27<sup>th</sup> September 1948 Letter from Secretary School Committee to Keith Holyoke MP asking for a state house for the school teacher as they have to get out of current house.

2<sup>nd</sup> November 1948

Piano purchased £60 with £30 subsidy from Wellington Education Board.

## 1949

7<sup>th</sup> February 1949 A letter to be written to the Hon Minster of Transport concerning the great inconvenient and potentially dangerous part of the unfenced portion of the Mangarei Road

24<sup>th</sup> February

It was decided to hold a raffle the prizes being a dinner (1<sup>st</sup>) and a breakfast (2<sup>nd</sup>) ingredients for which being donated by the committee

5<sup>th</sup> May Mr Wilton asked that he be relieved of any duties on behalf of the committee pertaining to the unfenced portion of the Mangarei Road and that he take no part in any discussion in committee on the matter. Mr Wilton explained that as he was personally interested in the road he desired freedom to negotiate on his own behalf.

Moved that the chairman take steps to convene a meeting between a representative (Mr Cundy) of the school committee, the teacher driver, the councillor for the riding and official of the Masterton County Council and the Property Owners and settlers to discuss the unfenced portion of the Mangarei Road

It was moved that a roll of rabbit netting be obtained to protect the children's gardens from rabbits.

The secretary reports he had approached the Wairarapa Automobile Assn Patrol to have warning signs erected along the school bus route. Officially these signs are in disfavour with the Automobile Assn and it uncertain whether any sign will be forthcoming.

Moved that Mr Jones (Teacher) try to buy a second hand wheelbarrow and shovel.

9<sup>th</sup> June. It was passed that Mr Jones purchase a box of chalk and a bottle of ink.

Raffle prizes a 3 piece duchess set and the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize a crochet doily .

It was decided to have play-reading evening on a date to be arranged later, the charges for admission to be 2/- for adults and 6d for children. A light supper of tea and biscuits to be provided. Mr Cundy to purchase the biscuits.

Secretary to write to the Wellington Education Board advising them that a local builder Mr N Sutherland was prepared to submit a price for the building of the proposed teacher's residence.

2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Mr Jones reported he had obtained a duplicator for the school at a cost of £1-19-6.

Secretary to ask to apply for a bookcase for the school library.

Mr Jones authorised to buy 1 bag of lime, hockey ball, grass seed, garden seeds

Mr Jones to get ¼ ton of coal to eke out the fuel for the rest of year.

11<sup>th</sup> October 1949

Moved that Mr Jones be authorised to purchase two cricket bats, a set of 3 wicket stumps with bails and a soft ball

It was decided to run a Xmas dinner raffle in conjunction with the Xmas party. For the prize Mr Churcher donated two cockerels; Mr Bunny a leg of lamb; Mr Cundy new potatoes and green peas; Mr Wilton a Xmas pudding and Mr Jones a bottle of Sherry. The secretary to get 1000 tickets.

Secretary to write to Masterton County Council expressing the School Committee's appreciation of the improvements to the Bideford hall by the council.

## 1950

27<sup>th</sup> February 1950 Mr Jones authorised to obtain soap, flour and alum, used in baking and for making pickles.

Congratulated by Wellington Education Board on the state of the accounts Income £24-7-6d Wages 1 /4 Special £16-19-6d

Secretary to make arrangements for purchase of a filmstrip projector  
Householders Meeting May 1<sup>st</sup> 1950

Following discussion on a new curriculum Mr Wilton thought that the school curriculum should be as wide as possible and that the idea should be an education for living rather than just one in order to make a living.

Mr Ray Falloon depreciated the present standard of spelling and punctuation.

17<sup>th</sup> July 1950. Mr Jones required envelopes, dusters, draw-pins and cardboard.

By mutual agreement with the teacher it was resolved that the morning commencement hour for school be 9 a.m.

25<sup>th</sup> October 1950

It was decided to make inquiries be in to what progress was being made with the preparations to build the school house and if necessary a letter be written same to Mr Holyoake.

## 1951

1<sup>st</sup> February 1951. In the event of a meeting being convened to reorganise the telephone lines in the district, it was resolved that the committee request that a telephone connection if required, be allocated to the proposed school residence as this would be in the interests of the district as regards the school bus service.

6<sup>th</sup> August 1951. The secretary to write to Wellington Education Board asking if temporary accommodation could be provided at school for the teacher and his family. Same passed 30<sup>th</sup> October 1952. With the proviso that a copy be sent to Mr Holyoake.

Because of the very much increased cost of the hire of pianist was decided that the music (For Fancy Dress) be provided by a radiogram and suitable records assisted by voluntary local musicians. Mr Cundy favoured the hiring of a pianist.

30<sup>th</sup> October 1951

Mr Wrigley asked whether it was in order for Mrs Jones to drive the school bus on its legitimate run. Mr Jones explained that the incident occurred when he was feeling extremely nervous and fatigued and that he was contemplating obtaining the requisite licence and approval for Mrs. Jones to act as assistant driver. The committee decided that Mrs Jones not drive the bus until such was obtained.

27<sup>th</sup> December 1951 Mr Cundy reported he had consulted Mr C Percy regarding the cable car to "Waterfalls" house. It was decided that should Mr W Percy not require no accept responsibility for the cable car, then the committee dismantle it and store the material at the school

In view of the present difficulty in regard to accommodation Mr Jones a letter was received from the Wellington Education Board proposing that Mr Jones be temporarily transferred to Makuri School and a single relieving teacher be sent to take charge of the school and to drive the departmental bus.. The School Committee accepted the proposition.

The single teacher would be boarded in the district.

## 1952

E Todd Teacher

11 February 1952. It was decided to dismantle the cable car. Mr Todd was authorised to buy toilet paper and 5/- of postage stamps.

3<sup>rd</sup> June.

It was decided that the children receive £3-3-0 for their work in cleaning the school from 4<sup>th</sup> February to 29<sup>th</sup> February when the school was without a cleaner.

3<sup>rd</sup> June. It was reported that the school key had been lost. It was proposed to get a new one or change the lock.

29<sup>th</sup> July 1952 Mr Bourke Teacher

The cleaner resigned

Moved that the committee members clean out the lavatories week about.

Teacher reported that the school water supply was unfit for drinking.

Moved that Mr Strong be delegated to see County regarding cleaning out the well.

6<sup>th</sup> September. Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board asking that Mr Bourke remain here.

Mr Bourke asked for mats. Decided to buy flax mats.

## 1953

Mr Butcher teacher

5<sup>th</sup> February County sympathetic to deepening well and to obtain electric power to the well

House obviously built. Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board re fence. Mr Chapman to be seen re obtaining another piece of land for cow

Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board pointing out that cattle were a problem with washing etc with no fence around the house.

14th April

Mr Cundy and Mr Strong thanked for setting up an electric fence around the house.

Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board re window cords (2) Omitted to point out to maintenance officer. Also to wall. Shaky Letters to Wellington Education Board re lavatory block and septic tank. Very unsatisfactory

Moved that the capitation grant to schools be increased by 50%

6<sup>th</sup> July 1953 A discussion was held on the power and water situation. Secretary. Read letters from Masterton County Council and Wellington Education Board leading up to the Wellington Education Board's final letter of approval of a grant towards the installation of electricity to the school and teacher's residence and also for the supply of adequate water to the school and residence.

Went into the matter of the movement of the Western wall. It was decided to approach Mr Ian Bunny re getting one of his carpenters to come and repair same.

It was agreed to purchase Banda duplicator after writing to Wellington Education Board for subsidy on same.

It was decided that the painting be left in abeyance.

Moved that the Secretary write to the Masterton Private Telephone Society requesting that the £ 20 levy be not applied in the case of the

telephone connection on the teacher's residence. (Private Line 1914-1965 call a number and then ask for another number)

The Secretary to obtain a form and make application to the P@T for installation.

4<sup>th</sup> August 1953.

The Secretary to write to AA thanking them for signs at Mangarei and Tanglewood Corner.

It was decided that Mr Butcher see cleaner about lavatory disposal.

September 28<sup>th</sup> 1953.

Secretary write to Wellington Education Board asking for information re alterations to schoolroom applied for last June.

A discussion was held on the arrangements at the college grounds on the occasion of the Royal Visit. Moved that Chairman's and teachers actions re Royal Visit Medals be endorsed.

Mr Falloon proposed that a request be sent to the private telephone society for the reception of a deputation from our committee.

A lengthy discussion was held on the telephone problem. The situation at present being that the School Committee would have to find the sum of £30 before installation could be effected.

10<sup>th</sup> November 1953

Re Building. Mr Strong advised that he had seen Mr Whitehead (Carpenter) who said that he had done all he could. It (The Wall) was badly built. It was decided to write to Wellington Education Board and advise along these lines and that no charge had been made. Mr Whitehead was sent a letter of thanks

A sum of 1/- per head (30/- in all) be paid for children going to Lansdowne for Royal Visit. 15<sup>th</sup> January 1954. Drove down Te Ore Road to Hospital 1300 cheering children.

A short discussion was held on the telephone situation The Secretary had advised the fee of £30 would be waived and the committee could go ahead with arrangements for installation of same at teachers residence.

It was arranged that the children do the school cleaning under Mr Butcher since the departure of the Summers

14<sup>th</sup> December 1953. Mr Butcher suggested that the cleaning money be donated to the School Committee. Then the School Committee would apply for a 50% subsidy for books that go into the library.

## 1954

11<sup>th</sup> February Having a tennis court laid down with “Coffix” was discussed it was a worthy idea and it was agreed it was an object at which to aim.

Mrs Butcher was appointed cleaner

Mr Strong proposed that the Secretary write to Wellington Education Board re the possibility of getting something done about a new lavatory now that there was a good water supply available.

Mr Falloon proposed that the Secretary interview the County Clerk as to the position at present as regards the supply of electricity to the school.

Moved that school picnic be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February. A cup accepted for the teams events at the school picnic.

## 1959

18<sup>th</sup> August 1959 Miss AA Weston appointed assistant teacher

## 1961

April 1961 Householders meeting the sum £450 had been spent in the last 2 years on grounds and equipment including a film projector.

Mr Hewson thanked the outgoing committee for the assistance they had always been to him.

Moved that the Anzac Services be continued. Mr Smith explained the difficulty we found in organising them.

14<sup>th</sup> September 1961. Roll 30

It was reported that the Multiplex Bars had arrived and had proved a great success. Especially to the younger children.

The teacher reported he was arranging a Social Studies visit by bus in the near future. He also requested a new bucket and mop which was granted.

A discussion took place on grass cutting and it was decided to procure a new lawn mower. The Secretary to apply for a subsidy on same.

17<sup>th</sup> October 1961.

Arrangements were put in hand for the Guy Fawkes to be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November . Mr Smith to arrange the bonfire. Secretary to arrange supper. Income £2/6/10 Expenditure £3/4/0

A full discussion took place on a swimming pool. Mr Smith to contact County Health Inspectors re Water.

16<sup>th</sup> November 1961

Mrs Howe was taking children for tennis lessons once a week.

12<sup>th</sup> December 1961. Xmas party. Soft Drink instead of Ice Cream would be supplied to children this year.

Roll was 35

Prizes won during the year.



General Excellence Trevor Percy

Sports Cup- Allan Hewson Prim Carroll

Attendance Patricia Hewson. Oliver Smith

Carpenters have started on the school residence in order to fit the new stove and water heater.

9<sup>th</sup> February 1961. Wellington Education Board letter Have to hold roll at 40 for 4 weeks before can be re-graded and an assistant appointed.

23<sup>rd</sup> March Letter From Mr Hewson. Our roll has reached 32 and under the new regulations we can have an assistant mistress appointed. We have a 2<sup>nd</sup> room. Board is available or a house

30<sup>th</sup> March Letter from Wellington Education Board will not qualify for a 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher until next year. But this year you have to reach 36

10<sup>th</sup> October. School is to be regraded to sole charge until numbers are over 31 for 4 consecutive weeks

## 1962

31<sup>st</sup> January. Opened with roll of 38. Miss Falloon has completed her school certificate and wishes to enter training college if she enjoys the work. Letter to Wellington Education Board

14<sup>th</sup> February. I have engaged Miss A Falloon as an uncertificated reliever. Letter to WEB

8<sup>th</sup> February 1962. A full discussion was held on swimming baths and it was decided to take a trip round the schools in the Gladstone area on February 24<sup>th</sup> to inspect same.

It was decided to hold the annual picnic at Riversdale Beach on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Transport was arranged.

An Anzac parade and service would not be held in Bideford School  
School Roll 39

The chance of holding a stock drive in the near future was discussed. Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board applying for power to prefab.

Also Urinal and knob for main room.

Permission for the head teacher to procure 2 Atlas's 4 dictionaries 6 spelling books also Banda paper.

15<sup>th</sup> March

The HT was given permission to purchase coke.

The Head Teacher spoke on the start of country schools swimming sports. Although a bit rough at present he thought they should iron themselves out.

The power to the prefab had been passed.

16 children to attend ballet with Miss Falloon next week.

26<sup>th</sup> April 36 children on roll.

Mr Kennedy to graze the school grounds during the holidays.

Power has been put onto the prefab.

Final arrangements took place for the stock drive Stock to be left at school grounds by May 8<sup>th</sup>.

7<sup>th</sup> June 1962 Stock Drive very successful Raised £65/3/0

Roll at present is 37 pupils

The head teacher Mr Hewson said Miss Fallon had come along well and was a huge help to the school

The Head Teacher explained the new timetable from the school bus School would now commence at 9 am and finish at 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

Mr Smith expressed sympathy on behalf of the school committee re deaths of his relatives.

The new football jerseys had come to hand and the Head Teacher said he would like to have six more of larger sizes to bring the quota up to a total of sixteen

5<sup>th</sup> July 1962. Roll 32. An extension of the telephone to the school house would cost the sum of £2/8/0.

Secretary to contact the builder of Gladstone School baths. Mr Mignotti.

20<sup>th</sup> September 1962. Roll 33. A full discussion took place on uniforms for school children taking part in combined events. Although in sympathy with the Head Teacher about procuring uniforms for the school, the committee decided it was wiser for parents to supply their own.

Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board asking to have prefab made a permanent classroom. It was explained that this would have to be made possible before we could have a urinal installed.

Miss Falloon would be attending training college next year and Wellington Education Board approval would be needed before a replacement was made.

25<sup>th</sup> October 1962. Roll 34. Wellington Education Board had not replied to a request for an assistant teacher.

The children have sent £5 to the Persian fund.

A discussion took place on children attending Intermediate School

The school grounds were getting away and the Head Teacher requested a clean up.

22<sup>nd</sup> November 1962. The Guy Fawkes party was discussed and it was decided to recommend to future committees that they go into the risks of accidents and responsibilities. The school roll is 28.

The Head Teacher had a ring from a girl applying for the position of infant mistress.

Mr G Falloon was thanked for his donation of flutterboards

13<sup>th</sup> December 1962. Roll is 30. Mr Hewson left for a new venture.

## 1963

Mr Don Croft Relieving. Head Teacher. Miss Galbraith Relieving Assistant.

Picnic to be at Riversdale again. Roll 13 boys and 10 girls. Because the Head Teacher was boarding at Earlyhurst an alteration had to be made in the school bus run to different areas.

The new school baths came up and discussion was delayed until next meeting.

21<sup>st</sup> February. Trevor Glover. Married. Previously at Aohanga as Sole Teacher to take up duty on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Mrs M A Glover appointed assistant mistress

March 28<sup>th</sup>. Roll 23. Mr Glover to start on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1963. The Head Teacher and his assistant had applied for permanent positions and if selected would have to leave before the end of term.

A construction committee was formed to build the baths. The Secretary was instructed to keep a close touch on the financial side. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Masterton CC to see if they could provide metal and at a reduced cost.

The Head Teacher reported on the activities mainly a fire at Tividale. 18<sup>th</sup> April 1963. The secretary instructed to write to Mr Hewson re Power Board account and tolls.

Moved that the chairman send to Wellington Education Board an estimate of cost to the Board. The Head Teacher reported they still had 4 half days for special holidays.

Roll is 21. It was reported that Mr and Mrs A Glover would arrive during the term holidays.

22<sup>nd</sup> April Householders meeting The children had donated £141 and we would have to collect £450 to the swimming pool fund

6<sup>th</sup> June 1963. Mr and Mrs Glover Head Teacher and Assistant. Mrs Glover would take over the school cleaning from the 7<sup>th</sup> June. Roll is 17. Items required. Wood for starting fires, repair window, sandpaper, gate catchers, timber off cuts, Old tires. Mr Kennedy to check projector. Secretary instructed to write to Wellington Education Board asking for a grant towards swimming baths.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Wellington Education Board stressing the urgency of keeping the bus going on the present schedule and distances. Also that by reducing the bus run and losing children it would make the school uneconomic.

He had also said that the children had enjoyed a visit paid to the ballet by the NZ company.

10<sup>th</sup> October 1963 A financial statement on the baths account showed we could be short of our goals.

It was decided to open the baths on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

14<sup>th</sup> November 1964. It was decided that no children would attend baths unattended. The Secretary to purchase 20 keys to be sold at £1 each. The Head Teacher would arrange for them to be cut.

## 1964

4<sup>th</sup> February Water had to be carted to the school house. The committee would try to keep the bus route open on the run as far as possible.

2<sup>nd</sup> March The local children had performed well at the country school swimming sports which was a credit to Mr Glover and showed what an asset the swimming baths were to the school. Roll stood at 20.

13<sup>th</sup> April permission was granted to Bideford ladies Club. To have use of prefab as requested

27<sup>th</sup> May. A new school was held over to next meeting when the committee would discuss same. Later amended to go into ways and means of providing a new building.

The extension of the phone from the schoolhouse to the school would be discussed at next meeting.

A bottle drive would take place in the next month.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> A bottle drive to be held straight away. Secretary to approach ABC when bottles were ready.

A full discussion was held on making an application for erection of a new school. Points raised were. Doors open in instead of out. Floor uneven, only one exit, piles gone, no storage space, no staffroom, no sick bay, poor ventilation, short of blackboard space. And poor heating.

It was left to Mr. Kennedy to check ways and means of telephone extension to the school

It was decided to empty the baths and clean.

The committee to approach Mr Hedley, Wellington Education Board maintenance officer when he did the survey to see if we could get a subsidy on the boundary fence with the Masterton County Council.

Head Teacher advised he brought fuel : 6 bags of coke.

A successful sports day was held by Country Schools playing Rugby and Basketball.

27<sup>th</sup> July The result of the bottle drive was discussed which was very satisfactory. Some of the cordial bottles were not to hand. The roll at present was 23. The discussion on the new school was held over to a survey of intended children was completed.

14<sup>th</sup> September 1964.

Mr Kennedy to procure battens and netting for the schoolhouse fence. The account to the power board re house unoccupied from Xmas holidays to May when Mr Grover took over of £5/4/0 was discussed and passed for payment. In future power board will be notified as soon as the house was vacated.

Mr Glover was given permission to purchase recorders to the value of £10 and to get chime bars repaired.

Mr Glover to get any tennis racquets repaired that were worth it, and procure a padlock for gate.'

Back to one teacher school. Roll 27

Write to Wellington Education Board for supplies of HTH for baths an extra 50lb and 100lb later in November

Prim Carroll had gone for a Papawai Trust Scholarship and Mr Glover thought he had every chance.

9<sup>th</sup> December Roll 23.

18<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Glover has resigned. Wellington Education Board

Mr Glover leaving and to go to a position in Nandi.

## 1965

13<sup>th</sup> January It was decided to procure First Aid Equipment A full discussion took place on the use and abuse of the swimming baths, and it was decided to put out a notice to the residents explaining the position. Also that keys were available at £1.

A set of rules was drawn up.

The school cleaning was left over until the arrival of our new teacher.

9<sup>th</sup> February. Mr Andrews new relieving teacher.

Teacher to get first aid from Richards in meantime. Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board inquiring what was standard equipment for first aid in schools.

Secretary to contact Mr Hedley re fence at the house.

23<sup>rd</sup> March. Mr Hollis started. Mr and Mrs Hollis would do the cleaning.

Roll was 19.

Secretary to purchase straw broom and handle for school.

Mr Hollis to inspect hand towels.

April 1965. Householders Meeting. Mr Kennedy spoke at length on the business of school buses and the children going to town schools from the district on daily bus.

Committee to get feeling of district on new school at Bideford.

Mr Hollis moved that we continue with Guy Fawkes celebrations each year. Not Passed.

26<sup>th</sup> April

It was decided that Mrs Mackley would take over the sewing classes.

The school had 4 roller hand towels for the children's toilets on hand.

Windows to be taken to Daniells and repaired.

The Head Teacher was given permission to procure coke from Wairarapa Transport..

27<sup>th</sup> May 1965 The committee grants permission to Mr Hollis to close the school to attend an infant number course in Masterton

Moved that the school records be deposited at the Bank of NZ for safe keeping.

29<sup>th</sup> July

It was decided to purchase Riddiford Blue paint and brushes to paint the school baths.

The Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board inquiring into grass cutting, additional heating and cleaning grants for the school.

26<sup>th</sup> August.

Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board regarding the missing financial records and also the grass cutting allowance.

30<sup>th</sup> September

The Secretary to apply for a subsidy on a globe and spelling books if the School Committee agreed not to hold a Guy Fawkes Evening.

Mr Kennedy gave a further report on the present position in regard to the financial books that were lost

26<sup>th</sup> October

Bideford grass cutting obligations.

- a) ¼ acre of grass, Motor mower 16” cut, 26 cuts per annum, 3 hours cutting at £1 per hour, Mr Hollis Head Teacher cuts

- b) 2 acres of grass, haymower (tractor), 4 cuts per annum, 2 hours cutting at £1 per hour, Farmers available member of School Committee.

24<sup>th</sup> November

Mr Hollis reported that the school baths were leaking

Mr Kennedy reported that the financial books had been forwarded to the Wellington Education Board for auditing.

## 1966

27<sup>th</sup> June The committee to apply for a subsidy to purchase infant numbers and developmental equipment, indoor games, folk dance records, and an extension ladder.

6<sup>th</sup> September A letter was received from Mrs Noeline Donald. The Head Teacher explained the circumstances under which Ailsa Donald left the school.

27<sup>th</sup> October. A letter was received from Wellington Education Board re the prefab. Moved that we take no action pending the removal of the prefab room.

The Head Teacher was granted permission for leave of absence on a Friday afternoon so as to take his wife for specialised attention in Wellington 15<sup>th</sup> November. This leave was extended to a full day.

7<sup>th</sup> December. The Head Teacher reported that owing to domestic dissention between two neighbouring families Lynda Richmond has been taken away from the school.

## 1967

17<sup>th</sup> April Householders meeting A lengthy discussion was held regarding the school bus after which Mr Wrigley moved that we write to our local member, the Prime Minister expressing our alarm at the anticipated curtailment of educational facilities and to ask for immediate improvements in school bus services.

Mrs Wrigley questioned the loss of the Prefab. Mr Kennedy pointed out the School Committee did not approve of the idea. The School Committee had decided they had more hope of getting a new school building in the not too distant future. It was decided that the School Committee should not pay the £5 towards the telephone maintenance 1<sup>st</sup> May . It was moved that School Committee write to Mr Wallace, Wellington Education Board Member. Asking him to visit school in regard to the school's future.

26<sup>th</sup> June. A special meeting was called to discuss extra accommodation and transport. Various letters were instructed to be sent and a district survey held.

Mr J Littleworth was given permission to order the agility set.

Moved that we purchase firewood and cones collected by the children to the value of 30 dollars to subsidise their trip to Wellington.

5<sup>th</sup> September Permission was given to use the school as a polling place for a licensing referendum an option to extend parliaments term from 3 to 4 years.

24<sup>th</sup> October The Head Teacher is authorised to purchase a tennis net and 2 spare reels for the film projector.

Mr Kennedy congratulated Mr Hollis and the children for their performance in the arts festival at Wairarapa College.

27<sup>th</sup> November .The School Committee congratulates the teacher and children for the standard of the grounds and the success of the agriculture day.

## 1968

13<sup>th</sup> February 1968 Moved that the School Committee supports the school camp to be held at the Salvation Army Camp-Akatarawa. The school picnic would be held at Lake Ferry and the Pinnacles. Fruit, sweets and soft drink to be supplied.

Mr Hollis's resignation received with regret. Leaves on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1968.

Moved that children receive a subsidy of \$1.00 from the school finance club and \$1.00 from the school special account.

8<sup>th</sup> April roll 17. The school bus has been allowed to continue for another term but will be reviewed after that.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Wellington Education Board for a lean to for firewood

1 May 1968. Moved that we purchase two suitcases for the Secretary Treasurer.

Mr Hollis was thanked and wished the best for his new position in Hastings.

5<sup>th</sup> June Roll 16. Barry Mctamney

POSB school received a cash grant of \$24 from

The school will close for the afternoon while the Senior children take part in the country schools winter sports tournament.

10<sup>th</sup> July Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board pointing out the closing of the main porch has not been done and repairs to the school house roof is waiting some new tiles.

19<sup>th</sup> August 1968. Secretary to write to Wellington Education Board asking for clarification of the amount to be paid to a male cleaner of the school buildings and grounds.

Roll 20

The School Committee instructed Mr Mctamney to write letters of thanks to Mrs Percy and Mrs Callighan for looking after Bideford School Children at in Masterton during the winter.

21<sup>st</sup> October School Roll 15

Moved that a bonfire be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Tiverdale.

The School Committee agreed to build a folding table along the windows for the children to do art work on.

18<sup>th</sup> November. School Bus. The committee decided that owing to the fact that there were just not enough children to justify any further protest to the authorities.

Mr Jim Mctamney is to be father Xmas and will conduct a singsong with the children before giving out the presents.

## 1969

1<sup>st</sup> February 1969 Letter received from the Wellington Education Board advising they would take over the paying of the caretakers and cleaners wages at the 1<sup>st</sup> of April

10<sup>th</sup> April 1969 A letter from Wellington Education Board saying a sewing instructor should be appointed. Mrs Mctamney

Roll 14

3<sup>rd</sup> May Roll 12.

Write to Wellington Education Board pointing out that there is no equipment at the school or school house for the prevention of a fire

and would like to Wellington Education Board to advise what their policy is.

3<sup>rd</sup> June Wellington Education Board letter telling of new bus routes.

16<sup>th</sup> July 1969. Proceeds from the sale of bottles \$39.60

13<sup>th</sup> August The school is to be painted in the coming weeks.

24<sup>th</sup> September Roll 18. The school will use the hall for gymnastics as there is more space there than at school.

12<sup>th</sup> November. The entire school is now outfitted in school uniforms.

School camp will be held at Riversdale during March

The senior children will be guests of Rotary for lunch

Agricultural Day. The committee decided to have a small working bee the day before the Ag day to do the necessary work and arrangements. It was decided that the committee would swim against the children in old fashioned costumes as a form of entertainment.

In addition to the normal competitions there will be throwing darts, putting the shot. The ladies section of the Agricultural day is half as big again as in the past

10<sup>th</sup> December There seems to be some misunderstanding as to what happens to funds raised on the day. It was explained by Mr Mctamney that all profits go to the school finance club and this will be fully explained in the next newsletter.

## 1970

13<sup>th</sup> March 1970. A circular was received giving the date of the Royal Tour holiday.

10<sup>th</sup> June Roll 19

Mr S Carroll reported on the mower and stated that it was beyond repair. The committee to ask the Wellington Education Board for a new one.

17<sup>th</sup> August. Roll 16

12<sup>th</sup> October. Inspectors report (12/1) proved to be very pleasing and in general much credit to Mr Mctamney

Wellington Education Board asked about having a centralised accounting system Bideford School Committee against.

Roll 17

A request for an old car body for recreational purposes was met with enthusiasm.

It was briefly noted by the Treasurer that \$180.00 overpaid by the Board as wages some time back had as yet not been queried concerning repayment.

## 1972

N I Brown appointed Sole Teacher.

## 1972

N I Brown Started work as sole teacher

## 1973

12<sup>th</sup> December. N I Brown to Wellington Education Board School closed Lack of Water. Town milk tankers used. Many schools needing water. Rather primitive system of collecting surface water

off the tennis court has been in operation for many years, the time has come to look at overhauling the system.

## 1974

Ivan Hanna Senior Inspector to John Lelliott Secretary of Wellington Education Board A parent had rung that there was undue pressure being exerted by the committee on the teacher and this causing a rift in the area. She claims the committee meets in the chairman's home and the teacher doesn't participate. I thought you would be interested and shows another side of the picture and one that we may have been a little suspicious of.

## 1975.

Whole School Committee resigned. AT householders meeting it was voted that no discussion of their reasons be allowed. Carried.

4 /5 new member s elected

8<sup>th</sup> October 1975. Letter from NI Brown to Wellington Education Board. A long letter included with several points of dissatisfaction with his work was shown to Head Teacher before sending to the Board. I was given the impression that it was sent to you as general Manager unless within a short time I had not applied for another position.



## 1977

Mr Brown was transferred back to South Auckland as an assistant. Board inspectors had tried to work with him but sounded too stubborn

## 1987

9<sup>th</sup> December. Richard Bell attended his final meeting

## 1988

*I Stopped recording records Minutes at Wairarapa Archives for Bideford as I knew many of the people involved.*

## Buildings

15<sup>th</sup> November 1905. Present Residence 2 Rooms 14' x 10' (' is symbol for foot or the plural feet), (4.27 meters X 3.05 meters) 14' x 13.9' New Rooms 10' x 12' and 12' x 9'

The new 3 Rooms are 1 Bedroom 12' x 10'. 1 Sitting Room 12' x 13'9' and a Scullery 7' x 14'

The Material to be used is Wood, Iron roof and scrim and wallpaper

Amount applied for £135 (*that is equivalent to \$21,020.38 in March 2011 terms*)

Letter from Wellington Education Board to Secretary of Education  
At present the house only contains two rooms and the teacher had constantly to reside away from home, but as the owner

requires the cottage occupied by the teacher the latter will require the Board's residence.

Mr Bennett, the teacher has three children

Approved 29<sup>th</sup> January 1906

Average Attendance. Roll 1903 17 . 1904 24. 1905 22

Completed 25<sup>th</sup> June 1906

3<sup>rd</sup> July 1906 A 4' x 4' Porch added in to the building.

16<sup>th</sup> December 1911. Board granted £100 for improvements to the residence. An extra room, bathroom and washhouse. (*There were none of these in the old house, presumably the 5 people in the house bathed in a tub in the kitchen*)

24<sup>th</sup> November 1919. A letter from Mr J T M Hornsby, MP Carterton to the Minister of Education

Points

- a) The present school which has been up 19 or 20 years stands on a bare acre of ground
- b) The children have to cross a river to get to school
- c) The condition of matters induce dangers and parents are kept on tender hooks, especially in winter or during the wet season
- d) A Mr J H Percy, a settler, will sell 25 acres at a cross road position and the cost will be based on a price of £50 per acre for his land effect an exchange with valuation for the board's cottage and land. The school itself could be removed and re erected

e) What I want to know if you will favourably consider the question

2<sup>nd</sup> December The minister replies. He believes the site is too small. But as the Wellington Education Board has made no application for a new school nothing can be done.

20<sup>th</sup> April 1928 The school was closed in 1927

The area is 1 acre rood 1 perch,

The school erected in 1899 contains a classroom floor space of 440 sq ft (*Say 12 meters x 3.4 meters. With over 20 children and a teacher in the room*)

The residence was erected in 1889 and has been added to on two occasions since

10<sup>th</sup> May 1930 Looking at site of 3 1/2 acres owned by the Masterton County Council.

- a) Permanent water from a windmill
- b) £25 per acre taken under public works act as county couldn't sell
- c) Proposed to move Biddeford school to site.

11<sup>th</sup> October. The cost of the shifting the school would be £183

14<sup>th</sup> July 1931/ The old residence is worth not more than £45

14<sup>th</sup> May 1932 Couldn't sell the old house and acre for more than £10 wanted 50. Leased it out for £6

22<sup>nd</sup> February 1937 portable bach offered same at Ahiaaruhe

31<sup>st</sup> August 1945 Sold land of old school site for 100 to W H Percy

It was not until the 1950s that a new schoolhouse was built at Biddeford. There was much discussion and lack of action by Wellington Education Board. Including angry letters from the school teacher.

**Other teachers I am aware of not in order**

**Rod Garden**

**Dave Finlayson**

**Bruce Austin**

**Dave Tubman Last Appointed Teacher**

**There may be others.**