

Dyer

Dyer: 1907-1951 The Wellington Education Board never called this school Dyerville as it was commonly known as. The Dyer district was named by Richard John Seddon when the area around the Dry River was subdivided. The name came from a merchant in Wellington, Mr Seddon's Son in Law, married to Phoebe Seddon, About 6 kilometres south on the Lake Ferry Road from Martinborough

PP indicates Papers Past Website.

DSR = Dyerville School Roll held at Wairarapa Archives

Writing in Italics are comments from the compiler: Robin Carlyon

Writing in Tempus Sans ITC is from items at National Archives Wellington

Other sources are identified



1906

5th March 1906

The Dry River Estate, in the Wairarapa, which the Government has acquired for closer settlement, will be handed over by the present owners at the end of the month. The Minister for Lands went over a portion of the property on Friday (says the Evening Post) and made arrangements in connection with the proposed subdivision of the land into areas suitable for small farmers. It is expected that the sections will be thrown open for selection in June. PP

23rd March 1906

LAND FOR SETTLEMENT.

The Dry River Settlement to the southeast of Martinborough, comprising about 16,000 acres has been subdivided into about 50 homesteads, varying from 100 to 600 acres. The land is well watered, a race from the river having been made through a number of subdivisions. Further irrigation is contemplated, and good roads are being laid on. The average rental will be 5 shillings per acre, and it is believed that the sections will be in good enquiry. About one half of the estate will probably be submitted to intending settlers about the end of June or beginning of July; the remainder being thrown open a couple of months later. The river water is permanent and abundant. It seems that the name " Dry River" has been conferred because for about a mile the stream disappears under the shingle. PP

24th May 1906

.The Dyer Settlement (formerly Dry River has been subdivided into eight dairy farms and twenty-three ordinary farms, of a total area of 10,700 acres Applications for sections will close on Monday, June 25th, and the ballot will take place at Martinborough on Friday, 29th prox.

5th December 1906

SCHOOL FOR DRY RIVER SETTLEMENT.

The Crown tenants at Dry River, for some time past, have been urging the Wellington Education Board to supply them with a school. It is stated that there are thirty eight children of school age, and a good prospect of an increase shortly but in the meantime the youngsters are going without education. The Board favours the conveyance of the children by coach to Martinborough, but to this the parents, for various reasons, are opposed. Efforts have been made to arrange for the transit of the children, but no contractor is daring enough to get a coach or bus specially built and risk the result of parental opposition. It is alleged that the reason why the Dry Riverites want a school at their doors is to be able to utilise on the dairy farms as much as possible the assistance of the juveniles. The ride to Martinborough and back, it seems, would interfere with the milking of the cows. This Martinborough opinion, however, is emphatically resented by the Dry River people, who declare that, in insisting on an independent school of their own, they are simply studying the welfare and safety of their families. It is now stated that Sir Edward Gibbs is getting a family coach built specially, in order that the young brood at Dry River may have the choice of travelling to the Martinborough school on wheels, or growing up uneducated. It is said that the people of Dry River will refuse to have their families "coached" in the way insisted upon by the Educational authorities. The outcome of this unusual deadlock will be watched with interest.
PP

1906

14th November Letter to Department re Dyer Settlement includrd

- a) In several districts where conveyance of pupils to the town schools though preferable could not be got, because no person was willing to on the allowance paid or no suitable vehicle was provided.
- b) The Wellington Education Board asks the Department to provide a vehicle and pay for wages and hire of a horse
- c) This will save costs of building a school and in many cases will save employing a teacher
- d) The Settlers want a school but the Wellington Education Board thinks our proposal of hiring a vehicle is the better option

16th November 1906. Memorandum re Dyer Settlement

- a) There are about 20 children in the settlement or near to it
- b) Prospect of more children come in immediately as several families with children have purchased land
- c) Easiest solution is to convey these children to Martinborough. as the road is levelled and well maintained
- d) The keeper of the Livery Stables (Mr Mackay) is to furnish the cost of conveying 25 children and his estimate is practically £200 per annum
- e) The Martinborough School Committee advised me that possibly a settler at the Dry River could convey the children at much less cost

- f) Failing the Conveyance of the children a school should be established. The area provided is a square of a little over 2 acres and suitable for a school building. The site is almost opposite the creamery about $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Martinborough Post Office.
- g) The site is at the centre of the settlement near the main road to Pirinoa

22nd November Letter to Mr J A Chesham from Wellington Education Board

- a) The Wellington Education Board is trying to arrange transport to Martinborough with the Secretary of Education for the children
- b) I think such arrangements will be possible
- c) The tenderer should be prepared to tender say at per day per child or for conveyance only, the Government to provide the vehicle

24th November Letter to Wellington Education Board from Mr Mackie. The conveyance of children to Martinborough does not meet our needs.

- a) There is always a chance of accidents
- b) Children may be late and miss the conveyance
- c) The settlers will not send their children through to Martinborough. Do the best you can

7th November Letter from Mr Hornsby MP to Minister of Education

- a) Protests against conveying children to Martinborough
- b) The settlers were promised a school built by the Government and a site was set apart
- c) The Wellington Education Board is trying to compel the 30 children to travel to Martinborough or refuse the children an education whatsoever
- d) The parents are upset about sending their children by coach.
- e) These thirty uncontrolled children will be sent in a dray to a school five or six miles away
- f) I would then urgently ask that you refuse the grant for the conveyance and order the erection of a school.
- g) The settlers say they will not send their children by conveyance *(There is a terse note in red ink on the bottom of the letter. "The law compels them to send their children if there is a public conveyance")*

28th November from Wellington Education Board to Secretary of Education..

Received from School Committee Martinborough an offer from Mr J C Clarkson to convey the children of the settlement for a period of 3 years at a cost of £140, van to be provided by Government

21st December Letter from Minister to Mr Hornsby

- a) I think the supply of a van may well be seen as an experiment
- b) The Northern part of the settlement is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Martinborough

- c) There would be accommodation in the Martinborough School with the addition of a pupil teacher
- d) The van would cost about £50 and there is an offer of transport of £140. A new school would cost £350
- e) The proposed school is too close to Martinborough

1907

5th January 1907

There are thirty children of school age at the Dry River Settlement and the parents have decided to place a commodious shed at the disposal of the Education Board for use as a temporary school PP

4th February 1907

The Dry River (Dyer) settlers have not been behind hand in working their small farms into money making sections. PP

16th February A letter from Mr Hornsby to Geo Fowlds. There are 30 children awaiting a chance to go to school and the parents steadfastly refuse to send the children by conveyance to Masterton (sic) Is a school to be built?

28th February Mr Hornsby from Mr Fowlds Minister of Education. The Wellington Education Board think the children should be conveyed to Martinborough

A grant for the conveyance of children has been paid to Wellington Education Board

7th March Mr Hornsby to Minister. May I point out that now the Wellington Education Board recommends the building of a school at Dyer Settlement.

Let me repeat what I said personally to you some time since, namely, that the parents will not entrust their children to anyone driving to Martinborough and back

Meanwhile 36 to 38 children are going without schooling.

11th March. From Secretary of Education. I have received no information that the Wellington Education Board has decided to recommend the establishment of a school at the Dyer Settlement

12th March Letter to Minister stating that they will build a school

22nd March 1907

A school at Dry River will be opened in about a month. Applications for new schools at Waterfalls and some other localities have been renewed. .PP

25th March Application for a new school at Dyer Settlement from Wellington Education Board to minister

- a) No of families 12
- b) At least 20 children. Only 2 are on the roll of another school
- c) Martinborough 3 miles 50 chains away, Kaitara 10 1/2 miles, Kaiwairai 10 1/2 miles
- d) Classroom 22' x 24' Corridor 22' x 7' Total 528 square feet
- e) Wood building, brick chimney, iron roof
- f) Latrines for Boys and Girls. Two shelter sheds
- g) Section 7a Dyer Settlement Crown Land
- h) 1 chain picket fence with gates. 8 chain of wire fencing
- i) £290 buildings, £39-2-6 furniture £25 Fencing, Out buildings £71 Total £ 425-2-6

27th March Minister to Wellington Education Board declines application for a school

11th April 1907 The settlers at the Dyer (formerly Dry River)

Settlement have at last been able to provide tuition for their children, Miss Cartwright acting as mistress. A number of school desks were sent on last week for school purposes. The settlers are now hoping that the question of the erection of a school will soon be decided one way or the other. PP

26th April A deputation with Mr Buchanan Member of Wellington Education Board from Dyerville attended by Secretary of Education.

Department Objections restated. Closeness to Martinborough and the considerable sum of money,

The residents thought there would be no difficulty in making other proposals. The school could be built further out. They thought costs for outbuildings and fencing could be considerably reduced

22nd June 1907. Extracts from a private letter from Mr Hornsby to the Minister's Office

- a) Mr Hornsby had visited site two days after deputation by Mr Buchanan and settlers.
- b) Lee (Not the Chief Inspector) and Buchanan denounced the Education Department and the Minister for Education, telling the settlers in spite of all the Board could do you had absolutely refused to permit the Dyer School to be erected on the site chosen when the land was thrown open

c) It has come to a pretty pass when the chairman of an education board and one of the members go around one's electorate blaming the Minister of Education and denouncing the Education Department

d) The settlers have said the site set out is by far the best place for the school

e) There is strong feeling on the subject and I want you to oblige the settlers and at the same time confer a favour on the children by ordering the erection of the school on the original site

f) Etc. the original site is by far the best option

29th June Minister awaiting an application from Wellington Education Board meanwhile school is happening in a temporary way

25th June 1907 On the motion of Mr. Hogg, it -was resolved that the site surveyed at the Dyer Settlement (near Martinborough), and approved by the majority of the settlers, be adopted, and the department be asked to authorise the erection of a school PP

27th June 1907

The Chairman reported that twelve out of sixteen of the settlers at Dry River were in favour of having their school erected on a site laid off by the Survey Department somewhat near Martinborough, and suggested that the Education Department be advised to either erect the school on this site or on a site offered by Mr Waugh which would be more accessible for the remote settlers. Mr Hogg contended that, the selection of sites should be made by the Board and not relegated

to the Department. Mr Buchanan moved that the Department be asked to erect the school on either of the sites, submitting that eventually there would be families in the back portion of the settlement. Some discussion ensued, ending in the withdrawal of this motion, and the substitution of a resolution by Mr Hogg that the Department be asked to authorise the erection of a school on the site selected by a majority of the settlers. PP

2nd July Report from Mr Fleming, inspector and Mr Buchannan Wellington Education Board Chairman, who interviewed the community on 13th June. 16 settlers attended.

That the proposed site was the best option. This was the opinion of 12 out of 16 settlers. Eight settlers were not opposed to another site $\frac{3}{4}$ mile along across the Dry River. The main reason for the original site was that a road from the back settlement joins the main road there.

Settlers had purchased land on the understanding a school would be built there.

1st July. Letter to Secretary of Education from Wellington Education Board The Wellington Education Board has approved the site originally set down and requests a school be built there.

3rd July Letter from Mr Hornsby to Mr Fowlds..... Finishing with I know the place, know the site, and know the wishes of the settlers. Thanking you in anticipation.

5th July. Another letter from Mr Hornsby to Mr Fowlds

I am being besieged with letters from the Dyer Settlers..... Will you please do this for these people..... Meanwhile settlers are not only anxious but angry with me and I am quite? In the matter 22nd July Letter from 5 parents with 16 children to the Honourable Minister of Education.

- a) Draw your attention to the proposed site for the site of the school to be built on the North Side of the Dry River
- b) We maintain it is not central. On the North side there are only 8 children and on the south 16
- c) The present site is only 3 miles away and in floodtime the children could be sent there
- d) But on the South side there are 16 children and the nearest school is 15 miles away
- e) There are still some large properties which undoubtedly will be cut up for closer settlement in the future

11th July 1907

DYER SETTLEMENT.

The School Trouble

The settlers at the Dyer Settlement, situated at the Dry River Estate, beyond Martinborough, have had a good deal of trouble over the establishment of a school. In the first place, the Department offered to help them in getting a conveyance to take the children to the school at Martinborough. The Education Board contributed to the educational deadlock that ensued, the Department insisting on a horse, van and rider, and the parents firmly asserting their right to a school on the spot. Finally a temporary building was furnished, and, a majority of the Board sympathising with the parents, a teacher was

duly despatched, to the great joy of the Dyer juveniles. The next difficulty arose over the site of the future school. The site in general demand was on the main road of the settlement, at the end next Martinborough, but a small section who lived in the more remote part wished it planted about, two miles further back. The Board appointed its Chairman, Mr Buchanan, and Inspector Fleming to determine the site. A few weeks ago they visited the place, met sixteen settlers, and found that a dozen of them wished the school to be erected near the Martinborough end, where most of the settlers have their residences. Some of the visiting Committee, however, seemed to think that the "way-back" families should not be ignored, and the meeting was far from satisfactory, the claims of the minority apparently receiving a good deal of sympathy. When the Board met recently, the Committee presented a report recommending that the Education Department be requested to place the school on the surveyed site, failing which one of three acres on the corner of Mr Waugh's land could be taken. The following amendment proposed by Mr Hogg, seconded by Mr Kebhell, was carried: "That the site surveyed at the Dyer Settlement, and approved by the majority of the settlers, be adopted. and the Department be asked to authorise the erection of a school. "

16th August Letter from 20 families to George Fowlds Minister.

- a) Strong opposition on shifting school from the North to South of Dry River
- b) Some of the children will have to travel 4 miles to original site and $4\frac{3}{4}$ to proposed site
- c) While the furthest child from the south would have to travel $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the original site
- d) While some of the children on the North side will have to travel over very bad roads and on the South side roads are very good

Letter from Secretary The Wellington Education Board proposed the new site but now are proposing the original site

3rd October 1907 The first school opened in Mr Chesham's Homestead in an out-house. The first teacher was Miss Olive Irons with Miss Maud Cartwright a relieving teacher. DSR

7th October 1907 As the circumstances under which the children are being instructed are exceedingly uncomfortable and even unhealthy Letter from Wellington Education Board trying to hurry up minister

The Minister replied he is waiting on appropriations to be made

25th October Mr Hornsby to Mr Fowlds The people are indignant and the trouble is I am getting all the blame. So surprisingly do my opponents work that they attribute all the delay to my "inaction" as they call it and much injury is done on consequence. Surely there is no need for further delay.

28th October Letter from Wellington Education Board to Secretary of Education

- a) Application was made on 12th March and on the 10th October the Wellington Education Board is notified that the decision is awaiting appropriation
- b) There are 21 children in attendance at the school in a room insufficient in size and unventilated. The first teacher has left because she could not endure the conditions; The second was no sooner established than she asked to be removed,

- c) The settler who has been managing our affairs there has now intimated that he will on no account deal further with the matter or with the management of the school.
- d) Lastly the owner has asked to be relieved of the presence of children and the teacher.
- e) I point out the approach of summer makes the erection of the school necessary at an early date.

23rd December Gibbs Secretary for Education. That £300 be made for the establishment of a school at the Dyer Settlement

The name of Dry River was a misnomer. At times it was a raging torrent. Miss Irons reported that the children crossed by climbing a rickety fence. One morning Miss Irons came along on horseback to find Ruby Chesham on the fence, the river running swiftly, she rode in and helped Ruby on behind her, the horse strongly objected to a second rider put its head down and its heel up several times, she would have been over the horse's head, had not Ruby behind her held her on. It was a cold morning and a ducking would have been rather nasty. But Ruby was a big strong girl and the situation was saved. Jim Chesham stood on the bank shouting with laughter, probably he wouldn't have laughed had they landed in the water. DSR

The school was built in the North Side of Dry River and a hand bridge was built to cross over, lasting only as long as some locals did not use the boards for firewood.

1908

21st January 1908. Thanks for special grant but it is not enough. This conclusion is based on the actual costs of other schools erected. Timber for Dyer has to be brought from Dannevirke and that is cartage for a fairly long way. Estimated cost is £421-2-0 on a slightly changed plan

4th February The Wellington Education Board has received a particularly good tender and wishes to urgently undertake the same

9th February From Secretary of Education. Grant has now been increased to £402-2-6

4th February 1908 A new Post and Telegraph Office at Dyerville (late Dry River), near Martinborough, was opened yesterday, and Mr Frank Dyer, after whom the township was named by the late Mr Seddon, had the unique experience of receiving the first telegram to go through the office. It came from his daughter, who happened to be visiting the district. PP

19th February 1908

Three members of the Wellington Education Board, accompanied by Inspector Fleming and the contractor for the new school at Dyer, proceeded to Dry River on Monday for the purpose of making final enquiries and planting the school on a site that will be convenient for the bulk of the families. The latest agitation is to have the school on a site on the south side of the river about a mile further from Martinborough than the site already chosen

28th February 1908 Letters were received from the Dyer Settlement urging that the new school be placed on a site on the south side of Dry River, about a mile beyond the site already adopted.

As the result of considerable discussion, it was resolved that Mr Hogg, with two other members and the Chief Inspector, proceed to the locality on Monday, and finally settle the matter so that the building may at once be commenced PP

3rd March 1908 Some two dozen settlers met the representatives of the Education Board and Inspector Fleming at Dyerville, yesterday, and after a very lively discussion resolved by fifteen to six that the school should be erected on the site previously selected—about four miles from Martinborough. The members of the Board approved of the selection, and the contractor will start the buildings forthwith. PP

6th March The Wellington Education Board received a petition at last night's meeting from the settlers on the south side of Dyerville, asking that the proposed new school be erected there instead of upon the site set apart by the Lands Department on the Dyer Settlement. A committee was appointed to visit the locality, and after discussion of the question there with the settlers, decided that the school should be erected on the site set aside by the Lands Department PP

27th August 1908 The footbridge being erected over Dry River will soon be completed. Mr Bainbridge, who was burnt out at Dyer Settlement, a few days back, intends to re-build.

14th September The Wellington Telegraph office notifies that the Dyerville telegraph Office has been destroyed by fire, and telegrams should be addressed to Martinborough PP

23rd November 1908 It was reported at a recent meeting of the Martinborough School Committee that a deputation had waited on the Dry River School Committee and that it had been decided to fix

the boundaries of the schools at Tulloch's lane, and from thence to the Ruakakapatuna

28th February 1908

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1909

22nd February 1909 Application for a new schoolhouse made by Wellington Education Board to Ministry of Education,

2nd March 1909 School building finished

Oh Dear

3rd March 1909. Letter to Mr Gibbs Ministry of Education According to the application for funds and the actual the Wellington Education Board had reduced the size of the building without telling the Ministry

	Actual		Proposed	Difference
Classroom	24'x20'	480 sq feet	528 sq feet	48 sq feet
Corridor	18x7	126 sq feet	154 Ss feet	18 Sq Feet

14th March 1909. Application for a school residence. The teacher since August last has not been able to obtain suitable board near the school, and has to travel 4 miles each way daily.

The inspector is of the opinion that this would probably reduce the efficiency of the teacher.

Roll

1907, 17

September 1908, 28

December 1908, 30

Average for year 1908, 24

Housing Allowance paid, £15

Amount asked for £421-10

5 rooms, bathroom, pantry, washhouse

27th March. Minister regrets he can't build a residence.

30th April to Minister from Wellington Education Board Please reconsider. Settlers in the district are for the most part struggling men and have barely sufficient room for their own families, much less for an outsider, and the teacher is still travelling 4 miles each way.

27th May 1909 The Government intimated that it could not see its way at present to consider any applications to erect any more teachers' residences apropos of an application for a grant for a teacher's residence at Dyerville. "This is a very serious matter in new districts," said Mr. Aitken, Wellington Education Board who considered that in such places a residence was in many cases as

essential as a School. It was decided to write to the Minister on these lines. 27th May 1909 PP

25th June 1909 A letter from the Education Department, in amplification of a previous letter intimating that no grants for school residences could be entertained for the present, was read, explaining that the refusal of the grant applied only to Dyerville. The letter was received. PP

1910

25th June The grounds of the Dyerville School are at present being beautified. Through the generosity of Mr A. Martin a portion of the grounds was ploughed, and afterwards planted with ornamental trees PP

30th June At the monthly meeting of the Wellington Education Board, on Tuesday, a letter was received from the Dyerville School Committee in reference to a complaint that had been lodged concerning the uses to which the school was put. It was mentioned that Mr John Martin, a settler of the district had planted the school grounds with suitable trees, free of cost. On the motion of Mr Vile, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr Martin for his generous gift. PP

13th September A concert has been arranged to be given in the Town Hail (Martinborough) here .on Thursday evening, in aid of the piano fund for the Dyerville School. An excellent programme has been drawn up PP

1914

On Wednesday evening a very successful social in aid of the funds of the Martinborough brass band was held in the public hall at Dyerville. Music for dancing was supplied by the band, ably assisted by the Mesdames Nicolson and Campbell Smith. A lady visitor gave a charming exhibition of fancy dancing, for which she was loudly applauded. A novelty to Dyerville was the "tango," danced by two Maori maidens to music supplied by a dusky sister. Songs were given by Mr H. Daysh. Mr J. Cave, on behalf of the band, thanked the hall committee and people of Dyerville for their generous help. PP

8th July Last Friday night the Dyerville School was broken into. Evidently an axe was used to force one of the windows. PP

1915

4th May Dyerville School Committee : H. Daysh (chairman), N. Gaskin, W. Tucker, C. Hayley, J. Callie (secretary). PP

1916

5th February The surrounding districts of Martinborough are gradually being brought into closer touch with the town. A contract was recently let by the Postal Department for a daily rural delivery including Dyerville and Otaraia, Ruakakapatuna, Hautotara, and Hillside road. The contractor has put on a motor service this week. Only a few years ago all the settlers on the round were obliged to come to Martinborough for their mails. PP

12th February Dyerville should be good ground for the recruiting agent, remarks the Martinborough "Star." Quite a dozen young men

of military age are only wanting a little persuasion to join the colours. PP

30th October 1916 Dyerville (near Martinborough) — Sole - Teacher, £140 to £190 and £20 housing allowance Job Advertisement PP

8th November 1916 Mrs. Barclay; Dyerville , sole teacher PP

9th November Mrs Barclay (nee Miss Mary Pearson, of Masterton) has been appointed sole teacher at the Waingawa School Miss A. Robinson has been appointed teacher at Dyerville, PP

1919

3rd February 1919. Letter from Wellington Education Board

- a) The matter of increased accommodation at the school will be looked at after the reopening of the school
- b) At the end of say the second week would the teacher send me a count of the children in each standard
- c) Although it is better that there is a room for each teacher we have not been able to provide that in all cases
- d) Prescribed area is 12 square feet per child. *That is about 1.11 square metre including passageways etc*
- e) Current area is 24' x 22' you have space for an average of 44. Or taking your roll for last year of 30
- f) You have not said there will be an increase in roll. Please supply me with names of families expected to enrol children

5th March 1919. Interview with Mr Daysh Chairman of the School Committee The present room is 24' x 22' Roll number is 50. The

school is twelve years old. Department will take no action and wait on the Wellington Education Board

12th March 1909. Application for an extension to Dyer. Proposal to add another classroom 24' x 22' and extend the corridor by 24'6"

28th May 1919 The school is now qualified for a second teacher and the school has tried to arrange for the upper standards to go to Martinborough. There is none at Dyer who would undertake the work (*transport*). Owing to subdivisions and advent of young married settlers there will be more children. A sum of £660 is asked for.

30th July 1919 Letter from Wellington Education Board saying wait. The Board has reason that about a dozen children will shortly remove from the district owing to the sale of farms of their parents and the number coming in will be much smaller.

1924

26th December 1924 The Dyerville Schoolroom was well-filled on Friday afternoon last, when the pupils and their parents and friends assembled to bid farewell to Miss Dale (headmistress) and Miss Frances Martin (assistant-mistress), both of whom are leaving the district. A dainty afternoon tea was provided, and the chairman of the committee, on behalf of the pupils and parents, presented Miss Dale with a gold armband and grey suede handbag, and Miss Martin with a wristlet watch, and expressed regret that the school was to lose two such capable teachers. PP

1925

11th December 1925 A complaint from the Dyerville school Committee as to the speed at which motorists pass the school is to be replied to, pointing out that the committee had power to take the number of speeding motorists and prosecute. PP

1926

31st August 1926 A farmer at Dyerville near Martinborough, was recently topping trees near the school when a bough fell on the electric wires and carried a live wire on to a fence which runs round the institution, says an exchange. About twelve of the scholars who ride to school had left their saddles on the fence, and at lunch time, as it began to rain, rushed across to take the saddles in out of the wet. The current from the electric wire was running through the fencing wires, and the children were caught by it and received shocks, which were luckily not severe enough to do injury. PP

1928

20th November 1928 The lady superintendent of the Wellington Hospital wishes to acknowledge with thanks the following gifts: Dyerville School; cigarette cards

1930

20th October 1930 Mrs. J. W. Lowe, appointed sole teacher, Dyerville

1933

17th August 1933 Letter from Wellington Education Board to Director of Education. The school was destroyed by fire about 4 am on the 15th

There were a number of copies of witnesses' statements to the fire, they all said they could not get close at 2 am as the fire was burning too fiercely

A copy of one letter from Kitty Flynn. Co-signed by Pat Stewart included

- a) I am a pupil of the Dyer School at Dyerville and am in the 6th standard. I am 14 years of age and with Patricia Stewart I attend to the cleaning and sweeping of the Dyer School
- b) On the 14th August we used the fire in the school in the open fireplace. Before we left school that day we removed the log from the fireplace and put it outside on the grass and poured water on it
- c) The ashes and coals were removed to the ash heap about 20 yards and we also put water on it.
- d) Our teacher always instructed us to be most careful with the fire and to put water on the fire before leaving school
- e) We also sprinkled water on the fireplace
- f) There was no paper or any other inflammable material lying in or near the fireplace that day.
- g) The teacher had left just before we finished the cleaning but not before we had attended the fireplace

- h) Letter from Miss D J Trolove. Teacher who boards with Mrs Stewart about 150 yards from the school. The teacher went home at 4pm. The girls had lifted the fire before she left.
- i) The teacher had all her books destroyed in the fire.
- j) The police report concluded that the possible cause of fire was a defective chimney as the chimney was in a very bad state.

The school was burnt down on 15th August and rebuilt by May 1934. School was held in the Dyerville Hall. DSR

15th September The Dyer Hall rent of £1.00 was reasonable as the hall committee would not be holding euchre tournaments or dances while the school was using the hall.

The ventilation was so poor that the Hall Committee had to put in an additional window and improved ventilation

The temporary toilets will be cleaned daily and emptied for 5/- per week. The WC pans and a heater have been sent up to the Dyerville Hall

21st September The Dyerville school is one where children should be conveyed to Martinborough Mr McCaskill Inspector of School Offering that there are 2 options for children to go to, Martinborough and Tuhitarata.

22nd September a full report including that the chimney was not at fault,

From the evidence in a very full and clear report the cause of the fire could not be determined

6th October 1933 The inspectorate were of the opinion that the school should be closed and children taken to Martinborough where there was a spare room and the economics stack up

Dyer School Costs	
Costs Dyer	£
Salary	222-15-10
Housing	32-8-0
School Committee	23-0-0
Maintenance	8-0-0
Increased Payment to Martinborough	107-0-0
Amount for Conveyance	179-3-0

12th October Letter from Dyerville to Minister of Education from Mr A D McLeod MP

- a) During last week I visited practically every householder in Dyerville School District and found them unanimous against being coupled with Martinborough
- b) Had your department officers immediately intervened (Now about 2 months back) and had the children conveyed to Martinborough present opposition may have been overcome.
- c) Instead school has carried on in a building entirely unsuited for the purpose.

d) I protest against the Department going against wishes and the long delays which is being caused.

13th October The rate of £1 per week for the use of the Dyerville Hall for temporary accommodation

3rd November Mr McLeod in Parliament. Is it the policy of the Government to force children to travel to larger schools. Question was held over.

7th November Director of Education to Mr McLeod That I have come to the conclusion that Dyerville School should be rebuilt.

21st November Letter from Secretary of Education to Wellington Education Board . As the average roll is only 22 the plan for No 5a will be ample accommodation. For this building a grant of £417 has been approved. Made up of

Building only £380

Electric Light £5

Fuel Shed £22

Contingencies £10

Total £417

No provision has been made for furniture as there is sufficient furniture at Martinborough School

1934

23rd May Today at 9.00 am the children of Dyerville School commenced work in the new school. Signed D J Trolove

3rd November letter to Mr J G Garrity Chairman of School Committee . In the newspaper was a report of the official opening of the Dyerville School and the Wellington Education Board were not invited. Why Not?

1935

13th December. The Dyerville school asked for repayment for library and piano lost in the fire. The Wellington Education Board wrote to Ministry as they clearly didn't know the answer but in general terms supported the School Committee

1936

Reply from director of Education to look in gazettes of 1st December 1928 and the circular no 1927/58 dated 11th May 1927 which states the policy. *That's great the gazettes would have been burnt.*

1945

25th June 1945 Mr. F. G. S. Evans, sole teacher, Dyerville left (on military service);

1951

The school closed by a vote of Householders 46 to 3 and the pupils went to Martinborough by bus DRS

1952

20th May Letter from Secretary of Education asking that the Dyerville School building should be used somewhere else, say Marima. The Wellington Education Board replied that it had its own suggestions for use of the building.

30th June. The Dyerville School was consolidated on Martinborough School some time ago. There is no record of the school site ever being gazetted.. It is understood that the Elmdale Dairy Company is interested in the site

1966

Letter to Mrs P Knox re history of Dyerville School from Wellington Education Board

7th October School opened on 3rd April 1907 with roll of 14 which increased to 19. Many of the children had not attended any school for about 8/9 months before this time

January 1908 Tender from Mr Waterhouse for £296 was accepted
A petition was received that the school be built on the other side of the river. But it was agreed to build on original site

1910 School Committee informed that it was trying to advance the interests of the school and that especially improvements had been made by Mr A Martin

1908 Miss Lois M Feist was appointed in 1908 at a salary of £110

26th November 1912. Mr Grant was appointed Sole teacher

15th August 1951 Meeting Held at Dyerville School voted in favour of consolidation 46 for and 3 against

The School Committee at this time comprised Mr H Warren Chairman, Mr H S Garrity, Secretary, Messrs M Wilkie, D McGillicuddy and J Page

3rd November Letter to Wellington Education Board from Maurice H Percy. Stating that Log Book for Dyerville School was held at Martinborough School and had been copied.

Teachers

There were 30 Teachers in 45 years. The last teacher was Mr Deller

1907	Miss Irons
1907	Miss Cartwright
1908	Miss Feist
1909-1911	Miss Irons
1912-1915	Mr Grant
1912	Mr Smith
1916	Miss Stephens
1917-1918	Miss Robinson
1919	Mr Reader

1919	Miss Wilkins
1920	Mr Timms
1920	Miss Gilpin
1921-1922	Miss A S Dale
1921	Miss Francis
1923-1932	Miss Harvey Appointed ST 1925
1923-1924	Mrs Liddell Infant Mistress
1923	Miss Martin
1925	
1926-1931	Miss Jones
1926	Miss Clarke
1931	Miss Lowe
1933	Miss Trolove
1934-1939	Mr Cuthbert
1934	Mr Dunn
1940-1941	Mr Charles
1942	Miss Irons

1943	Miss Rowe
1944	Miss Junker
1945-1946	Miss Bargh
1947	Mr Barker
1948-1951	Mr Deller

Buildings

1908 First Record at Wellington Education Board of a school building 508 sq feet

1933 Fire in School August 1933

1934 New Room 320 Sq Feet.

Area 2 acres 0 roods 12

Under offer to a dairy company. Mr Campbell Smith Phone 75A is the man. Originally only land wanted. But we sold house and land together

In 1948 Subsidy for a radio of \$10,000 was given

Also a sewing machine.

Appendix

Dyerville School

By The Martinborough Star

Between 1907 and 1951 Dyerville had its own school. The school commenced in the Chesham Homestead with Miss Olive Irons the teacher, being paid one hundred and ten pounds a year (2011 = \$16,844).

Plans for a school were approved and within a year a contract was let to builder Mr Waterhouse for two hundred and ninety six pounds (2011= \$45,327) and the building erected. This not without some disagreement over the site. Settlers to the south wanted it on that side of Dry River while those to the north wanted it on their side. The problem being that there was no bridge over the usually dry river bed which, however, could run very high in the winter. As a solution a walking bridge was constructed and the school located on the northern side.

This school burnt down in August 1933, but it was quickly replaced with a new building being erected within a year. The Dyerville Hall being used as a temporary school in the meantime.

During the 1940s the school roll declined and in 1951 a meeting of local residents voted overwhelmingly to close the school with the children to attend Martinborough School by an Education Department provided bus.

The last Headmaster was Mr Deller who in 1967 returned to the district as Headmaster of Martinborough School. Dyerville School's most famous pupil was Sir Bob Charles.

Thanks to Royce Wilkie for this information

From the Internet

1897/3921 Phoebe Alicia Seddon Joseph Frank Dyer

1871/9105 Seddon Phoebe Alicia

1897/11733 Dyer Louisa Phoebe Joseph
Isabella Alicia Frank

14th January 1897

MARRIAGE OF MISS SEDDON.

(By Telegraph.) WELLINGTON, January 13. Miss Phoebe Seddon, second daughter of the Premier, was married at St. Paul's Church this afternoon, to Mr T. Dyer, a son of the late Mr Joseph Dyer, the first resident secretary in the colony of the A.M.P. Society. The church, which was beautifully decorated, was crowded to overflowing. Bishop Wallis, assisted by the Rev. Messrs Sprott and Bean, brother-in-law of the bride, performed the ceremony. There was a large quantity of bunting about the town, especially at the Government offices. The presents were extremely numerous, and included a complimentary letter and purse of sovereigns from the Government Party, a letter and silver salver from the Opposition side, and from the Ministry. The bride was accompanied by five bridesmaids. The honeymoon will embrace a trip beginning with Wairarapa and extending to Sydney and Melbourne via Auckland. Miss Seddon, daughter of the Premier, who was married to-day, was presented by

1907	17	Dyer	Feist	Lois M	E1	Female
1908	24	Dyer	Iorns	Olive E	D4	Female
1909	32	Dyer	Iorns	Olive E	D3	Female
1910	32	Dyer	Iorns	Olive Evelyn	D3	Female
1911	28	Dyer	Iorns	Olive Evelyn	D2	Female
1912	28	Dyer	Iorns	Olive Evelyn	D2	Female
1913	28	Dyer	Grant	Colin C	B4	Master
1914	27	Dyer	Smith	William H		Master
1915	29	Dyer	Smith	William H	C4	Master
1917	34	Dyer	Robinson	Alice M	Sole	
1919	36	Dyer	Reader	Guy M	Head	C-58
1919	36	Dyer	Wilkins	Dorothy L	Assistant	D-108
1921	18	Dyer	Timms	William	Sole	D
1923	35	Dyer	Dale	Annabella S	Head	B-116

the Women's Political League with a hall stand bearing an inscription. Miss Seddon in reply said hers was the first marriage out of the League, but she did not intend to give it up. That was one condition she had made. Even in dressing for her wedding she would be reminded of the League, as the veil was woven for her by a member. Miss Seddon also received a formal presentation from the Carriers' Union

NEW CONSUL.

(Per United Press Association.) AUCKLAND, June 23.1905 The Premier has received information from London stating that Mr Frank Dyer, of* the firm of Bannatyne and Co., Wellington, merchants, has been appointed Greek Counsel at Wellington.

NB This school was always officially called the Dyer School