

Brancepath: 1895-96 This school was on one of the Wairarapa's largest farms. This farm was subsequently subdivided into many settlements in the area, though the home farm is still operating.. About 21 Kilometres on Masterton Stronvar Road, East of Masterton.

On the recommendation of Mr Buchanan, the Board gave the usual grant to an aided school at Brancepath 27 March 1895

21st May 1895 An aided school is to be opened at Brancepath, Taueru, on the 1st of June. The residents have appointed Mr. Joseph. Guest, formerly of Wainuioru *but not Wainuioru School*, to the charge of the school, at a salary of £50 a year, with board and lodging 21 May 1895

The following information in the box is taken from a book on Brancepath Library written by Lydia Wevers called Reading on the Farm

- a)and the schoolteacher, Joseph Guest, who had failed all his examinations and whom Miller (Whose writings are used for this information) seems to be hinting at another story which the diary does not record
- b) Miller noted in his diary at the end of 1896. The schoolmasters aim since he received notice to quit, has been to induce Summers who is father of 2/3 of his pupils, to give notice to leave, in order that Guest may be able to say he left because the school was broken up.- he knows he would only get a very qualified recommendation from station. He got Summers in right frame of mind yesterday by supplying him with whiskey since Friday. This is my opinion 21st December 1896
- c) Footnote. Joseph Guest later became well known as an artist and lived in the Chatham Islands. There are several charming sketches in the family (Brancepath) papers.

- d) .. Miss Liddle and Mr Miller both “assisted the schoolteacher guest with his examinations. Miss Liddle providing information on Hindu Deities
- e) The Scallywag was presented to the Brancepath Library by Schoolmaster Guest perhaps before he was encouraged to resign his post,
- f) Footnote Guest became a minor artist.
- g) J J Guest who was schoolmaster in 1895 and was “invited to resign” in 1896 donated the book “Scallywag. (Miller notes in his ledger that Guest left at his own request on 21st December 1896 to prepare for his exams by getting drunk at Taueru

The Teaching Career of J J Guest

25th April 1888 The appointment of Mr J J Guest to the charge of the aided school at Taipoa was approved

15th October 1892 John Guest was at Bush Gully, maybe teaching winning a bird drawing competition.

John Guest went to Te Ore Ore School and was successful there and then in 1902 he went to the Chatham Islands School. His brother was also in the Chatham Islands at that time

It is probable that governesses were employed at Brancepath but not as a registered school

1895 8 Brancepath Guest J John

1896 9 Brancepath Guest J John

J John Guest was at Te Ore Ore in 1897 straight from Brancepath

He then came back to a school out of Wairoa and finished at Te Teko near Whakatane

29th July 1914 The-application of Mr. Beetham, of Brancepath,. for the establishment of 'a school was referred to the inspector, who will report, to the board when further information has been received on the matter from the School Committee