

Saunders Road

In 1911 the school burnt down and was rebuilt. The teacher was not able to get accommodation and had to sleep in the school porch 23 Kilometres from Eketahuna on Alfredton Road , State Highway 52, Pori Road and then right to Saunders Road

1900-1906

In 1900 the school was an aided school, that meant the community provided the building and teacher and the Wellington Education Board paid a capitation fee on a per child bases

1900		Saunders Road	Algie	Emily S		Female	£30	\$5,216
1901	13	Saunders Road	Beresford	Mabel		Female	£54	\$9,116
1902	10	Saunders Road	Beresford	Mabel W		Female	£72	\$11,871
1903	9	Saunders Road	Beresford	Mabel W		Female	£60	\$9,941
1904	18	Saunders Road	Beresford	Mabel W		Female	£80	\$13,247
1905	16	Saunders Road	Beresford	Mabel W	E2	Female	£100	\$15,815
1906	13	Saunders Road	Beresford	Mabel W	E2	Female	£110	\$17,095

7th May 1902 Annual Report to Wellington Education Board Saunders Road school was opened in the last year. The school had become a Board School

28th July 1905 Miss Beresford given a month's leave of absence

1st September 1905 Miss Beresford given four months leave of absence

26th October 1906 Wellington Education Board accepts Miss Beresford's resignation

1907-1911

1907	14	Saunders Road	Ainsworth	Lil A J	E4	Female	£78	\$12,228
1908	11	Saunders Road	Ralph	George		Master	£84	\$13,169
1909	12	Saunders Road	Ralph	George H		Master	£90	\$14,302
1910	14	Saunders Road	Ralph	George H		Master	£90	\$14,109
1911	15	Saunders Road	Ralph	George H		Master	£94	\$14,874

12th August 1907 Saunders Road Sole Teacher £84 and £10 house allowance

31st August 1907 he designations of three postal stations in the Wellington district have been changed, as follows: — Cross's Creek to Cross Creek, Saunders' Road to Saunders, and Ihuraua Valley to Ihuraua.

7th September 1907 Mr Roberts Sole Teacher temporary Saunders Road

12th September 1907 Saunders road. Miss L. Ainsworth, solo teacher;

31st October 1908 Resignations Miss. L. Ainsworth, Saunders' Road

6th November 1908 Mr G Ralph of Eketahuna is at present acting as relieving teacher at Saunders Road School

12th July 1909 Saunders Road (Eketahuna). —Sole Teacher, £90 to ,£120 and £10 H.A. '[Housing Allowance as there was not a school residence]

4th November 1910 Palmerston Show Olive Napier of Saunders Road School Eketahuna was awarded merit cards in the freehand drawing class for pupils between the ages of 10 and 12 years

29th April 1911 The Alfred town correspondent of the Express advises that the Saunders road school and its contents were destroyed by fire on Thursday evening. A bucket brigade saved the outbuildings and garden tools. The cause is attributed to a defective chimney.

15th May 1911 HE RECENT FIRE. Messrs A. W. Hogg, MP., and A. H. Vile, members of the Wellington Education Board, held an enquiry in Mr W. J. Saunders' residence on Friday night last into the cause of the fire by which the Saunders' Road school was destroyed. Evidence was given by Mr Ralph (the teacher), a lad named Benton (the school cleaner), Mr E. Saunders; Mrs C. Benton, and Mr Algie, junr. This went to show that the fire occurred some short while after 'the school was closed; that everything had been left in apparent safety by the cleaner or the school; that there were cracks in the fireplace, and that a heavy gale was blowing at the time. The only possible theory for the outbreak was that fire had been communicated with the timbers in the building through the defects in the fireplace. Messrs Hogg and Vile decided to report to the Board accordingly, and to recommend, that in future the chimneys of small schools be built outside instead of inside the buildings, and that, as a further security, chimneys be cemented or plastered on the inside

28th June 1911 The tender of Mr G Benton was accepted for the erection of a new school at Saunders Road, Alfredton

1st November 1911 Wellington Education Board Mr G. H. Ralph, teacher of the Saunders' Road School, has been granted leave until the end of the year.

1912-1915

1912	13	Saunders Road	Maynard	Lucy M		Female	£90	\$13,802	
1913	12	Saunders Road	Maynard	Lucy M		Female	£90	\$13,500	£10.00
1914	15	Saunders Road	Pryor	David C		Master	£90	\$12,885	£10.00
1915	16	Saunders Road	Pryor	David C	D5	Master	£110	\$14,735	£20.00

The total in the far right column shows there was not a school residence and so extra money was paid to the teacher to cover boarding costs

13th April 1912 Saunders Road (Eketahuna Railway. Station Sole Teacher)—£90 to <120 and ~£10 Housing allowance

14th May 1913 Masterton County Council Mr Henry Burling wrote, asking permission to erect a gate across Saunders' Road. The request was granted.

28th May 1913 Mr A W Hogg member of parliament and Wellington Education Board member based in Masterton Surveyed school rolls in 1900 and 1912. The purpose being to show how land aggregation was effecting rolls: Saunders Road 1900 8 1912 13. Alfredton 29.26, Rongomai 29. 17

1st July 1913 A banner is to be presented by ladies in the Alfredton, Saunders Road and Rongomai districts for competition among the three, football teams in the district mentioned

26th November 1913 Mrs Maynard, sole teacher, Saunders road resigned

19th December 1913 Mrs Maynard, who has resigned her position as teacher at Saunders , Road school, was this week presented by the children, as a token of esteem, with a handsome cut glass and silver scent bottle.

Lucy M Maynard only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Saunders Road

11th March 1914 Mrs L M Maynard late of Saunders Road has taken up a position in Auckland. There was in 1919 a Mrs L M Maynard diocesan secretary in Auckland [There is no record of her teaching in a state school in Auckland in 1914. After 1914 Lucy Maude Maynard appears to have resided in the Waikato area]

15th September 1914 On Friday evening the children of the Saunders road school gave a social and dance in aid of the schools' ambulance fund (this, I understand is to go towards equipping an ambulance corps, the cost of which is £2000, by the children of the various schools in the Dominion). A very enjoyable evening ensued. The children contributed several items, singing patriotic songs and drilling, which reflected the highest credit on the teacher, Mr Pryor, who was ably assisted at the piano by Miss Sybil Benton. Quite a number of articles were put up for auction and netted a considerable amount. As a result of their efforts, the children will be able to hand £7 or £8, and this must be considered very satisfactory from so small a school. Messrs Parsonson and Ralph also sang, and Mr J. Morris danced a hornpipe. Master L. Pryor, of Masterton, gave two splendid recitations, and received very hearty applause. Indeed, it was quite a treat to listen to this lad. Mr Dave Pryor (teacher) also gave two elocutionary items. The dance broke up in the small hours of the morning.

5th November 1914 Ambulance Equipment Fund organised by the Wellington Education Board Saunders Road £7 17s 6d

16th November 1914 Alfredton Notes The Alfredton people express regret at learning that Mr G. H. Ralph, sole teacher at Ihuraua, is to leave the district. Mr Ralph, who is very popular, has always been of great assistance in all our concerts and social functions, and his splendid talent will be sorely missed. He is very well known here, having at one time been teaching at Saunders' Road, and his readiness to help at all times has placed him high in the esteem of the settlers. We will be sorry to lose him.

21st November 1914 A party of Mastertonians is proceeding to Alfredton next Friday to give a concert under the auspices of the Saunders Road School.

26th November 1914 Considerable interest is being manifested in the Alfredton district in the concert to be given by a 'Master* ton conceit party on Friday next (says our Alfredton correspondent) The concert is being held under the auspices of the Saunders' road school, and in addition to the Masterton performers, some very fine items are being given by the school children A special feature will be a Maori haka, with which the concert will be opened.

26th November 1914 Considerable interest is being displayed in the Alfredton in the concert to be given by a Masterton concert party on Friday evening next. A splendid programme of Wairarapa performers has been prepared, and in addition the items by the Saunders' road school children promise to be really excellent. A special feature will be the Maori, haka, with which the performance will be opened. The function is under the auspices of the Saunders' road school and is for the purpose of establishing a library in the school. A record audience is expected.

16th December 1914 A violent gale visited this district on Sunday, and a good deal of damage is reported. At the Saunders road school, a shed had the roof blown clean off. The woodwork was splintered, and sheets of corrugated iron were found half a mile away.

15th July 1915 Part of a long article on a case at the Masterton Magistrate's Court included

At the Masterton Magistrate's Court this morning, before "Mr LG. Read S.M., D. G. Brown claimed Walter Morris, carrier, of Alfredton the sum of £10 due for repairs to a motor cycle. Mr O. N. C Pragnell. who appeared for plaintiff said that the motor cycle in question was in the possession of Mr "David Pryor, a school teacher at Saunders' road, who was riding the motor when a collision occurred between the cycle and defendant's motor lorry. Mr Morris at the time told Pryor to have the .motor repaired and he would pay. Morris brought the motor to Masterton in his lorry to be repaired, stating to the accountant in Brown's shop that he was insured against accidents of this kind, and would see the insurance people in Wellington and fix up the payment. The work was charged up to Morris as instructed, and the account forwarded to him. Morris then forwarded a memo, stating that he was not liable, and to send the account to Pryor. There was no dispute as to the amount charged for the repairs.,.....

30th December 1915 [Though this article mentioned Auckland in the first paragraph it is most definitely about Saunders Road in the Alfredton Area. I have published it in total as it covers issues held by all country schools in the Wellington Education Board area]

AN EDUCATIONAL SCREW LOOSE

WHY THE SETTLERS DON'T SETTLE. To the Editor "N.Z. Times."

Sir,—In a small country district about eight miles north of Auckland [Sic Read Alfredton] is a congregation of moderate sheep' farmers, two or three bridges, and several roads that all converge towards a natural centre bearing the euphonious name of Saunders road. Why this particular road should have been' selected, to give what in the dim and distant future, may eventually become an important settlement, its unique designation, might be perplexing, were it not that the residence of W. J. Saunders is the chief embellishment of a fine pastoral landscape. For W. J. Saunders, hale and hearty still, though growing ripe in years, is a patriarchal bushman and farmer with a history. The rough rider booted and spurred, that could force his way through the dark forest and clear the site for a homestead, erect a whare of slabs and toi-tois, navigate a road through dense bush and manuka scrub and flax covered swamp, and retch home a winsome bride, just as dauntless as himself, camping out and celebrating their wedding trip by spending a night on one of the loftiest ridges now known as Honeymoon Hill, could not easily be stuck up. Long years before metalled road or good track offered an avenue to civilisation did he not erect a fine, commodious two-storied residence with timber carefully selected and sawn mostly by his own hands? And as his sons and daughters grew up, did they not develop into farmers and farmers' wives? Attracted by the exploits of these bushmen and bushwomen other settlers followed, facing dangerous fords, huge swamps, and tracks in which their horses plunged below their girths. To transform rough bush into pastoral country needs years of hard work and indomitable energy, but these settlers had pluck and endurance, and they saw it through. Instead of dangerous fords, they now have bridges, their roads are metalled with river silt, and a Post and Telephone Office flourishes at the residence of W. S. Algie and Mrs Algie. who, thanks to a thrifty family, have carved out a homestead in a lovely valley surrounded with hills that in summer and winter are covered with luxuriant pasture. Thus, although the homesteads lie somewhat widely apart Saunders road is centrally situated and is in daily and hourly communication with the whole of the outside world. But another blessing which the settlers

value very much, and which they would greatly like to improve is the Saunders road school. The school occupies a bit of the river flat, a mile or two down the valley. A chimney, cracked by an earthquake, and the absence of a fire brigade sent it through the fire once but it was promptly rebuilt and the many years it has been the object of their solicitude, for being educated residents are very proud of it. For themselves they recognise how essential to the welfare of their little ones is a good school and a competent teacher. Unfortunately just as Saunders road—a congregation of sheep farms—stands out from the rest of a very sparsely populated district, like an oasis in the desert, the school stands isolated and alone—an old bachelor without a mate, a one-eyed gunner, a wooden legged athlete. As soon as the sorrowing teacher turns the key in the door, and the little boys and girls scamper away on Shank's pony over hills towards their homes the school 'becomes a Robinson Crusoe—a veritable Lot's wife—an emblem of solicitude, destitute of all the faculties that pertain to life. All day long, except during school hours, morning, evening, and night, like a condemned criminal it is doomed to solitude. It hears no voice, it sees no light, it is inert, lifeless, a petrification. It is to be feared there may be other schools in a similar position, but it is to be hoped they are not numerous. Yet this school is for, nay, cherished. It has a committee consisting of heads of families, and for years their trouble has been to keep the school open. The difficulty is due to no fault in the attendance, for if the number fluctuates, it rarely falls below fifteen, and sometimes exceeds twenty. What troubles the committee is that the Saunders road school is like a haunted house. A haunted house cannot retain a tenant; this schoolhouse cannot keep a teacher. Why? Because the teacher dispatched by the Wellington Education Board finds on his arrival at the Saunders road school he is in as bad a plight as Campbell's Exile of Erin. The school has certainly a roof, a fireplace, and a cupboard, but it has no residence, and there is no habitation within C00-ee of it. Worse than all, nothing apparently will prevail on the Education Department to build a residence. Ever since the school was established the committee have been sampling teachers; and what a variety they have had! The aged, the weary, the worn, have alternated with the young and inexperienced, and at frequent intervals the school has been closed. I've the inexperienced, untrained teacher, driven to desperation in search of a crust, has drawn the line at Saunders road. Nor is this surprising. The teacher is required to hunt for lodgings or is dumbed down to be picketed like a homeless trooper. Although the school is central enough, the nearest residence is a mile or two away, and settlers, however hospitable and kindly-disposed, do not always care about the invasion of their family nests by strangers. Besides this, the average settler's home is so well occupied that if a teacher has to be accommodated the bedroom must be shared by one or two members of the family, How the young teacher under such conditions can prepare for the next examination the kindly reader may conjecture.

About two years ago the parents of Saunders road became excited and overjoyed at a streak of good fortune which Providence and the Education Board threw in their way. Their hearts rejoiced. for they thought their difficulties were ended and that their families would at last enjoy the blessing for a decent season, at all events, of an efficient teacher. An exceedingly promising young man, who had received a brief university training in the south, and who appeared to possess in a superlative degree all the virtues and qualities of a teacher of exceptional merit, found his way to the Saunders road school. The parents were delighted. They received him with open arms, they did all they could for his comfort, but they could not

lessen the distance between the schoolhouse and his nearest lodgings, and accommodation to enable him to pursue his studies was an impossibility. To retain his services and secure for their children the advantage of continuity in teaching—a thing unknown in the past—demanded an effort, and it was promptly made. The , committee met. discussed matters freely, congratulated Saunders road on its luck, and instructed their chairman and secretary to forward to the Education Board an urgent request for the immediate erection of a teacher's residence. An acknowledgment was received, weeks passed, further correspondence took place, but all that could be obtained was an apathetic reply that the application would be considered. The committee became nervous, for they thought their teacher, to whom the young people were becoming firmly attached, while their progress was extremely satisfactory, was becoming restive, so they resolved to appeal to a member of the board with whom they were well acquainted. The member in question did what he could with the board, and got plans of a small, inexpensive, single teacher's residence prepared. But plans and specifications and estimates and applications seemed of no avail; not even a response could be obtained from the Education Department. Making allowance for the morbid and unsettled condition of the department owing to recent Parliamentary tinkering the member vigorously tugged at the educational strings by appealing to the new Minister for Education., "Ha" he exclaimed, "We'll have no more of this obstruction; the Hon. J. A. Hanan will make his department sit up- So he wrote an appeal descriptive of the sufferings of the Saunders road school and its teacher, so full of pathos, so absolutely heartrending that he believed it to be irresistible. This occurred about three months ago. The Minister has acknowledged the document, and that, is the last that has been heard of it. Too despondent to write, the disappointed member of the board on the eve of Christmas sent a card along to the chairman of the Saunders road school committee, and in return received the following letter: —

"Just a line or two to thank you very much for the trouble you have taken to try and get us a school residence. I should have written long before this, but we were five weeks getting through shearing. I was so worried and tired I could not think of anything else. Our old trouble has cropped up again. Mr Pryor has left us and is going to the front, and I really do not know where we will find a place for the new teacher. I am afraid we will have to close the school. It seems a bit hard that settlers who have not been frightened to tackle the backblocks should have such a struggle to get their children educated. One of our sons has gone into camp, and another one goes in next month ; so you see our family is being scattered. The wife and I feel it very much, but I suppose we must not complain,

The Saunders road school may be small, but during the time it has been in existence—now a considerable number of years—a lot of young people have passed through it. The school nearest to it is at Alfredton, eight miles away. Its cost to the State is not heavy. The recently issued report of the Education Department shows that it has an average attendance of fifteen, and a male teacher with a salary of .£90 and .£10 lodging allowance. When the teacher's board and lodging and clothes and books and examination fees are paid, his margin of pocket money will hardly provide me extra war tax on postage stamps, and his prospect of becoming a millionaire seems remote. With such a pay and no residence is it surprising that the school committee are constantly in danger of losing their teacher and being compelled to close their school? Or is it surprising that owing to the difficulty of securing a moderate! education for

their children, settlers with families are ready to dispose of their holding and thus the country is becoming depopulated s —l am. etc.,

RUSTICUS.

David Pryor went onto having a successful and long career worthy of its own long story. He was always successful and was well respected wherever he went. He was very strong in swimming and lifesaving in Palmerston North and was also heavily involved in the teacher's organisation NZEI. Born David Clarence Pryor in 1894

Here I am just following his Educational career

- a. 27th May 1916 Wellington Education Board acknowledge Mr Pryor has joined the war effort
- b. 20th February 1919 Returning from War
- c. 7th May 1919 Appointed to Ballance School
- d. 25th August 1919 Married to Miss M A Townsend
- e. 16th January 1922 Appointed to Hastings Street School Napier
- f. 14th January 1926 Certificate of proficiency from Otago University
- g. 3rd August 1929 Formerly of Paki Paki school Hastings 1st assistant Terrace End school Palmerston North
- h. 22nd February 1933 Temporary Headmaster Manchester Street School Feilding (still relieving 22nd June 1933)
- i. 6th December 1933 Mr Prior returns to Terrace End next year
- j. 14th May 1934 Elected onto National Committee NZEI
- k. 21st May 1937 Still on NZEI Executive from Palmerston North
- l. 19th June 1937 National Secretary of NZEI for one year while secretary is absent overseas
- m. 15th February 1938 Appointed Head Teacher of Martinborough DHS
- n. 29th June 1939 President of NZEI National



- o. Photo in New Zealand Herald
- p. 11th December 1941 Appointed head of Pahiatua DHS
- q. 29th May 1945 Appointed Head Master Palmerston North Central School
- r. 20th November 1950 Elected to Palmerston North City Council
- s. Died 13/1/1965

5th June 1935 The friends of Mr D. C. Pryor, first assistant at the Terrace End School, will regret to learn that he has been seriously indisposed, consequent upon a chill contracted while visiting Wellington last month. Mr Pryor, who is now making good progress towards recovery was accorded a motion of good wishes by the School Committee at its meeting last evening

13th January 1916 Saunders Road (Railway Station Eketahuna Sole Teacher (during war) £110 to £140 and £30 Housing Allowance

11th July 1916 SAUNDERS.—On July 10th, at his residence, Saunders' road, Alfredton, William Joseph, beloved husband of Fanny Saunders; aged 74 years

30th November 1916 The children of the Saunders' road school have unanimously decided to forego their prizes this year, writes our Alfredton correspondent. They have decided to hold a Red Cross afternoon tea and sale of produce, etc., on December 14th.

16th December 1916 The children of the Saunders Road school this week held an afternoon tea and sale of produce, etc., in lieu of their prizes, to help to augment the Red Cross funds. Too much cannot be said for their patriotism, writes our correspondent. The day was beautifully fine, and it would be quite safe to say that most of the settlers of Saunders Road and Pori were in attendance, also a number of visitors from Alfredton. Inside, the school looked like a veritable fairyland, beautiful roses, flowers of every description, and greenery, making all feel they were walking' in a garden. A birthday cake, given by Harry Smith, was won by Mr J. Conwell, and a very handsome copper vase, donated by Mrs S. K. Raleigh, was won by Mrs Geo. Jones. Mr D. Parsonson thanked all those who were so generous with their gifts and donations, and paid a very high compliment to the teacher, Miss Harnett, who undoubtedly was instrumental in bringing about the good result. The following made monetary donations: —Messrs A. Nelson £5, W. S. Algie £2 10s, W. Algie junr. £2 10s, John Smith senr. £1 P. G. Wilton £1, C. Kebbell)£1 Is, C. C. Holmes £1, H. N. Kebbell £1, Mrs Hillas 10s, L. and F. Percy £1, Mrs Raleigh 10s, Mr E. H. Seymour 5s. Campbell Raleigh 5s, also, Master Wilton 1 pair or ducks, Misses Saunders ducks and fowls , , Ruth Smith 1 fleece, Masters J. and A. Smith 1 fleece, Marjorie Gunn produce, Johann McKenzie produce. The total amount taken throughout the day was £37.

1917-1923

1917	16	Saunders Road	Harnett	Helen M			Sole	£110	\$12,329
1919	14	Saunders Road	Bowman	Thomas W			D-79	£280	\$25,295
1921	11	Saunders Road	Percy	George H			Sole	£180	\$15,496
1923	6	Saunders Road	McKelvie	Kathleen M Mrs			Sole	£105	\$9,651

29th March 1917 Wellington Education Board With respect to teachers' residences at Saunders Road and Pirinoa, the tenders were rejected owing to being so much above the estimates.

14th August 1917 Christmas puddings for soldiers at the Front Saunders Road 15s

7th November 1917 Saunders Road —Sole Teacher (war appointment), £110 to £140, and £30 housing allowance

13th December 1917 Miss H M Harnett resigns

24th January 1918 Miss H. Harnett, sole teacher, Saunders Road, was allowed to withdraw her resignation.

20th June 1918 Miss H M Harnett resigns

3rd July 1918 SOLE TEACHERSHIPS.—£110 to £140 and £20 h.a. Makairo, Saunders Road.

11th July 1918 A pleasant function was held at Saunders' road on Friday last, when Mr. W. E. Algie, on behalf of the parents in the Saunders' road district, presented the teacher, Miss Harnett, who is leaving, with a handsome dressing case.

11th February 1919 Mrs H P Jones sole teacher Saunders road

15th February Masterton DHS The new secondary scholars came from the following districts: Masterton 21, Lansdowne 12, Fernridge 5, Tenui 1, Whareama 2, Waingawa 1, Alfredton 1, Poro Poro 1, Gladstone 2, Saunders' Road 1, Taranaki 1, To Ore Ore 1.

22nd February 1919 Mrs H P Jones appointed sole teacher (war appointment)

17th July 1919 P Jones resigns (Probably H P Jones)

18th September 1919 Miss N B O'Donnell resigns

19th September 1919 Looks like above was an error Miss N B O'Donnell appointed

20th November 1919 Mrs H P Jones has resigned her position as sole teacher at the Saunders Road school

[Note I have been back and checked the accuracy of the statements above and they are copied correctly]

16th January 1920 Saunders road, £130 to £160 and £20 housing allowance

Helen M Harnett taught at Hutt DHS Kings Road from 1913 to at least 1915 and didn't teach again for the Wellington Education Board again

Thomas W Bowman taught at Saunders road in 1919 and then spent to at least 1923 at Masterton Central

1st December 1919 Lieut. T. W. Bowman, M.C., who has been acting as temporary assistant teacher at the Eketahuna District High School, was presented by the scholars with a set of razors and a fountain Pen prior to his departure.

He was from 1920 involved in a lot of Sport especially as a soccer referee in Wellington He was appointed to Lyall Bay School in Wellington in 1926. In December 1929 he was Headmaster of the Maori school at Tikitiki north of Gisborne. In 1936 he was headmaster of the Whau Valley school and retired from there in 1945

George H Percy only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Saunders road. In 1923 he was in the Taranaki Education Board teaching at a sole charge school Huiroa [Inland from Stratford Just off Present state highway 43]

A wedding of local interest took place at the Holy Trinity Church yesterday when. Mr. George H. Percy, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy, of Stockport, England, was married to Miss Dorothy Martin, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Martin, of Stratford. The Rev. J. L. A. Kayll officiated. Miss Goldie, of Wellington, attended the bride as bridesmaid and Mr. Dunderdale, of Eketahuna, carried out the duties of groomsman. The church was crowded with friends and relations. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents. The happy couple, who were the recipients of a large number of presents and cheques, motored south, where the honeymoon will be spent.

11th December 1940 Dorothy Percy died at the Warkwork schoolhouse mother of 3 boys

Mrs Kathleen McKelvie only taught under this name until at 1923 for the Wellington Education Board I could find no other references in Papers Past to Kathleen

Post 1923

16th October 1928 Miss L. Hiskens, sole teacher, Saunders road;

17th September 1931 Mr J Redmond Sole Teacher Saunders Road

National Archives Saunders Road Records

Saunders Road

1911-1952 National Archives

4th May 1911 NZ Police report on school house (not residence) being destroyed by fire

- a) Teacher C H Ralph had a fire in the chimney in the corner of the school as it was a cold wet day. He closed the school early and according to the children he put the fire out with water
- b) Two Boys Clifford (13) and Otto Renton (10) stayed behind to sweep out the school

Too difficult to read rest of report by constable

4th May 1911 Wellington Education Board

- a) The teacher was very careful
- b) The fireplace had been damaged in the 1904 earthquake and repaired
- c) An adjoining farmer had offered a cottage so the school would be only closed a week

5th June 11 Application for a new school Alfredton 5 miles away, Hinemoa 6 and Ihuraua Valley 11

Section 16 Block V Kopuaranga area 5 acres

The school was erected in 1900

Cost of new building £320

June 16th, 1915 Application for a residence at Saunders Road

- a) The Board has difficulty in retaining good teachers because of the accommodation
- b) Roll is now 18 and likely to fluctuate it is centrally situated and remote from other schools
- c) Even when boards is obtained it is not within easy reach of the school\
- d) They would like the same arrangement as at Carrington [Also burnt down later]

29th September 1915 Mr Hogg Member of Parliament for the area wrote a long rambling letter too hard to read in favour of a school residence

November 1916 Department awards a grant of £277:10:0 for the erection of a residence

26th February Wellington Education Board to Dep We cannot get country work done so the building is not erected

November 17th Still Education Board cannot get a reasonable quote for a residence at Saunders Road

24th February 1920 A temporary accommodation built for a single teacher

3 rooms with bath scullery pantry, copper tubs, sink etc under one roof with separate earth closet

10th September 1935

Bus run by Mr Donovan arranged for 20 shillings per day

1937 School disposed of

1962 Land transferred to the crown

Staffing 1922-1935

31st January 1922 Miss A M Richards Appointed 7 years teaching Assistant at Koputaroa

13th February 1922 Mr W S Algie School Committee chairman approved of appointment

13th June Roll has fallen school is now a Grade O school Miss Richards appointed to new school at Ngaumu

School will become an aided one and teachers will be accommodated free

12th September 1922

Miss Caverhill now Mrs McKenzie is prepared to teach the small children in her own house she has two young children of her own

18th September Application for an aided school at Saunders road

27th October 1922 Mrs McKenzie approved as teacher Wellington Education Board pays £15 a head per annum and will be paid directly

22nd October Seven children will attend the school if it reopens One of these are now attending Alfredton and the others are too young to travel so far. Alfred Cowles Inspector

8th October Telegram from Wellington Education Board to Inspector Burns No notification of Saunders road being closed

10th November 1923 We have been forced to close school as one family of children being ill with influenza. Hope to open soon again

W S Algie

8th September 1924 Letter to K M McKenzie Teacher.

- a) If the roll is maintained at 10 until the 30th September your school will be raised to Grade 1 from 1st Oct If you are confirmed you will be paid £155 plus house allowance of £30

15th April Mr W Algie wrote The Saunders Road School Committee are very anxious that Mrs McKenzie should continue teaching here and as she is applying.

23rd April Miss R Ridgely appointed 5 years' experience. Straight out of Training College Mrs McKenzie was uncertificated and received her notice

28th April Mr Algie writes that the School Committee are quite agreeable to the appointment of Miss R M Ridgely and would find board for her

7th May Inspector Irwin reports the roll may drop on the Wellington Education Board might be better off appointing Mrs McKenzie who has done good work in the past

30th May 1922 The Web writing to Miss A M Richards asking whether the opening of the Ngaumai school will have an effect on her roll

13th June 1922 Wellington Education Board writes to Mr W S Algie included:

- a) The school roll has dropped and is now a Grade 0 school
- b) Miss Richards will be needed to transfer and she has been appointed to Ngaumai from Monday Next
- c) To appoint another teacher we need to know that free board and lodgings will be supplied
- d) And the usual arrangements for an aided school will be followed

12th September 1922 Mr. Algie responds

- a) We have just leased a house half a mile from the school to Mr and Mrs McKenzie

b) Mrs McKenzie was for 7 years a teacher for the Wellington Education Board under her maiden name of Miss Caverhill

915/3464	Kathleen Mary	Caverhill	Colin Donald	McKenzie
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1907	400	Hutt DHS	Caverhill	Kath I		MP2
1908	456	Hutt DHS	Caverhill	Kathleen		FP3
1909	466	Hutt DHS	Caverhill	Kathleen		FP4
1909	10	Huia Road	Caverhill	Kathleen M		Female
1910	8	Huia Road	Caverhill	Kathleen I		Female
1910	516	Hutt DHS/Eastern Hutt	Caverhill	Kathleen L		FP5
1911	9	Te Whiti	Caverhill	Kathleen		Female
1912	8	Te Whiti	Caverhill	Kathleen		Female
1912	41	Kahautara	Caverhill	Kathleen I		Assistant Female
1913	99	Porirua	Caverhill	Kathleen M		Assistant Female
1914	105	Porirua	Caverhill	Kathleen M		Assistant Female

[there are two Kathleen's above and I am not sure which is which]

- c) She has two children of her own and is prepared to teach at her house the small children as an aided school
- d) The average attendance would be four probably six
- e) There is a suitable room in the house for for the purpose
- f) 22nd October Senior Inspector notified that 7 children will attend. One of whom is attending Alfredton and the others are too small to travel the distance I recommend the school be opened . Alfred Cowles Inspector

27th October 1922 Wellington Education Board writes

- a) That the school is approved
- b) The Wellington Education Board will pay £15 per head annually
- c) Mrs McKenzie needs to apply

6th November Mrs McKenzie commenced teaching aided school on November 1st. I was absent so therefore the late notification of the start of the school

8th October Wellington Education Board telegraphs Inspector Burns at Liverpool House Eketahuna that they have had no notification of the closure of Saunders Road School

5th November 1923. Mr Algie writes that school is closed because one family has influenza and he hopes the school opens soon

12th November 1923. Reply to above. No school can be closed if there any children willing to attend

1st February 1924 Mr Algie writes how do people pay. Does the man sending 2 children pay more than the man sending one child?

Rely pencilled below the fee should be paid Pro Rata

4th February 1924 Mrs McKenzie writes if the school maintains a roll of 9 for the whole year would it be a grade one school as from the beginning of the year?

Reply It would only be a grade 1 school if the school maintains the roll for the whole year

19th April Mrs McKenzie sent in the roll return on time and can't understand why the Education Board has not received it. I have made out another return and sent it

8th September 1924 Wellington Education Board writes to correspondence stating if the average is 10 for the next quarter the school will be raised a grade from October The salary will be £155 plus 30 house allowance if your appointment is confirmed

12th September 1924 Mr Algie writes that as the roll is averaging 9 to 10 do parents still have to pay?

Reply If the school becomes a grade 1 parents do not have to pay

9th April 1925 Mr Algie writes That the School Committee are very anxious that Mrs McKenzie should continue teaching here and she is applying

23rd April 1925 Wellington Education Board appoints Miss R Ridgeley to position 5 years' service. Presently at Training College

22nd April Mrs McKenzie did not get the job as she is not certificated [This is typical Education Board process. Follow the rules and not the head]

28th April The School Committee are quite agreeable to Miss Ridgeley teaching here

8th May 1925 Mr Irwin School Inspector writes to Secretary Wellington Education Board

- a) I visited roll was 10 and attendance 7
- b) The present teacher is uncertificated and the new teacher to take charge at the end of the month
- c) That the present roll is 8 and is likely to drop I recommend the retention of the present teacher

4th March 1926 Letter to Miss M Doull Saunders Road School what is the attendance ?

12th March 1926. Wellington Education Board writes to Mr Algie asking about the roll and wanting to know how many children were away with jaundice

18th March 1926 Telegram Entirely satisfied with Miss Doull at Saunders Road Committee would like her permanent employment

12th July 1926 Mr Algie wants Miss M Doull appointed permanently

15th July 1926 Wellington Education Board is going to advertise the position and recommends that to apply for the position and if she is the highest graded she will be appointed

13th September Mr Algie sends a telegram stating 80 per cent of roll have whooping cough and school will be closed for rest of week

7th September 1926 Wellington Education Board sends a wall chart of infectious diseases and how schools should react

28th September Wellington Education Board Asks if any teacher was available to relieve Miss Doull

Undated Miss Houlbrooke of Tiraumea has kindly consented to relieve Miss Doull during her absence

7th October 1926 Education Board wants Miss Houlbrooke to sign an oath of allegiance and what are qualifications

8th October 1926 A letter with no name of recipient sent to Saunders Road from Wellington Education Board asking for an attendance return

18th October 1926 Mavis R Doull writes back that she is back teaching and that there has been an whooping cough epidemic at the school

9th February 1927 Mavis R Doull writes asking to close the school for the Masterton Show

28th September 1928 Mr Clarke appointed relieving Teacher

5th October Miss L T Hiskens appointed teacher 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ years' service at present at Hutt Central School

10th October Mr Clark sends an account for travelling to Saunders Road from Normandale School

	£	S
Train Fair From Lower Hutt to Eketahuna	8	5
Rural Deliver Car Eketahuna to Saunders Road	7	6
Total	16	0

13th October 1928 Letter to Mr Algie from Wellington Education Board stating that they couldn't delay Miss Hiskens appointment to her new position

13th February 1929 Miss L T Hiskens [Still at Saunders Road} asking for leave for Masterton Show and school picnic

28th May 1929 A letter supported by Dr Paterson on closing the school to Diptheria written by G C Clarkson Saunders Road School Committee'. Approved by Wellington Education Board for one week

1st July School reopened

2nd July 1929 Mr Clarkson writes again

- a) Parents have refused to send their children to school until children have had throats examined for diptheria
- b) There is a case in the district
- c) There have been three deaths from Diptheria since the beginning of the year two in the same family
- d) There have altogether been seven or cases
- e) Wellington Education Board have sent report to Medical Health Inspector in Masterton

28th June 1929 Medical officer of Health visited the school The Algie [Had 5 pupils at Saunders Road] and Edmond families must be excluded until a medical certificate is obtained

31st October 1929 Wellington Education Board writes to Miss L Hiskens asking for information on Children at present, Children leaving and new entrants for 1930

31st October Laura T Hiskens writes school is closed on Instructions from Health Department

2nd November Letter from L T Hiskens to Education Board

No of children on roll 22

No likely to be leaving 2

Number of new pupils in 1930 2

17th February 1930 School closed for Masterton Show 19th and School picnic on the 28th. L T Hiskens

4th April 1930

G Clarkson writes

- a) Could school be closed two extra days at Easter Teacher is bridesmaid for her sister's wedding on the Thursday after Easter and she wants to attend
- b) I would not make the decision with the Education Board's approval
- c) The time taken will be taken off the term holidays

7th April 1930 [Shock Horror] The Education Board agrees to above arrangement

3rd August 1931 Miss Hiskens has unfortunately resigned and asking the Ed to appoint a women teacher from G Clarkson. Reply that the Education Board cannot do that

1st September 1931 Miss F E Roy appointed relieving sole teacher

4th September 1931 Mr J Redmond 6 ½ years' service at present relieving appointed ST

7th September Miss I Braggins appointed relieving teacher vice Miss Roy not now available

8th September Miss M Mahony as relieving teacher vice Miss Braggins not able to accept

8th March 1932 A letter to Mr F C Brockett, agricultural officer notifying him that school will be closed for annual picnic on day nominated

11th February 1933 Mr Clarkson writes

Roll 18 12 Primary and 6 Post Primary. Post Primary pupils including one from Tiraumea who is attending her as to work with the other pupils

They are taking the correspondence course from The Board but are doing so at the school

Question went to Education Department for their comment

In a long reply it was unclear what was decided. But it was clear that the children could not be enrolled at The Correspondence School and Saunders Road at the same time. It was recommended that the pupils register at Saunders Road and the correspondence school send the teachers the assignments [And I presume mark them]

6th March 1933 Holiday approved for Eketahuna Jubilee

31st October 1933 Letter from Mr J Redmond asking for an excepted term as to attendance had dropped by 40% owing to Influenza etc . Wellington Education Board sent forms

16th May 1935 Letter to Mr D M Parsonson Chairman Saunders Road from Wellington Education Board stating Mr Redmond has been assistant at Hutt Central School. Staring on the 27th May. The inspector will send a competent reliving teacher

17th May 1935 Miss Mahoney appointed reliving teacher

27th May 1925 Letter from Mr Parsonson to Wellington Education Board stating that Mr Redmond over to him the school premises, appliance and furniture and also the public records of the school

3rd June 1935 Mr Parsonson asking Wellington Education Board to appoint a male teacher

11th June 1935 The School wanted a male because they could get Board for the teacher easier if a male. Also there are a number of fairly big boys. I think they require a master over them.

19th June 1935 Mr J M Wisely appointed at present at Rakaunui School 6 ¼ years' service

20th January 1936 Letter to Mr Parsonson asking for last years' register to be sent to Wellington Education Board

[This is the end of one of the best files I have seen of the life of a school for the Wellington Education Board

Buildings and Sites 1911-1952

4th May 1911 The Wellington Education Board writes to Education Department and includes

- A) After school hours on the 12th April the Saunders Road School was completely destroyed by fire
- B) The facts disclosed by the School Committee low down near the level of the fire
- C) This building was damaged in the 1904 Earthquake. It appeared that only the top of the chimney was damaged

- D) The School Committee remark the teacher is very careful about putting out fires
- E) With but a week's interruption an adjoining farmer has been kind enough to place a cottage at the disposal of the Board
- F) 13th May 1911 Wellington Education Board members A W Hogg and A H Vile held an enquiry. The school was built by C R Benton about 12 years ago
- G) Had the chimney been built outside the school rather than in the school then it would have been open to inspection

This is along report that said little

5th June application for a new school included

- a) There was no meth of rail for children travelling to school
- b) Alfredton was 5 miles away, Hinemoa 9 Miles, Ihuraua 11 miles
- c) 1 classroom 24 foot (7.321 meters) x 20 foot (6.096 meters)
- d) Corridor 17 feet x 7 foot 6 inches
- e) Section 21 a Block V Puketoi
- f) Freehold Title held by Board
- g) Estimated cost £323 5 6d
- h) Average attendance 14

20th June Department approves

17th June 1915 Wellington Education Board applies for a Teacher's residence Three rooms with a bathroom, scullery, pantry, copper, tubs, sink etc under one roof, earth closet, and necessary metalling of paths

Total Cost £277 10 shillings

16th June Letter from Wellington Education Board to Department included

- a) Have always been more or less unsatisfactory and the board has sometimes had difficulty in retaining the services of good teachers
- b) The roll is now 13 and likely to fluctuate
- c) It is centrally situated and remote from other schools
- d) The proposal is like the one at Carrington
- e) Department queries why the Price was not the same as at Carrington [Carrington is just West of Carterton and Saunders Road is a long way from either Eketahuna or Pahiatua

7th July Wellington Education Board Secretary tells the Department they don't understand how much timber and iron have increased in price

19th August Wellington Education Board is asking the Department for a reply to their request for a grant

30th September 1915 Mr A W Hogg in a letter to Mr Hanan Minister of Education in along rambling difficult to read he appeals for a residence for Saunders Road School

2nd November 1916 Department finally approves the building of a residence at Saunders Road

26th February 1917 Wellington Education Board writes to Ministry saying they are having great difficulty in getting country work done [This is World War 1 time and many young men were overseas and older workers had plenty of work around their own bases]

7th November 1917 The building of a residence would stand over

17th February 1920 New application for a residence at Saunders Road included

- a) Sec 21 Block V Puketoi
- b) Teacher is single
- c) 3 rooms as before
- d) £570
- e) Lodging which is almost impossible at the moment
- f) Settlers unable to provide accommodation permanently
- g) This is a a case for a temporary residence as recommended at the recent conference

11th September 1935 Letter from Acting Director of Education to Wellington Education Board stating that if the school is closed Mr Donovan of the Smith and Donovan Motor Services would carry the children from Saunders Road to Alfredton would cost 20/- per day The children would arrive at Alfredton at 9.25 and leave at 4 p.m.

29th July 1937 The school was closed in 1935 and the children conveyed to Alfredton The Wellington Education Board would like to call tenders for its sale or removal

18th October 1937 The Locals wish to retain the building as they have no hall or Church

18th January 1940 A native school established at Aohanga and the Saunders Road school is to be shifted there

7th July 1952 School site transferred to the Crown