

**Mauriceville West:** 1877-1972 This school struggled early on in dealing and educating children with English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language. The area was settled by Scandinavian Settlers and the teachers had to cope with these people struggling in a foreign country. The school was also famous at different periods for its wood working, science lessons and huge gardens. 24 Kilometres from Masterton



School was situated where the hall is named on the map

## 1873

Notes from Mauriceville West School Jubilee Book.

- a) March 1873 The first party of settlers moved onto their land
- b) On a cleared section of land Christian Petersen a Norwegian who did his best to give them a smattering of English
- c) They built a rough slab hut to serve as school and residence for the teacher.
- d) Three rooms one to serve as a schoolroom
- e) Unfurnished and the schoolmaster and his sons set to work to make bunks a table and chairs.
- f) Christian Peterson received £100 for his services This was supplemented by payments by the settlers of a shilling a week for each pupil.
- g) If parents couldn't pay then children couldn't attend
- h) In Winter the teacher visited his pupils at home
- i) One year later he left and the school closed
- j) July 1886 Government overseer reported on deplorable and about 80 children were neglected.
- k) 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1877 "Old School" opened. The school consisted of a single room constructed of sawn timber and had a shingle roof

17<sup>th</sup> June 1873 With respect to the Danish settlement in Mauriceville, Wairarapa, the Wairarapa Standard remarks:—"It is not generally known that this, the youngest of Wairarapa townships, was christened after the Hon. G. M. O'Rorke, who was present when the site of the infant township was selected. 3 Rorkeville, we presume, was not considered sufficiently euphonious, so the Christian name Maurice was judiciously

preferred. There are about 13 Danish families settled in it, and they are beginning to present some appearances of homeliness and comfort. Their dwellings are necessarily rude, being constructed out of slabs with mud chimneys, but still they afford shelter. A public building in the shape of a school is now being erected and will be a great convenience to them. An accommodation house there is much wanted, as traffic is rapidly increasing, and travellers do not care to carry blankets and provisions about as they now have to do. The Mauriceville sections are heavily timbered, and the Danes have no easy life before them. Some of them, by the way they work, evidently, seem determined to overcome by patience and hard labor every every obstacle, and will no doubt, at some future day, by men of substance. Others as is always case, seem more inclined a to live from hand, to mouth, and to be j satisfied with the creature comforts they t can now command, without thought of the future PP

## 1875

28<sup>th</sup> April Mr. Peterson was appointed Master of the Scandinavian school at Mauriceville PP

## 1876

13<sup>th</sup> January Tenders were accepted for new schools at Mauriceville, Morrison's Bush (*Kaitara*) and West Masterton (*Fernridge*) PP

16<sup>th</sup> June 1876 The principal business of the meeting was the striking of the education rate for the Mauriceville and Eketahuna portions of the Masterton District PP.

*This was before the education act of 1887 providing for free education. At this stage schools were funded by a special rates tax on all settlers in the prescribed school district*

3<sup>rd</sup> August At Mauriceville out of 711 acres, 640 have been improved, a number having been put under grass and crop

13<sup>th</sup> December The Scandinavian Settlers of Mauriceville. Wellington have memorialised the Hon,]. Minister of Public Works, imploring him to afford them a road to their dwellings and land

20<sup>th</sup> December The Wairarapa News notes with satisfaction the formation of a road to the Scandinavian Settlement at Mauriceville

## 1877

27<sup>th</sup> January arrived at school this evening to find Mr A Munro had taken the key of the school to Masterton

31<sup>st</sup> January. Received the school key from Masterton this morning

1<sup>st</sup> February commenced teaching today Number present Ten Boys and Eight Girls

The following is an inventory of the property of the Board in this school. (*Clearly the school was established by this date*)

Map of the world

Map of Europe

Map of the British Isles

Philips Tablet Lessons, mounted on rollers

Set of Nelson's wallboards

Eighteen ink wells

A receipt Book and the usual registers

The school furniture consists of eight benches with forms attached and a table for the teacher

13<sup>th</sup> February Attendance fair Considering all circumstances the progress of the pupils very fair

16<sup>th</sup> February Neil Larsen one of the pupils took seriously ill yesterday and had to be helped home.

20<sup>th</sup> February. Forest Fires render some of the tracks here impassable in the meantime, consequently several of the children are prevented from attending the school

27<sup>th</sup> February Attendance Good. Progress fair, school fees do not come in very fast- I have at this time only received only half the fees due for the quarter.

2<sup>nd</sup> March. Transmitted the school fees received for the quarter (Four Pounds Sterling) the Secretary of the Education Board

9<sup>th</sup> March Timetable posted up and worked by for the first time this week- It is necessarily of a very elementary character, a large portion of each day being spent in giving instruction in English Reading.

20<sup>th</sup> March Attendance Good. The pupils make all the progress that can be well expected, considering the circumstances: still owing to the isolated condition of this settlement from the English Speaking Community, it will be a considerable time before a good English School can be here

23<sup>rd</sup> March Roll 26

30<sup>th</sup> March School closed for Easter Holidays. Very great difficulty was found in getting the children to attend school yesterday, it being a holiday with the Scandinavians and known as Green Thursday

9<sup>th</sup> April The Girls Louisa and Caroline Pearson have now gone with their parents to reside on their own section of land, about two miles distant will only be able to attend school, I am informed, when the weather is fine

27<sup>th</sup> April Fair progress has been made in various subjects. The pupils have shown considerable interest in their lessons notwithstanding their disadvantage in knowing little or no English.

1<sup>st</sup> May Some of the children have left school until the winter is over, on account of the distance they have to travel, the rainy weather rendering the tracks through the forest almost impassable for children in the meantime.

11<sup>th</sup> May Storms and hail accompanied by thunder and lightning prevail for the last two days. A fair attendance has been maintained notwithstanding.

24<sup>th</sup> May Queens Birthday. Children allowed a holiday

29<sup>th</sup> May. Miserable weather

1<sup>st</sup> June Transmitted School fees to the amount of four pound sterling to Secretary of Wellington Education Board (By registered letter)

8<sup>th</sup> June satisfactory progress is being made in the erection of a teacher's residence

11<sup>th</sup> June Had the pleasure of a visit from Mr Beetham

29<sup>th</sup> June School closed for winter holidays. I have good reason for expressing satisfaction with the conduct of the Scandinavian children who have attended the school during the last five months  
27<sup>th</sup> July One boy who has entered the school lately has an impediment in his speech and cannot pronounce the words correctly.

31<sup>st</sup> July. Drenching rain this week; still the attendance has been maintained. This quarters fees came in slowly have only received One Pound, £1 up to date.

3<sup>rd</sup> August Transmitted three pounds (fees received) to Mr Graham by registered letter

5<sup>th</sup> August This morning about a dozen of bricks have fallen into the fireplace from the chimney flue, it seems dangerous to kindle a fire as it might set the house in flames, yet it is impossible to do without fire at this season. Shall write Mr Graham (Wellington Education Board) today on the subject

14<sup>th</sup> August Some of the older boys are occasionally absent on account of the bush falling which is mostly done at this time of the year. But they are always in school when they can be spared.

23<sup>rd</sup> August The school was gazetted on this date. A site of 108 Acres 3 roods 5 perches more or less being part of section 46 on the plan of Mauriceville have been put aside

24<sup>th</sup> August Attendance irregular. One of the school boys (Albert Mortensen) who this week had been kept home to assist his father accidently shot himself this week. This accident has thrown a gloom over the settlement in the meantime.

4<sup>th</sup> September The surgeon held out some hope of Mortensen's recovery, but I have heard today that mortification has set in and

that he is now sinking fast. (*The only Albert Mortensen death recorded is*

1939/32801 Mortensen Albert Tiedor 74Y

Which would make Albert about 12 when the accident happened)  
18<sup>th</sup> September Good service is done in school by the practice of school songs in the peculiar circumstances of the school it tends to fix the sound and meaning of English words in the pupils minds fully as well as the ordinary reading.

19<sup>th</sup> September A serious drawback in the progress of the children is that when one child of a family is sent to school another is very generally withdrawn in the meantime. The circumstances of the children are peculiar. Not one word of English do they hear or speak out of school. They have no chance of preparing home lessons and if withdrawn for a quarter the benefit of the preceding one must be entirely lost. It is a very serious matter for consideration how this can be counteracted and everything will be tried as circumstances may arise.

26<sup>th</sup> October. Progress fair. Fees come to hand slowly

30<sup>th</sup> October Weather tempestuous with pelting rain. The work at the teacher's residence here is at a standstill. Woolcott the builder is entirely neglecting his work.

5<sup>th</sup> November No abatement in the severity of the weather: in consequence younger children do not come forward to school at all. Of those on the roll the attendance is all that can be looked for. The withdrawal of the older children some to work at home and others to go to service is a serious drawback for the school though most cases it is probable their parents are under the necessity of doing so.

13<sup>th</sup> November Some of the younger children are coming out to school now as the weather has improved.

23<sup>rd</sup> November A few children absent but I have been informed by some of their parents that their absence for a few days is unavoidable.

27<sup>th</sup> November Some boys still absent engaged at home work, but the attendance of girls is proportionally larger than during the winter.

7<sup>th</sup> December Some children absent this week at Opaki races

20<sup>th</sup> December School out on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> On these days the carpenter had the lining of the school down and put it up again.

21<sup>st</sup> December. School closed for Christmas holiday. Repairs on school still not complete

31<sup>st</sup> December. Returns to the Board for year  
Roll Average for year 13 Boys, 8 girls total 21

Ages of Pupils

	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 5	0	1	1
5 and under 10	7	8	15
10 and under 15	16	11	27
15 and upwards	1	0	
Enrolled	24	20	44

Numbers receiving instruction

	Male	Female	total
Reading	24	20	44
Arithmetic	19	12	31
Grammar	6	3	9

Writing	24	20	44
Geography	7	3	10
History	2	0	2

School opened 215 times in the morning and 215 times in the afternoon

## 1878

11<sup>th</sup> January School chimney re built today

17<sup>th</sup> January The newly built chimney gave way this morning. It does not seem to have been well built

21<sup>st</sup> January Reopened today. Attendance at first small

24<sup>th</sup> January. One of my pupils had three fingers smashed today by the school door.

29<sup>th</sup> January Notice has been received from various parties that the children will be required at home for a week more to assist in gathering the crops.

4<sup>th</sup> February Visited this school after school hours. Found the dwelling house pretty well advanced towards completion. Chimney of the schoolhouse down for the second time. Sincerely hope that any work done will be well looked after in the time to come

Advised Wellington Education Board

8<sup>th</sup> February But a few are absent whenever the weather is fine.

12<sup>th</sup> February The school chimney has been rebuilt this week.

19<sup>th</sup> February Roll 32. Attendance not as regular as desirable

26<sup>th</sup> February Roll 36. On several days the absence of 10 of these has to be recorded. This is far from being satisfactory

1<sup>st</sup> March Very little done in school today. Bush fires dangerously near, high winds and smoke suffocating

5<sup>th</sup> March weather wet. Attendance variable. Very few of the children who were on the rolls at the end of the season last year are now in attendance. Consequently I have again to begin at the beginning. Though the progress is necessarily slow the desire to improve is very general.

12<sup>th</sup> March 30 present in School. This is the largest number present in one day since the opening of the school last year

13<sup>th</sup> March. Looking over the register this morning I find I was mistaken in yesterday's remark regarding attendance as 33 were present one day last month

15<sup>th</sup> March The residence was handed over by the engineer (Mr Bremner) today, the carpenter having finished his work two days ago

22<sup>nd</sup> March Attendance in many cases irregular, the roads have been bad this week, which may partly account for this.

29<sup>th</sup> March Weather fine. This is the last day of the quarter and very few have attended who were in school this season last year. In most cases the children have done as well as could be expected, but considering the circumstances it will require every effort to interest them in their lessons in English as this is by far the most difficult part of their work

2<sup>nd</sup> April A fair few have come out for a new quarter. Some have left in the meantime

9<sup>th</sup> April Weather rainy. Progress fair, Have on hand £1-3-6 sterling of fees which I have retained in the meantime in the hope of getting some more to send along with it

18<sup>th</sup> April This is "Green Thursday" the principal Scandinavian holiday- attendance therefore small. A house was also burnt down last night which attracts much attention and helps to thin the numbers at school.

21<sup>st</sup> May Inspector visited and examined this school today

29<sup>th</sup> May Inspector's report In the Mauriceville School out of 47 pupils only 10 were of British parentage but nearly all showed a good knowledge of English; and 11 passed the first of the new standards PP

14<sup>th</sup> June. Circulated notices today of meeting to elect a School Committee

21<sup>st</sup> June. Very bad weather. Nothing else worthy of remark. *(There are numerous entries in the log of this style of remark)*

16<sup>th</sup> July. Only 33 have as yet come out for the new quarter. The weather and bad roads account for this.

19<sup>th</sup> July An attempt is now made to teach Geography in a more systematic manner

23<sup>rd</sup> July Bad weather Roads are impassable for young children

6<sup>th</sup> August. By order of the Board the work of putting a fence around the school grounds has been commenced.

20<sup>th</sup> August New rolls have been supplied in which all attendances are to be copied from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July last

23<sup>rd</sup> August School smoky almost to suffocation this circumstance acts very unfavourably on the progress of the school work though little complaint is made

6<sup>th</sup> September Very bad weather. Roads and tracks in the bush almost impossible

13<sup>th</sup> September Bad ventilation interferes very seriously with the work in school The smoke makes everyone miserable.

17<sup>th</sup> September. Most of the older children at home assisting in Spring work. Attendance consequently small

24<sup>th</sup> September A more systematic course of instruction in elementary geography and to a limited extent in grammar is now attempted, but irregular attendance is a serious drawback

4<sup>th</sup> October Attendance considerably increased. Several absent nearly a year- this is not very encouraging as they have lost whatever they had been taught before and in their case I have again to begin at beginning.

18<sup>th</sup> October The fence is all finished now except the part to be put up by the lessee of the reserve

22<sup>nd</sup> October Roll is 52.

5<sup>th</sup> November Was obliged to shut the school today on account of bad health and go to Masterton for medical advice.

11<sup>th</sup> November Was able to reopen the school today

13<sup>th</sup> November. School used as a polling booth today- Election of County Council

13<sup>th</sup> December. Subscription for Christmas Prizes closed £3-19-0 been subscribed which is ample (*Equivalent to \$ 627.023 in October 2011 terms*)

23<sup>rd</sup> December Books distributed to all children this afternoon and school closed for Christmas Holidays. Every child on roll present today.

## 1879

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

24<sup>th</sup> January The attendance this week has been small as most of the children are assisting in gathering home the cows. (*Dairy Factories not open until after 1885*) No doubt they are required at home but it certainly a most discouraging circumstance to have them kept away just now, when I should have been doing my best to prepare as many as possible for the inspector's examination next month.

31<sup>st</sup> January. Special attention given to arithmetical

11<sup>th</sup> February Attendance large. Weather very fine, expect Mr Lee (Inspector) this day week. Special exercises in prospect of the examination

14<sup>th</sup> February Nearly 50 children have attended this week Should this number be maintained over or two more desks would be required also require more inkwells

17<sup>th</sup> February The Mauriceville School Committee are— Jorgen Neilson; Gunder Gundersen; Frederick Jagerhorn; Jens P. Pedersen; Nicolai Jenson; Ole Boson; and John Swensen. PP

18<sup>th</sup> February Mr Lee examined the school today 49 children were present. 24 passed Standard 1 and 11 passed Standard 2. Only 30 children passed as 5 passed Standard 1 and 2 The result may be considered satisfactory, remembering that the settlement exclusively of Scandinavians, and that the school has been open only two years PP

24<sup>th</sup> February A great deal of time spent this week in the rearrangement of classes consistently with the results of the late examination.

28<sup>th</sup> February Received Pass Cards this evening  
3<sup>rd</sup> March Distributed Standard Pass Cards this day  
21<sup>st</sup> March. A few of the children have given notice that they will require to stay home about a week to burn scrub  
4<sup>th</sup> April Fair progress this week I am somewhat surprised at the children's want (*Desire*) of interest in their Geography a very uncommon thing in a school  
22<sup>nd</sup> April Very rainy and cold. School not well supplied with wood. Advise the School Committee accordingly  
13<sup>th</sup> May A girl's clothes caught fire today had one hand burned in saving her. Her hurt is trifling.  
16<sup>th</sup> May Special attendance to Arithmetic this week  
23<sup>rd</sup> May Holiday of Queens Birthday.  
10<sup>th</sup> June. Some children have left school on account of the state of the road, and it is probable they will not come out again before October  
14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> July School would have been open on both days had the work been completed, but this was found impossible (*Work unspecified*)  
16<sup>th</sup> July The school was opened today as the work was finished last evening. The ceiling put up is a great improvement and will make the room much more comfortable for the children and it may be hoped that the attendance will now be more regular  
22<sup>nd</sup> July Attendance small The children now at school are all from South Mauriceville. The North and West roads are impassable for children at present  
25<sup>th</sup> July A cap room is being put up for the school

29<sup>th</sup> July. Weather unusually bad. Attendance small. Progress satisfactory.  
2<sup>nd</sup> August School badly supplied with firewood most of what is provided is not firewood at all.  
8<sup>th</sup> August Weather not quite so severe but roads in the North and West still impassable for children  
22<sup>nd</sup> August though the weather is much better yet the roads and tracks are as bad as ever.  
26<sup>th</sup> August Some of the older boys are kept at home to do work such as clearing and planting  
1<sup>st</sup> September. Attendance not satisfactory. Some of the stronger children could attend now from the North and West parts of the settlement  
26<sup>th</sup> September. Pouring rain, last two days.  
30<sup>th</sup> September Boisterous weather attendance thin  
7<sup>th</sup> October Weather better, but attendance much the same. The excuse now is that the children have to assist in putting in the crops, this probably is the case in many instances  
17<sup>th</sup> October A few new pupils have come to school, but the attendance has not been much greater as all the older pupils are kept home except when the weather is bad.  
14<sup>th</sup> November Attendance more satisfactory. Much injury has been done to the school by the paucity of attendance  
2<sup>nd</sup> December Several children absent. It seems they have gone to the Opaki Races  
9<sup>th</sup> December Weather fine, attendance indifferent. School chimney again shows signs of instability. There must have been

mismanagement in its erection from first to last, it has cost the Board about £50 already

12<sup>th</sup> December Some slight repairs effected on chimney.

16<sup>th</sup> December. Efforts are being made to collect some money to purchase some books to distribute to the children on the day the school closes for the holidays

## 1880

20<sup>th</sup> January school reopened

22<sup>nd</sup> January Holiday (Anniversary)

11<sup>th</sup> February School examined today by Mr Lee

17<sup>th</sup> February Since the examination the attendance has been very bad. The children seem to imagine that a years work has been done and to be in no hurry in beginning the work of the next

22<sup>nd</sup> March The children assembled this morning but had to be dismissed as the chimney threatens to fall through the roof

24<sup>th</sup> March. Chimney came down this afternoon but has not damaged the school. Schoolroom flooded.

26<sup>th</sup> March Rain has been incessant for ten days, still raining. It has not been possible to open the school this week nor to do anything towards its repair

30<sup>th</sup> March Weather improved, hope to open school tomorrow.

31<sup>st</sup> March Reopened school today.

*Comments all about weather and poor attendance*

4<sup>th</sup> June Special attention this week in arithmetic, tests used so as to fully ascertain individual progress

11<sup>th</sup> June Every effort made to ensure punctuality and regular attendance, but only with partial success.

17<sup>th</sup> June Firewood not so regularly supplied as it should be

25<sup>th</sup> June School closed for the winter holidays this afternoon as spaces in the register are now filled There is no possibility of recording the attendance another week

20<sup>th</sup> July The children do not now attend so well when the weather is bad as they did in the course of the first two years I was in this school, probably narrowed circumstances has a good deal to do with irregular attendance.

17<sup>th</sup> August Robert Lee paid the school a visit and wrote in the log I paid an accidental visit to the Mauriceville School today and found about 30 children present

The roads at this time of the year are very muddy and the children can attend with difficulty

I am sorry to notice the chimney still smokes to an unbearable extent

I have suggested modification of the timetable and have listed my suggestions at the end of the report.

The floor of the schoolroom is very dirty, but perhaps this can hardly be avoided

I understand that funds are not forthcoming for necessary expenditure in cleaning and for firewood, although quarterly payments for the purpose are regularly made by the Wellington Education Board

The School Committee should make necessary in this subject

The Master Mr L I Johnston is painstaking and will adapt for the peculiar requirements of the settlement

At present the whole school is hardly sufficiently occupied during the time the master is specially engaged with a particular class The interior of the building would be much improved by painting the walls and the ceiling white.

Proposed Full Timetable by Mr Lee

	Std. 5	4	3	2	1
9.00-9.30	Oral Lessons	Or Home	Lessons	Examined	
9.20-10.00	Dictation	Dictation	Dictation		Reading
10.00-10.15	Dictation	Dictation	Dictation	Reading	Writing
10.30-10.45	Composition	Reading	Transcription	Transcription	Reading
10.45-11.00	Reading	Composition	Transcription	Transcription	Reading
11.00-12.00	Arithmetic Takes turn	All By	Classes the	Each Black	Class Board

to 1.20 Writing in copy books Juniors Ball frame exercises

1.20 to 1.30 Object lessons (drawing)

2.30- 3.00 Geography or Grammar of History . Juniors writing on slates

20<sup>th</sup> August Weather very wet. Firewood little and bad

27<sup>th</sup> August Endeavour to carry out suggestions made by Mr Lee The irregular attendance renders most efforts to improve the school negatively

24<sup>th</sup> September. Effort made to get out some of the absentees but with little success

1<sup>st</sup> October. A few more children are coming out now, but they all seem to be unwell, hardly anything can be heard in school but coughing

5<sup>th</sup> November Although a good pump has been provided by the Wellington Education Board no drinkable water is obtainable on the school site, for want of energy or sagacity or both this pump was placed in a hole among the rotten debris of the creek where it is impossible to get water at all fit for use.

3<sup>rd</sup> December A very fair attendance of the younger children this week but most of the older ones seem to be working at home. On this account it appears to me there is very little chance of any pupils getting beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> standard and most of them leave school before passing even the 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is not very encouraging

23<sup>rd</sup> December. School closed

## 1881

20<sup>th</sup> January School reopened with a very thin attendance

8<sup>th</sup> February A good deal of sickness seems to prevail among the children of this settlement. Hardly a day passes but one or more of the ones attending the school are reported as being laid up. I have made enquiries about it and am informed that those who are sick get reddish blotches all over their bodies. It does not seem to be measles. But whatever it is it does seem to be infectious.

15<sup>th</sup> February One or two of the children who were sick came out again to school but others have been laid up

25<sup>th</sup> February Received notification from School Committee to close this school in the meantime on account of the prevalence of

scarlet fever in this settlement. Notices given to children accordingly

17<sup>th</sup> March. Inspector Lee

I found the school had been closed for nearly 3 weeks on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever

About one half of the 56 children on the books mustered in the playground but I did not deem it advisable to take them into the school-room, as I found eight or nine of the children had been ill of the epidemic

I advised the further closing of the school for a fortnight by which time the committee would be able to come to definite decision about the advisability of reopening the school

There are only 15 standard children now attending exclusive of candidates for Standard One

By my advice the chairman has procured a supply of Carbolic Acid Powder for disinfecting purposes

It is also advisable that disinfectant be used in the houses of the children

As this school will be closed at least five weeks altogether I am of the opinion that the school should not be closed for winter holidays this year. I will examine on my visit in the winter.

4<sup>th</sup> April School reopened today by advice of School Committee

Nothing worthy of remark

20<sup>th</sup> April Fever still in Settlement

2<sup>nd</sup> May Precautions taken to keep convalescent children at home until it may reasonably be supposed they will not infect others

9<sup>th</sup> June Some children are sick of fever. Two families kept away from school at present

20<sup>th</sup> June. No children now kept away on account of fever

27<sup>th</sup> June A heavy shock of earthquake yesterday morning at half past 5 o'clock threw down most of the school chimney and damaged the chimney of the residence so as to make it dangerous to live in the house.

12<sup>th</sup> August Inspector Lees Visit

24 children present out of nearly 60 on the books

The attendance was increased during the morning by the late arrival of four others.

I am not satisfied with the working condition of this school

I think with energy the work and the attendance would considerably improve.

I am aware that there are difficulties to contend with

The master should become more methodical in his work and go more to the root of the matter in his teaching

The nature and order of this schoolroom should receive his attention and also the tidiness of the children.

The more interesting the work is made the more attractive it becomes

I have today passed 8 candidates in standard 1 and 2 in standard 2; they are mostly of good age and all of them should I think pass a higher standard at the next examination

At present the teaching of composition and singing appears to be neglected.

I recommend that definite lessons be given say twice a week of 10 minutes each in moral subjects such as temperance, truthfulness, kindness

The chimney should be placed at the end nearest the masters house

Signed Robert Lee

19<sup>th</sup> August School closed for the last four days as the chimney has been removed and rebuilt

9<sup>th</sup> September. Instruct School Committee to warn absentees

7<sup>th</sup> October. Marked improvement in attendance

28<sup>th</sup> October It is somewhat remarkable that the proportion of girls attending school at present is far greater than at any times during the last five years

25<sup>th</sup> November School has a prosperous look at present but the greater number are children below the first standard

23<sup>rd</sup> December. School closed for holidays

## 1882

24<sup>th</sup> January School reopened today

27<sup>th</sup> January Several of the older children are employed in doing harvest work at home

3<sup>rd</sup> February Only 17 children are now in school who have passed any standards. All the others seem to have left school to work at home or out of the settlement

24<sup>th</sup> February At present there is hardly desk accommodation for the number of children attending school

10<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Lee Examined school today

14<sup>th</sup> April Several of the children are afflicted with some kind of eruption on their faces and hands:- by the advice of the chairman of committee I sent home for a time two boys who were very bad

and it appears that some were staying home on their account, but I do not think any good purpose has been effected by so doing as a number are more or less in the same case. I have therefore sent word to the boys that they are at liberty to come to school again

28<sup>th</sup> April received new school desk

19<sup>th</sup> May The sickness prevalent among the children still diminishes the attendance

16<sup>th</sup> June The sickness among the children becomes less

30<sup>th</sup> August Inspector Lee writes in the log

At my surprise visit today there was a large attendance

As I passed through the settlement on Sunday my visit probably was no surprise

If anything like the present attendance (48) is maintained an application should be made for an assistant teacher or a pupil teacher.

I am afraid much of the present teaching is ineffective

In the oral lesson the Master addressed himself to about half a dozen children all the rest were inattentive and manages upon talking.

The master continued with a kind of discussion on ?, whilst many children were talking.

I heard all the classes read and heard little or no attempt at expression

Faults previously complained of by me in writing still exist

Children write without attention to lines and pupils in the same calls write in various style of letters

I think also the master should set a better example in his own person of neatness and cleanliness

I am sorry thus to speak of personal matters, but this matter appears to me to call for particular action

I am afraid the master fails to realise the importance of his position and that very much is accepted for will indeed hardly rises to a standard of merit

The want of good idea and management is very striking

A new and improved form of timetable can be had on application to the Board's office

I should hope to see an effort made to remedy defects here pointed out

If singing be attempted in the school some suitable easy and taking songs should be introduced. The present singing is a long way removed from this order. The master does all the work

29<sup>th</sup> September On Tuesday and Wednesday the weather was very severe and only a few of the children attended. The glass was blown from one window and the school floor flooded with water, Last two days have been somewhat better

22<sup>nd</sup> School closed for December holidays. The sum of Four pounds sixteen shillings and sixpence was collected in Mauriceville laid out in books for the children These books were distributed to day before breaking up.

## 1883

22<sup>nd</sup> February New window sashes put in today

No further entries until Mr Lee writes

22<sup>nd</sup> August Mr Lee visited

At my accidental visit 45 children were present. The morning was showery

I found the school in fair order but the classes are not so well occupied as I wish

This arises from the number of classes being greater than the teacher can instruct well

The chimney continues to smoke badly and all the maps and diagrams are brown from the discolouring effects of smoke.

Four infant desks are required

I have notified this to the Secretary of the board who will supply them

What is badly wanted and needed by the school is a female adult teacher competent to teach sewing and infant reading and writing.

Robert Lee

Mr. Gunder Gundersen, J.P., Postmaster, Mauriceville, was born in Denmark in 1835, and came to New Zealand in 1873. He possesses a farm of forty-six acres and a general store at Mauriceville. He is chairman of nearly all the local public bodies, and holds offices in the remainder. He is married and has eight children and twenty-three grandchildren. NZETC

Father of Agnes

27<sup>th</sup> September Ex letter to Chairman of School Committee

The board at its meeting yesterday resolved to appoint Miss Agnes Gunderson to the Mauriceville School as recommended. Salary from 1<sup>st</sup> October @ £30 per annum

17 Years old as Monitor

Married George Franklin 1885

12 children born to them

George Franklin Mr. George Franklin storekeeper, of Dreyerton, died yesterday, at the age of 38 19<sup>th</sup> July 1901 PP

Alice Died 1953 aged 87

[\[Notes\]](#)



George Reuben FRANKLIN was born on 20 Nov 1862 in Motueka, Nelson, New Zealand. He died on 18 July 1901 in Dreyerton, Wellington, New Zealand from Diabetes. He was buried on 21 Jul 1901 in Lutheran Cemetery, Mauriceville West, Wellington, New Zealand. George married Agnes Marie GUNDERSEN on 26 Feb 1885 in Lutheran Church, Mauriceville, Wellington, New Zealand.



Agnes Marie GUNDERSEN was born on 12 Mar 1866 in København, København, Danmark. She died on 7 Jan 1953 in Otaki Railway, Otaki, Wellington, New Zealand. She was buried on 9 Jan 1953 in Mauriceville West, Wellington, New Zealand. Agnes married George Reuben FRANKLIN on 26 Feb 1885 in Lutheran Church, Mauriceville, Wellington, New Zealand.

[\[Notes\]](#)

They had the following children.

F I [Alice Hermina FRANKLIN](#) was born on 25 Sep 1885. She died on 30 Nov 1936 from Diabetes.

F ii [Ellen Maud "Nell" FRANKLIN](#) was born on 26 Jul 1886. She died on 28 Jan 1977.

F iii [Hilda May FRANKLIN](#) was born on 5 Aug 1887. She died before 1968.

F iv [Agnes Hope FRANKLIN](#) was born on 18 Sep 1888. She died on 28 Oct 1916.

M v [Alexander Rupert FRANKLIN](#) was born on 28 Oct 1889. He died on 6 Jun 1965.

F vi [Emily Beatrice "Millie" FRANKLIN](#) was born on 2 Mar 1891. She died before Aug 1978.

F vii [Ina Lillian FRANKLIN](#) was born on 16 May 1892. She died on 5 Oct 1984.

F viii [Edith Mable FRANKLIN](#) was born on 1 Oct 1893. She died before 23 Jul 1998.

F ix [Ruby Marian FRANKLIN](#) was born on 21 Jun 1895. She died on 18 Aug 1978.

M x [George Douglas FRANKLIN](#) was born on 11 Apr 1897. He died about Jan 1997.

M xi [Felix Gordon FRANKLIN](#) was born on 17 Jul 1898. He died in May 2001.

F xii [Nora Florence FRANKLIN](#) was born on 2 Mar 1900. She died before 23 Jul 1998.

## Agnes Marie GUNDERSEN

Just been going through my notes and thought some of this maybe helpful to you. These are some stories passed down by Auntie Hilda (Franklin - Alice and Ina's sister) - I quote:-

We know Hermione married beneath her, she had something to do with the Danish royal court. Gunder Gundersen was to be made the Danish equivalent to an English baron. He refused the title and emigrated with his little family to get away from protocol etc. He didn't like the way the ordinary people were treated. There is a story that Agnes Marie was born in the bed that Queen Victoria slept in when she visited Denmark. Uncle George (Franklin) thought Gunder was an agricultural pharmacist in Denmark and also worked somewhere in the palace (may have been the case, for him to have met Hermione).

When they left Denmark, the Gundersens and Johanne Bahn went to England and lived in London for a year, this allowed Gunder to learn the English language and learn their customs. They arrived in Lyttleton, Christchurch, South Island, and while there Gunder was approached by either government or immigration officials and was asked to go to Mauriceville, in the Wairarapa where there were a number of Danish and Norwegian settlers. They needed an interpreter, as neither could speak the others language and Gunder understood all of them. He agreed to go and left his wife, children and sister in law in Christchurch until such time as he could send for them. The family started a laundry business there, whilst they waited for news that they could rejoin Gunder.

Gunder and Hermione did not wish anyone to know their origins as they felt it would have created a barrier between them and other settlers. They said the past was past, and they had left it all behind them, Granny Franklin (Agnes Marie Gundersen) said the same thing. The fact that they were educated could have created a

barrier, however anyone with an education was useful to the community as it was essential to have someone to deal with the local administration.

Gunder would write letters home for those settlers who could not read or write and read replies to them.

Agnes Marie ran the store and post office from her home (that little cottage I sent you a photo of, and raised 12 kids there after her husband, George Reuben Franklin, died of diabetes in 1901. She was also a midwife, often having her patients stay with her in her own home. She smoked and cured her own ham and bacon, and also for some of the Danish farmers and they gave her joints of meat for herself and family. She had a small orchard, bottled and pickled her own fruit and vegetables as well as making jam etc. She starched the stiff collars of the best shirts for some of the men who worked at the timber mill. She also found time to crochet and sew for her large family. The kids had to do most of the housework while Agnes was busy. Hilda says there was one time in her early teens when she was taking the outgoing mail to the train and collecting the incoming mail. There were Maoris standing on the platform and she was very scared of Maoris because she had listened to stories of the recent Maori wars. No way was she going to meet the train. That was one day the mail was missed.

Agnes Franklins home in Kopuaranga was burnt down while she was away - the fire was caused by a hole in the chimney which was never repaired. Auntie Nell ( Ellen) and her husband Charles Wright were living there at the time. Upstairs in the " dark room" were all Agnes's papers, so goodness knows what stories went up in smoke.

Notes from Edwards Family History Web Page

1<sup>st</sup> October The female teacher Miss Agnes Gundersen

commenced her duties today. Preparations are being made for beginning sewing classes next week

9<sup>th</sup> October Sewing classes commenced today. Time appointed 1 to 2 o'clock PM on Tuesdays and Fridays

21<sup>st</sup> December School Closed today. Miss Gundersen has been in this school about 3 months now, and is quite incompetent for the duties she has undertaken so far as teaching of English is concerned. I have taken her classes (Except the lowest) two or three times every week.. They have not withstanding barely held their ground or improved very little. It is only fair to say she has always been willing to try to do what she was told, but she cannot read their books properly herself and does not know the nouns or at least some of them. The existence of the sewing class has been short, and no great improvement can be looked for. Still if this is to be of any use at all neatness and order should be studied from the very first. I do not think this has been the case. Each side of a handkerchief should not have a hem of a different width nor should a pinafore have half a dozen sizes along its borders but I do not consider this so serious a matter as the English Reading and besides the sewing has improved considerably.

## 1884

15<sup>th</sup> February Monitor Absent (*Agnes Gunderson*)

22<sup>nd</sup> February School crowded this week- desk accommodation not sufficient at present

3<sup>rd</sup> March Monitor absent on Friday and today. Her sister tells me she is not coming back to school

21<sup>st</sup> March Have been working from 9 am to 4 pm for the last two months. But this is hardly sufficient. It is impossible to overtake all the work as I could wish

4<sup>th</sup> April Have much need of additional desk accommodation. When the weather is favourable the children have hardly space to sit down

3<sup>rd</sup> May. Advised by Secretary of Wellington Education Board that a teacher was appointed at last meeting

15<sup>th</sup> May. Miss Kate Sullivan the newly appointed assistant teacher entered on her duties

2<sup>nd</sup> June. From all I have seen I am well satisfied with Miss Sullivan's work

22<sup>nd</sup> July School used as a polling booth

20<sup>th</sup> August Mr Lee (*Inspector of Schools*) Called and reported I called at the Mauriceville school yesterday and was present again today

The master W (Laurence) Johnston was ill in bed, and the school was conducted by the assistant mistress Miss Kate Sullivan

The children were under good control and considerate (sic) the difficulty of the task, the classes were kept in fairly work of a useful order.

The attendance at the school has increased considerably of late I have made a necessary reorganisation of the furniture and three more desks are under order.

A local carpenter will send in a tender for making them in a few days.

The School Committee should supply a women to sweep out the school room every evening

At present the floor is very dirty, and the room is swept by the children in the mornings. This is very objectionable as the school work is carried as for the same time in an atmosphere choked with dust

The approaches to the room should be gravelled. At present there is nothing out for the children to pass through before they enter the room

I think the appointment of Miss Sullivan is a great gain for the children and school as she is efficient and active

She also takes the girls in sewing. It would be better to take this sewing for a good part of one afternoon rather than to take two lessons of it each week.

The school rooms inside and a out are looking dingy

No dogs should be allowed in the room

There are 85 children on the roll of whom 57 are present today the weather being cloudy but fine

As Miss Sullivan is a certified teacher of drawing I should like to see this subject taken up and taught throughout the school- The lesson for ½ and hour per week

Mr Johnston informs me in a note that he hopes to be well enough to resume duties in a short time. But he should not do so unless he will be able to bear the strain

Robert Lee

24<sup>th</sup> September Mr Johnston given another month's leave of absence PP

31<sup>st</sup> October After long sickness and Leave of Absence having been kindly granted by the Education Board for 10 weeks I have been teaching regularly since Monday morning in order to

ascertain if I can bear the strain of my usual schoolwork. Feel no difficulty in teaching nor any bad effects of any kind Only have to sit down and teach much more frequently than usual.

28<sup>th</sup> November Some of the children have to sit on the floor for want of furniture.

## 1885

Building erected 1885 2 rooms 986 square feet

Residence erected 1885 5 rooms

1100 square feet and 135 square foot washhouse

Land area 5 aces Less approximately 1 acre surrendered 1<sup>st</sup> march 1921

Section 18 Block 1 Kopuaranga S Septic Tank installed 1953

Old block sold 1927 Tender of £23 accepted

1<sup>st</sup> January. Some larrikins of larger growth, last night tumbled one of the school closets over the bank into the creek where it was smashed to pieces

26<sup>th</sup> January School reopened today

3<sup>rd</sup> February 1885 ENTERTAINMENT AT MAURICEVILLE.

A matinee for the Mauriceville school children took place at half-past two on Saturday, and was a source of great enjoyment to them. Long before the time appointed largo numbers assembled, and as they entered the room they all felt a shock from a galvanic battery which Mr Martin had there in operation. A brilliant little electric light met the sight of the children, with which they were highly delighted,' and several selections were given on the Violin.

A ventriloquial treat concluded the afternoon's performance, some of the children' returning afterwards to enquire "if de man vas still up de chimney." At 7.30, the advertised time for the starting of the evening's amusement, not a soul was to be seen, but at 8 o'clock every available seat was occupied, and numbers, of persona were obliged to stand. Mr Johnston introduced Mr Martin- and his assistant performers, and briefly described the nature of the entertainment, expressing his belief that it would be a good one and that everyone would be well pleased, as Mr Martin was an excellent ventriloquist and amateur, comedian. Mr Martin then appeared in succession as the "Antiquated Sermonist," the "Local Whip," and Fitz Jones the MP. .," which representations were well received. Mr Sheldon being unable to be present, Mr Martin gave a recitation from Shakespeare, being vigorously applauded and encored. Mr Weston was in good form, his song Jamsie, back your mother up" causing great fun, Mr Martin sang "Dunna Ye Hear It" with great feeling, and apologising for the non-appearance of Mr Post, sang "Silver Bells" with effect. Mr Sullivan then appeared and sang a lively comic song, ending with a jig, He danced excellently, whilst the rare costume enhanced the effect. Mr Post, dressed as a poor old man, sang "Over the Hill to the Poor-house" with such a depth of feeling and beauty of voice, that its conclusion was greeted with deafening applause and encored, Then camo the side-splitting sketch of the evening, "When I was a Maid," by Mr Martin,. which, being so comically put on and acted, caused immense merriment The audience were then kept in laughter by Mr Weston, who sang "Robinson Crusoe" splendidly, which was followed by You're growing more like your Dad" by Mr Martin in good style. Mr Weston again came forward and danced the sailor's hornpipe capitally, being followed by a song from Master Millet who was accompanied on the flute by Mr Sullivan. The wandering minstrel (Mr Martin) caused fits of

laughter from beginning to end, Peter Potts, the. "Peeler," then came in and delighted, the audience immensely with his peculiar mannerism and taking song. This concluded the first part, Mr Martin thanked the audience for their kind attention, and, measuring the merits of the entertainment by their approbation, felt sure that he, and the gentlemen who so kindly assisted, had scored, a decided success. He also thanked Mr Johnston (the presiding schoolmaster), and the committee who had so generously granted-permission, for the .use of the school, upon which Mr Johnston moved a vote of thanks to Mr Martin for the able and mirth provoking entertainment given. A half-an-hour of ventriloquism astonished and delighted the audience, and concluded the first entertainment held in Mauriceville. A pleasant dance took place afterwards in Mr Hansen's, which was kept up till midnight. PP

30<sup>th</sup> March. Jens Larsen and I being members of the School Committee visited the school today found the school very crowded, the want of more desks felt very much. Signed William Jesson

10<sup>th</sup> May Received three 9 feet (*3 meters*) desks from the chairman of the committee and one teachers desk from Eketahuna

21<sup>st</sup> July According to advice from Secretary of Education Board I today delivered three 9 feet desks to a carrier for the Mangaone School. More to be sent if required.

24<sup>th</sup> July Veranda of residence blown down last night. Very strong wind

9<sup>th</sup> September .Mr Lee's report

The day is stormy and snow has fallen several times. 68 children are present.

I am thoroughly dissatisfied with Mr Johnston's management. He is no disciplinarian and the school year by year fails to come up with the requirements of the times.

In the earlier days when the attendance was smaller and settlement newer Mr Johnston appeared very suitable for this particular work. He is however altogether unprogressive and underperforming . The copy books are ill written and much blotted on the inside and on the cover. Under a good master, the assistants Miss Sullivan would do excellent service in junior work, but she is hampered by the bad disruption maintained in the upper standards

I have to inform the head-master that an effort must be made to improve the discipline and the quality of the work

New maps and diagrams will be required for the new school. 8 of the present desks will be required for one of the new rooms

The other room will be furnished with infant desks of which there are already four. Eight more will be required

6<sup>th</sup> November. Some kind of throat disease has appeared among some of the children which seems infectious. It is probable the same disease that a little girl died of some time ago which was not thought at the time to be infectious

20<sup>th</sup> November Many of the children laid up, some very seriously Enquired of Dr Beard if it is diphtheria as reported: he does not think so and says there is no danger if the children are kept from school until fairly recovered. The children of several families have left school A kind of panic prevails.

27<sup>th</sup> November Some of the children who left have come back to school but there is no decrease in the number of sick. Use disinfectant in school every day

4<sup>th</sup> December One or two deaths have resulted from this disease and the children are leaving school again. I have been advised to shut the school in the meantime. It is very difficult to decide what course to take. Every precaution is being used and no one seems to take the malady at school, though several have taken it who left with fright.

## 1886

25<sup>th</sup> January Opened School today

8<sup>th</sup> February Several children are still sick, but hardly any fresh cases

The epidemic seems to be passing away.

12<sup>th</sup> February Holiday treat in new room

13<sup>th</sup> February A very successful tea-meeting was held last evening at Mauriceville, to inaugurate the new school buildings recently 'erected to meet the growing requirements of the district. The tables were plentifully supplied with all sorts of good things, which were done justice to by relays of guests who constituted' the adult and juvenile population of the settlement. Mr Gunderson, Chairman of the Committee-, presided, and was supported on his right by Mr G. Beetham, M.H.R. The proceedings opened with an eloquent exhortation by Mr L. Johnson on the duties of parents to their children, and conclude)! with a grace preparatory to the tea. After the good things had been disposed of, Mr Gunderson addressed the meeting, describing the progress of educational matters at Mauriceville, and proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Beetham for his services in obtaining the new building, and for the

interest he always manifested in their educational requirements. The motion was ably seconded by Mr W, Jessen, and Mr Beetham, in acknowledging it, alluded to the exceptionable advantages they derived from education in Nov; Zealand, and referred to his own action in assisting to pass the present Act. He also warmly congratulated them on the possession of the present comfortable building, And adjournment was then made outside the building, and an hour or so, which intervened before dusk, was devoted to girls and boys races, and a cricket match by the Mauriceville .Cricket Club. When the shades of night had fallen, a dance in the old schoolroom wound up a very enjoyable re-union.  
PP

12<sup>th</sup> March Disease seems to spread anew. Three children have died in one family

15<sup>th</sup> March Eight infant desks have been received from Wellington. Some of them were in pieces when received

23<sup>rd</sup> March. Three more infant desks received.

2<sup>nd</sup> April received blackboards and two easels

5<sup>th</sup> April Removed to new room today.

28<sup>th</sup> April There were thirty householders present, Mr G. Gunderson in the chair. Twelve were nominated, with the following result;— Messrs Celius Petersen, , P. Hansen W, Jessen, Peter Andersen, junior, George Franklin and Gunder Gunderson. The latter was 'elected chairman for the ensuing year  
PP

26<sup>th</sup> May The Board declined an application for a vote of 5 pound for levelling Mauriceville School playground as they could not afford it. PP

8<sup>th</sup> June Undersigned being a member of the School Committee visited the school this day, found everything in first class order, good attendance in Mr Johnston's room but small attendance in Miss Sullivan's.

William Jessen

23<sup>rd</sup> June Visited school this day and found everything in good order. Attendance fair. John Swenson (Member School Committee)

8<sup>th</sup> October. Attendance in infant room very unsatisfactory

10<sup>th</sup> December About half the children laid up with measles. The disease is of a mild type

17<sup>th</sup> December. Most of the pupils laid up are back to school and the others for most part have been infected. Has not much affected the school. In two weeks the disease has run its race in this locality  
Closed school for holidays this afternoon

## 1887

29<sup>th</sup> January A petition from 32 householders in the Mauriceville district for the removal of the present teacher. Mr. L Johnston was forwarded by the local Committee, with a recommendation that effect be given to it. The- Board decided to give Mr. Johnston three months' notice. PP

16<sup>th</sup> March School buildings in great danger from fire last night. Danger continues in a modified form all day. Shed caught fire in the afternoon. Did not think it prudent to open school today

17<sup>th</sup> March Fire dangerously near last night. Out buildings caught fire several times.

3<sup>rd</sup> May I took charge of Mauriceville School today. J M McKenzie

6<sup>th</sup> May A few of Mr Johnson's friends entertained him at dinner at Mauriceville on Tuesday evening. The new schoolmaster, Mr M. McKenzie, who had arrived that day, was also invited. Sixteen sat down to the table, which was abundantly laden with appetising eatables, sparkling wines, &c, Mr G Gunderson presided, and was supported on the right by Mr Johnston, the guest of the evening, and on the left by Mr McKenzie. The vice chair was occupied by Mr John Jessen, the chairman of the last committee, After justice had been done to all the good things provided, Mr Gunderson, in a few well-chosen words, proposed the health of Mr Johnston, which was drunk with musical honors. Mr Johnston responding said he had now been a teacher over 30 years, 10 of which had had been spent in Mauriceville. He had always taken a great interest in children, and he would always continue to do so. He welcomed Mr McKenzie to Mauriceville, and hoped he would succeed in his charge. Mr W. Jessen proposed the health of Mr McKenzie, and trusted the settlers would receive him not as a stranger but as a friend, for on him depended the future welfare of Mauriceville, for what would become of the growing generation unless they got well educated, With a good education they would be able to carve their way through life, a credit to themselves and to their teacher He trusted Mr McKenzie would find it a pleasant task to do his duty. Mr McKenzie responding, said lie was not good at making speeches; all he could do was to teach. He had never made a speech before in his life and he could only speak to children, Mr Jessen had put a great responsibility on his shoulders, but he

would always try to do his duty. Mr Gunderson said he had a pleasant duty to perform, namely, to hand to Mr Johnston a purse of sovereigns, collected by the children to show their esteem, Mr Johnston expressed his thanks for the token of respect the children had shown him, He did not know what was in the puree, but lie should always keep it in pleasant memory; he would, through Mr Gundersen, thank the children very much for their kindness. Here Mr Johnston was overcome with emotion, and could say no more. The children's toast was next proposed, and suitably responded to by Mr Johnston, after which, came the toast of the ladies, the company and the chairman; the last one being drunk with musical honors. Several songs were given in the intervals, those of Mr Charles Toon being especially appreciated, The company dispersed after 10 o'clock, after spending the most enjoyable evening ever held in Mauriceville .PP

26<sup>th</sup> May Visited school today. Noticed great improvement in discipline, find one window blind out of order, everything else satisfactory. William Jesson (Member School Committee)

8<sup>th</sup> June Gave Charles Isackien two strokes of the cane on Nature's Cushion for leaving school without permission and refusing to return when I called after him. The boy's father was present and approved of the punishment.

Visited school today notice everything satisfactory Jens Sigvestren  
17<sup>th</sup> June Received a letter from N Jensen (Member of the Committee) stating that he will "absolutely withdraw" his children from the school if I do not punish a girl who complained of one of his boys.

24<sup>th</sup> June. Holiday given today (By direction of chairman of committee) School to open on 18<sup>th</sup> July

18<sup>th</sup> July School reopened after Mid winter holidays 67 Present

8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> August Mrs Nielsen absent -ill

15<sup>th</sup> August. Very severe snowstorm- small attendance- Mrs Nielsen present today

18<sup>th</sup> August I have this day visited the school and found a great improvement in the discipline and everything was very satisfactory. Lars Svenson Member of School Committee

25<sup>th</sup> August A water tank and tap (400 gallons) arrived for residence at 9.30 am

26<sup>th</sup> August Received from Mr Gundersen for school use five quire's (24 or 25 sheets of paper) of notepaper. One packet of envelopes, a box of slate pencils and 21 sheets (half a quire) of foolscap.

2<sup>nd</sup> September. Great storm last night; it continues today and the attendance is small= 29. The school fence near the gate blown down last night.

Received syllabus of elementary science yesterday

13<sup>th</sup> September Carl Nielsen's thumb was accidentally cut by a slap which I gave him with a rod in which there was a split- purely accidental

16<sup>th</sup> September. Mrs Nelson had to leave school this morning (ill) at 10 a m

26<sup>th</sup> September Polling Day for general election- no school today. School required as a polling Booth

30<sup>th</sup> October. Severe storm of wind and rain, with very small attendance

10<sup>th</sup> October. Gave William Halberg three strokes of the cane on nature's cushion for playing truant Friday last.

26<sup>th</sup> The same to Charles Larsen for a like offense

27<sup>th</sup> October Wellington Education Board A petition was received from the residents of Mauriceville against dancing being allowed in the old school. Which was referred to the Mauriceville School Committee PP

10<sup>th</sup> November School inspected by N Jensen from the School Committee his report written in a Scandinavian Language

30<sup>th</sup> November An application from the Masterton Committee that Mr Smith should be appointed assistant teacher was granted. A similar application from the Mauriceville Committee with reference to Mrs Mcßenzie was also granted PP

## 1888

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

9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs Neilsen absent ill

20<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Neilsen resumed duties at 9 AM and left again at Noon (12 O'clock)

21<sup>st</sup> February Mrs Neilsen resumed duties

1<sup>st</sup> March The Mauriceville Committee wrote, stating that a difficulty had arisen with the lessor over the land on which the school was built, as he claimed a right of way to a lime-kiln at the rear of the school, which the Committee disputed. After looking into the matter, the Board decided to write to the Committee with the view of having the matter amicably settled PP

16<sup>th</sup> March. The verandah of the teachers residence blown away at 4 ¼ pm. Windows broken in the school- hurricane

4<sup>th</sup> April The committee have given the children a holiday on account of Picnick (sic) Signed Gunder Gundersen Chairman

7<sup>th</sup> April School Children's Picnic at Mauriceville, The picnic was originally intended, to have come off last Tuesday, but owing to the heavy downpour of rain the previous night, which made the paddock more suitable for a regatta than for a picnic, the treat was postponed until the next day," which turned out fine. At 11 o'clock, a great number of children, dressed in their best, turned up from all directions, and the programme started in the way of sports each standard running different races, suitable prizes having been provided, for each race.: At 2 o'clock, the programme having been gone through, all made their way to the school, where a tea had been provided. The children, whose appetites had been freshened by the running, soon showed that they were in a healthy condition, and taxed the efforts of the ladies, to whom the preparation of the tea had been entrusted, to the utmost. It may be mentioned that the number of children was exactly 100. They again went out to play, after which the teaching staff and the members of the Committee sat down to partake of some refreshments. Sweets; were distributed to the children, each child receiving a bag, and a number of bags still being left, the children were again classified, and ran short; distances for the remainder.

The bell here sounding, announced that the principal event of the day was to take place, and the children, having entered the school, were addressed by the Chairman of the School Committee (Mr G. Gunderson) who said that he was about to distribute prize-books to those children who had shown the best results. The books, which had been procured from Messrs Lyon and Blair, were beautifully bound, and. some were very valuable. It was so arranged that a first and second prize was allotted to each class in

each standard. Having distributed the prizes, Mr Gunderson expressed a wish that all those who had not received a prize this time would do their utmost to get to the top, and thus secure a prize next year. Mr Aulin, on behalf of the scholars, thanked the committee for their efforts in providing such an enjoyable dP" and one which no doubt would give the children a great deal of encouragement. He also paid a high compliment to the master for the efficient way in which he had taught the children

The children were then requested to sing , and under the leadership of Mrs Nielsen, the assistant teacher, they sang some very nice songs, keeping remarkably good time. At the conclusion, Mr Gunderson thanked the children for the singing, and reminded them that they had to make a fresh start in the morning at 9 o'clock, and as the examination was to take place on the 20th inst., he trusted they would work hard in order to pass into a higher standard. The children were then dismissed, all going home highly pleased. PP

21<sup>st</sup> April I have examined the school today and yesterday and I am much pleased with the improved state of the school under Mr McKenzie. The character of the work in every part of the school is very good and very creditable to the teacher

*Mrs Neilsen after visit of Mr Lee becomes Kate Nelson, is this a coincidence or is this a change of teacher?*

23<sup>rd</sup> April Inspector's holiday

3<sup>rd</sup> May Mrs Nelson absent on leave at a funeral. The charter of the Ancient Order of Foresters hung up in the school by order of the chairman

12<sup>th</sup> May Mauriceville School.

The examination of the School took place on the 20th ultimo with very satisfactory results, only one pupil failing to pass. Mr Lee,

the Inspector, expressed himself highly pleased with the progress the school had made during the year, The following the passes Standard I John Amundsen, Charles Isaacksen, William Jensen, Niels Rjistrup, William Larsen, August Swenson, Thora Gunderson, Mary Nielsen, Emma Person, Petrea Petersen.

Standard II—Christian Amundsen, Charles Aulin, William Andersen, Hans Peter Hansen, Henry Hansen, Niels Larsen, Charles Larsen, ? Peterson, Emma Johansen, Mary Johansen, Caroline Larsen, Sarah McKenzie, Mary Person, Agues Petersen.

Standard III—Hans Peter Anderson, George Deadman , Henry Ericksen, George Jensen, Charles Larsen, John McKenzie, Malacliy McKenzie, Niels Olsen, Christine Aulin, Mary Albrestsen, Emily Asserson, Annie Christensen, Margaret Elliott, Caroline Hansen, Mary Hansen, Dorothea Pedersen, Mary Larsen,

Standard IV—Charles Gunderson, Charles Nielsen, Nelly Gunderson, Mathilda Jensen, Johanne Kjistrup; Mary Swenson. The infant class was also examined, and, to the credit of their teacher they all passed to another book. PP

16<sup>th</sup> July School reopened after midwinter vacation. Attendance small owing to the weather and the opening of a new school (*Mauriceville Railway opened August 1887*) in the neighbourhood 26<sup>th</sup> July. Struck A Olsen accidently on the back of the hand with a rod. His hand swelled up much afterwards.

7<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Nelson absent (Chairman's permission) owing to the illness of Mr Neilsen.

## 1889

4<sup>th</sup> April I examined the school today and I am very pleased with the satisfactory work done by Mr McKenzie and Mrs Nelson. The arithmetic of the upper standards is particularly commended.

Note from Mr Mckenzie. Mr Lee noticed that the verandah of the teacher's residence (Blown away on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1888) has not yet been repaired.

Mr Lee suggests that instead of mere theory and the rules of syntax etc, the children attending Mauriceville School should learn grammar in a practical way by speaking correctly in the presence of the teachers and by frequent short exercises in English Composition- A very sensible suggestion which will be attended to.

26<sup>th</sup> April School Committee G Gunderson (Chairman), L Nielsen, N Nielsen, P Larsen, M Jensen, W Jensen, P Anderson PP

14<sup>th</sup> May I visiting the school 14<sup>th</sup> May and found the attendance to be 55 pupils and all well. Signed Gunther Gundersen

29<sup>th</sup> May Mrs Nelson ill

30<sup>th</sup> Mrs Nelson in school today

31<sup>st</sup> Mrs Nelson absent

3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Nelson absent

17<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Nelson resumed duty this morning

12<sup>th</sup> August Verandah to Teacher's residence repaired

26<sup>th</sup> August Mrs Nelson had to leave again after coming to school: She has a cold

15<sup>th</sup> September. A new roof- shingles- on the old school

27<sup>th</sup> September- 4<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Nelson absent through illness- a cold

7<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Nelson resumed duty.

28<sup>th</sup> December Mr. John McKenzie, late headmaster of Mauriceville School, who left to-day with his family for San Francisco, was yesterday morning presented with an address by the inhabitants of Mauriceville, expressing their regret at his departure, and making special reference to his ability as a teacher and the vast improvement he had worked in the school during his term of office. The address was accompanied by a present in the shape of a handsome and valuable walking stick. Mr. McKenzie suitably replied, and in the course of his remarks expressed a hope that his successor would take a kindly interest in the Danish children, whose parents were now, he said, beginning to understand the value of education PP

## 1890

27<sup>th</sup> January Opened school today master not yet appointed Kate Nelson Assistant Mistress

30<sup>th</sup> January Head teacher at Mauriceville, .£200 and house 13 applicants PP

8<sup>th</sup> February The School Committee here is not well pleased with the Education Board attention to our local requirements. One school is without a head master, and the other without a pupil teacher PP

13<sup>th</sup> March Herbert Sanson Appointed Inspected the offices yesterday and found some very filthy language written in one of them. Had it erased. Attendance 43. Weather threatening

17<sup>th</sup> March Mrs Nelson absent today at Eketahuna. Committee gave consent for absence

Began working my own timetable today. Communication from Secretary of Wellington Education Board Re Mrs Nelson's removal. Have written to Board asking if the matter can be held in abeyance for a school term so as to allow a chance of working up the average

24<sup>th</sup> March Attendance very poor weather cold and wet. New fence (wire) erected around part of the school ground.

Little or nothing known of Analysis of sentences in Standards 5 and 6. Writing very poor. Arithmetic good in most cases. Geography not known in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes Children attentive and well behaved

By sunrise we all assembled in one common apartment

Children wrote- sunrise subject Complete nonsense- parsing good.

Drawing very bad

20<sup>th</sup> March Mrs Nelson Attending School today for the last time. She has been promoted to the Mangatainoka School

21<sup>st</sup> March Am conducting the school alone today. Returns made out this afternoon and taken to the chairman for his signature

Average for quarter Girls 21.04 Boys 20.36 = 41.40

Average for month over 43. Attendance very low at beginning of Quarter, hence low average

3<sup>rd</sup> April Received schedules for examination to be held 25<sup>th</sup> inst by last night's mail

Today is what is known as "Holy Thursday" among the Lutherans and the attendance is only 18. Several children sick

14<sup>th</sup> April Mrs Nelson recommenced duties on the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst.

Number of children absent have had influenza and in consequence have been absent

Mrs Nelson also absent one day owing to the epidemic

18<sup>th</sup> April Mary Broderson is suffering from a most repulsive skin disease and her arms are just one mass of sores. I have forbidden her attendance fearing of infection for the other scholars.

21<sup>st</sup> April School used for a supper after a ball on Friday night by the local Foresters. Rooms very dirty today in consequence although they were supposed to be cleaned. Blackboard in Mrs Nelson's room covered with vulgar drawings by someone present at the supper.

I have put brackets and frames around the room to make it look more cheerful

22<sup>nd</sup> April Mary Broderson is back again in school. She brought a letter from her father saying that he took the girl to a doctor and that he stated there was no fear of infection and the girl would not lose the sores until she was 13 years of age. Under these circumstances her attendance will be allowed.

She has been isolated for greater safety.

24<sup>th</sup> April I have taken Hannah Nelson and Emma Hansen's name off the roll owing to non attendance since Xmas

28<sup>th</sup> April 50 present The highest since my arrival

29<sup>th</sup> April School Committee elected last night Messers Gundersen, Rasmussen, Jesson, Chisholm, Jens Sigvertson, Peter Larsen and R P Hansen

Mr Gunderson elected chairman at the after meeting

Paper (Lyon and Blaine prepared) supplied for examination on 1<sup>st</sup> May

1<sup>st</sup> May Examination Day Present 53

2<sup>nd</sup> May Percentage of passes on number examined in Standards omitting exceptions = 89.18%

*List of all children passed in log*

Pass cards have been issued to all those who have passed excepting Standard 5 scholars for whom no cards were sent by Secretary Wellington Education Board

8<sup>th</sup> May Teacher's time of arrival book will be kept for this term for the purpose of enforcing punctuality on the part of the Head Master and assistant mistress. The time at which each teacher arrives will be strictly kept. The entry being made opposite his or her name by the respective teacher

8<sup>th</sup> May Dinner recess will be 1¼ hours from today as Mrs Nelson finds time (1 hour) not sufficient

Wrote to the Secretary Wellington Education Board last night asking for Return Forms, Clock for assistant, returns, chart of Physiology (Johnston's)

12<sup>th</sup> May exceedingly wet and cold. Snow on ground until 10 O'clock and at various times today slight showers of snow fall.

Attendance only 17

14<sup>th</sup> May 26 scholars are now in my room all standard 2 successful candidates transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Standard 6, 5,4,3 in my room.

Blain's Freehand Drawing Books in use for the next 3 months

Shaw Geometry will be taken by higher standards and the various drawing lessons required by syllabus will be taken in periods of say 3 months

Star readers in use all over the school now, a change that was much needed

Copy books allowed in various classes are listed

15<sup>th</sup> May Walker Chisholm as visitor to for present month writes. I have been in the school for one hour and have found the work being done in a very satisfactory manner

30<sup>th</sup> May Mesdames Harper and Larsen visited the school this afternoon. Children sang during the time they were present

10<sup>th</sup> June Letter sent to School Committee re requirements for school, Sandpaper etc wanted

13<sup>th</sup> June Sandpaper received and desks cleaned by boys and girls voluntarily

16<sup>th</sup> June Examination Report by Robert Lee

I am very much pleased with the condition of this school under the new master Mr Sanson the school has a good future before it. There is much improvement already in writing and grammar, and the management is much to be commended

The teacher's residence should have been papered before Mr Sanson arrived. He has expended 30/- in making one room decent and the other three should be done at once. The School Committee have put up recently a good dividing fence.

I recommend the retention of Mrs Nelson as Assistant

20<sup>th</sup> June Petersen's absent owing to sickness, it is said

25<sup>th</sup> July Some 8 children are away today to attend a marriage in the church here

9<sup>th</sup> September. Bertha and Thomas Branchly have left to go to the Station School

19<sup>th</sup> September Dinner access shortened from 1 ¼ hours to 1 hour owing to children leaving school Mrs Nelson can now manage to get up in time

10<sup>th</sup> October. A member of the School Committee waited on me this morning and said that at the Committee meeting last night it was resolved that children should be allowed to attend school without boots and stockings. This is in direct opposition to clause 15 Section 5 to Teacher's, Boards Rules and Regulations to my instructions to the children. Have written to the Board on the matter.

13<sup>th</sup> October. Quite a number of children present without boots and Freehand drawing has been taught and geometry is to be begun today

14<sup>th</sup> October. Obscene words written on old school a short time ago. Edith Gundersen a half witted girl has acknowledged doing it. She has before admitted writing filth on our premises.

15<sup>th</sup> October School opened with 8 children who were very wet but closed again at 10.15 a m by permission of chairman of School Committee

Mrs Nelson was away owing to the rain

Pane of glass blown (partly) in by strong wind today

17<sup>th</sup> October James Chisholm has been found guilty of very obscene language and has confessed thereto

20<sup>th</sup> October. School closed today by permission of School Committee to allow children chance of going to the Masterton Agriculture Show

10<sup>th</sup> November. School closed in commemoration of Prince of Wales Birthday

12<sup>th</sup> November Bernard Neilsen, Edward Hanson and Charles Johanson caned for cruelly treating a sheep on the road to their house

14<sup>th</sup> November Mary Broderson left today owing to be punished for misbehaviour in school

19<sup>th</sup> November. Mary Franklin won my promised writing prize with a total of 99½ out of a possible 100. Maggie Elliott and Mary Pearson came 2<sup>nd</sup> with a possible of 98.

28<sup>th</sup> November Board holiday owing to Wellington agriculture show.

4<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Nelson absent this afternoon by permission to attend to private business in Masterton

5<sup>th</sup> December. School closed today. School is being used as a polling booth for General Election

8<sup>th</sup> December Shearing has begun in the district and several children are absent in consequence

Specimens of children's work tacked to the wall

9<sup>th</sup> December Water in school tank very bad. Steps were to have been taken two months ago in consideration with the cleaning of it, but as the matter has been left over the water is unfit for drinking.

Pins and ink required for schools- windows require cleaning.

16<sup>th</sup> December. 4 Boys (Petersons) truanting ½ day yesterday. Several children away haymaking, shearing etc

## 1891

26<sup>th</sup> January Attendance only 17. Mrs Nelson transferred to Eketahuna

School cleaned nicely during vacation

Alice Franklin left for Dreyerton School her parents having removed to there.

29<sup>th</sup> July School tank cleaned out during holidays

Highest roll 31. Lowest of 17. All scholars in my room.

30<sup>th</sup> January Large Bottle ink received today, for school use. One box nibs

5<sup>th</sup> February 15/- subscribed up to today for the purchase of a presentation to Mrs Nelson

18<sup>th</sup> February 26/- subscribed in all for present, Articles, a biscuit jar of glass with electro plated top and preserve dish on an electro plated stand Cost 26/6 without carriage. Arrived last night

Mr De May who was here on 10<sup>th</sup> inst to drill scholars expected again today

Form sent from Wellington Education Board Office to be filled in showing appliances in school and asking what more are required

20<sup>th</sup> February Instruction given in Swedish Drill in accordance with the drill instructors directions

28<sup>th</sup> February Foolscap, blotting paper and red ink supplied for examinations

Monthly average 40.46

16<sup>th</sup> March. Blackboards repainted

25<sup>th</sup> March Examination Day attendance 28 boys and 23 girls= 51

Percentage of passes on number examined 91½%

1<sup>st</sup> April School treat yesterday

2<sup>nd</sup> April Metal put round school and out to offices and some supplied to the teacher's residence

9<sup>th</sup> April Application for Pupil Teacher replied to. Letter asked for names of suitable candidates with qualification received. No local person suitable

Letter from Mr Lee if I could attend Miss Evan's Kindergarten Lessons in Masterton I have to apply to the School Committee for one days leave of absence to allow of my attending

20<sup>th</sup> April John Sigvertson (Aged 9) absent today to give evidence at the inquest on Christian Hansen. (Aged 16 Shot himself when out shooting pigeons. Mr Gunder Gundersen chaired the inquest with a jury. The boy picked up the rifle by the barrel and the gun went off. Ruling Accidental Death)

23<sup>rd</sup> April A number of children absent to attend a funeral

24<sup>th</sup> April Mr T Fleming Inspector

I paid a visit to the school today and found Mr Sanson at work with his classes rearranged according to the results of the examination last month

The work was going on smoothly and the discipline was excellent

I took a class of girls for reading and found that they read very well, taking into account the fact that nearly all the children speak Danish or Scandinavian in their own homes

Mr Sanson informed me that he had been to Masterton to see Miss Evans (The Kindergarten teacher) A pupil teacher is needed in the school to relieve Mr Sanson of some of his work and to enable him to find time for some kindergarten work with the infants

The work being done here is very satisfactory

28<sup>th</sup> April G Gunderson, W Chisholm, Peter Anderson, Neils Rasmussen, N Jensen, C Forsberg and Peter Larsen elected a new committee, Balance Sheet £6-2-0 in hand to date

29<sup>th</sup> April I have applied to School Committee for 9 Longman's History and Geography readers for school use in accordance with Mr Flemings suggestion together with 1 of the school reading book and class reading for teacher's use in school. The total cost will be £2-3-. No reply received yet

List of Longman's books required here is made out ready to send to the local storekeeper who will keep the books I think.

4<sup>th</sup> May Box of models received from the Wellington Education Board

An application from Maria Toohill of Eketahuna for appointment as a pupil teacher sent to me by the Secretary of the Wellington Education Board with a request for my opinions. Matter held over pending a reply re Masterton Candidates

7<sup>th</sup> May Mabel Walton and Miss Johnston are willing to take the position of PT if proper board and lodgings can be found. Inquiries being made

7<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Riley Art instructor to Board present yesterday afternoon. He took the children for a short time

8<sup>th</sup> May. Two cords of firewood supplied

11<sup>th</sup> May. Miss Mabel Walton's name submitted to Wellington Education Board and committee for approval. Parents and girl willing. Enter on duties a week from today if arrangements with Board and committee settled. Miss Johnston withdrew application.

Application made again to Board for kindergarten requisites

14<sup>th</sup> May. Clay for kindergarten work received

18<sup>th</sup> May Miss Mabel Walton entered on her duties today as a Pupil teacher  
19<sup>th</sup> May Fairy Tales as class readers begun  
20<sup>th</sup> May. Received P T syllabus for instruction tonight  
21<sup>st</sup> May. Instruction to Miss Walton begun. Time table proposed for her instructions 1 ½ hours on 5 days = 7 ½ hours  
27<sup>th</sup> May Edith Gundersen left At Service  
25<sup>th</sup> May. Clay modelling begun Effect of hard substance on soft one applied.  
29<sup>th</sup> April Attendance 50.  
Began singing again today Sang “Home Again” Taught Club exercises taken by girls under Miss Walton’s Supervision while I take boys for drill  
5<sup>th</sup> June Whittington and his cat read this week  
19<sup>th</sup> June I found it necessary to reprimand Miss Walton today for gross inattention to her duties  
Singing Glide Along and Goodnight (Rounds) Home Again (Sang)  
24<sup>th</sup> June Bertha Branchly entered from the Railway Station School today roll number is 59  
26<sup>th</sup> June Song taught Kiss Me and I’ll go to Sleep  
20<sup>th</sup> July School reopened for midwinter vacation. Miss Walton has not returned will probably return per 1<sup>st</sup> train. Permission given  
Miss Walton present this afternoon  
27<sup>th</sup> July Miss Walton’s work unsatisfactory. Weak eyes given as an excuse

31<sup>st</sup> February Average roll 50.23, Have reported Miss Walton’s unsatisfactory work to Board  
Eskild Petersen left for service at Dreyerton  
6<sup>th</sup> August Have entered 3 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls for freehand 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Examination  
10<sup>th</sup> August James Chisholm convicted of swearing on school premises. Punishment inflicted accordingly (2 cuts with the cane). This is the second case during my tenure of office in Mauriceville (same boy offending)  
12<sup>th</sup> August James Chisholm used bad language today- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense within one week. Punishment inflicted  
14<sup>th</sup> August Holiday given by Board to celebrate the opening of the new Education office in Wellington  
17<sup>th</sup> August Formation of a school library decided on. Committee of two appointed to act with me.  
18<sup>th</sup> August. Miss Walton complained of illness yesterday so she was excused from lessons- time to be made up  
21<sup>st</sup> August. Various means have been started with the object of establishing a school library. Viz. Subscription lists, entertainment and weekly dances  
24<sup>th</sup> August Two books given by Bertha Brenchley a scholar towards the school library.  
Subscription lists given to some children to take around the settlement.  
25<sup>th</sup> August. Inspectors Report T Fleming  
I paid a surprise visit to this school today  
Mr Sanson has now a pupil teacher who has Standard 2, 1 and infants

In the afternoon an object lesson on air was to be given by the pupil teacher Miss Walton

She was very nervous and seemed unable to give it., but apart from that she had not enough material to illustrate the lesson and she had not thoroughly prepared it.

In Mr Sanson's room the work is satisfactory and the discipline excellent

Mr Sanson might let Mr Parkinson have the extra sets of models for Dreyerton School

28<sup>th</sup> August Miss Walton late today. 3<sup>rd</sup> time this week

1<sup>st</sup> September Six books presented by Rev Mr Christenson

21 books have been donated up to date

8<sup>th</sup> September Letter from Mr Lee inspector, intimating that the dozen books promised were being forwarded on Saturday.

14<sup>th</sup> September Committee has granted a half holiday for Friday

18<sup>th</sup> inst to allow children time to return to entertainment also to allow me to meet performers and have room prepared

18<sup>th</sup> September Half holiday (afternoon) school library entertainment

21<sup>st</sup> September £15-2-0 was the total amount collected for library, but the expenses were £2-0-10 leaving a balance of £13-1-2

(\$2,832.32 in September 2011 terms) of which this stamp (M'VILLE.P.S Lib.y) was bought for half a crown. One dozen books received from Ed Board office towards the school library

24<sup>th</sup> September Rasmin Paterson got 6 cuts on the hands- 3 on each today for using filthy language to girls on the way home from school

29<sup>th</sup> September. Order for library books sent to Logan and Blair. Wellington

7<sup>th</sup> October Geometry is being taken as the drawing subject for First Grade examination for 1892 in Standard 4,5 and 6

8<sup>th</sup> October. A new supply of the 165 library books received from Lyon and Blair. *List of all 207 titles in library listed by title in log*

14<sup>th</sup> October. Kindergarten bead threading by Miss Walton. Pauses of considerable length between remarks and questions making the children lose interest in the work. No originality about her work

26<sup>th</sup> October. Application made to committee for a fresh supply of ink and penholders and paper.

27<sup>th</sup> October. Permission given to close school for the Masterton Agricultural Show.

I am examining my own scholars this week. I find their arithmetic and writing weak in some cases. Grammar also requires attention in the various classes

Unsatisfactory results attained by my examinations in Miss Walton's class on Friday last. The arithmetic (Numeration and Notation chiefly) was disgraceful

Have written to Board expressing the views of the committee about the management and extension of the library until it becomes arranged in a public one.

1<sup>st</sup> Vesting in trustees

2<sup>nd</sup> Extending into a public library (always to be free to children)

3<sup>rd</sup> Free to all children attending school but open to public by subscriptions.

6<sup>th</sup> November 3 dozen penholders, some foolscap as a quantity of ink supplied to school today by committee

10<sup>th</sup> November Children wet through, Chairman of committee agreed with me that they should be sent home. Time of closing 10.15

11<sup>th</sup> November. Timetable forms (Class instead of school) supplied by Board

11<sup>th</sup> November Chairman of School Committee written to again 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time, about the serious defect in the roof of the teachers residence. Paper and walls in 3 rooms being spoilt

11<sup>th</sup> November. Intimation that my 1<sup>st</sup> Grade drawing candidates passed the late examination in freehand, the only subject for which they were presented. Mary Franklin, Emma Johansen and Mary Pearson passed

16<sup>th</sup> November No less than 18 children absent today. Beautiful weather so that can be no excuse

16<sup>th</sup> November Examination of Miss Walton's scholars on Friday gave very bad results in arithmetic in 6 cases out of 7 in standard 2 and 2 cases in standard 1

Expressionless reading although it is fairly fluent considering the age of the children

Peter Larsen and Mary Sigvertson made 9 errors in dictation and spelling

Discipline poor- inattention, copying, turning round and talking being indulged in

18<sup>th</sup> November. Miss Walton was 15 minutes late for school this morning. She ought also to have been at lessons at 8.20. This shows she was 55 minutes behind time.

Miss Walton's period of probation has expired- she began on the 18<sup>th</sup> of last May

19<sup>th</sup> November Report on Miss Walton's abilities as a teacher forwarded to the board today

20<sup>th</sup> November Notice received from the Wellington Education Board announcing termination of Miss Walton's engagement as from the end of the year, and asking me to find some other person qualified for the position

Reply -asking if she is expected to sit for exams. What payment will be made for her instruction if she passes, and if she doesn't

26<sup>th</sup> November Some of the children are absent from school owing to sickness- influenza and whooping cough.

26<sup>th</sup> November An application from Mauriceville to convert the school library into a public library to be vested in Trustees, and to be always free to school children, was approved, but it was pointed out that there would be no power to make a charge to the outside public for the use of books, though donations could be received. PP

30<sup>th</sup> November Miss Walton is intending to sit her examination in December owing to the reply received by me from the Secretary of the Ed Board. Patrea Peterson left- wanted at home

7<sup>th</sup> December. Miss Walton late today. Returning by train from Masterton. Permission granted by me before hand. She was attending drawing examination in Masterton and could not return sooner.

10<sup>th</sup> December. Chairman of Committee agreed better to close the school a week earlier and reopen a week sooner owing to the

prevalence of sickness amongst the children. Recommendation to that effect sent to the Board

11<sup>th</sup> December Drawing certificates (First Grade) received and distributed to the three girls

11<sup>th</sup> December. Heat intense during first part of afternoon. Drill not taken today owing to thunder shower following the heat. Latter part of the day very dull and heavy

12<sup>th</sup> December . School closed from today with Board's sanction owing to prevalence of whooping cough

## 1892

18<sup>th</sup> January School reopened this morning as per instructions. Only 11 children in attendance. Whooping Cough, Influenza and grass seeding the chief causes

Miss Helen Kean commenced her duties here as pupil teacher today

19<sup>th</sup> January Only 30 in attendance today out of 59 on the roll owing to sickness

21<sup>st</sup> January 21/61 on attendance

22<sup>nd</sup> January Anniversary Day School Closed

26<sup>th</sup> January So far I am much pleased with the manner in which Miss Helen Kean conducts her classes. She is painstaking and energetic and endeavours to maintain the children's interest

27<sup>th</sup> January An appointment notice sent to Miss Kean by the Secretary of the Board. A special allowance of £15.00 on account of residence, has been made to her.

29<sup>th</sup> January Time and Solar system begun today by Miss Kean  
Application made to board for a modulator for school use. The one here at present belongs to Mrs Neilsen and will be returned to her as she has the Newman School

5<sup>th</sup> February Modulator to be kept here and used in the school

8<sup>th</sup> February Mat plaiting begun

11<sup>th</sup> February Blackboard composition paint received yesterday. Blackboards have been prepared and will be painted with the new paint

12<sup>th</sup> February My room is overcrowded and I have to send Primers and Standard 1 and 2 into the other room to stay. Miss Kean seems quite capable of keeping them at timetable work and I think will maintain fair discipline.

15<sup>th</sup> February The seat in boy's closet broken up by larrikins on Friday night last. The larrikins threw the clothes of two dancers down the closet and it is likely the seat was broken by those getting their watches up. Complaint made to chairman of committee and an attempt will be made to make the culprits pay to cost of repair The same larrikins turned the taps of the school and residences tanks, so as to let the water waste

Their designs were however frustrated. These high jinks were carried out while the old school was being used for a ball. And the new school as a refreshment room.

22<sup>nd</sup> February Attendance 60 today. School used on Saturday for cricketer's dinner. Not swept out this morning

NB school swept in evening

23<sup>rd</sup> February Composition being taught according to new syllabus. Errors in speech given for correction. Some of these errors occurring in compositions sent in by scholars

24<sup>th</sup> February Mr A De May was present in school from 9 am to 11 am.. The following new exercises in Swedish drill were given.

Lowering and raising the body on the toes in 4 motions

The toes and hands in 6

The legs stretch backwards on 8

Lowering and raising the body in that position

Military drill forming 2 rights and left about

Turns right left and about

Standing at ease. From the right and opening to intervals. Closing

From the right and left beginning in single line

From the centre beginning in single line

Dismissal

4 fresh club exercises taken in

Club Chart Numbers

9. Left outward circles and small front circles

10. Right as above

11. Left as above and back

12. Right as above

25<sup>th</sup> February 2 Science lessons every week now

26<sup>th</sup> February Attendance on opening of school 3. Very wet. All children sent home at 11.

29<sup>th</sup> February Danish sports held in leap year. Children attending so no school. Committees Concert in new room on Saturday night.

Floor getting very dirty

3<sup>rd</sup> March Petrea Peterson re-entered school today

Heard James Chisholm using foul language yesterday. Kept in 7<sup>th</sup> March Examination of school in preparation for April 7<sup>th</sup>. Have asked Committee for paper and also to repair the boys office  
Inventory of School Property March 8<sup>th</sup> 1892 Included

1	Clock	10	Long desks
15	Gallery desks	3	Blackboards
3	Easels	6 lbs	Blackboard Paint
1	Old Table	2	Teacher Desks
2	Chairs	1	Teachers Stool
1	Small Platform	2	Presses
20	Pairs of clubs		Modelling Clay
139	Weaving Mats	24	Knitting Needles
3	Bundles of sticks	3	Boxes metal joints
1	Weaving Frame	1	Box knitting beads
1	Abacus	1	Handbell
2	Globes	1	Modulator
1	Box song books	2	Learn to Read
9	Reading Sheets	1	Window Stick
1	Pair Bellows	1	Dust Shovel
5	Very Old maps and charts	2	Brooms
2	Old Towels	8	Plaster Casts
1	Quantity School Crayons	9	History Readers
9	Geography Readers		Ink
210	School Library Books		

9<sup>th</sup> March Object lesson on colours. White, black, blue, red and yellow. Lips, tongue and inside of mouths red because skin is thin and blood shows through. Black men have black skins because pulpy substance on basement membrane is black. Other white because substance is black. Pointed out to class.

10<sup>th</sup> March Blotting paper and foolscap received from committee for examinations. Average roll 57

11<sup>th</sup> March Seat in Boys WC repaired by committee

14<sup>th</sup> March. Water all run out of school tank. Some careless child must have left taps running. Frequently shut off by me.

21<sup>st</sup> March Haggy's Chart returned from Hastwell school. It has been made very dirty by hands and fingers having been rested on it.

25<sup>th</sup> March. Boys throwing paper in Miss Kean's room. 2 strokes each. I pointed out to Miss Kean that she ought to be more careful and prevent anything of the kind.

1<sup>st</sup> April Miss Kean away during the afternoon- sent for

4<sup>th</sup> April Miss Kean absent in Morning by request of friend's death at her parents' house

Paper and pens received for examinations

Foresters dinner in school on Saturday night. Judging by the state of the floors today some at least were intoxicated

Order given by chairman for scrubbing in consequence

7<sup>th</sup> April Passes 95%. Mr Fleming (Inspector) recommends the making of Book Shelves. The School Committee to provide the timber and the Board's carpenter will build them

He instructed me to apply for the following

Apparatus for teaching physics

Course Kindergarten mats

Kindergarten beads for colour teaching

Stand for kindergarten work

Cupboards and shelves (work only)

Mr Fleming expressed himself as very pleased with Miss Kean, pupil teacher. She promises well.

Inspectors Report included

Presented 62, Excepted 2, failed 2 Primers 21. Passed 38

Percentage on passes Grammar 90% Grammar 85%, Geography 90% Elementary Science 85%

Additional Subject Repetition and recitation 18/20, Drill and exercise 18 Singing 12, Needlework 15

All the class work subjects were good

The new Pupil Teacher promises well.

11<sup>th</sup> April Mary Franklin, Emma Johansen, Thora Gunderson and Bertha Brenchley tied for the science prize and they decided to divide it between them

13<sup>th</sup> April A list of first three in each class were listed

14<sup>th</sup> April Inspectors holiday. School closed till next Wednesday

School treat to be on Friday

20<sup>th</sup> April School started today.

22<sup>nd</sup> April Was late (15 minutes) this morning owing to my wife's serious illness. Have a friend attend attending her now. 9 Prizes awarded to best standard passes.

School treat given. School concert.

25<sup>th</sup> April Boisterous Weather. Spelling bee for prizes left over from the treat

26<sup>th</sup> April Over seventy children took part in the annual picnic held at Mauriceville on Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the weather was all that could be desired, The picnic was held in the grounds adjoining the school, and the races were carried on in the paddock opposite the school, kindly lent by Mr Gundersen, At eleven o'clock the children marched from the school down to Mr Gundersen's paddock, where they spent a couple of hours in running, leaping, and skipping, under the supervision of Mr Chisholm, who kept them going till they all won a prize of some sort, A capital spread provided by Mr Jensen was afterwards partaken of in the schoolroom, the little ones being waited on by Miss Jensen. Mr Sanson (head teacher), Miss Keen (assistant) and Mr Chisholm took charge of the children again in the afternoon, and all kinds of games were indulged in until five o'clock when the happy little company sat down to tea. After tea the prizes in connection with the annual examination were presented by Mr Sanson, assisted by Mr Gundersen. The latter gentleman addressed the children briefly before the prizes were distributed. He said they were not in a position financially to give prizes all round as they had done in previous years, but those who were unsuccessful should strive to be amongst the prize takers next year, The prizes were then distributed as follows:-

Standard VI—Mary Franklin and Emma Johansen.

Standard V—William Jensen and Lora Gundersen

Standard IV —Bertha Brenchley, Annie Jensen, James Chisholm, and James Andersen.

Standard 111 —Alice Petersen, George Jaggerhorn, Louisa Pearson, and Martin Andersen.

Standard II—Fred Hansen, Bariline Larson, Jens Nelson and Mary Sigversen.

Standard I Alfred Forsberg, Edie Pearson, and Charles Johansen, Three cheers were then given for Mr Sanson and Miss Keen, who during the day had been untiring in their efforts to make the children as happy as possible, Cheers were also given for the Committee, after which the children, led by Miss Keen, sang a few of their favourite songs very nicely.

A couple of hours dancing was then indulged in, and it was very pretty and interesting to see the children dancing some of the old Scandinavian dances. A little before nine o'clock the juniors made way for the grown up people who kept the dancing up till the small hours. Music was provided by Messrs Forsberg, B, Franklin and others, Special attention was given to visitors who had a table set apart for them, and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.  
PP

16<sup>th</sup> April Stand for teacher's weaving frame., 1 box small beads, 2 dozen coarse mats and a teachers weaving frame received.

Some wood for fires received yesterday

27<sup>th</sup> April Very wet and cold. 9 in morning, afternoon 8

28<sup>th</sup> April Mr Gunderson (Chairman) W Chisholm, N Jansen, P Larsen, F Forsberg, J Hansen and H Nelsen new committee

4<sup>th</sup> May Mary Franklin removed to go to Hartwell's School Parents removed to that district

9<sup>th</sup> May Knitting began on Friday

New song. "See the sun is peeping"

11<sup>th</sup> May. New regulations and rules of the Board to hand

Firm downstroke in writing and clean light drawing and being made wide. Mr Flemings suggestions at late examination.

13<sup>th</sup> May Addition, Subtraction and multiplication of Vulgar Fractions taught in Standard 5. Standard 6 Add, subtract, multiplication of decimals learnt converting from standard into vulgar and decimals

16<sup>th</sup> May I had reason to punish several boys for playing while I was attending Miss Kean in class work in other room. 2 Strokes Box addressed to chairman at station. It probably contains the tin models ordered by Mr Riley to be sent to the school

18<sup>th</sup> May Mr Riley attended the school this morning. He took the junior classes in drawing, showing the pupil teacher how to treat the subject.

He examined the work in the Upper division and said it was good. I mentioned the models and he recommended practising a good many in first grade drawing

19<sup>th</sup> May 8 Tin models to hand

25<sup>th</sup> May. Trees almost blown out of ground by late boisterous weather

2<sup>nd</sup> June I had to cane William Larsen for using most obscene language to Bertha Brenchley on way home. 6 cuts with the cane.

2<sup>nd</sup> June Blackboard compasses supplied by Wellington Education Board.

Of 10<sup>th</sup> June Weather very boisterous. Many children wet with the consent of the chairman of the committee sent home. Am afraid the of the consequences of their sitting in wet clothes

15<sup>th</sup> June Snowing freely today. Attendance 31

20<sup>th</sup> June Emma Johansen re entered today for the purpose of competing for one of the scholarships offered by the Board.

Circular received from Board re holidays to allow teachers to attend conversations in Wellington on 1<sup>st</sup> July

No 49 "Job and Viper" a library book was destroyed while in Annie Jensen's possession. She voluntarily replaced it by giving one of her own prize books of greater value than the one destroyed. New No 49 Entitled Aunt Lucia's Locket

28<sup>th</sup> June Several of the older scholars away to attend confirmation classes held by the Lutheran Ministry.

18<sup>th</sup> July. I have been appointed to the position of Headmaster at Tawa Flat. I leave on Wednesday week

Rev Henry Tuckey will take temporary charge (*Anglican Minister in Wellington 1897*)

By direction of the School Committee Miss Kean will conduct the school with assistance of Emma Johansen Standard 7 until Mr Tuckey's arrival

List of selected songs for scholars on wall of room

Pickwick Papers and Oliver Twist presented to school library library by Mrs Nelson, late teacher here this makes 212 books in library

Notification of one chair for pupil teacher having been sent (not to hand yet)

*Mr Herbert Sanson taught at Tawa Flat for nine years then went to Muritai School as head Teacher for 13 more years. There were Sanson's still at Eastbourne when I was going to school there.*

1941/17131 Sanson Herbert 79Y

19<sup>th</sup> July Report on Miss Kean as teacher submitted to the board in accordance with the regulations. It was entirely of a favourable character.

She can teach singing

21<sup>st</sup> July. All boys from 2 to 6 standards went out to play in rain after being told to remain in shelter. One stroke each

22<sup>nd</sup> July Resignation sent to School Committee today.

26<sup>th</sup> July I leave tomorrow and in consequence today is my last school day in the district. Library books all called in with the exception of one in George Jagharorn's Charge and 2 in Miss Kean's

Out office's free from offence from any kind.

22<sup>nd</sup> August. Visit of Mr Fleming Inspector. Notes included

Miss Kean in charge with 30 children out of 52

Miss Keen has charge since Mr Sanson Left

It is too much to expect a pupil teacher of the first year to take charge of a school as large as this

Her lessons have been interrupted but allowance will be made for time lost

She can resume her lessons under Mr McKenzie who takes charge shortly.

Mr Sanson has taken great care of the school property while in charge of the school.

In bad weather water settles in a hole at the corner of the school.

That part of the porch where the lavatories are is rather damp.

Miss Kean has done very well under the circumstances

29<sup>th</sup> August Took charge of the Mauriceville School at 9 o'clock this morning. J M McKenzie

15<sup>th</sup> September The attendance is now improving with the weather- 56 present today

26<sup>th</sup> September. Mr De May visited and instructed the children's in drill from 2 to 3 O'clock

18<sup>th</sup> October I inspected the school today and the school was in very good order. Gunder Gundersen.

10<sup>th</sup> November A new press made for the library and placed in the school

28<sup>th</sup> November Dissolving views exhibited in the school last night by a Mr De Loree. Most of the children with their parents and friends attended.

2<sup>nd</sup> December Miss Kean left at noon to catch the 2 ½ pm train for Masterton so as to be in time for the drawing examination tomorrow morning

9<sup>th</sup> December Some of the children are now making hay. A few ill with influenza

12<sup>th</sup> December. The school gate was broken yesterday by a horse which was tied to it.- The matter reported to the chairman of the School Committee – who had the gate mended immediately

14<sup>th</sup> December. The attendance this week is low; and others ill with influenza

## 1893

24<sup>th</sup> January Only 29 present. School reopened

27<sup>th</sup> January The average roll 35. Some of the children are cutting grass seed

13<sup>th</sup> January The school closed today by order of the chairman of the School Committee on account of local sports

15<sup>th</sup> February A very stormy wet day. Only 13 present in the morning. 16 in the afternoon

24<sup>th</sup> February Roll 59

2<sup>nd</sup> March Miss Kean was half an hour late this morning. She entered the school at half past nine

16<sup>th</sup> March Received a supply of foolscap, envelopes and blotting paper from Mr Gunderson

27<sup>th</sup> March Miss Kean a little (Five minutes) late this morning

1<sup>st</sup> April Posted salary advice and salary to Miss Helen Kean in care of her father Masterton

28<sup>th</sup> March. Inspectors report.

The work deteriorated somewhat when Mr Sanson left, But Mr McKenzie who now is in charge has done satisfactory work and has brought the school up to its former state of efficiency.

Spelling was good

The pupil teacher Miss Kean has been removed to Masterton and Miss Franklin has been appointed in her place.

5<sup>th</sup> April Another school year begins today. Miss Mary Franklin entered on her duties as Pupil Teacher

1876/13105 Franklin Mary Ann Julia Robert -

1908/835 Franklin Julia 65Y

17<sup>th</sup> April Received from the Board of Education, a blowpipe. Mercury, U Tube, test tubes, spirit lamp, glass tubing, Methyl

spirits, bicarbonate of potash, sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid.

19<sup>th</sup> April Miss Franklin absent today. At the examination in Hastwell School- She has permission of the chairman of the committee

20<sup>th</sup> April Average roll 50

4<sup>th</sup> April Examined standards 1 and 2 in what Miss Franklin has taught them- They answered fairly and may be expected to do better next month

5<sup>th</sup> May. The weather though changeable is mild and most of the little ones can attend school

10<sup>th</sup> May A groundless rumour of typhus Fever being in the settlement has kept some of the children from school this week.

16<sup>th</sup> May Jennie Pearson ill in school (Convulsions) and had to be taken home in a trap- it was reported that one of the boys struck her with a stone on the head., but the symptoms suggested a fit from sore teeth

18<sup>th</sup> May. A horse kicked Arthur Hansen on the face yesterday evening after school hours- The boy is very ill- much hurt- and unable to attend school

22<sup>nd</sup> May The weather is boisterous and the attendance is rather small. Some of the children are at a service in the Lutheran Church

25<sup>th</sup> May A great rain storm all day and only 15 children present

26<sup>th</sup> May. Average attendance only 28. The weather and a groundless rumour that some of the children had typhoid fever were the cause

26<sup>th</sup> May. One of the pupils Arthur Hansen died this morning- A horse kicked him and broke his skull on the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst. The boy was unconscious since and died in convulsions this morning

1<sup>st</sup> June The children all in procession attended Arthur Hansen's funeral at 4 pm. Some of the girls placed floral wreaths on the coffin.

1893/2390 Hansen Hans Arthur 7Y

Mr McDougall the board's carpenter called to see about some repairs to the teacher's residence.

2<sup>nd</sup> June Examined Standard's one and two. in what Miss Franklin taught them during the Month of May. In some subjects the children have not made progress, Some of the Standard 2's are rather weak

For this Miss Franklin is not altogether responsible as the children have been very irregular in attendance during the past month. Miss Franklin treats the children kindly and I have instructed her to combine firmness with kindness

7<sup>th</sup> June. Miss Franklin requests to be excused from lessons this evening as she has the toothache

12<sup>th</sup> June Roll 64

21<sup>st</sup> June The weather this week is cold and boisterous but the attendance is fair- we have a good fire

23<sup>rd</sup> June. Miss Franklin now teaches knitting as well as sewing.

3<sup>rd</sup> August. Miss Franklin not in school today. I think the road was closed with flooding

7<sup>th</sup> August Miss Franklin not able to study this evening! She is ill with a cold

14<sup>th</sup> Miss Franklin in school today. The weather is slightly improved but the attendance is still low- only 38 present in the morning

18<sup>th</sup> August Miss Franklin requested to be excused from lessons this evening as her mother is very ill

20<sup>th</sup> September Had to punish Edward Hansen and Chas Johansen for causing Jas Anderson to fall off a horse. Four strokes of the cane to Edward Hansen and three to Chas Johansen.

30<sup>th</sup> August. Reported favourably on Miss Franklin who has now been six months on probation

6<sup>th</sup> November 70 on the roll.

16<sup>th</sup> November I visited the school today and felt highly pleased with good order and behaviour of the children The teacher Mr McKenzie seems to be the right man in charge of the school. W McCardle (School Committee)

29<sup>th</sup> November. No school yesterday. The schoolroom was required for purposes connected with the general election.- The children in procession today attended E Pearson's funeral

14<sup>th</sup> December The school closed today for summer holidays. Average low. Many of the children are kept at home to cut grass and pick gooseberries

## 1894

29<sup>th</sup> January I informed the Wellington Education Board Secretary that 93 books had been added to the school library

8<sup>th</sup> February Miss Franklin had to leave at 9 ¼ a.m. through illness, shortly after entering school

12<sup>th</sup> February No school today on account of the Danish Sports- fine weather but rather breezy.

13<sup>th</sup> February The attendance today is small- only 47- after the Danish Sports. Although the weather is fine. Some children take two holidays

5<sup>th</sup> February Fine weather no sign of rain and the school tank is empty

13<sup>th</sup> March Mr De May instructed the pupils in drill from 9 ½ till Noon

20<sup>th</sup> March There will be no school tomorrow. As the school will be required in connection with the licensing elections

28<sup>th</sup> March School reopened after Easter Holidays 55 present. Great bush fires all over the country and some houses destroyed in Mauriceville- The Teacher's house was in great danger

3<sup>rd</sup> May. This being Ascension Thursday and service in the Lutheran Church the attendance is low

4<sup>th</sup> May 2 ½ P M Raining so heavy that the children cannot drill outside. They will do arithmetic till 3 O'clock

11<sup>th</sup> May Miss Franklin not in school today- She sent a note to say that she had a holiday from the chairman of the School Committee

4<sup>th</sup> May Report on Inspector's Examination

The work of the pupil teacher was fair for a beginner, but she will have to be stricter in her discipline.

In the upper room the class subjects were good, science especially and spelling and arithmetic were of a satisfactory character.

Byron's Prisoner of Chillon was well learnt by Standard's 6 and 7  
Three children passed Standard 7

14<sup>th</sup> May This being Whit-Monday and service in the Lutheran Church the attendance is only 31-32

Sent by request of Mr Fleming a set of wire models to Mauriceville East School-

16<sup>th</sup> May Visited the school today. Found everything in really good order and good discipline being exercised. Noticed that there were about twenty children absent from school

Visiting Member School Committee

18<sup>th</sup> May. Six children have gone to live in Carterton.

21<sup>st</sup> May. A very sharp shock of earthquake was felt this morning at 9.40. It lasted for several seconds during which the school was violently shaken.

5<sup>th</sup> June Miss Franklin excused from study this evening as she has a headache and wishes to get home out of the rain before nightfall

6<sup>th</sup> June Miss Franklin requests to be excused from study this evening as (she says) she is "not well"

18<sup>th</sup> June. Miss Franklin not in school today. She came to the door at 9 ½ a.m. to say that as she was wet the chairman of the School Committee had given her permission to go home again.

18<sup>th</sup> June. Blotting Paper (Ten Sheets) received from the chairman of the School Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst.

A great storm with south winds raging since Saturday nights

19<sup>th</sup> June. The storm still continues- cold south wind and heavy rain- only 29 present in the morning

21<sup>st</sup> June. Miss Franklin requests to be excused study this evening as, she says her "father is very ill" and she is "wanted at home"

22<sup>nd</sup> June received two packets of Hawkin's ink powder from the chairman of the School Committee

25<sup>th</sup> June. Miss Franklin requests to be excused from study this evening as her father is still “very ill”

26<sup>th</sup> June The sweeping brushes, which are kept in a rack for the purpose in the porch were found on fire today at 10.45 a.m.. There was nothing wrong nor any sign of fire when the children were coming in from “little play” at 10.40 a.m. About a square foot of the wall behind the school door was scorched. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained.

19<sup>th</sup> July. Miss Franklin not in school today- she says it was too wet.

9<sup>th</sup> August. Another great rain storm Only 27 present. Miss Franklin requests to be excused from lessons this evening on account of a headache from a wetting.

20<sup>th</sup> August. Miss Franklin returned 15 minutes late (delayed at the post office) after small play

22<sup>nd</sup> August Miss Franklin not in school today- it is reported that she had influenza

27<sup>th</sup> August Miss Franklin in school today, but she requests to be excused from lessons this coming evening as she is “not well enough to study yet”

3<sup>rd</sup> September. Miss Franklin not in school till 1 p m She says she could not sooner come with the snow.

5<sup>th</sup> September Drawing Examination conducted by the chairman 5 of the scholars were examined in Freehand and Practical Geometry

13<sup>th</sup> September. Mr De May visited today and instructed the children in drill from 1 p m to 3 pm

14<sup>th</sup> September Inspectors report of visit on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1894

Included . T R Fleming

Standard 7 – 2 Mr Mckenzie

Standard 1 to Primers Miss Franklin

Present 38 Roll number 55

The methods of instruction in the senior room are good. The work of the Pupil Teacher is fair only. It should show more improvement

No short pencils should ever be used by any of the children, more especially the younger ones

The exercise books of Standard 2 were of an inferior character

There is a leak in the upper classroom at the ventilator and at the belfry. The open drain at the back of the schoolhouse requires to be made deeper to carry off the water from the lavatories more effectively The pits under the offices will probably require some attention before the summer.

A few trees were planted on arbor day

The library now contains 307 volume

18<sup>th</sup> September Miss Franklin absent today. She has leave of absence from the Committee- to go and see her father on business.

20<sup>th</sup> September. Great rain and a very small attendance. Only 24 present. The floor of the principal room is flooded through a leak in the ventilator, so is the hall under the belfry

21<sup>st</sup> September. The Head Teacher got leave of absence to catch the 2 ½ pm train going to Wellington and left the school at 1.45 PM- Left the school in charge of Miss Franklin

25<sup>th</sup> September. Received a packet of large and a packet of small envelopes and a packet of notepaper from the Chairman of School Committee

1<sup>st</sup> October. Miss Franklin's Leave of absence for three months commences today.

Miss Franklin has arranged to get her lessons as usual in the evenings

Received salary for the month of September and posted salary voucher.

4<sup>th</sup> October Miss Franklin requests to be excused from her lessons this morning as her Mother is ill- The weather is still very wet and cold with south wind

5<sup>th</sup> October Received four and a half dozen nibs from the chairman.

11<sup>th</sup> October. A note received from the Secretary of School Committee saying that "The Secretary of the board has advised (me) that Jane Wiley of Hastwell will be appointed to fill Miss Franklin's place during her Leave of absence"

15<sup>th</sup> October. Agnes Jane Wiley (14 years of age) from Hastwell commenced to teach as substitute for Miss Franklin during the next three months

16<sup>th</sup> October. All the standards now in the Principal Room. Agnes Jane Wiley is rather young and inexperienced to have charge of any but the infants

17<sup>th</sup> October. Received a memo stating that "the board has decided that a record book shall be prepared to show the service and position of every teacher and Pupil Teacher in its employ"

18<sup>th</sup> October Forgot to say that a wooden grating for the children's feet was left at the school door on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> September. And the windows were repaired (two panes of glass)

19<sup>th</sup> October Miss Franklin comes regularly in the evening for her lessons. And also attends from 2 pm to 3 pm every Friday to teach sewing

Drill in school today as it was raining at 1pm

19<sup>th</sup> October. Two fire backs were left in the school porch shortly before 3 O'clock- Put them in their respective fireplaces.

23<sup>rd</sup> October Results of Drawing Exams just received

Name	Geometry	Freehand
Annie Anderson	Good	
Amy Forsberg	Good	
William Maller	Good	Ordinary
John Nelson	Ordinary	Ordinary
Peter Peterson	Ordinary	Ordinary

Punished some boys, among them Jas Chisholm Standard 6, Peter Nelson Standard 3, and Peter Nelson Standard 2 for being seen in the girls' playground during the dinner hour.

25<sup>th</sup> October Small attendance owing to the cattle show in Masterton Show

30<sup>th</sup> October. The attendance today (33) is even smaller than yesterday 13 are infants in charge of Agnes Jane Wiley who is rather young and childish to control children. Nice girl is attentive to her business however and if two or three years older might be useful. But the absence of a suitable pupil teacher is a disadvantage to the school. Neither the absence of a pupil teacher or Agnes Jane Wiley inexperience is the cause of the small attendance.

1<sup>st</sup> November Fred Hansen came to say that he is not likely to return to school again. He is required at home.

2<sup>nd</sup> November The attendance today is only 34/52 although the weather is fine and warm.

2<sup>nd</sup> November. It was rather hot for the children to drill outside today

6<sup>th</sup> November Bernard Nelson was thrown from a horse last night and hurt about the head. He is not able to come to school.

15<sup>th</sup> November Examined the Primer Classes which have been taught by Miss A Wiley. Some of the children answered fairly but not so well as inspected. Miss Wiley has been attentive to her business and it is owing to inexperience's on her part that the children did not answer better

19<sup>th</sup> November Agnes Jane Wiley will assist in teaching Standard 2 arithmetic for a month from this date.

27<sup>th</sup> November Only 21 present in the morning and 28 in the afternoon. It was stormy last night but the weather is not such as to prevent children from attending school

## 1895

28<sup>th</sup> January. Only 20 present

Miss Franklin resumed duty this morning after three months leave of absence

18<sup>th</sup> February A very hot day temperature 76 degrees F at 10 ½ a m and 81 (27 C) F at 1 ¼ pm

Miss Franklin got her first lesson in this year's course for instruction for Pupil Teachers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Chas Johansen troubled with a headache all day in school He is often ill in school

At the railway station it was 86 degrees in the shade. At 1 pm it was 125 (50 degrees Celsius!!!) degrees outside.

1<sup>st</sup> March A magic lantern entertainment in the school last night (by a Mr Knott) Few of the children attended

15<sup>th</sup> March. Holiday School excursion to Wellington

18<sup>th</sup> April The weather is improving but some of the roads in the neighbourhood are blocked with slips.

Miss Franklin in school today. She came over the hills

25<sup>th</sup> April it was decided that Messrs. C. R. Joplin (Tenui) and McKenzie (Mauriceville) should exchange positions; PP

13<sup>th</sup> May. Edward Hansen did not return to school today after small play

17<sup>th</sup> May Inspectors Report from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April included

Standard		Presented	Present	Passed
6	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1
4	6	6	6	4
3	7	7	7	5
2	5	5	5	5
1	4	4	4	4
Primers	16	16		
		40	24	20

Drill and Exercises owing to an accident Mr McKenzie has not taken drill. Clubs (Girls) fair

Needlework. Plain sewing very moderate

Mr McKenzie's work in school is of a satisfactory character but the attendance has decreased very much. It is advisable in the

interests of the school that the recommendation made by the recent committee of inquiry should be given effect as soon as possible.

Out offices sprinkled with lime and free from offense of any kind.

20<sup>th</sup> May Commenced duties today Mr C R Joplin

22<sup>nd</sup> May Mr Forsberg (*Chairman School Committee*) inspected residence and informed me that a man would make two drains near the house

5<sup>th</sup> June. Science lesson Chemical Affinity

18<sup>th</sup> June Physical Geography Day and Night

20<sup>th</sup> June Physical Geography Cause of longest and shortest days

28<sup>th</sup> June. Number on roll 60 an increase of 20

29<sup>th</sup> July Historical Lesson "Battle of Bannockburn"

7<sup>th</sup> August Labour Day. Mr Forsberg, James Chisholm, Barney Larsen, Alfred Forsberg and self planted several trees

16<sup>th</sup> August Examined Standard's 3-6 I have experienced great difficulty in teaching the children English and composition

2<sup>nd</sup> September it was blowing a hurricane raining in torrents throughout the day. The Education Boards carpenter inspected the residence, informed me that he was instructed to carry out the necessary repairs

5<sup>th</sup> September Miss Franklin was absent yesterday owing to sickness

9<sup>th</sup> September. Mr MacDougall carpenter commenced the repairs today. A load of timber arrived

20<sup>th</sup> September. Added 27 new volumes to the library

3<sup>rd</sup> October Average for quarter 31 boys 11 girls

1<sup>st</sup> November. Very few children present today. Carterton show

6<sup>th</sup> November. Miss Franklin came to school at 10.30 this morning. Raining heavily before 8 a.m.

8<sup>th</sup> November. Many children absent owing to Bazaar in aid of the church

11<sup>th</sup> November The school was closed today in honour of the Prince of Wales birthday

12<sup>th</sup> November Emma Joplin went home at 10 a m as she became suddenly ill

4<sup>th</sup> December Edward Hansen has played The Truant since Monday Afternoon, Today Thursday

5<sup>th</sup> December Miss Hansen brought her brother Edward to school this morning. I gave him two cuts on each hand

12<sup>th</sup> December. Edward Hansen went to bathe during the luncheon hours, when I saw him during drill, he complained of sickness and cold. His eyes and face were much swollen. I sent him to the house, had him put to bed and kept warm and then sent him home.

16<sup>th</sup> December Gave Fred Nelson a stroke on each hand for pushing Charles Johansen into the river on their way to school this morning

## 1896

18<sup>th</sup> January Mr Petersen fitted a small light (*Window often without glass*) in the porch to enable me to see into Miss Franklin's room from mine. He also finished the new protective work round the verandah of the residence

27<sup>th</sup> January Resumed duty. Miss Franklin did not come for her morning lesson as her mother is ill

3<sup>rd</sup> February I allowed Miss Franklin to leave earlier this afternoon to enable her to attend a school picnic about five miles from Hastwell

18<sup>th</sup> February The school was closed yesterday on account of Tilting and Jumping tournaments

19<sup>th</sup> February Barney Larsen hurt his foot whilst jumping in the playground. I bandaged it for him. He did not attend school this afternoon

6<sup>th</sup> February Emma Joplin (*Alice Emmal*) has left the school for some months owing to sickness

13<sup>th</sup> February A shake of earthquake took place at 9.15

26<sup>th</sup> March Science a mixture of gases, Nitrogen and Oxygen. Experiments

27<sup>th</sup> March Chlorine Experiment

10<sup>th</sup> April Science Lesson Carbonic Acid Gas with experiments

13<sup>th</sup> Mr Forsberg chairman of School Committee visited the school this morning and stayed some time,

28<sup>th</sup> April School Committee re-elected C Forsberg, W Chisholm, E Petersen, Lars Neilsen, H Neilsen, M Jensen and R P Hansen  
Inspectors Report. Most children passed Edward Hansen (Truant) failed.

4<sup>th</sup> May .School closed Annual Picnic

8<sup>th</sup> May Received 4 dozen rulers, 4 dozen pencils, 6 pairs of scissors, bottles of gum for Kindergarten work in Miss Franklin's room

13<sup>th</sup> May Received some clay from Wellington Education Board

15<sup>th</sup> May Taught New Song "The Violet"

18<sup>th</sup> May received 2 stumps (*Presumably for cricket*)

26<sup>th</sup> May. Closed for Queens's birthday yesterday. Very few children present owing to service being held in the Lutheran Church.

28<sup>th</sup> May Geography Opening lesson, Mountains. Standard 4  
Opening of Africa and Australia Standard 3  
Opening of South Island of NZ

8<sup>th</sup> June The tank attached to the residence is insufficient for a family of 9. It has been empty during the last week.

Only 4 children registered though a Charles later got married

1885/6284	Joplin	Alice Emma	Alice Maria	Charles Reesby	-
1886/10776	Joplin	Mildred Violet	Alice Maria	Charles Reesby	-
1894/5047	Joplin	Frank	Maria	Charles R	-
1895/11246	Joplin	Fanny	Maria Gooud	Charles Reesby	-

1921/5631 Mary Victoria Feist

1921/3899 Catherine Jane Hanning

1883/1909 Alice Maria Haselden Joplin

1890 Charles Stamford Born

1891 Arthur Briggs born

1887 Alice Died in UK

1889 Married Maria Goode in England

No Husband on passenger List Possibly worked his way back

10<sup>th</sup> September 1923

OLD STAMFORDIANS.

FISHER.—In loving memory of my late sister, Mary Ann, aged 83 years, who, with her husband, the late Edward J. Fisher, also 83 years, was suffocated in their bed through the bursting of a gas main on the 11th July, 1927, during the heavy floods at Oldbury, Birmingham, England. Inserted by her brother, Charles R Joplin Wadestown PP

### 20<sup>th</sup> May 1935 OBITUARY

MR C R Joplin

The recent death of Mr. Charles Reesby Joplin for over 20 years the headmaster of the Wadestown School, has removed another link with the early history, of Wellington. The late Mr. Joplin who was in his 79th year, was born in; Stamford, Lincolnshire. He left his home at the age of eighteen,-- determined to make his way to: the colonies. Chance led him to the sailing, ship Conflict. An account of the voyage of famous immigrant ship was given in "The Post" in 1932, and a complete list of the passengers was in Mr. Joplin's possession, As a sailor. before the mast he came, to Wellington. Leaving the ship,; he made his way inland, and, strangely enough to the then densely wooded. Ohariu Valley, where with one of the Bryant family he was engaged in felling bush. From there he made His way to the Rimutaka Hills where he spent. some months in clearing and burning' earning as much as £20 per week for the railway then being constructed. At the end of this work he returned; to Wellington, where he settled down, studying for a teacher. He returned to his home town twice during the next few years,- eventually becoming a teacher in Wellington. He taught at Karori, Petone (where as headmaster he opened the first school), and Horokiwi. He was appointed headmaster of the

Tinui School, then of the Mauriceville West School, at that time a school of over 50 pupils, nearly all Scandinavians; and. in. 1901 he returned to Wellington to become, headmaster of the Wadestown School. The late Mr Joplin was always closely associated with all the work of the districts in which he lived, and. was interested in every possible, outside activity of his pupils and ex-pupils; cricket, football, and hockey, were the chief games of scholars in those days. During the Great War he corresponded with and sent papers and parcels to every one of his pupils from the Mauriceville West, and Wadestown, Schools who had gone to the front a tremendous undertaking. He is survived .by three sons, and two daughters, his wife having predeceased him in 1931

10<sup>th</sup> June Inspectors report included

- a) 57 On books
- b) Sewing afternoon. All pupils in one room, but I think the girls would have worked better in a room by themselves, when they could have more space.
- c) Outside painting needed.
- d) Great improvement doing away with pit in the WC
- e) I was much pleased with the kindergarten work going on and with Mr Joplin's model relief maps which he intends to enlarge on.
- f) Singing is a good feature of the work

12<sup>th</sup> June received a magic lantern from Mr Forsberg for the use of the school. (*Early slide projector*)

15<sup>th</sup> June Edward Hansen asked permission to stay at home this afternoon to assist his mother

16<sup>th</sup> June. Amelia Hansen sister of Edward Hansen informed me that her brother was not wanted at home yesterday afternoon and that he was playing truant

17<sup>th</sup> June Annie Hansen, the sister of Edward Hansen brought the truant to school this morning. I punished him upon the "sit upon" for telling me a lie on Monday and also for playing truant

19<sup>th</sup> June. New song "Robin Redbreast"

23<sup>rd</sup> July Miss Franklin absent. Very wet

27<sup>th</sup> July Edward Hansen is absent playing truant again

28<sup>th</sup> July. Punished Edward Hansen for playing truant. Two cuts on each hand

31<sup>st</sup> July Very wet. Only 7 present. Miss Franklin is absent

4<sup>th</sup> August Received Box containing 48 slides for magic lantern. Four of the slides completely broken (The season, Views of Mars, Views of Mars 2 and Victoria Embankment) Have notified the Board

6<sup>th</sup> August School closed for Arbor Day. Several Boys and I planted some trees along Mr Halberg's fence at the bottom of the playground

10<sup>th</sup> August The school was closed in the afternoon as the School Committee required the desks for seats to be used in the old school to seat the people who attend the entertainment to be held this evening for the benefit of the school funds.

11<sup>th</sup> August The children had cake and tea this afternoon kindly provided by some of the settlers

19<sup>th</sup> August The entertainment realised £3-5-0 which is to be devoted to the magic lantern fund

18<sup>th</sup> August Received from Whitcombe and Tombs the coloured paper for paper modelling for kindergarten work in Miss Franklin's Room

19<sup>th</sup> August Examined Miss Franklin's children today. The children did their work very well considering the short time since the school examination. I pointed out several weaknesses which I think will be overcome by patience on Miss Franklin's part

21<sup>st</sup> August I wrote to Mr Forsberg chairman of the School Committee directing his attention to the irregular attendance of the following children from 3<sup>rd</sup> July to present dates

Times open 53

	Age	Standard	Time Present
Peter Nelson	10.9	4	25
Bernard Nelson	11.5	4	31
Edward Nelson	7.5	0	11
Arthur Nelson	9.0	2	33

31<sup>st</sup> August Made an error in forwarding the monthly return, in fact, I anticipated the date. I wired to the Secretary of the Education Board requesting him to cancel the return

Received 6 test tubes and 2 flasks from the education board.

1<sup>st</sup> September Raining heavily, Mr Franklin called and informed me that Miss Franklin is unable to come to school today as she is suffering from a cold

7<sup>th</sup> September On Saturday evening ably assisted by my wife I gave another magic lantern entertainment using the Astronomical and London Slides, kindly lent by the Wellington Education Board The schoolroom was crowded in fact, overcrowded, and the audience took great interest in the proceedings, which included a

concert and recitations by the children. It is palpable that the magic lantern is thoroughly appreciated by old and young. It is hoped that steps will be taken to put the old schoolroom in repair, so that it can be used for holding entertainment on behalf of the school funds instead of using the new school

28<sup>th</sup> September I wrote to Mr Forsberg directing his attention to the careless manner in which the man who emptied the W C's threw the excrement on the surface of ground instead of burying it  
1<sup>st</sup> October. The School Committee have ordered 14 class books on English Grammar and Composition.

5<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Nelson began to grub the Furze (*Gorse*) in the school grounds.

13<sup>th</sup> October A most regrettable incident occurred in school this afternoon. One of the boys broke wind and caused a most disagreeable stench. I saw Peter Larsen turn to Fred Anderson and laugh. He in turn laughed at his brother Walter. I at once thought one of those boys had made the stench and taxed them with it. The two Andersons charged Peter Larsen as being the cause. As all three laughed I punished them with a stroke on each hand and administered one or two strokes across Larsen's shoulders. In the meantime the girls had been sent into Miss Franklin's room whilst I investigated the matter and they were away when I inflicted the punishment. The stench was abominable and nearly made me sick, in fact I was not fit for much work afterwards. The time was about 2 p m.

I tested the children's geography by the use of my geographical models and found they answered splendidly

Several ladies inspected the models during the afternoon and were greatly interested in them

14<sup>th</sup> October Mr Larsen father of the boy-whom I punished yesterday called last night and swore at me pretty roundly, in the presence of my wife for beating his son, who had denied the charge of "breaking wind" He informed me that his son had told his mother that I punished him for what he had not done. I informed Mr Larsen that if I had punished Peter and he had not done the dirty action I was very sorry, but at the same time so many boys had told me Peter did it. The boy next to him was very positive about the matter. My wife was ill throughout the night, having been much upset by Mr Larsen's attack on me.

The following exhibits were forwarded to the Wellington Education Board for the Wellington Exhibition

1 Blue Dress	Amy Forsberg	Standard 7
1 Pink Dress	Emily Piersen	Standard 6
1 pair sock, homespun, knitted in school	Johanna Petersen	
Darning	Emma Hansen	Standard 4
Paper Modelling (Specimens)	Standard 2,1 Primers	
19 Plans of Paper Modelling	Ditto	
26 Mats (specimens)	Ditto	
Sundry Coloured Figures	Ditto	

16<sup>th</sup> October I taught Miss Franklin's classes today and she taught mine

19<sup>th</sup> October I forwarded my geographical models to the Wellington Education Board Office today. I picked out some timber at Mr Gundersen's for benches etc for the Manual Instruction Classes which begin tomorrow

20<sup>th</sup> October. Opened the old school as workshop for the boys receiving Manual Instruction

21<sup>st</sup> October. Mr Forsberg brought the following tools for the use of the boy's receiving "manual Instruction"

8	Chisels
1	Tenon saw
1	Draw Knife
2	Mallets
2	Screwdrivers
1	Spoke Shave
2	Set Squares
1	Pair of compasses
1	Two foot rule
1	Claw Hammer
1	Level Square
1 dozen	Lead Pencils
4	Bits
1	Oil Stone
1	Punch
1	Rimer
2	German Bits
1	Half Rip Saw
1	Jack Plane

1	Smoothing Plane
3	Gauges
1	Screwdriver Bits

2<sup>nd</sup> November. The boys played a cricket match with Hastwell School on Saturday last and defeated them by 6 wickets and 73 runs. Our lads made 98 for 4 and the visitors got 25.

14<sup>th</sup> December Drought at this time of the year in Mauriceville is concerned is unprecedented. Probably the chief cause is settlers felling their bush The tank at the residence has been empty a fortnight. If this district becomes subject to such droughts another tank will be needed for the school as well as the house,

15<sup>th</sup> December. I feel very tired today as I was up nearly all night at Aulin's fire. Mr Aulin's store was completely burnt down. The fire began about 0.30. Several children absent owing to hay making. Rain is badly needed

17<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Joplin assisted to teach from the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst

## 1897

**Mauriceville West Public School** is situated about two-and-a-half miles from Mauriceville Railway Station. It was established in 1873. The building will accommodate 150 children. There are sixty children on the roll, and the average attendance is forty-five. The grounds around the school are four acres in extent. The school has a good library of 350 volumes, and has the advantage of a magic lantern and slides for teaching geography and history. The old school at the rear of the present building is to be used for technical instruction. The strong feature of the school is the excellence of its singing. The headmaster Mr. Charles R. Joplin, is assisted by Miss Franklin.

NZETC. Cyclopedia of NZ Wellington Provincial 1897

25<sup>th</sup> January Resumed school today. Messers Forsberg and Nelson erected the tank for the school residence

1<sup>st</sup> February Welcome rain

5<sup>th</sup> February Mrs Joplin has assisted me to teach since 25<sup>th</sup> inst

8<sup>th</sup> February Miss Woodward commenced her duties as Pupil Teacher this morning. This is her first appointment

19<sup>th</sup> February Peter Nelson cut his hand today in the shop

26<sup>th</sup> February Taught the children a new song today "The Gay Young Rider"

2<sup>nd</sup> March Roll 64 Average attendance, 46

The school was closed yesterday for the annual tilting tournament

10<sup>th</sup> March Owing to the boys in the Manual Instruction Class making such progress in their work and to necessitate more tools, I have divided them into 2 classes, One working on Monday Wednesday and the other Tuesday and Thursday.

17<sup>th</sup> March A load of timber was delivered by Mr Petersen for the new shelter sheds

18<sup>th</sup> March. Mr E Petersen visited the school today (School Committee Member). The boys stacked the timber

19<sup>th</sup> March 35 present out of 35 children on the roll.

Stanley Mackenzie hit the cricket ball into Mr Halberg's paddock and the latter would not let Peter Nelson go for it. Mr Halberg ran towards the boy in a very excitable way and forbade him entrance to his paddocks I civilly asked him to let the boy get the ball, but met with a round abuse for my pains. A lack of knowledge of the English Language was very apparent as his words were more

forcible than polite. I am getting used to it now however. He ultimately let Alfred Forsberg get the ball.

26<sup>th</sup> March The school was closed as it was used as a polling booth for licensing Election

30<sup>th</sup> March Earnest Larsen was thrown off his horse as he was riding to school and was severely cut about the head and cheek. I washed the wounds, put sticking plaster on and sent him home at 9.45

6<sup>th</sup> April Mr Petersen made 20 new forms for use in the old school

15<sup>th</sup> April Miss Woodward left today. She is transferred to Te Aro Infant School.. Mrs Joplin took charge of the infant room this afternoon

27<sup>th</sup> April School Committee Mr Forsberg, W Chisholm, C Larsen, R P Hansen, H Nelson, L Neilson and E Petersen

30<sup>th</sup> April Miss Bray the new Pupil Teacher came this morning at 9.45. Mrs Joplin has assisted me to teach this week.

3<sup>rd</sup> May Quarter return for manual training room

Instructor Chas R Joplin

Times open 19. Average attendance 14.2. No on Roll 16 same as at end of quarter.

Instruction 2 hours per week Amount of capitation on 14 ½ boys at 2/9 each per quarter £2-13-3

7<sup>th</sup> May Saw Mr Forsberg chairman of School Committee and Mr Chisholm about a telegram I received from Dr Hosking re supposed case of diphtheria in my family and asked what steps I had better take as I did not care to be held responsible for keeping the school open under the circumstances. They decided that it would be better to wait until Dr Hosking had informed me

personally what was the matter with Arthur before undertaking anything

10<sup>th</sup> Advised Mr Dorset Secretary Wellington Education Board that the School Committee had closed the school for a fortnight as we had diphtheria in the house

12<sup>th</sup> May. Received a new map of the world in hemispheres and a new one of NZ

19<sup>th</sup> May received a complete set of Southern Cross Arithmetics and answers, new and enlarged edition and Catechism of agricultural chemistry by Professor Johnston

Summary of Report by inspector on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Roll 65 Present 42 Passed 38

- a) Standard 7 candidate passed.
- b) Mr Joplin is an enthusiastic master and has done much to infuse interest and special character into his work by the making of models, the introduction of paper cutting and folding the construction of a child's panorama and especially by the introduction of manual instruction.
- c) He has a class of 16 boys doing very good wood work in the old schoolroom out of school hours. The boys take great interest in their wood work and all are willing to attend at all times.
- d) The school is altogether in a satisfactory condition. Robert Lee and T R Fleming

18<sup>th</sup> August. Miss Bray came to school this morning but as she was "wet to the skin" I allowed her to return home.

20<sup>th</sup> August Peter Nelson, son of Mr Hemming Nelson cut his hand severely this morning with a pocket knife. I washed the

wound with a disinfectant as the knife was rusty and bandaged it up

6<sup>th</sup> September Mr Hogg M H R (Member House of Representatives) visited the school today

7<sup>th</sup> September A lantern exhibition and concert were held last night in the old school in aid of the funds of the Manual Instruction Class. Mr Hogg presided. There was a large attendance

9<sup>th</sup> September Very fine weather. Played cricket with boys during the dinner hour

10<sup>th</sup> September When Miss Bray and I went into the infant room there was such an abominable stench from stale tobacco smoke and doddles (*Dottles*) from pipes that we were nearly sick. The Foresters had used the room on Saturday evening and had not replaced the furniture nor seen to the cleaning of the room. I wrote to Mr Forsberg drawing his attention to the matter.

14<sup>th</sup> September. Edward Hansen the boy who played truant for a fortnight admitted to me after he had prevaricated very much, that he broke into the church and stole the collection box and its contents 3/10d and took me to the spot where he had thrown the box after abstracting the money. I took him to see Rev Le Garth and Mr Hansen and then we saw his mother

15<sup>th</sup> September. At the request of Mrs Hansen I punished Edward Hansen for breaking into the church and stealing the money box and its contents.

16<sup>th</sup> September Punished Edward Larsen for writing indecent words on his slate and showing them to the girls who were sewing under the supervision of the Pupil Teacher

17<sup>th</sup> September Miss Bray asked me for the box of solids.. Then asked children and none knew about it

22<sup>nd</sup> September Saw Mr Makon Secretary of the Foresters and ascertained from him that he thought the solids were in the Society's Box and that he would send the key with his boy

23<sup>rd</sup> September Mr Makon's boy brought the key of the box and upon unlocking it I found the solids

19<sup>th</sup> October Received results of First Grade Drawing

The number of passes showed 20/26 results

21<sup>st</sup> October Invited the girls in my room to tea this afternoon, These little gatherings seem to do the girls good

27<sup>th</sup> October A heavy hailstorm accompanied with thunder and lightning visited this district.

1<sup>st</sup> November Mr Nelson boarded up the entrance to the boys Water Closet and thus made it more private

9<sup>th</sup> November. The school is closed today. Prince of Wales birthday

15<sup>th</sup> November Fred Nelson was suddenly seized with sickness this afternoon. I sent him home after I administered a teaspoon of Brandy. He has had several attacks of sickness in the last few months

19<sup>th</sup> November. Arthur Nelson was thrown from his horse which shied as it was coming up the school path. His knees were severely cut so I bandaged them Altogether the boy received a severe shaking

22<sup>nd</sup> November. Mr Peterson came to school this afternoon and requested me not to force his son Frank to learn as the boy is delicate. He also charged me with calling the boy a "lunatic" I

have never used the term to his son or any of the children. However it is sometimes difficult to draw the line between sanity and insanity. If doctors differ I do not think I am capable of defining it

23<sup>rd</sup> November I examined Standard's 2-4 today and sent Frank Peterson to Miss Bray's room where he will receive instruction in Standard 2 subjects as well no doubt give satisfaction to his father. I have also forbidden his playing cricket because if he is too busy to study I am sure he is too delicate to play at a game which frequently requires exertion, especially when boys are batting and running sharply between the wickets. I do not want a coroner's request on any boy whilst I am in charge of the school

On Saturday at Mauriceville the boys played a cricket match against Dreyerton School and after a good game the visitors were defeated by 74 runs. The scores were Mauriceville 69 and 57; Dreyerton 29 and 23. I was pleased to see many parents and friends of the boys present. One settler informed me that it was the first occasion on which he had seen parents take such an interest in their boy's sports. Mrs Joplin and Mrs Forsberg kindly provided refreshments and Mrs Mckenzie kindly sent some tea etc.

24<sup>th</sup> November Examined P1 to Standard 1 today. Miss Bray took charge of my room. Her work has been very good considering she has not been long in the Board's service.

29<sup>th</sup> November Only 44/60 present. The attendance is very irregular. Little boys like the McPeaks being kept at home to help muster sheep etc. Considering the energy etc I have shown whilst being in charge of this school I think I am not treated fairly by the parents. If their children fail at the examination parents have no

one to blame but themselves. I have brought the matter before the committee, but no action is taken. There is not much encouragement for a teacher to go out of the “beaten track”

6<sup>th</sup> December Fred Nelson is ill again today. This boy must be delicate although he looks strong

## 1898

24<sup>th</sup> January Resumed work Admitted 13 pupils.

26<sup>th</sup> January Sent for 2 boxes of slate pencils

31<sup>st</sup> January Roll 76

10<sup>th</sup> February 68 present today. Mr Forsberg chairman of the School Committee visited the school today to make arrangements re proposed excursion to Woodville

14<sup>th</sup> February About 50 children and 20 adults intend going to Woodville

21<sup>st</sup> February The school was closed on Wednesday owing to the children’s trip to Woodville. 72 scholars and adults from the school district availed themselves of the excursion.

28<sup>th</sup> February Annual tilting tournament at Mauriceville.

8<sup>th</sup> March Miss Bray was ill so that he was obliged to return home at 10.30 a.m.

11<sup>th</sup> March Raining heavily. Science Lesson, Carbonic Acid

18<sup>th</sup> March Many children absent today owing to Fitzgerald’s circus in Masterton

22<sup>nd</sup> March Roll 77

15<sup>th</sup> March The highest attendance was 76, this is a record attendance for several years

18<sup>th</sup> April Received retort from Mr Chisholm.

25<sup>th</sup> April School Committee: Mr Forsberg, W Chisholm, E Petersen, H Neilsen, R P Hansen, C Roigard and P Petersen

27<sup>th</sup> April Received from Mr Chisholm Material for dusters, candles, pannikins (*Metal drinking cup*) and blotting paper

4<sup>th</sup> May Received pass cards for examination on 28<sup>th</sup> May

3<sup>rd</sup> June. Taught pupils in my room a new song “Under the British Flag”

16<sup>th</sup> June When the School Children were on their way home, yesterday afternoon, Edward Petersen and Peter Nielsen frightened the horse ridden by Bernard Nielsen and his brother Hans and they were both thrown Hans being much cut about the face. Mrs Joplin happened to be near the spot and brought the little fellow to the school where I attended his wound. Whilst rendering first aid to him Charles Neilsen who was looking on suddenly fainted. I attended to him and Hans Neilsen, administered a little brandy and sent him home.

17<sup>th</sup> June Made enquiries about the accident on Wednesday Afternoon last as Hans Neilsen is still absent I said I would see into it again when he is at school

The wind was blowing a stiff gale today and blew one of the window sashes out off the old school. So violently did it blow that I thought it would blow the sashes out of the new school

20<sup>th</sup> June. Punished Edward Petersen and Peter Nielsen for frightening Bernard Neilsen on 16<sup>th</sup> Inst. As they expressed sorrow and their parents had interviewed Mrs Neilsen I gave them the boys only one stroke on each hand

22<sup>nd</sup> June Stanley McKenzie dislocated his left knee and after some trouble I succeeded in replacing it.

22<sup>nd</sup> June Examination of April 28<sup>th</sup> Inspectors notes

41 presented 41 tested Passed 36

The general work of this school is very satisfactory

Mr Joplin is an earnest and painstaking teacher who gives character to most of his work

Manual Instruction is still carried out

Miss Bray (Pupil Teacher) is working very fairly for a beginner.

Three candidates passed Standard 7

T R Fleming

30<sup>th</sup> June 83 On roll, 69 Total Average, 44 half days school open

19<sup>th</sup> July received the following chemicals from the Wellington

Education Board

5	Test Tubes
2	Tubes bent right angles
2	Long bent test tubes
2	Small Florence Flasks
1	Small bottle alcohol
	Manganese Dioxide
	Asbestos
	Litmus
	Caustic Soda
	Chlorate of Potash
	Sulphur

18<sup>th</sup> August Miss Bray sprained her foot playing with the girls

20<sup>th</sup> August Miss Bray's Brother called this morning and informed me that whilst she was riding home yesterday and nearing

Hastwell some boys threw stones at her horse, which shied and threw her violently to the ground. She sustained injuries to her wrist, head, body and hip. It will be some days before she will be able to resume her duties.

24<sup>th</sup> August Miss Bray is still absent. Mrs Joplin has assisted me since Monday

29<sup>th</sup> August Miss Bray resumed her duties this morning.

1<sup>st</sup> September The painters commenced work today. Mr Forsberg visited the school today.

5<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Varnham, Truant Inspector, visited the school today and pointed on to the pupils the necessity of their attending regularly to school otherwise proceedings would be taken against their parents.

14<sup>th</sup> November A team representing this school and Opaki visited Masterton and played a cricket match against Masterton School First Eleven on Saturday the Masterton school was defeated by 2 wickets

14<sup>th</sup> December. Roll 84

## 1899

1<sup>st</sup> February Taught Standard 6 compound interest

15<sup>th</sup> February Commenced Manual Instruction during School Hours

20<sup>th</sup> February On Saturday last our school eleven visited Opaki and played that school at cricket. This school teams beat the Opaki by an innings and 37 runs. Mauriceville West 73; Opaki 11 and 25  
Twelve dual desks came today from Mr Daniell, Masterton

23<sup>rd</sup> February The school was closed yesterday on the occasion of the Masterton Agricultural Show.

10<sup>th</sup> March. Closed school today as I had to take three boys to Greytown. They were selected to play in the Wairarapa representative cricket team against Wellington.

Received addressed envelopes for use by the Secretary to Wellington Education Board

25<sup>th</sup> March. Played the first eleven of Masterton School at cricket on Saturday at Mauriceville and defeated them by 50 runs. Masterton 9 and 17 Mauriceville 16 and 60. The boys were entertained by the settlers at a capital spread held in the school. Mesdames Joplin, Forsberg, Chisholm, Dempsey, and McKenzie kindly assisted in waiting on the boys. Mr Burns First Assistant of Masterton School was in charge of his boys

21<sup>st</sup> March Miss Bray was taken ill this morning and nearly fainted. She went home at midday

29<sup>th</sup> March Mrs Neilson brought her daughter, Hilda to school today and showed me her shoulder. The child had been complaining of pain and on my examining it I thought her collar bone was broken, and advised the mother to take her child to a doctor.

5<sup>th</sup> April. Mrs Dorset called on me on "Good Friday" and informed me that her daughter had been appointed to succeed Miss Bray. Miss Bray called on Tuesday and informed me that she had been transferred to Hastwell School. Miss Dorset reported herself today.

Miss Dorset reported herself this morning when I showed her a telegram which I had received from Mr Dorset, Secretary of the

Wellington Education Board stating that Mr Blair Chairman of the Education Board, had suspended her appointment as Pupil Teacher to this school and that Mrs Joplin was to assist

27<sup>th</sup> April Miss Catherine Campbell appointed to the School at Mauriceville West PP

28<sup>th</sup> April School closed today Annual School picnic.

2<sup>nd</sup> May Miss Campbell began her duties as Pupil Teacher

8<sup>th</sup> June Purchased from Mr W Chisholm 1 bottle of Olive Oil for use in object lessons

12<sup>th</sup> June Mr Petersen carpenter commenced repairs to residence of teacher

13<sup>th</sup> June. I was absent this morning. I went to Masterton to see Dr Hoskin about my eyes as they are failing and have indifferent health

19<sup>th</sup> June. I was absent on Thursday and Friday. I went to Wellington to see a specialist about my eyes. The window in the Teacher's WC will not open or shut freely. Advised Board of my absences. Miss Campbell managed the school during my absence

20<sup>th</sup> May. I saw Mr Forsberg, chairman, and he requested me to send children home when they had measles in their houses. I sent F Legarth home yesterday.

26<sup>th</sup> June. Paid 1/- railway carriage for parcel from Whitcombe and Tombs.

17<sup>th</sup> July Inspectors report 13<sup>th</sup> April 1899

Standard	Presented	Present	Passed
7	1		
6	4	4	4
5	5	5	3

4	13	13	10
3	10	10	9
2	7	7	7
1	16	16	15
Primers	20		
	85	55	48

Drill and Exercises Swedish clubs and military good

Both class and pass subjects were strong in nearly all standards

The manual work of the upper school and the clay modelling, paper cutting, and folding and Kindergarten of lower are deserving of special mention

The hearty interest taken by the headmaster in the sports and games of the children has an excellent effect on the general tone of the school

The work on examination day was much simplified through my finding everything in such good order

20<sup>th</sup> July The school was closed yesterday Arbor Day. Several of the big boys and I planted about 100 different trees and shrubs, which some of the settlers kindly gave me.. The weather was bitterly cold and it rained incessantly during the afternoon

Mr Fanning who had been appointed to charge of Ihurara, a small school reported to me on Monday with a letter from Mr Dorsett, Secretary of Wellington Education Board requesting me to give him some idea how to arrange his school to meet the requirements of the NZ system. He intends staying here until Friday next. I have given him every assistance possible.

21<sup>st</sup> July Mr Fanning left for Ihurara today. Not one girl present in my room today. Many of the children have measles

25<sup>th</sup> July The ground was covered with snow this morning. Had thawed by 12.00

26<sup>th</sup> July. Received 3 sheets of magic lantern slides from Wellington Education Board

1<sup>st</sup> August. The School Committee closed the school today as some of my family having the measles. The attendance has fallen off materially owing to so many of the children being attacked with measles, which are of a very infectious and bad sort.

8<sup>th</sup> August Mr Bakewell MA School Inspector visited the school today and expressed surprise that he did not know it was closed owing to measles. I informed him that Mr Forsberg and I had notified the Secretary of Wellington Education Board the School Committee had closed the school Mr Bakewell remained about 2 ½ hours and inspected the outhouses, timetables etc.

17<sup>th</sup> August Received from Wellington Education Board 3 books on hand and eye training.

21<sup>st</sup> August Reopened school today after having closed three weeks owing to measles

25<sup>th</sup> August. Mr Bakewell's report on 8<sup>th</sup> August

Roll 83

School closed because of measles

Everything both inside and out were very clean

The grounds were in excellent order

Mr Joplin was pleased with the work of Miss Campbell

Some of the long desks might be replaced with the spare dual desks at Mauriceville East School

31<sup>st</sup> August, Mr Forsberg brought a new cupboard which was sent by C E Daniell Masterton

19<sup>th</sup> September At midnight on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> a fire broke out in Mr Hans Hansen's house, it was burnt to the ground and he was burnt to death

21<sup>st</sup> September. Nearly all the children left at 1.45 to attend Mr Hansen's funeral. He had been the Sunday School teacher for upwards of 14 years in this district

6<sup>th</sup> October Showed some lantern slides this afternoon in the old school about Bee Keeping.

6<sup>th</sup> November Received two paper maps of "seat of war" from Wellington Education Board

16<sup>th</sup> November Only one girl present in my room out of 5

7<sup>th</sup> December. School closed used for the elections

## 1900

23<sup>rd</sup> January School reopened

26<sup>th</sup> January Many boys were absent this week, grass seed cutting

29<sup>th</sup> January Very hot. Received one dozen coat and hat hooks

8<sup>th</sup> February The school closed today Patriotic Fair at Masterton

15<sup>th</sup> February Mr Le Garth called this afternoon and informed me that his son Frederick had Whooping Cough, which accounted for his absence.

28<sup>th</sup> February School closed this afternoon to celebrate Lord Roberts victory over General Cronje

2<sup>nd</sup> March Roll 72. The school was closed to celebrate the "relief of Ladysmith"

8<sup>th</sup> March Mr Bakewell paid a surprise visit to this school, this morning. It is a very stormy day.

21<sup>st</sup> March Licensing Election School closed, Used as a polling Booth

23<sup>rd</sup> March The weather has been so dry that the school tank is empty and I was obliged to send boys to the river for water yesterday and today

16<sup>th</sup> May. Examination Report April 4<sup>th</sup>

42/48 passed

The pass subject of the other standards were good with the exception of Reading, which however, will always be a most difficult subject to teach in a district such as this where so many of the children speak English only at school.

The handworks of the upper standards is also deserving of praise.

It is regretted that so many of the parents in the district do not realise the advantages to be gained by sending their children more regularly to school

T H Bakewell

21<sup>st</sup> May The school was closed today to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking

28<sup>th</sup> May I was obliged to leave school this morning at 11 O'clock to consult Dr Murray Aynesley, Eketahuna as I have been ill the last week or so.

1<sup>st</sup> June. Received telegram from Mr Forsberg re abandonment of Pretoria by the Boers, suggesting a holiday to mark that event and the capture of Johannesburg. As the weather is bad and only a few children at school I thought it better to close the school on Monday

Advised Mr Forsberg of my intention to close on Monday. Received a second telegram notifying public holiday this afternoon, so closed the school

4<sup>th</sup> June School was closed this afternoon at the request of Mr Forsberg Chairman of the School Committee as the children had only a half day on Friday instead of a whole one.

6<sup>th</sup> June While Ben Hillas was attempting to kick the football he fell and badly sprained his right wrist, I took him to the house, bandaged his wrist and sent him home at 2 pm

11<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Hemming Nielsen finished the fencing of the enclosure for the pupil's horses

12<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Petersen informed me that her daughter Mabel could not come to school as she, Mabel had burnt her foot and could not get her boot on.

18<sup>th</sup> June. Wrote to Mr Forsberg drawing his attention to the manner of emptying the W C's

19<sup>th</sup> June Mr Forsberg called this morning and informed me that he had seen the man who empties the WC's and the later would bury the excrement.

21<sup>st</sup> June The shortest day. Fine Weather

17<sup>th</sup> July Very stormy weather, Rain, hail, snow, thunder and lightning and strong wind

20<sup>th</sup> July. Three little boys were throwing stones at a bee, when a stone broke a window.

13<sup>th</sup> August. Mr E Jackson visited the school today to see the work on his way to Horoeka

3<sup>rd</sup> October Beautiful weather still many children are absent. I understand many of the boys are digging their gardens

12<sup>th</sup> October. Miss Campbell left today to take up her duties at Wangaehu to which school she has been promoted.

16<sup>th</sup> November Mrs Joplin is to assist me at the pay of a senior pupil teacher until Miss Campbell's successor is appointed. Mrs Joplin came to school this morning.

19<sup>th</sup> October. Received the results of the examination in First Grade Drawing. All passed that were presented. 13 children presented

26<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Legarth met me last night when I was returning from a walk with my wife and in a violent passion, remonstrated with me for punishing his son Frederick, I informed him why it was necessary for me to do it, and stated that I had not punished him either undeservedly or excessively. But he would not listen to me, but only threatened. I had occasion to punish his boy for breaking wind and an abdominal stench, but he was so incoherent that I could not understand him clearly. Had he spoken more calmly his English might have been clearer.

I received an apology from him today. It would be much better if he had not placed himself in the position that necessitated an apology especially as he is the pastor.

2<sup>nd</sup> November Miss Gray commenced duties yesterday

13<sup>th</sup> November Purchased from Mr Chisholm small bottle of ammonia 1/- and 6d worth of sulphur for use of experiments

20<sup>th</sup> November Showed all the classes various experiments with the burning of flannel, cotton, flannelette, cotton wool, to illustrate danger of wearing cotton and flannelette garments without due precaution against fire.

22<sup>nd</sup> November Showed all the classes various experiments with chlorine. To minimise the effects of the gas I had the children under the trees

30<sup>th</sup> November I left school at 2.30 to catch the 3.15 train to Masterton as I had business to transact

3<sup>rd</sup> December. Forwarded monthly return, a quittance of salary, Maori Return and Inventory to Wellington Education Board

10<sup>th</sup> December. Whilst Ernest Larsen and John McPeak were playing the former accidently broke a bottle which the latter had in his hand and cut McPeak's leg. I bandaged the wound and Mr M Jensen took the boy home in his trap.

19<sup>th</sup> December. Miss Gray left this afternoon as she is to be examined tomorrow and Friday

## 1901

28<sup>th</sup> January Reopened

30<sup>th</sup> January A strong gale, accompanied with heavy rain is blowing today

12<sup>th</sup> February The school was closed yesterday to enable the children to see the Imperial Troops in Masterton

18<sup>th</sup> February Commenced lessons for E certificate, with Miss Gray

6<sup>th</sup> March. Very wet this morning. Gave all the children in my room a lesson on the census

21<sup>st</sup> March Received official notice of my appointment to Wadestown and requested to be at that school by 1<sup>st</sup> April ( days. Family split????

21<sup>st</sup> March Mauriceville West Pupil Teacher Average 60 attendance Salary Proposed 50 pounds rise of 8 pounds PP

27<sup>th</sup> March Miss Holmes relieved me of my duties in connection with Mauriceville West School and much to my regret, I might say grief, I sever my connection with Mauriceville West Settlers, after having been with them five years ten months

Took charge of school this morning Miss M E Holms

29<sup>th</sup> March Roll 76

29<sup>th</sup> March Prior to leaving Mauriceville West to take charge of the Wadestown School Mr. R. C. Jopling was presented by the settlers with a purse of sovereigns. PP

2<sup>nd</sup> April Mr. R. C. Joplin, who yesterday assumed charge of the Wadestown School was last week, on severing his connection with the Mauriceville West School, entertained at a social gathering by residents and presented with a substantial souvenir of their regard. The speakers bore testimony to the literary qualifications and teaching, ability of Mr. Joplin and expressed the opinion that the people of Wadestown should feel every confidence in leaving the education of their children in his hands. PP

22<sup>nd</sup> April Six boys have left since examination (16<sup>th</sup> April)

10<sup>th</sup> May A supply of firewood has been stacked near the boy's shelter shed during the week

25<sup>th</sup> May The school was closed on Friday as it was Victoria Day.

3<sup>rd</sup> June Took charge of the school today William C Davies

1900/80 Mary Susanna Braithwaite William Davies

Charles

7<sup>th</sup> June The pupils of the Upper Classes have taken great interest in the formation of a school garden during the week, and have cheerfully devoted part of the lunch hour each day to improving the school grounds

11<sup>th</sup> June. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall landed in Auckland. As this school does not possess an ensign, the event was celebrated, by ringing the school bell and assembling the children in the playground

13<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Forsberg brought commemoration medals for distribution amongst pupils and inspected the school premises

11<sup>th</sup> July Stanley Hall who has been playing truant, was brought to school by his mother and was punished

18<sup>th</sup> July. Arbor day yesterday. The school was closed and the day spent by the elder pupils in improving the school grounds

25<sup>th</sup> July J A Bakewell. Paid an inspection visit to the school today. Found the work progressing satisfactorily. The attendance was very poor- many children were away sick and the weather has been very wet.

In addition to the repairs authorised by the clerk of works, repairs to the ventilator are necessary as it leaks badly. The new teaching museum is a pleasing and instructive ornament to the school

29<sup>th</sup> July The work of painting of the interior of the old school was continued during Saturday and today by Mr Peterson and a number of willing assistants who gave their services gratis

2<sup>th</sup> August Spent Saturday assisting Mr Petersen to fit new sashes in the old school

15<sup>th</sup> August Children of pupils of Standard 3-7 were entertained at a party in the old school building. After tea, which was provided by Mrs Davies a pleasant evening was spent in games etc concluding with an exhibition of lantern pictures.

25<sup>th</sup> July Inspectors report included

- a) The new headmaster comes in with an excellent record.
- b) Both inside the school and out he is energetically working in the interests of the education of the children.
- c) It is sincerely to be hoped the parents will recognise his efforts by sending their children more regularly to school.
- d) At present the attendance is very bad and I recommend a visit by the Board's Truant Officer as I could find nothing to account for so many absentees
- e) Miss Gray is an earnest and hard working teacher but she is recommended to install a little more brightness and cheerfulness into her management for infants
- f) A leak into the ventilator should be seen to without delay.
- g) I was pleased to note the gardening efforts of the scholars
- h) The front of the school will soon present a most attractive appearance. I was informed the work has all been done cheerfully and voluntarily during playtime

23<sup>rd</sup> August Miss Gray still ill with influenza and will unlikely to be back for some time. Her place is being taken by Mrs Davies

2<sup>nd</sup> September. Miss Gray resumed her duties

24<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk of Works and the Truant Officer visited the school 60/67 present

27<sup>th</sup> September. School closed in the afternoon by order of the committee, on account of preparations for an entertainment in the evening.

30<sup>th</sup> September A most successful limelight and musical entertainment was held in the old school on Friday Evening in aid of the fund for repairing the old school. Net proceeds £6-15

8<sup>th</sup> October Gave a lesson on "the Fly" to the whole school, in Miss Gray's Room. Children much interest in microscope illustrations

14<sup>th</sup> October 19 children absent. Many of these are kept home to assist their parents

25<sup>th</sup> October John and George McPeak who returned to school today were punished for using filthy language, and John was also punished for indecent behaviour on the way to school

4<sup>th</sup> November Many children absent owing to measles. Miss Gray is absent on account of illness

12<sup>th</sup> November A violent gale- a not uncommon phenomenon in this district is raging

15<sup>th</sup> November Heavy Shock of earthquake at 6.37 pm yesterday. Several Chimneys in the district were cracked and some damage done to crockery etc. Paths were weeded today during the dinner hour and after school by the elder boys and the teacher.

18<sup>th</sup> November Slight shocks of earthquake on Friday at 7.35 pm and Saturday at 7.30 am

26<sup>th</sup> November A calm fine day- The first for months.

27<sup>th</sup> November Subscription lists were sent out to provide funds for erecting a flagstaff in the grounds

4<sup>th</sup> December Several pupils in the upper standards absent for shearing etc

7<sup>th</sup> December Head teacher Mr Davies who is showing great energy and perseverance in all things for the good of the school Resolved to apply for a flag 7 foot 6 x 3foot 9 when pole is erected.

9<sup>th</sup> December. On Saturday I took a party of the elder pupils to the summit of Mount Bruce. Mr Pearson kindly acted as guide. And the excursion proved most enjoyable and instructive.

16<sup>th</sup> December Very wet day. Attendance Morning 14 Afternoon 16

On Friday all the pupils were entertained at a party, prior to breaking up. Tea was provided in the old school by Mrs Davies, after which a pleasant evening was spent in games etc into which the children entered with great zest

31 December 1901 Salary £85 Mistress, Mauriceville West

## 1902

28<sup>th</sup> January A very wet day. 12 pupils present. Miss Gray arrived wet through and was obliged to return home

30<sup>th</sup> January 1902 Mauriceville W., Lilian Braithwaite, present salary £42, colonial salary £85

29<sup>th</sup> January 59 children present

3<sup>rd</sup> February That the appointment of Miss Braithwaite as Mistress to the school be approved.

The Head Teacher Mr Davies submitted a report on various repairs wanted which will be attended to as funds permitted.

2<sup>nd</sup> February From Greytown School Miss L. Braithwaite to Mauriceville West School PP

7<sup>th</sup> February During the week the new entrance gates have been erected by Mr Petersen

19<sup>th</sup> February Mr Petersen replaced the broken panes in the front porch

25<sup>th</sup> February Received instructions from the Chairman of Committees to close school on Wednesday on account of Masterton show

3<sup>rd</sup> March Posted voucher to Miss Gray together with her salary Miss Braithwaite, the newly appointed assistant mistress commenced duties today.

4<sup>th</sup> March. In the Upper Classes many of the pupils have to work far too hard at home consequently they arrive at school tired out and unfit for the day's lessons. The result is easily seen in the examination work in the upper room

5<sup>th</sup> March A supply of firewood for the coming winter has been delivered

10<sup>th</sup> March 67/69 children present A record

17<sup>th</sup> March A sharp shock of earthquake was felt last evening

24<sup>th</sup> March The Flag Staff; funds for which have been provided by public subscription was erected by several of the settlers on Saturday

11<sup>th</sup> April School closed by order of committee on account of school picnic.

12<sup>th</sup> April The Mauriceville West School treat, which was to have taken place yesterday, was, owing to the inclement weather, postponed PP

14<sup>th</sup> April The weather being too wet for the picnic on Friday, it was held on Saturday. In spite of frequent southerly showers, there was a large attendance of children and adults and all appeared to thoroughly enjoy the days amusements which concluded with a selection of songs by the elder pupils. During the afternoon the Ensign provided by the Government was hoisted for the first time Miss Braithwaite was absent from her duties this morning having missed the train from Carterton on Saturday

14<sup>th</sup> Inspectors report included. Military Satisfactory

Mr Davies who has been 8 months in charge is doing excellent work in this school. Miss Braithwaite entered on her duties at the beginning of the month. A strenuous effort should be made to improve the average attendance

28<sup>th</sup> April Maps of Europe and Africa were received from Whitcombe and Tombs

29<sup>th</sup> April School Committee elected last evening. P Petersen (Chairman) W Chisholm, C Forsberg, R P Hansen, L Matterson, E Pedersen and J Roigard

30<sup>th</sup> April Many children absent in the afternoon, owing to a birthday party. Morning 51 Afternoon 31

15<sup>th</sup> May. Pouring Day Attendance 5

22<sup>nd</sup> May An entertainment of considerable interest is to take place in the old school Mauriceville West on Friday evening next, when the headmaster, Mr W. C. Davies, will deliver a lecture on

Geyserland. The lecture will be illustrated by about a hundred lantern views of our New Zealand Wonderland, and a number of part songs will be rendered by the elder pupils of the Mauriceville West School PP

23<sup>rd</sup> May Gave a lecture on Geyersland in aid of the old school repair fund. Although the weather was unfavourable there was a good attendance £3-5-6

28<sup>th</sup> May Received a letter from Mr Petersen Chairman of School Committee stating that the committee in answer to my request had decided not to allow the Old School to be used for other than school purposes

29<sup>th</sup> May Mr Laurence Johnson, who has been a resident here for many years, and was at one time headmaster of the Mauriceville West has sold his section to Mr J. Elliot, of Mauriceville North, and has left for Otaki where he intends taking up his residence. PP

2<sup>nd</sup> June Peace proclaimed in South Africa. School closed in the afternoon.

3<sup>rd</sup> June. Prince of Wales Birthday. School closed

9<sup>th</sup> June That the chairman be authorised to get a man to clear to gorse on the School Ground and the Road.

That the Chairman invite Mr Davies to next meeting in regard to appointing a visiting member.

13<sup>th</sup> June. Very wet day Only 12 children present. My room is partially flooded owing to the leaky state of the ventilator

20<sup>th</sup> June Received and Distributed Coronation Souvenir Cards

14<sup>th</sup> July. During the last week of the holidays the North Side of the Old School was reroofed with iron, Mr Petersen and several other settlers kindly giving their services gratis. The cost of

materials has been defrayed by the proceeds of an entertainment and the sale of photographs taken by myself. The ventilators on the school were removed during the holidays

23<sup>rd</sup> July The paths round the school are badly in need of gravel during the frosty weather of the past fortnight it has been impossible to keep the school free from mud

28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> July I was unable to attend school owing to an attack of influenza. Miss Braithwaite was in charge of my room and Sarah Pearson supervised the work of the infants

12<sup>th</sup> August School closed in honour of coronation

19<sup>th</sup> August The old school was used as a science room for the first time today

26<sup>th</sup> August A sharp shock earthquake was felt at 4.15 this morning

2<sup>nd</sup> September. Gave first lesson on cottage gardening from 2 to 3

8<sup>th</sup> September J P Petersen tendered his resignation as chairman, Secretary and member owing to his moving to another district After all the other members present refused to stand for Chairman and Secretary W Chisholm was nominated and carried.

Mr J P Peterson handed the books and papers to the new chairman also cash £6-16-0 including £1-6-0 for picnic account.

16<sup>th</sup> September Received Victoria Scholarship Examination Papers

6<sup>th</sup> October Wrote to Mr T H Kirk Govt Biologist re seeds and artificial manners for cottage gardens

13<sup>th</sup> October Mr Chisholm has been appointed Chairman. Mr Petersen resigned. Mr Hemming Neilsen has taken Mr Petersen's place

13<sup>th</sup> October. That the chairman interview or write to three or four families and request them to send their children more regularly to school as it was impossible for the teachers to present them at the exam with credit.

Moved that 4 mugs and 10 yards of towelling be purchased for the school.

That the Chairman write to the Board requesting them to sand and tar the floors of shelter sheds.

17<sup>th</sup> October. New Mugs and towels have been provided for the lavatories by the committee

10<sup>th</sup> November. It was reported that the teacher Mr Davies had got a grant of about £50 for the agriculture Department.....to put the building in order and part for the instruments etc etc.

12<sup>th</sup> November Mr Daniell of all Masterton notified that he had completed and forwarded all the furniture including the glass case for the science room.

18<sup>th</sup> November Received from Mr Daniell, cupboard, shelves, 5 tables, door mat, tank and sink for science laboratory.

26<sup>th</sup> November Received apparatus and chemicals for agricultural science

9<sup>th</sup> December. The cottage gardens are now in full swing, and children in Standard 4, 5 and 6 are showing great interest in them.

15<sup>th</sup> December . Sharland's forwarded 20 tin dishes to replace the small enamelled basins, which were unsuitable for use as pneumatic troughs

17<sup>th</sup> December. A pleasant evening was spent by the pupils in the old school when games were indulged in with much heartiness and refreshments were provided by Mrs Davies. The presence of a

number of former pupils added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening

Ten spades, Three rakes were received today from Mr Daniell

## 1903

28<sup>th</sup> January The school was closed on Monday and Tuesday by direction of the chairman to enable fresh paint to dry.

6<sup>th</sup> February School was closed by order of the chairman on account of the band concert in Masterton

12<sup>th</sup> February Gave practical lesson in the laboratory on dissection and microscopically examination of flowers

19<sup>th</sup> February Laboratory practice. Each child prepared three jars of oxygen and performed experiments with same care and aptitude were shown in handling apparatus and experiments were successful in every case

24<sup>th</sup> February Samples of vegetables and cut flowers from the school gardens were forwarded to Mr Riley for inspection by the Board at its monthly meeting

4<sup>th</sup> March A number of boys bathed in the creek during the dinner hour, contrary to the rules of the school. George McPeak was unable to land after swimming and Henry Hillas jumped in to rescue him, Being wet through Hillas was sent home and the offending pupils were deprived of half hours play for a week

9<sup>th</sup> March J Roigard was instructed to do the work of concreting shelter sheds and closets at a cost of 3 pounds including labour and material required.

10<sup>th</sup> March, Children made Carbon Dioxide and Nitrogen

27<sup>th</sup> March The teacher of the Kaiparoro School called to inspect cottage gardens etc.

7<sup>th</sup> April Mr Bringans master of Kaiparoro School brought 15 of his pupils to see the school garden, and watch the agriculture class at work in the Laboratory

28<sup>th</sup> April Present W Chisholm, Hemming Neilsen R P Hansen. The chairman to select four other names Forsberg, Roigard, Larsen and Jorgan Neilsen

No quorum being present no other business was done

16<sup>th</sup> April Commenced new year's work with agricultural classes which now number 22

27<sup>th</sup> April Meeting of Householders was attended by 4 people

18<sup>th</sup> May Received from Wellington Meat Export a 14lb sample of each of their artificial manures for use in the school garden

21<sup>st</sup> May Received maps of the world (Mercator's Projections)

26<sup>th</sup> May Yesterday being Empire Day the school was closed. At 2 pm about 40 pupils and several adults assembled for the ceremony of hoisting and saluting the flag. After addresses by the Chairman and Myself, games were indulged in for an hour and the pupils partook of refreshments.

28<sup>th</sup> May Miss Gray had to return home being wet through (*First Mentioned about Miss Gray being back*)

8<sup>th</sup> June A very successful limelight and musical entertainment was held in the Science Room on Friday night in aid of the school library. In addition to musical items, clubs and dumbbell drill contributed by the Upper Children, valuable assistance was given by several visitors, and a very enjoyable evening was speak. The net proceeds amounted to about £5

12<sup>th</sup> June Standard 7 Two children promoted

F Bakewell's comments included

I am very pleased with all I saw in the school

Writing which was formerly a weak subject is now good in all standards

Excellent results have been obtained in cottage gardening and the neat vegetable and flower plots reflect the greatest credit to both teachers and scholars

During the afternoon saw 17 of the upper standard children doing independent practical work in the school laboratory.

Mainly owing to the energy of Mr Davies who is quite devoted to his work. Mauriceville West is better equipped and with scientific apparatus than any other school in the Wairarapa and it is to be hoped that parents by sending their children regularly, will show their appreciation of the exceptional advantage in the way of science teaching to be obtained in this school

Miss Braithwaite is commended for excellent work done with Juniors

15<sup>th</sup> June Received from Kempthorne Prosser also a present of 19 sample bags of Westfield Manures for use in the School Gardens

A stage for the purpose of school entertainments has been erected in the Science Room. Mr Daniell of Masterton kindly supplying the timber gratis

23<sup>rd</sup> June A very wet day. A violent storm is raging

24<sup>th</sup> June. No children present on account of storm which still continues

21<sup>st</sup> July Planted 27 ornamental and flowering shrubs provided gratis by H Gibbons Co Ltd in the school

6<sup>th</sup> August. Today a working bee of settlers commenced the construction of an addition to the school laboratory, the object being to strengthen the building and make it more commodious for the purposes of school entertainments etc.

14<sup>th</sup> August. The school roll is now 46. Exactly 2/3 of the number on the roll in April 1902. The reduction is due to the continued exodus from the district of settlers with families, whose houses are now either empty or occupied by newly married couples.

24<sup>th</sup> August Mr Gundersen topped several trees in the playground today.

31<sup>st</sup> August. Miss Gray absent owing to illness

14<sup>th</sup> September Miss Gray returned today

Mr W Burton paid a visit to the school and asked permission to address the children. As I had not been favourably impressed by his efforts and behaviour on former occasions I considered it advisable not to accede to his request.

The completion of the alterations to the school laboratory was celebrated by a children's party on Saturday

22<sup>nd</sup> September Laboratory Lesson on Ammonia

23<sup>rd</sup> September Received 200 sets of "Earl Rose" potatoes from T W Kirk Government Biologist

30<sup>th</sup> September Several children still absent owing to mumps

8<sup>th</sup> October. Neil Pedersen was punished severely for continued laziness and inattention

19<sup>th</sup> October A few showers have fallen during the last two days- this is the first rainfall of any importance since 8<sup>th</sup> September

28<sup>th</sup> October. A fearful gale is raging. Log fires are spreading in every direction and the valley is filled with smoke. Several pupils are absent helping to protect houses which are in danger

10<sup>th</sup> November. Very wet day. 4 pupils present

17<sup>th</sup> November Gave a lesson practical on spraying potatoes with Bordeaux. History drawing lesson will be taken tomorrow

## 1904

25<sup>th</sup> January School closed for a fortnight by order of the Chairman on account of prevalence of scarlet fever in the settlement

30<sup>th</sup> January 1904 Wairarapa Daily Times [Established Quarter of a century.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1904 AN IDEAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are in receipt of one of the most valuable of the official publications which comes from the Government Printing Office, the eleventh volume of the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture. When we think of the sins of the present Administration, we deem it only common honesty to credit it with some good deeds, and one surely is the making of Agriculture a live department. The present volume runs into over six hundred pages, and almost every one of them are of interest to the country settler. For the first time in these Annual Reports, the primary school appears in a position of honour. It is only one primary school which is so distinguished, and it is a feather in the cap of this district that this particular primary school is the Mauriceville

West School, and that this establishment now owes a colonial reputation to Mr W. C. Davies, its enthusiastic headmaster..

In his report, Mr T. W. Kirk, the well-known Biologist, states that five years ago he described the steps taken in South Africa to provide agricultural education in the primary schools, and mentioned one such institution which he had personally visited. A similar school has come into existence at Mauriceville West and bids fair, so says Mr Kirk, to become of immense service to the juvenile members of the district. Mr W. C. Davies is described as a thoroughly able enthusiast. In the report, the pictures and syllabus of his school speak for themselves. Mr Kirk holds that some comprehensive scheme is necessary to assist such enterprises.

What has the pioneer of the ideal school accomplished at West Mauriceville He has trained his children to understand the parts of plants and their functions, the fertilisation of flowers and the formation of seed, the storage of food in seeds and roots and their germination. In his syllabus, too, are the composition of plants and their elemental chemistry. Instruction is given with respect to plant food and as regards soils. But all this and much more is theoretical knowledge only and without practical application it avails but little. This practical application has been given, and among the illustrations of the school are to be found a Laboratory, flower beds, and the school garden itself with a score of children at work in it with spade, rake and hoe. There is also a plan of the garden showing a grass patch with ornamental shrubs, flower plots, eloping strawberry beds, and one-and twenty plots which have been devoted to the scientific culture of potatoes, turnips,

mangolds, onions, cabbages, peas, beans, maize and rape. All this is most delightful, for it constitutes a special training of permanent value to both boys and girls. It has been accomplished, without any beating of drums or sounding of trumpets, by the intelligent enterprise of one teacher. Now and again, in the official publications which deluge the Colony, we come across some little oasis of real live interest, and nothing of late has pleased us more than this practical testimony given by the Department of Agriculture to the good work accomplished by Mr W. C. Davies. It has been thought that the State schoolmaster is a machine, governed by a syllabus and regulations; but the experience of West Mauriceville proves that he may manifest original and remarkable powers in the exercise of his multifarious duties. A schoolmaster who is a naturalist is surely the flower of the profession. PP

26<sup>th</sup> February The Sanitary Inspector called today and recommended that all pupils from infected houses should be allowed to return except the Rev. J Legarth's family, who are to remain in quarantine for another fortnight

22<sup>nd</sup> March Removed all dead plants from Cottage Garden and gathered flower seeds

23<sup>rd</sup> March Mr Paul gave a Kinematograph exhibition in the Science room donating 16/- (1/3 of proceeds) towards the building fund

24<sup>th</sup> March Laboratory Lesson Hydrogen produced by means of sodium

31<sup>st</sup> March. Many children absent owing to Lutheran Celebrations.

15<sup>th</sup> April We have an unbroken week's work with a good attendance. This is the second only since the Xmas holidays

17<sup>th</sup> May Cottage Gardening Lessons. Continued daisy borders and prepared ground for planting shrubs

31<sup>st</sup> May. Inspectors Report of April 21<sup>st</sup>

In spite of the prevalence of scarlet fever, which materially interfered with the work during the first quarter of this year good results have been obtained in the school

In addition to ordinary work of the syllabus such handwork occupations as Modelling, Paper Folding and Cardboard modelling have been undertaken with success

Work in the infant room (Miss Gray) was good

Both teachers are to be commended for the general neatness of the school work and for the neat and orderly appearance of all school property.

A teacher of the capacity of Mr Davies ought to be in charge of a school of higher grade

7<sup>th</sup> June 1904 Mauriceville West

(From Our Own Correspondent).

The following are the meteorological notes for the month of May, supplied by the observer at Mauriceville West Rainfall (on 13 days), 6-28 inches Average temperature at 9.30 a.m., 41 degrees.; average minimum, 39.5 deg. The first three weeks of the month were unusually dry for this season of the year, the rainfall for that season amounting to only one inch. On May 23rd, heavy rain set in, and continued till the end of the month. The latter portion of the month was marked by more than the usual allowance of wind, heavy north-westerly gales being frequent and sustained. Fairly

stiff frosts were experienced on five nights, the temperature falling on one occasion as low as 29 Fahrenheit.

The third of the series of entertainments in aid of the school science room at Mauriceville West was held on Friday, May 27th, and quite maintained the standard of its predecessors, the building being comfortably filled, notwithstanding the inclement weather. The first part of the programme consisted, as usual, of a lecturette, illustrated by limelight pictures, the subject being Norway. In the course of his descriptive talk Mr Davies dealt briefly with the history, people, industries, and scenery of that charming country, the really beautiful illustrations, nearly eighty in number, calling forth much admiration. The enjoyable concert programme which followed was composed of songs, recitations, and instrumental items, contributed by Misses Graham and Braithwaite, and Messrs Turner, Jensen and Davies, Mrs Davies acting as accompanist throughout the evening. A unique feature of the entertainment was a selection of Danish patriotic airs, given as duets for the piano and violin. A glance at the audience told at once that the fine old tunes carried the thoughts of many present back to the shores of Denmark and the days of their youth, and eyes were seen to glisten as the martial strains of "Den Gang Jog Drag Afsted" recalled the warlike times of over thirty years ago. As the last notes of the inevitable "Kong Christian," sung by the juveniles, died away, the portraits of our King and Queen appeared on the screen, and the national anthem, rendered right loyally by the whole audience, brought the evening to a close. PP

6<sup>th</sup> June Messrs W Jesson, W Chisholm, C Forsberg, R P Hansen and Anders Larsen Elected to School Committee last night

4<sup>th</sup> July Request the Board to vote a sufficient amount of money to concrete the Boy's Shelter Shed and the Boy's WC or else grant the £3-0-0 formerly promised allow same to be expended in forming the floors with Limestone.

17<sup>th</sup> June 18 diagrams of injurious insects etc have been purchased for the laboratory from Mr Mackay

4<sup>th</sup> August. A very heavy fall of snow commenced last night and continues today. The snow is more than 6 inches deep. Miss Gray arrived wet through and I sent her home. Only 8 children present

9<sup>th</sup> August A great earthquake shock took place at 10.22 am. School property escaped damage in a most miraculous manner. Mauriceville West suffered less severely than Mauriceville East

14<sup>th</sup> August . A slight tremor shortly before 3.00 pm

24<sup>th</sup> August Another slight shock at 4.35 a.m. accompanied by a large rumble

25<sup>th</sup> August Mr T W Hook, Government Biologist delivered a lecture in the School Science Room last evening on "Weeds versus Pure Pasture" to a very large audience. The lecture was illustrated by lantern pictures and was followed by a chat on the "South Sea Islands"

Today Mr Kirk watched the agricultural class at work in the laboratory and spent some time questioning the children

30<sup>th</sup> August Mr A Russell Chairman of the Hawkes Bay Farmers Union paid a visit to inquire into the methods of teaching agriculture in this school. Enquiries have also been received from Mr Edwin Hall, Secretary of the Auckland Pastoral Association and Mr A Hogg MHR

5<sup>th</sup> September That Chairman write to Wellington Education Board re leakage of tank and rotten piles at the Headmasters Residence

14<sup>th</sup> September. Ordered timber from Mr Daniell for school garden fence

15<sup>th</sup> September. The two banks in the school garden have been removed and the garden levelled by the pupils

3<sup>rd</sup> October. Received two hundredweight of manure from Gear Meat (Wellington Meat Works in Petone) for use in school gardens

13<sup>th</sup> October 1904 AGRICULTURE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

We take the following from the Twelfth Report (1904) of the Department of Agriculture:— In last report I briefly referred to my persistent advocacy of the teaching of elementary "agriculture in primary schools, and in support showed what was done by my friend, Mr W. C. Davies, at the Mauriceville East (Sic) School This account, together with the illustrations accompanying it, has attracted much attention, and several other teachers have now made a start on similar lines. I visited the Mauriceville West School and attach, as an aid to other teachers, a short note of last season's work, also a few photographs showing the results attained AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE. Forty lessons of one hour each were given on, parts of plants and their functions, elementary chemistry of air and water, formation of soil, etc., as set forth in syllabus for first year published in last year's report. Half the time was devoted to theoretical instruction illustrated by experiments, diagrams, etc., and half to actual experimental work performed by the pupils individually. The laboratory practice included the

dissection and microscopical examination of parts of plants, the preparation of the five commonest gases, experiments to illustrate their properties and tests for acids, alkalis, carbon-dioxide, lime, salt, and ammonia, careful notes being made on the results of all experiments. GARDENING. Forty lessons of one hour each. During the year the school garden has been enlarged to double its former size. The whole of the space (45ft by 56ft) used last year for the cultivation of flowers and vegetables was laid out as a model cottage flower-garden. The results yielded by this garden patch are interesting as showing what two years' cultivation, and a moderate application of artificial manures, can do with apparently worthless soil. The area adjoining the flower garden, which was utilised for the vegetable trial patches, had never previously been cultivated, having been covered with stunted grass (cocksfoot) and weeds since it was denuded of manuka scrub some fifteen or twenty years ago. The results produced in this soil without the aid of manure were practically nil. A potato-trial in the school garden was a failure, owing to the ravages of a fungus disease which was in the district- very Prevalent. The plants were sprayed by the pupils with Bordeaux mixture after the disease had made its appearance, but the application was too late to do much good. To prove the efficacy of Bordeaux mixture in warding off the attacks of fungoid diseases when applied betimes, seven rows of Up-to-Date potatoes were planted in the teacher's garden, and manured in exactly the same manner as the seven patches in the school ground. The plants were thoroughly sprayed when a few inches above the ground, as directed in Leaflet No. 25, and were treated

in the same manner a fortnight later. This experiment was thoroughly successful, and a fine crop was produced.

In addition to the manure-trials carried out in the school garden, advantage was taken of an opportunity to manure portions of a neighbouring oat paddock. The soil in this field, though not so poor as that in the school gardens, afforded ample scope for testing the 9 values of artificial manures, as it had been used for the same crop many years in succession, and had received only small dressings of bonedust.

6<sup>th</sup> October Finished school garden fence (The elder boys dug the post holes and cut the palings and I erected the fence- out of school hours,) Mr Lars P kindly supplied 5 Hinau posts

14<sup>th</sup> October Rainfall on 14<sup>th</sup> 3.55 inches

20<sup>th</sup> October Mr Bull headmaster of the Waipawa School, spent some time at the school and saw the agricultural class at work in the laboratory

1<sup>st</sup> November Rainfall for last month 21.4 inches

15<sup>th</sup> November Inspectors report of School

Standard 3 to 7 Mr Davies

Standard 2 to Primers Miss Gray. Roll 52

Report Included

Everything in a most satisfactory State

It is a matter of regret there should be such a limited scope for Mr Davies energies and abilities

16<sup>th</sup> November an extra gardening session was given today to make up for time lost owing to bad weather.

19<sup>th</sup> December That the chairman engage somebody to cut all the gorse and broom on the school property

That the asphaltting to be done at the shelter sheds and closets be done with lime sand and tar

## 1905

30<sup>th</sup> January A sharp shock of earthquake was felt at 4.40 last night

6<sup>th</sup> February Tar cost 19/4 railage for same 6/10 Cartage on Lime sand and tar 19/-

That accounts be passed for payment when funds become available.

Subscription for picnic £6-10-0. That prizes worth £4-10-0 be purchased.

That the chairman be deputed to buy the prizes for the picnic

7<sup>th</sup> February The shelter sheds and boys offices have been asphalted during the past few weeks by M Jessen

6<sup>th</sup> March Mr Williamson headmaster of the Ballance School paid a visit to the school on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> March A number of the Elder Pupils accompanied by their friends and the teachers made an expedition to the Summit of Mt Bruce (height 2500 feet) Although the atmosphere was too smoky to allow distant views to be obtained, the day's outing proved most instructive and several interesting insects and botanical specimens were secured

27<sup>th</sup> March The weather is oppressively hot and close today.

25<sup>th</sup> April Resolved that in the opinion of the meeting a committee of five members be sufficient for this district and that the Wellington Education Board be informed thereof

That a letter be sent to Mr William Forster Secretary of NZEI in reply to his circular re superannuation fund. That in the opinions of this meeting it would be preferable to give pupil teachers a bigger salary to begin with in order to induce them to adopt the teaching profession.

At a subsequent meeting Mr William Jesson was elected chairman, secretary and treasurer

Moved that the chairman call a meeting when required but if possible on a moonlight Monday Evening.

5<sup>th</sup> May Mr H Petersen, son of the first teacher in Mauriceville paid a visit to the school

19<sup>th</sup> May. A very successful Scandinavian Entertainment in aid of the Laboratory Fund was held last evening.

In spite of a heavy downpour of rain there was a good audience In addition to drill and Danish Songs given by the pupils, valuable assistance was rendered by the Misses Daniell and Eddie from Masterton and Mr Holst of Eketahuna, who sang a number of Scandinavian national and folk songs. Mr Holst also gave interesting descriptions regarding public buildings and scenes in and about Copenhagen, to accompany a number of limelight illustrations. The trouble occurred in preparing for this entertainment was amply repaid by the enthusiasm displayed by the audience.

7<sup>th</sup> June. The school was closed at 2. p m by order of the chairman in order to enable the pupils to attend Mrs Gunderson's funeral.

21<sup>st</sup> July Mr Jessen has finished the work of putting new spouting around the school

4<sup>th</sup> August Received notification from Wellington Education Board that a tender had been accepted for painting school. Repairs to residence and erecting a washhouse etc

16<sup>th</sup> August. Painters commenced work

19<sup>th</sup> August. By permission of the Board and Committee the school was closed for a fortnight owing to a family bereavement and urgent private business. One week of this time is in the ordinary spring holiday and the other week will be taken from the Christmas holidays

7<sup>th</sup> September. Received a table and chair for the Upper Class

2<sup>nd</sup> October [Re forming a School Committee Association. That on account of the distance away from Masterton and our school being so small we cannot see our way to join the association.](#)

4<sup>th</sup> October Attendance today 47/51. The highest for some months

6<sup>th</sup> October. Nearly all the influenza patients have recovered.

A row of inoculated and one of uninoculated peas was sown in each of the garden patches on October 3<sup>rd</sup>

12<sup>th</sup> October Mr W Gray Chief inspector of the Wanganui District spent an hour at the school and watched the children at work in the laboratory

20<sup>th</sup> October. Trafalgar Celebration day. Addresses were given by Mr Jessen the chairman and myself

23<sup>rd</sup> October School closed in honour of Trafalgar Centenary

31<sup>st</sup> October Owing to injuries received as the result of the explosion of a spirit lamp in the school laboratory, I was compelled to close the school

13<sup>th</sup> November School reopened Today

17<sup>th</sup> November Received offer of appointment as agriculture instructor to Board

18<sup>th</sup> November The special committee of the Education Board which gave consideration of the question of the appointment of an instructor in elementary agriculture offered the position to Mr. W. C. Davis, head teacher of the Mauriceville West School, and the offer has been accepted. Mr. Davis practically inaugurated the now-popular cottage garden instruction in country schools, and various exhibits made by his scholars have amply demonstrated the interest he has taken in and the value of the instruction he has already given upon the subject to which he is now to devote the whole of his time. He will receive a salary of £300 and expenses, and towards the salary the Technical Education Board has 'agreed to contribute £150. Mr. Davis is to give the Technical School one day and two evenings per week of his time, and during the remainder of his time he will give instruction to the students of groups of country schools PP

23<sup>rd</sup> November Very Wet Day, No pupils present

27<sup>th</sup> November 1905 JOTTINGS FROM MAURICEVILLE

(By Our Travelling Contributor.) See and get us a good teacher for Mauriceville West was the request of Mr P. Larsen to a well-known member of the Education Board the other day, we have lost Mr Joplin, and now we are losing Mr Davies." I'm afraid that will be a difficult job," was the reply. Why What is the matter asked the pioneer settler. Because your school is getting too small. You don't grow enough of children," was the amusing but honest answer. Mr Davies has just been appointed Agricultural Instructor

under the Wellington Education Board. He is an enthusiast, and the methods he has adopted for teaching the young idea how to cultivate has been the theme of visitors to the school for years past. The old school-building was converted into a joiner and carpenters' workshop by Mr Joplin. It has been changed into a laboratory replete with scientific appliances by Mr Davies. Mr Joplin taught his senior scholars how to build houses and make furniture; Mr Davies has been teaching them how to grow fruit, vegetables and grain. Bottles on shelves exhibit various kinds of seeds and manures. Outside are the results in garden plots and large flower plots. The boys do the sowing and planting and cultivating, carefully noting day and date of every operation. The girls look after the flower plots. When the vegetables and fruit and potatoes, turnips and mangolds and grain are ripe, they are measured and weighed and photographed, and the nature of their treatment and soil employed is noted beneath. In the laboratory are hundreds of specimens, lizards, bush insects, sea anemones and star fish a powerful microscope, camera, magic lantern and oxyhydrogen apparatus. The school is losing its scientist, and the loss will be felt. But had Mr Davies remained, owing to the diminishing average attendance, his salary would have been reduced £50, although his attainments warranted a substantial increase. The Mauriceville East School has long been on the decline. Under Mr Buchler it has a good master, and it is pleasing to learn that the average is beginning to improve. It has now an attendance of forty. In the Mauriceville County the schools, unfortunately, are mostly going down. This is due partly to the fact that when the older children pass out, there are no young ones

to keep up the numerical strength. But another cause is at work—the settlers are buying one another out, and the aggregation of holdings is diminishing the population. This is seriously injuring the schools and destroying the little townships. The lime kilns keep the men employed. The Company have erected a very good plant. There are several kilns, built on different principles; also an engine and crushing plant. Building-lime is in fairly good demand, but agricultural lime has not yet come into general use. Mr Brooks is rapidly making an impression on a fine hillock of clay, to the southeast of the railway station. He has a crushing plant, moulds, and a well-built kiln, that turns out 30,000 bricks at a time. The new Catholic Church, erected by Mr Malachi McKenzie, son of the well-known teacher, is a conspicuous addition to the public structures. Mr McKenzie has a carpenter and joiners' workroom fitted up with an eight horse-power boiler, a five horsepower engine, a band-saw, circular-saw, dynamo, for lighting with electricity, and other appliances. About half-a-mile down the Masterton road, surrounded with ornamental trees and shrubs, is a pretty nine-roomed dwelling that chiefly owes its appearance and substantiality to one of Mr Joplin's pupils. The owner (Mr Rossiter) has just entered into occupation. The walls are rusticated, and, together with the flooring, are of matai from McLeod's mill. The supervisor of the building, who did most of the carpenter's, joiner's, bricklayer's and plumber's work himself, is Mr Waldemar Larsen, an apt pupil of the school carpentry class. The house outside and rooms inside have been finished in a most artistic fashion, and Mr and Mrs Rossiter pride themselves on having one of the prettiest and best finished homes in the district.

The Mauriceville Hotel has changed hands. It is now in charge of Mr Roigard, who, with his wife and family, are proving themselves very capable and estimable managers. PP

28<sup>th</sup> November Received note from Mr T Fleming instructing me to visit various centres and report on the facilities for agricultural instruction at each

1<sup>st</sup> December. Left school at 2.25 in order to catch mail train for Greytown

2<sup>nd</sup> December Mauriceville West Headmaster, £105 and house

6<sup>th</sup> December. Election Day School Closed. Messrs Parkinson and Cromie of the Greytown School paid the school a visit

I visited Masterton on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pahiatua on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Eketahuna on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> December Left school at 10 am in order to visit Levin

19<sup>th</sup> December Letter from Mr Davies re visiting various schools.

Letter re appointment of new master. Three applications from Messrs Ward, Bradstock and Barrett

That the School Committee approve the Board's selection of Mr Ward

That the chairman obtain a Gold Watch Chain to be presented to Mr Davies. That the Presentation to take place at 2 p.m. on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December.

20<sup>th</sup> December Punished Niels and Albert Pedersen for indecent behaviour towards some of the small girls on the way to school

22<sup>nd</sup> December "Breaking Up" Day. Cleaned paths and tidied gardens

## 1906

29<sup>th</sup> January E H Ward took charge Mr Davies was present and gave me an insight to the work he had been doing during the year, with the exception of Arithmetic and Geography the work of the school year is well advanced

9<sup>th</sup> February Rain all day. A very good attendance for such a day. Examined Standard 3 to 7 in arithmetic. The results were only fair

15<sup>th</sup> February Sharp shock of Earthquake felt this morning at 9.10 am

21<sup>st</sup> February School closed for Masterton Show. School obtained second prize for Sweet Peas

26<sup>th</sup> February One case of diphtheria reported in the school

20<sup>th</sup> March Severe shock of earthquake at 3 pm this evening

That the School Committee approve the action of the chairman in buying a glass case for the school.

That the chairman procure everything for the Picnic.

30<sup>th</sup> March Held annual picnic on the school grounds. The weather was all that could be desired and a very enjoyable day was spent

In the evening the children were entertained with a dance

9<sup>th</sup> April A Mr Burton applied for permission to address the children this morning but as I had heard he was not a desirable character I refused

20<sup>th</sup> April The chairman of the School Committee (Mr Jesson) and one member of the committee attended school this afternoon and distributed prizes won during the year

27<sup>th</sup> April Average for the week 42.5 Very strong gales of wind with rain showers

30<sup>th</sup> April The gale still continues.

9<sup>th</sup> May Mr W C Davies, the Board's instructor for Nature Study and Agriculture paid the school a visit. He is to advise the Board to send certain materials required for Agricultural class

28<sup>th</sup> May That applications be invited for the removal of nightsoil at 18/- per quarter and to be done fortnightly

That the chairman call a meeting of the School Committee whenever required.

Moved that Mauriceville West join the Wairarapa School Committee Association.

That the chairman be appointed representative to the School Committee Association

12<sup>th</sup> June Received news of the death of the Premier (R J Seddon). Chairman of School Committee decided to close the school out of respect to the deceased statesman

15<sup>th</sup> June Received news from Secretary of Wellington Education Board that it had decided to close all schools in the Wellington district until after the funeral of the Premier

29<sup>th</sup> June. I conducted my quarterly examination this week. I was very pleased with the work done throughout the school. The weakest work done was in reading. The reading of the whole school is too mechanical and does not satisfy me. The writing is neat but the formation of letters poor.

9<sup>th</sup> July Resolved to request the boys in Standard 3 upwards to take their turn at cleaning the outhouses and pay them 4/- per month for same.

28<sup>th</sup> July Had the class out gardening the first time in 6 weeks

3<sup>rd</sup> August Two sharp shock of earthquake at 2.25 this afternoon

9<sup>th</sup> August The ground is at last sufficiently dry to work. I had the agriculture class out the whole afternoon and managed to tidy the gardens up and prepare for sowing

27<sup>th</sup> August I took the boys down to Kopuaranga on Saturday to play a football match. The boys though beaten had a very enjoyable time

3<sup>rd</sup> October Visited the school today and found all the work going on most satisfactorily. Examined Marie Jesson for Standard 7 certificate J D Tarrant

4<sup>th</sup> November We have had very heavy gales for the past week. But no damage has happened to the school garden so far.

26<sup>th</sup> November Inspectors report of 3<sup>rd</sup> October received. J D Tarrant

Standard 7-3 Mr E H Ward 26 pupils

Standard 2 – Primers Miss C Gray 21

Report included

The work was going on in every department most satisfactorily The school is easily maintaining its reputation for careful intelligent work

10<sup>th</sup> December Correspondence from Railway Department re excursion to exhibition also from exhibition committee re same. Moved that if any children intend to go to the exhibition the Chairman endeavours to arrange with other schools to make up sufficient number.

## 1907

4<sup>th</sup> February That the picnic be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> instant

That Gentlemen who have not previously subscribed to the picnic can obtain refreshments at 1/- Ladies and Children free

18<sup>th</sup> February School picnic held today

24<sup>th</sup> May Kept Empire Day today. The chairman of the School Committee came and had a talk with scholars about the Empire

6<sup>th</sup> June Mr Ward was present and stated he had purchased 40 books to the values of £3-10-6 also 15 books for the school library and placed £2-0-0 to the credit of the school sports fund, having received from the chairman £3-8-5 balance of the picnic fund and £6-11-4 Nett from concert and dance

That this School Committee is in favour of a new floor being put in science room

That a sub committee consisting of the Chairman J Roigard and A Larsen to examine the joists and arrange for the new floor.

That we apply to the Board for a new clock and this committee will get the present clock repaired for Miss Gray's Room

5<sup>th</sup> August Received notice of my appointment as assistant master in Newtown District High School

8<sup>th</sup> August 1907 Mr. E. H. Ward (Mauriceville West) to the Newtown School

10<sup>th</sup> August That the answer "Yes" be given to the Citizens Bible in State Schools Committee to their circular

22<sup>nd</sup> August Held a concert in aid of new floor in laboratory. Cleared 6 pound 15 after all expenses had been covered

2<sup>nd</sup> September That this School Committee select F L Combs and B Blake from the list of candidates applying for the position of Head master as supplied by the Board.

That this committee request the Government to supply a uniform standard of books to be produced by the State and sold at cost price

That Mr Jessen be given the old flooring for altering the counter as suggested by Mr Ward

4<sup>th</sup> September Held a social in aid of the committees funds. It was a very stormy night and very few turned up. The chairman of the School Committee has money in hand towards cost of floor and microscope

9<sup>th</sup> September Reopened the school this morning after holidays. Two seventh standard and two sixth standard pupils have left

16<sup>th</sup> September. Miss Gray absent this morning. Received a note from her telling me that her absence was owing to an attack of influenza

26<sup>th</sup> September Owing to prevalence of Influenza attendance at school the past two weeks has been very low. The school closes tomorrow for Dominion Day. I have been granted Friday and Monday for the purpose of shifting.

2<sup>nd</sup> October. Came yesterday called in at school and found it closed. Heavy gale today. Came through it and got rather wet. Only 9 children present. The chairman called in and told me I had better take the first opportunity and dismiss school for the day

S Dempsey

21<sup>st</sup> October. Mr Davies spent Friday afternoon here. We put some of the crops in.

1<sup>st</sup> November. Received news yesterday evening to relieve at Mauriceville East. Roll 48

6<sup>th</sup> November F L Combs. Rode down from Rakanui yesterday had been closed on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Opened school this morning  
15<sup>th</sup> November Punished J Deadman for throwing dirt in the garden As both his hands were sore punished him on the body  
30<sup>th</sup> November That this committee procure a lamp for the science room to be paid for from monies received from socials  
That the annual picnic to be held on Anniversary day 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
That 2 cords of 2 feet rata firewood be purchased @ 27/- per cord  
2<sup>nd</sup> December Wished to meet 5 to 3 express. ¾ hour for dinner and dismissed my own room at 2.45 pm  
19<sup>th</sup> December Stopped work at 2 pm Straightened up school put things in desks away and dismissed school

## 1908

5<sup>th</sup> February The water in the school tanks being bad have told the children not to drink it.  
18<sup>th</sup> February In absence of chairman spoke to Mr Larsen and in accordance with the general practice closed school for Masterton Show tomorrow  
21<sup>st</sup> February Attendance and class prizes for the year 1907 were presented to the children by Mr Jesson today. School closed at 2.30  
16<sup>th</sup> March That a dancing class be held next Saturday and then fortnightly  
19<sup>th</sup> March Very wet ½ hour for dinner. Dismissed 2.30 pm  
15<sup>th</sup> April The school was visited by Mr Davies and in the morning Standard 3 to Standard 6 in the gardens

21<sup>st</sup> April Punished 3 boys R Jensen, A Little and E Mattson who on Wednesday last hid behind trees and cried out to Miss Gray and myself as we went passed  
27<sup>th</sup> April That an accordion be purchased.  
That a piano be procured from Dresden Co at £48-0-0 (\$7,481.02 December 2011)  
Moved that a concert and dance be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Tickets 1/- for the concert and 2/- for concert, dance and supper.  
6<sup>th</sup> May Heavy rain, attendance under half. No play ½ dinner dismissed at 2.15  
8<sup>th</sup> May Read letter from chairman re old school, wrote a reply giving the information asked for by the Wellington Education Board Secretary  
13<sup>th</sup> May A Mrs Deadman came to see her family. She is I believe divorced from her husband. I asked her to take the children if willing to go out of the playground. She did so,  
14<sup>th</sup> May On the twelfth a small boy P Ratcliffe, belonging to this school was killed by a piece of a blasted log. His funeral is to take place today. As most of the children are with the consent of their parents going I am dismissing school at 2 pm  
18<sup>th</sup> May That Mr William Jensen be asked to take charge of the Dancing Classes  
That Mr William Jensen be requested to form a committee to manage the concerts.  
That Mrs Combs take charge of the piano and key  
That the charge for use of the schoolroom with use of piano be 10/- to local people and 15/- to outsiders.

That members of the School Committee met on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Inst to cut down pines at back of school and trim the pines along the road.

## UPTO

27<sup>th</sup> May 1907 Mauriceville West  
(Special to Daily Times.)

Although heavy rain fell here all day on Friday, and in the evening a thunderstorm threatened, a very large audience attended the concert and dance organised by Mr Ward, headmaster of the Mauriceville West School to provide a school prize fund. Those who had the hardihood to face the elements were treated to an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental items, each number being fully appreciated and loudly applauded. Mr Jessen, Chairman of the School Committee, in opening the entertainment, referred to the good work done by the school at the recent examination, and briefly explained the object of the social.

The programme opened with a chorus by the school children. Mr Ward contributed the well-known song, Father O'Flynn which was encored, as were his two recitations in the second part of the programme. Mrs. M. I. McKenzie pleased the audience, with her rendering of "Listening" and "Marguerite." The duet, "Life's Dream is O'er," by Mr and Mrs McKenzie, received an emphatic recall. Mrs Ward had to respond to an encore for each of her items, "Tit for Tat" and "Home, Dearie, Home. Miss Mama Sigversten's singing of "Love's Old Sweet Song," and "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," proved unmistakeably her

capability as a vocalist. Mr W. Jensen sang "Starlight" and "When the Harvest Moon is Shining," in his well-known capable manner. The comic element was supplied by Mr M. I. McKenzie, who received an encore for each of his numbers, "Fidgety Fudge" and "I'm Still Alive and Kicking Oh." A pianoforte solo by Miss Forsberg and a violin solo by Mr Edward Larsen, were capital items. The accompaniments were played by Miss Forsberg, Mesdames Ward and C. Brooks, and Mr Edward Larsen. The programme was interspersed with selections on the phonograph manipulated by Mr C. C. Jackson. The dance, which followed the concert, brought to a close an exceedingly pleasant entertainment. The dance music was supplied by Mr J. Jensen, extras being played by Messrs W. Jensen, McKenzie and E. Larson.

3<sup>rd</sup> June Resumed school after the term holidays During these a working bee cut down the firs behind the school as they kept the rear portion of the building too damp. and shaded.

16<sup>th</sup> June Dismissed school 2.30 pm So as to catch train to Masterton

1<sup>st</sup> July That 2 dozen rubbers to be procured.

That Mr Combs be allowed to purchase one cord of pine firewood at 10/-. Mr J Roigard requested his vote to be recorded against above motion.

That 4 teapots, 6 dozen cups and saucers, 1 dozen large plates, 6 white bowls, 4 milk jugs and 1 dozen teaspoons be procured

14<sup>th</sup> July Wrote to Mr Ratcliffe re his daughter Minnie having entered the school on the 13<sup>th</sup> and torn down a paper covering a small pane of glass in the corridor

15<sup>th</sup> July Mr Ratcliffe called and made an explanation re the matter mentioned above.

16<sup>th</sup> July. Cold Snowing 39 present. No play ½ hour dinner. Dismissed 2.15

31<sup>st</sup> August. Some 2 weeks ago received 4 blinds for the upper classroom. Got notice that Board had authorised papering of kitchen

14<sup>th</sup> September The chairman reported having handed the committeemen's subscription of 20/- to Mr Combs who added 5/- and procured books, for that amount for the school library.

That a charge of 2/6 per week be made for the use of the school for evangelistic services as applied for by Miss Hodgins?

15<sup>th</sup> September The Head Teacher having to go in search of a nurse for Mrs Combs. The upper school was with the consent of the chairman dismissed for the day.

During the term holidays the blinds were put up

25<sup>th</sup> September. The chairman made a short speech to the children and handed each one the Dominion medal sent for distribution.

2<sup>nd</sup> November That Miss Hodgins be notified that she cannot have the hall any more from date.

That the cricket club be only charged 2/6 for their annual meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September

8<sup>th</sup> December. Spoke to chairman about furniture etc not being put back after dances etc.

14<sup>th</sup> December. Inspectors report of September 20<sup>th</sup> included

Standard 3 to 6 Mr Combs Roll 24

Primers – Standard 2 Miss Gray 29

## 1909

5<sup>th</sup> February The painters today finished painting the school and house Mr Peterson has also been busy making repairs around the school

19<sup>th</sup> February Holiday for school picnic which was held in the school grounds

20<sup>th</sup> February On account of it being a danger to the school Mr Jessen and myself burnt some fallen fir trees in the gully to the east of the school

2<sup>nd</sup> April Ellen Deadman was reported as having Scarlatina on this account. I sent all the children home pending inquiries of the health officer as to the right course to pursue.

5<sup>th</sup> April The doctor informed Mr Deadman that Ellen Deadman was not ill with Scarlatina. The Deadman children came back to school today.

26<sup>th</sup> April That the School Committee for giving a send off to Mr and Mrs Jacob Jensen be given the free use of the hall for the occasion on account of Mrs Jansen having so ably assisted last winter towards the Piano Fund

That we ascertain if gatepost is broken and then write to Mr Fisher to pay the damage done to gates and post within a week or matter will be reported to Wellington Education Board

15<sup>th</sup> June. Resumed work today after a two week vacation which the Head teacher spent at Greytown Agriculture School

16<sup>th</sup> June Have decided not to take agriculture for 3 weeks pending alterations to laboratory and additions to its stock. The 6 missed hours can be then made up

29<sup>th</sup> June Correspondence from Miss C Gray "re leaving school"

Wellington Education Board re application from Miss Glanville for position of assistant mistress.

Eketahuna School Committee Re High School

That the Chairman write to Miss Gray expressing the Committee's appreciation of her services in the school and wish to meet her when she has next holidays

That the School Committee approve Miss Glanville's application  
Eketahuna School Committee request for support to High School was not entertained owing to train time table not being suitable

2<sup>nd</sup> July Miss Gray finished duty here yesterday afternoon. She having been granted Friday off school. Today was conducted without her

5<sup>th</sup> July Miss Messenger relieving teacher arrived at 1 pm and commenced duty this afternoon

22<sup>nd</sup> July As no quorum was present no business was transacted

9<sup>th</sup> August Have forgotten to note that Miss Glanville commenced duty as assistant vice Miss Messenger on August 2<sup>nd</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup> August Circular from Wellington Education Board re Miniature Rifle Ranges

That a list be sent round to raise money for a presentation to Miss Gray our Late Mistress.

30<sup>th</sup> August The following tenders were received for the supply of 4 cords of 2 foot rata firewood.

Marias Neilson 26/6. John Anderson 26/- C Erickson 27/6 H Mays 24/-

That a social be got up for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September to make a presentation to Miss Gray and invite subscribers and their families

thereto and request mothers to bring a basket of refreshments, also to invite Miss Gray's Father

1<sup>st</sup> October The exam holiday will be taken 4<sup>th</sup> October and Labor Day 5<sup>th</sup> October to permit Miss Granville paying a visit to Masterton Infant School

3<sup>rd</sup> December Whooping cough being prevalent the school with the consent of the School Committee and the Board was closed and is to open on the 17<sup>th</sup> January

## 1910

24<sup>th</sup> January In accordance with a Memo from Chairman school reopened today instead of the 17<sup>th</sup> memo filed

2<sup>nd</sup> February That the illustrated London News be procured for the use of the school

That the chairman invite the single and married ladies to form a committee to carry out work of preparing refreshments for the school picnic and dance.

14<sup>th</sup> March On Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst a committee man told me that 2 girls had been writing letters of a most improper character to a boy in the school I made enquiries with the results as under  
The letters (2) had been written by the girls that sweep out the school and were so written in school but after school hours while sweeping

I got the letters (filed) which were of a highly improper character I asked the Chairman to call a meeting of the School Committee on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup>

The letters were laid before them and I outlined the course I deemed it best to take.. It was the bigger girl R Erickson to leave the school and go to the East School

The other girl May Jesson to remain here and have no play. Go home to dinner and not leave the school till the other children were gone

Both girls to be severely punished

The Boy was Edgar D

The School Committee acquiesced in these measures

This morning I punished the girls and sent Ruby Erickson away.

The Boy Deadman had already been well thrashed by his father and as it seemed the girls were almost entirely to blame I did not further punish him He will have to go and come from school as does May Jepson

George Deadman who had written a letter for the other boy and given it to the girls I also punished

4<sup>th</sup> April Mr Fleming visited the school and awarded G Deadman and D Jessen Proficiency Certificates

8<sup>th</sup> April Ruby Erickson had left the district

12<sup>th</sup> April Mr Combs Roll 23

Miss Glanville Roll 26

Inspectors Report included

All registers should be kept up to date.

The teacher is always on the premises during recess

Work was proceeding satisfactorily in both rooms under good discipline

Physical Education and deep breathing are now taken daily as recommended

Reading should be more fluent in the lower classes. The teacher is handicapped by the fact that a foreign language is spoken in some of the homes of the children

An excellent feature of the work of the Upper Classes is the number of books such as King Solomon, The White Boy, The Water Babies and Alice in Wonderland which the scholars read during the year

The Boys Offices are only fair The arrangement for a urinal is not very satisfactory More supervision is required

Residence. There is a bad leak in the residence. The paper in part of the passage and in one of the rooms is very badly damaged.

15<sup>th</sup> April With the consent of the School Committee the school will be closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> to allow the HT to go to Wellington to bring back his family Arbor Day and Labour Day will not be taken as holidays so as to make good the time

6<sup>th</sup> May In order to enable Miss Glanville to catch the train I allowed her to dismiss at 2.30 pm.. The Clerk of Work and Chairman decided on repairs necessary to put roof in order

9<sup>th</sup> May The school flag was hoisted half mast yesterday and today on account of death of King Edward V11

11<sup>th</sup> May. Yesterday in accordance with a note from the premier the school was closed. The chairman being away the note was given to me.

13<sup>th</sup> June On Friday night 10<sup>th</sup> Inst the lantern screen in the old school was damaged. I made complaint to those then in the building about it. F Legarth who was responsible will make good the damage

14<sup>th</sup> June Girls went to practice singing for concert at 2.45 pm

1<sup>st</sup> July A highly successful school concert got up and organised throughout by Miss Glanville was held last night in the old school. Takings of £6-15. The prizes for December 1909 was distributed  
12<sup>th</sup> August Miss Glanville had afternoon off to go to (Funeral) wedding

20<sup>th</sup> August A circular from Wellington Education Board re sanction should be obtained before a committee made alterations to building on ground near the foundations.

That the Wellington Education Board be applied to for a grant to grub up gorse and blackberries as the inspector requires that they be eradicated

It was resolved that a presentation and send off be given to Miss Glanville who is leaving the school next month

Miss Emma Jensen appointed Assistant Teacher.

31<sup>st</sup> August 1910 Miss E. Glanville, assistant, Mauriceville West Resignation

12<sup>th</sup> September 1910 Mauriceville West (Mauriceville Railway Station) — Assistant Mistress, £90 to £120. Job advertisement

25<sup>th</sup> September. Miss Glanville left school on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The relieving teacher Miss Rose took up her duties. Miss Glanville was presented at a social with a gold watch and chain

25<sup>th</sup> September Today Dominion Day, no holiday was taken on account of the nearness of the inspector's visit. In the absence of the chairman the children were addressed by the Head Teacher and the flag was hoisted and saluted.

30<sup>th</sup> September. By arrangement with the School Committee Dominion Day not taken on the 25<sup>th</sup> will be taken on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and the exam holiday on October 3<sup>rd</sup>

13<sup>th</sup> October Roll 39. Inspectors report of 29<sup>th</sup> September T R Fleming

Included

Physical Instruction Free arm and breathing exercises taken daily

One commendable feature of the work is the amount of reading covered during the year. Each scholar in the upper division has read intelligently a number of books such as "The White Company" "The Water Babies" etc.

The class work in History and Political Geography was also good Practical work in the garden will now receive more attention.

A strenuous effort should be made by the committee and headmaster to maintain such an average for the year as will enable them to retain the services of an assistant

15<sup>th</sup> November By arrangement with the committee the school will be closed today and tomorrow and the day following to enable the Head Teacher to sit for English A and B papers in the New Zealand University exams in Masterton,

2<sup>nd</sup> December. Miss Rose today finished her term of relieving at the school

5<sup>th</sup> December. Miss Jensen commenced duties.

## 1911

30<sup>th</sup> January Dismiss Upper Room 2.30 to catch train to Masterton

14<sup>th</sup> February That Mr Jensen be asked to resign as he had left the district and not being able to attend a meeting. (*Mr Jensen was Chairman Secretary and Treasurer and had to be replaced by J P Petersen*) Letter received next meeting)

3<sup>rd</sup> March Miss Jensen asked leave for Monday morning as she wished to go to Wellington I agreed to her being absent

28<sup>th</sup> March Last Night the District Health Officer called regarding the case of measles at Mr Mattson's. Everything is in order and the Mattson boys are to come to school again.

3<sup>rd</sup> April The growth from the front of the school has been removed and the space gravelled. The reduction in numbers on the roll and the addition of Military Drill to the timetable had lessened the attention that can be given to gardening.

11<sup>th</sup> April Yesterday owing to illness the Head Teacher had to go to Masterton to see the Doctor. Miss Jensen took charge of the school for the day.

20<sup>th</sup> March Inspectors report. Miss Jensen a student from training college is giving promise of becoming a good teacher

2<sup>nd</sup> April Mesdames Mortensen and Petersen's Tender for cleaning the school be accepted for the sum of seven pounds

Owing to a disturbance made in the old school it was moved that the School Master be asked to lock the door and no one to have admission without his or the chairman's consent and that in future a guaranteed of £1.00 of any person wanting the school

18<sup>th</sup> May Have just completed the quarterly exam. Work as a whole is very satisfactory. I have come to the conclusion that it pays handsomely to early get the reading into a high estate of proficiency as possible. Once the child has come to read with ease and interest his other studies are supplemented by a tremendous amount any information self gained from literary sources. Moreover it means that by the time the child has reached the general journalistic and fiction matter of good quality is well within his

scope and he is in a way to become a true reader. On this account what might appear to be a disproportionately large amount to be given to reading in the lower classes. Such a scheme may help 50% of the children to enter what Carlyle has called the true university that to wit of a library of good books

The home stimulus to wide general reading if given never fails of good education at first. The same stimulus given in the school should reach three where the home influence reaches only one.

1<sup>st</sup> June Head Teacher left at 2 pm to go to Masterton to buy was procured by the School Committee school prizes.

16<sup>th</sup> June In the evening a concert worked up by Miss Jensen and given by the children was held. It was a great success both financially and generally

30<sup>th</sup> June 4 loads of lime sand were procured by the School Committee to be distributed round the residence

1<sup>st</sup> July A deputation waited on the School Committee to see on what terms the dancing Committee could have the old school at per night

That the Dancing be charged 5/- for a short night 7/6 for a long night until further notice

1<sup>st</sup> July. The coronation medals are to be distributed to the children on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August'

3<sup>rd</sup> July Recommended school after the Coronation Holiday.

Some of the children with their parent's consent are to be away an hour fortnightly to attend a catechism class in the Lutheran Church

7<sup>th</sup> August For the past 4 weeks measles have been very prevalent Worst a fortnight again when throughout the week the average attendance was 2

I took sole charge and Miss Jensen went to Wellington for a week  
On Thursday last I went to Masterton to have my teeth stopped  
and Miss Jensen took charge

12<sup>th</sup> September Being ill with a cold and collapsed. I had to leave  
Miss Jensen in sole charge. This continued over a week during  
which the work under Miss Jensen's direction went on with a  
smoothness and efficiency very creditable to her

19<sup>th</sup> September. Returned to school today. There is still much  
sickness. Two boys are quarantined on account of a case of scarlet  
fever and mumps are becoming prevalent

13<sup>th</sup> October Forwarded 2 largest size dual desks to Kaiparora. Mr  
Mattson carted them

13<sup>th</sup> November 4 boys are preparing for the school exam next  
year. These I have set to read daily from the paper accounts of the  
3 or 4 most important events

4<sup>th</sup> December. Repapering of residence throughout and painting of  
scullery were completed today. Two new hand basins were placed  
in the school porch.

7<sup>th</sup> December School closed for election

8<sup>th</sup> December Held a mock election

[That tenders be called for splitting and delivering 4 cords of  
firewood matai or rata.](#)

13<sup>th</sup> December. 6 weeks holiday. The breaking up was two days  
early on account of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot (For this election 1 candidate had  
to get over 50% of the vote or the top two candidates had to have  
another election. Repealed 1913 after 2 by elections were held  
under this scheme)

Miss Jensen ceased today to be a member of the staff which has  
been reduced to a sole teacher

It deserves notice that her work having been conscientious and  
capable has been of both moral and mental value to the children.

She goes as assistant to Manakau

## 1912

29<sup>th</sup> January Recommenced school 40/42 present. Miss Jensen is  
still on the staff. I have no word from the Board but understand  
she was asked to remain on here as the attendance of last quarter  
was sufficient to warrant her remaining.

31<sup>st</sup> January. From Wellington Education Board that Miss Jensen  
is to remain here until March 30<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> March. Two new coconut mats have been procured for the  
school porch.

19<sup>th</sup> March. Received two fire screens

[19<sup>th</sup> March That a petition be sent to Wellington Education Board  
in order to try if it would be possible to retain the available teacher](#)

[8<sup>th</sup> June The School Committee meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the  
month provision being made for wet night by meeting on  
following Monday](#)

[14<sup>th</sup> August That Mr Lemstedt offer to keep down weeds be  
accepted.](#)

4<sup>th</sup> October The new sewing mistress has been absent twice from  
sewing as her mother is too ill to allow her leaving home. (Miss  
Anderson who has taken the place of Mrs Jacobson from the first  
of the month)

That charge for hall fixed as follows. Meeting 2/6. Short Dance 5/- Long night dance or social 10/- and all breakages to be replaced by users. Also that copper and hall be left clean.

That the Board be written to with regards to selecting teachers by classification.

9<sup>th</sup> October. Miss Anderson came to take the sewing

11<sup>th</sup> October. The school will be closed till date the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst as the teacher will be away at the Victoria College examinations. The September term holiday had been postponed till now for that purpose. The School Committee are fencing off the rough ground down the gully with the view of getting it eaten down

19<sup>th</sup> November By arrangement with the School Committee and with the consent of the Board the school was closed on 8 days to enable the teacher to attend the N Z U exam for BA degree at Masterton

In view of these days the Xmas holiday is to be 5 weeks only and three holidays, Arbor and Labor day and the inspector's holiday have been taken.

25<sup>th</sup> November

Yesterday afternoon Eva Phillipson was in the porch being taught by Janey Deadman

Janey Deadman made complaint that Eva Phillipson would not attend

I told Janey Deadman to send her in. The child would not come

I told Janey Deadman to tell her that if she did not come at one I would give her the stick. About 2 minutes after that I went out.

The child would not take punishment on her hand so I copped her on the legs with the stick till she held out her hand. I then gave her one cut with the cane

Mr Phillipson called this morning to complain. There were slight bruises on one of the child's legs

I told him I regretted the bruises but under the same circumstances would do again exactly what I had done as I would not tolerate disobedience. I also told him that the child was very headless of what was said to her and this was the cause of her difficulties.

Mr Phillipson made further complaint about the bigger girls annoying Eva. I have enquired into it. The girls do not admit it.

I have cautioned them not to molest her in anyway and to bring any real complaints about her to me.

There seems to be feeling on their part as Eva Phillipson has taken from time to time biscuits and lollies out of their kits

I have twice had to punish her for this

10<sup>th</sup> December Received from Education Department a parcel of medical appliances to be kept here pending the arrival of the Health Officer

## 1913

19<sup>th</sup> January School picnic followed by a dance. School was afterwards scrubbed out

27<sup>th</sup> January Reopened school Roll 34

2<sup>nd</sup> March 1913 Mr. F L. Combs, .of the Mauriceville West School, has been advised that he has passed the examination for the M.A. degree, with first-class honours in history. PP

6<sup>th</sup> March ½ hour dinner Dismissed at 2pm to permit teacher to play in a cricket match

18<sup>th</sup> March Rubber stamp ordered for library

31<sup>st</sup> March That 10/- be the charge for hall hire on election of Harbour Board

11<sup>th</sup> April. Paid Miss Anderson cheque sent by Board for sewing Instructress's salary up to December 1912

19<sup>th</sup> April Ordered library books to the value of £2-12-6 from S and W Mckay

21<sup>st</sup> April 18 children went on an excursion to the battleship New Zealand

23<sup>rd</sup> April. Sewing Instructress absent on a visit to Wellington

28<sup>th</sup> April That a man be engaged to work with teacher to cut out blackberries.

That Messes Lemberg and Nielsen attend to matter of grazing off playground

That teacher be at liberty to sell flower pots

That teacher ascertain of altitude and shadow instruments

1<sup>st</sup> May Roll 35. Inspectors report included. Mr Stuckey

Full schemes have been prepared in all subjects. They are somewhat too elaborate and this entails an under delegation of junior work to monitors

Buildings in very fair order

Sheds and Offices might be made neater

5<sup>th</sup> May Procured new football for the boys

7<sup>th</sup> May Sewing taken in the morning. 42 new books largely selected to suit the lower classes have been added to the library

12<sup>th</sup> May There has been appreciable increase of interest in the library due mainly to the reading of continuous stories in the school time.

9<sup>th</sup> June 7 cows have been grazed on the school grounds during the previous 3 weeks with the object of getting the growth eaten down. The manure left by them has been put on the garden

With regard to cleaning of school buildings. It was arranged to draw up a specification of what is required to be done during the year to be signed by the contractor.

The rules of hire to be placed in the hall. Only the building could be hired.

That the cricket club be charged 5/- instead of the usual 10/-

That applications to hire the hall should be made in writing also that the building be kept locked.

Mention was made of broken windows and window glass being required.

That the cricket club be charged 5/- instead of the usual fee of 10/-

13<sup>th</sup> June Received agricultural chemicals from Wilton and Co by order of the Board

18<sup>th</sup> June School two days unswept. Am writing a note to the school cleaner

14<sup>th</sup> July that the chairman interview Mr Erickson re school cleaning

Visiting member suggested that the scrub on back of grounds be felled and burned later in the year.

16<sup>th</sup> July. Arbor Day Teacher and Committee excavated the embankment behind the school with the object of improving the drainage.

18<sup>th</sup> July Committee and teacher put 9 loads of gravel round the school

31<sup>st</sup> July Wrote Secretary re case of glass received without advice from R and E Tingeys. In the afternoon all the children except two were being vaccinated by Doctor Prior on account of smallpox

11<sup>th</sup> August Only 18 present. Vaccination now in the 11<sup>th</sup> day has upset many. Claude Pain has something resembling smallpox. Visited his parents and asked them to keep all the children away pending development. Wrote re Claude Pain to the health officer.

10<sup>th</sup> September. Seeds and manure received from Coopers

12<sup>th</sup> September. Sowed Broad Beans and Parsnips

17<sup>th</sup> September. Sowed early rose potatoes, peas, carrots, lettuce

19<sup>th</sup> September Sowed French Beans and Radishes

2<sup>nd</sup> October. Ladder made by Mr Clarke for school received

6<sup>th</sup> October the following recommendations came before the School Committee

- a) The cleaning of playgrounds and paths be attended to at once
- b) That Mr Lahmstadt be approached with regards to clearing of weeds off school grounds grazed by him

8<sup>th</sup> October. Inspector Stuckley arrived at 11.30 pm The Upper Standards remained until 4.15 pm.

10<sup>th</sup> October School closed one week. Teacher with consent of School Committee and Board, absent at Victoria College.

22<sup>nd</sup> October. Planted out lettuce- Not sufficient for row each.

27<sup>th</sup> October Have spent a week practising all classes in drawing from the object. Work is improving. Today labour Day not taken as a holiday as teacher will be 3 days absent at University Exams

5<sup>th</sup> November. Teacher absent 2 days to attend BA degrees final exam

1<sup>st</sup> December It was resolved to call tenders re hay on grounds That Dance Club be charged

8<sup>th</sup> December That Mr A E Clarke tender for hay 5/- be accepted For following dance at closing Mr J Jensen take door and E W Neilsen take charge of sheep guessing

## 1914

28<sup>th</sup> January Received copy of new syllabus

13<sup>th</sup> March F Pain has returned to school after 2 weeks absence- as he is behind with his work ad attendance since the beginning of the year has been very broken I have placed him in Standard 3 rather than Standard 4. His age is 10 years 1 month

18<sup>th</sup> March. Yesterday was observed as a holiday because of local sports

7<sup>th</sup> April Will tomorrow begin to use "Dominion" sum books. Miss Anderson the sewing mistress will be away on holiday. The days she is away will be made up by taking two hour lessons in agriculture and sewing on her return. 3 loads of gravel were placed in front of the school. Commenced using 2 cords of rata supplied by Mr Forsberg

16<sup>th</sup> April 1914 From Our Own Correspondent.]

Mauriceville West

The settlers here are endeavouring to get the West road connected with the telephone. The supply of milk and cream is now on the down grade, though the tests on the average are better and the

supply is above that of last year. Master George Petersen, son of Mr and Mrs J. P. Petersen, who has been laid aside for about a week, is now slightly better. The School Committee will meet on the first Monday in May. The last meeting existing committee Pastor Bach conducted the 11 a.m. and the 7.30 p.m. services on Sunday, which were well attended. On Monday the Bible Class journeyed through from Palmerston North to visit the young folk here, and were well received, returning the same evening after a pleasant day.

Mrs P. E. Mortensen is at present staying with Mrs W. Jessen, of Wellington.

The Hastwell Band held a successful practice in the old school on Saturday night, under the capable conductorship of Mr E. Larsen.

The band has now 18 playing members. PP

28<sup>th</sup> April Received 1 dozen Fairfax calculators. Model relief map of New Zealand

12<sup>th</sup> May 1914. At the meeting of householders held on Thursday night, the old order of things was experienced, no one turning up to confer with the old committee, of whom five were present.

Finally, the committee was made up as follows: Messrs B. W. Nielsen (chairman), A. B. Clarke (secretary), P. E. Matterson, A. Forsberg, A. Milne, C. B. Nielsen and J. Jensen PP

2<sup>nd</sup> June School Reopened after 3 weeks vacation 2 weeks being spent in training camp Masterton and one week being term holiday

3<sup>rd</sup> June Inspectors Report of 15<sup>th</sup> April Mr Stuckley

Roll 27

The instruction in general is on intelligent lines

A good spirit of work is apparent

A new tank is to be supplied to the residence

The garden has been sown in a winter crop

19<sup>th</sup> June Teacher (F L Combs) as President Wairarapa NZEI going to Wellington Institute Meeting with the agreement of the School Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1914 THE COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER

TO THE EDITOR. Sir, Your report, necessarily curtailed, of the meeting of the Wellington District Educational Institute, in the Masonic Hall on the 19th inst., at which the city members and Mr. Robertson, M.P. for Otaki were present, gave an excerpt from, and not a condensation of, my own remarks. As president of the Wairarapa branch and representative of the county teachers, it was my especial duty to voice the claims and disabilities of the country teacher, and the bulk of my speech was addressed to that purpose. The country teacher's demand for a substantial increase of salary, for improvements to his residence, for a glebe adjacent to that residence, were stated, and, what is important, cordially endorsed by a representative gathering of city teachers. Another special claim was also made in my remarks for the married teacher, whether in town or country. It was pointed out that as the "lifer" of the profession it depended on him to give continuity to what is best in the tradition of the Service, while, on the other hand, existing rates of pay made it impossible for a young married man to contemplate permanently remaining in the profession. Finally, all the reforms urged by the speakers of the evening- Dominion classification, a non-attendance basis of payment, the setting up of a council of education, reforms in regard to understaffing were endorsed on behalf of the country Service. ,As it is material that I

should not seem to have neglected the main purpose for which I was invited to attend the meeting, I trust you will, in justice to myself, be able to insert this letter. I am, etc., F. L. COMBS. Mauriceville West 22nd June. PP

23<sup>rd</sup> June In Wellington on Saturday I called on the Clerk of Works who informed me that £1 had been placed on the work list. The School Committee to start straight away

Prince of Wales birthday will not be taken as a holiday

29<sup>th</sup> June That tenders be called for cleaning of school and outhouses combined

That Mr Milne be appointed to inspect drain at Mr Comb's residence

The promise of a donation from the Forester's Lodge was thankfully received.

6<sup>th</sup> July. School closed Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July in the afternoon to permit teacher to go the funeral of Mrs Forsberg

15<sup>th</sup> July. A week ago the cleaner accidentally broke a window

29<sup>th</sup> July Copy of wire (*Telegram*) from Secretary of Wellington Education Board re application for Gladstone School (I had wired asking that application be withdrawn as the school was said to going down in numbers.

Board in special circumstances assent your condition transfer especially provided that it does not create a precedent. Board consider that possibly there may not be for some time another vacancy in school same grade. Think very unlikely school will shrink this year. Do you agree to accept transfer if committee accept.

Stewart Secretary

Education Board

I replied accepting

14<sup>th</sup> August Two galvanised iron square tanks arrived. One to be placed down at the school and the other by the residence

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Inst a Miss Lund a primary teacher from Pennsylvania visited the school

1<sup>st</sup> A week ago a list for ambulance fund as per circular suggestion of Department was opened. Practically all the children subscribed Total 19/1 Received

15<sup>th</sup> September Children absent in afternoon at funeral of their school mate Alice Mattson

1914/5120 Mattson	Alice Rachel	11Y
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30<sup>th</sup> October ½ dinner Left at 2.15 pm to catch the mail

2<sup>nd</sup> November Miss Armstrong took charge for a fortnight. F L Combs occupied with work for honours and attendance at Honours Exam at Masterton

6<sup>th</sup> November 1914 Miss Armstrong, of Wellington, is at present doing relieving duty at the Mauriceville West School PP

16<sup>th</sup> November Resumed duties School closed for tomorrow. Teacher absent in Masterton sitting Paper E Honours in History. Holiday taken in lieu of Dominion Day

2<sup>nd</sup> December Mr G R Sykes MP paid a visit to the school and addressed the children on the value of steady application, affinity of purpose and worthy ambitions

7<sup>th</sup> December. That the sum of £ 3-10-0 be spent on toys. That the Chairman and Mr Combs be appointed to select toys

Decided to have sheep guessing on picnic day. Mr Mortensen to bring sheep

Secretary to get band to play.

That an American Broom be procured



10<sup>th</sup> December. School closed General Election

## 1915

10<sup>th</sup> March The Pain Children are away with the Chicken Pox

22<sup>nd</sup> March On Saturday I had a complaint from Mr A E Clarke re nits in his girl Emma's hair. Today I spoke to the girls alone and told them to get their mothers to examine their heads and if necessary to use preventatives such as Kerosene or Dip

23<sup>rd</sup> March 11 girls present all had their heads examined and are free from nits

29<sup>th</sup> March

Inspector Bakewell paid the school a visit

Spelling from the test for Standard 2,3 4

Concentrating History and Geography on the present war

Commencing from the war against Louis XIV

3<sup>rd</sup> April The piano be tuned.

7<sup>th</sup> April Mr Bligh a Purity Lecturer called at the school. As he had a letter of his work from Hon J Allan Minister of Education. I acceded to his request to address the children for 35 minutes

29<sup>th</sup> April Visit from Mr Direen, Truant Inspector

3<sup>rd</sup> May Mr Combs brought up the question of laying a tennis court. Mr Combs to find out more about it.

24<sup>th</sup> May Piano Tuner called- had just the piano tuned-suggested Piano should be placed on insulators. A piece of wood to be put on soft pedal to block mice. Showed me rubbish he had taken out of piano viz tobacco tin, candle.

15<sup>th</sup> June Funeral of Mrs Erikson her child and grandchildren are absent this week. Few children here in afternoon. Closed school 2 pm and attended funeral

14<sup>th</sup> August That Social to be preceded by a lecture by Mr Combs on the war, for 1 hour be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Secretary explained that the best arrangements re cleaning of school were sweeping alternate days, scrubbing one room quarterly and twice a year

15<sup>th</sup> August Present at School Committee meeting. Resolved to have the dance preceded by lecture by teacher in aid of school funds.

Brought up the matter of cleaning before School Committee On expiry of previous cleaners year, tenders were called without response. Cleaning was then carried out pro term at old rate (£8 pound per annum and £2 for WC's)

Arrangements being made to have school swept three times per week. And scrubbed quarterly. I told School Committee this was not sufficient. A meeting of householders is therefore to be held to discuss ways a means of having school thoroughly cleaned

27<sup>th</sup> August The School Committee elected last April have resigned. A difficulty being experienced in getting any one to tender for the cleaning of the school at a sufficiently low figure and only 2 parents attending the meeting held to discuss the general position of the Committee it was felt they were not receiving the support they should. 3 present being unmarried men were dissatisfied that parents should leave the onus of School Committee work so much to them and at the same time show no appreciation of what the committee was doing.

I have arranged with the older pupils 2 at a time and per fortnight to sweep out the school nightly. The School Committee will pay out 4/- per fortnight for the work and make separate arrangements for the cleaning

2<sup>nd</sup> September Procured at own cost Materials 5/- to water floor with. Sheep dip will be added to the water 3 days a week

3<sup>rd</sup> September. Last Night to an audience of about 50 The teacher gave a lecture on "The Present War" – A dance to follow

14<sup>th</sup> September On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Inst there was a meeting of the ex committee present. Messers A Forsberg, A E Clarke, P Mortensen, B Neilsen. The cash in hand £5-0-8 and books of the School Committee were handed over to Mr F L Combs teacher. Mr A Forsberg ex secretary was to ring Mr L P Larsen regarding the formation of a new committee.

17<sup>th</sup> September. Methven Copper and Stand received from Coller and Co for use at the residence (12 gallons)

22<sup>nd</sup> September On Sunday a painter Mr Clayton called to see painting specifications, another called today

In the afternoon Mr Cairns, health officer for this district called at the school. Mr Clark ex chairman had communicated with the Board's Secretary re the uncleanliness of the Pain children. He had also mentioned a danger of another outbreak of Diphtheria in the school The previous outbreak (May 12<sup>th</sup> 1912) did not originate in the school. Owing to no doctor being summoned to cases in the home till they had become critical the complaint was not diagnosed till the injection had been brought here.

The school is well sanitised and satisfactorily cleaned. There is little likelihood of the diphtheria germs breeding. I told inspector Cairns so he called at Mrs Pain's to tell her the children must be kept cleaner. The home however is inveterately dirty and untidy and there does not seem to me much prospect of a permanent improvement. Both the girls in attendance. I noticed this morning had had their hair cut short

14<sup>th</sup> October Received on 11<sup>th</sup> 8lbs plasticene from Smith and Smith

20<sup>th</sup> October A kind of whooping cough is prevalent and is impairing the attendance- two of my own children have it

1<sup>st</sup> November Mr Clark brought up from the station School four sheets of hydroplate (*Blackboard*) Have commenced using these for free arm drawing

1<sup>st</sup> December Yesterday I examined Martha and Cecil More (Standard 4 and standard 3) respectively. They came from

Taumaranui and had missed the annual examination. Both seemed to me to be qualified for a pass. I sent their marks onto Mr Stuckey.

The school roll is now 37. There are 6 children under age in attendance and the prospect of 30 or more after the Xmas vacation 7<sup>th</sup> December Found a cheque for £1-0-0 captitation on purchase of library books sent me by Mr Clarke or put away in the wrong drawer, credited it to School Committee Account.

## 1916

25<sup>th</sup> January 1916 DISTRICT NEWS.

Mauriceville West

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

A good rain has fallen for about 24 hours, filling tanks, making the streams flow and refreshing the fields to a good extent. There is some talk of endeavouring to establish a first aid class here. Such a class has been found valuable in towns where a doctor is within easy reach. Why not even more valuable in the country?

Harvesting of oat crops has been commenced, and will be general within a week. Although there is not nearly the usual quantity in this season, the crops are good.

The School picnic, is to be held next Thursday, in the school grounds. This annual affair is much looked for by the children.

I regret to state that Mr F. L. Combs was on Saturday called to the bedside of his mother, who is lying dangerously ill. PP

1<sup>st</sup> February Resumed duty today. During the holidays residence, School and Outbuildings have been repainted. The old school also

received one coat. I have received no notice of my transfer to Fernridge

9<sup>th</sup> February On the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> there was a committee meeting. The teacher was deputed to pay accounts outstanding.

11<sup>th</sup> February A little boy Dowell Ratcliffe has been to school this week. He seemed quite imbecile followed his sister about like a dog and frequently started crying. As he disturbed the work and nothing could be done with him I told her sister to leave him at home in future.

15<sup>th</sup> February Four little boys below school age (5) are attending school. The object is two fold

To have them commence work at the beginning of the school year  
To get them into a habit of regular attendance before they go on the roll

17<sup>th</sup> February School closed as usual for Masterton Show to which a few of the children went as did the teacher

23<sup>rd</sup> February Girls doing sweeping by my permission procured a new broom to be charged to committee's account

25<sup>th</sup> February.

To my successor

Dear Sir and Madam

Followed a letter detailing children and their progress

2<sup>nd</sup> March Tomorrow by request of the patriotic Committee and with the concurrence of the School Committee the children will have a holiday in the afternoon. The object being given to the returned troopers on leave in the school ground

4<sup>th</sup> March Mr Nelson called. I showed him over the school and through the books

Received wire to report to Featherston Military Camp re my discharge

8<sup>th</sup> March Authorities unable to trace my papers so was ordered to return on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst, when discharge would be given

9<sup>th</sup> March Opened School

17<sup>th</sup> March Closed school at 2.00 to enable me to catch express on the 18<sup>th</sup> to Trentham

20<sup>th</sup> March Owing to papers still being astray I did not get my discharge until 10.00 this morning. Advised chairman of unavoidable absence

22<sup>nd</sup> March Ordered beading for hydroplate now lying in school. Distributed old readers to school children, These were not used and were a source of untidiness

Several cases of gastroenteritis have occurred

25<sup>th</sup> March Reported presence of noxious weeds on school ground to School Committee The hedges adjacent to the house are in bad order. The drains are choked up. One tank is leaking. The fences are broken down. Two windows are broken

1<sup>st</sup> April Fixed hydroplate on school wall and changed desks into NW room.

7<sup>th</sup> April Cyclonic weather. 2.00 Day. 15 minutes lunch only.

9<sup>th</sup> April Ordered sawdust for use when sweeping school.

13<sup>th</sup> April School closed after fumigation (Infantile Paralysis)

14<sup>th</sup> April School closed on account of infantile paralysis

17<sup>th</sup> April That the Secretary arrange for thorough cleaning of school rooms, wall included, before the reopening of the school on May 1<sup>st</sup> on account of outbreak of infantile paralysis in the district.

8<sup>th</sup> May That we write to Wellington Education Board re window blinds

That the Old School building be locked and permission to hire building be obtained from School Committee

That a short night be up to 12.00 and a long night 2.00

1916/4475 Wilcox Wilfred Theodore 34Y

1<sup>st</sup> June The late teacher Mr Wilcox died in Masterton on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June and I took charge as relieving teacher on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 1916

THE INQUEST.

8<sup>th</sup> June An inquest touching the death of Wilfred Theodore Wilcox was held at the Masterton Courthouse this morning before Mr E. Eton, Acting-Coroner, and a jury of six, consisting of Messrs Eli Smith' (foreman), Richard Kibblewhite, George Phillips, James Petrie, Henry Laidlaw, and George Sladden.

Dr Maunsell said that on June 6<sup>th</sup> deceased called on him at 7.:30 a.m. and was treated for an internal stoppage which had caused him pain during the night. Witness prescribed for deceased, and advised him to remain in town. Witness called to see deceased at the Empire Hotel about 9.30 p.m. Deceased said he had had an easy day. He was in a very depressed condition. He said he had suffered from kidney trouble for ten years, and remarked that he was tired of his life. He had passed the doctors in Auckland to go into camp, but while in camp the authorities found out about his kidney troubles' and discharged him. He was very downcast about this. Dr Maunsell suggested that some treatment might be undergone for the kidney trouble, but deceased did not seem inclined to undergo any treatment. The following morning, at

20.30 a.m., witness was called to the hotel, where he found the patient dead. He was in bed in the same position as the night previous. Deceased had probably passed away while he was asleep. The complaint from which deceased was suffering was a very painful one, and would, have an effect of shock to the system.

Replying to the foreman of the jury, Dr Maunsell said it would be possible for deceased to have taken a drug that would cause death, as in the bad state of deceased's kidneys a very small dose of morphine would cause death.

Alfred Forsberg, farmer, of Mauriceville West, said that at on Tuesday morning deceased hailed and requested witness to take him to Masterton to a doctor. Deceased was in great pain. Witness saw deceased at the Empire Hotel twice the same day, when he said that the pain had left him very weak. Deceased said, "I haven't made a will, but look after my affairs.

Mrs R. Smith, proprietor of the Empire Hotel, said that about 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening she gave deceased a dose of medicine out of the bottle prescribed by Dr Maunsell. Next morning witness saw deceased lying in bed, and she thought he was sleeping. As he was still sleeping some time later, witness remarked to her daughter, "My word, that young fellow is sleeping. I wonder if I ought to wake him, so that he can have something to eat. Witness went back again and placed her hand on his forehead, and found he was dead. The doctor was then telephoned for.

To the Foreman: There was every appearance that deceased passed away in his sleep.

Sergeant Miller said that the body of deceased was lying in a natural sleeping position. There was no sign of any poisonous drug in the room. In deceased's clothing was found a discharge from the expeditionary forces as medically unfit. The discharge showed deceased to be 34 years of age.

A verdict was returned, in accordance with the medical evidence, that deceased's death was from natural causes, hastened by shock.

The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon, at 3.30 o'clock.  
PP

26<sup>th</sup> June Mr. W. Wilcox sole teacher, Mauriceville West  
Resignation PP

S Isabel Cameron

Organised insect hunts have proved very satisfactory and a few specimens of walking sticks and wetas have been preserved

The main subjects have been taken by me, special attention being paid to Arithmetic and English

My duties end on 31<sup>st</sup> July when I leave to take up permanent work in the Beramphore School Wellington

18<sup>th</sup> July Mauriceville West, -sole Teacher Mrs. A. Engstrom PP.

1<sup>st</sup> August Mrs Engstrom began duties. Very wintry day.  
Attendance 27

3<sup>rd</sup> August Very cold snowy day at below half. Roof of my room leaks. And upper sash of Northern Window cannot be closed and much rain comes in through opening

7<sup>th</sup> August A new range brought for the residence last week

8<sup>th</sup> August Fine day attendance 37.

9<sup>th</sup> August. Telegram received from Board's Secretary re stove.

10<sup>th</sup> August School was not swept as the 2 girls (Anderson) had to attend a funeral. I shall be very glad when the new range is fixed as far from satisfactory

19<sup>th</sup> August During the meeting Mrs Engstrom the teacher attended and asked to fix drain at the residence, repair the sink etc, and procuring window blinds and that the Secretary write to Wellington Education Board re same.

Before the end of the meeting the chairman spoke a few words of welcome to Mrs Engstrom who suitably replied.

21<sup>st</sup> August Unusually stormy day. During night (Sunday) schoolroom flooded and many school requisites spoiled, by water. Only 6 children at school. On Saturday the new range was put in the residence by Mr Rasmussen and is a decided comfort after the old stove.

23<sup>rd</sup> August Messers Clarke and Neilsen repaired residence drains and attached rope to school bell.

29<sup>th</sup> August received from Board memorandum warmly thanking all who rendered assistance in the efforts for the Relief of Belgian Children. The undertaking was crowned with a success quite beyond anticipation

6<sup>th</sup> October Fred Pain who attends the Mauriceville East school called to speak to the boys in connection with the scout movement.

21<sup>st</sup> October That a new football bladder be purchased.

12<sup>th</sup> December Inspectors Report 12<sup>th</sup> October

Mr Stuckey

Teacher Mrs Engstrom Roll 33

Mrs Engstrom has recently taken charge, The work on the whole is only fair The owing partly to changes in teachers, partly to sickness. I classified the pupils for the coming year.

## 1917

13<sup>th</sup> January That Secretary was authorised to write thanking Mr Rayner for kindly donating a ham for the picnic.

The tuning of the piano was also discussed when the meeting considered that it was necessary that the instrument be attended to.

Teacher Mrs E Engstrom

62Y

1945/31328 Engstrom

Ellen Mabel

27<sup>th</sup> February School resumed Attendance 35

8<sup>th</sup> March From Whitcombe and Tombs, 3 boxes beads, assorted colours, 500 sheets coloured papers 4 inch x 4 inch 6 lbs plasticene grey

28<sup>th</sup> March. Standards 3 to 6 the local dairy factory (butter) and were shown around by the manager Mr Smith

31<sup>st</sup> March That the Chairman and Secretary meet on school grounds on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April to do necessary repairs to windows, doors etc.

Mrs Engstrom attended the meeting and various items of interest to the school were discussed

24<sup>th</sup> April Received a thermometer and one pound of Mercury from William and Co Chemists, Wellington

2<sup>nd</sup> May Wrote to Wellington Education Board re the non arrival of kindergarten sticks which should have arrived in parcel on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

11<sup>th</sup> May. Teacher ill having severely scalded one of her arms. Went to town in morning to seek medical advice. School held in afternoon

5<sup>th</sup> June. School resumed. Larrikins broke into school during vacation and interfered with things generally. Reported matter to School Committee who intend to see about it

1<sup>st</sup> May Inspectors Report included Mr Stuckey

- a) Roll 40 present 37
- b) The numbers are high for a sole charge school
- c) State of buildings very fair. The outside offices require some attention to put them in good order
- d) The rooms are fairly clean but somewhat untidy. The latrines require attention. A school of this size should be provided with a proper urinal.

14<sup>th</sup> June 1917 Mauriceville West

The ladies working here in connection with the Red Cross .shop are meeting with great success. The sad news of the death in action of Private A. McPeak, which came to hand last week, cast a gloom over the district.

The School was entered by a number of hodlums (sic) during the winter holidays, but no great damage is reported. I understand that the Board is to be acquainted with the matter, when action I will no doubt be taken. PP`

18<sup>th</sup> June Teacher and a few scholars work 1 hour daily before school at special work for Mauriceville Day at the Patriotic Shop

in Masterton. Our sale is on July 7<sup>th</sup> so we have cancelled our normal Friday afternoon patriotic sewing in order to get as much time as possible for the new work.

21<sup>st</sup> June. Clerk of works inspected school buildings and authorised me to instruct School Committee that the Wellington Education Board would supply material for sink and repairs to kitchen roof

6<sup>th</sup> July Sent away two large parcels to be sold at the Red Cross Shop tomorrow, Saturday. Teacher gave 6 prizes to encourage scholars

9<sup>th</sup> August, Received one bundle of plasticene sticks (36)

18<sup>th</sup> August. Received one box of cardboard coins

22<sup>nd</sup> August Received word from School Committee to the effect that they are in favour of the school being closed an extra week this term as the teacher wishes to attend the Spring School in Masterton

18<sup>th</sup> September. During the holidays someone's cattle have been in the garden and eaten all the children's vegetables

2<sup>nd</sup> October Held examinations in English and Mental. Papers set by Inspector Stuckey

18<sup>th</sup> October Successful patriotic concert in aid of wounded soldiers. School Children took part in several items

22<sup>nd</sup> October. Teacher still extremely weak but in view of the approaching examinations is endeavouring to carry on the work of the school Till Christmas when she to have well earned rest before beginning again next year.

23<sup>rd</sup> October. The work of erecting a rabbit proof fence round five of the garden plots has been going in apace during the last weeks

and now that cyclone conditions appear to be abating the enclosure should soon be completed

25<sup>th</sup> October Mr Butler, attendance officer visited the school and impressed upon the children the necessity of regular attendance. He took the names of several who had not been attending as they should.

3<sup>rd</sup> October. Inspector's holiday. Teacher asked all scholars to a birthday party

9<sup>th</sup> November. School closed instead of Labour Day. Teacher accompanied candidates to Proficiency Exam at Mauriceville East

8<sup>th</sup> December. Received memorandum from Agriculture Department requesting me to ask the children to inform their parents of the necessity of apiary registration

Roll 42

14<sup>th</sup> December Received from Sir Joseph Ward a supply of small folders on each of which the price of a War Loan Certificate may be saved in stamps. I have supplied the object to my scholars who seem to realise its good

## 1918

23<sup>rd</sup> January 1918 Mrs Engstrom resigned

26<sup>th</sup> January At it recent meeting the Wellington Education Board accepted my resignation which takes effect on 31<sup>st</sup> January

28<sup>th</sup> January Mr W B Black. Arrived here at 4pm and spent the time between this date and 5<sup>th</sup> February in arranging school presses, records etc

5<sup>th</sup> February School reopened Mrs McKenzie, temporary assistant arriving

19<sup>th</sup> March. Dense darkness from 5.30 a.m. owing to bush fires (and wind direction) at or near Ohakune. At 9.00 it was so great that reading was impossible in the rooms. Decided to dismiss the children for the entire day accordingly did so at 9.20 a.m. Darkness continued during all school hours

9<sup>th</sup> April 32/47 attendance. Outbreak of Diphtheria (31<sup>st</sup> March 1918) 2 of Johansen's children having been taken to Masterton Hospital.

Picnic arranged for Easter Monday had to be postponed

11<sup>th</sup> April Very Wet Day Continuous School from 9 am to 2 pm with necessary 5 minute rests

At 2.00 had eye test for senior school

Picnic committee met and decided to hold it on Anzac day

15<sup>th</sup> April Was presented this morning by senior pupils with a chair and address intimating that it was my private property and hoping that I would long occupy it in Mauriceville. I was much pleased with this thoughtful act.. Filled in yearly entries in register which is wanting in many entries. Continued lopping of lower branches in avenue.

17<sup>th</sup> Extract from report on physical Education "Satisfactory"

More attention to deportment, marching in upper standards

18<sup>th</sup> April Chairman distributed good attendance certificates to Cecil Moore, Vera, Eric and Wilfred Anderson, Norman Hood, Anna Engstrom. He gave children good advice re attendance

22<sup>nd</sup> April Householders Meeting at 8.00. New Committee. C B Nielsen (Chairman), L P Larsen, A A Harris, E Frew, C Andersen. Mr Black (Self) was appointed Secretary

29<sup>th</sup> April Picnic, concert and dance held today £8.00 realised for school funds

4<sup>th</sup> April That the outhouses be cleared once a fortnight The Headmaster (Mr W Black) was authorised to get the spouting of the school cleared. And the culvert at side of road leading to school fixed .

That a mimeograph (*Printing machine before the Banda spirit duplicator*) be purchased by Mr Black for a sum of £3-10

That an association football (*Soccer football*), tennis set and 2 racquets be purchased for use of school children in their games

3<sup>rd</sup> June. King's birthday holiday.

13<sup>th</sup> June Horace Frew and Cecil Harris (For wilful and malicious damage to small foot bridge over drain at side of path near turnstile) were warned that the next offense would entail corporal punishment

22<sup>nd</sup> July. Severe snowstorm Average depth of snow 7 inches. School closed

3<sup>rd</sup> August Meeting held in the residence A discussion arose on the cleaning of the school. It was pointed out by the headmaster that the present system resulted in the school being cleaned 4 times a year for £3.00. By getting voluntarily 4 pupils at £1 each the school could be cleaned out 10 times in the year for an expenditure of £4. It was decided to adopt this system.

That the piano tuner would call on the first convenient opportunity.

It was arranged that some of the trees near the residence would be cut down on the 6<sup>th</sup> August.

20<sup>th</sup> August Inspectors report included

- a) Mr Blacks class 18 Standard 3 to 6
- b) Mrs N McKenzie 29 Standard 2 to primers
- c) The quality of instruction is satisfactory
- d) The grounds have been improved since Mr Black took charge

7<sup>th</sup> September. That 2 bracket lamps and wicks be provided by for the hall.

The Chairman was to see to the leak in the hall roof and report.

The Secretary brought forward the fact that a pupil in Standard 1 had been absent from school owing to attendance at a wedding, she being no relative of the parties concerned and the School Committee upheld the Headmaster's actions.

The matter of the tennis court was then taken up and discussed.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain ½ ton Lime from the Mauriceville Lime Co. He was also instructed to ask Mr Lthemskedt? to cart it gratis. He was also asked to procure 1 bag Waignawa Grass Manual 140lbs 2lbs para (Poa) Potensis (?) 2lbs Gester Dogtail 5lbs Italian Rye and 5lbs English Rye from the WFCA

5<sup>th</sup> October Re the Old Hall. The clogging of the spouting was the problem. It is cleared.

That thanks be recorded to the following gentlemen who had gratuitously in the construction of the bowling green. Messrs Dryden, WFCA and Mr Lthemskedt

The payment of 5/- out of Wellington Education Board funds for accidental breakage of measuring glass by pupil while dusting was authorised.

The Secretary referred to the urgent necessity for a cleanliness inspection and after considerable discussion it was approved by meeting.

The Chairman referred to the matter of drinking fountains and although it was agreed it was the proper idea, yet it was not feasible in the circumstances.

The drain from the school basin was referred to and it was decided that it be carried on line as before but with larger pipes.

That where possible concerts should be opened with, "God Save the King"

The purchase of a lawn mower was left in the hands of Mr Harris.  
William Beech, Secretary

8<sup>th</sup> November All schools closed on and from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November until further order owing to outbreak of influenza over Dominion

14<sup>th</sup> December It was arranged that the monthly meeting be held in future on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in each month

It was decided that the School Committee should devote an evening or two to clearing up the timber already felled

That the subscription for tennis club should be 5/- for gentlemen and 2/6 for ladies.

That Mr Smyth was authorised to complete purchase of net, 2 racquets and ½ dozen balls

Mr Smyth donated £1 to the tennis court for which he was accorded the thanks of the School Committee

The Secretary was authorised to write to the Wellington Education Board re Honour Board to contain 60 names

## 1919

13<sup>th</sup> January The Secretary was to apply to the Wellington Education Board for an "Honours" board to be fixed in school hall The school picnic was then discussed. The Secretary was instructed to make application to Mr B Rayner Carterton for a ham Vera Anderson and Maggie Lemberg were named as collectors- the lists to be out by Wednesday next.

The order of Wilson's Bakery to be 13 large sandwich loaves and 6 gross assorted cakes. Mattson's Order 2 lbs tea. ½ lb mustard 10lbs sugar. The Secretary suggested the Dairy Co be asked for the butter, 8lbs to be donated. It was decided that prizes be money given out on the grounds. A scale of charges was arranged as follows.

Tea (6.00) 1/-

Children not on school roll 6d

Dance (Non Subscribers) 2/-

That Mr Black to be entitled to the use of the wood cut by C Pedersen as long as it lasted.

The chairman was authorised to purchase 2 additional racquets for school use.

25<sup>th</sup> January This meeting discussed picnic affairs.. The following appointments were made

- a) Catering Mr Harris
- b) Sports Messers Smyth and Black

- c) Lawn Tennis Mr C Anderson
- d) Handicapping Mr Frew
- e) Door (Dance) Mr Larsen

The Secretary reported that his request for a donated ham was successful

4<sup>th</sup> February Opened school until 3 pm

8<sup>th</sup> February It was decided to purchase 2 additional racquets for children's use.

The question of keeping the Tennis Club accounts separate was discussed. It was decided against such for the present system.

Mr Larsen reported that Mr L A Schow had promised a donation of £100 (One hundred pounds sterling) towards the construction of a school swimming baths

*Mr L A Schow was a Danish poet living in Mauriceville district  
Designed his own tombstone*

After unanimously passing a vote of thanks it was proposed to write to the Wellington Education Board re services of an expert (Re baths)

That the committee pay from private account a sum of 5/- of the cost of clearing tree from the path to Graveyard .at the back of the school site

The headmaster empowered to obtain a plug and chain for wash hand basin. He was also empowered to act immediately in case of minor repairs which might be urgently needed.

20<sup>th</sup> February On investigation I found that 36% of the Roll Number attended Masterton Show.

Had the weather been better this percentage would have been greater

8<sup>th</sup> March That the Secretary be instructed to write to Mr Clarke re old minute books and any other books held by him

Arrangements for a 2<sup>nd</sup> tennis Tournament were left in the hands of Messers Smyth, Harris and Frew

The Secretary was instructed to procure ½ dozen Slazenger's Tennis Balls for use at the tournament

14<sup>th</sup> March Acting under Section 55 of Education Act Page 24 I was compelled today to forbid the attendance today of Clara and Selina Pain for 1 week terminating Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> inst owing to the lack of cleanliness

26<sup>th</sup> March. Received 2 dozen shoe knives for cardboard cutting

10<sup>th</sup> April Closed owing to liquor referendum

12<sup>th</sup> April The Secretary had received old Minute Book from Mr Clarke. This was all he had.

That the matter of additions to Old Hall be left in abeyance.

That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr and Mrs Clarke on offer of trophies for 2<sup>nd</sup> Tennis Tournament

Re hot lunches for School Children. After discussion that these were neither suitable nor desirable in the case of Mauriceville West School.

Mr J P Larsen handed over £100 from Mr Schow for "baths" scheme

That a Post Office Savings Book be opened for Baths Fund

That the money should only be used for baths and was to be returned in case of the plan falling through.

That the members of the Lawn Tennis Club have the use of the court on schooldays from 3 pm., on Saturdays and Sundays from

1.30 pm (Except in case of a Sunday afternoon service in the church or old hall)

5<sup>th</sup> May John Dooley was warned that any further case of disobedience would result in severe corporal punishment

10<sup>th</sup> May Mr Black still Secretary of School Committee.

New cups had been obtained for the hall

The Baths scheme was discussed and Fernridge School Baths reported on by chairman and Secretary who had paid a visit.

That the Secretary write to F W Kummer ESQ. Asking him to donate a sufficient number of old bricks out of a chimney from the Old House to brick in a copper in present in the old hall

18<sup>th</sup> May Mr Powell, clerk of works Wellington Education Board and School Committee looked at site for swimming pond

6<sup>th</sup> May. Two strokes to Eric Anderson. On shoulders for disobedience

9<sup>th</sup> June School site and proposed swimming site

- a) The present site is situated on the side of a hill with an area of about 5 acres
- b) There is little suitable for playing games
- c) The School Committee have excavated a tennis court out of the best part of the site
- d) The School Committee want to claim another 7 acres
- e) This will give level area for football and cricket games
- f) Will give access to the creek for a swimming pool
- g) There appears to be no title for this land

h) The lease expires in November next then this land will need to be used.

14<sup>th</sup> June The Secretary was instructed to write to Wellington Education Board asking them to undertake the completion of Baths schemes as the money and ground had been provided. The Secretary was instructed to point out the urgency of the work and ask for an early reply

He was also write to Mr Kummer thanking him for donation of bricks

The chairman reported re an application from Miss A Neilsen for the purposes of a dancing class.

That the charge per night till 11.30 pm be 8/-

The Secretary was instructed to call a meeting of residents for the 21<sup>st</sup> Inst to consider the matter

That the Secretary write to Messers Daniells, Masterton asking for sketches and cost of Honour Board for School.

12<sup>th</sup> July. The Department could not subsidise the baths. The Post Office saving bank book had been returned and handed to the chairman.

18<sup>th</sup> July Read "Peace" Proclamation to assembled children

21<sup>st</sup> July Children's day as Peace Celebrations in holiday

Inspectors report Mr Stuckey included

The present Headmaster has made considerable improvement in the Physical environment of the school Overgrown hedges have been trimmed, trees removed where necessary, ground is cleared and a tennis court made. The latrines have been remodelled.

9<sup>th</sup> August An application for grazing for one horse by Mr Johansen was left in the hands of the Headmaster.

The position of extending playground and of swimming baths was fully discussed.

A deputation consisting of Messrs E W Larsen, Johansen and Marius Neilsen was then received: Subject being repairs to the old school building.. The Secretary was instructed to call a meeting of the public for Thursday next to consider the matter.

The Secretary to write to Secretary of Wellington Education Board asking him when he would probably be in Masterton.

It was passed that the necessary metalling for school be carried out by Mr Harris's boys

That the School Committee thanks the chairman for his generosity and kindness in conveying by motor to and from Masterton Mr Hogg (Wellington Education Board Member and MHR) on his recent visit to the school in connection with the Baths and Schemes

The Secretary read the resignation of Mr Hans Neilsen (Re out offices removal) and the matter was left in the Secretary's hands to see if any of the older pupils would undertake the work.

13<sup>th</sup> September That the School Committee are in accord with the objects of the lecture "The War on the Western Front" proposed to be given in Masterton. But the lack of railways and facilities will prevent children attending as suggested.

4<sup>th</sup> October Special Meeting The question of Liquor in the Playground on occasion of Returned Soldiers Reunion Picnic.

After a long discussion and after reviewing the matter from all standpoints it was moved by E Frew that Liquor be stored and Distributed from Boy's Shed in school ground

10<sup>th</sup> October 1919 West Mauriceville

A RED-LETTER DAY.

WELCOME HOME TO SOLDIERS,

(Special to Daily Times. Thursday, October 9th, will be a red letter day in the history of this settlement. A welcome home to returned soldiers had been arranged and the heartiness of the whole proceedings showed that the residents were proud of their sons who had acquitted themselves so well in the great war. Old settlers were present with their memories of their own early battles with difficulties experienced in carving out homesteads in the virgin bush; of bush tracks through which men, women and children carried food supplies; then of the formed road, and the advent of the metal cart. The district is now cleared of bush. A dairy factory has long since become the daily meeting centre. The school house and the church on the hill are each well cared for, telling of kindly social life. Yesterday it was claimed that some 49 boys who had attended the local school had gone to the war, that some 29 actual residents had gone, 21 had returned and seven would never return. Yesterday's function took the form of sports in the school grounds, refreshments for all in the school hall, and a dance at night. In the afternoon a formal welcome was tendered to the returned men by the chairman and secretary, and Mr C. E. Daniell, of Masterton. Apologies were received from Messrs Sykes, M.P., A. W. Hogg, and Brigadier-General Hart. On reference being made to those men who would never return, the assemblage of men reverently removed their hats as a token of respect. PP

8<sup>th</sup> November That a cricket set be purchased for the school

Re photograph of returned soldiers it was agreed to hang photos in the school

It was suggested that the photograph be made complete by adding thereto photos of those not included – especially those who had made the supreme sacrifice

That recent improvements to hall be given one or more coat of paint

19<sup>th</sup> November School not reopened in afternoon owing to funeral of Lars Mattson JP storekeeper, Postmaster etc etc. Whose death was universally mourned- closing order by authority of School Committee.

6<sup>th</sup> December That the sum of £5.00 be taken from private funds to be used for school library funds

That the rights for the headmaster to a residence garden would not be interfered with in the contemplated changes to school grounds.

It was decided to finish the tennis tournament for the Clarke Trophy as soon as possible

That the piano be overhauled thoroughly

## 1920

17<sup>th</sup> January The Secretary (Teacher) reported on the purchase of £5-0-0 of book for library and showed his selection. He also reported on the Clarke Trophy Tennis Tournament the winner Miss A Harris and Mr H Amundsen having been given vouchers for prizes presented by Mr and Mrs Clarke

The matter of cleaning the school grounds of weeds was left in the hands of Mr Harris

The Secretary was instructed to write to Wellington Education Board re swimming baths and grounds as committee are anxious to know how matters stand

28<sup>th</sup> January Re the picnic

Dinner 12.00 to 1.30

Tea (for milkers) 3-4

Tea 5-7 and the Secretary be instructed to put up notices to this effect

Charges were 1/- non subscribers adults. 6d For children

Dance non subscribers 2/6

14<sup>th</sup> February The matter of burning out if possible the cut stuff etc but it was agreed that no action for the present be taken..

19<sup>th</sup> February Reopened school After holidays and Influenza Outbreak. 32 in attendance. 9 away with flu

8<sup>th</sup> March School

No of children who left in 1918

	Those who passed Standard 6	Those did not pass Standard 6 But reached 14 years of age	
Boys	2	2	
Girls	1	1	

9<sup>th</sup> March. Having received word from the Department that I would probably be appointed to a Post Directly under the Department I have considered it advisable to plan my work so that the important subjects Reading, Arithmetic and English generally receive most attention so that my successor may have the groundwork in a satisfactory condition

8<sup>th</sup> March (Date order as in log) Mrs Dryden having received a wire from Wellington Education Board asking her to transfer immediately to Makuri, left here today at 12.00 and Mrs Black took her place as from that time until further notice

15<sup>th</sup> March Miss M Hardie commenced duty today as relieving assistant vice Mrs Dryden's transferred to Makuri.

20<sup>th</sup> March The committee agreed to assist the Headmaster in his request to the Wellington Education Board for remuneration of Mrs Black who acted as assistant for a week after Mrs Dryden had been transferred to Makuri

Mr Black reported on his appointment to a school in Hawkes Bay. The question of his successor being a married man was then discussed but as Mr Black's resignation could not be posted to the Wellington Education Board until his new appointment was ratified by the Public Service Commissioner, action was withheld Mr Black asked for a recommendation by the School Committee That the matter be left in the hands of the chairman and Mr Smythe.

That 2 new bats be purchased for use of school boys

1<sup>st</sup> April My position here is now vacant Mr Reader takes over duties on Wed 7<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> April G H Reader Took up position as Head teacher (Temporary)

I am unable to find the weekly work book and scheme of work. There is no copy of the amended syllabus in the school.

19<sup>th</sup> April I have had occasion to punish Allen Larsen and Jack Martin for swearing on their way home from school. The words used were heard by three of the girl pupils.

27<sup>th</sup> April That the correspondence received from the Secretary Wellington Education Board re appointment of Mr R H .Tregurtha as Headmaster and Miss J M Miller as assistant teacher was agreed to.

28<sup>th</sup> April That Mr Smith act as Secretary pro-tem until the Headmaster Mr Tregurtha arrives when the School Committee would endeavour to secure his services as Secretary

Mr Reader brought up the question of brushing the school for past month. The chairman paid over 10/- to Mr Reader to pay the two boys E and W Anderson

A discussion on the reception by School Children to the Prince of Wales in Masterton. It was resolved to appoint Mr Trass to make final arrangements in conjunction with Mr Reader and Miss McHardy

14<sup>th</sup> May. All records and workbook posted to date and in order G H Reader

4<sup>th</sup> June. R H Tregurtha Head Teacher.

Took up my duties and reopened school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>. I find the school in a rather backward state several of the subjects having apparently been more or less neglected Arithmetic and formal English are weak, History, Geography and Science particularly so. I find it necessary to make practically a fresh start in some of these subjects and am planning my work accordingly. There are no schemes of work or workbooks in the school and I have no record of work covered previously to my taking charge, with the exception of those kept by Mr Reader.

Miss Millar assistant teacher also commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

The three Clarke children have left the school and Annie and Frank Tregurtha have been admitted.

5<sup>th</sup> June That Mr Tregurtha be appointed Secretary and Treasurer. That the Secretary forward to the Wellington Education Board the number of children attended at Masterton on the occasion of the Prince Of Wales's visit for the purpose of a refund on meals.

11<sup>th</sup> June received weekly work books (2)

I have found it necessary to administer corporal punishment to two girls and four boys for misbehaviour in school

18<sup>th</sup> June. The discipline in the school is showing a decided improvement. Norman Hood has been absent owing to a poisonous hand.

25<sup>th</sup> June A start has been made in the trimming of trees and shrubs in the school grounds, some of which had been badly neglected. Some of the big boys had been breaking pickets off the entrance gates, after being cautioned. I informed that any further damage would result in some action being taken by the School Committee. So far the threat has had desirable effect.

2<sup>nd</sup> July The School Committee has been promised to repair the turnstile at the front gate. I have also spoken regarding the matter of the topping the pine trees in front of the school and putting the tennis court in order. Three broken panes of glass in the school are to be repaired. The roof of the residence leaks badly in two places and some of the fireplaces need attention.

3<sup>rd</sup> July To consider notice from Mr Schow demanding that the sum of £100 held in trust for the purpose of constructing a swimming bath be returned to him plus interest in accordance with

the agreement. The time stated having expired. The money was to be returned.

Copy of Letter

In accordance with my agreement re £100 held in trust by your committee for the erection of a swimming bath as the time has now expired according to our agreement I now demand the said £100 from your trustees plus interest

I am an old man 84 years of age and should you in the immediate future decide to go on with the work I will consider renewing the agreement.

*(Mr Schow died in 1920)*

9<sup>th</sup> July Three Roigard children and Gladys Radcliffe have gone to live in Mauriceville East and their names have been removed from the roll.

23<sup>rd</sup> July Received a supply of paper for paper folding.

30<sup>th</sup> July Norman Hood has been causing a good deal of trouble in the school in the last two months by his misbehaviour. On Wednesday during drill he answered me back in an insolent manner and I sent him home. During the dinner hour I called on his mother explained the circumstances and told her that the boy could come back to school if he would promise to behave decently. She replied that she had intended taking him away in a month's time in any case and that she did not think she would send him back to school. The age of the boy is given in the register as 13 years 10 months, but his mother states that in reality the boy is 12 months older.

6<sup>th</sup> August Gladys Radcliffe and the 3 Roigard children are attending Mauriceville East School this week. They may return to this school next week

Last Friday Eric Anderson played truant. I wrote to his parents and understand he was punished for his offense

13<sup>th</sup> The children mentioned on the 6<sup>th</sup> will not be returning to this school The roll is 32, but I understand 2 or 3 new families will be settling in the district shortly.

7<sup>th</sup> August Received a package containing 3 shrubs (Camellia) and planted same.

13<sup>th</sup> August On Thursday Willie Hood was ordered by me to write 50 lines as a punishment for causing a disturbance in school He flatly refused to obey the command pushed by me and left the schoolroom. At the meeting of the Committee on Saturday Evening the incident was discussed, and the members expressed concern that the discipline of the school had been allowed to deteriorate so markedly in the last four or five years and in spite of the diminishing roll numbers, decided to uphold the head teacher in any action he may decide to take in order to effect an improvement in the behaviour of the pupils

I intend to repeat the command on Monday and in the event of the boy refusing to obey, my only course will be to expel him, as he has been the cause of much trouble and exercises a bad influence over the other pupils. His age according to the school register is 15 years 7 Months, but I understand he is really a year older and certainly looks it.

14<sup>th</sup> August. Re donation of 100 pounds from Mr Schow. That the Secretary inform the board that Mr Schow is an inmate of a

private hospital in Masterton, his mind is unbalanced and he is required to be watched night and day The Wellington Education Board to be informed that should Mr Schow recover sufficiently to reinstate the donation the work might go ahead.

The Secretary (Headmaster) that Mr Lemstedt was grazing cattle and horses on the eastern portion of the school grounds. After discussion it was resolved that Mr Lemstedt be charged for grazing..... In the event of the teacher procuring a cow the paddock was to be reserved exclusively for the teacher's use.

The question of the school discipline was discussed at some length by the members, who expressed concern that the tone of the school had deteriorated so markedly in the last few years. It was decided to support the Head Teacher in any action he may think necessary to bring about a better state of discipline in the school.

20<sup>th</sup> August With regard to the boy Willie Hood, hearing that his parents intended taking him away from school at the end of this week and there being no repetition if his former offence, I did not pursue the matter further, He took home his books today being required at home to help with the milking ,

Eric and Wilfred Anderson have moved to Masterton

The School Committee has applied to the Wellington Education Board for a new centre post for the turnstile at the entrance gates, but has had no reply. Today native shrubs were planted near the entrance gates and the tennis court was prepared for resowing.

18<sup>th</sup> September That the Wellington Education Board be informed of Mr Scow's death and the consequent collapse of the swimming bath scheme.

9<sup>th</sup> October. That the chairman from Mr O Peterson asking for the use of hall free or at a reduced rate for the tennis dance. That no reduction be made.

That the Head Teacher be authorised to buy a cricket ball for the use of the school. Also the Head Teacher write to Wellington Education Board for particulars of the rules for Basketball (*Netball*) and cost of Equipment

15<sup>th</sup> October No word has been received from Wellington Education Board re subdivision of playground, gardening operations are still in abeyance. The tennis Lawn has been resown in lawn grass and has received a topdressing of superphosphate, the growth of young grass being rather slow

29<sup>th</sup> October Neither of these children have passed Standard 5 in spite of their ages (15 and 16 year respectively)

13<sup>th</sup> November That Mr Black's offer to buy the Mimeograph for £3-0-0 be accepted

26<sup>th</sup> November On Tuesday Dr Paterson visited the school and examined the children's teeth and tested their hearing.

3<sup>rd</sup> December, Received inspector's report Annual Exam held. A fairly stiff test was set and all passed excepting two- a distinct improvement on last year's results

Harold Jesson and Horace Frew set fire to and burned half the scrub fence in front of the tennis court. Have ordered them to make good the damage after school hours,

Inspector's report included. Mr A N Burns

- a) Mr R H Tregurtha Roll 15 Standard 3 to 6
- b) Miss I Millar Standard 2 to Primers Roll 20

- c) Schemes are suitable and workbooks well kept. No scheme or workbooks were left by the previous teacher.
- d) Geography, History and Nature Study. A good course of work has been carried out, but pupils show only a slight improvement in responsiveness
- e) The teachers have worked assiduously to overtake neglected work and are to be commended for their efforts

15<sup>th</sup> December. School broke up. Tomorrow has been given as a holiday by the School Committee on account of the Public Schools' sports meeting at Masterton.

## 1921

4<sup>th</sup> February School reopened. Received from Wellington Education Board 2 dozen boxes pastels and one litre and one pint measure

5<sup>th</sup> February The Secretary inform the Cricket Club that a charge of 5/- will be made for afternoon hire of hall with use of firewood and crockery

The tennis Club could strip the tennis court as desired by them.

11<sup>th</sup> February Received 6 lbs coloured plasticene, 200 sheets coloured paper and 6 pairs of scissors.

Have received instructions from Wellington Education Board to cancel their letters re transfer to Mauriceville (*East*)

That the Secretary inform the Wellington Education Board that Messers Neilsen Bros decline to contribute anything towards the cost of erecting the dividing fence between their holding and the school grounds until their lease is renewed

19<sup>th</sup> February Wednesday last a holiday was held for Masterton show

The school picnic was held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. In the evening a dance was held in old school.

Prizes were distributed and attendance certificates were issues

The blackberry, gorse etc in the school grounds has been cut down. The repairs to the main gates will be gone on with as soon as possible. The local tradesman has been very busy.

25<sup>th</sup> February Connie and Kathleen Dowding have gone to the Auckland district to live.

Miss Millar assistant teacher having been transferred to Makomako The school now becomes a sole charge.

4<sup>th</sup> March. The classes are now held in the Western Classroom.

The old school building has for some years been used for dances etc. During the last two or three years, however certain individuals have been making a practice of bringing liquor into the school grounds, and many of the gatherings have been disorderedly in consequence. The building and surroundings are frequently left in anything but a clean and tidy state.

I have expressed myself very decidedly in the matter and have given those concerned to understand that unless there is a decided change in their conduct the building will be reserved solely for the use of the school

12<sup>th</sup> March In the matter of the late Mr Schow's will That the Secretary refer the public trustee executor of the will.

There was some discussion over the picnic dance. There being some dissatisfaction over the fact that the dance closed at midnight.

19<sup>th</sup> April Mr L P Larsen Chairman. That a dance committee be formed. Mr H Neilsen to be declared head of same. Other members to be chosen at a dance on a date to be fixed by the School Committee.

That the Secretary be instructed to enquire from the Wellington Education Board as to the whether the Committee could proceed with the fencing of the new boundary, and to suggest the cost be charged to the Board who could in turn charge half of the amount to the lessees.

29<sup>th</sup> April Anzac Day celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> As it was impossible to arrange a local function the children were assembled at 11 am and a suitable address was given by the teacher. After saluting the flag the pupils were dismissed.

11<sup>th</sup> June That no reply had been received from Wellington Education Board re fencing . That the School Committee wanted to take advantage of the tree planting season.

24<sup>th</sup> June Several absences this week owing to colds and bad weather. Punished John Duley for swearing on the playground.

8<sup>th</sup> July Madge Larsen has been attending Pahiatua School for last week.

15<sup>th</sup> July Harold Jesson has been absent from school for two weeks owing to an attack of rheumatic fever

Every Friday morning the New Zealand Ensign is saluted and the National Anthem sung by the pupils and teacher.

22<sup>nd</sup> July On Monday Mr Brockett visited the school and inspected the site for the new garden. He reported favourably upon the answers given by the children to questions on the work covered

5<sup>th</sup> August Jack Martin is laid up owing to his having broken his collarbone

6<sup>th</sup> August All meetings on a Saturday. In response to a circular. Secretary to inform Wellington Education Board that the building used for dances etc is a condemned school building which has been kept in repair by the Settlers and on which something like £200 has been spent in the past and to enquire whether in the circumstances the Board considered it necessary for the School Committee to insure the building when used for the purpose of public entertainment.

13<sup>th</sup> August That both tenders (for fence) were too high and neither be accepted.

That the chairman be authorised to get the work of fencing done by day labour.

19<sup>th</sup> August A start is being made with the work of fencing the new boundary of the school grounds and the entrance gate and turnstile have been repaired

9<sup>th</sup> September. On Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> School resumed Mary Larsen (Who is very delicate) has not returned

16<sup>th</sup> September. The attendance this week has been poor. This is chiefly owing to the fact that a wedding took place on Wednesday. Several of the pupils being related to one of the contracting parties.

Mary Larsen has been forbidden by the doctor to attend school for the present

27<sup>th</sup> September On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> (really Dominion Day) Mr A Cowles (inspector) visited the school and tomorrow will be

observed as Inspector's Holiday. Dominion Day holiday to be observed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

7<sup>th</sup> October Mary Larsen has returned to the school after her illness. Ruth Morteson will be attending school near Dargaville for the next month where she will be staying with relatives

14<sup>th</sup> October. The School Committee has decided upon doing nothing with regard to the half hours religious instruction per week, it had been possible to arrange for a regular series of lessons 15<sup>th</sup> October That the chairman arrange for the fence to be erected by day labour.

That the cricket club be charged 5/- for use of the hall etc. Practice matches to be free. That the club be asked to send representatives to the next committee meeting in order that the matter may be talked over.

20<sup>th</sup> October. The school will be closed tomorrow on account of the funeral of Charlie Larsen (Child of Mr A Larsen of the School Committee)

1920/7400 Larsen Charles 37Y

The new playing area in the playground has been fenced in.

27<sup>th</sup> October. That the teacher had the right to grazing in the school grounds.

That a previous motion that the cricket club be charged 5/- be rescinded.

That the Cricket club be informed that no charge would be made for use of the grounds for matches, but the charge for afternoon use of the hall, firewood and crockery would be 5/-. The club to be responsible for breakages of crockery etc. The granting of use of

the grounds to be at the discretion of the teacher and no cricket to be played during church services

6<sup>th</sup> November Received a wall map of Australia.

11<sup>th</sup> November. Received 1<sup>st</sup> copy of Education Gazette

2<sup>nd</sup> December. Allan Larsen and Ethel Johansen will be retained in Standard 2 for another year owing to weaknesses in arithmetic

3<sup>rd</sup> December That the Secretary inform the tennis club that they may use the tennis court and net and have the use of two racquets for one month on the condition that the club has them repaired and kept and returned in good order. The racquets are not to be taken out of the school grounds and tennis equipment not to be used in wet weather.

## 1922

26<sup>th</sup> January That the Secretary order from Mr Carter 2 Dozen cups and saucers for the School Committee.

That the Chairman interview Mr Carter with regard to the returning of the Lawn Roller and other tennis equipment borrowed by the Tennis Club and which have not been returned.

Re Picnic Mr Jack is to interview Miss Braggins re music for the dance.. Charges (non Subscribers) Gents 2/6 Ladies Free

10<sup>th</sup> February School started on 7<sup>th</sup> Miss Rose Probationer commenced her duties

Evan Stevens and Daphne Trass have been enrolled in Primer 1 But being under 5 years of age their names have not yet been entered in the Admission Register.

3<sup>rd</sup> March Betty Carter has been absent from school this week owing to an attack of chicken pox, and acting on medical advice will be detained at home another week

10<sup>th</sup> March. Dan Johansen is detained at home where he is under going treatment for appendicitis

24<sup>th</sup> April Householders meeting. Credit balance of 4d in the board account. And £9-8-7 in the private account.

That the boys of this school having contributed 10/- towards the cost of a football that the School Committee pay the balance.

28<sup>th</sup> April On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> (Anzac day) the children assembled at the school at 10.00 a.m. Where an appropriate lesson was given by the teacher. Wreaths and flowers were then placed on memorial tablets to fallen soldiers in the local cemetery

12<sup>th</sup> May. John Dooley has gone on a trip to England with his people but will I understand return to this school in about 6 months time.

7<sup>th</sup> June That part of the Western end of the school grounds be planted in pine trees and that 300 young pine trees be ordered from the Wellington Education Board That 150 akeake and matipo be planted as a hedge for the school garden.

That the Salvation Army be allowed the use of the old school for the sum of 10/- per night in consideration of the entertainment being for a charitable object

23<sup>rd</sup> June. During the term holidays the boys played two football matches against Hastwell. In both cases the latter team were victorious.

20<sup>th</sup> August Today is being observed as arbor day. A hedge (150 akeake) has been planted around the school garden and 100 pinus

insignis at the Western Boundary of the grounds. Tomorrow has been granted a special holiday by the School Committee 6<sup>th</sup> October. On Saturday a cricket match between the boys of this school and those of Hastwell resulted in a win for our team

17<sup>th</sup> October That the Secretary order 3 cord sound rata firewood 4 foot lengths.

3<sup>rd</sup> November school was closed in order that I might attend the exam for "B" subjects (Leave granted by the board). School was again closed on Thursday on account of the proficiency exam at Mauriceville East.

17<sup>th</sup> November On Wednesday I put Standard 1 to Standard 6 through an intelligence test. The results were highly interesting. The highest intelligence quotient was 112 and the lowest 69. The results accorded in most cases with my own estimate of the native capacity of the individual pupils. The experiment will be repeated later using a different test

1<sup>st</sup> December On Tuesday Miss Humphreys, addressed the school on behalf of Dr Barnardo's Homes. A branch of the Young Helpers League is being established among the pupils

Thora Jesson has had to undergo a slight operation and will not return this year.

8<sup>th</sup> December On Monday owing to bad weather. Miss Rose was detained at home. Yesterday the school was closed. The sum of 18/- has been donated by the pupils to the Church Army Fund

12<sup>th</sup> December That the services of A E Larsen be procured for the purpose of cutting weeds in the school grounds.

15<sup>th</sup> December. School Roll 32. R H Tregurtha. Miss Rose

## 1923

2<sup>nd</sup> February Roll 31

9<sup>th</sup> February Jack Martin is detained at home owing to a broken collar bone.

On Wednesday afternoon visited the school and addressed the pupils on the subject of "industry as a means of success in life" Mrs H Foster's illustrated lecture on the King Country was well attended by pupils and residents of the district

16<sup>th</sup> February John Dooley who has been home for a trip with his parents has returned to this school. His Brother Joseph is also attending this school temporarily

22<sup>nd</sup> February That Mr A Forsberg be charged 5/- for the use of the old school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of a wedding.

23<sup>rd</sup> February Joseph Dooley has returned to his people in Wellington having attended this school two days only.

27<sup>th</sup> April On Wednesday Anzac day the children attended about 9.00 After singing the National Anthem the pupils were addressed by the Head teacher. They then marched to the local cemetery and placed several wreaths on soldiers' graves

Mary Larsen has returned to school after a bout of scarlet fever. Two Months absence

30<sup>th</sup> April That a man be put on to cut down two trees in front of the school

7/6 Insurance for one piano

That the Secretary write to Messrs Robinson asking if they would replace pine trees supplied by them last year and which died

4<sup>th</sup> May At my request the School Committee has had the tops of two large pine trees near the school removed.. This should add

considerably to the comfort of the pupils on frosty mornings as these branches prevented the sunshine from entering the classroom in the early hours of the school

29<sup>th</sup> June Yesterday Harold Jesson cut his foot rather badly whilst chopping firewood. He will probably be away from school for some days in consequence

Percy Barron has left temporarily and will be attending Cross Creek for the next 4 or 5 days

6<sup>th</sup> July Anne Tregurtha is attending Khandallah School for a week or so

13<sup>th</sup> July. Today the plumbers commenced repairing the spouting on the school building and residence

20<sup>th</sup> July Today was observed as Arbour Day and about 50 young pine trees were planted in the school grounds

On Tuesday Morning Mrs W J Stevens died. The four children will in future attend Rangitumau School

8<sup>th</sup> August Roll 30

31<sup>st</sup> August School was closed on Wednesday and Friday to attend teachers certificate examinations. Miss Rose has been absent all week from the same cause.

Percy Barron has returned to this school. During his absence has not attended any school as his parents were residing 5 miles from the nearest school.

Miss Rose was attending teacher's certificate exam for 4 days

Percy Barron will not be attending this school after today. His people have left the district.

14<sup>th</sup> September On Monday owing to the stress of weather Miss Rose did not reach the school until 1 pm

4<sup>th</sup> October that approximately £6 be spent on metalling where needed near the school.

That 2 hard broom and 2 straw ditto, also 2 doormats be procured for the school. That the school cricket bats be repaired.

5<sup>th</sup> October The name of Rita Swede has been added to the roll in Standard 3. Left 19<sup>th</sup> October

In response to my request the School Committee has decided to do some metalling where needed around the school and down the drive. Approximately £6 has been allocated for the purpose

2<sup>nd</sup> November. Harold Jesson has gained competency has left school

16<sup>th</sup> November On Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup>) Miss Rose being unwell was obliged to go home to her people. I have heard since that the doctor has ordered her to rest

13<sup>th</sup> December That the chairman endeavour to procure necessary labour for repairing front fence and cutting noxious weeds in the school ground.

## 1924

9<sup>th</sup> January That the school picnic be held on Thursday.

15<sup>th</sup> February Have received a communication from the Wellington Education Board the effect that it will be necessary to appoint a sewing mistress for the current year as a female teacher has not been appointed to the school. The vagueness of the communication has raised my feelings to a high pitch of excitement. What does it portend?. Am I really to be at last

transferred to a grade 3 school or is the female teacher merely a probationer?. Time will show

28<sup>th</sup> February That sufficient timber be ordered for border of flower beds in front of school.

29<sup>th</sup> February The enigma of the female teacher still awaits elucidation, and in the meantime needlework is in abeyance

7<sup>th</sup> March Mrs Tregurtha has been appointed sewing instructress for the year 1924. Apparently the female teacher has failed to materialise

14<sup>th</sup> March Yesterday Mr Direen attendance officer visited the school The parents if Ivy Lemberg, Mary Larsen and Dulcie Palmer contend that in keeping their children home in wet weather they are acting on medical advice and I understand that they will apply for exemption.

4<sup>th</sup> April The Doctor has advised make that the climate of Mauriceville is injurious to my boy's Frank's health. I am therefore applying to the Board for a transfer.

6<sup>th</sup> June School was closed yesterday and today owing to an outbreak of measles in my family. On Monday last my girl Annie contracted the disease: On the advice of the Health Officer school was kept open, certain precautions being taken.

On Thursday Morning Mrs Tregurtha developed the symptoms: I immediately made efforts to get in touch with the health officer, but without success, owing to his being out of town.

I also had trouble getting help at short notice (*For school or home?*)

On Monday I was informed that Connie Palmer was suffering from Diphtheria.

13<sup>th</sup> June Attendances for the past week has been very low owing to the fact that certain parents consider that the school should be closed on account of measles in my family. School opened on Monday at 9.30 with an attendance of 6 and 8 in the afternoon.

This morning my boy Frank also contacted the disease.

Sylvia Seymour has gone home to Hastwell for the winter months.

4<sup>th</sup> July Measles has assumed epidemic form in the district.

1<sup>st</sup> August Owing to the combined effects of measles, a wedding, and bad weather the attendance for the past week has been very poor.

11<sup>th</sup> August The question of a certain girl should be allowed to remain as a pupil of the school was discussed at some length No motion was put to the meeting and the subject was eventually dropped by mutual consent, The understanding being that no action be taken

24<sup>th</sup> October. Today inspector Burns paid his visit of inspection. In Standard 6 John Dooley obtained proficiency and Ivy Lemberg endorsed competency

Clarence Trass promoted last year to standard 6 on account of his age failed Standard 6. Born 1911

21<sup>st</sup> November Iris Seymour and Douglas Smith are suffering from whooping cough and will be unable to attend school for another two weeks

28<sup>th</sup> November. Didn't promote Marjorie Wiley a recent arrival very weak in Standard 3 although over 14 years of age.

Inspectors Report for 24<sup>th</sup> October

Mr Tregurtha Grading No 166

Roll 35

a) It will be advisable in some instances to withhold promotion at the end of the year

b) Attendance has been seriously affected by epidemics

11<sup>th</sup> December That the Secretary write to Mr M Gleeson re return of tables borrowed some weeks ago.

## 1925

17<sup>th</sup> February 1925 FURTHER NOTIFICATIONS

The following further notifications of cases of infantile paralysis have been received by the Health Department for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. to-day:— Wellington city O. Taihape 1, Waimaririo 1 Kaponga 1, Hawera 1, Palmerston North 1, Levin 2, Otaki 1, Plimmerton 1, Mauriceville West 1,

14<sup>th</sup> March it was decided that owing to prevalence of infantile paralysis nothing be done in the meantime in the matter of a school picnic.

20<sup>th</sup> March The assignments of work published by the daily papers are being done by the pupils in their own homes. I am paying house to house visits so as to give the children as much help as possible.

2<sup>nd</sup> April The correspondence course is working satisfactorily all the pupils having returned the written answers regularly. A certain amount of the work will require to be amplified (mainly orally) when school resumes.

17<sup>th</sup> April School was resumed on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, attendances though voluntary are satisfactory. The name of Bernard McBrearty has been added to Standard 2

24<sup>th</sup> April Standards 5 and 6 dismiss at 3.30. The extra half hour has so far been devoted to arithmetic

4<sup>th</sup> May That it is recommended to the incoming committee that in lieu of a picnic an evening party be held on a Friday evening to commence at 6.30 pm

8<sup>th</sup> May Last Evening Mr H Foster gave an illustrated lecture on the West Coast region of the South Island. The lecture was well attended.

15<sup>th</sup> May On Monday at about 11.30 am news reached the school of the death of Mr Massey after an appropriate address by the teacher the pupils were dismissed for the day. School was closed on Thursday the day of the burial.

29<sup>th</sup> May The three Johansen children have left the school the family have removed to the Akatarawa

10<sup>th</sup> July. Received from the Wellington Education Board 8 sanitary pans. Also 220 beads and 1 ball of twine. For the work in number

20<sup>th</sup> July That we procure one large first aid outfit for the school That we support religious exercises in school. Carried unanimously.

31<sup>st</sup> July On Thursday about 50 young pine trees were planted to form a shelter belt along the Southern side of the Football Ground

7<sup>th</sup> August Yesterday Mr Brockett visited the school and handed over 28 lb of seed potatoes for the school garden

17<sup>th</sup> August That the Secretary (no longer teacher) and H Trass to interview Mr Tregurtha re the hall also to address residents re this matter at a dance to be held in the hall.

1<sup>st</sup> September That we call tenders for the splitting and stacking into cords of the trees on the Wellington Education Board property. Tenders to close on the 10<sup>th</sup> September

17<sup>th</sup> September The weather this week has been exceptionally boisterous and wintry, with showers of rain hail, snow and sleet. Attendances have consequently been below normal.

2<sup>nd</sup> October The attendances has shown considerable improvement. The Jensen's however are very irregular and the reasons given are in some cases open to doubt.

The trees which were felled by the Tararua Board's men are still lying where they fell and the front of the grounds presents a very untidy appearance. The School Committee has not so far been able to make any satisfactory arrangements re the matter.

15<sup>th</sup> October That the Head teacher be invited to attend the next committee meeting.

23<sup>rd</sup> October The Jensen family have been very irregular this year. The father has received a warning from the attendance officer

30<sup>th</sup> October Inspector Burns came. 3 children gained proficiency, one competency and one failure

6<sup>th</sup> November On Wednesday (Election day) school was closed as building was required as a polling booth

Last night a dance was held in the old school and was well attended in spite of unfavourable weather. The proceeds will be used to buy library books

26<sup>th</sup> November That the rough lengths of the trees that remain and are unprofitable to be split to be cut into suitable lengths and to be rolled into the hollow, the Secretary to supervise the work.

Wages not to exceed 16/- per day when working horses.

That we call tenders for the sale of firewood.

That we allow £4 for the grubbing and clearing of blackberry and gorse.

That H Trass be authorised to interview the Head Teacher, re motion 15<sup>th</sup> October.

27<sup>th</sup> November Jack Martin has to undergo an operation and will probably not return to the school.

4<sup>th</sup> December The committee has the work of clearing up the pine trees in front of the school well in hand and a clearance should be effected in the course in the next few days.

Roll at 29<sup>th</sup> October inspectors 35 Sole Charge

Mr Tregurtha's ranking C 156

## 1926

18<sup>th</sup> January. That we hold the school picnic and dance starting at 11 a.m.

That Mr Lemberg bring cakes etc from the station.

It was suggested that the ladies of the district should hold a meeting to enable them to assist the School Committee. The Secretary to be in attendance.

5<sup>th</sup> February Jim Jack is at present an inmate of Masterton Hospital and will not be returning to this school

During the holidays the house in which the family resided was burned to the ground. This boy received severe cuts and burns whilst endeavouring to escape from the burning building through a broken window.

26<sup>th</sup> February Owing to the death of their mother Jean and Albert Staples have been placed in a home in Masterton

26<sup>th</sup> March On Wednesday last a wedding of more than ordinary local interest was solemnised here. With the approval of the Board a special holiday was observed on the understanding that school be open as usual on Easter Tuesday

30<sup>th</sup> April Anzac day memorial service was held on Sunday Morning Last. The children assembled at 9.30 and after a suitable address by the teacher, wreaths and flowers were placed upon soldiers' graves in the local cemetery.

3<sup>rd</sup> May The Head teacher asked the School Committee to consider the matter re a fence around the school. A new flag was requested.

That the School Committee elect a committee to inspect school grounds, re fencing and to report same at the next meeting.

That we take steps to definitely bring about centralisation of schools in the Mauriceville West District.

18<sup>th</sup> May I have prevailed upon the School Committee to erect a netting fence around the school as a first step toward the improving of the flower plots. The work will be put in hand at once

4<sup>th</sup> June That we call a meeting of householders in the district re the Consolidation of Schools to be held in the Mauriceville West Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> inst at 7.45

Reply to Wellington Education Board stating what we were doing in the matter also asking for more information on the matter  
*(No more minute books available)*

2<sup>nd</sup> July Cyril Parker enrolled owing to age and physical disability.

in Standard 3. The boy is very backward having had infantile paralysis and was promoted on the inspector's advice

9<sup>th</sup> July. A centralised scheme is mooted, the schools concerned being Mauriceville West, Mauriceville East and Dreyer's Rock Whether or not the scheme will be carried into effect remains to be seen

6<sup>th</sup> August On Saturday last, feeling that I was developing an attack of influenza I got into touch with the Health Officer and wired the Board, asking permission to close school for a few days. I have since wired the Wellington Education Board that I shall be unfit to resume duty before Monday Next. The Board has approved the closing of the school.

13<sup>th</sup> July School was reopened on Monday as usual.

20<sup>th</sup> August The scheme of outside improvements, although approved by the Committee has not been carried out owing I understand to default on the part of a certain member and for reasons best known to the gentleman himself. I have protested to the chairman and the matter will be gone into at the next meeting

18<sup>th</sup> November Charles Jensen (Standard 5) has left school and his name has been removed from the register. He is over 15 years of age and has been very irregular for some time.

## 1927

25<sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> was a school holiday People's Day Masterton Show

4<sup>th</sup> March Arrangements have been made to convey 10 of the pupils from Standards 3 to 6 to Masterton tomorrow to take part in the function in honour of the Royal Visitors

11<sup>th</sup> March Ten of the pupils from Standard 3 to 6 proceeded to Masterton on Saturday last and spent a most enjoyable day.

Monday and Tuesday last were observed as holidays in commemoration of the Royal Visit.

25<sup>th</sup> March On Saturday last the school picnic was held in the school grounds. Bad weather prevented outdoor events being held but an enjoyable day was held in the old school.,

19<sup>th</sup> August On Tuesday night last a dance was held in the old school under the auspices of the sports club. The proceedings were very disorderly, the area surrounding the school being rendered untidy and four flower plots being trampled upon and plants uprooted. In the early hours of the morning three cords of firewood belonging to the School Committee were destroyed by fire

29<sup>th</sup> September With regard to the disorderly dance on August 16<sup>th</sup> last, I have suggested to the School Committee that the old school be declared closed for a period of six months, and that in the meantime some adequate system of control be formulated. The School Committee however having ignored my suggestion. The matter has been reported to the Wellington Education Board

14<sup>th</sup> September Ten new desks of the latest pattern has been received from the Board The new desks add materially to the comfort of the pupils and the appearance of the classrooms

28<sup>th</sup> October. The three children in Standard 6 (Frank Tregurtha, Ruth Mortenson, and Thora Jensen) all gained proficiency

9<sup>th</sup> December. Today several of the pupils under adequate supervision attended an industrial exhibition at Masterton A very profitable day was spent.

26<sup>th</sup> October Roll 26. Grade 151 For Mr Tregurtha.

## 1928

Mr Arnold Raymond Key Relieving Teacher

3<sup>rd</sup> February Weather this week was very trying and in consequence the efforts of the class were not very great

10<sup>th</sup> February The school tennis court is nearly ready for play

This week a local wedding took place, thus helping to lower the average.

The committee have also employed a man to cut the weeds on the South End of the school.

17<sup>th</sup> February On Thursday Night 16<sup>th</sup> a social evening was held in the school hall, the buildings and ball being left in a clean and tidy condition.

24<sup>th</sup> February The long spell of dry weather broke last night Thursday.

The teaching of the Primers is fairly different on account of the lack of suitable apparatus, which I am making myself

2<sup>nd</sup> March The annual school picnic was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> inst. Diphtheria has been reported in the district one child being taken to Hospital.

7<sup>th</sup> March 1928 Miss I. N. Scruby, sole teacher, Mauriceville West PP

9<sup>th</sup> March Last Saturday I was notified by the Health Department of the detention of Mavis Trass on account of suspected Diphtheria. The remaining Trass children have been isolated.

Standard 6 take at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour to work out fifteen mental

16<sup>th</sup> March. I am very pleased to see that the children of this school are very keen on organised games. The school hall is let this evening for a benefit dance for the newly formed hockey club

23<sup>rd</sup> March The attendance of some children is very irregular and needs enquiry into. I forwarded my report on the effect of the Summer Time on Children to the board today

30<sup>th</sup> March .Mr Bowden School inspector called and congratulated me on the marked improvement in the school work also expressed a desire that I would remain under the Wellington Education Board

11<sup>th</sup> April Miss I N Scruby Teacher

4<sup>th</sup> May Mr Sykes MP called with Mr Cameron and Mr Forsberg and addressed the children at 12.30 pm. School was dismissed at 1.30 pm.

First Term examinations are very poor, The children will be examined at the end of June

21<sup>st</sup> May School reopened. After holidays- attendance weak owing to serious illness of the fathers of two families.

Old school is in course of removal- finished 26<sup>th</sup> May

11<sup>th</sup> June. Mavis Martin from Harewood was enrolled today

21<sup>st</sup> June Ten children from the Standard classes accompanied by two committee men and the teacher paid an educational visit to the Palmerston North Show

27<sup>th</sup> July. An influenza epidemic has greatly depleted the attendance during the past two weeks, very few of the children have escaped the disease

After the winter vacation I had the empty classroom cleared of desks so that the children might use it for games and physical drill on wet and especially cold days

10<sup>th</sup> August Second term examination results an improvement on those of the first term.

15<sup>th</sup> August School closed for the Spring Vacation on Thursday instead of Friday to enable me to call and inspect piano in Wellington

12<sup>th</sup> September Major Cree, drill instructor, arrived and commented favourably on the tone of the school

The Board Architect called in. He agreed that the copper belonging to the schoolhouse is sadly in need of repair. I pointed out to him the danger of fire.

9<sup>th</sup> October The annual inspection was made by Mr Watson. One of the Standard 6 girls was absent owing to illness. Mr Watson very kindly journeyed the 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles to her home to bring her to school. Three children gained their proficiency certificates. Alex Clement, Violet Mortenson and Ken Palmer.

14<sup>th</sup> November. School closed for election purposes.

19<sup>th</sup> November This month November we have had a series of informal evenings in the spare room have been a great success and have done much I am sure, to create a friendly feeling between parents and teacher

14<sup>th</sup> December On the 12<sup>th</sup> December we held a very successful school concert in Mauriceville East Hall. taking about £15-10-0 in actual cash

Everyone seemed most agreeably surprised at the talent shown by the children who certainly worked well and behaved splendidly. This apparently is the first concert held in the Mauriceville West for some years. I am glad it was such a success.

9<sup>th</sup> October report received 19<sup>th</sup> December. Roll 30

Teacher Miss Irene N Scruby Grading 173

Teaching is good. Buildings have recently been painted inside and out. They are being kept clean

## 1929

4<sup>th</sup> February four new children admitted. Two of them being only four years of age.. Is it wise for children to attend school at such an early age? (Actual Note)

25<sup>th</sup> April A very wet day in a very wet week.

A particularly virulent “cold” is prevalent amongst the children

10<sup>th</sup> May The attendance this term has been remarkably good 95.86%

8<sup>th</sup> July The attendance has been very poor recently owing to very wet weather, and an important local wedding. An epidemic of sores has broken out in school.

4<sup>th</sup> October The boys have greatly improved the safety of the fireplace by breaking away many of the bricks, thus covering the fire and lessening the danger of wood and cinders rolling out and under the floorboards

11<sup>th</sup> November. Armistice Day The children sang recessional, after a short talk and observed two minutes silence. Work resumed as normal

22<sup>nd</sup> November Synchronous Proficiency Examination- school closed, while two candidates sat the examination

26<sup>th</sup> November Doctor Collier and Miss McLean inspected the physique of the children

## 1930

E R Clark relieving

19<sup>th</sup> February The children have been able to obtain their school books this week so the work is progressing more smoothly. The delay by the lack of books is regretted

31<sup>st</sup> March Miss Clark Finished

1<sup>st</sup> April Mrs F G McRae commenced duties. 28 present

24<sup>th</sup> April The new flag was received from the Wellington Education Board

9<sup>th</sup> May. Work in all classes of a very low standard

13<sup>th</sup> June. Miss Blackburn – drill instructress- visited school and took the children for games and folk dances.

16<sup>th</sup> June received word that Harold and Eileen Madsen have gone to Hastwell. Very sorry to lose them as they were interested in their work and showing improvement.

Gramophone received and also records

17<sup>th</sup> June. Mr May cutting down pines in playground and the children most interested in the young cones at the tips of the branches

25<sup>th</sup> June Strapped Peter Jensen because he hit in temper Owen Larsen with an axe

7<sup>th</sup> July Strapped Peter Jensen, Joyce Larsen today for scribbling on school wall with knife and old nibs. Had spoken to class on the matter in the morning- a class of wilful disobedience

6<sup>th</sup> August New maps of Asia, Africa and India received

18<sup>th</sup> August Term exams taken. Work shows slight improvement but is still very much below standard. Although much work has been put into tables for Standard 1 and 2 they are still very weak. History shows improvement but geography is weak (No ground work to work on)

## 1931

2<sup>nd</sup> February Felt earthquake. Roll 24

24<sup>th</sup> March Mr Stubbs paid a visit of inspection and commented on the improvement in the work and the high standard aimed at in old work Oral work still needs great attention to improve standard

10<sup>th</sup> April Ray and Colin Millen. Tom Johnson and Daphne Trass and Nola Freeman were punished (4 cuts girls 6 boys) for calling out a cheeky remark from the road. Apparently not meant to reach my ears but carried up by the wind. The first time such a thing has happened and for the general discipline of the school such things cannot be ignored

27<sup>th</sup> July Unemployed workers made a start on cleaning up the playground

## 1932

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 28. Raymond Neilsen, Douglas Smith and Daphne Trass removed from school roll. All passed proficiency in December 1931. Douglas continuing work at Masterton Technical School Others remaining at home

18<sup>th</sup> March School closed for school picnic. Weather being wet the picnic was held in the local hall.

27<sup>th</sup> May Teacher's refresher day for drill held in Masterton from 9 am to 3 pm. School closed to enable teacher to attend

27<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Partridge (Inspector) paid second visit to school. Thoroughly examined all classes and reported general efficiency very good

1<sup>st</sup> December. 7 sat proficiency, all passed. Good class Keen workers

16<sup>th</sup> December. Prize Giving ceremony and parent's afternoon. Display of drawing writing and handwork done through year Mr Sykes MP and Mr Donald member of Wellington Education Board both present

## 1933

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 28

Joyce Neilson removed from roll. Only 13 year old staying at home

Concrete During Holiday- Later part of January The front of the school ground had been concreted- a decided improvement – 3 years agitation bearing fruit. Money raised at concert at end of

August and supplemented by Board. £9. No more winter quagmires

15<sup>th</sup> February School closed Masterton A and P show. Shocking weather, Norwest gale- heavy rain and thunder

4<sup>th</sup> March Local Athletic sports held. Mauriceville West second in school relay race

11<sup>th</sup> March. Local Flower Show, Poppy Manihera collected 1500 white butterflies and collected first prize. Girls were successful in the open classes with sugar bag work done last year

24<sup>th</sup> March. School closed for the Wairarapa Schools' sports which were held in Masterton, Connie Palmer, Isma Newman Mavis Williams took part in the running, hoop and skipping events

Mauriceville West was runner up in the Country Schools' Cup being beaten by 5 points by Te Ore Ore

Isma gained four firsts in the finals

Mr Donald and Mr Sykes were most eulogistic in their remarks about Mauriceville West at the presentation of the cups

26<sup>th</sup> February School closed for Carterton Show in lieu of closing for Labour Day (With consent of Board)

1<sup>st</sup> December Proficiency Exam 3 pupils sat- all passed

19<sup>th</sup> December. Prize giving ceremony and display of work of year. Most successful afternoon and all parents seems please with work of children

## 1934

5<sup>th</sup> February Roll 23 Measles prevalent in district. 3 children absent. L Forsberg going to High School in Masterton. U Larsen and I Clements staying at home

1<sup>st</sup> March. Desmond Freeman returns to school after 2 years absence on account of health.

5<sup>th</sup> March. Most severe earthquake Chimneys at school and house injured

16<sup>th</sup> March. School picnic held in Mr P Mortensen's paddock and in hall A most enjoyable day and beautiful weather. All children received a small gift. Dance was held in the hall in evening.- a most successful function

23<sup>rd</sup> march. Received from Wellington Education Board brown paper sheets, 3 paint brushes, 9 tubes paint, 8 gum brushes, 10 boxes of crayons (Small) , gummed strips

29<sup>th</sup> March Two children away ill. Ross Bray- appendicitis operation- hospital Wellington. Maureen Freeman badly scarred face owing to fall from bicycle

10<sup>th</sup> April Mr Brockett, agriculture adviser in the morning. Schoolwork disorganised. Showed children how to clean spade with water and brick. Spoke about potato experiment

25<sup>th</sup> April Children from Mauriceville West went to Mauriceville East School for special service which was excellent. The speaker being Major Everdon (Masterton)

17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> September School closed to allow mistress to attend refresher course in Drill and Art at Masterton. An excellent course of lectures, most helpful.

23<sup>rd</sup> October. Children all very interested in the Great Air Race. All admired Melrose's fine spirit in giving his map of Rome to Athens section to Stoddart and thus flying without a map.

Inspectors report included G H Stubbs

- a) Roll 26
- b) The school is functioning very successfully and under sound and stimulating teaching steady progress is being made.
- c) Art work and correlated handwork merit special commendation

1<sup>st</sup> November Proficiency examination in History, Geography, Drawing and science. Questions most suitable but long

30<sup>th</sup> November Proficiency exam in English and Arithmetic branches. Arithmetic is a very easy examination. English a most searching paper. All pupils finished all papers before time allotted.

12<sup>th</sup> December. Concert in evening. Audience claimed it the best yet. Mr Donald (Wellington Education Board Member) presented prizes and commented most favourably on display of work and concert items. Mr G Sykes (MP) was also present and he too spoke most highly of the work of the school.

Proficiency marks received. All through and marks very fair.

15<sup>th</sup> November Had trouble with Ron Bray who when questioned re pot of red he had been using, told untruths and then worked himself into violent temper and defied me. Gave him six cuts on hand and 3 or 4 on his legs for remarks after being strapped

4<sup>th</sup> December. Trouble with R Bray again. Fighting in playground with A Williams. Ordered both boys into classroom. A Williams going in first. R Bray punched him in the back, then turned round

dashed into the corridor striking out right and left at the children there. Left him in corridor all afternoon. Ron Repented and apologised at 3 O'clock

11<sup>th</sup> December. Another exhibition of temper from Ron Bray. Think children in their indignation at his conduct had certainly aggravated him. Ordered him to take his books and go home. Visited his parents-guardians in the evening and Ron admitted stealing paint. Didn't get much satisfaction from visit.

Ron's language and temper when spoken to were shocking and he charged hitting Neta McKeown and Attempting to Kick June Larsen.

13<sup>th</sup> December. Wrote to Secretary Wellington Education Board stating what I had done with regards Ron Bray

18<sup>th</sup> December. School closed for annual holidays. Attendance during last two weeks has been very poor owing to illness and bad sunburn

16<sup>th</sup> December Had a visit from Mr Freeman re Desmond. Regret to have to state that I think Desmond's illness is having a detrimental effect upon his mental development. I told Mr Freeman this and he seemed to resent it. But it is the conclusion I have come to through observation of the child, his mental development is not on a par with his age.

## 1935

5<sup>th</sup> February Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February was a holiday given by the Duke of Gloucester.

Ronald Bray has gone to Mauriceville East

Mavis Williams also left having gained proficiency and is staying at home. Pity she could not go on.

Isma Newman is continuing work with Correspondence School

11<sup>th</sup> February School closed at 1 O'clock on account of heat in accordance with Board's suggestions

21<sup>st</sup> February School again closed early on account of weather.

During February the swimming pool in Mr Hood's paddock has been very popular and practically all children from Standard 3 up can now swim. Very satisfactory when remember none could swim at beginning of November

11<sup>th</sup> March, Isma Newman transferred to Correspondence School Roll

25<sup>th</sup> March Strapped Denis Neilsen (3), June Larsen for careless work. Cecil Godden for laziness and inattention. First time strap used this year.

26<sup>th</sup> March. Strap yesterday was most beneficial as whole school seems keener and anxious to do better work. It seems advisable to use it occasionally to let them learn that bad work earns a just reward.

New football arrived from Wairarapa Rugby Union

17<sup>th</sup> April received from Wellington Education Board

8 Drawing Books, Newsprint 3 packets, Plasticene 7 lbs, Pastels 8 boxes, Coloured chalk 280 sticks, Gum Arabic 1 tin, Canvas 2 yards, raffia 2 lbs, Wool 5 skeins, Ticket Ink 2 bottles, Tapestry needles 7 packets

9<sup>th</sup> September Desmond and Brian Freeman (Brian ill in Wellington future movements unknown) Mavis Trass 14 years

Roll now 21

7<sup>th</sup> October Dr Anderson and Nurse Hodges visited the school Doctor found chicken pox spots on Zeta and Garth McKeown but when I asked said there was no need to send them home as the infection had already been spread.

29<sup>th</sup> October An exceedingly rough wet boisterous day- only 7 present

Mrs McRae still teaching

27<sup>th</sup> November School was used as a polling booth.

## 1936

3<sup>rd</sup> February Roll 24

4<sup>th</sup> May. Mr McCaskill (Inspector) visited. Formal work above average but children "lost their tongues": and speech work most disappointing. Children were frightened and even the best were afraid to speak.

2<sup>nd</sup> June Had trouble with A Williams. When returning to his seat knocked L Mckeown, Bought him out and told him to return to his seat in proper manner. When his back was turned he made a grimace at Lyall. Called him back and gave him six cuts and told him he had no sense of free play, decency or honesty. He mumbled something when I turned away. I made him repeat his remark which was "any more and I'll go home" So I told him to go home. He returned ½ an hour later with a note from his father supporting me and advised me to punish him. But I think corporal punishment is not correct treatment. I have been trying moral persuasion and also have tried to create a feeling of responsibility

in him, but he is a very hard boy to lead. His "Better side and sense of dignity" seem to be very much wanting

10<sup>th</sup> June Corporal Punishment administered to Lyall McKeown. Lyall came to school in a very bad temper, after having trouble at home and refused to bring milk. I ignored this but when I asked him a question ("Aren't you feeling very well today?") He had tonsils out in May Holidays. He sulked and refused to answer. I told him to come to me but he did not move. After being told 3 times by me and not obeying I strapped him 6 cuts- He's a very difficult child and given to sulking fits for no reasons. I think its due to his tonsils having been so infected. I try to humour him and appeal to his better side- I help him with his stamp collection etc. But I will not allow defiance to go unpunished

Later Lyall and I talked his behaviour over and he acknowledged how foolish he had been and said he would try and overcome his sulkiness.

His mother has remarked to me that he is very hard to manage at home and that he gets into very bad tempers. We both decided it was to do with his health.

18<sup>th</sup> June All the pupils from Standard 1 to 6 visited the winter show at Palmerston and then went round town. At Rosco's they were all taken up to the roof in the lift. First time some of the children had been in a lift.

9<sup>th</sup> June Standard 1 -6 pupils visited the Butter factory and Limeworks.

11<sup>th</sup> September. Corporal Punishment administered to 89.6. She has not been following her reading lesson and answered most impudently when I asked her about her inattention. .... I

administered 4 cuts In all fairness to the other pupils such conduct could not be overlooked

15<sup>th</sup> December All schools closed on account of outbreak of infantile paralysis in Dunedin

## 1937

1<sup>st</sup> March School resumed today. Christmas holidays extended on account of infantile paralysis still appearing in Southern Districts

20<sup>th</sup> April. School closed on account Infantile Paralysis but lessons to be carried on at home by correspondence.

12<sup>th</sup> May Holiday for Coronation of George VI

24<sup>th</sup> May School resumed after long break on account Infantile Paralysis and one week of term holidays

5<sup>th</sup> October With committee's approval the work was commenced ½ hour earlier to enable the children to be well away from the school and off the roads before the heavy traffic in connection with Mr Mortensen's funeral began

Also as Mr Mortensen was an ex committee man and old pupil and all his family were pupils, it was thought that the school should be represented by the teacher at the Funeral

## 1938

*A note in margin stating "Complete Entries for 1938"*

16<sup>th</sup> February School closed on account of Masterton Show. Heavy rain all day. A number of the children attended the show.

29<sup>th</sup> April School closed for afternoon at an refresher course was being held at Central School Masterton for speech work and

choral speaking by Mr and Mrs Mountjoy. Class attended by Mrs McCrae

15<sup>th</sup> June. School closed 13 children taken to Palmerston North

8<sup>th</sup> July. Holiday given in Honour of Prime Minister's visit. Given by PM

12<sup>th</sup> September Inspectors H G Johnston's report included

- a) Very sound work in the formal subjects is being done, arithmetic being worthy of special mention
- b) Primer children have made good progress in their reading
- c) The presentation of all written exercises reveals neatness and care and both Art and Handwork are being very ably catered for.
- d) Children are very well behaved and there is a pleasing spirit of work in the classroom
- e) Roll 25

14<sup>th</sup> September. Men began improvement in the playground concrete at back of the school and levelling a piece at the front for a playing area

3<sup>rd</sup> October . The public works men left the grounds all levelled and concreting being finished

15<sup>th</sup> October. Parliamentary Elections held the school being used as a Polling Booth

21<sup>st</sup> November The wireless set was linked up and tested for use

24<sup>th</sup> November First broadcast lessons listened to and much appreciated by children

28<sup>th</sup> November. Measles epidemic very bad- only 10 children present

16<sup>th</sup> December. School closed for summer vacation. Exhibitions of Children's work and distribution of prizes. No concert was held on account of measles epidemic

## 1939

1<sup>st</sup> February 24 children on roll

28<sup>th</sup> February Owing to hot weather this month afternoon lessons have been taken out of doors and swimming lessons at 11.30 and 2.30- Several more children can almost swim

14<sup>th</sup> March All children were taken out to East Hall to see a "safety first" film. After the showing of the film Mr Stringer, the Traffic Inspector talked to the children about their conduct on the road re traffic. Afterwards he discussed "safety rules" with the teachers present. There were 7 schools present

4<sup>th</sup> September School work resumed. War declared Roll 23

2<sup>nd</sup> November Coronation Picture received- brought out by Mr Brockett

Undated application to remodel classrooms

- a) Roll 1936 21, 1937 22 1938 25 last term 24
- b) Only one room in use each classroom 23' 6"
- c) Mauriceville 2 miles 46 chains away. Kopuaranga 7 Miles 16 chains Hastwell 14 Miles 27
- d) Mauriceville School is now being remodelled and enlarged

## 1940

L King

6<sup>th</sup> February School resumed. All the children looking well except Garth McKeown who had been under medical observation during January. All seemed pleased to be back at school again.

Roll 19

14<sup>th</sup> March Centennial Procession in Masterton School closed to enable children to attend as the different floats etc had a bearing on history and progress

28<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> School closed on account of death of Mr Savage Prime Minister of New Zealand

10<sup>th</sup> June All June the children have been very busy working for Red Cross. Children earning money for the school "soldier" tin, also bring bottles for sale, wool is being collected to make "eiderdowns" Peggy squares being knitted by all children in the standards: primers also learning to knit.

6<sup>th</sup> November Received notice of transfer to Te Ore Ore as Head Teacher

16<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Trass judged lambs and calves. 5 entries 3 calves 2 lambs

## 1941

New Teacher

3<sup>rd</sup> February Roll 19

13<sup>th</sup> March The children visited the Mauriceville Butter Factory where all the various processes were explained.

25<sup>th</sup> April School Closed- Anzac Day. The previous week talks were given to the children on the significance of Anzac day and appropriate stories read. On Anzac day a special service was held at Mauriceville and this was attended by several of the children  
3<sup>rd</sup> June. During May 3 rooms were papered in the school residence by the Wairarapa Joinery and Cabinet Company Carterton and a great improvement has been noted

## 1942

Miss E Grant

2<sup>nd</sup> February Roll 22

19<sup>th</sup> March Children visited the Native Bush to study native trees and shrubs

25<sup>th</sup> June- 3<sup>rd</sup> July School closed on account of damage done to building during the earthquake. Damaged chimney and tank made the school unsafe for the children to be in

15<sup>th</sup> September

Another new teacher

School resumed after the August holiday. There was no school from September 7<sup>th</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup> as no appointment made

Roll 20

10<sup>th</sup> November Dental Clinic Nurse inspected all classes.

18<sup>th</sup> December. A very successful picnic was held. During the day races were run, lambs and calves judged prizes were presented and the children received gifts from the Xmas tree.

## 1943

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 21

16<sup>th</sup> February Dr Mulholland visited the school and examined all children

5<sup>th</sup> March School closed on account of special Physical Education Day for Teachers in Masterton

2<sup>nd</sup> June Mr Trass was chairman of the School Committee for a great number of years died suddenly on Monday Night (May 31<sup>st</sup>).

The school was closed in the afternoon of the burial

1<sup>st</sup> July Mr Brown, Inspector for woodwork visited the school in the morning. Tools were gone through and a very helpful and instructive lesson was taken by which both children and myself will benefit.

In the afternoon Miss Sellars of the Navy League visited the school The school was presented with a 100% flag for 100% membership in the year 1942

Stanley William's was also presented with a long service badge

23<sup>rd</sup> June Mr Lett from Masterton repaired broken window panes, fixed window cords and repaired the spouting

19<sup>th</sup> August A very pleasant break up afternoon was spent at school there being many parents and friends present. Children rendered several items which were very much appreciated by audience. Afternoon Tea was provided by the ladies

10<sup>th</sup> September Holiday declared by Prime Minister to celebrate capitulation of Italian Army

8<sup>th</sup> November Miss Sewell Physical Education Instructress visited the school in the afternoon. The children were taught how to play longball.

## 1944

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 22 attended a combined primary school's athletic day held in the Park oval Masterton.

8<sup>th</sup> June Received a very welcome parcel of library books from the Wellington Education Board. Under a new scheme books are evidently being forwarded to the schools at intervals throughout the year.

27<sup>th</sup> November Roll 16

4<sup>th</sup> December Two of the children took their calves into the Group Judging held at Solway School. Two of the competitors Keith Mortensen and Ronald Terry were successful in the Pedigree Class getting second and third place respectively

## 1945

5<sup>th</sup> February Roll 17

25<sup>th</sup> May Large cartons of supplies from Wellington Education Board arrived it included much material for the new number work with infants.

15<sup>th</sup> August Japan surrendered. School continued on the Wednesday and closed the two succeeding days

18<sup>th</sup> December Held end of year function at the hall. School prizes distributed and Father Christmas Presented children with gifts from the Christmas Tree.

## 1946

P Twiss Teaching

4<sup>th</sup> July commenced Relieving Duty Douglas Earnest Tooby  
31<sup>st</sup> July Finished D E Tooby  
1<sup>st</sup> August K B Marriott Roll 11  
23<sup>rd</sup> August 8/6d collected for Wellington Health Camp Association  
4<sup>th</sup> October Holiday declared by Governor General Sir Bernard Freyberg on occasion of his visit to the Wairarapa

## 1947

3<sup>rd</sup> February Roll 11. Includes Elva Neighbours who has left temporarily to attend Greymouth (*Neighbours is a well-known Buller and West Coast Surname*)  
18<sup>th</sup> February Supply of timber for light woodwork arrived from Wellington Education Board. Also received notice that Elva Neighbours had won a prize (5/3) – First equal in the Dominion Industries writing competition  
7<sup>th</sup> March. Received carton of library books from Country Library Service  
11<sup>th</sup> March. Dispatched carton of library books to CLS  
10<sup>th</sup> April School residence water tanks cleaned out today. 4 tanks cleaned  
29<sup>th</sup> April received from Wellington Education Board one crate of pinex and bundle of mouldings. These are for display board to be put above blackboard for a display board along the wall.  
28<sup>th</sup> May School closed on occasion of local licensing poll. School used as a polling booth

30<sup>th</sup> May Put up display board above the blackboard. It looks fine, I think  
20<sup>th</sup> June. Table received for Table Tennis. Children are very keen and it will prove a great benefit in wet weather  
30<sup>th</sup> June Ronald McCullough returned to school today, after spending some time at Whakatane.  
21<sup>st</sup> July. Received a stirrup pump from Wellington Education Board (*A stirrup pump was a hand pump used to fight fires*)  
24<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Hood of the transport department visited the school and spoke to the children on road safety. He also showed sound films dealing with the subject  
1<sup>st</sup> November Received Filmstrip Projector ordered through the Wellington Education Board last July  
There seems to have been some extraordinary delays connected with the ordering and delivery of this projector. However it is pleasing to have it at last  
28<sup>th</sup> November Calf and Lamb judging was held at the school this afternoon. Mr H Myers of Mauriceville judged the animals. Three calves and three lambs were judged.  
Calves were judged for care and attention and Dairy Type. Lambs were just judged  
A goodly number of parents and friends was at the school to see the judging. Following this the ladies held a bring and buy and raised £1 while the boys and girls of the Junior Red Cross conducted games and competitions which brought in over £1 also  
1<sup>st</sup> December. School closed indefinitely according to instructions issued per radio by Minister of Education owing to instances of

infantile paralysis. On duty at school from 8.40 a.m. Did various necessary jobs of tidying up. Also prepared test papers.

2<sup>nd</sup> December. Again on duty all day. Sent out a message to children to come and collect books and tidy desks. Children came at various intervals during the day

3<sup>rd</sup> December. On duty all day. Elva Neighbours came at 9.00 to do test papers- completed mental and written arithmetic and formal language.

In afternoon I visited and judged the Home garden Projects.

Final Results were

Standard 5 and 6 Kelvin Naysmith 1<sup>st</sup> Elva Neighbours 2<sup>nd</sup> Eric Pain 3<sup>rd</sup>

Standard 3 Barry Godden

4<sup>th</sup> December. Elva Neighbours again came at 9.00 to do test papers. Written Comprehension, Reading Comprehension and Letter. Mrs Marriott supervised while I left with Mr Wallis for discussion group at Mauriceville.

5<sup>th</sup> December Took part in discussion at Mauriceville.

12<sup>th</sup> December Schools declared officially closed as from today

## 1948

2nd February Commenced duty for the new school year. No pupils present as schools not yet officially open. Children to do correspondence work.

9<sup>th</sup> February Lessons for Primer 3 to Standard 3 arrived today

11<sup>th</sup> February Attended Mauriceville School at request of senior inspector to take part in discussion on correspondence work and class work generally.

1<sup>st</sup> March School opened today for beginning of first term.

5<sup>th</sup> April The track up to the school was graded today in preparation of a topping of limestone

10<sup>th</sup> April A picnic was held in the school grounds today. The Home and School Association (*First mention of*) provided luncheon- afternoon tea. Races- games were held, the winners of the races receiving prizes. At afternoon tea a book prize was given to all children. It was a very successful function

3<sup>rd</sup> May Biennial meeting of householders. 10 present. Mr Lumsen (Chairman). L Neighbours (Secretary), O Mortensen, AH Godden.

11<sup>th</sup> June Mr Warham Physical Education visited and left a dozen rubber balls

18<sup>th</sup> June Received parcel of Social Studies Text Books

28<sup>th</sup> June Received parcel of 2 Standard 3 English text books

9<sup>th</sup> July Mr Warham introduced to children some new activities using hoops.

6<sup>th</sup> September Roll now 14

7<sup>th</sup> September. Received one Swedish bench for Phys Ed purposes

10<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Warham visited. Showed the children some exercises for the balance form

15<sup>th</sup> September. Timber for school flooring delivered today.

2<sup>nd</sup> November Sent children home at 10.00 and closed school for the day for private reasons

3<sup>rd</sup> November. Received radio from Department Appears to be in good order and condition.

Elva Neighbours has again been successful in the writing section of the Wairarapa show this time gaining 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the secondary group.

3<sup>rd</sup> December. Calf and lamb club. 2 calves and 3 lambs

## 1949

1<sup>st</sup> February 16 children on roll

The flooring in the classroom has been renewed during the holidays. It is a vast improvement. 8 new filmstrips have been received for the school Timber for a carshed was delivered during the holidays

16<sup>th</sup> February Received word that Elva Neighbours had won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the All Standards Division of the Dominion Industries Writing Competition Prize Goods to the value of 12/6

1<sup>st</sup> March. One tumbling mat received today.

9<sup>th</sup> March Set of Large Photographs for Social Studies

School closed for Licensing and Gaming Poll

14<sup>th</sup> March At the Mauriceville's Gardening Circle Show all the school children entered exhibits. 60 entries being put in. *Prizes listed*

25<sup>th</sup> March. Received a microphone to use with the new school radio.

28<sup>th</sup> March. Received a crate containing a speaker for the radio

5<sup>th</sup> April Cupboard with sliding door delivered from Wellington Education Board This cupboard was apparently dispatched without any covering and the top is badly marked. It has spoilt the whole appearance of the cupboard

1<sup>st</sup> August Returned to duty today. Have been absent on sick leave since 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Mrs Marriott has been relieving during the last four weeks.

5<sup>th</sup> August Received parcel of 14 books from AH and AW Reed  
8<sup>th</sup> August .Very wet today only 2 children present in morning and 3 in afternoon

5<sup>th</sup> September. 7 tables and chairs arrived and also Hot Doggy stove for the spare room

14<sup>th</sup> October. Mr Warham called today. Supplied school with skipping ropes and basketball

3<sup>rd</sup> November. Miss Lowry Infant adviser visited the school today  
28<sup>th</sup> November Today the whole school went to Kopuaranga to witness the Group Judging of the Lamb and Calf Club. Pupils of this school were successful in gaining awards.

30<sup>th</sup> November. School closed for general election

7<sup>th</sup> December Today the stumps along the driveway were pulled out and the basketball court made larger by a bulldozer. Later the basketball court will be made into a hard area

Tomorrow Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> is to be a party day for children of the districts and parents and friends. There will be a Xmas Tree in the school room and Santa Claus will be there.

## 1950

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 14.

25<sup>th</sup> February Various children were successful in the schools section of the District Gardening Circle

21<sup>st</sup> March Today a Physical Education Field Day was held at the Hastwell School. Three schools took place, Mauriceville, West and Hastwell.

The children were combined and put into teams.

Morning. Tabloid Games, the children expected to achieve a certain standard in various skills

Afternoon Relay games.

Reports seem to indicate that the parents and friends who attended considered the day quite a success. Requests have been made for more such days to be held

12<sup>th</sup> April Diphtheria immunisation was carried out on two or three children

Nurse Williams examined the children today

22<sup>nd</sup> May. 3 children of Bolstead family have left owing to the sudden death of Mrs Bolstead . The children are to go to the Whatman Home

7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August, On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 7 children from Standard 1 to Form 2 and myself travelled by Railcar to Lower Hutt where we were the guests of the Gracefield School, Mr Gardner and pupils for a week. While there we visited places of interest in the Hutt Valley and Wellington. We returned to Mauriceville on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August

7<sup>th</sup> Griffin's Biscuit Factory (lower Hutt)

8<sup>th</sup>. Felt and Textiles Factory (Lower Hutt)

9<sup>th</sup> Dunlop Tyre Factory (Upper Hutt)

10<sup>th</sup> Wellington Municipal Milk Department (Wellington)

Dominion Museum (Wellington)

11<sup>th</sup> Ford Motors (Lower Hutt)

12<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) Wellington Railway Station and train control.  
National Broadcasting Studios

Newtown Park Zoo

14<sup>th</sup> Monday. Wharves and "Corinthic"

The rest of the week was spent in the classrooms at Gracefield School. The week was most enjoyable and instructive

While we were away Mrs Marriott took charge of the rest of the school

24<sup>th</sup> October United Nations Day. The NZ Ensign was flown today and the children given a talk on the significance of the United Nations and a brief outline on the functions of the United Nations Organisation

Mr O'Conner and Mrs Tooby, Phys Instructors, visited the school today.

I have received preliminary notice of transfer to the Hawkes Bay Board. I have provided my resignation to Wellington

31<sup>st</sup> January Mr Peter Mortensen passed away suddenly aged 82 Mr Mortensen was a former pupil of this school being among the first pupils to attend a school in this district. He can truly be described as one of the pioneers of the district

## 1951

21<sup>st</sup> May J Gibson (Relieving)

School reopened after being closed since the 9<sup>th</sup> March Roll 9. Found school house and school in clean condition. But grounds, hedges and gardens overgrown and in need of urgent attention.

24<sup>th</sup> May. Received quantity of school correspondence which the Post Office held since the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Repairs made to school house water heater.

25<sup>th</sup> May Inspected the school grounds and creek on the Hood's property (Has been dammed for use as swimming pool some years ago) in company of children

I find the children particularly the older ones very subdued and lacking in initiative, work is fair after their lengthy absence from needlework General lack of knowledge about their own district and its background

8<sup>th</sup> June School was closed for the afternoon of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June as I had to visit Masterton re cheque complications

School was closed for 3 days as I had compassionate leave

28<sup>th</sup> June. Sewing for girls began today at the schoolhouse with Mrs Gibson

6<sup>th</sup> July Advised School Committee that school required firewood.

31<sup>st</sup> July Shopping Day. Have received 3 cords of firewood

6<sup>th</sup> September This afternoon Hastwell School Played Mauriceville West at this school at Table Tennis. Thanks to cooperation of Mr Bruce (Hastwell School)

11<sup>th</sup> September Mr Harbutt of "School Savings Bank" called yesterday to describe the system and today to collect deposits.

17<sup>th</sup> October School closed owing to illness of myself. (Fear of infection and incapacitation)

18<sup>th</sup> October. Dr Mckendrick and Nurse Hubbard visited the school at 1 pm. They examined all children and interviewed parents. Dr McKendrick also inspected toilet facilities, basin and waste, lavatories and urinal (I fervently hope). She also discussed

all the children with me- I supplying personality and background she supplying physical data and recommendations. Dropped timetable children carried on general activities- while I used the afternoon to some profit in talking to parents. They all showed interest in what was being done in school and have agreed to call a meeting next month to discuss new trends in education

19<sup>th</sup> October As a gesture of sympathy to the relatives of Mr Godden who died early this morning and with consent of committee and Board the school was closed 10.30 am

24<sup>th</sup> October Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> constituted a shopping day. On this latter day I presented to the Wellington Education Board a request for sundry improvements to the school buildings e.g Renovation and painting. Septic Tanks or alternatives to present pan toilets, telephone etc. Also requested the replacement of tubs and drainage for the schoolhouse.

5<sup>th</sup> December. Hastwell school combined to hold calf and lamb day.

## 1952

4<sup>th</sup> February Roll 9

7<sup>th</sup> February. Received news of King's death. Flag flown half mast. School closed. Commenced swimming yesterday.

11<sup>th</sup> February Appointment to Makarora confirmed At 11 am school attended the proclamation ceremony of the Mauriceville County at Mauriceville School.

15<sup>th</sup> February Observed 2 minutes silence at 11 am after a short ceremony.

15<sup>th</sup> February House keys handed over to Mr Bailey, School Keys handed to Mr Smith. House and School left in a tidy and clean condition.

18<sup>th</sup> February G R Smith (Relieving)

Took over school- received keys School roll 8. 6 girls 2 boys. Ranging from Primers to Form 1

Power Board Electrician came and cut off the power to the school house.

20<sup>th</sup> February Power also is cut off at the school. Have written to the power board at Eketahuna for them to put matters right.

27<sup>th</sup> February Power Board Electrician arrived and returned power to the school Mr Evans (Agriculture) visited the school and decided to await the arrival of a permanent teacher before making any plans .

26<sup>th</sup> March School closed due to my being unable to travel. My motor cycle broke down and had to be repaired.

17<sup>th</sup> April School closed for one day due to my having a severe cold and not being able to travel to school

7<sup>th</sup> May. Today we received a visit from Mr Meyers who is making a survey of Noxious weeds in the district. He pointed out to me the presence of Hemlock at the rear of the Cemetery reserve. I ruled the cemetery reserve out of bounds to the children to prevent a possible case of poisoning to the children .

9<sup>th</sup> May G R Smith finished

26<sup>th</sup> May Teacher W C Kane. (Permanent)

Took over the school, received the keys from Mr Bailey, Chairman of School Committee. Roll 9. 7 Girls 2 Boys

I found the school and residence in a very clean condition. The school grounds are in urgent need of attention. I also received a fairly large quantity of official mail.

19<sup>th</sup> June. Inspector Horsfall, Traffic Inspector, visited the school at 10.00 and took some of the pupils in his car and I took the remainder in mine to Mauriceville East School for films and road safety instruction. He was assisted by Inspector Coe. We arrived back here at 12.40 pm and school commenced for the afternoon session at 1.40 pm

18<sup>th</sup> July. The School Committee decided to redecorate the interior of the schools. Plans have also been set in motion for the cutting of numerous trees around the school and residence. School Committee have leased part of the grounds to Mr Hood

31<sup>st</sup> July. Roll 7 Edward and Valmar Raynor have left the district.

4<sup>th</sup> August The School Committee burned off the front paddocks. During the holidays Members of the School Committee and I completed the repainting of the schoolroom. I repainted certain articles of furniture. The chairman has commenced cutting back the Macrocarpa Hedge and the grounds and school are now beginning to take on a much more attractive appearance

9<sup>th</sup> September. I received notification from Wellington Education Board that I had been granted a months leave of absence to attend University in order that I might complete my M A degree. My wife will relieve in my position.

10<sup>th</sup> September F Kane Relieving.

3<sup>rd</sup> October F Kane finished

9<sup>th</sup> October I resumed duty after 4 weeks study leave. I found everything in good condition

24<sup>th</sup> October. I was absent for University exams in Masterton.

29<sup>th</sup> October Absent again for examinations

4<sup>th</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> November Absent for Exams

21<sup>st</sup> November. School Calf and Parents Day. Five calves and two lambs The weather was inclement. Home and School organised the afternoon tea. Janice Neighbours won the prize donated by Mr Neighbours. The afternoon was a moderate success- any failure was due to lack of cooperation on the part of the Home and School Association.

24<sup>th</sup> November I organised for the children to attend the Wairarapa Calf Show at Matahiwi. Not one of the calves won a prize, however, the contest was of great educational value for the children.

25<sup>th</sup> November School Committee was held. 3 Members present Mr O Mortensen was again absent. He has attended only one meeting since I have been at the school I put forward certain proposals to the School Committee Fencing of Paddock, cutting trees, clearing and spraying of blackberries. The School Committee intends to do something about it in the future. I complained about the irregular attendance of certain children and the ill mannered attitude of certain parents

15<sup>th</sup> December. On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> a children's party was held at the school The Home and School and School Committee organised the function and it was well attended by parents and residents. It was a well conducted party and everybody enjoyed themselves. Father Christmas presented the prizes

## 1953

2<sup>nd</sup> February School commenced at 9.00. Roll now stands at 18. 14 Girls and 4 Boys

4<sup>th</sup> February The children and I inspected the swimming pool in Mr Hood's property. We are now using it regularly for swimming instruction. A February timetable is being operated and swimming is being taken in the afternoon

26<sup>th</sup> March 1953 School closed for the day. I attended a discussion group with Inspectors at Te Ore Ore. It proved to be a valuable day profitably and an enjoyable day socially

13<sup>th</sup> April. A School Committee meeting was held. The Secretary has once again endeavoured to obtain a plumber to repair the hand basin and the blocked drains. The hand basin is now completely US

The School Committee has agreed to obtain the service of the milling contractor to remove any trees from the school grounds that I should consider desirable. I have written to the Board regarding the trees in the residence grounds.

28<sup>th</sup> May The Biennial meeting of householders was held at the school last evening. There was a good attendance of men. Unfortunately no women attended, It appears to be an unwritten tradition in this community that men and women do not or cannot work in cooperation together on committees in the society. I feel it is due basically to the Scandinavian background which still permeates the attitude and ideals of those living in the community. For the first time in 20 years an election was necessary, a good thing, I feel. My constant requests for action and not words might at last bear fruits. Voting was keen and 9 nominations were

received. I acted as returning officer. Those elected were Larsen, Marshall, Neighbours, Forsberg, and Hislop.

The School Committee elected their own chairman and Secretary. Once again an election was held for each office,

Chairman Mr T Larsen. Secretary J Hislop

Mr Bailey the retiring chairman did not seek re-election.

The new committee authorised me to submit the name of Mauriceville West as host school for the combined Calf and Lamb judging contest to be held in November.

29<sup>th</sup> May Coronation Ceremony held at the school. The School Committee neither organised or suggested anything, nor was any member present. Two representatives of the Women's Division of the Federated Farmers presented an oak tree and were present for the planting. Mrs Dagg spoke as did Mrs Cheetham the local president. I made some short relevant remarks regarding the coronation. The flag was flown and the tree was planted. Each child added a little earth.

17<sup>th</sup> June Roll 20

12<sup>th</sup> August A School Committee meeting was held at my residence. Various matters were discussed and I was requested to contact the Bell and Howell Representative to give the School Committee a demonstration of their machine (*Film Projector*). The hand basin and drain still require urgent attention. The Wellington Education Board's approval is still awaited for this work

The transport of the children is now on a much sounder footing and I have agreed to convey 5 children daily. The children are arriving at school on time.

Mr Marshall still persists in his attempt to upset the arrangement  
7<sup>th</sup> September I was instructed by the Senior Inspector to attend a meeting at the Wellington Education Board in Wellington  
8<sup>th</sup> September Mr Marshaall called on me again regarding the transport run- he still wants a door to door service at my expense. I referred him to the Wellington Education Board's letter regarding this matter. I suggested to him that if his daughter was not fit enough to walk the required distance as laid down in the regulation that he should investigate the possibilities of correspondence work for her.

14<sup>th</sup> September. The roll is now 23. The necessity for a septic tank becomes greater as the roll continues to grow.

28<sup>th</sup> October Holiday granted by Governor General. Official visit to Masterton

9<sup>th</sup> November Annual Calf and Lamb Judging contest was held at school.

Entries Calves, 10: 9 Jerseys 1 Friesian  
12 Lambs.

17<sup>th</sup> December The contractors have completed the tree felling, and we now receive much more sun and light than previously.

The school painting seems to be as far as ever. Wellington Education Board suggested if we could get another painter to do the job we should get him to submit a price. The chairman and I are making enquiries.

## 1954

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 22. 6 boys and 16 girls Teacher W C Kane

2<sup>nd</sup> February Mr Henshaw (Painter) visited and inspected the school. If his tender was accepted he could commence the job sometimes in March. Mr Henshaw said that it would be quite useless to paint the residence in its present condition. So far we have received no notification from the Wellington Education Board regarding woodwork repairs to the residence.

10<sup>th</sup> February A meeting was held to form a new Home and School Association. At long last we are to have a Home and School Association along the right lines. The old hopeless, outmoded inefficient group of interfering women has gone.

Mrs McKenzie was in the chair.

I was asked to express my point of view. I expressed what I always believed should be the underlying basis of any such association. The benefit of the children not only physically but educationally and emotionally. C T Bailey was dramatically opposed to such ideas and he endeavoured as per usual, to dictate to the meeting – his arguments were most skilfully summed up and explained by J Haycock- Bailey as a result became most aggressive. A new committee was elected as follows.

President: Mrs M McKenzie. Secretary Mrs F M Kane. Committee Mr J Haycock, Mr J Patterson, Mr R Yarrall, Mrs B Hislop, Mrs M Price. Unsuccessful Candidates. Mrs Bailey, Mrs Trass, Mrs Haycock.

The first duty of the Committee was to draw up a constitution and asset of rules.

Name: Parents, Teachers, and friends Association

12<sup>th</sup> February School Committee meeting.. A threatening letter was received from C T Bailey making accusations against me.

Each and every statement contained therein was false The School Committee was unanimous in its decisions that the allegations were unfounded. The Committee supported me 100%. The Secretary has written to the Wellington Education Board and the Board Member. I have attached my letter- complaining about such false and assaulting allegations. I am seriously considering taking civil action against Bailey

Started swimming instruction at Opaki Memorial Baths. It is hoped that every child will be swimming by the end of February or beginning of March

25<sup>th</sup> February School closed for the day. Children and I attended Opaki Baths where we engaged in swimming sports with Opaki, Rangitumau, Kopuaranga, and Mikimiki. Our children did particularly well

10<sup>th</sup> March. Children went to Opaki to qualify for their certificates. 14 certificates and seals were obtained. 70% of the children received certificates. Two years ago only one pupil could swim

16<sup>th</sup> March Mr Martin arrived to carry out repairs to the residence. Replacing of rotten boards, renewal of cooper and tubs in washhouse. Insertion of two new windows in sitting room and front bedroom

18<sup>th</sup> March School attended Wairarapa Country School Athletic Sports in Masterton

29<sup>th</sup> March Mr K B Wilson a section T student was posted to me for a 4 week section.

5<sup>th</sup> April I went to Masterton to attend an inservice course in Masterton Mr Wilson conducted the affairs of the school

4<sup>th</sup> May Children stood at the fence to observe the funeral procession of the late Mr C Johansen. Mr Johansen was an ex pupil who attended the school in the 1890's

7<sup>th</sup> May The front fence was completed today and the job is a credit to the men who gave their services.

24<sup>th</sup> May The children were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Mr W H Bird who died on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1954. Mr Bird was a good worker for the school and a very generous benefactor.

6<sup>th</sup> July The PTA held a successful "Shop Day" in Masterton The day and raffles raised £70. The association is now quite financial.

2<sup>nd</sup> August There is still no sign of the painter and carpenters to install the septic tank in the school and residence.

6<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Kiernan has commenced the painting of school and residence. He estimates the job will take 10 weeks

School roll 25

School will now be classified 3a. First time for 20 years

7<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Kiernan started painting of school and residence. The first time for 30 years. Mr Barker, Carpenter and Mr Curtain Plumber have commenced work on the installation of septic tanks. The residence WC is now to be in the bathroom which is to be extended and renovated in accordance with the plan I submitted to the Board. My persisting with the architect has at last been successful

12<sup>th</sup> August The painter still on the job but progress is very slow. It looks as though the job will take all of 3 months. The carpenters and plumbers progressing quite favourably

19<sup>th</sup> September. Forwarded my official resignation to the Wellington Education Board Despite the vast improvements that I

have had effected at the school and residence we are very pleased that our term in Mauriceville West is terminating. The chairman of the School Committee will be given the usual months notice.

24<sup>th</sup> October. On Saturday an election was held to fill the vacancies on PTA Mrs Forsberg and Johnson were elected.

10<sup>th</sup> November Annual Calf and Lamb Day 13 lambs and five calves. The day was organised by the children and it was a huge success

16<sup>th</sup> November. Masterton Calf and Lamb judging was held at Mauriceville West School There were 150 entries.

## 1955

18<sup>th</sup> January Keys of School and residence handed over to Mr Larsen chairman of the School Committee.

Teacher E T Siebert

1<sup>st</sup> February Roll 23. 15 Girls and 8 Boys. School residence found to be neat and tidy.

5<sup>th</sup> February Two films arrived "Kangaroos and "Oh No John"

7<sup>th</sup> February District Nurse visited, Xray for teachers and injections from Department

10<sup>th</sup> February PTA meeting. Decided that parents would transport children to Opaki for swimming two days per week. Instruction by Head Teacher.

24<sup>th</sup> February Went to Masterton Hospital for X ray following circular from Wellington Education Board and instructions from District Nurse. School closed in the afternoon.

6<sup>th</sup> April During the afternoon an Easter Party was held. Parents and younger brothers and sisters. Children had made gifts and hats.

21<sup>st</sup> April During the afternoon of this day the school was invited to attend the opening of a swimming Pool at Hastwell School. All went.

9<sup>th</sup> June Snow fell continuously all day

16<sup>th</sup> June Six senior pupils and myself went to Hastwell to play table tennis

8<sup>th</sup> July. School Closed for half day for shopping

12<sup>th</sup> July. School visited puppet show in Masterton

21<sup>st</sup> July. Senior Pupils Standard 3 to Form 2 visited Mauriceville East

28<sup>th</sup> July A Fancy Dress Children's ball was held in the local hall. It was a success both as to enjoyment and finance

20<sup>th</sup> September Visited by Hearing tester. Children from Standard 1 to Form 2 tested

29<sup>th</sup> September Visited by a team from Mauriceville East to play rounders

29<sup>th</sup> October Visited the printing works at Masterton to see the Times Age printed. Also visited the park to study trees, flowers find life. Discussed and visited work at Railway Station. Travelled by Railcar. Data used for project.

## 1956

1<sup>st</sup> February 23 children

2<sup>nd</sup> February Householders meeting to decide on the holding of a school picnic. It was decided to hold the picnic on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Rathkeale

6<sup>th</sup> February First swimming at Hastwell baths Transported by parents

3<sup>rd</sup> March School picnic held at Rathkeale, first for 26 years.

5<sup>th</sup> March Mr P Davis a student arrived for one month

12<sup>th</sup> March Mr P Davis failed to arrive at school Delayed in bush (Deer Stalking)

13<sup>th</sup> March Children from Standard 1 to Form 2 taken on excursion to visit local dairy factory and limeworks (Morning Only)

28<sup>th</sup> March A Penny Concert organised by senior pupils as a farewell to Mr Davis, the Student.

11<sup>th</sup> April Three Senior Girls and self attended Navy League Lecture in Masterton from 2.30 pm

25<sup>th</sup> April School closed for Anzac day. Senior Girls laid wreath on Mauriceville East War Memorial.

12<sup>th</sup> June Older girls and boys taken to Kopuaranga to practice for football and netball.

27<sup>th</sup> June School closed. Took part in Basketball (*Netball*) and football (*Rugby*) tournament in Masterton.

14<sup>th</sup> July PTA and Friends held games evening to raise funds for playground equipment.- Poor attendance- worst weather during winter!

15<sup>th</sup> July Lighting tested in school by Mr Heath, Masterton, found to be 4 candles maximum 5 candles with light on on a dull day. Blackboard without light none, Teachers table 1 ½

24<sup>th</sup> September Choir taken to Masterton for a practice for Music Festival also 9 year olds received first polio injection.

8<sup>th</sup> October 2<sup>nd</sup> Choir practice (again 16<sup>th</sup>)

18<sup>th</sup> October. Attended children's matinee of Music Festival in Masterton .2<sup>nd</sup> polio injection

5<sup>th</sup> November 10 calves 8 lambs at Calf and Lamb day.

9<sup>th</sup> November At last, after almost 2 years the ground in front of the school is ploughed, harrowed and sown with grass seeds.

2<sup>nd</sup> November Annual group calf and lamb day held in Masterton. We attended and had 5 calves and 4 lambs.

Also we met our guest school pupils from Johnsonville

26<sup>th</sup> November School taken to nearby farm to observe felling cutting and hauling logs by machinery. Timber for local church,

17<sup>th</sup> December School Pupils Standard 3-6 visited Hansell's Essence factory.

18<sup>th</sup> December. School closed. As usual wet day. 3 Form 2 girls leaving. One Janice Neighbours closed family record of 40 years of members of this family attending this school.

## 1957

6<sup>th</sup> February Took school to swimming pool made by men. Rather deep and uneven for safe swimming

8<sup>th</sup> February Second day of swimming at pool. Needs careful supervision.

11<sup>th</sup> February School picnic at Rathkeale. All except one pupil present

18<sup>th</sup> February Susan White absent with scarlet fever

20<sup>th</sup> February Attended sports held at Rangitumau School First of a series of fortnightly sports gatherings to be held by 6 schools in the North Wairarapa.

25<sup>th</sup> February Afternoon party given for me by Mothers, Children and Sunday School Children-very enjoyable and much appreciated by me. It was a kind thought

26<sup>th</sup> February Film and Card Evening held in hall. Very enjoyable.

28<sup>th</sup> February So ends my two years at Mauriceville West. I have handed keys of school of school and residence to the School Committee Chairman Mr L Forsberg.

4<sup>th</sup> March D P Anderson commenced relieving duties

6<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Barnett Agriculture Instructor visited the school. Lesson on weather observation

15<sup>th</sup> March. School attended Wairarapa Country Schools Picnic held at Masterton Park

11<sup>th</sup> April Combined School Sports at Mauriceville East (Softball)

10<sup>th</sup> May D P Anderson finished

27<sup>th</sup> May S Parsonson

Found school buildings and out houses in need of a good spring clean. Material and Equipment needed sorting and cleaning.

School and house grounds much overgrown and in need of a great deal of alteration. Interior of house left tidy.

Roll 21

30<sup>th</sup> May. Dental Nurse visited school and inspected teeth. 9 children are to go to Masterton for treatment

17<sup>th</sup> June I took 7 children into town to attend a Navy League Programme for members

20<sup>th</sup> June Combined sports practice at Kopuaranga. Senior children taken by myself  
3<sup>rd</sup> July School closed for basketball and rugby tournament in Masterton Games were cancelled at 1.00 due to the bad weather. The girls drew in the two games they played  
12<sup>th</sup> July Traffic Inspector Doyle visited the school and spoke to the children on road rules  
8<sup>th</sup> August Mr Matheson Physical Education instructor visited the school. Taught three folk dances  
10<sup>th</sup> September School Committee and parents cut hedges and cleaned local school out  
27<sup>th</sup> September Ten children inoculated against polio  
1<sup>st</sup> October. Six senior children attended music festival rehearsal at Masterton  
4<sup>th</sup> November Dental Nurse inspected children's health. Children's teeth poorly kept.  
3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December School exams. Results in some quarters very satisfactory but in others disappointing

## 1958

January During the holidays the contractor cleared all the untidy area at the rear of the school and house. It has greatly improved the general appearance  
3<sup>rd</sup> February School reopened on a bright sunny day. 16 children were present

6<sup>th</sup> February Permission granted us by the School Committee of the East School to use their baths for swimming instruction. This is much appreciated by children parents and myself.  
7<sup>th</sup> February Special holiday granted by the Wellington Education Board in honour of the Queen Mother's visit  
17<sup>th</sup> February Load of sand delivered by Mr Williams for the children's pit.  
19<sup>th</sup> February Purchase of rotor scythe agreed upon.  
20<sup>th</sup> February Elected chairman of the West Teachers Group  
24<sup>th</sup> February Mr and Mrs Johnson presented the school with a very nice first aid kit.  
24<sup>th</sup> February. Mr Barns demonstrated two rotor mowers to the School Committee. The committee is to decide.  
4<sup>th</sup> March The school picnic was held at the Double Bridges in perfect weather.  
11<sup>th</sup> March The school closed for teacher In Service Training.  
24<sup>th</sup> March Miss Pemberton called and will try to procure more drill gear. She took the Holgar Artificial Resuscitation Artificial Respiration. Included the Rocking method for carrying out of water or carrying across paddock to house  
26<sup>th</sup> March Sergeant Hogg from Wellington Police Station called to talk to the children of the duties of a policeman  
His talk was to encourage children to think of a policeman as a friend.

21<sup>st</sup> April At a class meeting the following school rules were agreed upon complete with punishments for breakage

Swearing	Wash mouth with soap
Don't leave school grounds without permission	Writing Lines
Stealing	Teacher Punishment
Fighting	Guilty child write a letter of apology to other
Riding Bicycle in grounds	Push bicycle up and down drive 12 times.
Late Arrival	Make up time
Rude Behaviour	Teacher Punishment
Misbehaviour in assembly or classroom	Letter of apology to leader, class or teacher
Damaging trees , plants	Write a story on care and use of such
Wet weather boundary	Tidy all library
Dry Weather boundary	Tidy all infant apparatus
Damaging property	Replacement or repair of damage
Excessive talking	Write a story for the infant library

21<sup>st</sup> April Pastor Bliss continues to take Bible instruction every third Monday in the month from 9- 9.30

6<sup>th</sup> May Mauriceville West Table Tennis Club reopened for this season at the hall. Seventy odd people including visitors from other clubs in attendance.

26<sup>th</sup> May. During the holidays Mr Johnson erected a parcel box at the school gate.

26<sup>th</sup> May Subsidy on the new rotor scythe has been approved at £40.00.

26<sup>th</sup> May 16/17 were in attendance

31<sup>st</sup> June Plumbers arrived at school to commence work on erecting new space heater and repair leaks in roof. Things beginning to happen!

5<sup>th</sup> June The new Rotormoa was delivered to the school today. Now the long grass can be tackled

6<sup>th</sup> June. The father's erected a boundary fence surrounding the house. This is a great asset as the wife no longer has to chase the two imps all over the property

9<sup>th</sup> June the children received their booster injection for polio. It knocked one or two of them.

Miss Pemberton arrived at 1.15 p m and took the children for large ball passing and handstands

16<sup>th</sup> June. A shop day has been arranged for the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Williams has supplied a pig, Mrs Patterson two fowls and Mrs Johnson a duck. Mrs McKenzie is making a fruit cake and Mrs Williams is supplying two bran tubs of toys

7<sup>th</sup> July A successful shop day held at the school It raised £23. This will purchase a Phillips radiogram, records and encyclopaedia set

26<sup>th</sup> July Folk Dancing Records and Arthur Mees Children's encyclopaedias arrived

1<sup>st</sup> August Phillips Electric Gramophone purchased £19-18-06  
Drive from carshed to gate reinstalled

10<sup>th</sup> February Carpenters completed their repair work on the house. Doors and windows now burglar proof!

19<sup>th</sup> December. School closed at 12.00. Weather disappointing as the boys had been looking forward to avenging their cricket defeat by the girls

## 1959

13<sup>th</sup> February First School Committee meeting. Picnic to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> at Payton's Bush. Mauriceville East School have kindly allowed us the use of their baths from 2-15 to 3 daily

16<sup>th</sup> May. With the colder weather settling in there is a drop in the attendances. Several children have been absent with colds.

27<sup>th</sup> April An enjoyable afternoon was spent at the Masterton Post Office. We were taken on a conducted tour of all the departments.

8<sup>th</sup> May A well attended working bee was held at school last Saturday. All the hedges were trimmed and the trees along the drive topped

25<sup>th</sup> May. During the holidays the porch and classroom were painted in 4 pastel shades. Looks like a new pin. The transformation is amazing

25<sup>th</sup> May Wellington Education Board supplied a roll of malthoid for car shed roof at residence. This I fixed on the shed during the holidays. It is now drip dry!.Also replaced the shed doors.

1<sup>st</sup> July School tank drained and cleaned. One large drowned rat responsible for stench in water!

3<sup>rd</sup> July The School Committee has handed over the school cleaning duties to my wife. £25 will be given by the School Committee for the children's functions

12<sup>th</sup> August Fire shield and tank line still to be done plus the residence

19<sup>th</sup> August Board Architect called and measured walls for modern windows. Calling for tenders soon.

28<sup>th</sup> August 3 firms tendered for alterations for remodelling school windows

7<sup>th</sup> September The School Committee commenced preparing a garden plot for the children. They also cleaned all the windows and polished the floors

12<sup>th</sup> October The school tennis court project commenced on Saturday with the felling and trimming of 23 trees. There were 13 locals present. This is the most we've ever had at a working bee. There are still 25 trees awaiting slaughter.

13<sup>th</sup> October Cheers ! Its over? Inspection visit Per Mr Decan yesterday. Quite favourable. Just wait for the report?

## 1960

1<sup>st</sup> February Water supply very grim?

10<sup>th</sup> February School picnic held at Payton's Bush. The weather was glorious. Even a trifle too hot. All we could do was swim.

10<sup>th</sup> February, The building of the bank has been completed and it has certainly tidied up the side and rear of the school

17<sup>th</sup> February I took Standard 2 upwards in to the film Ten Commandments. It was very good and the children were impressed with the idea of God's power

23<sup>rd</sup> March. School closed yesterday as the Summer Bug laid hold upon me. Nearly all the children have now been absent with the complaint.

26<sup>th</sup> March Completion of tree felling. All logs ready for timber trucks. A jovial and good humoured gang completed the job midst showers. From an angry sky.

20<sup>th</sup> March. Logging trucks commenced to cart away logs

28<sup>th</sup> March. Carpenters arrived to dismantle classroom wall and insert our new sunshine wall!. Three cheers for the light!

School held in the old dirty dark and cold spare room. Should say morgue!

14<sup>th</sup> April Ten children to Wellington on a social studies trip. Junior school given a holiday much to mother's delight

- a) Left on 9.2 a.m railcar and arrived at WELLINGTON at 11.33
- b) Cable car
- c) Lunch top of the Botanical Gardens
- d) Dominion Museum for 1 ½ hours studying early settlement and Maori.
- e) Escorted over wharves
- f) New Wellington airport for a quick visit.
- g) 5.30 Railcar home

23<sup>rd</sup> May School reopened on a dark, damp and dismal day. The fire and chimney were finished by yours truly and finished off the room nicely.

26<sup>th</sup> August Organising teacher called today. Organised me but disorganised the children.

21<sup>st</sup> June The plumber has at last repaired the broken pipe line. Water at last!. The hound took all the old pipes!

28<sup>th</sup> July Off with foot injury Nail pierced shoe and foot in school wood shed. Friday off the doctor. Very painful

2<sup>nd</sup> August Still hobbling on one foot. Table tennis team still unbeaten

14<sup>th</sup> September Maintenance officer inspected school and residence, Moans and Groans! Not much hope of new residences as yet.

15<sup>th</sup> September Plumber completed maintenance at residence No further need of umbrellas

20<sup>th</sup> September. Local Table Tennis Club won the Cheetham Cup for 1960. Undefeated for the season.

1<sup>st</sup> October Mr Barker called and measured up installation of the new water system. A 4000 gallon tank to be installed to supply house and school

20<sup>th</sup> October Two ladies from the local women's Institute demonstrated how to make decorative objectives out of vegetables And fruit. Use of flowers, plants leaves and novelties. This is in preparation of our calf day.

14<sup>th</sup> November My son Kevin started today. Now my troubles begin

26<sup>th</sup> November. Today was election day. My wife and I ran the booth. 52 votes were recorded. The results shocked a few!

## 1961

30<sup>th</sup> January School Committee have given the school a good clean. Windows and floors. The floors are oiled tomorrow.

7<sup>th</sup> February Tennis Court still doubtful. Wellington Education Board will not grant subsidy We're very disappointed

13<sup>th</sup> February Mr Hedley called re urgent 1960 maintenance work. Contractor for new water tank due in a fortnight's time. We Hope!

20<sup>th</sup> February Inspectors Mitchell and Campbell called at 12.45. A Social Visit!

This school is now in the North area as far as Inspector's division and meetings. Mr Mitchell explained the ceiling mark on reports. Also there is no record of a school inspection by Mr Deegan on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1958

21<sup>st</sup> February School Closed for Masterton Intermediate. Dr Arvidson NZCER Spelling addressed a large gathering.

28<sup>th</sup> February School Picnic at Payton's Bush A very few parents turned out. Majorly the School Committee. What would we do without them.

23<sup>rd</sup> March We visited the local limeworks.

11<sup>th</sup> April Miss Moore Art and Craft Adviser. Juniors Paper animal making. Primers Cut outs and painting. Seniors Lino cuts for Australian projects

Parents evening held at school. Rather a poor muster. Several interesting films thanks to the Shell oil company

12<sup>th</sup> April We followed the local dairy company Followed the cream process through to the cooling, storage vast. Handling and treatment of the cream.

Tomorrow we again visit the factory to follow the process from vat to butter

17<sup>th</sup> April Community meeting to elect a new School Committee. A very poor attendance. Eleven persons only attended. Four of the present committee re-elected. Mr White resigned as he is moving to Dargaville. Mr F Williams elected.

The past School Committee have done an excellent job and have been very understanding and cooperative at all times.

The tennis court project was the main item discussed and further community meeting is to be held as early as possible to discuss same.

10<sup>th</sup> April Manual Training and Cooking Instruction have commenced in Masterton for the Senior Boys and Girls. Three attending on Thursday afternoons

24<sup>th</sup> April The contractors have completed the lower playing area. Once the grass has grown it should prove a great asset

The large concrete tanks for the new water supply were delivered today.

29<sup>th</sup> May Electrician wired up new water pump. Water now being pumped from school tank up to the 5000 one. Plumber to commence the house plumbing shortly

31<sup>st</sup> May Took the children to the film Royal Tour of India. A very educational outing

7<sup>th</sup> June. Carpenters finished work at school yesterday. House maintenance halted for some reason.

20<sup>th</sup> June. Today 6 members of the Wellington Education Board visited the school. The school was in good order and presented no problems. They were especially interested in the residence which

is down for replacement. They were highly impressed with the condition inside and very satisfied with my interior decorating work

29<sup>th</sup> June A community meeting was held to elect 2 new members (Mr McKenzie and Mr A Williams have left the district) The 2 new members are K Mortenson and J Neilsen

12<sup>th</sup> July The plumber has completed the maintenance work. All tanks have now been removed. The new water scheme is now connected and it's great to have a good water supply and plenty of pressure

10<sup>th</sup> August. A pleasant surprise! Electricians called unexpectedly and fitted a new hot water system in the residence. It's lovely to have plenty of hot water. No more lighting of coppers and carrying buckets of water! Cheers!

Everything comes to those who wait! We've certainly waited!

31<sup>st</sup> August. The Board architects called and surveyed the front paddock for the proposed new schoolhouse.

Patterson's to be contracted re a ¼ acre off the area rented by them. Things look promising.

4<sup>th</sup> September Roll still 14

Mr Urquhart died during the holidays, Our storeman was a very popular man and will be greatly missed in community offices

8<sup>th</sup> September School was closed Wednesday and Thursday owing to my crippled back.

11<sup>th</sup> September Rev A Leske Lutheran Pastor called and made arrangements to take Bible in schools every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month

16<sup>th</sup> October. Police called to inspect disappearance of articles from the house. Mostly the wife's underclothing except for £5 belonging to me! Moan! No clues, they are going to check the district.

25<sup>th</sup> October. Measles epidemic in the community. Only nine pupils at school today

2<sup>nd</sup> November Measles in full swing. Only 6 pupils here this afternoon.

9<sup>th</sup> November. Measles in full cry. Only six pupils here all this week

10<sup>th</sup> November Tenders have been called for the new residence

27<sup>th</sup> November So far two contractors have called for information regarding the new contracts

6<sup>th</sup> December Owing to the death of my father the school was closed from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 1962

5<sup>th</sup> February Four new entrants including my own Daughter. Roll 18

Peter and Stephen Williams are moving into Masterton. Sandra Paterson will be attending Intermediate School on my own recommendation. The school has become a real infant department.

28<sup>th</sup> February Letter from Mr Parsonson to Wellington Education Board Roll now 15

Unfortunately the school roll has dropped considerably over the last 12 months owing to three small farms having sold to larger holdings already established in the district

13<sup>th</sup> March Letter from I Williams Secretary Mauriceville West and E Cameron Secretary of Mauriceville schools to Wellington Education Board

The committees met today to discuss the possibilities of amalgamating

It was decided to seek details and further information from you.

It was proposed that you at your convenience address the joint committees on the possibility

At the same time we will invite the committees of Kopuaranga and Hastwell school to attend if they are interested

24<sup>th</sup> March. School picnic to be held at Masterton Park

13<sup>th</sup> March A joint meeting of East and West Committee was held at the East School to discuss amalgamation All present seemed keen on amalgamation for the benefit of the children. That is provided transport is available. A joint letter was written to Wellington Education Board asking Mr Charles (Wellington Education Board Secretary) to address a further meeting.

15<sup>th</sup> March Two dental nurses called and inspected the children's teeth. One checked their teeth and the other spoke on care of teeth. They were very pleased with the condition of the children's teeth

9<sup>th</sup> April Combined meeting of East and West to discuss consolidation Mr Charles and Mr Golding were present to address and answer questions. A householders meeting has been arranged at West with the same men on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Notes for meeting included

a) The department would not approve of transport of ineligible children

b) At present the Children attending West are all under 10 and are eligible for transport

c) 2 are children of the Head teacher so 13 would require transport

d) The combined roll would be 65 close to the roll needed of 71 for a third teacher

e) The case would be much stronger if Kopuaranga was included for a departmental bus

f) The bus could be operated by a teacher living in the Kopuaranga house

g) If Kopuaranga joined the roll would be 85

17<sup>th</sup> April Health Nurses visited and gave children oral polio doses. All 15 children were dosed

4<sup>th</sup> May A large meeting of householders met last night to listen and discuss with 3 Wellington Education Board people the proposed idea of consolidation with East and East.

There was plenty of discussion and question. A vote was taken on paper which will be checked over by the Wellington Education Board and the results made known later this month.

15<sup>th</sup> May Meeting held in Mauriceville West Parents for amalgamation 8 Parents against 6

A new residence was going to be built at West but as roll is down to 11

That West be notified that Consolidation would not happen because of voting split

That the new residence not be built

29<sup>th</sup> June Now that the amalgamation is not happening the Board will now renew the residence

6<sup>th</sup> August School drastically hit with flu bug

15<sup>th</sup> August Bulldozing of site for new residence commenced today.

3<sup>rd</sup> September. Roll 13 Carpenters now working flat out on new residence! Pouring concrete for foundation today.

2<sup>nd</sup> October. School Committee meeting. Calf and lamb day cancelled because lack of entries.

3<sup>rd</sup> October. Miss Small from Dr Barnardo's Homes addressed the children. Very interesting. It is hoped more children will join league.

18<sup>th</sup> October. Bill Hedley, Wellington Education Board maintenance officer called and we discussed with him the water problem. For the last month we have been struggling to survive on the present supply. We have had over 2000 gallons carted. He is going to discuss the matter with the Board

19<sup>th</sup> October. TB tests given the two 5 year olds.

7<sup>th</sup> November Mr Oldfield called to measure, inspect and quote for proposed sealed tennis court. £450 quoted complete with two new posts

8<sup>th</sup> November School Committee meeting. Tennis Court quote too high!

19<sup>th</sup> November. Vacated the old residence during the weekend and occupied the new one. It is a lovely place after spending 5 ½ years in the old wreck!

26<sup>th</sup> November Painters arrived to paint school and much to my surprise the interior of room 1 and the playsheds. Wonders never cease! Should be a perfect set up here when all is finished

27<sup>th</sup> November Received word today that I had been chosen for 1<sup>st</sup> assistant Harley Street Scale 3. Three mighty cheers!!!

5<sup>th</sup> December. Painters and carpenters working on school maintenance what a shambles and right at examination time

10<sup>th</sup> December. Carpenters arrived to dismantle the old residence built in 1885. So ends the rein (sic) of a grand old lady after 77 years of faithful service

## 1963

5<sup>th</sup> February. Roll 15

During the holidays Jim has left the lawns neat and tidy.

7<sup>th</sup> February Owing to the lack of transport swimming has been cancelled for the month.

The School Committee decided that owing to the young age of most of the pupils the trip to the Hutt on the free train to see the Queen would be of little profit

My official resignation was handed in read and accepted by those present.

12<sup>th</sup> February The school was closed yesterday for the Queen's visit to Wellington.

28<sup>th</sup> February The school closed today until the reliever takes over on Monday. After almost 6 years of service my term here has completed. We have enjoyed our stay in the valley and have found the School Committee and parents very friendly and cooperative I have left the school clean and in good order.

4<sup>th</sup> March Barbara Boys Relieving

Shirley Shoosmith eldest child was a marvellous help to me.

Impressions: Spotless inside and well kept.

Children Polite, friendly and eager to assist and please.

A definite contrast to previous position. I look forward to this term's work very much,

Swept out toilets and school rooms after 3 pm

Mr K Mortensen is chairman of School Committee And it is at the Mortensen residence that board has been offered to me.

18<sup>th</sup> March Electricians placed two hot points one near Zip one in room for Projector. Projector still out of order owing to lack of parts in NZ'

Radio not working

27<sup>th</sup> March School received information of first school in Mauriceville from K Holyoake (PM)

10<sup>th</sup> May School closes for Term 1 As yet no notice as to my staying or leaving. Have cleaned out school and all in order. Here's hoping another term at Mauriceville

4<sup>th</sup> June K Shaw. Took up position as Sole Teacher .School was closed for first week awaiting my arrival. Residence in beautiful condition

7<sup>th</sup> June End of first week. Most of this week spent in tidying up rooms and sorting out books, art materials. Children appear to be a good bunch

12<sup>th</sup> June. School Committee will request Wellington Education Board to allow my wife to take sewing. School cleaning to be done by wife. School Committee asked if First Aid Kit could be kept in the residence under the supervision of the wife.

28<sup>th</sup> June. Last day for Shoosmith family. This family will be missed. Shirley (Standard 5) and Joy (Standard 4) have been of great assistance to me during my first month here. I am sorry to see them go.

1<sup>st</sup> July Roll 8

24<sup>th</sup> July Received OK for Guillotine, plastic for book covers, plant and film catalogue

26<sup>th</sup> July. Snow! There was great excitement when I allowed the children to go out in the snow. It has been bitterly cold and the fire has been working overtime.

27<sup>th</sup> July Today the snow fell again and this time it settled all over the district. It provided a wonderful sight.

12<sup>th</sup> August. Girls attended ballet in Masterton

27<sup>th</sup> September. At Council meeting children decided with much prompting by teacher to purchase a spirit duplicator (*Banda?*) for the school Because of School Committee obligation to finance sealing of tennis court children decided to raise money themselves- by doing school cleaning and by organising a copper trail

8<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> October I attended Maori Arts course in Masterton Wife relieved at school

11<sup>th</sup> October. Children organised Bring and Buy to raise money for Duplicator.

17<sup>th</sup> October. Builders arrived to start work on the Tennis Court

23<sup>rd</sup> October. Purchased Duplicator (Ornig Piccolo). Children thrilled. If subsidy is granted we have sufficient money. Will keep money trail going in the meantime

29<sup>th</sup> October. Builder completed work on tennis court

31<sup>st</sup> October. Distributed our first edition of Korero Pai Also sent out first monthly Newsletter

12<sup>th</sup> November. Bonfire (Belated Guy Fawkes was held in school paddock)

13<sup>th</sup> November School Committee Main discussion centred around Tennis Court Finances a bit low but with half from Wellington Education Board will just make it.

25<sup>th</sup> November Final count for copper trail £4-11-2. With other money total reached £24-9 (A very creditable effort for 11 children) Children voted £1 to pay for padder tennis bats (6)

19<sup>th</sup> December School finished for year

## 1964

K Shaw Teacher

February 1964. New log book. A Summary of all residents of Mauriceville West and who lived where is made.

Communications

- a) All the roads are metalled and good quality
- b) Most of the houses connected to the telephone. A party line (917) linked to the Masterton Manual Exchange.

c) The remainder are on an automatic party line.

d) Mail is delivered every day except Sunday

e) Three houses have TV Sets

f) The Times Age evening newspaper is delivered to some houses

4<sup>th</sup> February School reopened Roll 11

18<sup>th</sup> February School picnic at Queen Elizabeth Park. A disappointing turnout of parents

29<sup>th</sup> April Held a barbecue in school grounds to help raise funds for filing cabinet. A very successful gathering with all families represented. Raised 35/-

10<sup>th</sup> June Began weekly sports with Mauriceville School. Hope to arrange sports with other schools

8<sup>th</sup> July Purchased under subsidy a filing cabinet

4<sup>th</sup> August Parents invited to school to see school in action. Morning Tea provided by the children

7<sup>th</sup> September. School reopened. During the holidays a bottle drive was held to help raise funds for a tape recorder. 74 Dozen beer bottles were collected. Altogether the bottle drive raised £13.00

9<sup>th</sup> September Country schools football and basketball tournament in Masterton

23<sup>rd</sup> September Combined with Mauriceville for rugby and basketball matches with Hastwell and Kopuaranga.

7<sup>th</sup> October. Whole school attended Maori Social Studies Project in Masterton.

7<sup>th</sup> November. A Guy Fawkes bonfire held in school paddock

24<sup>th</sup> November A Hangi and display of work was held

The tennis court was officially opened. Mrs Shaw had the honour of hitting the first ball. The court is now available for public use and a set of rules has been drafted and circulated to the community.

The children demonstrated the various games they play on the court.

3<sup>rd</sup> December. Swimming at Mauriceville East began today.

## 1965

1<sup>st</sup> February Teacher only day.

2<sup>nd</sup> February Roll 14.

3<sup>rd</sup> February Began school swimming at East School I have drawn up a transport roster this year to do away with continual ringing of people in order to organise transport

4<sup>th</sup> March. Took children to visit Wool Court and Golden Shears in Masterton. This was to have been in conjunction with School Picnic. Owing to poor weather the picnic was delayed

8<sup>th</sup> April Attended meeting at East School to discuss with parents the proposed Social Studies trip to Waikato in October. Parental support very good.

28<sup>th</sup> April Biennial householders meeting. Because of insufficient nominations the election was not held and another meeting will be convened at a later date.

4<sup>th</sup> May. Another Biennial meeting Nine householders present- K Mortensen chair, J Neilsen, sec-treas, J Patterson, J Stringfellow J Atkinson. Initial enthusiasm fine- it is to be hoped that it lasts

17<sup>th</sup> June Mr Hamish Henderson, School Inspector, visited the school to carry out a personal examination.

28<sup>th</sup> June Heavy snow fell during the night and was up to six inches thick. The children had a wonderful time- needless to say there was little schoolwork done.

16<sup>th</sup> August, Children from Karapiro School arrived for weeks visit. 6 children billeted in our school

4<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> October. 6 children went with Mauriceville East School to Waikato. Billeted by children at Karapiro School £22-10 was raised by children to help cover cost of trip.

11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November Two Day visit by Colombo Plan students from Malaysia. This was organised by W Farland (Organising Teacher) Children enjoyed the two days very much.

19<sup>th</sup> November A new automatic telephone exchange was installed and opened today. We now have individual lines.

## 1966

2<sup>nd</sup> February Roll number 16. 12 Boys 4 girls

10<sup>th</sup> March Because of invasion of bees we were forced to evacuate the school and set up camp in the hall. Quite a good day spent mainly on Social Studies. We took the opportunity to visit an old residence on the Hall Road

26<sup>th</sup> April A holiday was taken in honour of the visit of the Queen Mother.

15<sup>th</sup> July Four Corlette's removed from roll. Roll 9. All boys

2<sup>nd</sup> August Boys attended Lion's match in Masterton Lions won 9-6

11<sup>th</sup> August Received visit from Chairman and Secretary of Wellington Education Board Purpose of visit to investigate discontent expressed by Mrs Wulf(?) re school and two children Board members expressed satisfaction with running of school  
29<sup>th</sup> August Received notification of appointment to a school in Fiji.

3<sup>rd</sup> October. New lawnmower purchased by School Committee, This should help appearance of grounds

5<sup>th</sup> November Guy Fawkes Bonfire at John Stringfellows. A full turnout of parents and children.

24<sup>th</sup> November Children visited Rangitumau School for combined Agricultural and Pets day

25<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> Sealing of road from Mauriceville to Patterson's Corner. A big improvement

16<sup>th</sup> December End of my Term at Mauriceville West

21 children have left the district since 1964 and 4 have taken their place.

February 1964. 41 adults and 36 children in district

Now we have 34 adults and 20 children

Because of this drop in population Among the following have ceased to exist. Cards, Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls. The Hall Committee have been extremely active organising 8 cabarets over the last 3 years.

Television is installed in all but 1 -2 houses

The road from Mauriceville to Patterson's corner is now sealed.

## 1967

D Slater Principal

2<sup>nd</sup> February 9 pupils

14<sup>th</sup> February School picnic rained out at Eketahuna so moved to Double Bridges. Weather good

24<sup>th</sup> -27 March School 90<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

A full summary of events logged

19<sup>th</sup> April TB test by district nurse

10<sup>th</sup> August Visit from Kopuaranga to arrange parts for play to be performed at North Masterton Country Groups cultural festival.

16<sup>th</sup> August Older boys to Kopuaranga to practice "Whiteman Aren't for Eating".

17<sup>th</sup> October District Nurse talked about need for washing hands and how to do it.

## 1968

6<sup>th</sup> February 11 children 10 boys and 1 girl still

14<sup>th</sup> February Took senior boys down to Hidden Lakes as part of preliminary camp activities, while Mrs Slater instructed junior children

26<sup>th</sup> February School Picnic at Kopuaranga (Mr Brophy's). This was a work day. Nature study included in the programme.

15<sup>th</sup> March Sleep out with senior boy at Mauriceville East Preliminary to school camp.

10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March. Akatarawa Camp. Combined Country Schools Camp. Junior Children went to Mauriceville East school with Mrs Choat

30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> April Teacher at science course (The particle nature of Matter)

25<sup>th</sup> June AM Combined gymnastic practice at Kopuaranga

PM Combined Rugby Practice at Mauriceville East

16<sup>th</sup> July Very positive Inspectors Report 12/1 received

No suggestions

12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> September Teacher at science course. Earth Science, Electrical Energy, Identifying small animals, radiant energy

23<sup>rd</sup> October Masterton NW country school's athletic standards meeting at Memorial Park Masterton

4<sup>th</sup> December School trip to Wellington

11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Combined with Kopuaranga and Opaki for softball at Kopuaranga A good day marred by an unfortunate accident. One boy broke two toes when he collided with another lad while chasing a ball.

19<sup>th</sup> December Finished for the year

## 1969

5<sup>th</sup> February Roll 11 10 boys 1 girl

20<sup>th</sup> February Combined with Kopuaranga and Opaki for swimming sports. In spite of too deep baths, it was a good day

12<sup>th</sup> march Visit from Mr Yule, traffic officer. Main theme Safety on Bicycles. Very opportune as all but one pupil now has a bike and some of them are ignorant of Road Rules

19<sup>th</sup> June Football practice @ Mauriceville East with Ihuraua

6<sup>th</sup> August Country School Sports- Memorial Park

Went to "Oliver" in the morning. Film enjoyed by children and adults alike

18<sup>th</sup> October Final Agriculture day Meeting. Softball practice.

1<sup>st</sup> December. Started swimming at Mauriceville East.

## 1970

18<sup>th</sup> February Swimming meeting at Kopuaranga. A great improvement noted in the performance of children from this school

23<sup>rd</sup> February School Picnic at Eketahuna. The camping ground is admirably suited to this kind of activity.

3<sup>rd</sup> March District Nurse at school for 3 Heif tests (*TB Testing*)

6<sup>th</sup> May Teacher and Senior pupils Mauriceville East for a social evening. An enjoyable experience of all

17<sup>th</sup> June Visit to Masterton Fire Station

20<sup>th</sup> July Visit to Regent Theatre for stage show "Camelot" bright and tuneful if a little long for the younger ones

3<sup>rd</sup> August Rubella Vaccination

12<sup>th</sup> October Spent the afternoon at Kopuaranga planning agriculture day, which is to be at Kopuaranga this year. Planning well underway. A game of pegball followed

27<sup>th</sup> October Visit from Kopuaranga to finalise programme for Ag day. Followed by team relay practice and a game of pegball.

9<sup>th</sup> November. Visit from Bob Hopkirk- Country Schools Adviser.

17<sup>th</sup> November Wellington Education Board's transport officer visited the school to examine the possibility of establishing a bus route based on Mauriceville East

11<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs Braddock visited the school to show us home movies of her trip to Australia. Most Interesting

24<sup>th</sup> November Agriculture Day. Combined with Kopuaranga at Kopuaranga A most successful day assisted by mild if not sunny weather. Numbers of calves and lambs well done

15<sup>th</sup> December. Concert and Break Up ceremonies attracted-children performed well

## 1971

2<sup>nd</sup> February Full Roll 8, 6 boys 2 girls

10<sup>th</sup> February Local Scout leaders distributed leaflets about lone scouts

15<sup>th</sup> February Swimming at Mauriceville East. Exchanged classes with Kerry Crossman

22<sup>nd</sup> February Visited by three members of the inspectorate-discussed future of the schools

24<sup>th</sup> February School Picnic at Queen Elizabeth Park at Masterton

16<sup>th</sup> March Post Office PRO discussed savings with the children-one of the few visits of this nature that has been worthwhile

23<sup>rd</sup> March Swapped classes with R Strong Ihuraua for afternoon. A valuable experience for teachers and pupils

## 1972

Roll 10

24<sup>th</sup> February School picnic at Greytown. The Greytown park is perfect Includes Tennis Courts and a handy store

27<sup>th</sup> February Unveiling at Kopuaranga of a memorial plaque commemorating the early Scandinavian Settlers in the Mauriceville West

5<sup>th</sup> May My last Day at teaching Mauriceville West

Statement included

- a) Farm sizes increased with fall in local population
- b) Only the church and school continue to exist as functional entities
- c) The Hall Committee, of which I am chairman as the hall has been condemned its use being permitted for non public functions e.g Institute,
- d) Church services are down to 2 a month. Sunday School remains strong
- e) Local cricket matches have been replaced by snooker evenings
- f) School functions are the only unifying activity
- g) Even Village (Mauriceville East) have declined. Bowls, Junior Table Tennis and rifle shooting remain
- h) Increasing numbers seek their entertainment in town of TV
- i) List of local population entered

16<sup>th</sup> May Only 9 children at West it was recommend that West be closed Roll is only 9

22<sup>nd</sup> May J E Cameron Started

19<sup>th</sup> June Ended period as relieving teacher

5<sup>th</sup> August Lance M Win started Roll 8. Two off with mumps

7<sup>th</sup> August. Maintenance Officer called for survey, no committee member present.

20<sup>th</sup> August Small fire on grounds, promptly extinguished by bucket brigade. Caused by ashes of previous days fire, survived a morning of constant rain, still alive enough to be fanned by a constant wind

The weather in this place leaves much to be desired has rained every day I've been here. Blows hard every day too!!.

27<sup>th</sup> November Official notification of school closing at end of this year. Great Scrambles over who should get what gear. Me have first pick

Formally closed on 24<sup>th</sup> November by Board

29<sup>th</sup> November Water has run out Alternative supply nothing. Will get water trucked in.

5<sup>th</sup> December School trip to Wellington

15<sup>th</sup> December School formally closed today. All equipment removed except heavy furniture.

## 1977

3<sup>rd</sup> June. The teacher's residence has been retained by the board as a teacher drivers residence

The school was handed back to the government to be passed onto the Domain Board 4 years ago

	Last ¼ Roll Average					Wage	= March 2012
1878		Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	L	Headmaster	£140	\$20,933
1879		Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	L	Master	£160	\$25,443
1880		Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	Laurence	Master	£170	\$26,401
1881	36	Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	Laurence	Master	£170	\$27,464
1882	46	Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	Laurence	Master	£170	\$27,909
1883	52	Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	Laurence	Master	£170	\$29,079
1883	52	Mauriceville (West)	Gunderson	Agnes	Sewing	£30	\$5,132
1884	59	Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	Laurence	Master	£190	\$33,358
1884	59	Mauriceville (West)	Sullivan	Kate	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,046
1885	63	Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	Laurence	Master	£190	\$34,557
1885	63	Mauriceville (West)	Sullivan	Kate	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,550
1886	63	Mauriceville (West)	Johnstone	Laurence	Master	£190	\$35,528
1886	63	Mauriceville (West)	Sullivan	Kate	Assistant Female	£80	\$14,959
1887	60	Mauriceville (West)	McKenzie	John	Headmaster	£200	\$39,192
1887	60	Mauriceville (West)	Neilson	Kate	Assistant Female	£80	\$15,677
1888	45	Mauriceville (West)	McKenzie	John	Headmaster	£205	\$40,172
1888	45	Mauriceville (West)	Nelson	Kate	Assistant Female	£75	\$14,697
1889	48	Mauriceville (West)	McKenzie	John	Headmaster	£205	\$37,271
1889	48	Mauriceville (West)	Nelson	Kate	Assistant Female	£75	\$13,636
1890	39	Mauriceville (West)	Sanson	Herbert	Headmaster	£165	\$31,127
1890	39	Mauriceville (West)	Nelson	Kate	Assistant Female	£75	\$14,149
1891	49	Mauriceville (West)	Sanson	Herbert	Headmaster	£165	\$30,853
1891	49	Mauriceville (West)	Walton	Mabel	Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,740
1892	40	Mauriceville (West)	Mackenzie	John	Headmaster	£185	\$34,316
1892	40	Mauriceville (West)	Kean	Helen	Female Pupil Teacher	£30	\$5,565
1893	45	Mauriceville (West)	Mackenzie	John	Headmaster	£185	\$33,516

1893	45	Mauriceville (West)	Franklin	Mary		Female Pupil Teacher	£15	\$2,718
1894	40	Mauriceville (West)	Mackenzie	John		Headmaster	£215	\$38,741
1894	40	Mauriceville (West)	Wiley	Agnes Jane		Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,604
1895	42	Mauriceville (West)	Joplin	Charles A		Headmaster	£175	\$31,705
1895	42	Mauriceville (West)	Franklin	Mary		Female Pupil Teacher	£25	\$4,529
1896	46	Mauriceville (West)	Joplin	Charles R		Headmaster	£175	\$31,533
1896	46	Mauriceville (West)	Franklin	Mary		Female Pupil Teacher	£28	\$5,054
1897	51	Mauriceville (West)	Joplin	Charles R		Headmaster	£195	\$34,786
1897	51	Mauriceville (West)	Bray	Hinemoa F		Female Pupil Teacher	£20	\$3,568
1898	69	Mauriceville (West)	Joplin	Charles R		Headmaster	£195	\$33,404
1898	69	Mauriceville (West)	Bray	Hinemoa		Female Pupil Teacher	£25	\$4,283
1899	58	Mauriceville (West)	Joplin	Charles R		Headmaster	£205	\$36,375
1899	58	Mauriceville (West)	Campbell	Kate		Female Pupil Teacher	£32	\$5,678
1900	61	Mauriceville (West)	Joplin	Charles R		Headmaster	£205	\$35,641
1900	61	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine		Female Pupil Teacher	£36	\$6,259
1901	54	Mauriceville (West)	Davies	William C		Headmaster	£195	\$32,920
1901	54	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine		Female Pupil Teacher	£50	\$8,441
1902	52	Mauriceville (West)	Davies	William C		Headmaster	£195	\$32,150
1902	52	Mauriceville (West)	Braithwaite	Lilian B		Assistant Female	£85	\$14,014
1903	43	Mauriceville (West)	Davies	William C		Headmaster	£205	\$33,966
1903	43	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine		Mistress	£85	\$14,084
1904	41	Mauriceville (West)	Davies	William C		Headmaster	£158	\$26,163
1904	41	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine		Mistress	£80	\$13,247
1905	45	Mauriceville (West)	Davies	William C	D1	Headmaster	£160	\$25,312
1905	45	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine	D2	Mistress	£80	\$12,652
1906	43	Mauriceville (West)	Ward	Edward H	D2	Headmaster	£165	\$25,643
1906	43	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine	D2	Assistant Female	£85	\$13,210
1907	43	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank I L	D2	Headmaster	£165	\$25,867

1907	43	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine	D2	Assistant Female	£85	\$13,325	
1908	46	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank I L	C2	Headmaster	£165	\$25,867	
1908	46	Mauriceville (West)	Gray	Catherine	D2	Assistant Female	£85	\$13,325	
1909	44	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank L	C2	Headmaster	£185	\$29,398	
1909	44	Mauriceville (West)	Glanville	Ellen		Assistant Female	£90	\$14,302	
1910	38	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank L	C2	Headmaster	£190	\$29,786	
1910	38	Mauriceville (West)	Jensen	Emma H		Assistant Female	£90	\$14,109	
1911	31	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank L	C2	Headmaster	£195	\$30,839	
1911	31	Mauriceville (West)	Jensen	Emma H	D4	Assistant Female	£90	\$14,234	
1912	31	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank L	C2	Master	£200	\$30,672	
1913	30	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank L	B2	Master	£205	\$30,750	Provided
1914	25	Mauriceville (West)	Combs	Frank L	B2	Master	£210	\$30,066	Provided
1915	29	Mauriceville (West)	Combs M A	Frank L	A1	Master	£210	\$28,130	Provided
1917	37	Mauriceville (West)	Engstrom	Eileen M Mrs	Sole	Licensed	£133	\$14,907	
1919	41	Mauriceville (West)	Black	William	Head	D-62	£285	\$25,747	
1919	41	Mauriceville (West)	McKenzie	H B Mrs	Assistant		£190	\$17,165	
1921	28	Mauriceville (West)	Tregurtha	Richard H	Sole	D	£310	\$26,688	
1923	27	Mauriceville (West)	Tregurtha	Richard H	Head	D-169	£295	\$27,113	
1923	27	Mauriceville (West)	Rose	Ernestine M	Probationer 1		£113	\$10,386	