

## Otaki

### Wanganui Education Board

From 1880 to 1885 Otaki was the only state school open in the Horowhenua and for some reason had been placed in the Wanganui Education Board Area. The Horowhenua district was very last in being opened compared say with the Wairarapa Schools. The Country was divided into Education Board's areas in 1877 and first reported to Parliament in 1878. In 1878 there were 18 schools operating under the Wellington Education Board from Eketahuna South in the Wairarapa.

1923 is when the Government last published a list of all the teaching staff in Board schools in New Zealand and the information about them in these documents is up to that period.

School		Opened	Last Record of In this research	
Otaki		1878	1885	Wanganui Education Board
Otaki		1886	1923	Wellington Education Board
Manakau		1888	1923	
Waikanae		1888	1923	
Shannon		1889	1923	
Levin		1890	1923	
Ohau		1890	1923	
Waikawa		1890	1891	
Keruru		1891	1907	
Te Horo		1893	1923	
Tokomaru		1893	1923	
State Farm		1894	1898	
Reikiorangi		1895	1901	
Horowhenua		1899	1902	
Muhunoa East		1904	1921	
Waimanu		1907	1912	
Koputaroa		1908	1923	
Makerua		1911	1923	
Waihoanga		1912	1923	
Arapeti		1923	1923	
Poroutawhao		1924		

5th January 1887 PRIVATE TUITION.

MR. CLEMENT W. LEE, who has recently arrived from England, will be ready to RECEIVE PRIVATE PUPILS or Form CLASSES for Instruction in the following subjects :  
— English, in all its branches, with special attention to Writing and Arithmetic, Elementary Classics, Mathematics, Pianoforte, Land Surveying, Book-keeping, and Drill. Evening Classes will be Commenced in a few weeks.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED. Mr. Lee has had five years' experience in Tuition, and was last at Cranford College, Maidenhead, Bucks. Apply to Private Box 7

## 1880

1880		Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£ 147.10
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1939/21966	Lee	Clement William	86Y	
1888/2166	Agnes Cordelia	Nicholls	Clement William	Lee
1890/2401	Lee	Marion Valentine	Agnes Cordelia	Clement William
1891/3353	Lee	Raymond	Agnes Cordelia	Clement William

In 1878 and 1879 C W Lee was teaching at Wangaehu in the Rangitikei for the Wanganui Education Board [Not to be confused with the Wangaehu school 11 Kilometres East of Masterton]

7th May 1879 Wanganui Education Board MANUTAHI.

September 30th 1879

Mr C. W. Lee in charge 17 months On the Roll, 22 ; present, 22.

Presented in Standard 1, 8 ; in Standard II., 5 ; in Standard IV., 1; and in Standard V., 1. They all passed most creditably. The seven children, who were not scheduled, read very well. The School in all respects made an excellent appearance and reflected great credit on Mr Lee for the manner in which he had conducted it.

Mr Lee had been promoted to be master of the Wangaehu School, in which he will have more scope for his teaching powers, and a wider field of usefulness.

27th January 1880 The Otaki School.— The above building, which is partially erected, is again stopped for want of timber

30th January 1880 A public meeting of the householders of the Otaki school district was held at the Courthouse on January 26, 1880 at 7 p.m., in order to receive the annual report of the outgoing Committee for the past year, and to elect a new Committee for the current year.

Mr James Cootes was voted to the chair. After the notice calling the meeting had been read, The Chairman of the outgoing Committee, Mr Simcox, read his report, as follows :

" When you met this time last year for the purpose of receiving the report of the former Committee and electing the one whose term of office is now about to expire, the report presented to you was a very ' unsatisfactory one. There was in fact at that time nothing to report, except that the Committee was in treaty for a piece of ground as a site for a school, and that the funds required for the purchase of the land — £63 in all — had been guaranteed.

" The Committee then elected, consisting of Rev J. McWilliam, Messrs Hadfield, Death, Carkeek, Jenkins, Bright, and Simcox, was not able to advance matters much for the first five months, owing to difficulties experienced in obtaining a legal title to the site selected, and delays that occurred in getting plan, &c, of the proposed building sent from the Wanganui Board. It was not till July 1, that these difficulties were surmounted, and the Committee was able to call for tenders for the erection of the schoolhouse. On July 26, eight

tenders were opened, ranging from £325 to £527, and the lowest one — William Chalmers, for £325— was recommended to the Board for acceptance. Another vexatious delay now occurred. The lowest tender was withdrawn before the Board had an opportunity of accepting it, and the lowest but one— for £398— was considered too high and declined. By direction of the Board, fresh tenders were called for on the 1st September, to be sent in by the 26th. This time ten tenders were sent in — ranging from £348 to £720. The lowest tender — Gordon & Pledger's, for £348 — was recommended by the Committee, and accepted by the Board. This contract is now being carried out, and has to be completed on or before March 3, under a penalty of £1 per diem for any time during which the work remains unfinished after that date. Mr W. Udy has been appointed by the Committee to inspect the works during progress, at a salary of £6, payable on completion of the contract. So far, only one progress payment, of the amount of £35, has been made to the contractors on the building. By arrangement with the contractors the Committee has agreed to stop a certain percentage out of all progress payments made by the Board for the purpose of paying Mr Liddell's account for timber. The Board has not yet authorised any expenditure upon a residence for the teacher, or upon extras for the school, but a requisition for £265 to be expended in the manner indicated has been sent in by the Committee, and as the sum asked for is very reasonable, it will probably be agreed to at the next meeting of the Board's Finance Committee. Several applications for the post of teacher to the school have been received by the Committee ; they have been forwarded to the Board without any one in particular being recommended. A meeting of the Board's Teachers' Committee is called for Tuesday next, and a list of applicants will probably then be sent to the Local Committee for consideration.

" Finance.— The total amount of subscriptions collected to date for purchase of site is £43 11s; total expenditure on do [Ditto], £55 5s ; leaving' a deficit at the present time of £11 14s, due on purchase of site. There are still some subscriptions unpaid. It is believed that the incoming Committee will have no difficulty in wiping out the debt"

The following householders were then elected a Committee for the current year : — J. Cootes, W. H. Simcox, Rev. . J. McWilliam M. Carkeek, F. Bright, W. Jenkins, J. Death.

4th February 1880 Mr McMinn [Resigned in bad health from Editor of the Marton Paper]then made application to the Education Board for a school, and without the slightest hesitation was appointed to the charge of Otaki, where we sincerely trust him the enjoyment of the rest which he has so well earned, and so much needs, he will be so thoroughly restored to health, as to again take the place in the world of letters which he has so worthily filled in the past

30th April 1880 Otaki School. — Mr Ross was appointed to the charge of the above School by the [Wanganui] Education Board on Wednesday last.

27th May 1880 Wanganui Education Board that the Otaki School Committee be requested to call for tenders for the erection of the closets [Toilets] and shed, the fence to stand over for the present. ;

15th June 1880 Wanganui Herald C W Lee had passed his teacher's examinations

18th June 1880 Otaki School —The State School at Otaki was opened on Monday last, Mr Ross in charge. The attendance of scholars was 41

30th July 1880 Wanganui Education Board Letter from Chairman of Otaki School Committee, with reference to a resolution passed by the Board at last meeting in regard to the conduct of the teacher of the Otaki School. Ordered to lie on the table.

10th August 1880 Manawatu Herald A meeting of the Otaki School Committee was held in the schoolroom at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 2nd. Present — Messrs Carkeek (Chairman), Death, Contes, Bright, Jenkins, and Rev. J. McWilliam. The following correspondence was read. [From the Chairman to the Secretary of the Board.]

Sir,— I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memo, of July 1st, which I placed before the Committee, when, after reading the whole of the teacher's correspondence, the following resolution was passed "That in the opinion of the Committee the teacher's letters to the Board are in no sense disrespectful, and that the Board's action in passing a resolution on June 30th to the effect that three months' notice to leave be given to the teacher .in the event of his returns not being sent in by July 5th, was premature and uncalled for."

In reference to- your statement that the Board, after some discussion, and a strong expression of opinion that the school should not have been closed in violation of the instructions received from this Office," &c, allow me to point out to you that if a resolution to that effect was passed by the Board it was your duty to forward me a copy of such resolution, and not to quote to me the mere opinion' of member\*, expressed during a discussion. ' As I have already informed you, the instructions received by me were contrary to the rules and regulations of the Wanganui Education Board, being simply based upon the assertions of an officer of the Board, whose authority to make rules and regulations for the Board, or to amend the Education Act, I decline to admit.

Enclosed I return the account for black board\*, &c, certified correct ; also Cobb & Co's account for carriage of same. I have the honor &c ? Carkeek,. Chairman O.S.C

[From Teacher to- chairman.] Sir -^Sixty four children were present today, while there is sitting room for only forty-eight. • . I resigned to-day by telegram. ' Alex. S. Ross. ',

[Memo, from Secretary of Board to Chairman.] The Board having received Ms Ross' resignation as master of the Otaki School, I am directed to recommend to' your Committee the appointment of Mr C. M. 'Lee, the present master of Wangaehu School. Proposed by Rev. J. McWilliam, seconded by Mr Bright, and carried — " That the Committee approves of the appointment of Mr C. M, Lee as teacher to the Otaki School.""

27th October 1890 Wanganui Education Board Mr Buckley applied for the post of , pupil teacher for his sister at Otaki. Resolved that Mr Buckley be informed that his sister may enter the Otaki school as a cadet, and that as soon as the average attendance reaches 62 she will receive the appointment of pupil teacher

29th December 1880 The members of the Otaki School Committee, during the last week of the school term, examined the children for prizes, by request of the teacher, Mr Lee. Mr Simcox took the different classes in arithmetic, the Rev. J. McWilliam the reading and writing, Mr Carkeek the drilling, and Mrs. Simcox kindly consented to examine the sewing, and give two special prizes. The examiners were unanimous in giving credit to the children for the progress they had made since the school was opened. On Thursday the children and parents numbering over 180, had a picnic by the river side. This occasion was taken for distribution of the prizes, 21 in number. The school children sung some songs, and Mrs. Simcox then handed to each child its prize, accompanied by encouraging remarks. Cheers

were then given for the Committee and teachers, and three big ones for the ladies who had supplied such a bountiful spread. After a day of hearty enjoyment, the children returned home in breaks lent for the occasion by the settlers.

## 1881

1881	40	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£ 142.10
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15th April 1881 Charles Mitchell was charged by Morgan Carkeek, Chairman of the Otaki School Committee, with having neglected to send to the State School his three children, aged respectively 11, 8, and 9 years.

The defendant admitted that he had not sent the children to the school since Christmas last. He desired to assure the Court that he did not wish to keep the children from school, as he greatly believed in educating the children, but he had a just cause for keeping the children away, he was not satisfied with the conduct of the school, nor with the treatment his children had received there, and made some charges to the committee, which had not been cleared up, and until some improvements were made, he would not allow his children to attend again. He would call his Worship's attention to clause 89 of the Education Act, under which he believed he could claim exemption for the non-attendance of his children at school. Children were allowed to attend on halftime, and as the Otaki School had only been open 10 months, and his children had attended 6 months out of that period, he contended that the Act had been complied with.

Morgan Carkeek, Chairman Otaki School Committee, deposed that the Committee had decided to put in force the compulsory clauses of the Act, and put in the minute book as evidence, which also proved that the defendant was one of the committeemen present at the time. The clause was not put in operation, owing to some complaints having been made against the master, which were fully enquired into, and found to be extremely frivolous ones, and in one case there was no foundation whatever for the charge. The defendant resided within two miles from the schoolhouse, and he had caused a notice in accordance with the Act to be served on the defendant calling on him to send the children to the school. The children had not attended the school during the last quarter. Mr Carkeek further stated that this was a test case, as some twenty children had not attended the school since these charges had been made against the master. His Worship, in delivering judgment, said that parents had a plain remedy against any master for illtreating their children, and they ought not to keep their children from school because of an objection against the master. He could not accept the interpretation placed upon the 89th clause by the -defendant, as " the period " mentioned in that clause referred, in his opinion, as to the whole year, but to each week.. This view he was led to take by reading clause 93, which, referring to proceedings against a parent or guardian who refused to comply with an order of two Justices of the Peace to send his child to school, said " the proceedings could be taken week by week in the case of failure by such parent to comply with the order." Interpreting clause 89 by 93, he held, therefore, that "the period" was a week, and not a year. In this case he felt it to be his duty to make an order for the defendant's children to attend the school. If he had a grievance against the master, as a Magistrate he would afford him every means of ventilating it, but at the same

time he would advise him not to interfere with the authority of the master unless it could be possibly avoided. Order made accordingly, with costs, 7s

29th April 1881 Miss Buckley, cadet at Otaki school, had resigned, and two monitors had been appointed in her place

19th May 1881 Otaki Church organ fund concert included: The stage was then vacated and fourteen of the Otaki school children ascended, and led by their teacher, Mr. C. Lee, sung "Hoses red" in a most creditable manner, so much so, that they received the first encore of the evening

5th August 1881 Manawatu Herald: We have to express our best thanks to Mr Carkeek, Chairman of the Otaki School Committee, for forwarding us a ticket for the dance which takes place at the Otaki school this evening. We regret, however, that circumstances will not permit of our attending this evening but hope to have the pleasure of being present on the next occasion a dance is given at Otaki. The object of these dances is to raise funds to wipe off a small debt on the school grounds. Very good accounts have reached us of the excellent manner in which the Otaki school dances are carried through, and we hope the one this evening will be as enjoyable as those which have preceded it.

16th September 1881 Wanganui Herald A singular case, resulting in a still more singular decision, recently occupied the attention of the Resident Magistrate at Otaki. The State School there is under the control of Mr Clement Lee, a master of high standing and unblemished reputation. Mr Lee was formerly at Wangaehu and was selected to go to the new school at Otaki, in consequence of his known administrative ability. He has lately appeared as a defendant in a case brought before the Otaki Court, the facts of which, as disclosed by the evidence, are as follow :— A scholar named Harper refused to obey the teacher's orders to attend the usual drill instruction, and for the disobedience was punished. The evidence is silent as to the punishment, and therefore it may be assumed it consisted of the usual strokes with the cane. The guardians of the scholar, however, considered the master had exceeded his duty, and took the extreme course of laying an information for assault. The case came before the Court at Otaki on Wednesday, both plaintiff and defendant being represented by counsel. The time of the Court was taken up for a considerable time, both gentlemen of the long robe earned their fees by the usual eloquent addresses to the Bench, and the Magistrate delivered a judgment which convicted the schoolmaster, although in the nominal fine of one shilling. We here take leave to say that the decision was utterly wrong and based upon indefensible grounds. Our report says " the R.M. decided that the Education Board had not made any provision for drill at the Otaki school, and that punishment to enforce the same was in consequence illegal, but as the teacher only acted according to what he considered right, the nominal penalty of Is, &c." Having the rules and regulations of the Board open before us, we are simply astounded at the decision, and can only conclude that the sub-section we here quote was not pointed out to the Magistrate. Sub-section 6 of the Regulation relating to " School Administration " says :— "Military drill shall be taught fifteen minutes daily." Other regulations provide for the teachers taking proper measures to instil into the minds of their pupils the necessity of acquiring habits of orderly behaviour; obedience to teachers, and to the rules of the school. The scholar in question having disobeyed the order to drill, one of the subjects provided in the Board's regulations, was clearly amenable to punishment, and the master well within his

proper authority in administering such punishment. We sympathise with Mr Lee. He has been made the victim of a . miscarriage of justice, and we would advise him to lay his case before the Board. School teachers in the public schools have a difficult task, and we are glad to notice that usually they are cordially supported by the parents of the children under their control.

17th September 1891 We have been placed in possession of fuller information respecting this case. We now learn that the scholar in question was of the female sex, and apparently this had led the Magistrate to consider the wording of the Act has special application to the case. The clause of the Act runs thus :— "In public schools provision shall be made for the instruction in military drill for all boys, and in such schools as the Board shall from time to time direct provision shall also be made for physical training, &c." The Magistrate's contention was that as the Education Board ' had not specially put the second part of the clause in operation at Otaki the command of the teacher to the scholar to go through certain physical motions was an unlawful one, and disobedience to the command therefore not punishable. The Board's regulations as quoted yesterday refer to "military drill," and the Magistrate considered the distinction between " physical training "and "military drill " an important one, inasmuch as it affected the question whether the master w.is acting within the scope of his authority or not. But the evidence is not clear as to whether the movements ordered by the master were "drill" or " physical exercise." The girl herself deposed to the master having threatened to put her name down for refusing to drill, and afterwards giving her four slaps with the cane. The defendant said the drill was simply physical training, which was required by the Act for all standards. We are still convinced that the master was perfectly justified in inflicting punishment for disobedience to his orders, and that even admitting that the teacher might have exempted the girl at the request of the parents or guardians, the refusal to do so only amounted to an indiscretion and was certainly not a criminal offence. The whole question is obedience or otherwise to the master. The amount of the punishment was not the cause of complaint, and therefore the case was not one for the jurisdiction of a R.M. Court. The proper course for the guardians to have followed was to have applied to the Committee for an instruction to the master to exempt the child, and, if good cause was shown, the exemption would naturally have been granted. We shall refer to this point at length in another issue,

19th August 1881 Mr Clement William Lee has been appointed Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages at Otaki, vice Dr. C. G. Hewson, deceased.

10th September 1881 Wanganui Herald Alleged Assault on a Pupil. — An information for assault on a pupil has been laid against Mr Clement Lee, the schoolmaster at Otaki. It is said that other information are about to be laid. It is evident that the Otaki people either object to their children being thrashed or have no friendly feeling towards- the master.

27th October 1881 Evening Post: The Manawatu Standard states that Mr. Lee, schoolmaster at Otaki, who was lately fined for thrashing a girl, was whipped by Mr. James Cootes a day or two ago, with a willow-stick, for using, what Mr. Cootes considered, undue force to his daughter. Mr. Lee has expressed his intention of prosecuting Mr. Cootes.

29th November 1881 Wanganui Education Board: Otaki : Letter withdrawing resignation of Mr Lee. Agreed to.—

## 1882

1882	34	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£155.00
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28th January 1882 Otaki The native school opens on Monday. The Rev Mr Jennings, of Nelson, takes charge. About 50 children are expected to attend.

1st February 1882 Otaki. — Tenders for teacher's residence : Joseph Jay £240; John Gordon £340; A Jensen £375 ; John Wilson £310. Mr Nelson moved that the tender of Mr Jay be accepted. Seconded by Mr Coutts and carried.

13th February 1882 Last night our old School "'Committee presented 'its year's report to the public meeting-of 'householders,' and- a . new Committee was elected. The report was a very satisfactory 'one, showing that the school was doing, good work and was in a flourishing condition both as regards the progress of the children and the state of 'the funds. At the Inspector's examination; at the end of last year, out of 22 sent up to pass the first three standards, 21 passed;' and among the number 16 obtained full' marks in all subjects. This speaks well for 'the master's ability and painstaking. As regards the funds : At the beginning of .last year there was a debt of £3 14s owing for the school site. This has been paid off and about' £12 was spent on necessaries for the school and prizes and- there.is in hand- a balance of £10 4s 3d: This .has all been raised locally and is quite distinct from what is termed the school- fund which stands just as it was last year. The Board has at last - resolved to give our -teacher a residence. Tenders for the erection of it have been .called for and that of Mr J. Jay of Foxton for £240 has been accepted. We hope to see the building completed in three months. our native-school has also been reopened "lately : under" the mastership of the Rev.- ; E. Jennings from Nelson. Between forty and fifty are in attendance.

27th February 1882 Educational matters here are at present in a very flourishing condition. The Board School has an average attendance of over 50, and the Mission School for Natives has been re-opened for about a month with a daily attendance of over 40. The Rev. E. Jennings, from Nelson, is the present master of the latter school, and is, seemingly, very popular with both parents and children. ~ An interesting cricket match came off on Friday between eleven boys from each school, which, after some very exciting play, and a display of very considerable skill on both sides, resulted in a victory for the white boys with 16 runs to spare. The afternoon was almost as fine as any we have had all the summer, and quite a number of spectators cheered the youthful players with their presence. After the game, each school gave three ringing cheers for the other with evidence of the greatest cordiality and goodwill. Such friendly. contests occasionally, I can foresee, will have the greatest , influence for good on both schools.

28th February 1882 Wanganui Education Board The Chairman stated that a report had been received from the Otaki Committee couched in such insulting language that he had returned it as unfit to be included in the Board's papers.—The Secretary read a copy of the report and the Chairman's reply, which was endorsed.

28th March 1882 Wanganui Education Board Inspector's Report Otaki. — This is altogether a young school. It gives great promise of being a very good one, and the children are soundly taught, as far as they go. The writing on slates, and the general intelligence of the third standard children, especially in geography and history, were far above the average in



this school. There is a business like activity in master and pupils. But great attention should be paid to the manners of the children. The school committee was represented by the chairman.'

30th March 1888 Wanganui Education Board Otaki. — Letter enclosing resolutions passed by the Committee : — That this committee having been asked to express an opinion as to the correspondence which had passed between the former committee and the Board, the Committee were of opinion that the Chairman of the Board had exceeded his duty in returning the report. — Mr Bridge pointed out that the Board could not receive such a report.— It was resolved that the report be returned with a letter stating that the Board would be willing to receive a report in accordance with the Act, but they decline to receive one couched in the language used.

4th April 1888 I suppose one of the most important items to comment upon is the re-opening and at present thriving state of the Native School, A gentleman, a deacon from the Bishop's College, Nelson, has been appointed to take charge of this school. He has for some time been engaged in similar duties at Nelson and brings with him a life and energy much required in Native school matters here. The scholars now number about forty and are on the increase. These, with sixty attending the European school, make up the large number of one hundred children attending school in so small a place. It is much to be regretted that the two schools could not be amalgamated ; but such a course is impracticable, as the Native children require a kind of discipline not at all suitable to our Government schools. The European school is in a flourishing condition, the numbers keeping up very fairly ; but it seems a rather hard matter for one man to produce any results upon 50 or more children, single handed, as the teacher here is. There happens to be no child whose parents will permit it to be a cadet, and therefore the school suffers

[Interestingly the Native School did not show in the Department's native school lists for 1882 or 1883, so must have been a church run school not run by the Department of Education]

17th May 1882 The native school continues to thrive much against everybody's expectation, but I think it is too early to decide upon its stability. The school house, which has been so long delayed by reason of the bad weather, is nearly finished, and presents a most imposing appearance in the most central spot in Otaki.

31st May 1882 Wanganui Education Board Annie Bright was appointed to the Otaki School as a cadet.—

25th July 1882 Wanganui Education Board A letter was received from Mr W. H [Sic]. Lee, teacher at Otaki, complaining that although promoted by the Board several times his position, so far as salary was concerned, was worse than it was formerly, and that his case was a hard one. ' He asked that in addition to his salary of £140 per annum, an allowance of £20 should be made to him for house rent.— The letter was considered by the Board, but 'as it appeared- that his various promotions- had been made at his own request, and that he was now receiving a higher salary than he had-ever before obtained under the Board, his letter was ordered to be received.

28th July 1882 Wanganui Education Board Otaki, — Application was received from , the committee for a grant of £10 7s 6d the expense of certain fencing, tank, and other ' matters

connected with the newly erected residence. — It was resolved to grant £5 17s 6d, the fencing to remain over till the receipt of the building fund.

18th August 1882 Wanganui Herald. The inspector Mr Foulis to inspect Otaki on the 30th October

23rd August 1882 Otaki News The school residence has been neatly fenced with palings.....Though the school has not been closed yet it very well might have been as the attendance has been next to nothing. The measles down, here seem very mild, a week generally being sufficient to have them and get well in. The Maori school, under the able master it has, still flourishes.. I believe that not half a dozen children have fallen off since the opening, nearly a year, ago

9th December 1882 OTAKI A little boy, son of J. Cootes, whilst playing, fell against the school building and broke his arm.

18th December 1882 Friday, the 15th, was quite a day of excitement in this place, by reason of the breaking up of the two schools. At 2 p.m., several ladies and gentlemen attended at the European School to hear the names of prize winners read out, which was performed by the Rev J. McWilliam, on behalf of the Committee. It has been deemed advisable to postpone both prizes and **school** treat till after the vacation. In the evening at 8 the prizes at the Native **School** were distributed by Mrs McWilliam, in the presence of a large number of natives and about a dozen Europeans, who showed great interest in the proceedings. The prizes took the shape of presents of different kinds dress material being given by Mrs Simcox as sewing prizes. After the distribution, Hohe Taipoa spoke for some time, and commented upon the improvement of the children during the last year, concluding by causing the large body of people present to stand up and give three cheers for Mr Jennings, the teacher. At 10 the proceedings were over everyone having spent a most pleasant evening. Thus, a year's work has been done at the Native School, which reflects great credit upon the teacher. He has won, during the time he has been here, the respect of the parents and the affection of the children. Both parents and children saw him off by the coach for Wellington, and gave him quite an ovation,

## 1883

1883	51	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£166.00
1883	51	Otaki	Rogers	E H		Male Pupil Teacher	£47.05

25th January 1883 The fact of the day for the election of the School Committees falling upon Anniversary Day will cause many of these meetings to - lapse for want of sufficient attendance, as the meeting advertised to be held here has done. It is generally hoped that the Committee that has held office in Otaki during the past year will be re-elected, as it is considered that they have given a good account of themselves during their service. Among a few of the works may be mentioned a fair amount of fencing, a well sunk, erection of bell, gymnasias and swings (not completed yet), and the levelling of the playground. The report not having been read yet, I may have omitted some of their works.

In connection with the school a picnic was held on Monday last, to the good things of which about 70 children did justice. A good selection of prizes were distributed during the afternoon and gave the usual amount of satisfaction.

1st February 1883 Wanganui Education Board The Chairman stated that there were several places where they had failed to elect Committees, amongst others Otaki and Foxton. — The Secretary who was instructed to call fresh meetings at places where they had failed to elect a Committee

20th February 1883 Both our schools are in full swing again, with increased numbers. The English one has over sixty on the books and the native one over fifty

24th February 1883 The following School Committee was elected on the 21st:— -Rev Mr McWilliam (chairman), Rev E. J. Wilson, J. Walker, P. Anderson. J. Brown, H. Eager. Two votes were considered informal, which will probably upset the Committee.

28th February 1883 On the 21st inst. a meeting of householders was held in the schoolroom for the purpose of electing a committee for the present year. There were about 30 persons present. Mr M. Carkeek, chairman of last year's committee, read a statement of accounts, showing that, though a great many improvements had been made in and around the school, they were still able to hand over a balance of over £10 to the new committee. He also read the report of the committee's work for the year to be sent to the board. Both were approved of and accepted by the meeting. Nominations for the new committee then took place, and about 13 persons were proposed and seconded. The voting was then proceeded with, result! 'g in the election of J. Walker, H. Eager J. Brown, J. Wilson, P. B. Anderson, Rev. J. McWilliam, and Rev. E. Jennings. Rev. J. McWilliam reproached the meeting for not having elected Mr Carkeek, who had been the chief mover in school matters since the beginning in Otaki and offered to resign in his favor. This, however, Mr Carkeek objected to, and said if the voters had lost confidence in him, he certainly should not attempt to thrust his services upon them. The meeting then broke up. A meeting of the new committee was then held, when the Rev. J McWilliams was elected chairman, and Mr J. Brown secretary and treasurer. Since the meeting it has transpired that several persons voted who were not qualified to do so, and I believe a complaint to that effect has been sent to the board. If this can be proved, I suppose the election will be rendered invalid, and as this was an adjourned meeting, the first having lapsed for want of a quorum, we shall not be allowed to have a fresh election, and so we shall have to be content for a year with a commission appointed by the Wanganui board. This I am told is the law, but it seems a hard law in this case that a whole community should suffer and lose the services of a representative committee for the fault or mistake of one or two.

Great regret appears to be felt in the place that Mr Carkeek and other members of the past committee have not been re-elected, but each voter evidently felt that they were perfectly sure to get in, and so he saved his votes for another. The system of voting for the whole committee at once is evidently a bad one, and often results in the worst men being elected. A man who is mean enough to plump for himself and beg a few of his personal friends to do so for him is elected above one who may secure by his known and acknowledged ability and fitness the single votes of nearly every member of the community.

28th February 1883 Wanganui Education Board Otaki. — A letter was read from Mr Joseph Death, objecting to the election of the School Committee on the ground that two brothers residing in one house and a boarder at an hotel, voted. — It was resolved to ascertain from the chairman of the meeting of householders whether the alleged voting irregularities took place

28th March 1883 Wanganui Education Board Otaki. — In reference to the objection of Messrs Death and Leys to the election of the School Committee, Mr Snelson moved that the Secretary be instructed to write requesting Mr Death to get his witnesses' statements reduced to writing and attested. — Mr Snelson moved, as an amendment, that the election be declared null and void, and that a meeting of householders be called to elect a new committee. — The amendment was carried.

17th April 1883 On Saturday last, according to notice, the householders met in the school to elect a committee 'The former election, had been declared by the the education Board to be null and void by reason of dual voting. Greater interest has been shown in the. election this year than in any previous one. The Rev Jennings took the chair; and read the notice calling the- meeting, The report was then taken as read (it had been' read at the previous election.) After this, a, great deal of wrangling took place as to Who was or Was not a householder "according to the Act. This was, after some time, duly settled, and fourteen candidates were proposed for the Committee. The result of the poll was rather peculiar two gentlemen, who had, not been elected at the' last election, were returned by overwhelming majorities, viz., Messrs Carkeek and Simcox, the latter receiving no" less than 80 votes. Some of those who were near the top of the poll before were this time hopelessly out of it. The confidence of the electors in last, year's Committee had been shown in the fact that the prominent members have been elected to serve on this year's one, The school itself seems in a very prosperous condition, there being" seventy-five children on the books this -quarter, and an attendance of about sixty

25th April 1883 Wanganui Education Board Otaki. Mr W. H. Silcox wrote stating that the following gentlemen had been returned a committee for the Otaki district: — Messrs J. Brown, F. Bright, H. Eager, P. Anderson, T. McVeary M. Carkeek, and the writer, who had since been appointed chairman

12th July 1883 E H Rogers passed his pupil teacher examination Year 3

26th September 1883 Wanganui Education Board re Committee applied for some slight repairs to -the desks. — Agreed to.

28th December 1883 I have been thinking that since your paper has become quite localized down in these far distant regions, a little news from here might not be amiss. As our State school has just broken up, and thus disturbed the everlasting .monotony of the place, I might give you an outline of how things went off. ' During the last week of the term the various classes were examined by gentlemen of the locality, and though the results are not yet out, I believe the children did very well. Some excellent maps were presented by. the children; On Friday afternoon, in spite Of the tempestuousness of the weather, the children met for games and races. The weather, which looked in the morning as if it meant to be bad all day, fortunately cleared up, and the children spent a very pleasant afternoon. At 5 a capital tea was .partaken of by about 70 children. The ladies of Otaki, who had' provided everything\*, assisting the children\* to thoroughly enjoy themselves. • At 8 o'clock "a magic lantern was shewn in the schoolroom, during the evening the children sang some appropriate songs — one remarked for its truth' though written for the northern hemisphere —" While wintry winds howl through the ' night and driving rains descend," this being the sort of weather we have enjoyed (?) during the last eight weeks. The prizes, for which the committee have granted £3, are to be distributed at the end of the holidays.

## 1884

1884	42	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£165.00
1884	42	Otaki	Rogers	E H		Male Pupil Teacher	£ 56.14

26th March 1884 Wanganui Education Board Otaki. — Letter enclosing a resolution passed by the committee, stating that by erecting a fence on the Board's recommendation, they had incurred a debt of £10, which they trusted the Board would pay. — Resolved that the Board pay £6 of the debt.

30th July 1884 Wanganui Education Board Fourth Year Teachers, (1000 marks obtainable). — Nellie Thomson, Bulls, 599 ; - S. H. Rogers, Otaki, 593 ; passed. Ellen Howan, Foxton, 464 Margaret McLean, Waverley, 409; failed. . The Board adjourned for lunch.

1st October 1884 Wanganui Education Board Otaki. — An account for £3 was received from the chairman of the school committee for school requisites supplied on the recommendation of the Inspector. The secretary was instructed to reply that the committee should have obtained the sanction of the Board previous to contracting the account.

23rd December 1884 Wanganui Education Board Resolved that H Rogers, of Otaki, be appointed junior assistant of the Boys school, in place of Mr H, Sanson, at a salary according to regulations.... H. McIntyre was appointed pupil teacher at Otaki subject to Rogers being removed. [Herbert Sanson was the long time headmaster at Muritai School at Eastbourne Wellington] E H Rogers was at Wanganui Boys in 1885. By 1900 Edward H Rogers was Headmaster at Awahuri School in the Manawatu

## 1885

1885	52	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£ 165.00
1885	52	Otaki	Crab	Norman		Male Pupil Teacher	£ 25.00

In 1886 Norman Crab was a Pupil Teacher at Ashurst. In 1900 He was sole teacher at Upper Tutaenui in the Rangitikei Region

25th February 1885 Norman Crabb[Sic] appointed a pupil teacher at Otaki

25th FEBRUARY 1885 That Norman Crabble [Sic] be appointed pupil teacher at Otaki.

23rd April 1885 A remarkably cool theft was perpetrated at Otaki a few days ago (says the Foxton paper). As Mr Lee was walking down the road, he saw a man take his saddle off the fence, and walk over with it to the constable's residence, Following the; man, Mr Lee arrived at the house in time to see his saddle offered for sale to the constable himself., Mr Lee at once claimed the saddle, and explained the Circumstances, when the thief was arrested on the spot for larceny. On being brought before the Justices, the accused pleaded drunkenness, a d stated his saddle had been borrowed, and he was informed it was lying on the fence from where he had removed Mr Lee's. The Bench took a lenient view of the matter, and, giving the accused the benefit of the doubt, let him off with a flue of 5s for drunkenness.

27th May 1885 Wanganui Education Board Otaki. — The teacher reported that he had to attend at court to give evidence against parents who had been neglecting to send their children. He did not think it was his duty to do this — The Board thought otherwise.

29th July 1885 Norman Crabbe Failed his 3rd year examination [As did 9/13 others]  
Classified 3rd year again

5th August 1885 Mr Leigh [Sic] of Otaki was not selected for the Terrace end School in Palmerston North there were 5 applicants

26th August 1885 Wanganui Education Board The Otaki School Committee reminded the Board that they had applied to the Board about two months ago for a porch and shed. — The secretary said the application had never been received.

29th September 1885 The start of a very long letter from Clement Lee to the editor of the New Zealand Times. Some little time back a letter appeared in your paper pointing out a most laudable opening for the charity of us, who live in a land of comparative plenty for all. Your correspondent referred to the state of the poorest classes in London, whose children are compelled often to go mealless to school, because even the small sum of one penny is not forthcoming to provide the child with a meal. Ho thought something might be done amongst our school children to help these, their little brothers and sisters, at Home. I quite agree with him and should have written a reply to his letter a long time ago had I not thought that one's argument should take another form than mere words. The matter was placed before the children exactly as it is—for it needs no painting to make it more melancholy—and their help asked. There was not a doubt of the effect made upon them ; their breathless attention whilst being told of these poor children at Home, and the after-result, when a box was placed to receive their little contributions, was satisfactory evidence that the subject was one that reached each child's heart. But what can we do alone to fill up this ocean of poverty I write to you, Sir, in hopes that other schools, seeing our small beginning,.....

28th October 1885 Wanganui Education Board The results of the examination at Ashurst and Otaki were next considered, and it was finally resolved to write to the teachers, through the committees, and inform them that the results of examinations were considered by the board very unsatisfactory and, that better results will be required in future

24th November 1885 Wanganui Education Board Otaki : The committee wrote respecting the removal of the pupil teacher ; resolved to reply that Norman Crabb would be removed at the end of the quarter, the vacancy to be filled by the Inspector and Executive

29th December 1885 Wanganui Education Board had listed the percentage of passes in all their schools Otaki only achieved 44.1% one of the lowest

## Wellington Education Board

### 1886

1886		Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£190.00
1886		Otaki	Whitehorn	Henry S		Male Pupil Teacher	£30.00

26th January 1886 Wanganui Education Board Otaki : Resolved that Norman Crabb receive notice that he would be transferred to the first suitable vacancy

23rd February 1886 A meeting of the Otaki School Committee was held on February 16th, when the following resolution was passed : “ That this Committee considers it would be to the interest of the district to separate from the Wanganui Education Board and join the

Wellington Education Board ; and that the Chairman be requested to call a meeting of householders to consider the matter.” This has been under consideration for a long time, and I am pleased to see it taken in hand at last and trust it will be carried to a successful issue. We are altogether too far removed from Wanganui for them to take an interest in us or us in them. In police affairs we are also under Wanganui, although we are distant from that place over 100 miles, and from the Empire City about 50.....

10th March 1886 People in this district will be glad to learn that the Wellington-Manawatu Railway will be opened from Longburn to Otaki about the 1st of June and from Wellington to Paikakariki ; before that date. The line will probably be opened right through by Christmas.

15th March 1886 Inspector’s report of all Wanganui Education Board Schools included Otaki (attendance bad) 44.1% pass rate [Note Parawanui {Near Ohakea}34 on the roll all presented failed]

1st May 1886 A well attended meeting of householders was held in the School-room, Otaki, on Wednesday, for the purpose of electing a Committee. Considerable interest was taken in the result by those present; The polling resulted as follows :—

Rev J. McWilliam ... .. 30

Mr J. F. Anderson ... .. 22

“ J. Hancox ;, ' ... ..16

" W. N. Ward..... 13

" H. Clark ... .. 12

"P. B. Anderson ... .. 8

F. H. Cockrell ... .. 7

The new committee elected the Rev J. McWilliam as Chairman

26th May 1886 Wanganui Education Board Otaki.— Mr Wilson, M.H.R , wrote stating that he was bringing in a bill to alter the boundaries, so that Otaki could be taken into the Wellington district- Resolved that no opposition be offered, but that any assistance possible be given. — Mr Baker suggested that Foxton should be thrown in.[Foxton was always in the Wanganui Board]

2nd June 1886 It is stated that Mr Wilson, M.H.R., has consented to 'try and have Foxton included with the Otaki district in this portion of the Wanganui Education district to be joined on to Wellington

4th June 1886 Relating to the Otaki school district, our correspondent at that place writes as follows : —The committee here are rather anxious that it should be known that the article published last Wednesday week in the Manawatu Herald has not their sympathy in the slightest. We don't in the least desire Foxton to take up the cudgels for us. Our committee are desirous of getting attached to the Wellington Education Board, because of the strong commercial relations between Wellington and Otaki. The committee consider that the Board have done for Otaki anything that has been asked in reason. ,

9th July 1886 Wanganui Education Board The names of Messrs Beere, Everiss, and Lee, (Otaki) were ordered to be sent in to the Halcombe Committee, with a recommendation in favour of the latter.

9th July 1886 A curious commentary on the alleged dissatisfaction existing amongst teachers at the Southern end of this Education District was afforded yesterday, when Mr

Lee, of Otaki presented an application for another appointment under the Wanganui Board. Mr Lee has been head teacher at the Otaki school under this Board, for the last half dozen years, and has now an excellent opportunity, if he so desires, of being transferred along with the Otaki school, to the Wellington Board. But Mr Lee's inclinations apparently do not lie in the direction of Wellington administration, and he has therefore determined to travel this way if the Local Board will give him a school. We are pleased to note that he has been recommended for Otaki.

28th July 1886 Wanganui Education Board Halcombe headmaster Your committee forwarded the applications of Messrs Lee, of Otaki, Everiss, of Ngaire, and P. Bear, of Napier, to the Halcombe School Committee with a recommendation in favour of Mr Lee. The committee selected Mr Bear, who has consequently been wired to.

10th August 1886 Upper Tutaenui.— The teacher having left without permission, it was resolved to forward the names of Messrs Lee of Otaki, and Everiss of Ngaire, as suitable applicants for the position of headmaster [Ngaire just North of Eltham]

18th September 1886 Mr C W Lee has a E2 teacher's certificate [ There were 5 classes of qualified teachers A-E with various grades within. No one held an A certificate at this date in the Wellington Education Board ]

27th October 1886 Wanganui Education Board From Miss Innes, pupil teacher, asking to be transferred from Otaki to Terrace End. Resolved to transfer her, subject to the approval of the committee. .... Letter from the Otaki School Committee, re the board not paying the balance of £10 when it had voted £ for £ up to £10 for certain work. —Mr Lee stated that the work had cost £41 16s, of which the board had paid half. —The secretary's letter to the committee was read, and it was resolved to forward the balance on the authorised work if a voucher is forwarded to the board.

## Wellington Education Board

[I have not found a reference to the transfer passed by Parliament. But this is definitely re the Wellington Education Board ]

29th October 1886 An application from the Otaki Committee for desks was granted.

13th November 1886 At the Board of Education a letter dated from the State School, Otaki, Wellington, and signed C. W. Leo, was received. It suggested the advisableness of encouraging school children to contribute annually to the relief of distress among children in England. [26th November Auckland Education Board received a letter]

29th November 1886 The first through passenger train to Palmerston North left the Wellington station at 8.45 a.m. to-day. The train consisted of ten large carriages drawn by three engines and containing over 600 excursionists amongst whom were the directors of the company, Sir James Prendergast (Chief Justice), Messrs. Fulton and Higginson, engineers, and Mr. James Wallace, General Manager of the company.

16th December 1886 Part of a very long article about Otaki included: There are two schools at Otaki, one for Maori and the other for European children. The Maoris muster fairly well, but the Europeans do not do credit to the free education provided for them. There are over 100 children on the roll, and scarcely half of them are regular. The parents are, it is said, all to blame in the matter. There is much crass ignorance that declines enlightenment and is persistent opposition to progress.



## 1887

1887	70	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£190.00
1887	70	Otaki	Nicholls	Agnes C		Assistant Female	£80.00
1887	70	Otaki	Whitehorn	H S		Male Pupil Teacher	£35.00

Agnes C Nicholls only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Otaki.

Henry Saxon Whitehorn taught as a pupil teacher at Otaki for 6 years. Then taught at Clyde Quay school as Harry S until 1896 .

8th February 1887 Mr A. B. Charters has been appointed to the Clyde quay School in place of Mr Whitehorn, who has gone to seek his fortunes in South Africa

19th June 1900 Mr. H. S. Whitehorn, formerly one of the masters of .Clyde-quay. School, and now- at the front with one of the Queensland Contingents, took part in the expedition to the relief of Kimberley and the subsequent invasion of the Free State, and presumably, also, in the -more recent advance to Pretoria. Because he missed out in getting to South Africa to fight he went to Queensland and got into their army. He arrived back in NZ in 1902. Then in 1914 he signs up with the NZ Forces Auckland Mounted Rifles. He was decorated in 1917. He returned as a major in 1919 In 1921 he was was in the Forestry Department as a forestry officer. An interesting character

19th February 1887 Wellington Philosophical Society Mr C W Lee of Otaki was elected a member of the society

31st March 1887 Wellington Education Board Applications from the Taita and Otaki Committees for assistant teachers were received and granted.

2nd May 1887 An election of the School Committee took place in the schoolroom on Monday evening, when there were between 60 and 70 householders present. Out of 16 nominated, the following were returned ; —Messrs W. H. Simcox (chairman), A. Small, T. McClelland, F. Bills, W. Lee, P. B. Anderson, and James Wallace. Our school was last week inspected by Mr Lee, Inspector to the Wellington Education Board. This is the first inspection under that Board, and I hear with most satisfactory results, 96 per cent having passed. This ought to be very gratifying, both to Mr C. W. Lee, our zealous teacher, and to, parents having their children at school. I hear that since our school's connection with the Wellington Board things have gone on much more satisfactorily than under the Wanganui Board, a long-asked for and much-needed assistant female teacher having been given us, also necessary fittings for the school.

4th June 1887 Wellington Education Institute elected Mr Lee (Otaki) a member

22nd June 1887 Part of a longer article His Worship the Mayor [Of Wellington] has received the following letter from the Lord Mayor of London, in reference to a remittance which was sent Home some time ago towards the fund for providing penny dinners for poor children attending the London schools. The money, it should be added, was collected in the country districts by Mr. Lee, of the Otaki School, and Mr. J. G. Wilson, M.H.R

1st July First Grade drawing Examination Freehand Chas S Cording, Wm Moore, Otaki passed

19th November 1887 Our readers will remember that some time ago Mr Clement W. Lee, of the Otaki State School, set on foot the collection of money for the destitute children's dinners in London. The result was that the sum of £51 was collected and remitted to the Lord Mayor of London, Mr Lee has received the following letter from the Rev J. D. Diggle, chairman of the London School Board, dated August 10th:—"I have the honor to acquaint you with the manner in which the sum of £51, which was forwarded by you to the Lord Mayor of London for the benefit of the Societies which provide free or penny dinners for the poor children of the metropolis has been distributed. The Lord Mayor placed upon me the duty of assigning to the various Societies which undertake the work a due proportion of the amount contributed, and after much consideration I have forwarded £10 to the Society for Promoting Penny Dinners, £15 to the Destitute Children's Dinner Society, and £26 to the Poor Children's Aid Society. I trust you will approve the manner in which the money has been expended, and that you will accept for yourself and convey to the subscribers the cordial acknowledgment of one who is so deeply interested in the welfare of London children as I have the privilege to be." [£51 in December 1887 is equivalent to \$11021 in June 2020]

## 1888

1888	87	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Master	£205.00
1888	87	Otaki	Feist	Lois		Assistant Female	£85.00
1888	87	Otaki	Whitehorn	Henry S		Male Pupil Teacher	£35.00

25th April 1888 Wellington Education Board A petition for the opening of a school at Haywards was referred to the Lower Hutt School Committee, and a similar petition from settlers at Manakau was relegated to the Otaki Committee.

26th April 1888 Wellington Education Board Otaki, L 5, for sinking a well [The letter L was used if the typesetter did not have a £ symbol available]

27th April School Committee The Rev James McWilliam (chairman), Messrs. John McCulloch (secretary), G. Murray, W. McKay, J. H. Wallace, James Hancox, and W. Lee.

21st May 1888 Mr. Robinson, R.M., occupied the local Bench for the first time yesterday, and had a good number of cases to deal with. One case caused considerable public attention. C. W. Lee, schoolmaster, charged Thomas Urwin with assaulting him in the schoolhouse. Defendant was fined £1 and costs. Another case between the same parties was withdrawn, the defendant having apologised. The case arose through the defendant's children being expelled from the school. The defendant visited the school, and, it is alleged, assaulted the schoolmaster by pulling his nasal appendage The whole affair is to be enquired into by the School Committee, as public sympathy seems to be with the parent.

23rd May 1888 TO THE EDITOR. Sir— Your " Own Correspondent " for\_ Otaki\_ has gone very wide of the mark re the late school case here. There was no summons for assault (indeed, anyone knowing the defendant would understand would be incapable of an assault), but there was a case of a parent being fined for upbraiding the teacher, under clause 96 of the Education Act. For this he was fined £1 and' costs, £1 10s. As an ample apology was offered in Court, the information for bad language (which, indeed, was quite unfit for children to hear) was withdrawn. I hope that, in justice, you will insert my letter, I am etc

X. ' [We have received several other letters on the above subject to the same effect, and two of our correspondents have forwarded us copies of Mr. Urwin's public apology for "unjustifiable and unseemly behaviour." Ed Evening Post.

30th May 1888 Wellington Education Board Applications were received for the ' vacancy in the Otaki School, which was conferred on Miss Lois Feist. Lois Feist started teaching at Fernridge School [West of Masterton] in 1880 as a pupil teacher. After her two years at Levin she went to the Clareville school for a year and then from 1891 to 1899 was at the Wangaehu Sole Charge School [11 Kilometres from Masterton on the Te Ore Ore Bideford Road]. Then from 1900 to 1906 was at the Pahautanui School North of Porirua. In 1909 she was at the Dyer school just out of Martinborough and in 1909 at the Alfredton School East of Eketahuna. In 1910 She was at Hutt and 1911 to 1915 at the Carrington School North West of Carterton

1915/1142	Lois Margaret	Feist	Harry Edwin	Fly
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1939/19685	Fly	Lois Margaret	74Y
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30th May 1888 Miss Agnes Nichols of Otaki resigned.

1st June 1888 The subscribers to the Now Zealand Penny Dinner Fund have sent to England £25 for the poorest school children in London

5th July 1888 Marriage Lee—Nicholas.— On Monday, 2nd July, in the Otaki Church, by the Rev J. M. Williams, Clement William, second son of Rev G. H. Lee, Rector of East Clandon, Surrey, England, to Agnes, youngest daughter of the late Rev C. H. S. Nicholls, formerly incumbent of Wanganui.

27th July 1888 Drawing Examination passes for Wellington Education Board Otaki — H. Bell, H. Bright, F. H. Carmont, R. Death, A. Dunlop, M. Dunlop, L. McClelland.

27th August 1888 A general meeting of the Philosophical Society is to be held at the Museum this evening, when the following papers will be read : - On the Oil-bearing Strati of North Island by J. Park, F.G.S. ; on the Preparation of Mineral Chromes for Ornamental Purposes, by W. Skey ; on a Curious Feature in a Marsh Plant (glossostigona), by C. W. Lee.

21st December 1888 Wellington County District Scholarship £30 per annum Ossian Death Levin [3 awarded 1 from Pitone [Now Petone] 1 from Pahautanui and 1 from Otaki

## 1889

1889	66	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Male	£205.00
1889	66	Otaki	Feist	Lois		Assistant Female	£85.00
1889	66	Otaki	Whitehorn	Henry S		Male Pupil teacher	£40.00

13th February 1889 Harry Whitehorn passes 4th Year pupil teacher examination'

4th March 1889 A serious accident occurred at Otaki on Friday morning. A little boy named Reginald Death, son of Mr Joseph Death, of Otaki, was enjoying n swing in the school ground when by some means the swing broke, and he fell heavily to the ground,

breaking his left arm in several places. Ho was at once attended to by Dr Branting and is progressing favourably.

25th April 1889 School Committee ho new committee at Otaki consists of Messrs. T. Woods (chairman), C. A. Climie (secretary), J. Collinson, A. Knocks, W. Lee, T. Woods, W. McKay, and R. Gillett.

29th May 1889 Wellington Education Board Re Election of School Committees included the objections that the schoolmaster at Otaki spoke and voted at the meeting, and that at Tenui there was a discrepancy between the detailed return of votes and the total, were considered insufficient to upset the elections.

28th August 1889 Wellington Education Board The Otaki School Committee applied for £16 towards repair of playground. [Another report listed laying gravel in the playground] Agreed to.

25th September 1889 Wellington Education Board Grievances which have been agitating the little community at Otaki in reference to the teaching staff there were discussed in committee. It was decided that the assistant teacher shall be transferred as soon as a suitable vacancy occurs, but that the head master is to be retained in his present position. As to the proposed gravelling of the School-ground in the same district, the Board was unable to see its way to carry out the work on the tenders received

## 1890

1890	69	Otaki	Lee	Clement W		Head Male	£205.00
1890	69	Otaki	Mills	Ella H		Assistant Female	£60.00
1890	69	Otaki	Whitehorn	Henry S		Male Pupil teacher	£ 5.00

Ella H Mills Taught as a pupil teacher at the Terrace school in Wellington from 1884 to 1889 and then taught at Otaki in 1890

1891/5429	Mills	Ella H	25Y
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21st December 1891 Mills.—On the 15th December, at Otaki, of consumption Ella H. Mills, aged 26. [Miss Mills was not born in New Zealand]

15th February 1890 Harry Whitehorn passed his fourth year Pupil Teachers examination

16th March 1890 Wellington Education Board The Board resolved to defer the selection of an assistant at Otaki, present arrangements to continue until then

30th April 1890 Applications for the positions of assistant at Otaki and master at Pahautanui were opened, and in each case a name was selected for the approval of the local Committee

8th May 1890 Miss Mills, now of the Terrace School, has been appointed assistant teacher at Otaki, in the room of Miss Feist, who was lately transferred to the Clareville School.

28th May 1890 Wellington Education Board Re School Committee elections. Another objection from Otaki was also set aside, certain votes that were objected to being held to be perfectly legal.

3rd July 1890 The Rev. H. E, Tuckey, at present at the Waihenga [Martinborough] School to take temporary charge of the Otaki School. 4th July 1890 Correction: the School Mr Tuckey was going to was the Opaki School.

30th July 1890 Wellington Education Board Mr. James Mills, who had resigned the mastership of the Mauriceville School, wrote asking that his services be retained, and that he be appointed to a school in another locality The application was not entertained. Mr. Lee, teacher at Otaki, asked that his services may be retained by the Board. Mr. Fraser said, that so far as he could ascertain, Mr. Lee, although he did not agree very well with his Committee, possessed the entire confidence of the whole of the district, except of six persons. The Chairman said that the Otaki school was a mixed one and contained a great many Maoris. It required special qualifications to conduct such a mixed school as Otaki was. A petition was read from 66 heads of families residing in Otaki, who represented 111 children, praying that Mr. Lee should be retained at Otaki. A committee, consisting of Messrs. J. Young, A. W. Brown, and Fraser, was appointed to investigate the matter of Mr. Lee's application.

31st July 1890 Wellington Education Board Several petitions and letters were read in favour of the retention of Mr Lee, master of the Otaki School. Twenty six children signed one petition to this effect. The total school roll showed a muster of from 120 to 130 in the school. From the discussion it seemed that the trouble was in a measure due to the presence in the school of a number of Maori and half caste children, with whom the master did not appear to get on well. Mr Buchanan said that if a teacher could not get on with the children under his control there was evidently a necessity for interfering. Mr Carkeek, of Otaki, wrote a very strong letter on the subject. Mr Fraser said that, so far from Mr Lee disagreeing with the Maori and half caste children, he intended, he believed, to start an evening class for Maoris and half castes alone. The Chairman read a petition signed 63 parents representing a total of 111 children, urging that Mr Leo should not be removed from the district, on the ground that he had always given satisfaction in his teaching, that the objections to him were purely personal and had nothing to do with his official position, that he had been many years in the district, and that the percentage of passes he obtained had always been very satisfactory. Mr Fraser moved, on behalf of Mr J. Young, who was not present, " That a committee consisting of the Chairman, Mr Brown, and Mr Young be appointed a committee to visit Otaki and report on the slate of matters in the district," The Chairman asked that his name should be omitted on account of pressure of business, and this was agreed to, that of Mr Fraser being substituted, and the motion was carried.

6th August 1890 The committee of the Board of Education (Messrs. F. H. Fraser, J. Young, and A. W. Brown) appointed to report with reference to the condition of matters in connection with the Otaki School intend to proceed to that township on Monday for the purpose of conferring with the householders in the evening. It will be recollected that at the last meeting of the Board the School Committee asked for the removal of the teacher,

9th August 1890 Some little time ago the Otaki School Committee wrote to the Education Board requesting that the master of the local school (Mr C. W. Lee) should be transferred, Since then a petition containing the signatures of almost the whole of the residents of Otaki has been presented to the Board asking that no change should be made at the school. A committee of the Board (Messrs Fraser, Young, and Brown) was appointed to consider the matter, and they have sent out circulars inviting the residents to attend a public meeting to be held at the schoolhouse on Monday next at 8 p.m. to discuss the whole matter.

12th August 1890 Messrs A. W. Brown, J. Young, and P. H. Fraser, who were appointed by the Education Board to inquire into the cause of the dissatisfaction which existed between the schoolmaster of the Otaki School and certain residents in the locality, visited Otaki on Monday for that purpose. In the early part of the evening a meeting in the schoolroom with the Otaki School Committee, when the teacher, Mr Lee, was present, and when the reasons for the present disorganised state of the school were fully discussed. At 8 o'clock a public meeting was held, at which Mr F. H. Fraser was chairman. Those present were invited to state any complaints they had. The meeting was a particularly lively one and lasted for two hours. The sub-committee will prepare a report, which will be presented at the next meeting of the Education Board.

27th August 1890 The committee appointed to enquire into the disagreements which have arisen between the committee of the Otaki School and the head teacher, Mr. Lee, brought up their report before the Education Board to-day. The committee reported that they had visited Otaki and had enquired into the matters at issue and recommended that the best course to pursue would be to remove Mr. Lee to some other school as nearly as possible equal in importance to the Otaki School. The report was adopted.

10th October 1890 First grade drawing examination F stands for freehand, M for model, G for geometry, and b for scale. Otaki:— A. Bright, f (good) F. Carmant, f ; M. Hancox, f and g ; L. Jillett, f (good), g, a ; W. Nobel, f (good) ; N. O'Connell, f (good), g J. O'Connell, f A. H. Wallace, f , A. Anderson g; H Bell g D Dunlop, g ; M. Dunlop, g, and a (excellent) ; W. Wilson, g

29th October 1890 Wellington Education Board gives £20 to Otaki for repairs

## 1891

1891	94	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M		Head Male	£235.00
1891	94	Otaki	Vacant			Assistant Female	£60.00
1891	94	Otaki	Whitehorn	Henry S		Male Pupil teacher	£45.00

16th January 1891 Mr C. W. Lee, the State schoolmaster, I hear has received official notice of his transfer to Pahiatua. His place is to be taken by Mr Yeats, of the last-named place. Mr Lee has been in charge of the Otaki school for about ten years, during which time the children under his charge have been brought on, judging from results, in a creditable manner. The percentage of passes at Government examinations being amongst the highest of any of the country schools in the district. Great regret is felt at his removal by a large number of the parents and residents of the place

Mr Clement Lee was at Pahiatua until 1893. In 1894 to 1897 he was at Waihenga [Later named Martinborough] and then Martinborough until 1910. He then moved to Wanganui and was often recorded relieving at Board Schools there.

23rd January 1891 Mr Yeats, the new schoolmaster, is, I believe, an enthusiast in the game, and should be an acquisition to the team. Mr Yeats arrived here a few days ago and is busy settling in his new home before the opening of the school on Monday next. Douglas Yeats started working for the Wellington Education Board in 1884 at Te Aro. He was at Pahiatua from 1885 to 1890. From 1891 to 1902 he was at Otaki. In 1903 he went to Hutt School

which became a DHS in 1905 He was there until retiring in 1913. In 1914 and 1915 he was a substitute teacher at Carterton.

24th January 1891 Mr A H Rollo is appointed Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages at Otaki vice Mr Clement Lee

30th January 1891 The State School opened here [Otaki] on Monday last, when Mr Carkeek, chairman of the School Committee, introduced the children present to their new master, Mr Yeats, who in a short address, seems to have made a favourable impression. Not before it was wanted, the school yard is at last being levelled and gravelled. Up to the present; full of holes, and only me. tailed here and there with huge boulders, the grounds were not for children to play in. Several attempts have been made to have gravel spread before this, but without success. The present committee is to be congratulated on having had the work done. Parents can now stay in comfort at home, without fear that their little ones are forced to paddle about in puddles when let out of school for outdoor exercises.

2nd February 1891 The dispute as to the real facts respecting Mr Yeats' exchanging schools with Mr Lee, of Otaki, is still going on Now that the exchange has actually taken place I think the matter might be dropped, especially as from the published letters there appears to exist such an inadequate recollection (to use a mild phrase) of the whole circumstances.

27th April 1891 Mr T R Fleming Inspector to inspect Otaki on Monday and Tuesday 4th and 5th May

29th April 1891 School Committee . OTAKI. M. Carkeek, J.P. (Chairman), F. Bills. — Bennett, J. M. Culloch, F. H. Cockrell C. A. Climie and W. G. L. Lee.

24th June 1891 Wellington Education Board On the motion of Mr. Beetham, seconded by the Rev, J. Paterson, the Board decided that the Paekakariki School Committee election was valid, and a similar decision was. given in the case of the Otaki School Committee election.

25th November 1891 An additional pupil teacher was granted for the Otaki School, and it was agreed that Miss Miller be transferred thither from Pahiatua.

16th December 1891 Wellington Education Board The resignation of Miss E H Mills was accepted.

21st December 1891 Mills.—On the 15th December, at Otaki, of consumption Ella H. Mills, aged 26. [Miss Mills was not born in New Zealand]

## 1892

1892	110	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M		Head Male	£235.00
1892	110	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E		Assistant Female	£70.00
1892	110	Otaki	Whitehorn	Henry S		Male Pupil teacher	£55.00
1892	110	Otaki	Miller	Jane		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00

In 1882 Matilda Bannister taught as a pupil teacher at Mount Cook Infants' From 1883 to 1886 she was at Thorndon and in 1887 at Greytown, She was then at Bideford School as sole teacher from 1888 to 1891. Matilda was at Otaki school until 1914

1950/27398	Bannister	Matilda Emma Harriett	85Y
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27th January 1892 Wellington Education Board In Committee, the Board made selections of assistant teachers for the Clyde-quay, Kaiwarra, Vogeltown, and Otaki Schools, and also a head teacher for Levin, subject in. all cases to the approval of the local Committees

11th February 1892 Jane Millar classified Fourth year pupil teacher

25th February 1892 The Otaki School Committee wrote asking what suggestion the Board could make as to how they could obtain a new school building. On the suggestion of the Chairman a reply was ordered to be sent saying that the Board will consider the matter as soon as a suitable site is obtained. If the Board approve of the site they will be prepared to help the Committee to the extent of the funds available from the old site

16th March 1892 On Monday morning the Chairman of the Wellington Education Board (Mr J. R. Blair) accompanied by Mr F. H. Fraser and Mr Dorset (Secretary to the Board), paid a visit to the Levin School and had a consultation with the local Committee on school subjects generally. They subsequently paid a visit to the Manakau School, with a similar object. Yesterday the Chairman and Secretary went over some proposed sites for a new school at Otaki, The result of these visits will be reported at the next meeting of the Board.

30th March 1892 Wellington Education Board The committee appointed to inspect a site at Te Horo was, with the addition of Mr. McCardle, appointed to inspect a site at Otaki for a new school at that place

27th April 1892 School Committee: WEB Otaki Messrs. A. Benall (Chairman), F. Bennett, J. McCulloch, F. Bills, W. Lee, A. Batten, and J. Wilson.

30th June 1892 Wellington Education Board Estimates for coming year included: Otaki (new school and site), L 850; [L was used in place of the £ sign sometimes]

27th July 1892 Wellington Education Board The committee appointed at last meeting . with reference to proposed school sites at Te Horo and Otaki brought up a report. With reference to Te Horo, the committee recommended that at least on acre should be purchased from Mr. J. Gear and as to Otaki, they recommended the Board to acquire five acres near the railway station. On the motion of Mr. McCardle, seconded by Mr. Fitzherbert, it was resolved to forward the reports to the Otaki Committee for consideration.

31st August 1892 Wellington Education Board Messrs. Young and Fraser, who had visited Otaki, recommended the Board to purchase a new school site. Consideration of the question was deferred, but it was resolved to repair the teachers' residence.

26th October 1892 Wellington Education Board A petition was received from settlers at Otaki requesting that a new school site should be provided near the railway station. The committee wrote threatening to resign unless something was done in the matter. The petition was referred back to the committee for a report

27th October 1892 Wellington Education Board State School Drawing Examination: Otaki - Henry Bills, William Clark, John Odgers, Harry H. Taylor, Walter Whitehorn passed Freehand drawing In another report also listed were A Anderson, A Bright, E Wallace, M Wallace, W Wilson. Were these girls?

30th November 1892 Wellington Education Board With regard to the Otaki School, 33 residents petitioned the Board not to remove the school from the present site. The matter was referred to the School Committee for a report.



1st December 1892 Wellington Education Board A petition was received for a school near the railway station at Otaki. The committee petitioned for one in a different position, midway between town and station, and other residents petitioned against the removal of the school, only asking for certain alterations.—The matter was referred to the local committee.

15th December 1892 Wellington Education Board Questions of repairs at Karori and the petition for a new school at Otaki were also ordered to stand over.

## 1893

1893	92	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M		Head Male	£235.00
1893	92	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E		Assistant Female	£70.00
1893	92	Otaki	Miller	Jane		Female Pupil Teacher	£35.00
1893	92	Otaki	Batten	Ida Mary		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 20.00

9th February 1893 Jane Millar passed the Fifth (and Final) Pupil Teacher examination.

JANE Miller spent 3 years at Pahiatua and three at Otaki but never taught for the Wellington Education Board as a certificated teacher.

Ida Mary Batten only taught the 1 year at Otaki for the Wellington Education Board

27th April School Committee Otaki. — Messrs. Carkeek, Rev. J. R. Clarke, H. Freeman, T. Smith, M. Carkeek, J. Noble, W. Lee, and H. Walkey (Secretary).

9th May 1893 Inspector T R Fleming to inspect Otaki on 11th and 12th June

28th June 1893 Wellington Education Board The much-vexed question of the Otaki School again cropped up. The residents and the School Committee are divided in opinion as to whether the present site is a healthy one or not, and the Board has lately been besieged with petitions and counterpetitions on the subject. Dr. Newman moved, and Mr. Beetham seconded, that the present school should be enlarged, and ' if an acre of ground could be obtained for £30 the playground should be enlarged to that extent. The Board, however, eventually appointed Messrs. Beetham, Buchanan, McCardle, and Fitzherbert a committee to visit Otaki and confer with the Committee on the subject.,..... The Board then went into committee, and on resuming, the appointments of Miss Oldrich as assistant at the Upper Hutt School, and Miss Batten and Miss Thompson as pupil teachers at Otaki and Paikakariki respectively, were ratified.

18th July 1893 A site for a new school at Otaki is to be selected on Monday by a committee of the Education Board appointed for the purpose.

28th July 1893 Mr Carkeek, - chairman of the Otaki School Committee, waited on the board with reference to the proposed new site for a school building at Otaki, Mr McCardle spoke strongly in support of the site, which is near the railway station, and recommended its purchase by the board. After some discussion it was resolved, on the motion of the Rev J. Paterson, seconded by Mr Young, ' That the necessary steps should be taken for acquiring the proposed new site.'

19th August 1893 This Day. The Otaki State school has been burned down. Nothing was saved. The Masonic regalia and jewels, the Oddfellows regalia, and Knights of Labour regalia, are all gone. Particulars which have been received by Inspector Pender from Constable O'Rourke, of Otaki, state that whilst Mr. A. E. Lytken was lecturing in the school

last night the building caught fire, owing- to a defective fire-place. The fire was speedily extinguished but unfortunately it broke out again after midnight, the result being that the school was destroyed. There is stated to have been no insurance on the building, and the £50 whilst the Oddfellows lost, among other things, an organ worth about .£17. The Knights of Labour have lost property to the value of about .£10

Singularly enough, the Education Board at its last meeting decided to acquire a new site for the school, as the present one was considered unsuitable by the residents.

23rd August 1893 Arrangements have been made by the Education Hoard to use the native school at Otaki until the Board school which was destroyed fire last week can be rebuilt. The Bord will consider the question of the new school at its meeting next Wednesday

25th August 1893 An Otaki correspondent informs us that on Wednesday night a large and representative public meeting of ratepayers and householders was held to consider the question of the site for the new school. Mr. F. Bills, member of the Horowhenua County Council, was voted to the chair. Several speakers addressed the meeting, and at the close a petition and resolutions were almost unanimously adopted in favour of the re-erection of the school upon the original site, and "a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Board to present the petition, which was signed by most of those present

28th August 1893 Mr. H. Walkley, Secretary of the Otaki School Committee, writes as follows in reply to a communication from an Otaki correspondent which appeared in our issue of Friday : — A meeting was held truly enough and largely attended too. The reason why no opposition was shown to the resolutions put to the meeting lies in the fact that the meeting was out of order altogether, as the Committee had no knowledge of the meeting, and considered any attempt to dictate to them and the Education Board nothing short of an insult. I might say that our Committee are working harmoniously together, and with the Board, And though some were at the meeting they were only silent spectators, like many others. The petition was not signed by half of those present, and the whole affair has been got up by a few local shopkeepers to bounce the Board into doing what will suit the shopkeepers best. All reasonable householders of Otaki trust the Board will just do what is required for the benefit of the youth of the district. The present Committee were elected by the householders for the express purpose of getting a more central site which wo done at at the Board's request; and, Sir. all the trouble from beginning to end has been brought about by shopkeepers."

27th September 1893 Wellington Education Board The report of the Committee appointed to select a site for the Otaki School was adopted, and the Chairman was authorised to take the necessary steps to acquire the land.

25th October 1893 First Grade Drawing Examination Otaki 25 sat 12 past. Levin 47-17, Manakau 17-10

14th December 1893 Yesterday Mr A. Morris, of Otaki, had an interview with the Education Board in reference to the expulsion of his ,child from the Otaki School. Mr Morris had. refused to supply his daughter, who is 11 years old, with a piece of calico for sewing purposes, and the School Committee and the master had decided that the girl could not attend ..Unless she brought the material. The Chairman of the board (Mr' J. R. Blair) did not think the child had been expelled, although the father argued that she had. Mr Blair pointed out that sewing was a compulsory subject,: and if an exception was made in the

present case the board, would not be able to carry out its regulations in other schools, Mr Morris informed the -board' that he had not yet decided to take legal proceedings against the committee. He was waiting to know whether the committee had power to expel his child' because she did not take the calico to school. Mr Morris he stated, wished her daughter to do sewing at home, 'and she did not think there was any necessity for the girl spending her time in sewing a piece of calico at school.. The girl was very clever and did all his correspondence/ The board subsequently went into committee to consider the matter and decided to consult their' solicitor on the matter.

## 1894

1894	101	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M		Head Male	£235.00
1894	101	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E		Assistant Female	£80.00
1894	101	Otaki	Miller	Jane		Female Pupil Teacher	£50.00
1894	101	Otaki	Clark	William H		Male Pupil teacher	£25.00

5th January 1894 A site has been purchased for a new school at Otaki

12th January 1894 A site has been acquired for the new school at Otaki, to replace the one recently destroyed by fire, and the new building will be commenced very shortly. It will have accommodation for between 350 and 400 children. [200 children was not achieved until 1923]

31st January 1894 Wellington Education Board Messrs. Brandon, Hislop, and Brandon, who were requested by the Board of Education to advise it in regard to the charge made by Mr. Morris that his daughter had been expelled from the Otaki School because he would not supply her with the material for the sewing classes, presented the following opinion at this morning's meeting of the Board : — " We are of opinion that the School Committee cannot lawfully expel or exclude from the school any girl who does not supply material for the sewing classes, Sewing and needlework are among the subjects prescribed by the Education Act to be taught for girls, and so far as the attendance of girls at the school is forward a copy of the opinion to the Otaki Committee, and request it to act in accordance with the solicitors' view

31st January 1894 Wellington Education Board Mr. A. S. Dunn wrote applying to be allowed to purchase a piece of the Board's land at Otaki. The Board resolved to inform him that it had no intention of selling.

3rd February 1894 Manawatu Herald Owing to the action of a Mr Morris at Otaki objecting to the committee upholding the act of the teacher in expelling his daughter from the school because she failed to obtain some calico for a sewing lesson, the Board has had to resort to a professional opinion which has luckily been given against the committee and in favour of Mr Morris 'The : solicitors were Messrs Brandon, Hislop and Brandon who state We are of opinion that the School Committee cannot lawfully expel or exclude from the school any girl who does not supply material for the sewing classes; Sewing and needlework are among the subjects prescribed by the Education Act to be taught to girls, and so far as the attendance of girls at the school is compulsory, it is compulsory for them to attend the sewing classes."

This answer has forced the Board to request the committee to act in accordance with it, in other words to permit the girl Morris to Attend the school. We are satisfied that this is as should be, otherwise the wonderful farce of our " Free and Compulsory Education " would be even greater than it is. Had the committee's action been upheld we would have witnessed an Act of Parliament directing children to attend school under pains and penalties for neglect, and on the other hand committees ordering their absence because their parents had not the money to purchase materials which the teachers thought fit to order should be procured. We do not like the present system and predict that before long some great changes must be effected in it, but it would have been too ridiculous for the people to direct free education and then for a committee to order otherwise. This decision will cause other points to be considered which are open to very much the same objection as this supplying of material, which we may hereafter refer to.

1st March 1894 Wellington Education Board The tender of J. Coates was accepted for levelling the now school ground at Otaki, and plans for the now school were ordered to be presented at the next meeting]

28th March 1894 Tenders were ordered to be called for leasing five acres of the Otaki school grounds, the proceeds to be devoted to the improvement of the grounds

14th April 1894 Archbishop Redwood is to open the Otaki Convent and Catholic School tomorrow for a new school at Otaki, The Chairman was empowered to take steps to dispose of the site of the old school at Otaki, which is not now required.

26th April 1894 Wellington Education Board Miss I Batten resigns from Otaki

28th April 1894 The following School Committee was elected for Otaki :— Messrs Clark, Ward, Bills, Lee, Smith, Noble and Freeman. Mr Clark was subsequently elected Chairman and Mr Lee, Secretary.

30th May 1894 Wellington Education Board A letter was read from the Otaki Committee stating that it had appointed Mr. Clark pupil teacher. It was resolved to inform the Committee that the matter must come through the Board.

29th June 1894 Wellington Education Board Mr W Clark appointed pupil teacher at Otaki\

25th July 1894 Wellington Education Board The Architect and Inspector were asked to report as to work required at the new school at Otaki,

3rd August 1894 The new school at Otaki is almost finished, and the contractor expects to hand it over on the 8th of August. The principal room of the building, running its whole length, is 45ft by 22ft, and is lighted by four large windows in front, with one at each side. The two classrooms are each 22ft square. The porches, one on each side of the building, are 27 ½ ft by 7ft. [45 feet= 31.72 meters 22 feet is 6.70 metres]

25th August 1894 The new Otaki school is to be formally opened on Monday. It affords accommodation for 200 children, the largest classroom having space for 100, and two smaller rooms for 50 each. It was built by Mr. M. Murdoch, of Wellington, from plans and specifications prepared by Messrs. T Turnbull & Son, the Beard's architects. The cost was £777. [£777 in September 1894 is equivalent to \$154 272.90 in June 2020]

31st August 1894 The new school at Otaki, which has just been built at a cost of £777, was opened on Monday. It affords accommodation for 200 children

4th September 1894 The new school at Otaki is ready for occupation and is to be opened -with an entertainment. [Note the publication dates are correct some of the reports on the opening are not.

14th September 1894 LADY'S LETTER FROM OTAKI.

My Dear Aunt Ellen,—I must write you a short note to tell you of our school concert which was given in the Town Hall on Friday, September 7, in aid of the fund for improving the playground, organised by Mr Yeats, the popular schoolmaster, Miss Bannister, Miss Millar, and Miss McWilliam, who very kindly and ably assisted in playing nearly all the accompaniments, for which we tender her a hearty vote of thanks. The overture "Chilperic," by Miss Caffin and Miss McWilliam, was a musical treat; the "Nancy Lee" waltz duet by the Misses Winnie and Amy Clark was very pretty; "My Own Native Land" and "We Hail the Winter King," by the elder school children, showed very careful training; and two action songs by the infants were thoroughly appreciated; the club and pole drills were also very creditable; Mrs Bethune sang beautifully, her rich, full, soft voice being heard to great advantage in her song of "Bells Across the Snow," also in a duet, "The Flower Gatherers," with Miss Farmer, the latter being considered the gem of the evening; "When Twilight Comes," Miss M. Simcox, is rather a difficult song, yet she mastered it fairly well and sang sweetly; "State Education" (comic), Dr Drury, created roars of laughter and was really amusing, as was also the comic song given by Mr Fred. Walkley, viz., "Daisy Bell," the children all joining in the chorus; Mr Byron Brown sang "Maggie Murphy's Home," and was so much liked that he had to sing some of it over again, he also took part in a duet Pulaski's "Banner" with Miss McCulloch; Mr D'Ath, "A Bandit's Life is the Life for Me," has a very good voice, but spoilt by mouthing his words. I was almost forgetting "Sailing," by our jovial friend Mr Mackay, who did his best, and a recitation by Mr Vernon. Thus ended a pleasant entertainment, at which the prizes for the past year were also distributed by the Rev. Mr Clark, and I only hope Mr Yeats and his colleagues will be satisfied with their efforts. I think I shall soon have a wedding to write you about, but farewell for the present.—Yours sincerely, Etc. .

31st October 1894 Wellington Education Board An application from the Otaki Committee for a grant of £10 for the formation of a road, was declined. It was decided to inform the Committee that it can remove the pump from the old site to the new one

29th November 1894 Wellington Education Board The chairman and Messrs Bradey and Fitzherbert were appointed a committee to deal with the sale of a school site and the erection of a teacher's residence at Otaki.

1st December 1894 The Otaki old school site is to be sold.

## 1895

1895	95	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M		Head Male	£ 235.00
1895	95	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E		Assistant Female	£ 80.00
1895	95	Otaki	Foss	Reginald		Male Pupil teacher	£ 60.00
1895	95	Otaki	Clark	William H		Male Pupil teacher	£ 25.00

Reginald Foss had a long career for the Wellington Education Board

Pupil Teacher Dalefield [Southwest of Carterton] 1889-1891. Carterton 1892-1894 Carterton. 1895 Otaki

Sole Charge Waikanae 1897-1905. HEADMASTER Fernridge (West of Masterton) 1906-1915. He was appointed Headmaster of Carterton in January 1916 He was not teaching in a

NZ State School in 1917 Eketahuna DHS 1919 and Carterton DHS in 1921 and when my records end 1923 at Levin DHS

26th November 1917 Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Cowles, who in August, 1914, left the charge of the Carterton District High School in order to take up military duties abroad, has been discharged medically unfit for further active service, and will, after the midsummer vacation, resume the position of headmaster of the Carterton District High School, vice Mr R. J. Foss. 18th January 1918 Mr Foss was appointed head of Korokoro School.

27th February 1895 Wellington Education Board The committee which visited Otaki recommended the sale of the school site on the southern side of the main road, in two sections of about 2 ½ acres each ; that the portion remaining, about three-quarters of an acre, on the northern side of the road, be retained as a paddock for the horses brought by boys attending the school from a distance ; and that the residence and all- the land attached, about an acre in extent, be put up in one lot, the upset price of lot No 1 to be at the rate of £40 an acre, and of the residence and site £350. The report was adopted ‘..... Miss J M Millar resigned.....The application of Reginald Foss (Carterton) to be transferred to the Manawatu district was acceded to, and he was appointed to Otaki.

20th March 1895 The scholars of the Otaki school have presented a gold brooch to Miss Miller, who is going to Scotland. The committee and the teachers also subscribed.

25th April 1895 We notice by the report of the householders meeting at Otaki, that Mr Franklin, a solicitor, was appointed chairman, and owing to a tie in the balloting he offered to permit of a second ballot. The meeting had had enough and asked him to give his vote. Thus, even the best of men err at times, as the Act really makes it imperative for the Chairman of the meeting to decide ties

3rd May 1895 Inspector Lee will be at Otaki May 14th

15th June 1895 Arrangements have been made by the Education Board for the sale by auction of the unrequired school sites at Otaki and Petone,

5th July 1895 The same firm, [J H Bethune & Co] under instructions from the Wellington Education Board, will also sell three choice freehold properties at Otaki, including the well-built residence now occupied by Mr D. M. Yeats, schoolmaster, situated in the centre of this rising township;

12th July 1895 Messrs Bethune and Co. afterwards submitted, by order of the Wellington Education Board, a number of properties at Otaki, which realised as follows : Section No. 10a Haruatai Block, containing 2 ½ - acres, sold to Mr James Home for .£115; section No. 10b, Haruatai Block, containing 2 acres 2 roods 10 perches, sold to Mr C. Henry for £107 12s 6d j section No. 4, Ahitangutu Block, containing 3 roods 1 perch, with dwelling house thereon, adjoining the Post Office, was withdrawn at the reserve price of £350, and is now open for private sale by the auctioneers.

2nd August 1895 Wellington Education Board The Chairman stated that the recent sale of the Board's sections at Petone and Otaki had resulted satisfactorily. The sale realised £523 12s 6d, and the total expenses were .£21 13s

30th October 1895 Wellington Education Board to sell the residence and site at Otaki for .£250, the Board having decided to erect a house on another section closer to the school

11th December 1895 Wellington Education Board Miss Bannister was granted six months' leave of absence from Otaki School, without pay, owing to ill health.

## 1896

1896	85	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M		Head Male	£235.00
1896	85	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E		Assistant Female	£80.00
1896	85	Otaki	Clark	William H		Male Pupil teacher	£31.10

12th February 1896 W H Clark of Otaki Passed his second year pupil teacher examinations.

13th May 1896 Evening Post letter to the Editor included "There is a native school at Otaki, under the control of the Church of England, which may well serve as an object lesson in denominational schools. It is supported from the revenues of large grants of land given by the Maoris for educational and missionary purposes. It is in the charge of an uncertificated teacher, and attended by about a dozen children, although there are scores about the place. The Maoris are exceedingly dissatisfied with the state of the school, but apparently can get no redress. Let the Church look after a school already under its control and give the Maoris some return for the money received from them. In the meantime, this may serve as an example of what we may expect if the clergy begin to dabble in school management."

15th May 1896 Mr T R Fleming will inspect Otaki School on the 27th, 28th and 29th of May

27th May 1896 Wellington Education Board The Secretary was instructed to obtain certain information from Otaki as to a special grant for general purposes.

24th June 1896 Wellington Education Board and an application for a grant to save the Otaki Committee from being further "hunted round" by its creditors was left in the hands of the Chairman.

8th July 1896 the concert in aid of the school funds on Friday was a decided success. A sum of about £9 was realised. Half of this amount is to be handed to Mr Yeats for prizes for the children. ....The average attendance at Otaki School for the past quarter shows an improvement. Of 64 children present at the examination, 50 passed

15th July 1896 Mr. R. Foss, junior teacher of the Otaki School, who is in the Wellington Hospital recovering from an attack of typhoid fever, has been granted leave of absence for six weeks.

29th July 1896 Wellington Education Board Applications for an umbrella stand at Masterton, and for grants for drainage at Eketahuna, levelling at Mangatainoko, and repairing the Otaki residence were refused.

25th November 1896 Country District Schools. — Annie Renai, Petone, 464 marks ; Stanley Brown, Vogeltown, 454 ; Amy Clark, Otaki, 415. Each of the scholarships won by city and country district school children, with the exception of that secured by Amy Clark, of Otaki, which is worth £30 a year, as she will have to board in town, is of the annual value of £15.

26th November 1896 Wellington Education Board A letter was received from the Otaki College Hospital Board, asking that a . piece of the school ground, half a chain square, should be granted them for a roadway. The Board decided that it could not grant the request, as it would, encroach too much on the school property.

24th December 1896 The Otaki Mail mentions that boys and , girls in a perfectly nude condition bathe together in a stream in Otaki.

## 1897

1897	88	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M	D1	Head Master	£235.00
1897	88	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E3	Assistant Female	£80.00
1897	88	Otaki	Clark	William H		Male Pupil teacher	£45.00

23rd February 1897 William H Clark is classified as a Fourth Year Pupil Teacher

4th March 1897 Wellington Education Board An application for permission to make a road through a strip of land at Otaki, belonging to the Board, for the entrance to the Cottage\* Hospital, was referred to the school committee for a report.

31st March 1897 Wellington Education Board A communication was received from the Committee connected with the proposed Otaki Cottage Hospital, requesting permission to make a road about 10ft wide across the school reserve as an approach to the Hospital site. [10 feet=3.08 metres]

26th April 1907 Wellington Education Board On the report of the carpenter it was decided to repair the Otaki School residence.

26th November 1897 Mr and Mrs. D. M. Yeats, of Otaki, mot with a most unpleasant experience on Saturday evening last. They were driving in their buggy when their horse was suddenly frightened the animal made a bound forward, and fell on its side, and the sudden jerk precipitated Mr Yeats on to the road. The horse bolted, and Mrs Yeats endeavoured to get hold of the reins, but, in doing so, was thrown down between the buggy and the horse's heels. She somehow managed to hang on in this most dangerous position while the horse careered down the street. The animal was stopped, and after some trouble Mrs Yeats was extricated from her perilous position, not having been injured. The three children who were in the buggy at the time, though naturally much frightened, were not hurt in any way.

## 1898

1898	101	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M	D1	Head Master	£255.00
1898	101	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£80.00
1898	101	Otaki	Clark	William H		Male Pupil teacher	£50.00

26th January 1898 Wellington Education Board e. An offer of £250 for the old residence at Otaki was accepted, the purchase money to be devoted to a new residence on the school site

24th February 1896 Wellington Education Board agree to purchase a new pump at Otaki.

30th March 1898 It was decided to apply the money received from the sale of the old school site at Otaki to building a teacher's residence, and plans were directed to be prepared.

18th April 1898 Mr T R Fleming to inspect Otaki School 16th and 17th May

28th May 1898 An application from the Otaki committee for an addition to the plans of a teacher's residence was agreed ta, the extra cost not to be more than £20

14th July 1898 .It is further slated that a central technical school for natives will be formed at Otaki, that technical classes to. be supported out of this grant will be attached to the public schools along the West Coast, and that scholarships will be provided for natives at these schools.

2nd September 1898 The Education Board has accepted the tender of Mr John Wilson for a teacher's residence at Otaki,



## 1899

1899	101	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M	D1	Head Master	£235.00
1899	101	Otaki	Bannister	M E	E2	Assistant Female	£80.00
1899	101	Otaki	Clark	William H		Male Pupil teacher	£50.00

4th May 1899 School Committee Messrs Chorley (chairman), Staveley, Freeman, Ware, Johnson, Lee and Hunt.'

25th May 1899 Mr Bakewell Inspector will visit Otaki on the 18th and 19th May

## 1900

1900	99	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M	D1	Head Master	£235.00
1900	99	Otaki	Bannister	M E	E2	Assistant Female	£80.00
1900	99	Otaki	Clark	William H	E5	Male Pupil teacher	£50.00

20th February 1900 The Otaki school children have decided to forego their annual picnic this year. By a very large majority they decided, instead, to make a collection in aid of the More Men Fund, which has thus benefited to the extent of L 6 19s 6d, L[L =£]money collected by them, and their own contributions from their money-boxes.

1st March 1900 In what was to be a long review of teacher's salaries was this first notice: That D M Yeats Otaki was bring overpaid £10 per annum{\$1958.23 in June 2020 terms} [R J Foss ex Otaki teacher was being overpaid £55]

8th March 1900 Wellington Education Board Re Technical Teaching at Otaki Mr Bird for cupboards and boards at Otaki and Levin £6 10s 8d and for appliances at five centres Levin, Otaki, Johnsonville, Petone and Hutt, £56 15s 11d, be accepted [For teaching cooking]

24th April 1900 Committee elected ; —W Nash, R Staveley, A Chorley, L Hunt, C« Nicholson, G. Mitchell, W. Warn.

20th May 1900 In a long article on teaching of cooking [to girls only] in Wellington Education Board schools was this: The system of instructing teachers of country schools in the art of cookery so that they may be in a position to impart the knowledge thus gained to the children under their charge, is working well. One of the teachers is attached to Miss Ivey's staff for six months, and at the end of that period she returns to her own school and another teacher comes to Wellington to be instructed in cookery, Miss Cowles, of the Shannon School, is at present on Miss Ivey's staff Weekly instruction in cookery is given to various suburban and country school children. Miss Williams attends the Petone, Hutt, Otaki, and Levin Schools, while Miss Millington pays regular visits to the principal schools in the Wairarapa and Forty-Mile Bush districts.

28th June 1900 Wellington Education Board It was decided to get a report prepared in reference to an offer by the Otaki Hospital Board to purchase a portion of the school property at Otaki.

26th July 1900 in a further round of debate on Teacher's salaries it was reported that Mr Yeats was being overpaid by £20

13th December 1900 At- the ordinary monthly , meeting of the Otaki School Committee, there 'were present Messrs A. Chorley (chairman), Mitchell, Hunt, Freeman and "Warn. The master's report stated that the number on the roll was 121, and the average attendance

105..... Out of the total number presented at the recent examinations at the Otaki Convent School only two scholars failed. Mr Lee was the inspector. The teaching staff is to be congratulated on the excellent results attained;

## 1901

1901	107	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M	D1	Head Master	£235.00	House
1901	107	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£85.00	
1901	107	Otaki	Clark	William H	E5	Male Pupil teacher	£50.00	£10.00
1901	107	Otaki	Young	Minnie		Female Pupil Teacher	£50.00	

Why William Clark got a housing allowance is unknown

Minnie Young was a Pupil Teacher from 1896 to 1900 at Karori School and was still a pupil teacher for the 2 years she was at Otaki.

2nd April 1903 On Tuesday last at All Saints Church a marriage was solemnized by the Rev. H. F. Wilson, the contracting parties being Mr George Jonson, son of Mr Andrew Jonson, and Miss Minnie Young, the eldest daughter of Mrs R. Andrew. The bridesmaids were her two sisters, Misses Barbara and Gracie Young. The young married couple are children of well-known residents of Foxton, and everyone will wish them all happiness and prosperity in their future life.

30th January 1901 Wellington Education Board Otaki M Bannister Present Salary £80 to get a rise of £4. 3s

31st January 1901 Wellington Education Board Remuneration - was refused to Mrs Yeats for relieving at the Otaki School.

11th April 1901 Chicken-pox is very prevalent amongst children in Otaki.

19th April 1901 Considerable interest is centring in the School Committee and Road Board elections, the former taking place on 1 Monday' and the latter early in May. There will probably be numerous candidates for all the contests.'

22nd April 1901 The census returns show that the European population of the Horowhenua County is 4655, divided thus : -To Horo Riding, 509 ; Otaki Riding, 1286 ; Wirokino, 2080; Tokomaru, 780. The townships give the following results':—Waikanae, 186; Otaki, 272; Manakau. 146; Levin, 629 ; Wereroa, 165; Horowhenua Village Settlement, 243; Shannon, 273. The Maori population of the county is 1149, therefore the combined races total up to 5804.

24th April 1901 At the annual School Committee election last night there were- nine candidates. The following were elected: Messrs M H. Ayre. A. Chorley, Frederick Unwin, W. Lee, Dr Baldwin, Leigh Hunt and W. Warn. At a meeting of the new committee afterwards Mr Frederick Unwin was elected chairman, and Mr Warn was reelected secretary and treasurer.

13th May 1901 Inspector Bakewell to Inspect Otaki with Mr Fleming 17th May

27th June 1901 Wellington Education Board The Otaki Committee was granted £6 towards, painting and repairs.

25th September 1901 Inspector Lee was dismissed by the Wellington Education Board , he later became chairman of the Wellington Education Board but the following is the Otaki

School Committee's response to his dismissal. The Otaki School Committee has resolved—  
 (1) That this meeting, while prepared to admit the necessity of retrenchment, is of opinion that a grave blunder was perpetrated in deciding to retire Inspector Lee so soon after his evidence was given before the Royal Commission, and thinks that the blunder was accentuated by the fact that the resolution of retirement was proposed by a member, of the Board who acted -as Chairman of the Commission, and who elicited evidence condemnatory of part of the Board's policy; (2) that this committee endorses the resolution No. 3 embodied in the circular received from the Wellington City and Suburban School Committees.

11th October 1901 The secretary to the Otaki School Committee writes as follows to Mr Hogg, M.H.R. :—"At a meeting of the committee, held on Monday last, the resolution passed in reference to Inspector Lee's dismissal was rescinded, and I am instructed to convey to you the committee's regret that, through some misunderstanding, and not having all the facts before them, the resolution was carried. I will see that this is made public in the next issue of our paper, and I trust other papers will copy." The Kaituna-, Wairere and Te Whiti School Committees have all passed votes of confidence in Messrs Hogg, Bradey, Robertson and Young.

## 1902

1902	116	Otaki	Yeats	Duncan M	D1	Head Master	£235.00	House
1902	116	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£100.00	
1902	116	Otaki	Young	Minnie		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 40.00	

30th January 1902 Teachers salaries adjustment Otaki Matilda Bannister present salary £80 Colonial salary £100'

2nd July 1902 Wellington Education Board Works were authorised at Otaki £24 5s

8th August 1902 Our Otaki correspondent writes that Coronation Day is to be celebrated in great style in Otaki and will lose nothing by the postponement. The programme will include daylight and torch light processions, distribution of souvenir cards to school children, thanksgiving services, planting of oak trees in hospital grounds, poi dances by natives in costume, speeches, and a "social" in the evening.

2nd September 1902 The cadet corps attached to the Karori, Levin, Newtown, Otaki, and Roseneath Schools have been officially recognised.

31st October 1902 The Education Board has selected Mr. D. M. Yates, of the Otaki School, for appointment as head teacher of the Hutt School;

5th November 1902 Wellington Education Board An application for an extension or the right-of-way to the Otaki Hospital, through the. Board's property was agreed to.

9th December 1902 Just one part of a long series of clips where a mother and two daughters had beaten a pupil of Otaki School to the child's death SEVERE SENTENCE. Harriet Drake, who had been found guilty on a charge of manslaughter of her seven-year-old daughter Dorothy, came up for sentence before Mr. Justice Edwards in the Supreme Court this morning. The Court was crowded with spectators, the gallery being filled with women. Mr Skerrett called witnesses as to character. Mrs. Yeats said her husband was schoolmaster at Otaki, a position he had occupied for twelve years. She had conducted the sewing classes for most of that time, and Mrs. Drake's children, except the two youngest, attended the

school and her sewing classes. The children were always very well clothed and nurtured, and always had the appearance of being treated with great care. They appeared to be quite happy children. As far as she could see there was no difference in the clothing or attention given to Dorothy, who did not seem to be at all unhappy. As far as her knowledge went she should say Mrs. Drake was solicitous for the welfare of her children.

9th December 1902 Tuesday. Mrs Drake, found guilty at the previous criminal sessions of the manslaughter of her child Dorothy, was today sentenced by Judge Edwards to six years' imprisonment. Evidence was called as to her character and counsel pleaded for a light sentence on the ground that the death of the child was caused in an outburst of passion and not because of malice.

17th December 1902 Wellington Education Board The Board selected a head teacher for Otaki and directed that the name should be transmitted to the school committee.

18th December 1902 The selection by the Education Board of Mr W. B. Smith, of Ohariu School, as headmaster of the Otaki School, has been approved by the Otaki School Committee.

23rd December 1902 Last Friday (says our Otaki correspondent) Mr Yeats, headmaster of the Otaki State School, was presented- by the school children and school committee with a valuable travelling bag and testimonial prior to his leaving to take charge of the Lower Hutt School. Mr Ward, the chairman of the committee, spoke in high terms of Mr Yeats's services. Mrs Yeats was also presented with a watch and an address, and Miss Young, assistant mistress, who has resigned, received a testimonial and a greenstone pin set with pearls.

## 1903

1903	131	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£ 222.16	House
1903	131	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Mistress	£ 100.00	
1903	131	Otaki	Jacobsen	Alice G		FP3	£ 40.00	£5.00
1903	131	Otaki	Campbell	Egbert Y		MP1	£ 20.00	£10.00

William B Smith started teaching for the Wellington Education Board at Carterton in 1892 as an assistant. In 1896 he was at Ohariu as Headmaster. He was at Otaki until at Least 1923 when my records end.

8th January 1903 Mr. D. M. Yeats, who has been headmaster of the Otaki State school for the past twelve years, and has now been transferred to the Lower Hutt, was yesterday presented by the Otaki residents with a purse of sovereigns. The presentation was made at a garden party held in the beautiful grounds of the Anglican parsonage. Mr. W. H. Simcox made the presentation, and the ladies provided afternoon tea.

8th January 1903 The head teacher of the Ohariu State School (Mr. W. B. Smith) was given a very hearty send-off in the form of a social gathering, on Tuesday evening, the eve of his departure for Otaki, to which school he has been transferred. He was duly toasted with musical honours and presented with a handsome writing-table and two addresses, one (handsomely bound and illuminated) from the past and present scholars, and one from the parents and settlers, expressing their regret at his departure, their feelings of esteem and affection for him. and their confidence of his success in his new and larger sphere of

usefulness. The evening was enlivened with song, recitation, and dances, and was much enjoyed by the representative gathering.

13th January 1903 After dealing with the methods adopted by the Wellington Education Board, for the appointment of teachers,-.-, the Otaki Mail says:—'it seems to us' that the methods followed by the Wanganui Education Board are the fairest and most satisfactory to all concerned. [Unfortunately the Otaki Mail for this period is not recorded in Paper's Past]

26th February 1903 Mr Warn, chairman of the Otaki School Committee waited on the Board to request that the school buildings be painted. The Board will give the matter consideration

12th March 1903 The building at Otaki, known as the Native College, was destroyed by fire at midnight on Tuesday. The place completely disappeared in an hour. Mrs Jennings, mistress of the College, and her family and the native boarders escaped with bare necessities of clothing. A little furniture was saved.

1st April 1903 Wellington Education Board Sundry small repairs to buildings, tanks, playgrounds, and so on, were authorised in respect of, schools at Parkvale, Otaki and Huia road [Near Pongaroa].

28th May 1903 Wellington Education Board gave £5 to Otaki for fencing

1st October 1903 On Monday afternoon a ten year -old boy, one of the pupils of the Otaki Native School, attempted to destroy the native school House by fire. Luckily his action was discovered before the fire got a hold of the building. The lad, a quarter-caste, named Clark, then confessed to having set fire to the Otaki Native College, which was totally destroyed a few months ago. The lad 'will be brought before the Stipendiary Magistrate next week.

21st October 1903 The committees of nearly fifty school® in the Wellington district have applied for recognition from the Government for manual and technical instruction. The subjects taught include modelling in clay, carving, brush work, etc.; even swimming is taught in some schools. The applications have come from the following places: Including Otaki

30th October 1903 Manawatu Standard. Mr "W. Lee who met his death through a fall from a bicycle on the Otaki-Manakau road, had resided in the, district for many years. He occupied many important public positions and identified himself with nearly all movements for the advancement of the place. He served for many years as a member of the Otaki School Committee, having been Secretary of the Committee on several occasions, and was chairman at the time of his death. He was also an old member of the Otaki Lodge of Oddfellows, of which order he was a Past Grand, and at the last election of officers he was elected Secretary of the local lodge. For some years he was also a member of the Druids - Lodge. In all athletics, the late Mr Lee took a great interest, and worked hard for the Otaki Cricket Club, of which he was hon. secretary and treasurer at his death and was also an energetic member of the Otaki Athletic Club. Ho held the position of local ranger of the Acclimatisation Society and acted as marker for the Otaki Rifle Club. Having been associated with so many movements and societies , he will be much missed in Otaki, where his genial personality was so well-known —Mail.

11th December 1903 An offer from employees of a sawmill at Waitohu. four and a half miles from Otaki, to build a schoolroom if the Board would supply a teacher, was held over

for further information {No school was opened with this name by the Wellington Education Board }

## 1904

1904	152	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£227.60	House
1904	152	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Mistress	£105.00	
1904	152	Otaki	Jacobsen	Alice G		FP4	£55.00	
1904	152	Otaki	Campbell	Egbert Y		MP3	£45.00	

29th January 1904 Wellington Education Board An application for\* a grant of £15 for an additional room, at Kahautara was not agreed to. The painting of the Otaki school could not be authorised—and for a like reason, want of funds.

11th February 1904 There was a fall of rain for about four hours yesterday at Otaki, which will be of great, benefit throughout that district. The fall was so heavy that the picnic of the Otaki school children to Paikakariki was postponed until to-day.'

26th August 1904 Wellington Education Board In a long piece on the state of school buildings was this: Mr Allan said there were many schools in a condition similar to that at Otaki; but Mr Field replied that the Otaki building was the worst in the whole district.

26th August 1904 Wellington Education Board Evening Post The Public Health Department wrote drawing attention to the fact that the air space in the Otaki School was below the minimum, and the latrine accommodation was not adequate Mr. Kebbell said that he was astonished on visiting Otaki last week to find that the school, which has been erected only about two years, was rotten, and had not received a coat of paint since its erection. The Inspector said that the condition of this school had been reported on before. (This is one of the schools that the Board is asking the Government for money to repair.) It was suggested that this school .should be at once re-painted, but Mr.' Allan objected, and said that the Board should not depart from its policy in seeking from the Government sufficient money to put into repair and re-paint all the schools requiring it. Mr. Field said the Otaki School was in the worst condition of any in the district. Ultimately it was decided that the clerk of works should visit the school and report on its condition.

14th September 1904 Just Because!

After being buffeted about-the world for the whole eleven years of his life experiencing .deplorable -hardships, a plucky little lad named Arthur-Hopkins": was;-taken into, custody by- the' Wellington .police, and in his own interest charged before Dr. 'A. McArthur, S.M., at Wellington, yesterday morning -with being homeless and having no settled place of abode.

A short sketch of the boy's life was given by Constable McCann, of Otaki. He stated that the lad was born in New York. His mother died when "he was four months old, and at the age of seven he was taken to London to live with his grandmother. In the meantime' his Father re-married and his wife journeyed to London, secured the boy, and took him back to America. Soon after this she died, and the little fellow was sent by the. father-to a charitable home for two years, because his brothers took a dislike to him. He had only been in the, home two months when- his uncle, Harry Hopkins, got him out, took him to England, and then to New Zealand. Hopkins finally settled' down in Palmerston North as a. billiard marker, and soon

afterwards (according to. the constable's evidence) took a dislike to the lad, and on Christmas Day, 1902, handed him over to a Maori at Ohau. There the boy remained until Saturday last, when he found his way to Otaki. That night he slept in a 'bus, and then went in search of work to Te Horo, where Constable McCann took him into custody. Ten months ago he was thrown from a young horse and broke his jaw, necessitating his remaining in a hospital for six weeks. '

His Worship: It is one of those cases, it seems to - me, where the natives are much kinder than the boy's own relatives. The relatives apparently have allowed the little fellow to go where he liked as long as they' did not see him. '.

Sub-Inspector O'Donovan at this stage applied for a remand until Monday in order to allow him to communicate with the police at Palmerston North with a view to having the case investigated.'

His Worship: "I hope it will be investigated fully too. What shall we do with the little fellow in the-meantime?. Before getting an answer his Worship, addressing the lad. said: "How long is it since you came to New Zealand ?:

The boy replied: " I arrived in 1902."

His Worship : " He seems an intelligent boy, too.". You were looking for work. Yes. What do you think of doing ?—Milking.

Very well, we will make enquiries and help you along. The lad was then' remanded until Monday, the understanding being that he would not be allowed-to mix with any of the criminal class.—Evening Post

16th September 1904 About thirty new scholars joined the [Palmerston North]High School on its re-opening after the term holidays. The popularity .of the school may be judged from the fact that pupils daily attend from as far south as **Otaki**.

30th September 1904 Wellington Education Board latrines of old school at Levin to be removed to Otaki and Waikanae

30th September 1904 Wellington Education Board A report was received on repairs required at Otaki School, but no action was taken, though it was understood that it would be on the list of works for which grants are to be asked from the Government

## 1905

1905	160	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£233.12	House
1905	160	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Mistress	£110.00	
1905	160	Otaki	Mousley	Edward O	E4	Assistant Master	£100.00	
1905	160	Otaki	Jacob	Margaret H	E2	Assistant Female	£80.00	

Edward Mousley taught for the Wellington Education Board for 2 years at Otaki and in 1907 was sole teacher at Plimmerton School

Margaret H Jacob started teaching for the Wellington Education Board as a pupil teacher at Pahautanui School in 1895 and was there until 1897 when she was at Thorndon Infants followed by 1898 to 1900 at Rintoul Street School. Then from 1901 to 1904 she was at Hastwell near Mauriceville North East of Masterton before coming to Otaki and teaching until 1910

1912/6968	Margaret Hemmant	Jacob	William Lestlie	Adams
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12th January 1905 The Wellington Education Board has vacancies for seventeen teachers and is advertising the details. Four of the schools needing teachers— Otaki, Waione, Ohariu, and Newtown— have increased their average attendance of scholars, and thus become entitled to larger teaching staffs.

2nd February 1905 Miss M. H. Jacob, formerly assistant at the Hastwell School, has been promoted to be assistant at the Otaki School. ‘

5th July 1905 Wellington Education Board ) Otaki— Subsidy of £5 on local contributions of same amount for grading and gravelling;’

6th July 1905 Mr E. Mousley has been appointed to succeed Miss Jacobson on the staff of the Otaki State School.

28th July 1905 Wellington Education Board OTAKI SANATORIUM. , This' Otaki School Committee wrote protesting against the proposal to erect a hospital for consumptives in the district and asked that the matter be brought under the notice of the Minister for Public Health. The Secretary explained that he had approached the Health Department on the subject, and it had replied that the whole question had been gone into, and that neither the health of the children nor of the residents of the district would be endangered by the erection of the sanatorium. The Secretary was instructed to advise the Otaki Committee accordingly.

1st August 1905 On Friday evening last an Otaki boy named William Cootes, aged 12 years, died under sad circumstances. A few days before, when playing football, he received a kick which caused him some pain. He limped about for several days, and a week after the accident had occurred, medical advice was called into service It was found that he was suffering from hip disease, and so firmly had the trouble gripped the little fellow that shortly afterwards he succumbed.[I presumed he was a pupil of Otaki School]

24th November 1905 Wellington Education Board Authorised Otaki painting inside off school

## 1906

1906	153	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£250.00	House
1906	153	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£130.00	
1906	153	Otaki	Jacob	Margaret H	E2	Assistant Female	£115.00	
1906	153	Otaki	Mousley	Edward O	D4	Assistant Master	£100.00	

16th February 1906 Otaki News The annual school picnic was held, here yesterday in fine weather, when a Very large number of children and parents spent a very enjoyable <toy in "Bright's paddock."

25th April 1906 School Committee Otaki.— -Messrs. William Warn (chairman), A. Batten (secretary), J. R. Bills, A. Chorley, H. Bright, W. Vaughan, H. Nicolson.

29th June 1906 Wellington Education Board It was decided, on the recommendation of the Sites Committee, to purchase half an acre land adjoining the Otaki School at about £65;

28th September 1906 Mr E Mousley granted leave of absence by Wellington Education Board

24th December 1906 Mr EO Mousley of Otaki was amongst those who were successful in passing the first section of the solicitors' examination. [The O stood for Opotiki] I have not



traced it here but Mr Mousley had a distinguished career overseas as a Lawyer, soldier, author and well worth a track through on Papers past.]

## 1907

1907	139	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£250.00	House
1907	139	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£130.00	
1907	139	Otaki	Jacob	Margaret H	E2	Assistant Female	£115.00	
1907	139	Otaki	Simmons	Olive		Assistant Female	£ 85.00	

Olive Simmons first taught for Wellington Education Board at Coonoor in 1906 . North East of Pahiatua Closer to Dannevirke than Pahiatua. In 1907 at Otaki. Then three years at Hukanui between Pahiatua and Eketahuna on the Railway Line with the spelling adding a D in her name

### Possible Wedding

1912/8246	Olive Elfrida	Simmonds	George Matthew	Fowls
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I can find no more definite . The above wedding took place in Auckland: Surname should be Fowlds

14th March 1907 Otaki Notes: At the meeting of the School Committee; on Monday night, it was decided to hold the annual concert on the 19th April, and to observe a holiday on the first day of the Flower Show." It was also resolved to forward a letter of condolence to the widow of Mr F. W. Bills, ex-chairman, and member of committee.

9th April 1907 Otaki , Monday. The committee of the local State School met on Saturday night and made full arrangements for the carrying out of their annual concert on the 19th. Outside talent has been commissioned, and a successful time is assured.

23rd April 1907 At a meeting of householders last night the following were elected as members of the Otaki School Committee: —Messrs J. R. Bills, Warn, H. Nicolson, F. Penn, W. Vaughan, Revs. P. Paris and Stealey. Mr Bills was elected chairman and Mr Nicolson secretary.

22nd May 1907 The third battalion of the Wellington Public School Cadets, which includes the corps at Hutt, Petone, Johnsonville, Otaki, Levin, and Weraroa, will parade at Levin under the command of Major Burlinson, and the city battalions will probably; also turnout.

11th June 1907 OTAKI, Monday. Miss Jacob, local teacher, has been laid up in Wellington, but to-day recommenced her duties at the school

29th June 1907 Mr. E. Mousley, of the Otaki School, \ has been appointed to the staff of the Newtown School,

3rd July 1907 OTAKI, Tuesday. The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held last night when the headmaster's report showed 165 on the roll, with a low average attendance for the quarter of 133, due to sickness and wet weather.

A circular was read from the Citizens' Bible in State Schools Committee asking that the Bible be read.— Decided that the letter be laid on the table.

It was decided to observe Arbor Day as a holiday and to plant the school grounds with ornamental trees, etc.

The matter of finally arranging for ground for school gardens was left in the hands of the headmaster.

Mr J. Bills was appointed treasurer, vice Mr Nicolson resigned.

4th July 1907 At a meeting of the Otaki School Committee (telegraphs our own correspondent), the circular issued by the Citizens Bible-in-Schools Committee was considered. The Rev. Paris moved that the four questions submitted 'be answered in the affirmative, but an amendment moved by Mr. Warn, and seconded by Mr. Vaughan — "That the circular be laid on the table" was carried, only the mover and seconder of the motion voting against the amendment. There appears to be a strong and general feeling in the district against the proposed innovation

4th July 1907 An amusing scene occurred at Manakau last evening owing to the protracted farewells indulged in by the members of the Otaki girls' hockey team, who could not be convinced by the officials that their train left before that on the main line. When the Otaki train actually moved off the girls woke to the situation and rent the air with their cries, which so touched the heart of the gallant guard that he stopped the train for them.

3rd August 1907 Miss Olive Simmonds, of Connor, Pahiatua, has been selected to fill the vacancy at Otaki.

11th September 1907 A meeting of the Otaki School Committee was held last night. Present—Messrs Hills (chairman), Paris, Stealey, Penn, Nicholson, and Vaughan. ' The Headmaster reported a falling off in attendance owing to sickness, while the Inspector's report was read and considered highly satisfactory. Owing to sheep having damaged school property by being turned into the grounds, it was decided to warn the offenders, and in future to impound the sheep. It was reported that the land for the school gardens was practically available, while the survey of the school grounds was nearly complete. On account of a misunderstanding the newly appointed pupil teacher had not commenced duties, but it was expected she would do so by Wednesday

11th September 1907 Mr Ashton, late school teacher here, has been appointed sole teacher at Coonoor. neat- Pahiatua [Mr Aston was in 1906 at Akatarawa School] .

17th September 1907 Miss Simmonds the recently appointed school teacher from Coonoor commenced duties at the local school this morning.

21st October 1907 The local school children have been treated ii to a travelling show,' , which gave a series of .moving pictures-at-the school on Friday.

6th November 1907 The usual monthly meeting of the School Committee was held on Monday night,-when there were present: Messrs. Bills, Warn, Stealey, Paris and Nicolson. The headmaster's report showed the attendance to be below the average, and the inspector's report was read and considered very satisfactory. It was decided to apply to have various improvements effected at the school. The capitation grant of £6 was received.. Since the meeting of the above committee the Education Department has written, stating that if the attendance did not increase the services of a teacher would have to be dispensed with. Should this be done it will be unfortunate, as the low attendance has been due to sickness

18th November 1907 Otaki The annual school "concert and distribution of prizes will take place during next month, and the children taking part are' assiduously practising.

5th December 1903 A meeting of the School Committee was held on Monday night, when the' headmaster's report showed a falling-off in attendance, which would result in the

school losing the, services of Miss Simmonds. The report also showed the fences, etc., to be in a dilapidated condition, and a motion to have the matter attended to was carried, It "was decided that prizes be awarded the successful scholars prior to disbanding on , December 20, and that' a picnic and concert be held later. It was decided to ask Mr. Freeman, (ex-chairman) to distribute the prizes.

20th December 1907 Notwithstanding the fact that the local school committee unanimously agreed upon Friday as the " breaking-up " of the school, word was received—not by the chairman or secretary at a late hour to disband yesterday. In consequence, the arrangements of the committee were upset, and the distribution of prizes took place in the presence of a handful of parents.

## 1908

1908	140	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£250.00	House
1908	140	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£130.00	
1908	140	Otaki	Jacob	Margaret H	E2	Assistant Female	£115.00	

24th February 1908 the annual picnic of the state school takes place at Waikanae on Wednesday and an enjoyable time is assured

27th February 1908 Nearly 150 school children, together with many relations and friends, left here yesterday morning for the purpose of holding the annual picnic of the State, school at Waikanae. The weather was gloriously, fine, and a good day's outing was the result.

12th March 1908 The local School Committee is endeavouring to arrange for. cookery classes at the State, School. As a result ,of the -recent picnic, there was a small debit' balance, which deficiency, however, was made up by the Committee.

13th March 1908 At a meeting of the State School Committee the headmaster's report on the school was considered highly favourable. His request that cooking classes be inaugurated was unanimously supported, and application is now being made to have .the necessary 'arrangements carried out

8th April 1908 The monthly meeting of the 'School Committee, to have been hold on Monday night, lapsed; for 'want of a quorum. Members at the present time .' are somewhat indignant-' over the action of the Board in calling for tenders for the erection of a building.- for cooking and agricultural purposes without first submitting the- plan to the Committee.' It has been decided by the Board to erect the building some .distance from the school, an action that is- being freely : commented upon. Several of the present: members refused .to be reelected at the annual meeting unless more, power is placed in their hands.

29th April 1908 The following were elected a new committee: Several of the last committee declined to accept office. Messrs. Bills (chairman;,' Warn (secretary), Vaughan, Herbert, Bright, Murray, Batten, and Row.

12th May 1908 The Otaki school defeated Maori College by 35 points to nil in a game of football.

29th May 1908 An amusing, if not scientific, hockey match was played in Otaki on Wednesday, when the schoolboys met and defeated the local, ladies by a goal to nil. The lads showed a great turn of pace, and in this department outclassed their opponents.

6th July 1908 Otaki The truant inspector was on the warpath last week, and before Mr. A. D. Thomson, S.M., brought charges against parents who failed to send their children to school. Mark Ayre and Alf. Winterburn were fined 2s each, without costs, and John Pohio, a native, 2s and 7s costs.

22nd July 1908 Miss Jacob, school teacher, is ,so seriously indisposed that a relieving , teacher has been sent for.

31st July 1908 Wellington Education Board Otaki School: The request of the Otaki School Committee that the manual and technical room at the school be lined and .painted was Granted.....Consideration of an application for the establishment of a school at Hautere Cross, Otaki Gorge, ' was deferred till the nest meeting.

31st July 1908 Leave of Absence granted to Miss Jacob Wellington Education Board

7th August 1908 At the monthly school committee meeting the headmaster's report showed the attendance to be satisfactory, while Inspectors Bakewell and Tennett's [Sic] report was highly favourable It was decided to line the interior of the cookery building.

2nd September 1908 Otaki Cookery classes, under Miss Alexander, started at the local school on Monday afternoon.

10th September 1908 Otaki. At the monthly meeting of the school committee, donations of trees were acknowledged from Messrs. Farmer and Horton. It was also decided to endeavour to start an adult cookery class.

25th September 1908 Wellington Education Board Otaki .Gorge Consideration was given to an application received for the establishment of a school in the Otaki Gorge district.' '.The matter was referred to the inspector for a report. The settlers interested were asked to offer a' suitable site. [I have no record of a school being established]

30th October 1908 In-consideration of the offer of. interested residents ; of the Otaki Gorge district, who offered the necessary land and timber for the establishment of a school, it was decided that application be made to the Government for the usual grant in aid.

14th December 1908 Horowhenua County Council 1908 From the Otaki School Committee, asking that the Council district

## 1909

1909	165	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£255.00	House
1909	165	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£95.00	
1909	165	Otaki	Jacob	Margaret H	E2	Assistant Female	£95.00	
1909	165	Otaki	Bright	Nina H		Assistant Female	£90.00	
1909	165	Otaki	Kerrigan	Margaret		FP1	£50.00	

Margaret Kerrigan only taught for the Wellington Education Board as a pupil teacher for 2 years

Nina H Bright taught as a pupil Teacher at Mount Cook from 1905 to 1908 and spent only the one year at Otaki for the Wellington Education Board

4th February 1909 OTAKI, This Day. At the monthly meeting of the local School Committee, an attendance of 160 children was reported. It was decided to hold the annual-picnic at 'Waikanae, on 24th February; also to apply to the Education Board for the provision of septic tanks at the school and master's residence.

26th February 1909 Otaki The State School picnic held on. the Waikanae racecourse on Wednesday, in superb ' weather was a great success, a large "number of children-and; adults taking advantage of the excursion fares.;".' The committee were, untiring in their efforts, to 'cater for the children,, and during the day promoted a long programme of races, 'and other amusements

3rd March 1909 Under the new arrangements for training school teachers, education boards are entitled to appoint probationers who must not be engaged in teaching for more than fifteen hours in any week, and ; cannot take sole charge of a class. These teachers of the future will gravitate to the training college in due course. Included Miss M Kerrigan appointed Probationer at Otaki.

10th April 1909 News from Otaki . Mr. Dineen, truant inspector, intends taking stringent steps to make Native children put in sufficient, attendances at the various schools, and next Court day a list of the offenders will be submitted to the S.M. [Stipendiary Magistrate]

5th May 1909 It is with general regret that the public of Otaki and district learned of the intended departure of Mrs. Jennings, who has been in charge of the Otaki Native School for many years, during which time she has not only proved highly efficient, but very popular. In other' matters Mrs. Jennings has taken prominent parts.

25th June 1909 Wellington Education Board Referred to Department Otaki School additional grant for building..... Erection of school at Otaki Gorge on condition that site is obtained

3rd August 1909 OTAKI – Miss Nina Bright of one of the Wellington schools,;[Mt Cook] has been appointed assistant here and commences her duties this week

3rd August 1909 Miss Nina Bright, of Otaki, has been appointed assistant at the local school. Miss Bright, up till recently, was a teacher in Wellington, and when she severed her connection much regret was expressed.

16th August 1909 Inspector Tennant examined the children attending the State School on Friday.

4th September 1909 The local' school cadets,; under Captain :Smith, 'are to- act as ;a guard. of. Honour to the' Governor, on the occasion of his .visit to .Otaki to open the Native College

1st October 1909 The annual concert in connection with the Otaki State School was given on Wednesday evening, when the Town Hall was packed. With the exception, of a few items the programme submitted was a very good one, and, reflected credit on the school staff. The programme consisted of items by the following':— Selection, orchestra song, school children; comic song," Mr. E. Bills; hornpipe, Master Becker; song, Mr. G. Kirk; pianoforte solo, Master C. Williams;' recitation,' Mrs. Barclay; song, Mrs. C.. Smith; Maypole, school children song, Mr. C. Speak, comic song, Mr, E. Lanchester; violin solo, Mr. Vann; step-dance, Misses Hall' (2); quintet, - Messrs. Bell, Pike, Sims, Eyres, and Jones; pianoforte solo, Mrs. Jones; song and. dance, Master Norman Dentice (Wellington); bagpipe selection, Mr. Forbes. The programme concluded with a gipsy scene, the Misses Johansen (2) being the leading performers.

1st October 1909 Mrs Jennings, who has been head teacher in the Native School here for many years, has severed her connection with the institution on, account of a principal being appointed to take over the whole of the Native School work. Mrs. Jennings has been one of

our best residents, and her church work and many kindly acts to individuals will long be remembered. ' She was an especial favourite with the natives, "and on Wednesday night several met and handed to her a greenstone brooch, Maori kit, tangiwai, and pui-pui [Moved to Hamilton]

29th October 1909 Wellington Education Board The' board approved of a subsidy grant-up £4 10s for the miniature rifle -range at Northland- School. '.Applications for approval of proposed ranges at Te 'Aro and Otaki were also received- ' The 'proposals were'-approved  
 26th November 1909 Wellington Education Board Payment approved for a new urinal at Otaki.

9th December 1909 Miss K Foster has been appointed assistant at Otaki

20th December 1909 The annual school concert at Waikanae took place on Thursday evening, and was- well attended On Friday evening -the Otaki State School held a similar function, when the attendance was large

## 1910

1910	168	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£260.00	House
1910	168	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£140.00	
1910	168	Otaki	Jacob	Margaret H	E2	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1910	168	Otaki	Foster	Kate	D4	Assistant Female	£90.00	
1910	168	Otaki	Kerrigan	Margaret		FP2	£55.00	

In 1908 Kate Foster was a Pupil Teacher at Clyde Quay. In 1909 she was at Te Aro as a Pupil Teacher and only taught one year at Otaki. In 1913 she resigned from the position of assistant teacher at the Wellington Technical School: Appointed 1911 She went to England and married Henry Barrister there in 1913

11th February 1910 At the. monthly meeting of the Otaki School Committee, 'it was decided to hold the annual school picnic on Wednesday" next. Leave of absence was granted the headmaster to enable him, to accompany the School Cadets to Wellington, for Lord 'Kitchener's reception. .The number, on the roll was reported as 163.....The cookery classes-at the Otaki school were -resumed on'-Wednesday under the direction of Miss McIntosh.

24th February 1910 Wellington Education Board On the motion of Mr. Field, it was decided to approach the Government for an increased grant for the Otaki Gorge new school, in order to obviate the danger of children being conveyed along the Gorge-road. [Still haven't got evidence of this school being opened]

28th February 1910 Otaki: .The local State School children had a holiday on. Friday to commemorate Lord Kitchener's visit to Wellington; The post office staff also had a half-holiday.

28th April 1910 School Committee Some twenty householders attended the meeting for the election of a school committee' last night, Mr. W. Tompsitt-presiding. The following were re-elected:—Messrs. J. R. Bills, W. Warn, C. H. Williams, W. J. Row, W. Bassett, W. Keegan, and M. H. Ayre.

3rd August 1910 A meeting of the Otaki School Committee was held on Monday night, there being present: Messrs. Keegan (chairman), Bills, Bassett, Warn, Williams, -Ayre (secretary), and Smith (headmaster). The headmaster's report was considered satisfactory. It

was decided to accord Mr. Harold Small a hearty vote of thanks for giving the children a lesson in the budding of fruit trees. The state- of the schoolmaster's residence was considered unsatisfactory, and' it was decided to apply for various improvements. The secretary was also instructed to write to the Otaki Road Board and apply to have a culvert put in at the entrance to the school lane (off Waerenga Road).

31st August 1910 Wellington Education Board: Improvements to residences at Otaki and Eketahuna were recommended

## 1911

1911	162	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£265.00	House
1911	162	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£145.00	
1911	162	Otaki	Rose	Florence	D5	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1911	162	Otaki	Selvey	Ellen J		Assistant Female	£90.00	

Florence Rose had a long teaching career for the Wellington Education Board. She started teaching as a pupil teacher at Thorndon in 1893 and continued there until 1897. From 1898 to 1901 she was still a Pupil Teacher at Fernridge just West of Masterton . And still a pupil teacher she was at Brooklyn from 1905 to 1907. There was then a gap where I presume she went to Training College until coming to Otaki in 1911. In 1912 and 1913 she was sole teacher at Korokoro South. Then assistant at Korokoro North from 1914 to 1917. And from 1919 to 1923 when my records end was teaching at Muritai School in Eastbourne. In 1928 she was appointed to Te Horo school

Ellen J Selvey only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Otaki in 1911

8th February 1912 The school committee is dissatisfied with the action of the Education Board in removing Miss Selvey without being consulted. She was appointed only a few months ago, and the removal is so unexpected that the work of the school has been disorganised. The committee is up in arms, and there is some talk of resigning unless a new teacher is immediately appointed [I can find no other record of an Ellen J Selvey in New Zealand]

19th January 1911 There are still several cases of scarlet fever in the district. The State schools, both here and at Manakau, have been fumigated.

17th February 1911 Scholarship examination results: Otaki students were classed in class B based on attendance figures. Athol Wilson was one of our recipients of a Junior National Scholarship entitling him to a free place in a secondary school and also an allowance of £40. William Smith (Otaki) also won a scholarship.

11th February 1911 At the last monthly meeting of the State School Committee>it was decided to place on record the success of the three scholars who secured scholarships, and to congratulate the headmaster on bringing the pupils to such a state of proficiency. A vote of condolence was passed to Miss Jacob, who recently sustained a heavy loss by the death of her mother. Thanks were extended the ladies who judged the scholars' sewing, and to Mr. Rollo for a donation, of wire netting.

23rd February 1911 The Otaki State and Convent Schools held their annual picnic to-day in fine weather. Both were largely attended

1st March 1911 Wellington Education Board Grants for improvements of residences, costing £625, were accepted on the conditions specified, but with approval of the suggestions of inspectors regarding Otaki and Kohinui.

11th March 1911 The average attendance at the local State School last month was 163, which was considered by the committee at its last meeting to be satisfactory. Permission was given to Miss McMahon to hold elocutionary classes at the school.

6th May 1911 At the monthly meeting of the Otaki State School Committee there was reported an attendance of 164 out of 178 on the roll for April. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Dan Nees for his donation of the balance owing on an outbuilding

6th July 1911 Miss Foster, who has been assistant at the Otaki State School for about two years, has received: an appointment on the staff of the Wellington Technical School.

2nd August 1911 Miss Foster, who has received an appointment at the Wellington Technical School, has been made the recipient of an enlarged photograph of the Methodist Sunday School teachers. During her stay in Otaki she has become very popular, both with the children of the State School (where she was on the teaching staff) and the Sunday School, besides being held in esteem by residents.

3rd August 1911 Miss Selvey, o recent arrival from England, lias been appointed teacher at the Otaki Slate School, in place of Miss Foster, who is joining the staff of the Technical School in Wellington

12th August 1911 At the monthly meeting of the Otaki School Committee this week, the resignation of Miss Foster (of the teaching staff) was received with regret; the committee, decided to send her a letter, expressing appreciation of her excellent services.

28th September 1911 Wellington Education Board Otaki Alterations and additions to residence. L Arcus and Son

31st October 1911 Wellington Education Board Otaki, £38 for cookery room improvements

31st October 1911 On account of throat trouble, Miss Jacob, of the Otaki State School, has been obliged to temporarily retire from duty. Miss Jacob did not teach for the Wellington Education Board again.

6th December 1911 . A Meeting of the Otaki School Committee was held, on Monday evening, Mr. W. Keegan presiding. Arrangements were made to hold a prize-giving ceremony at an early date, and a picture entertainment after the new year. The, board donated a Microscope, from proceeds derived from Mr. H. Elders' travelling allowance. which he donated for these of school funds. Donations were alto received from Mrs. G. W. Taylor and Mr. Geo. McBeath and the secretary was instructed to write thanking the donor'

23rd December 1911 The three children of Mr A. E. Anderson, of Otaki, pupils at the Otaki State school, furnish an example of regular school attendance that must surely constitute something of a record, and be hard to beat anywhere in the Dominion says the Mail. Alice Anderson, the eldest child, has six years' continuous attendance, without a single break, to her credit. Her younger brother, Arthur, has not been absent for a single half-day since he commenced his schooling—five years' continuous attendance —while the youngest boy, Maitland, has not missed a half-day from school for two years. Such a record as this is certainly a credit to the children and their parents alike.



## 1912

1912	174	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£270.00	House
1912	174	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£150.00	
1912	174	Otaki	Hall	Lily E	D4	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1912	174	Otaki	Miller	Edith		Assistant Female	£90.00	

Lily E Hall started teaching for the Wellington Education Board in 1907 as a pupil teacher at Mitchelltown in Wellington followed by 2 years at Petone DHS. She then spent two years at Koputaroa [South of Eketahuna] before coming to Otaki. By 1914 she was teaching at Dalefield to at least 1917. She then was an assistant at Lansdowne [Masterton] until 1923 when my records end.

Edith P Miller taught for two years as a pupil teacher at Pahiatua before coming to Otaki where she taught until at Least 1923

26th July 1926 Otaki Competitions The school choir contort saw Levin. ; Manakau. and Otaki schools contesting for the trophy—a handsome clock. Otaki. under the baton, of Miss E. P. Miller, wore successful in annexing this and as this their second consecutive” win the clock is now the property of the school. The Otaki school also turned out a poi team, coached by Mrs Baker, which save a display that was thoroughly enjoyed.

1982/39122	Miller	Edith Phoebe	23 November 1891
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7th February 1912 The monthly meeting of the State School Committee was held on Monday evening, when the board's action in accepting Miss Selvey's resignation without informing the committee was adversely criticised. The committee were not aware of the teacher's retirement until she had practically left the district. It was decided to write to the board, pointing out that their action was not in the interest of school work generally, and that the resignation had caused dislocation of work. The committee had also been under the impression that Miss Selvey's appointment was a permanent one. 'it was decided to forgo this year's picnic.

28th February 1912 Miss M Jacob's resignation accepted by Wellington Education Board.[Last registered as teaching at Otaki in December 1910]

28th February 1912 Wellington Education Board Renewal and repairs to fence.

12th March 1912 Miss N Burbush appointed assistant. In December 1912 Nellie M Burbush was teaching at Levin DHS

1st April 1912 Miss Jacob, who has resigned as teacher of the. Otaki State School was presented by the children ,with a silver mounted salad bowl and' 'servers.. The presentation was made by the headmaster (Mr. W. Bums Smith), the recipient suitably responding.

6th April 1912 The monthly sitting of the local State School Committee was held on Monday evening, Mr. W. Keegan presiding. It was decided to effect certain improvements at the school, and to raise the salary of the caretaker. It was decided to recommend to the Education Board the appointment of Miss Hill,[Hall] vice Miss Jacob, who has resigned. It was also resolved to allow the girls of the Native School to have the use of the cookery rooms for lessons.

6th April 1912 The ordinary monthly meeting of the Otaki State school committee was held last night. Present-Messrs W. Keegan(chairman). W. Vaughan, M. Wain, Cecil Smith. M. H. Ayre. J. R. Bills, and W. B. Smith. It was decided to recommend to the board the

appointment of Miss Hill and failing her. Miss Mallabarr, to take the place of Miss Jacob resigned .....we are very pleased to learn that the Otaki State school has just had d to its scientific appliances a very good microscope. This has been made possible through the generosity of Mr Elder, late member of the Wellington Education Board, who returned to the board his travelling expenses while he was a member. The board awarded part of this money to the Otaki school. For meritorious work in agriculture. The microscope is a "Praxis" instrument, made by W Watson and Co., London, who are among the foremost of the worlds microscope-makers. It is on a heavy tripod stand, and is well suited for micro-photography, beautifully adjusted, and of the highest class as regards material and fittings. It is fitted with a .No. 2 eyepiece! anil two objectives -one one inch, and one a quarter inch , The latter is of high power, and is powerful enough to investigate in the bacterial branch of science. The purpose, however, is, more than anything, to investigate in the minute structure of plants: and it will, it is hoped, be found possible to at least give pupils a working knowledge of the elements of the most fascinating of all sciences —microscopy.

23rd April 1912 School Committee Otaki.—Messrs. C. H. Williams (chairman and treasurer), W. Keegan, .W. Vaughan, H. Nicolson, J. R. Bills, Wellan, M. Ayre (secretary).

1st May 1912 Wellington Education Board Otaki (cookery room), Oliver and Thomson, £31;

22nd May 1912 Otaki: The state school will break up for a week's holiday on Friday next

22nd May 1912 State schools in the Wellington educational district will commence next Friday afternoon and terminate on the following Friday afternoon (31st May). As, however, the King's Birthday falls on Monday, 3rd June, the children will not resume school until the following day (Tuesday, 4th June).

9th August 1912 At the monthly meeting of the Otaki School Committee on Monday evening it was decided to hold a shooting tournament and euchre party, on September 3, in aid of the prize funds. It was resolved not to prolong the holidays next month, so as to allow teachers to attend the agricultural class to be held at Masterton. The headmaster's report showed that the attendance had been considerably affected oy the prevalence of mumps and bad weather.

16th August 1912 Otaki The resignation of Mr. Whelan as a member of the local School Committee accepted, he having left the district. Arrangements are being made to have the vacancy filled.

24th August 1912 Otaki Notes: The local State School Committee arts arranging for a "social," to be held at an early date, for the purpose of raisins funds for the school library. "Socials" are also to be organised for the purpose of raising funds for the Domain ground, the local brass band, the Otaki and Te Horo Catholic Churches, and the local Lodge.

7th September 1912 A pleasant gathering was held on Tuesday at the Otaki State School, when a shooting tournament (miniature rifle range) and a progressive euchre party were the features. The gathering was promoted for the purpose of raising funds for the school library. The trophy for the best shot was awarded to Master Eric Williams, who secured 23 out of a possible 25. In the euchre tournament Mr. C. L. Cook and Master Winton Brown, secured first prizes

25th September 1912 Wellington Education Board A grant of £119 11s 8d was made for the equipment of a woodwork centre at Otaki

10th October 1912 OTAKI. At a meeting of the local State School Committee it was decided to hold the last of the series of progressive euchre parties and shooting tournaments, in aid of the school library, in about two weeks' time.

29th October 1912 The euchre party and dance, held in connection with the local State school on Friday night was a success despite unfavorable weather. Prizes were won by Mrs Heap, Miss Wilson, Mr W. Cook, and Master Eric Williams.

2nd November 1912 Yesterday Mr Stanley Brewster interviewed the headmasters of the Ohau, Manakau, Otaki, Te Horo. and Waikanae schools, with a view to school teams taking part in swimming competitions at the Levin Coronation baths. At Te Horn and Waikanae it was found that the children were too young to participate in the events, but Manakau, Ohau and Otaki will take part in the competitions. Mr .Brewster will, at an early date, visit .Shannon and Koputaroa. with a view to ascertaining whether school teams can be raised there

16th November 1912 OTAKI. At the Police Court to-day several Native parents were fined for tailing to send their children to school the required number of times. Mr. Dineen, truant inspector appeared on behalf of the Education Board, while Messrs. Bennett and Jones were the presiding justices.

4th December 1912 The ordinary monthly meeting of the Otaki State School Committee was held on Monday. Present: Messrs. C H. Williams )Chairman), W. Keegan. VV. Vaughan, J. R Bills, H. Nicolson, M H Ayre (secretary);, and ,W. Burns-Smith Headmaster;. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and' confirmed. The Headmaster's report. showed the roll number to be 199, the average for the quarter being 178, winch was considered very satisfactory considering the wet weather experienced. ; The annual examination for promotion had just been held, and the papers were under the scrutiny of the Education Board's inspectors. The Education Board had applied to the department , for a grant for Mr Quinell's lectures, but so far no reply bad been received, Four boys were candidates at the scholarship examination last week, and one girl for a free place. It was decided that during the recess that several improvements be done at the school; also resolved that the prize-giving ceremony be held on the 18th, the chairman to make the distribution.

12th December 1912 The prize distribution in connection with the local State school- takes place on the 19th inst. At a meeting last night preparations were made for entertaining Mio children and their parents.'

19th December 1912 The following pupils gained proficiency certificates at Otaki School : —Herbert Adsett, Arthur Anderson, Roy Butler, Hereward Fisher, William Granfield, Amos McKegg , Ronald Satherley, Crieff Smith, William Symonds, Eric Williams, Alice Anderson, Doris Clifford, Netta Clifford, Dorothy Devonshire, and Lilian Patching.

## 1913

1913	176	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£270.00	House
1913	176	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£150.00	
1913	176	Otaki	Hall	Lily E	D4	Assistant Female	£125.00	
1913	176	Otaki	Miller	Edith	D5	Assistant Female	£95.00	

19th February 1913 A move is on foot to form a kindergarten school in Otaki

24th March 1913 Otaki News A concert is to be given here shortly in aid of the funds of the recently-formed state School Tennis Club. Next month the election of a school committee will take place, and interest is likely to be keen. This is due to the fact that advocates of the Bible in schools are desirous of gaining seats. The sitting members are adverse to the Bible in schools.

26th March 1913 Otaki Notes ; In pursuance of medical examination at the State school.' a weighing machine has been placed at the local school.

27th March 1913 An opportunity is to be afforded the school children of Otaki and district, as well as to those in other townships, to visit the Dreadnought "New Zealand," which is expected to arrive in the Wellington harbour during the first week in April and remain for nine or ten days. The Railway Department is offering concessions, whereby children will be able to make the return journey from Otaki for Is 2d, while senior scholar's, over fifteen years and under twenty-three years, will be charged 2s Id. The school committee will also be allowed to travel at a greatly reduced rate, but the latest order is that other parents will not be allowed to accompany the children, unless they journey by one of the ordinary trains. It is possible, however, that the department will arrange for a special train for the children and take those attending several schools in the district at the same time. Naturally the exclusion of parents has caused disappointment, and it is hoped some arrangement will be made whereby the adults will be able to accompany the children.

29th March 1913 A concert was held on Thursday night in connection with the Otaki State School, but rain interfered with the attendance. The items on the whole were good, and enjoyed, but disappointment was expressed at the fact that members of the Orpheus Club (Wellington) failed at the last minute to appear.

31st March 1913 Mr. L. Fisher, who has been caretaker of the local State school for some time, has tendered his resignation on account of failing health.

31st March 1913 Otaki Notes A concert, organised by Miss Hall, in aid of funds for the Senior Girls' Tennis Club in connection with the local State school was held on Thursday night, and proved very enjoyable. The programme was a lengthy and varied one. After the performance all taking part were entertained at supper by the wives of the committeemen.

3rd April 1913 Otaki Notes The school children were yesterday afternoon entertained by the management of the Star Picture Co and enjoyed several fine films.

10th April 1908 Word has been received by the local School Committee to the effect that the children will leave here on the morning of the 19th inst., at 8.20, for the purpose of visiting the battleship. No other particulars are available. Children attending, the Convent and Native Schools will also make the journey- the same day, leaving Wellington on the , return journey at 4.30 p.m. At the monthly meeting of the School Committee the headmaster reported the attendance on the roll at 198, or one under the number necessary to get the capitation fee raised by 10s [10 shillings. There were 20 shillings in a pound]

11th April 1913 The ordinary monthly meeting of the State school committee was held on Monday evening. Present—Messrs C. H. Williams (chairman), W. Vaughan, J. R. Bills, H. Nicolson. W. Keegan, M. H. Ayre (secretary), and W. Burns Smith (headmaster). '

The headmaster's report was considered very satisfactory, it showing 193 children on the roll, with an average, attendance of 190, and adding that had there been one more child

present it would have put the capitation fee up to 10s per quarter. The cookery classes, now in full swing, were working satisfactorily. He believed that only children from the fifth and sixth standards would be allowed by the department to make the trip to Wellington to see the warship New Zealand, and further that the holiday would not be on Wednesday. This matter caused some discussion, it being regretted that there was a possibility that children of the lower standards would be unable to go. It was suggested that, should time permit, the children making the trip be taken to the Newtown Zoo.

Correspondence was read from the secretary of the Manawatu Agricultural and Pastoral Society, offering school children free admission on any one day of their coming show, and stating that prizes had been offered for the best essay on the day's outing. ' .

Mr Edwards, of the "Star" Picture Company, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for providing an entertainment for the school children. The committee agreed to meet prior to the annual meeting on the 28th.

19th April 1913 A special meeting of the Otaki State school committee was held last evening. Present —Messrs C. H. Williams (chairman), J. R. Bills, W. Keegan, H. Nicholson, M. H. Ayre (secretary), and W. Bums Smith (headmaster). The main object of the meeting was to make further arrangement relative to the visit to the battleship. Mr Smith reported that 78 children would be making the trip, and various standards were allotted to the various committeemen and teachers, the headteacher to have a general supervision'

30th April 1913 Some 23 householders attended the annual meeting for the election of a school committee at Otaki on Monday night. The following were elected Messrs. C. L. Hartmann, L. St. George, J. Bills, W. Keegan, C. Williams, M. Ayre, and A. Anderson. At a subsequent meeting Mr. Williams was elected chairman, and Mr. Ayre, secretary. . The balance -sheet submitted showed a credit of 18s. 2d., while the report was considered very satisfactory. It was decided that it be a recommendation to alter the school hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., instead of 9.30 to 3.30 p.m., as at present.

30th April 1913 Wellington Education Board Approved Otaki dividing fences. [This could mean putting up fences between boys and girls playgrounds.

7th May 1913 The Otaki and To Horo school boys played a' drawn game of hockey on Saturday

8th May 1913 At the monthly meeting of the School Committee, the headmaster's report was considered very satisfactory. It was decided to effect necessary improvements on the school grounds, but to have nothing to do with the laying down of a tennis court.

22nd May 1913 A referendum of the parents of children attending the local State school relative to the opening of the school at 9 a.m. instead of 9.30, and closing at 3 instead of 3.30, has been taken, the voting being practically unanimous for the earlier hour. Some 94 parents voted for the proposal, while only 16 recorded their vote against.

28th May 1913 Wellington Education Board An application for a shelter shed at Otaki was held over.

7th August 1913 The monthly meeting of the State School Committee was held last night, Mr. C. Williams presiding. The headmaster reported a serious falling-off in the attendance, due ,to vaccination. Other business of a routine character was then transacted

4th September 1913 The monthly meeting of . the Otaki School Committee was he}d last night. Present:—Messrs C. H. Williams (chairman), C. L. Hartmann, W. Keegan, A. E.

Anderson, and M. H. Ayre (secretary). The headmaster reported that the average attendance was about equal to last month, there still being a decided drop owing to whooping cough, etc. It was decided to effect improvements in connection with some of the outbuildings, and to have the school thoroughly disinfected during the recess.

1st October 1913 Wellington Education Board Otaki Concrete Floors in closets. [Toilets]

11th October 1913 Otaki Items At the monthly meeting of the State School Committee last night, it was arranged to promote a social function for the purpose of adding to the school funds, which at present are limited.

20th December 1913 The State school concert, held at Otaki last night, proved successful, despite a counter attraction by Professor Norwood, who. drew a large- audience. Both entertainments were above the ordinary and much enjoyed,

24th December 1913 Miss Kilmartin, who acted as relieving teacher at the Otaki State School for some time, remained at Otaki holiday making after the expiry of her term. She left on Saturday for Wellington and will shortly go on to Sydney. It is possible that she will not return to New Zealand. [By 1915 Miss Kilmartin was in New Zealand and teaching at Featherston until at 1923 when my Records ended.]

## 1914

1914	184	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£270.00	House
1914	184	Otaki	Bannister	Matilda E	E2	Assistant Female	£160.00	
1914	184	Otaki	Miller	Edith P	D5	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1914	184	Otaki	Rudkin	Alfred R		Assistant Master	£108.00	
1914	184	Otaki	Windley	Ivy M		FP3	£55.00	

Alfred R Rudkin only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Otaki. He was still teaching there in 1923 when my records end. He fought overseas during the war with distinction winning military honours.

Ivy Windley taught at Otaki in 1914 and 1915, and then taught at Te Horo until at least 1921 as an assistant

1922/5388	Ivy Mary	Windley	Michael Richard	Fitzgerald
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5th January 1914 Mr. W. B. Smith; headmaster- of the State School, and local meteorologist, is at present holiday-making in Wellington

19th January 1914 Three pupils of the Otaki State School --Masters Saul Keegan, Amos McKegg and Arthur Anderson—who qualified for scholarships at the recent Wellington education Board examinations, have been awarded board scholarships, being sixth, eighth, and ninth on the list respectively. William C. Hayward, of the To Horo School, is sixteenth on the list, but is not recommended for a scholarship. In these scholarships examinations those who qualify are divided into three classes: (a) Schools with an average attendance of over 200; (b) schools with an average attendance of 36 to 200; and (c) schools with attendance under 36. All the Otaki boys are in Class B.

28th January 1914 Wellington Education Board Miss Ivy Windley appointed as pupil teacher.

3rd February 1914 The Native College- reopened yesterday the State schools reopens today, and the Convent school on Wednesday."

6th March 1914 Otaki Notes At the monthly meeting of the local State School Committee it was decided to hold the annual picnic on Wednesday next, and to effect repairs that are necessary in connection with piping, etc

12th March 1914 The Otaki State School picnic was held on the racecourse yesterday.. in fine weather. There was a large attendance of children, parents, -and friends, and everything passed off splendidly. During the day various pastimes were indulged in .and fully enjoyed.

9th April 1914 Otaki: It is expected- that considerable interest will be taken in the State school election, to be held here next month, and that an attempt will be made to put new blood in

23rd April 1914 Otaki Mr. R. Lee, chairman of the Wellington Education Board, yesterday gave a brief address to the children attending the local State school. [Mr Lee was the senior inspector for the Wellington Education Board and was sacked. So he was then elected onto the Education Board and became chairman]

1st August 1914 Otaki Notes: Miss Hall who has been in indifferent state of health has resumed her duties at the local state school

16th October 1914 Miss L. E. Hall, of the Otaki School staff, has been in ill-health for some time, and has been ordered a complete rest' by her doctors. She will resign her position and probably leave Otaki in & week or two.

29th October 1914 Word has been received to the effect that a male assistant teacher will be available for the Otaki State school, and that he will commence his duties on November 1st,

6th November 1914 Ambulance Equipment Fund Otaki School £2 9s 7d

10th November 1914 Wellington Education Board appointment: Assistant at Dalefield Miss L Hall late of Otaki.

## 1915

1915	188	Otaki	Smith	William B	D1	Head Master	£280.00	House
1915	188	Otaki	Gray`	Catherine	C2	Assistant Female	£155.00	
1915	188	Otaki	Rudkin	Alfred R	C4	Assistant Master	£150.00	
1915	188	Otaki	Miller	Edith P	D5	Assistant Female	£120.00	
1915	188	Otaki	Windley	Ivy		FP4	£65.00	
1915	188	Otaki	Smith	William B		FP1	£35.00	

Wm Burns Jnr only taught in 1915. In 1917 he enrolled in the army and was wounded. He died in 1923 from his war injuries.

1897/5895	Smith	William Burns	Elizabeth	William Burns
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Catherine Gray Taught at Mauriceville East 1897-1899 and Mauriceville West from 1900 to 1901 as a pupil teacher. She was at Featherston in 1902 and then back to Mauriceville West from 1903 to 1908 as an assistant female., From 1909 to 1914 she was an assistant at Martinborough School before coming to Otaki in 1915 to at least 1917.

27th February 1915 Nearly 200 Otaki State School children and 80 adults left Otaki on Wednesday morning to indulge in a picnic at Paekakariki. The day, though overcast, was fine, and a very enjoyable time was spent at the seaside resort. The teachers and several of the committeemen were also present and did all possible for the enjoyment of the younger ones. All returned homo by the train reaching Otaki at 6.50 o'clock the same evening.

11th March 1915 The monthly meeting of the Otaki State School Committee was held on Monday night. Present—Messrs L. St. George, C. E. Hartmann, A. E. Anderson, M. H. Ayre (clerk), and W. Bums Smith (headmaster). The report on the recent picnic showed it to be a great success. It was decided to expend any funds in hand in asphaltting the schoolgrounds, also to ascertain what subsidy the board would allow on such work.

28th April 1915 Wellington Education Board authorised works at Otaki asphalt (provided committee pay £20), £60.

7th May 1915 School Committee Messrs J. R. Bills (chairman), W. Keegan, C. L. Hartmann, L. St. George, M. H. Ayre (secretary), A. E. Anderson and H. H. Olliver.

7th May 1915 Mr M. H. Ayres, secretary of the Otaki State School Committee, has received word from the secretary of the Education Board to the effect that , the board will subsidise up to £40 for asphaltting the school grounds, provided the committee paid £20. This the latter is perfectly willing to do, So it is now assured that- the grounds will be put in good order. The board also acknowledges the fact that the committee has done good work.

26th May 1915 At the meeting of the-Education Board yesterday the resignations were accepted of Miss J. K. Hutchen, assistant teacher at Newtown, and Miss M. B. Bannister, assistant at Otaki- It was explained that those two teachers were retiring on superannuation allowances after thirty and. thirty-two years' service respectively. and a resolution was passed to allow them a month's leave on full salary

7th July 1905 Mr D. M. Yeats, "formerly headmaster of the Otaki State School, has been nominated for a seat on the Education Board as representative of the Hutt ward [Otaki 19891-1902. Hutt DHS 1903-1913. Then in 1914-1915 Substitute Headmaster at Carterton School while Headmaster was serving in the war.

13th July 1915 Miss C M Gray of Martinborough to be assistant at Otaki

23rd November 1915 At the recruiting meeting at Otaki on Friday night, Mr W. B. Smith made an eloquent appeal for support of the newly-formed Otaki Patriotic Society. A small membership too had been fixed, and he hoped that every man, woman and child in the place would become members. The Society would be linked up with other similar organizations throughout the country for the assistance of our sick and wounded soldiers and sailors.....

16th December 1915 The monthly meeting of the Otaki State School was held last night. Present: Messrs J., R. Bills (chairman) it. H H Olliver, A. E. Anderson, M. H. Ayre (secretary) and W. B. Smith (headmaster). The latter's report was read and considered satisfactory, while Inspector Bakewell's report was considered very gratifying. Mr W. Keegan wrote tendering his resignation on account of leaving the district. This was received with regret. It was decided -that the school "break-up" on Thursday.'

21st December 1915 The sale of work, organised by the teaching staff and the children of the Otaki State School, held on Wednesday in the school grounds, was largely attended, ladies especially congregating in numbers. The day was an ideal one, and everything passed off most successfully, the proceeds derived in various ways amounting to over .£25, which amount will be handed over to the local Patriotic Society. The promoters have worked energetically for some time, and it was pleasing to see their efforts crowned with such success. There were plain and fancy stalls, which bore a number of very useful and ornamental articles, a sweets stall, which was the means of enticing many adults, as well as



children, a doll stall, which proved very attractive, a woodwork stall, on which was arrayed some very fine poker-work. the handiwork and gift of Mrs W. Burns Smith, and several useful articles executed in good Style by schoolboys of the woodwork classes. There was a produce stall, which held products of different sorts from many gardens, etc., while a number of flower girls actively dodged, among the crowd selling lovely button-holes. There was also a bran-tub, which contained many mysteries. and which proved a great source -of pleasure to the boys. Afternoon tea was served in dainty style, whilst soft drinks were disposed of at the modest price of one physical drill, under the capable guidance of Mr Burns Smith. Later a football passing competition was held between the school lads and a dozen male adults but the activity of the boys easily eclipsed those of the grown-ups.

The stallholders were-.—Plain and fancy, Dorothy McDonald and Joan Hartmann; sweets, Evelyn Bevan produce, Maidie Smith and Florrie Dempster; bran-tub, Maraia Rikihana and Rita Taylor; flower girls. Nora Keegan, Janet Smith, Phreta Anderson, Evelyn Powell. Chrissie Olliver . Marjorie Jenn, and Dellah Hartmann

### 1916-1917

1917	167	Otaki	Smith	William B	D-32	Head	£300.00	
1917	167	Otaki	Gray`	Catherine	C-70	Assistant	£175.00	
1917	167	Otaki	Cumpsty	Charles E		Assistant	£155.00	
1917	167	Otaki	Miller	Edith P	D-94	Assistant	£140.00	
1917	167	Otaki	Waghorn	Reginald J		PT1	£55.00	

Charles E Cumpsty taught for the Wellington Education Board at Otaki then by 1919 was sole teacher at Rangitumau, North East of Masterton

2nd April 1912 Mr. C. E. Cumpsty, who has been assistant at the Clareville Native College for some months past, is leaving this week to enter the Selwyn College, -Dunedin [Anglican priest training College]. In 1923 he was appointed to a native School in the Gisborne Area.

Reginald Waghorn taught at Otaki and by 1919 was at Te Aro in Wellington and in 1923 was teaching at the Normal School.

5th January 1916 The total proceeds derived from the recent. State school bazaar were £26 10s. This amount will be handed over to the Otaki Patriotic Society.

17th February 1916 At the monthly meeting of the Otaki State school committee it was reported that there were 186 children on the roll. Permission was given to Messrs Alf. R. Rudkin and Burns Smith [Presumably the Pupil Teacher] to attend the Rangiotu camp from February 25th to March 4th inclusive.

31st May 1916 Wellington Education Board Messrs. A. E. Rudkin, assistant, Otaki, and R. J. Frain, sole teacher, Otaki, [Actually Sole Teacher Tane East of Eketahuna] were granted leave to join the Expeditionary Forces.

21st June 1916 One of the most important institutions at Otaki is the Maori College, with, which is incorporated an ordinary day school for Maori children. The college is supported by a trust which is administered by the Church of England, and each year it shows greater development.....As mentioned above, a day school is combined with the-secondary school. The average attendance is 60, 22 of whom are boarders. It is with the boarders that this article deals more particularly.....

25th July 1916 A function that was accompanied by both feelings of pleasure and of regret, took place at the Otaki State School on Friday afternoon, when Mr W. Burns Smith, on behalf of the committee, school staff, , and children, made a presentation to Mr A. R. Rudkin, the popular assistant, who goes into camp at Trentham to-morrow, of a wristlet-watch, suitably engraved, and with a radium dial. Mr Smith wished Mr Rudkin success, good health, and promotion. Mr Rudkin suitably replied.

16th September 1916 The usual monthly meeting of the Otaki State School Committee was held on Monday night, when there was a full attendance. It was reported that the school attendance had been about the average, which was considered very satisfactory, considering the amount of sickness prevailing. It was reported that no -permanent teacher had been appointed. An anonymous friend had donated for use at the school an up-to-date pencil sharpener an acceptable present for school use.

10th November 1916 Otaki town district, according to census returns, has a population of 811. The Otaki Mail draws attention to the fact that the Native population is not included'; thus a misleading result is given. The Native census is taken separately in the North Island, and towns, which like Otaki, contain a considerable number of Maori residents, are unfairly placed in the published comparisons.

9th February 1917 Lieutenant E. O. Mousley. for some time a school teacher in Otaki, [1905 and 1906] is now a prisoner of war in Angora (Asia Minor)

8th March 1917 The Otaki State School picnic was held to-day in fine weather. The attendance was large, and all present spent a most enjoyable time

14th March 1917 At Carterton on Wednesday last, Mr. C. E. Cumpsty, of the teaching staff of the Otaki School, and formerly of the Hikurangi Native. College, staff, Clareville, was married to Miss McLaren, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McLaren, well-known settlers of Clareville. [just north of Carterton]

20th July 1917 A Euchre tournament, held in connection with the Otaki State School, was held last night, but owing to inclement weather the attendance was small. The ladies' prize was won by Mrs Fred Wilson, and the gentlemen's trophy by Mr Eric Williams.

10th August 1917 The ordinary monthly meeting of the Otaki State School committee was held on Monday night. Present—Messrs J. E. Bills (chairman), G. Noble, A. Anderson, M. H. Ayre, W. B. Smith and Mrs Bills. The secretary reported a credit balance in connection with the recent euchre . tournament, despite bad weather, and it was agreed to arrange lor another, to be held at an early date. It was reported that the fencing was now in order, while the headmaster's report showed -the attendance to be well up to the average

## 1918-1919

1919	189	Otaki	Smith	William B	D-31	Head	£375.00
1919	189	Otaki	Rudkin	Alfred R	C-76	Assistant	£230.00
1919	189	Otaki	Crellin	Muriel L	C-72	Assistant	£200.00
1919	189	Otaki	Burbush	Margaret A	D-82	Assistant	£190.00
1919	189	Otaki	Miller	Edith P	D-90	Assistant	£160.00
1919	189	Otaki	Christensen	Marie P		PT3	£90.00

Muriel L Crellin was teaching at Otaki in 1919. Was at Shannon as Infant Mistress in 1921 and in 1923 was Infant Mistress at Ngaio in Wellington. In 1901 she was attending Newton West in Auckland. In 1906 she was a pupil teacher at Richmond road school in Auckland. It appears was her first appointment out of Auckland Schools

Margaret A Burbush Taught at Taratahi West [West of Masterton] in 1909 and 1910. At Kaiparoro out of Eketahuna in 1911 and 1912. From 1913 to at least 1917 she was assistant at South Featherston. In 1919 she was at Otaki and was back at Featherston by 1921 and was still there in 1923 when my records ended

Marie Christensen was at Otaki in 1919 and at Levin in 1921

NB Copies of the Otaki Mail are now included from Papers past

17th January 1918 Mr G. Kirk, master of the Otaki school, during "the holidays cycled oil a push-bike first from Otaki to Wellington, and then from Wellington over the 250 miles to New Plymouth, making the journey by easy stages. Outside the towns Mr Kirk informed the Taranaki News he did not meet another cyclist on a pushbike, the motor being everywhere in use for distance travelling. He intends cycling round the mountain, and returning home by the way that, he came. Mr Kirk was actually teaching at Te Horo

31st January 1918 Mr Crief Smith, son of Mr W. Burns Smith, of Otaki, recently passed, his agricultural examinations at Hawkesbury College, with honours.

17th April 1918 Wellington Education Board The application of" Mr. V. G. Preston Thomas, Otaki Railway, for the establishment of a school, was referred to the inspector.

24th April 1918 Otaki on Monday evening only four householders were present, and practically no interest was taken in the proceedings. The old committee were re-elected without an election, and as follows:—Messrs J. R. Bills (chairman), ;Mr H Ayre (secretary), Geo. Noble, August Anderson, Percy Bennett, and Mesdames Bills and Keegan.

2nd May 1918 Sergeant A. R. Rudkin, who, previous to enlisting, was on the staff of the Otaki School, has been awarded the Military Medal. He is at present lying very ill, as the result of a severe wound

9th October 1918 Otaki The flagstaff presented to the local school committee some time ago by Mr F. Burnell has now been erected in the school grounds. Residents are looking forward to the time when a flag will be flying from the staff to celebrate the declaration of peace. Messrs T. Clifford and Phillips were mainly instrumental in getting the flagstaff erected

10th October 1918 The monthly meeting of the Otaki State school committee was held last night, when the inspector's report was read and considered very satisfactory. The school grounds are to be thoroughly levelled, fences repaired, and other minor matters attended to

NB The Otaki Mail newspaper is published on line in papers Past from January 1919

29th January 1919 various schools throughout this district —State schools, Otaki Convent School and Native College—all resume on Tuesday next, February 4th.

5th February 1919 Owing to indisposition, Miss Gray, infant mistress at the Otaki State School, is having an extension of her midsummer holidays. In the meantime her place at the school is being taken by Miss Crellin. Miss Christensen has been added to the staff of

the local State **school**, as pupil teacher, to take the place of Mr Waghorn (probationer), who will now attend the training college.

17th February 1919 Captain-E. O. Mousley, R.F.A. (Auckland), who was captured at Kift and has been a prisoner in the hands of the Turks ever since, has returned home as a special envoy of the Turkish Government. He was formerly a master at King's College, Auckland and a teacher, at the Otaki State School.

5th March 1919 The monthly meeting of the Otaki State- School Committee was held on Monday night. Present: Messrs J. R. Bills (chairman), G. Noble, A. Anderson, M. H. Ayre (secretary), and W. Burns Smith (headmaster). The head teacher's report showed over 220 names on the school roll, really more than there was accommodation for, but there was no hope, for the time being, of getting any addition to the school. The attendance was satisfactory. Miss Gray, one of the teachers, had not returned, having been granted extended leave on account of illness, and there was a possibility that she would not return for several months. Miss Crellin was filling the vacancy and was doing satisfactory work. Mr Waghorn had been transferred to the To Aro School in February. and his place was now filled by Miss Christensen, a first-year pupil teacher. Miss Miller had been granted twelve months' leave of absence to visit England. She left on Friday; another teacher to relieve was expected immediately. Several minor, improvements were being effected at the schoolgrounds.

It was decided to hold the annual picnic on the 26th Inst, (Wednesday) on the Mission grounds, if available. A meeting will be held on the 17th to make further arrangements.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr -George Reay for putting in a gateway at the school entrance for the convenience of the children.

Several small accounts were passed for payment.

7th March 1919 Mrs McRae has been appointed teacher at the Otaki State school in place of Miss Miller, who has temporarily resigned from the position

10th March 1919 (To the Editor.) Sir,—I notice in your issue of Wednesday that the headmaster of the Otaki, State school reports that "overcrowding is prevalent in the classrooms.' I fail to notice, however, that the committee are doing their duty. Why not agitate for alterations to suit, the growing requirements of the district rather than allow the health of our offspring to suffer? Do we want another epidemic! No Well, then get busy, Messrs Committee, and agitate, and if you fail in your first attempt, agitate again.—Yours, PARENT.

14th March 1919 Miss Miller, late of the staff of the Otaki State school, expects to leave Wellington to-day en route for England. A visit from Dr. Paterson is expected at the Otaki State school to-day, when a general medical inspection will be made,

24th March 1919 The children at the Otaki State school are being medically examined to-day, by two visiting lady officers.

24th March 1919 Captain E. O. Mousley, R.F.A., of Auckland (at one time on the staff of the Otaki State school), who graduated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1911, has now secured his M.A. degree. He was taken prisoner with General Townshend's force at Kut and returned to England as an envoy of the Turkish Government.

26th March 1919 Miss M. A. Burbush has been appointed to the position of assistant teacher at the Otaki State school during the period of Miss Miller's leave of absence.

27th March 1919 The Otaki State School picnic was held to-day in fine weather. The attendance was large.

28th March 1919 The annual picnic in connection with the Otaki State school, held on Wednesday, in the Native Mission grounds, was a great success, the fine weather, no doubt enticing many adults to the scene. The grounds were admirably suited for the occasion, while the committee, assisted by Mr W. Burns Smith (headmaster) and Mr C. E. Cumpsty, worked hard for the enjoyment of the children, all of whom appeared to spend a most enjoyable time. During the day substantial prizes were given for sports events, many of which were Swell contested, close finishes resulting. During the day the children were regaled with refreshments ad lib., which were fully appreciated. The little gathering dispersed shortly .after 5 p.m., all tired but happy.

2nd April 1919 Otaki Temporary appointment Miss M A Burbush

17th April 1919 School Committee At Otaki there were only eleven householders present, including five of the old committee and two teachers: The following committee was elected: Messrs J. R. Bills, A. Anderson, P. Bennett, M. H. Ayre and Mrs Bills (of the old committee) together with the Rev. Petrie and Mr A. J. Watts.

23rd April 1919 Miss, M. Burbush, . who is leaving South Featherston to take up a position on the staff of the Otaki School, was farewelled in the schoolroom last Wednesday evening, and presented .with a brief bag from the boy scholars and a gold brooch from, the girls. She received a gold necklet and a cheque from the residents. ‘

12th May 1919 A scheme for the dental treatment of school children is being submitted to the various State schools in this district by Mr D. S. Mackenzie, the principal point being that preservation of the teeth in the child by proper care was better than any kind of treatment applied too late....The question of hot drinks for school children during the winter months is to be given a trial at Otaki, but the Levin committee has deferred the matter, pending further inquiries.

11th April 1919 A movement is. on foot among residents of Otaki Railway and vicinity to secure a branch school, and already several donations have been promised as an inducement to the Education Department to erect a suitable building. It is very unlikely, however, that the request will be acceded to, .the. Department’s attitude being opposed to erecting small schools in proximity to towns

16th April 1919 . At Otaki there were only eleven householders present, including five of the old committee and two teachers.

The Rev.. G. F. -Petrie. was elected chairman of the meeting.

The balance-sheet . was considered very satisfactory, there being a credit balance of £-44 3s 6d.

The annual report was read as follows:— The influenza epidemic, towards the end of last year, prevented the usual December examinations being held, and in consequence the actual results of the year's working could not be accurately ascertained. Scholars were passed into the higher standards according to the general character of their work during the year. This arrangement,' though not nearly as satisfactory as the examination, was the best that could be done under the circumstances and appears to have met with the general approval of parents. The chief inspector's report of the work- done at the school is' very satisfactory,' and the general condition and management of' the school is to be commended. During the year

the school was thoroughly disinfected. The matter of enlarging the school has been brought under the notice of the Education Board, and it is hoped we will have an additional room erected for the infants' class. The improvement to the playground and levelling to the paddock has been done. It still wants a few pounds spent in top-dressing, and when done the boys should have a good ground for cricket or hockey. A new fence is just about completed in front of the school. When finished it will be a great improvement to the old one. We have had the pleasure of welcoming home Mr A. E., Rudkin and Mr W. B. Smith, jun. Although not in the best of health, we trust they will soon be well enough to take up their duties again. The annual picnic was held in the Old Mission Grounds and was a great success, and the thanks of the committee are due to the parents and public for their assistance towards making the picnic a success. In conclusion, the committee wish to thank the headmaster and staff for their assistance during the year. The number on the roll is 224.—J. R. BILLS, Chairman.

The report was considered highly satisfactory, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the committee for fine work accomplished.

The Rev. Petrie addressed encouraging remarks to the teaching staff, and hoped the headmaster, Mr W. Burns Smith, would long remain in his present position to carry on his good work. On the motion of Mr H. Nicolson, seconded by Mr Albert Smith, the committeemen present, viz., Messrs J. E. Bills, A. Anderson, P. Bennett, M. H. Ayre, and Mrs Bills, together with the Rev. Petrie and Mr A. J. Watts, were elected a committee for the ensuing term. The mover and seconder of the motion declined nomination.

At a meeting of the newly-elected committee Mr Bills was re-elected chairman and Mr Ayre re-elected secretary.

25th April 1919 The first meeting of the Otaki School Committee, as at present constituted, will take place on Monday night, when one of the chief items of interest will, be the consideration of supplying hot drinks for school children during the winter months.

7th May 1919 The monthly meeting of the committee of the Otaki State school was held on Monday night. Present: Messrs J. R. Bills (chairman), P. Bennett, A. Anderson, A. W. Watts, G. F. Petrie, M. H. Ayre (secretary), Mrs Bills, and the headmaster (Mr W. Burns Smith). Arrangements were made to have the flagpole set in concrete and thoroughly stayed. The committee decided to support the Education Board's request to supply hot cocoa to the children during the winter months, they to pay 6d and take their own mugs. It was decided to purchase a new football, to have the old one repaired, and the playing area put in order.

It was also resolved to have the piano tuned and a cover provided. The headmaster reported that the attendance was satisfactory, the roll being on a par with last month, also that Miss Burbush had taken up her duties in place of Miss Miller.

16th May 1919 Miss Miller, of the Otaki school staff, who is away on leave for the purpose of visiting the Old Country, has arrived in England.

16th May 1919 A meeting of residents was held at the Druids' Hall, Otaki, last night to discuss Mr D. S. Mackenzie's proposed scheme of attending to the teeth of children of the district. There was a fair attendance, and Mr J. R. Bills chairman of the School Committee presided. Mr Mackenzie, dentist, was present, and gave a brief-address. He said he

wished to point out the defects of teeth (which he. did by means 01 models) and the way of remedying them.....

26th May 1919 Mr W. B. Smith, headmaster of our local State school, who has not enjoyed the best of health for some little time past, took suddenly ill early on Saturday, and, acting under medical advice, will be unable to take up his duties for some weeks. We are glad to say that Mr Smith is now doing nicely. During his absence from the school his place will be taken by Mr C. E- Cumpsty while a relieving teacher will be sent to assist.

28th May 1919 Mr A. R. Rudkin, formerly of the Otaki State school .staff, has again taken up duties here, filling the position of headmaster during the illness of Mr W. Barns Smith. Mr Rudkin, who recently returned after undergoing treatment at Rotorua, is now much improved in health.

4th June 1919 Nearly seventy children participate in .the new arrangement at the Otaki State school, whereby they receive hot cocoa daily. By the payment of sixpence about every twelve days the children arc enabled to partake of the refreshments.

16th June 1919 Mr C. E. Cumpsty, who has been on the staff of the Otaki State school for the past four years or so, severes his connection with the school at the end of the present month.

9th July 1919 Mr A. R. Rudkin, who has been acting as relieving headmaster at the Otaki State school, is now enjoying a holiday before resuming duties again. Mr W. B. Smith has returned to the position as master of the school, after a spell of absence through ill-health.

10th July 1919 At the monthly meeting of the Otaki State school Committee there were present;—Messrs J. K. Bills (in the chair). Watts Anderson, Ayre. Mrs Bills. The headmaster referred to Mr MacKenzie's dental proposal, and said he noticed the Government was also moving in a similar manner, but it would not be so effective as Mr MacKenzie's scheme. The Government scheme to appoint eleven dentists to visit the schools was inadequate. It would, however, be free and that would count for much. It would, in his opinion, take 100 dentists to do satisfactory work.

Mr- Watts was heartily thanked for the presentation of a fine flag for school use. and which is to be used in the procession on Peace Day.

Messrs Watts and Anderson were appointed to represent the school at the Peace celebrations It was decided to take no action as regards Arbor Day.

Mr A. R. Rudkin who has been acting as relieving headmaster at the Otaki State School, is now enjoying a holiday before resuming duties again. -Mr W--B. Smith has returned to the position aa master of the school, after a spell of indifferent health.

18th July 1919 Yesterday afternoon Mr C. E. Cumpsty, who is severing his connection with the Otaki State school, was presented by the scholars of the school with a safety razor. Mr W. B. Smith (headmaster), who made the presentation, spoke of the keen interest that Mr Cumpsty had always taken in his work and the children under his care, and said Mr Cumpsty had proved an excellent teacher and a favourite with all. Mr Cumpsty briefly returned thanks.

Mr A. R. Rudkin, who has been enjoying a holiday for the past fortnight, resumed his duties at the Otaki State school to-day, while Mr C. E. Cumpsty, who has been connected with the school for some time, leaves shortly for “fresh fields and pastures now.” Mr Cumpsty has proved a most useful member of the community, helping in many local organisations

and being a tower of strength to the gymnastic clubs in Otaki. He will be much missed from the district.

24th July 1919 Mr. C. E. Cumpsty, on leaving the Otaki State School, received a presentation as a mark of esteem from the staff and scholars. Mr. Alf. Rudkin, of Wellington/has succeeded Mr. Cumpsty.

11th August 1919 Mr C. E. Cumpsty, late of the Otaki State School staff, has been appointed solo teacher at the Te Rangitumau School, near Masterton

22nd August 1919 Miss Gray, who was infant mistress at the Otaki State school for some considerable time and has been on sick leave for a lengthy period, has sent in her resignation, which has been accepted by the Education Board.

28th August 1919 A Wellington school teacher who could not obtain a permit to travel by train, walked over the Rimutaka Hill to Masterton. The journey occupied two days. Otaki and To Hero can boast of teachers who "push-hiked" over the Paekakariki Hill to Wellington and back, also on account of the railway "cut."

3rd September 1919 COMMITTEE MEETING. The monthly meeting of the Otaki State School Committee was held on Monday night. Present: Messrs J. R. Bills (chairman) A. Anderson, A. -Watts, and M H. Ayre (secretary).

A letter was read from Mr P. Bennett tendering his resignation on account of pressure of work as a member of the committee. Accepted with regret.

Correspondence was also read from the Education Department, enclosing a list of applicants for the position of assistant teacher, rendered vacant by the resignation of Miss Gray, and suggesting Miss M. L. Crellin be selected for the position. The committee heartily agreed to the appointment. The headmaster (Mr W. B. Smith) reported that the attendance during the month had been affected by the weather. colds, and kindred troubles, also that Mr Cumpsty's position had been filled by Mr Rudkin. He pointed out that owing to mice and moths the piano needed a deal of renovating and had been put in order by an expert for £4 10s. The pump again needed attention. —It was decided to purchase a new pump.

5th September 1919 Miss M L Crellin appointed Otaki assistant

1st October 1919 The Te Horo school children are again visiting Otaki periodically in order to attend cookery, and woodwork classes here. The first visit this year took place yesterday, when a large number of children were brought to and from Otaki.

6th October 1919 Lieut.-Colonel Charters, one of the inspectors of schools in the 'Wellington district, who has been giving a series of war lectures at various schools and colleges, will give an address to the school children of Otaki at an early date.

13th October 1919 The Otaki State and Convent school children are to-day enjoying an inspectors' holiday.

5th November 1919 Owing to there being no quorum the Otaki State School Committee failed to hold its usual monthly meeting on Monday night.

4th November 1919 Otaki News The local State school children will be granted a holiday on Wednesday next (flower show day).

14th November 1919 he monthly meeting of the Otaki State School Committee was held on Monday night. Present: Messrs J. R. Bills (chairman), A. W. Watts, M. H. Ayre, Mrs Bills and the Rev. G. F. Petrie. The headmaster's report showed that the attendance was still good, also that Colonel Charters' lecture, to the school children had been well, while the



address itself was a splendid, lesson to the rising generation. The inspector's annual report on the examination was not yet to hand. On the 22nd a beginning was made with Mr D. S. Mackenzie's dental scheme, when a dozen children submitted to the preliminary examination. It was hoped parents would take advantage of the scheme for the sake of the children.

The report was considered satisfactory

5th December 1919 The ordinary monthly meeting of the Otaki - School- Committee was held on Monday night. Present: Messrs J. B. Bills (chairman), A. J. Watts, A. Anderson, - and Mrs Bills. The inspector's report showed the work at the school to be very satisfactory. It was decided to have several minor improvements effected by way of hanging blinds, cleaning tanks, spouting, etc., also that the school be fumigated just previous to reopening after the holidays. It was decided to give the contractor one week in which to erect the flag-pole. It was also decided to supply afternoon tea for the children and parents on the "breaking up" for the holidays (16th inst.) The headmaster's report showed the attendance to be. satisfactory

10th December 1919 Miss Burbush, of the Otaki State school staff, is to be transferred to Featherston.

17th December 1919 A pleasing little function took place at the "breaking-up" ceremony at the Otaki State school yesterday afternoon, when Mr A.B. Rudkin, on behalf of the girls of the upper standards, presented the headmaster (Mr W. B. Smith) with a little present in token of their appreciation of his patience and kindness to 'them at the school. The same girls presented Mr Rudkin with a little present. Both presentations came as surprises to the recipients.

## 1920-1921

1921	168	Otaki	Smith	William B	D	Head	£420.00	
1921	168	Otaki	Rudkin	Alfred R	C	Assistant	£320.00	
1921	168	Otaki	Hardy	Florence F	C	Infant Mistress	£250.00	
1921	168	Otaki	Miller	Edith P	D	Assistant	£230.00	
1921	168	Otaki	Nielson	Erica T R		PT2	£120.00	

Florence Hardy only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Otaki prior to 1924. Though a Minnie Hardy taught at Shannon in 1917 and Island Bay in 1919 and is possibly the same teacher.

23rd January 1920 The appointment of Miss Burbush, of the Otaki State school staff, as assistant at the Featherston school has been confirmed.

9th February 1920 At a meeting of the committee of the Otaki state school on Friday night there were present: —Messrs J. K. Bills (chairman), A. W. Watts. A. Anderson. M. H. Ayre (secretary). Rev. Petrie, and W. B. Smith (headmaster). The Education Board reported that Miss McCall had been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of Miss Burbush. sundry accounts were passed for payment and minor business transacted.

20th February 1920 The state schools in the district reopened yesterday, when the attendances, on the whole, were satisfactory. At the local school Miss Lambert has filled the vacancy caused by the transfer of Miss Burbush.

23rd February 1920 Miss Christensen, who has been on the staff of the Otaki State school' for the past year, on Friday afternoon received notice of transfer to Levin, and has already left to take up her new position. During her stay in Otaki Miss Christensen has proved a very efficient teacher, while her courteous and obliging manner has made for her many friends.

19th March 1920 To the Editor. Sir. —As usual the committee of the Otaki State school are going to make a hash of the annual picnic. For years past the affair has been held on grounds where children congregate and play all the year round. This was no change, and no benefit to the kiddies. Now I see arrangements are to be made to give them a picture show. Well, as the majority attend three nights a week, this will be no novelty, and I think it's up to the committee to give the youngsters a genuine treat, and, sav. take them to Paekakariki. Other school committees do this, and the outing would be one, much enjoyed. Now, wake up, you easy-going chaps, and "do unto others as you would they should do unto you."— Yours, UNCLE BILL. [Another supporting letter published on 31st March]

9th April 1920 Letter from D S McKenzie dentist. Levin DENTAL TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

(To the Editor.) Sir —in Wednesday's issue -of last week there appeared a contribution conveying the impression that little or nothing was being done in this matter. I merely wish to point out that the writer must have been misinformed, as all the children at the Otaki school, whose parents desired to attend to them, have been examined and treatment completed. A second examination was made early last week, and the treatment required will be furnished in the course of a few days.

30th April 1920 Only seven householders and the headmaster attended the annual meeting of householders at Otaki on Monday night, when Mr J. R. Bills occupied the chair. The Chairman read the balance sheet, which showed the receipts to be: Cr balance last year, £44 3s 6d; grants from Education Board, £64 10s 10d; total, £108 14s 4d. Expenditure: Cleaning school, etc., £37 3s 8d; fuel, £2 4s 9d; lighting, water and sanitary service, £15 2s 2d; books, maps and furniture, £3 9s; other petty expenses, £1 9s; total, £49 5s 9d. This left a credit balance in hand of £49 5s 9d. The balance-sheet had been duly audited. Mr Bills also read the annual report, as under: — .

"During the year we have had several changes on the school staff. We had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Rudkin back to his old position in the school after doing his duty' at the war. We lost the services of Miss Burbush from the school staff. Miss Lambert was appointed to fill the position. We trust there will be no more changes during the year. During the winter months the children were provided with hot cocoa at a small cost at lunch time and was much appreciated by them. We trust the same will be continued this year. The thanks of the parents and committee are due to the headmaster and staff for the trouble taken in connection with the same. The report of the inspectors in connection with the school work and attendance is highly satisfactory. During the year the school has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and all sanitary arrangements have been well attended to. We have also had the flagpole overhauled and placed on a concrete foundation and made thoroughly secure. The annual picnic was not held this year on account of unforeseen circumstances. Our thanks are due to Mr A. J. Watts for the beautiful banner presented to the school in connection with the peace celebration held during the year. Thanks of the committee are due

I to the headmaster and staff for their assistance during the year. Following is the number on the school roll: 201, present: 181. The attendance of the committee during the year was: Mrs Bills 7, M. H. Ayre 7, Rev. Petrie 5, Mr Anderson 7 (resigned), A. J. Watts 9. J R. Bills 9, P. Bennett 2 (resigned), I as chairman, wish to thank my fellow committeemen and ladies for their support. and co-operation during my term of office.”

The report and balance-sheet were adopted without discussion. The election of committee was then proceeded with, and the following were duly nominated, viz., Mrs J- R Bills, Messrs J. R. Bills, H. Nicolson, Watts, M. H. Ayre, and Rev. Petrie. As the only other householder present declined nomination, the chairman declared the above-named six duly elected. The committee has power to elect a seventh member.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the retiring chairman of committee Mr J. R- Bills) and secretary (Mr M. H. Ayre) for their valuable services. The mover and seconder of this motion (Messrs Nicolson and Penn) said the committee had done very good work in the past and deserved the hearty thanks of the householder!.

Mr Bills, in acknowledging the vote, said he had not intended to seek re-election, as he had had some sixteen or seventeen years' service. However, as so few seemed willing to undertake the duties, he was willing to continue to act for another term.

The Chairman said he regretted that the children had not had their annual picnic this year. Owing to the epidemic and other reasons it had been delayed, and then, owing to the absence of several prominent committee members, it had been deemed wise to abandon this year's picnic and instead to give the children a picture show. Unfortunately the picture show had not eventuated either, but Mr Ayre stated that he had made arrangements with the owner of the picture theatre, and doubtless the new committee would be able to give the children their treat at an early date.

At a meeting of the new committee, held subsequently. Messrs Bills and Ayre were re-elected chairman and secretary respectively.

8th May 1920. Part of long article re the Prince of Wales visit to Wellington Between 400 and 500 school children from Otaki, Otaki Convent, Native College, Te Horo. Waihoanga, Waikanae, and" Paraparaumu, together with a large number of adults, journeyed to Wellington by special train yesterday, reaching Wellington about 10.30 a.m. Immediately on arrival the children and their attendants were taken to the Pipitea Harbour sheds and given refreshments. after which they were massed with other schools in the Parliamentary grounds. After a short wait the Prince and party arrived, and cheering commenced in real earnest, while a choir of over 1000 voices sang the National Anthem and "God Bless the Prince of Wales.

2nd June 1920 Miss Lambert who has been teaching at Otaki for a few months has received an appointment to the New Plymouth technical schools and leaves on Friday to take up the position. Miss Roberts late of Ohau has succeeded Miss Lambert at the local school

2nd July 1920 Miss Roberts, who has been acting as relieving assistant teacher at the Otaki .State school, has left Otaki. her place being filled by another relieving teacher, Miss Campbell, of Paekakariki.

9th July 1920 The first meeting of the committee of the Otaki State school since the Annual election in April was held on Monday night, but in view of only a few members receiving notice there were only three, including the secretary, present. The headmaster report>ed that

the attendance had been greatly affected by. bad weather. Owing to water being unobtainable owing to the pump always getting out of order, Mr. Smith suggested that the time was opportune to again bring before the public the question of a bubble fountain, to be erected as a memorial to those who had fallen in the war. The scheme in no way interfered with the proposed town memorial. —Held over for consideration.

On the recommendation of the head master, it was decided to gravel portions of the playground and secure a new clock. It was also agreed to fill up the drain at the science room. A lengthy letter from the Manawatu School Committees' Association was held over. The letter made an appeal for the local school committee to join and thus assist in the cause of education, and to have some means whereby the committee could bring forward any grievance so as to have the same place before the responsible authorities, in cases where the needs of the school were being neglected. The matter of larger playing areas, better school buildings, free school books and requisites, smaller classes under one teacher, increased capitation to school committees and, above all, the disabilities under which country schools were labouring owing to the Department not knowing of the appalling conditions prevailing in country school districts had already been brought before the Prime -Minister and the Minister of Education. A list of schools affiliated was also enclosed, together with a report of the proceedings of the Dominion Conference.

A letter was read from the Education Board intimating that arrangements had been made for Miss J. Campbell to act as relieving teacher. Sundry accounts were passed for payment.

2nd August 1920 Miss Miller who has been on an extended visit to the Old Country, has returned to New Zealand, and is expected to resume her duties at the local State school almost immediately.

4th August 1920 There is still a great deal of sickness in the Otaki district, and the headmaster of the Otaki State School (Mr W. Burns Smith) states that on Monday no less than forty children were absent.

4th August 1920 Miss Miller has resumed her duties at the Otaki State school, after an absence of considerably over a year, during which time Miss Miller spent an enjoyable holiday in the Old Country

5th August 1920 At the last meeting of the Otaki School Committee it was regretted that the Education Department had Been fit to remove Miss Campbell prior to Miss Miller (who had returned from England) resuming duty, while it was pointed out that during the past few months there had been no less than four changes in the teaching staff. This was deplored, as it meant a setback to the children. During the past few weeks no hot cocoa had. been supplied the children, due to the shortage of sugar. Members agreed that next winter -the children should be better provided for. It was also decided to encourage the boys by promoting sport, especially football. The question of erecting a bubble fountain at the school was left in abeyance. It was decided to .appoint visiting; members each month, the Rev. Petrie and Mr Noble being appointed.

17th September 1920 The teaching of civics is an important feature of our State school education nowadays. Advantage was taken of the Town Board election to hold a . mock election among scholars of Standard III. and IV. at the Otaki State School on Tuesday last. The result of the children's poll evidently reflected somewhat the opinions of

their parents. ; The children picked five of the seven men elected, the two non-elected candidates selected by them being Messrs; W. Noble and Rikihana

20th September 1920 A football [Rugby] match was played at Otaki on Saturday afternoon between the Convent and the State School lads. The game was interesting, and play was, on the whole even, although during the first half Convent had the advantage. Almost on call of time Keith Drysdale scored a try for the State boys, but no goal resulted. Thus the game ended. Mr Nicolson was referee

6th October 1920 The monthly meeting of the committee of the Otaki State School, to have been held on Monday night lapsed for want of a quorum. only four, including the headmaster, attending.

29th October 1920 It is stated that as a result of sick ness nearly 80 children were absent to-day from the Otaki State school.

5th November 1920 At a meeting of the committee of the Otaki State School there were present:—Messrs J. R Bells [Sic] (chairman), Mrs Bills. Rev F Petrie, and Messrs A. W. Watts, H. Nicolson, and the headmaster (Mr W. Burns Smith). The latter reported that in September the roll number was satisfactory, but that the attendance was affected by the prevalence of mumps and measles. School-nurse Bulkley had visited the school and examined the children as to their eyesight, and it was expected that a medical officer would shortly be here to further examine them. A later report stated that this officer (Dr Paterson) had examined the children. The headmaster also tabled a report of more recent date (November 1st), stating the attendance was adversely affected by cases of illness—chiefly measles and, mumps. East week was one of the worst ever experienced at the school, the attendance being little more than a half-average for the whole week. The weather, persistently wet, was chiefly -responsible. Mr Bakewell, chief inspector, had inspected the school on October 18th and 22nd, but his report was not yet to hand. The school had received a donation of .£2 19s 5d from the now defunct gymnasium club.

It was decided to devote the money to the school library as the amount would be subsidised by the Education Board. A vote of thanks was accorded the members of the club for their generosity. .

It was decided to give the children a holiday on the 17th inst. (the date of the Otaki flower show), on the understanding that they took more interest in the show than in the past. It was reported that the school would “break-up” for usual holidays on December 16th. '

8th November 1920 A euchre tournament will be held in the Druids' Hall on Wednesday night next to raise money to buy sport material for the boys attending the Otaki State school. It is hoped then will be a large attendance

12th November 1920 The euchre tournament, held on Wednesday night in the Druids' Hall for the purpose of raising money for the Otaki State school recreation fund, was not largely attended, but, nevertheless, those present spent" a very enjoyable time. Mrs J. B. Bills, after some interesting games, won the lady's prize with ten games, while Mr A. W. Watts secured the gent's prize with nine games. Miss Collier distinguished herself by winning the consolation prize, while Mr Morgan, with two games, won the "booby." A dance was afterwards held, and "a pleasant time passed away. Mr G. Noble acted efficiently as director of ceremonies, while the Rev. G. F. Petrie, M.A., distributed the prizes.

17th December 1920 A pleasing little function took place at the Otaki school yesterday afternoon, prior to the "breaking-up" for the Christmas holidays. Mr A. R. Rudkin, on behalf of the senior boys of the school, presented Mr W. B. Smith (headmaster) with a nice silver mounted tobacco pouch. Mr Rudkin said the boys wished to show their appreciation of Mr Smith's kindly interest in their work, and the help he had been to them. Mr Smith returned hearty thanks in his characteristic humorous fashion. He said he thought, it very wicked of them to encourage him in the bad habit of smoking. He had no idea that they were aware of his indulgence in this way. However, speaking seriously, he keenly appreciated their kindness and was very pleased that the boys had thought of him.. Mr Smith said he would think kindly of the lads and wished them all good in the future.

17th December 1920 The Otaki State school children dispersed yesterday afternoon for the midsummer vacation. There was no formal ceremony, but a number of parents assembled, together with members of the committee, and the children were regaled with a plentiful afternoon tea. A few races were also indulged in, and the kiddies spent a pleasant time. The attendance, proficiency and competency certificates were also distributed to the winners.

The thanks of the School Committee were due to "Mrs Higgott (Jubilee Hotel), Mr J. D. Howell (Central), and Mr W. Sotheran (Family) for kindly supplying cordials for the children.

**PROFICIENCY AND EFFICIENCY CERTIFICATES.** The following proficiency and competency certificates were distributed at the annual "breaking-up ceremony at the Otaki State school yesterday afternoon:— Proficiency: Walter Arnold, Alfred J Bennett, Benjamin Heap, Charles List. Austin Wilton, Janet Smith, Isla Muthie  
Competency: Charles Noble, Leslie Binns Reita Bennett, Eliza Cook, Myrtle Noble, Marjorie Penn.

There were no failures.

**ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES.** The year just closed has been a disastrous one for school attendances owing to the prevalence of sickness. Many children who attended most regularly had their record spoiled by sickness. The following were the only who secured the first-class attendance certificate (not absent more than five half-days): - Janet Smith, Dorothy Smith, Olive Chandler, Alex. Dawson.

25th January 1921 A boarding school for Otaki appears likely to become an accomplished fact, although it was only on Friday that a meeting in connection with the proposal was held. Promises of handsome donations have already been received." Mr. Martin Simcox - some time ago donated two acres of valuable land, for the purpose.....The Otaki State School picnic is to be held at the beach on 2nd February.

4th February 1921 The Otaki State School picnic was held at the beach yesterday. It was largely attended by parents as well as children. Sports of various kinds were held, and an enjoyable time was spent.

5th February 1921 Miss Ivory, of Wellington, is at present acting as relieving teacher at the Otaki State School in place of Miss Crenell, who, with Mrs. Collier, is delayed in Sydney on account of the strike.

21st May 1921 Wellington Automobile Club. The Taita School Committee, the Otaki School Committee, and the secretary of the Wellington Education Board wrote asking the club if it was prepared to erect school danger boards outside the schools in their

respective districts. It was decided to have twelve boards of the latest approved pattern of the Royal Automobile Club distributed in the outlying districts it being understood that the school committees will erect the boards.

21st June 1921 The committee appointed to consider ways and means of erecting a church school at Otaki has decided to abandon the proposal for the time being on account of shortage of money.

4th October 1921 Miss Hardie, of Palmerston North, has been appointed to the teaching staff of the Otaki State School to fill the vacancy caused by Miss Crellin, who has been appointed to Shannon,

24th December 1921 The "breaking-up" and prize-giving ceremony in connection with the Otaki State School took place on Wednesday afternoon. On behalf of the girls of Standards V. and VI., Mr. Bills (chairman of the committee) presented Mr. W. Burns Smith (headmaster) with a fine leather wallet.

### 1922-1923

1923	216	Otaki	Smith	William B	D-62	Head	£405.00	
1923	216	Otaki	Rudkin	Alfred R	C-126	Assistant	£315.00	
1923	216	Otaki	Hardy	Florence F	C-149	Infant Mistress	£243.00	
1923	216	Otaki	Miller	Edith P	D-172	Assistant	£225.00	
1923	216	Otaki	Yates	Marcella V E		PT2	£108.00	
1923	216	Otaki	Smith	Margaret		Probationer 1	£83.00	

13th January 1922 Otaki Borough Council The Mayor stated that the field gun allotted to Otaki was now at the State School, where Mr Joplin had given a very interesting address to the children. Until the rest resort was ready he thought the school site a good one. Cr. Broadway thought that the gun should be left at the school, but Cr. Bills doubted if the Education Board would allow it to remain there.—Decided to leave the gun at the school for the time being. [Mr Joplin was a retired Headmaster who worked for the Education Board from 1878 until around 1921.]

18th January 1922 Otaki State School Committee meeting. A special meeting of the above was held on Monday evening last to arrange for a picnic. Present Mr J. B. Bills (chairman), Mrs Bills, Rev. Petrie, Messrs Watts, Reynolds, G. Noble, and Bramley (secretary). It was decided to hold a picnic on Wednesday, February 15th, on same site as last year, if available. Members of the Committee promised various commodities, Mr G. Noble's offer of meat for sandwiches, gratis, being gratefully accepted. Messrs Noble and Capewell's offer to assist with the transport of the children was also appreciated. Parents and friends are cordially invited to participate. Afternoon tea will be provided. Members of the committee undertook to receive and collect subscriptions to defray expenses.

8th February 1922 OTAKI STATE SCHOOL.

COMMITTEE MEETING. The usual monthly meeting of the above was held on Monday night. Present: Air J. R. Bills (chairman), Mrs Bills, Rev. Petrie, Messrs Reynolds, Watts, Noble, and Bramley (secretary).

The Committee reported that the sum of 6 8s 6d had been collected for the picnic fund. The Secretary mentioned that Mr Irving, Secretary of the Otaki Athletic Club, desired that

the school picnic should not be held on the 15th on account of the appearance of the Springbok athletes at Paraparaumu on that date. After consideration it was decided not to adhere to the request. It was decided that the afternoon tea on the occasion of the picnic (15th) be free to all, and to issue a cordial invitation to parents and friends to attend.

It was resolved to form a cricket pitch on the school grounds and place wire-netting at each end so as to assist the lads in their play.

10th February 1922 Miss Buckley, of .Wellington, is at present acting as relieving teacher at the Otaki State School.

10th February 1922 Otaki Borough Council. From Otaki State School, asking that the Council allow its workmen to top-dress the asphalt adjacent to the school buildings as it possessed the necessary gear. The committee would pay for material and labor.—Cr . Broadway thought the matter one that should be • attended to and moved accordingly.— ' Seconded by Cr. Kilsby and-carried

13th February 1922 The State School picnic will take place on Wednesday at the beach when a large gathering of children, parents, and friends, is expected. Contributions of cakes, etc., will be gratefully accepted....The children who intend attending the. school picnic on Wednesday are to assemble at the Post Office between 9.30 and 10 a.m.

17th February 1922 MR GEORGE WEIR SMITH. It is with much regret that we record the death of Mr George Weir Smith, third son of Mr and Mrs W. Burns Smith, of Otaki. Deceased, who was a very promising young man, was a pupil at the Otaki State School, after which he entered the Wellington College, which he left a year ago for Victoria College. Six months ago he was taken seriously ill and entered the Otaki hospital, but despite skill and attention passed away at about 9.30 this morning. Deceased, who was 10 years of age. was a general favorite, and his bereaved parents and other relatives have the sympathy of a largo circle of friends. The funeral will take place to-morrow. As a mark of respect the State" School was closed to-day and the flag flown at half-mast.

20th February 1922 The funeral of the late Mr G. W. Smith, third son of Mr and Mrs W. Burns Smith, took place on Saturday afternoon, when a large and representative attendance paid their last mark of respect. The cortege included the senior classes of the Otaki School, and members of the School Committee and Bowling Club. Numerous floral tributes were received, and among them were wreaths from the staff, pupils, committee and old scholars of the school. An impressive service was conducted at the graveside by the Revs. Keall and Petrie.

22nd March 1922 Mr:- W. Burn:- Smith, who have been visiting Pahiatua, have returned to Otaki where Mr Smith ha\* resumed duties as headmaster at the State School. We are pleased to report that he has made good progress from his recent accident.

24th April 1922 Only two —Rev. Petrie and Mr W. H. Reynolds ' have been nominated as members of the Otaki School Committee, and it is now understood that both intend to withdraw their nominations

26th April 1922 Part of a longer report At 1.45 a procession of school children, headed by the Otaki Brass Band, marched from the school to the theatre, where they were accommodated in the front seats.

26th April 1922 NO COMMITTEE 'ELECTED.



A meeting of householders was held at the Otaki State School on Monday night, but less than a dozen, including members of the old committee, attended. The Rev. R. P. Keall was appointed Chairman, and it was reported .by the Chairman of Committee (Mr J. R. Bills) that there was a credit balance of £64 19s in the Bank. Everything, he said, had been satisfactorily carried out during the year, the Committee had worked in harmony, and things had gone along smoothly. He regretted there was no annual report and said in past years reports had been somewhat of a farce as no one attended to hear them read. The Committee, during the year, he said, had reverted to prize-giving, which was appreciated, while the annual picnic had been a great success. The cricket pitch, which was to have been improved, was left in abeyance owing to the illness of the headmaster, but he hoped the incoming committee would give it their attention. He thanked his fellow committeemen for assistance accorded him during the year and trusted the incoming committee would have a prosperous one. There was a good credit balance, and he felt that it would be made good use of. (Applause).

The Chairman regretted that the attendance was not large, being composed chiefly of the old members of the committee. He knew the duties to be thankless, and admitted they took up much time and thought, He had pleasure in moving a hearty vote of thanks to the committee, especially to the Chairman (Mr Bills) and the secretary (Mr Bramley).

Mr Bills, in replying on behalf of the committee, said they had only done their best, but regretted there were not more present. The householders' meetings were only held once a year, and: he considered parents should show more interest. It was some seventeen years ago since he took a position on the committee and would admit there was not much encouragement. He stated only two nominations Rev. Petrie and Mr Reynolds—had been received for the new committee.

The Rev. Keall said it was evident the meeting could make no appointments, and he was in doubt as to what action to take.

It was suggested that the two nominations be forwarded to the Board; that body to take necessary action relative to the election of a committee.

The Rev. Petrie said his idea was to withdraw his nomination, and favored more public interest being aroused. He regretted that the meeting was so poorly attended. After a desultory discussion Mr Watts .suggested that the Education Board be acquainted with the position of affairs, and that a report of the meeting be also forwarded. This was agreed to.

The members of the old committee agreed to hold office pending further instructions from the Board.

1st May 1922 Mr J. E. Bills (Chairman of the Otaki State School committee) has received from the Education Board a line N.Z. Ensign, which has been long promised. The flag will be flown on special occasions.

8th May 1922 Mr G. Bramley, acting-secretary of the Otaki State School Committee, has received the following letter from the Education Board: —"With reference to letter of the 25th ultimo, I shall be obliged if you will kindly arrange for the members of the Committee who were elected at the recent meeting to nominate five persons to act with them. If it is possible for this to be done the Board will confirm the nominations at its next meeting

8th May 1922 dominations are invited for householders willing to set on the Otaki State School committee tor the ensuing year

17th May 1922 So far no further nominations have been received for the Otaki State School Committee, and the present position is very unsatisfactory.

24th May 1922 it is understood that the members of last year's Otaki school committee have consented to stand for the coming term.

9th June 1922 Master Fred Davies yesterday dislocated his elbow while playing at the Otaki State School. Mr Smith (headmaster) successfully rendered first aid.

2nd August 1922 The Field gun— given to Otaki as a war trophy —which has been on the Otaki State School grounds for some time, has now been placed on the rest resort grounds.

6th September 1922 COMMITTEE MEETING. The monthly meeting of the committee of the State school was held on ] Monday night. Present: Mesdames Bills and Reynolds, Messrs Bills (chairman), Watts, Reynolds (secretary), Nicolson, Rev. Petrie, and the headmaster (Mr Smith)

The latter reported that the attendance during the month had been affected by colds, and that two of the rooms were being improved and hyloplates put in.[Hyloplates are large blackboards on the front wall

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr E. Looser for repairing school clocks free of charge.

It was decider! to make a grant up to £5 for the purchase of books for the school library, while the Rev. Petrie secretary, and headmaster were appointed to arrange for a cricket pitch for the boys.

Correspondence was read from the Education Board, and stating Mr Hunter, Director of dental hygiene, had written to the Board relative to the dental treatment of school children. He stated the services of a limited number of dental nurses would soon be available, and that it had been decided that the districts where school committees or other local bodies were willing to offer facilities they would have prior claim to these services. The facilities referred to were a central room suitable for a surgery, transport of nurses and equipment from nearest point by rail or boat to location, and the arranging of board and lodging for nurse. It was decided to write for further information on the matter. [Note: from 1915 Marlborough was part of Wellington Education Board hence reference to boats]

13th September 1922 Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, of the Health Department, paid her annual visit of inspection to the Otaki State School today. She was accompanied by Nurse Wise.

27th September 1922 Messrs Bakewell and Blackie. inspectors under the Wellington Education Board, paid a visit of inspection to the Otaki State School yesterday. Last week Messrs Burn, and Blackie visited the Convent, and at both places the Inspectors were well satisfied with the work done.

25th October 1922 Miss Hardy, of the Otaki .State School staff, on Monday took the members of her class to the beach, and despite unfavourable weather, a very pleasant time was spent. The thoughtfulness of Miss Hardy was fully appreciated by the children as well as parents.

8th November 1922 A meeting of the committee of the above was held on Monday night. Present: Mesdames Reynolds and Bills, Messrs J. E. Bills (chairman), W. H. Reynolds (secretary), H. Nicolson, Rev. Petrie, and the headmaster (Mr Smith).

The headmaster's report showed the roll to be higher than ever it has been, the average attendance for the last quarter being 190. The Inspector's report was highly satisfactory. Application had been made to the Education Board for a subsidy for the school library on £2

subscribed by the pupils. Ten volumes of "The Story of the Great War," with eighteen other books, had been added to the library, while several dual desks had been secured.

A letter was read from the Horticultural Society, asking that the children be granted a holiday on Show day.--In view of the cookery and wood-work classes on the morning of that day it was decided to give a half-holiday only, but to allow children competing half-an-hour in the morning to arrange their exhibits.

It was reported that the cricket pitch had been improved and necessary material secured.

6th December 1922 Otaki State School. A meeting of the committee of the above was held on Monday night. Present: Messrs J. E. Bills (chairman), A. J. Watts, H. Nicolson, V. H. Reynolds (secretary), W. Burns Smith (headmaster)', Rev G F Petrie, and Mesdames Reynolds and Bills.

The headmaster's report was considered very satisfactory and showed that the attendance had been good.

It was reported that Mr Morse was willing to give a picture entertainment, half proceeds to go to the prize and picnic fund. The Chairman was instructed to wait on Mr Morse, thank him for his offer, and make necessary arrangements for a display.

It was decided to have the prize-giving ceremony the "breaking-up" day. and that parents be asked to contribute refreshments for the children. The date of the picnic will be arranged later.

15th December 1922 The following have gained proficiency certificates: —Hugo Bramley, Stewart Coles, Edwin Debreceny , Robert E. Keall, Uelvyn Kempton, Bernard Nicol, James Summers, Ranald Watts. Alice Noble, Chrissie Olliver. Keitha Synnott. May Tews. Competency certificates:— E. Bills, O. Morgan, J. Rikihana, J. Maddock. L. Roach. F. Tews

18th December 1922 The annual "breaking up" ceremony and presentation of prizes took place at the school grounds on Friday afternoon in the presence of a large number of parents and friends. Rev. G. F. Petrie, on behalf of the chairman of the school committee (Mr Bills) addressed the scholars, first of all calling for cheers for Mr Bills, who had been chairman of the committee for so many years. He congratulated the pupils on the good work of the year as evidenced by the line array of prizes. His congratulations also included the head master and staff for whom more cheers were called and heartily given. He then proceeded with the distribution " of prizes and certificates, after which - the headmaster (Mr W Burns .Smith) and Mr Bills each addressed a few words to the assemblage, concluding with cheers for the prize-winners and Mr Petrie. Mr Smith and Mr Rudkin ' were made recipients of presentations by the boys of 'their respective classes. Afternoon tea was passed round among the grownups by a willing staff of helpers under Mrs Bills' guidance, and the children were regaled with the usual picnic tea on the grass. The rest of the afternoon was passed in games and distribution of sweets among the kiddies. The committee's thanks are due to all those who contributed towards the prize fund, also to .Miss Thorpe for her help with the cooking and to Messrs Twist & Co., who supplied abundance of cordials -for the children.

#### PRIZE LIST. CLASS PRIZES:

Std. 6 Stewart Coles, Keitha Synnott.

Std. 5—II. Preston-Thomas, Clara Yates.

Std. 4:—Geo. Jamieson, Molly Thomson, Gladys Baker.

Std. 3 —Arthur Jamieson, Alice Freeman.

Std. 2—John Nicols, Thos. Yates. Audrey Noble.

Std. I —Roy Kilmister John Meads, Sybil St. George.

Infants—Caroline Meads, Lorraine Noble, Myra Morgan, Betty Capewell Jas. Whiting, Margaret Ward. Ernest Looser. Lloyd Hughes, Arthur Manz.

Woodwork—Ranald Watts. Robert. Keall.

Cookery (Mr Lowry's special) —Jas. Summers.

7th February 1923 The Otaki State School picnic, which was to have been held on Tuesday, has been postponed indefinitely.

7th February 1923 Otaki State School. A meeting of the committee of the above . school was held on -Monday night. Present: Mesdames .Bills and Reynolds, Messrs J R Bills (chairman), A. J. Watts, H. Nicolson, W. H. Reynolds (secretary), Rev. G. F Petrie, and the headmaster (Mr W. Burns Smith).

A letter was received from the Education Board stating that Miss Yates had been appointed as a pupil teacher.

The headmaster's report was considered very satisfactory. It showed that the attendance had increased, and that 212 children had attended on Monday. Mr .Smith pointed out that Miss Neilson had concluded her two years term as pupil teacher and had obtained a certificate. This was considered very gratifying.

It was stated that the recent picture show, given by Mr Morse in aid of school funds, had been a .great success, and -it was unanimously resolved to write Mr Morse and thank him for the interest displayed.

The headmaster stated it was likely that a probationer would be placed on the staff at any. time.

It was resolved to hold the annual picnic at the beach (kiosk end) on Tuesday next (13th inst.), that scholars of the school collect funds, and Mesdames Bills and Reynolds to supervise the catering arrangements. It was agreed that the children meet at the post, office at 10 a.m., and carry with them a cup or mug each. It was also decided to supply hot water free to adults. If wet the picnic will be held at the school.

8th February 1923 he death occurred at Otaki yesterday of Private W. Burns Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bums Smith, of Otaki. Deceased, who was a very promising young man of twenty-five years, had been in poor health as the result of war service, and for some time he was at the Te Waikato Sanatorium and at the Otaki Hospital. At the last meeting of the School Committee the headmaster (Mr. W. Burns Smith) reported that the attendance had increased; that a new pupil teacher had arrived; and that a probationer was due

3rd May 1923 A movement to secure a bubble fountain at the Otaki State School in memory of the local men who took part in the war is likely to take definite shape. There is at present some £12 in hand towards the memorial, while it is more than^ probable that the Returned Soldiers' Association will give a grant.

16th February 1923 As a result of the picture entertainment, kindly given by Mr E. Morse for the benefit of the Otaki State School funds, a sum of £10 was raised. This is very satisfactory, and Mr Morse is deserving of every credit.

21st February 1923 At a special meeting of the Otaki State School committee on Monday night it decided to hold the annual picnic on Friday next 23rd; at the beach. Buses will leave the Post Office at 10 a.m., and an enjoyable day is promised all who attend

23rd February 1923 The Otaki State School picnic is taking place to-day at the Otaki beach. There is a large attendance, and all appear to be enjoying themselves.

26th February 1923 The Otaki State School picnic, held at the beach on Friday, was well attended despite the unfavorable weather in the morning. A number of parents were among those present and helped to make the outing for the children enjoyable. Mr Bills (chairman of committee), the teachers of the school, and other helpers are to be commended for the interest displayed. The children during the day indulged in sports, and many found recreation in paddling.

14th March 1923 Mr C. E. Cumpsty, the head teacher at the Rangitumau school, and late of Otaki, has been appointed to have charge of a native school in the Gisborne district, and will leave shortly for his new post. He was entertained by residents of Rangitumau at a social last night

21st March 1923 it is probable that a kindergarten school will be opened in Otaki

2nd May 1923 A movement to secure a bubble fountain at the Otaki State School in memory of the local men who took part in the war, is likely to assume definite shape at an early date. There is at present some £12 in hand towards the memorial while it is more than probable that the Returned Soldiers' Association will give a grant.

2nd May 1923 Mr J. R. Bills, who has been for twenty years a member of the Otaki State school committee, was on Monday night re-elected Chairman

2nd May 1923 OTAKI. Only seventeen householders attended the annual meeting for the election of a committee for Otaki on Monday night. The Rev. R. P. Keall was voted to the chair.

Mr Bills (Chairman of Committee) reported: — I have much pleasure in presenting to you the following report of work done during the past year. We have had a very good attendance at meetings. During the year we have had all round the school top-dressed, and asphaltting done by the Borough Council Good work was done which proved very satisfactory. We had the annual prize giving at the school on the breaking-up when quite a large number of parents were present. All were pleased to see the children had done such good work as there were a large number of certificates and prizes presented. We also have to thank Mr Morse for giving us a fine picture display towards funds for prizes and picnic fund. We held the picnic at the beach and although the weather was not quite all that could be desired, one and all made the best of it and spent an enjoyable time. We have to thank the parents and friends of the children who so generously donated food and gave money and helped to make the affair a success. The Committee have applied to the Education Board for increased accommodation at the school, as we are very cramped for room owing to the attendance being so large. We would urge the incoming committee to keep this in view as it is urgently needed for the good of the children and teaching staff. The Committee wish to thank the headmaster and staff for the good work done during the year."

Mr Barlow considered the report very gratifying and moved a hearty vote of thanks to the committee for their splendid work.

The balance-sheet, which showed a satisfactory state of affairs, was adopted.

The following were elected a committee:—Mrs Bills, Messrs J. R. Bills, W. H. Reynolds, F. W. Targuse, R. Barlow (secretary), Revs. Petrie and Keall. Mr Reynolds stated it was his intention to resign, but the Chairman said that the matter was one for the committee to deal with.

At a meeting of the Committee, held afterwards. Mr J. R. Bills was re-elected Chairman. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the headmaster and staff for splendid work done during the year.

2nd May 1923 At the householders' meeting at Otaki on Monday night Mr W. Bums Smith (headmaster); reported that accommodation at the school was totally inadequate, and unsuitable, and that the children had to make use of the shelter sheds and cookery room. or go outside. The school was also entitled to an extra teacher, but as there was no room, and if one arrived, she would have to teach outside in the open air. A teacher's room—a small one—was also required as at present there was no privacy when interviewing parents or others, but this room did not matter so much. It was more room for the children that was urgently required. The lobby accommodation was also too small.

There were 240 children on the roll, yet only about half that number of pegs were available. On Tuesday children came in from other schools, and things then were almost unendurable. Mr Field had suggested a deputation wait on the Minister, but he (Mr Smith) did not believe in deputations. There should be no need for such; the increased accommodation was needed and should be willingly given. The school possessed six teachers, two of whom had to teach in one room, while another had to go into the shelter shed which, was 'S'OJ at all desirable during the winter months. On wet days the children all had to be crowded indoors, which made matters uncomfortable as well as very unsatisfactory.

Mr Evans moved that the Education Board be asked to have matters improved, while Mr Barlow agreed that something should be done to assist the headmaster and staff. It was eventually agreed -that a direct appeal be made to the Minister, it being unanimously agreed that improvements should be effected without delay.

11th May 1923 Otaki Borough Council discussing Sewage included The greatest difficulty is along Rauparaha Street. It is very necessary to ' a public school, and whilst the building on the ground is high enough, relative to that ground, the whole area is fairly low.

13th June 1923 OTAKI STATE SCHOOL.

To the Editor. Sir, —In spite of the ardent enthusiasm displayed at the animal householders' meeting held in April at the drastic need of better accommodation for the children attending the State school, the monthly committee meeting had to, lapse for want of a quorum on Monday night. It may be that the weather conditions had something' to do with it; but when those who are "in the know" are aware of the fact that our children and teachers, in such weather are, per force, huddled together in unsanitary conditions, or brave the elements in shelter sheds like so many sheep, surely la letter of apology to those who turn ' up to do their duty would be an act of courtesy at least.—I am. etc., Wm. J. BARLOW, Sec. .School Committee.

27th June 1923 There was a full attendance at the Committee meeting on Monday night when replies were received from the Minister of Education and the Board of Education relative to new school rooms to provide extra accommodation that is necessary. It was

reported that an architect had been up and that it was expected that an early, start would be made with erection,

The question of a bubble fountain as a memorial was again discussed and it was agreed to have one, tenders to be called for the work at an early date Lists are being prepared and will be given to Mrs Smith, and Messrs Targuse and Watts, who will collect funds.

It was decided to do ground improvements by making a shrubbery,

The Rev. Petrie and Mr Watts were appointed visitors to the school for the month, while accounts were passed for payment ,

The head-master's report was read and considered very satisfactory.

10th July 1923 .Notice was given by Mr. W. H. Field (Otaki) in the House of yesterday to ask the Minister of Education whether he will provide the necessary money, applied for by the Wellington Education Board, for urgently needed additions to the Otaki State School.

3rd August 1923 Otaki Chamber of Commerce The president pointed out that in conversation with members of the Otaki School Committee he had heard that the work to be done at this school was to be the nucleus of a new school and would not be merely patch-work.— this was considered very satisfactory.

3rd August 1923 A meeting of the Y.M.C.A. was held at Mr. Watts' residence on Wednesday, when it was decided to wind-up matters for a time at least, the hall having been sold. It was agreed to let the Girls' Club have the use of games, etc., and that any money over, after paying accounts, be given towards the bubble fountain at the State School.'

10th August 1923 Influenza is Still making headway in this district', and among those suffering are three of the teachers of the Otaki State School.

15th August 1923 NOT TO Be CLOSED. Ninety children were absent from school to-day on account of the influenza. The Committee suggested to the Board that under the circumstances the school ought to be closed. The Board has replied "that the policy of the Health Department and the Education Board is to keep the school; open The Committee are therefore taking no step, to close the school in the meantime.

18th August 1923 The Otaki State School was closed yesterday on account of the influenza and will remain closed till 3rd September. This will mean that the usual term holidays which were due on the 24th will be dispensed with

24th August The list of Ex pupils to be remembered on the bubble fountain included 44 Soldiers who went and returned including two teachers and 17 who lost their life at or because of their war service.

3rd October 1923 The meeting was held with all the members of the committee present. The new scholars, proving that the committee's claim for new buildings was justified. The tender for the war memorial and bubble fountain had been let to Messrs L. McMinn and Co., of Levin, and the work put in hand and could be expected to be completed in about six weeks' time.

The Rev. G. F'. Petrie was deputed to procure necessary material for tin\* cricketing season, and the Rev. Petrie and Mr. Targuse elected visiting committee for the ensuing month, and the secretary instructed to stir up the Board of Education again in connection with the new buildings, which are considered very necessary with the hot weather coming on.

21st December 1923 RESENTATION OF PRIZES' AND SALE OF WORK. On Thursday the annual "break up" of the Otaki School was held in the school grounds. After the prizes

had been presented, presentations were made to the teachers by their pupils, The children were then given their usual afternoon tea

On this occasion a small sale of work was held to raise money for asphaltting round the school. Several stalls were erected under the trees and displayed a tempting array of articles for sale. In charge of the stalls were the following: - Needlework, Mesdames Smith,, Petrie and Miss Miller; produce, Mesdames Evans and Synnott; sweets, Misses Smith and Yates; woodwork, D. Debreceeny Ken Keall. and Eric Bills; bran tubs. Misses Janet Smith and Clara Yates. Afternoon Tea was served in one of the class-rooms and was under the capable supervision of Mrs. Bills. Competitions were held during the afternoon, the results being as follow,: — Box of sweets, Jean Irving; tray, Lucy Reay; inlaid box Mr J M Smith; cake .Mr. Targuse; ' Sponge Cakes Standard VI Connie Evans 1 Molly Eddy 2 Standard V, Betty Box 1. Patty Olliver 2.

Special thanks are due to Mrs Curtis for judging the sponge cakes, Mr. Twist for providing soft drinks, and Mr Lowry for donating a special prize.

The net proceeds of the sale will amount to about £30

Prize Distributions.

Proficiency certificates:-Madeline Bills, Lucy Barditt, Mary Eddy, Connie Evans. Evelyn Flutey, Rita Shaft Clara Yates, Eric Bills, Fred Davies Ernest Greathead, Watene Johnson, Ken Keall, Ray Melrose, Clarence Morgan, H. Preston-Thomas, James Rikihana, Hura Roach, Charles .Summers. Neil Synnott, Lyell Cole. Competency: —Peggy Fox M Moses, Willie List, Jack Moynihan

Class prizes:—Dux of the school (Mr. E. G. Dowry'.- special)—Eric Bills  
Standard VI (boys)—Fred Davies (girls)—Mary Eddy.

Highest marks in proficiency examination:—Ken Keall.

Standard V (boys):—L Evans (girls)—Molly Thomson.

Standard IV (boys):—Arthur Jameson: (girls)—Katharine Cole-.

Standard III (boys);—Ray Elderton ( girls)—Pearl Nicol.

Standard II (boys):—John Meads (girls)—Sybil St. George.

Standard I (boys):—Alfred Knight; (girls)— Lorraine Noble.

Lower standard I (boys):—Seaton Sharp; (girls)— Myrtle Jamieson.

Preparatory:—Joyce Tattersall, -Joyce Noble, Queenie Rikihana. Kathleen ? Selwyn Box, Ivan Mathie.

21st December 1923 Mr W. Burns Smith, who has been headmaster of the Otaki State School for many years, during which time all children under him have made splendid progress, retires from his duties at the end of next month. Mr. Smith, however, will continue to reside in Otaki. having built a fine residence on Waerenga Road.