

## Stokes Valley

|      |    |               |          |         |  |        |        |  |
|------|----|---------------|----------|---------|--|--------|--------|--|
| 1891 | 15 | Stokes Valley | Messiter | Henry C |  | Master | £31.10 |  |
| 1892 | 15 | Stokes Valley | Messiter | Henry C |  | Master | £56.50 |  |

31st May 1877 Wellington Education Board It was resolved that a school should be established at Stokes' Valley.

10th July 1877 Mr. Alexander Roy, Stokes Valley, has been actively exerting himself in collecting subscriptions for the erection of a school in that secluded district, and with the most encouraging results. The building will be proceeded with as soon as the necessary funds are in hand ; and a young lady who has gathered a number of pupils, winch she teaches at present in a chapel belonging to the Primitive Methodists, will be the schoolmistress. Afterwards a local committee will be appointed, and the school placed in connection with the Board.

27th July 1877 TO BUILDERS. TENDERS for Building School and Dwelling-house, at Stokes' Valley, will be received at my office until the 1st of August, where plans and specifications may be seen. The lowest or, any tender not necessarily accepted. . C. J. TOXWARD, Architect.

31st October 1889 Wellington Education Board A petition for the establishment of a school at Stokes Valley was considered. Those present did not think there was any necessity for a school, and the petition was not granted.

30th July 1891 A pedestrian record of 10 miles, per diem, or 50 miles a week, is.- not a bad one for children of tender ages, who have to perform the feat in order to. enable them to obtain the advantages of the Education Act, yet that is what certain little folks at Stokes' Valley have, Dr. Newman asserts, to accomplish if they desire to acquire the rudiments of the three R's The doctor brought out the fact of this doleful dally trudge of those children before the Education Board yesterday when asking the Board to erect an infant school at Stokes' Valley. The Board decided to Communicate with the Taita School Committee upon the subject and should their report be favourable it is probable that an infant school will be erected in Stokes Valley

27th October 1891 There is a school in the Wellington district— at Stokes' Valley — where, according to a letter received by the Education Board, the accommodation is so limited that whenever the black-board is used it has to be placed outside in the open air.

27th October 1891 Wellington Education Board The residents of Stokes' Valley were ordered to be informed that if they can find a more suitable site than the one now under offer the Board will view favourably an application to erect a school.

25th November 1891 Wellington Education Board In the schedule of work for the coming year Stokes Valley, £100

A deputation from the residents of Stokes' Valley, consisting of Messrs. C. F. Butes, C. Russell, and J. Stratford waited upon the Education Board this morning in reference to the question of the erection of a school in their district. They stated that they wore prepared to offer an acre of land as a school site, and also to clear it of scrub and erect one fence that was needed. The Chairman thanked the settlers for their Liberality— from which they would themselves receive benefit — and told them that the estimates prepared for the ensuing year

provided £100 for the erection of a school at Stokes' Valley. For this provision the representatives of the district expressed themselves as being deeply grateful

Henry Messiter worked for the Wellington Education Board from 1882 to 1884 at Whiteman's Valley, then in 1890 at Kaiwhata [East Coast Wairarapa]. 1891 and 1892 at Stokes Valley and he finished for the Wellington Education Board there. In June 1890 he was relieving at Gladstone School. 14th June 1897 Mr. Messiter, who was in charge of the Beef Creek School. Rangitikei, at a salary of 14s a week, died just before news arrived that he 'had been left a large legacy.

|          |          |              |     |
|----------|----------|--------------|-----|
| 1896/668 | Messiter | Henry Carran | 46Y |
|----------|----------|--------------|-----|

27th January 1892 Wellington Education Board Tenders were ordered to be invited for the erection of a schoolhouse at Stokes' Valley, which should include provision for a teacher's residence.

17th March 1892 Wellington Education Board Annual Report for 1891 The number of schools' open was eighty-one, eight more than in the previous year, the new schools being at Ohau, Kereru, Ballance, Kaitawa, Alfredton, Ditton, Grassendale, and Stokes' Valley, most of them being small schools in comparatively new settled localities.

1st April 1892 Wellington Education Board The Chairman was authorised to accept tenders for the erection of schools at Makara, Makakahi and Stokes Valley.

18th April 1892 New school at Stokes Valley, O'Sullivan and Ponton, Lower Hutt

28th April 1892 Messrs Collie and Vveeber wrote stating that they had made an error in reference to their tender for the Makara school, A similar communication was received from Messrs O'Sullivan and Poynton with reference to the Stokes Valley school. The Chairman was authorised to call for fresh tenders

18th April 1892 School Committee STOKES' VALLEY. Messrs J. Stratford (Chairman), J. Russell (Secretary), N. Nelson (Treasurer), C. Russell, G. J. Squires.

27th May 1892 Tenders for the erection of schools at Makara and Stokes Valley were opened, and the lowest accepted in each case.

27th May 1892 The Education Board have accepted the tenders of William Douglas for the erection of a school at Makara, and that of H. W, Bradley for the erection of a school at Stokes' Valley, 1st June Tender Prices listed Stokes' Valley— Bradley, .£104 (accepted) ; E. Hayes, .£109 ; J. O'Sullivan, £125; Clark and Thompson, £140.

## 1893-1902

|      |    |               |          |        |    |        |         |          |
|------|----|---------------|----------|--------|----|--------|---------|----------|
| 1893 | 29 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A |    | Female | £108.15 |          |
| 1894 | 18 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A |    | Female | £121.00 |          |
| 1895 | 21 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A |    | Female | £121.50 |          |
| 1896 | 19 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A |    | Female | £100.00 |          |
| 1897 | 22 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A | E2 | Female | £100.00 |          |
| 1898 | 21 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A | E2 | Female | £ 90.00 | House    |
| 1899 | 26 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A | E2 | Female | £110.00 | \$ 20.00 |
| 1900 | 27 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A | E2 | Female | £110.00 | \$ 20.00 |
| 1901 | 31 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A | E2 | Female | £110.00 |          |
| 1902 | 19 | Stokes Valley | Williams | Mary A | E2 | Female | £136.00 | \$ 20.00 |

...

*Mrs Mary Anne Williams is transferred to Whakataki School from Cross Creek, presumably because there is a residence at Whakataki. Whakataki is the school just west of Castlepoint on the East Coast of Wairarapa. It was a major stopping place for people walking the coast route and people leaving or arriving from Castlepoint by boat*

Stokes Valley. Publication details: The Cyclopedica Company, Limited, 1897, Wellington  
Stokes Valley Public School—a small building of wood, containing one room besides the vestibule—was established in 1891. There are twenty-three scholars on the roll, the attendance averaging nineteen. Notwithstanding the size of the school, the usual standards from number seven downwards are found there.

Mrs. Mary Anne Williams—an English certificated teacher—is in charge of Stokes Valley School. Mrs. Williams was born at Birkenhead, and educated in Liverpool. After serving five years she gained a Queen's Scholarship, entitling her to two years training at the Cheltenham Ladies' College. At the close of this period Mrs. Williams obtained a certificate. For two years afterwards she acted as assistant teacher at St. Clements', Windsor, Liverpool, and on teaching before Her Majesty's inspector she gained her parchment license as a teacher. In 1885 she married Dr. Robert Williams, who died in 1893 on board the barque "Lutterworth"—then voyaging to New Zealand—leaving her a widow with one son and three daughters—the youngest being only three days old. On arriving in Wellington, Mrs. Williams presented her credentials as a teacher to the Board of Education, and was granted an E3 certificate, which has since been made E1. She was at once appointed to the position she still holds.

9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1892 During the voyage of the barque Lutterworth, which has arrived from Liverpool, Dr Williams, who was a passenger by the vessel, died, and was buried at sea. He was accompanied on the voyage by his wife, and four children, and he intended to have practised his profession at Whangarei. He had been unwell from the time of joining the vessel. PP

9th May 1893 Wellington Education Board Inspector Lee to visit on 22nd May

13th December 1893 Wellington Education Board It was decided to take over the aided school at Stokes' Valley, and the salary of the teacher was fixed at £105 a year [An aided school was a school with a small roll and the board paid a per head sum for each child and the parents paid all the other costs.]

20th December 1894 Another pioneer settler of the Hutt has passed away— Mr. Edward Russell, at the ripe age of 79. He was a native of Kent) and came to New Zealand in the ship Lord William Bentinck in 1841. In the primitive times he commenced road-making from Wellington to Kaiwarra. Afterwards he bought land at the Nai Nai, and was married to Sarah Tavenor in 1845. Later on he went further to the backwoods and took up a larger area of land at Stokes' Valley. About three years ago his health began to fail, and he came down again to the Lower Hutt, to be near medical aid. He leaves a widow and a grown-up family of seven— three sons and four daughters, all of whom are married. He will be buried in the Lower Hutt Anglican Cemetery, by the side of his brother, to-morrow

27th March 1895 The Chairman moved that the salaries of the teachers at Scarborough, Waingawa, Tauherenikau, and Whiteman's Valley schools be fixed at £100 per annum, thus raising them from the status of aided schools to State schools, and that the salaries attached to the Whakataki, T« Whiti, Stokes' Valley, and Kaitoke Schools be reduced, after due notice, to £80 per annum,' they having fallen below the status of Board Schools

25th April 1895 School Committee Stokes Valley— Messrs. C. Russell (Chairman), N. Nelson (Treasurer), J. Russell (Secretary), Hope, and Waller.

30th May 1895 Mr. Lee, Inspector of schools has arranged the following dates for visiting the schools named :— Korokoro, 31st May ; Wallaceville, 10th June; Whiteman's Valley, 11th; Stokes' Valley, 12th ; Wainui-o-mata, 13th ; and Pencarrow Lighthouse, 14th.

I have not listed further visits by inspectors. Schools were visited annually and children promoted if they passed the Inspector's Examination.

27th April 1899 Stokes Valley. — Messrs; E. Russell (Chairman), G. Mildrell (Secretary and Treasurer), Haybittle, Pickering, and Neilson.

25th April 1900 School Committee Stokes Valley. — Messrs. E. Russell (Chairman), C. Haybittle (Secretary), C. Cotter, A. Mitchell, F Clark.

31st January 1901 Teacher's salaries proposed raise: Stokes Valley— M. A. Williams, proposed new wage £100— A rise of £18

21st March 1901 Wellington Education Board enders were ordered to be called for a shelter shed! at Stokes Valley.

21st March 1901 Wellington Education Board published an amended list Stokes Valley Roll 28 Sole Teacher £120 a rise of £10

9th April 1901 TO BUILDERS. TENDERS wanted for the Erection of JL Shelter Sheds at Stokes Valley School. Plans and specifications can be seen at Mrs. Ross's store, at Taita. Tenders to be sent to Chas. Russell, Chairman Stakes Valley School Committee. Tenders close Saturday, 13th.

### 1903-1904

|      |    |               |          |        |    |            |         |          |
|------|----|---------------|----------|--------|----|------------|---------|----------|
| 1903 | 14 | Stokes Valley | Buechler | Arthur | C3 | Headmaster | £110.10 | \$ 10.00 |
| 1904 | 22 | Stokes Valley | Buechler | Arthur | C3 | Headmaster | £100.00 | \$10.00  |

After his two years teacher at Stokes Valley Mr Buechler was at Mauriceville East in 1905 and 1906 The Mauriceville East school log records as the last record of Mr Buechler 30<sup>th</sup> August The teacher received a telegram from Mr Hindmarsh, his lawyer demanding the former's presence in Wellington. The chairman granted Leave of Absence if Mrs Buechler would take charge of the school on Friday. This was agreed upon. Returns for the week were made out by Mrs Buechler and found to be correct. Last reference to Mr Buechler

Mr Buechler's first wife died in 1884 and he married his assistant teacher Miss Sarah Brown 21st May 1926 Mt Somers in the foothills of the Southern Alps School Jubilee reported In December, 1885,, Mr Arthur Buechler, from Auckland, began teaching 43 scholars, a record roll. Next year the committee admitted "overage" pupils, "discipline and subordination to be as for other pupils." In 1889 Miss Sarah Brown was appointed as the first assistant the school had; and became Mr Buechler's wife. All the early teachers, Messrs Spurr, Tomlinson, Williams, and Buechler are dead, the only surviving one being Mrs Buechler, teaching at Dromore. On Mr Buechler's appointment to Wanganui.....

In 1908 Arthur was teaching for the Taranaki Education Board

4th February 1903 Wellington Education Board Sole Teacher, Stokes Valley; average attendance 19; salary £96.

20th March 1903 The Education Board invites applications till Monday for the positions of sole teacher at Stokes' Valley and at Marima.

These were the only 2 references to the Stokes Valley school in the newspapers for 1903-1904

## 1905-1910

|      |    |               |              |          |    |        |          |         |
|------|----|---------------|--------------|----------|----|--------|----------|---------|
| 1905 | 19 | Stokes Valley | Prendiville  | P M      | E3 | Female | £ 118.00 | \$10.00 |
| 1906 | 17 | Stokes Valley | Prendiville  | P M      | E3 | Female | £ 118.00 | \$10.00 |
| 1907 | 14 | Stokes Valley | Prenderville | Phoebe M | D3 | Female | \$110.00 | \$15.00 |
| 1908 | 14 | Stokes Valley | Prenderville | Phoebe M | D3 | Female | £110.00  | \$15.00 |
| 1909 | 16 | Stokes Valley | Prenderville | Phoebe M | D3 | Female | £115.00  | \$15.00 |
| 1910 | 16 | Stokes Valley | Prenderville | Phoebe M | D3 | Female | £120.00  | \$10.00 |

Phoebe Prenderville started teaching at Makara School where her father was head Master in 1897 as a pupil teacher. In 1902 at Makara she was listed as an assistant mistress. Then in 1909 she was at Mangaone School just out of Eketahuna and following her stint at Stokes Valley went to Te Horo school in the Horowhenua and in 1915 she was at Muritai School. This was her last job for the Wellington Education Board I can't trace her after this appointment.

18th January 1905 Wellington Education Board STOKES VALLEY— Painting. (Specifications at teacher's residence and Chronicle office, Petone.

28th April 1905 Special grants were made for requirements at the following schools;— Mangaroa, .£3 8s; Stokes Valley, £3 10s

6th May 1905 Mr A. Buchler [Sic], of the Stokes Valley School, has. been appointed master of the Mauriceville School

7th July 1905 LOST, Bay Mare, one white hind foot, white blaze on face, branded IV near shoulder ; had •on new cover ; reward. Apply Mrs. Buchler, Stokes Valley.

7th July 1905 WANTED tv Sell, six Cows, some in milk, two close to calving, others ,to calve in early summer ; they are good cows, and being sold owing to owner leaving district also three 18-months Heifers, ono Horse, Trap, and Harness. Apply Mrs Buchler, Stokes Valley, or Macdonald, Wilson and Co.

12th July 1905 Miss Prenderville has been transferred from Stokes Valley to the Mangaone school. Didn't appear to go to Mangaone until 1909

30th August 1907 Repairs Wellington Education Board Stokes Valley, chimney, shelter-shed and fence

22nd April 1908 TENDERS will be received at the Education Board's office, Wellington, until Noon THURSDAY, 30th, for the following ivories, at Stokes . Valley School; — Painting, Fencing, Rebuilding Chimney, General Repairs. Specifications may be seen at the Board's Office, "Chronicle" Office, Petone, and at the School, Upper Hutt and Stokes Valley

30th April 1908 School Committee Stokes' Valley. Messrs E Salisbury (chairman), I Jenner (secretary), F Clarke, T Delaney, and J Young.

13th May 1908 The headmaster Of the Stokes Valley school has lately been giving his pupils some practical lessons in industrial processes', which must have been as interesting as. they were instructive. The school has visited meat works,' woollen mills, and other industries,

and the pupils have afterwards written essays on What they have seen. A prize essay' by a girl pupil of this school, signed "M.L.S. and describing a visit' to the Silverstream brickworks, , was read at. last night's meeting of the 'Wellington Industrial Association, and the members decided to congratulate the headmaster (Mr. Prendeville) on the-work done.

[A sexist report on the work of Phoebe Prendeville]

26th June 1908 Wellington Education Board Repairs Stokes Valley culvert and fencing repairs.

15th September 1909 The residents of Brooklyn, having an eye to the future, have asked the Education Board for additions to their school. It was thought by some that the addition of - two rooms to the existing school would be sufficient. The School Committee, however, sent a deputation to the' emergency meeting of the Education Board last week, urging that application be made to the Government for a grant for four rooms. It was pointed out that over one hundred building permits were issued last year in Brooklyn, and that there was likely to be a very considerable increase in the school attendance in the near future. The board decided to defer consideration of the matter till the ordinary meeting, as members were desirous of discussing the claims of Stokes Valley in connection with those of Brooklyn.

27th August 1909 Wellington Education Board Leave of absence granted to Miss Prenderville (S.T., Stokes Valley),

24th February 1910 The annual picnic of the Stokes Valley school, Taita, will be held to-day at Upper Hutt

24th February 1910 Wellington Education Board Resigned Mr. G. Sharp; relieving sole teacher, Stokes Valley.

5th March 1910 Mr. G. S. Sharp, who is well-known in local amateur athletic circles, left Wellington last evening for Hobart, where he intends to reside, and begin the study of medicine. Mr. Sharp won the Australasian three-mile championship at Hobart in 1908., having been included in the New Zealand representative team because of his meritorious win in the New Zealand championship for that distance a month previously.' During the past two Seasons, Mr. Sharp has not competed on the track, owing to ill-health, but he may be relied-upon to , represent his university creditably. Prior to resigning his position as teacher at Stokes Valley School, Mr. Sharp .was farewelled by residents. of the district, who wished him success in his new career. [George G Sharp's only other appearance on teacher's ;sit was at Admiral Run school in the Wairarapa in 1908: A small School at the top of Admiral Hill Road at Gladstone about 30 Kilometres from Masterton The station was a part of a large sheep station owned by Messrs Pain and Sutherland.]

29th April 1910 At a meeting of Stokes Valley householders, the following wore elected as a committee, for. the .ensuing term E. J. Salisbury (chairman), .J. Jenner (secretary), R. Mawson, H. Smith, C. Russell.

## 1911-1914

|      |    |               |       |             |    |        |         |         |
|------|----|---------------|-------|-------------|----|--------|---------|---------|
| 1911 | 17 | Stokes Valley | Ziman | Rachel L L  | C4 | Female | £140.00 | \$10.00 |
| 1912 | 12 | Stokes Valley | Ziman | Rachel Lena | C3 | Female | £145.00 | \$20.00 |
| 1913 | 7  | Stokes Valley | Keir  | Constance   |    | Female | £90.00  |         |
| 1914 | 10 | Stokes Valley | Keir  | Constance   |    | Female | £90.00  |         |



In 1911 Rae L Ziman started teaching as a pupil teacher at Mt Cook Boys'. 1907-1908 She went to Training College and in 1910 Spent 1 year at Masterton in the secondary department. Then after serving at Stokes Valley she was in 1913 at Petone DHS and in 1914 at the Terrace School and from 1915 to at least 1919 she taught at Berhampore school

27th January 1919 Miss Ziman left for San Francisco

Constance Keir taught at Maunganui for the Wellington Education Board School in 1912 and then at Stokes Valley for two years

14th March 1911 Wellington Education Board Stokes Valley (near Silverstream) — Sole Teacher : £120 to £150, and £15 h.a [Housing Allowance as no house provided]

26th April 1911 TROUBLE AT STOKES VALLEY.

MEETING ENDS IN A MELEE. Speaking metaphorically, there were "razors flying through the air" at the termination of the householders' meeting for the election of the committee of the Stokes Valley (Hutt) School. The meeting was interlarded with lively argument right through, but serious trouble was averted until the result of the election of the committee was made known. It was announced that Messrs. E. Salisbury, (chairman), I. Jenner (secretary), P. Williamson, and W. Mawson were returned, but for the fifth place there was a tie between Mr. A. Smith, an old committeeman, and Mr. T. Delaney, representing new blood. It was decided to take another poll of the meeting to decide the matter, and the result of this was that Mr. Delaney was returned by a majority of two votes.' The announcement of the result is stated to have been followed by a lively scene. Sides were promiscuously taken, the kerosene lamps were overturned, and in the dim half-light there was a merry melee from which few escaped without some reminder of a more or less, painful character.

29th October 1914 Wellington Education Board painting at Stokes Valley, C. Beaumont

5th November 1914 Military Ambulance Fund school children included Stokes Valley 6s

25th November 1914 Mis C Keir resigns from January 31st

26th November 1914 Wellington Education Board Stokes Valley— Sole Teacher, £110 to £140 and £20 h.a

24th December 1914 Appointment Stokes Valley Sole Teacher Miss E B Chapman

### 1915-1923

|      |    |               |         |                |       |        |         |  |
|------|----|---------------|---------|----------------|-------|--------|---------|--|
| 1915 | 9  | Stokes Valley | Chapman | Blanche        |       | Female | £117.00 |  |
| 1917 | 11 | Stokes Valley | Chapman | Blanche        |       | Sole   | £126.00 |  |
| 1919 | 16 | Stokes Valley | Smith   | William E J    |       | Sole   | £140.00 |  |
| 1921 | 15 | Stokes Valley | Malcolm | Flora M        | C     | Sole   | £250.00 |  |
| 1923 | 19 | Stokes Valley | Basket  | Georgina C Mrs | E-178 | Sole   | £235.00 |  |

Blanche Chapman taught from 1908 to 1911 at Whareama in Coastal Wairarapa School then at Koputaroa North of Levin before coming to Stokes valley where she ended her teaching career with the Wellington Education Board

|           |                |         |                |        |
|-----------|----------------|---------|----------------|--------|
| 1919/9037 | Blanche Evelyn | Chapman | George Francis | Kilsby |
|-----------|----------------|---------|----------------|--------|

27th January 1915 Miss E B Chapman appointed

15th April 1916 STOKES'S VALLEY. In the centre of the Taita gorge is a valley known as Stokes's. It runs in an easterly direction from the main road, and at one period in its history was the home of a number of families who were engaged 'in farming pursuits. The land was

reserved for old soldiers and their families, but the monopolist set his eyes on the district and aggregation of the land soon ' followed. Family after family left/the district, the school attendance fell away, until eventually the Education Board closed the school. There are only a few persons now living in the valley. [I have no evidence of the school being closed. The roll was certainly reduced]

6th July 1916 Mrs. M. MacEwan reported that splendidly-made garments for the use of soldiers' dependants had been forwarded by the children of the Kaiparoro, Hutt District High, and Stokes Valley Schools.

10th July 1916 St John' Ambulance Donations Stoke's Valley School, 2-mufflers, 8 face cloths, 1 body belt:

1st September 1917 The exhibition of needlework done by school children now on view at the Education Board Building in Mercer-street is well worth seeing and considering from several points of view. Not only is the work neat and well done, but it shows thoughtfulness and originality in a high degree..... The following schools took part in the exhibition:—Berhampore, Coniston, Mikimiki, Carrington, Kaiparoro, Stokes' Valley, Eli Bay.....

25th June 1918 Countess of Liverpool Christmas Pudding fund included Stokes Valley School, 16s

25th November 1918 {Researched in week two of Covid 19 Lock down] Mr Rishworth said that medicine and food would be willingly supplied, and on Saturday a motor-car with experienced help, together with medicine and food, was sent to Stokes Valley, where the majority of the settlers are down with the malady.

9th May 1919 Peace Festival The Stokes Valley and Taita schools wrote accepting the offer of the committee to take part in the Lower Hutt celebrations

20th August 1919 Miss B Chapman sole teacher Stokes Valley resigns

17th March 1920 Mr W Smith resigns He only taught for the Wellington Education Board at Stokes Valley

3rd April 1920 Stokes Valley. £130 to £100 and £20 house allowance.

2nd April 1921 Stokes Valley: Sole, £180-£210 and £30 H.A.

23rd April 1923 STOKES VALLEY

A PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

MEETING OF RESIDENTS.

Tucked away in a fold of the hills and running two miles south from the Taita Gorge road, lies a little-known but delightful valley, wrongly named Stokes/ after one of the early surveyors, who has a trig station named after him on one of the hills in the vicinity. The narrow and uninviting entrance to the valley -belies its size and beauty, and it is only during the last year that the valley has begun to come into its own. About a mile wide, lying towards the sun and sheltered from the southerly winds, the valley presents one of the most delightful holiday resorts round, about Wellington. Dotted here and there about the hills are patches of native bush, from out of which run streamlets, which, joining the main stream that runs out of the entrance and across the main road, lend a beauty all their own to the neighbourhood. A year ago the families in the valley' could be counted on the fingers of one hand, while to-day the Hutt County has over forty ratepayers in the district. Some of these are already winning a livelihood in the valley; others are prospective settlers; while others have built week-end



residences or have become so charmed with the locality that the week-end with them extends over the seven days

All the residents are of one mind in seeing that the natural beauties are conserved, and that the valley should be made still more attractive. With this end in view, practically' the whole of the residents met last week to consider the progress of the valley. One of the first matters discussed was the need of scenic reserve and a recreation ground. It was decided to immediately wait on Mr. S. D. Thomson, the owner of the Kamahi Estate, to request him to set aside an area for the purposes named. Mr. C. Young introduced the deputation, and the speakers were Messrs. J. Menzies and M. King.

In view of the small area attached to the valley public school, the speakers stressed the need of a playing ground for the children and said that to such a tree-lover as Mr. Thomson, they had no need to press, the claims for the preservation of the natural beauties. The proposal was that any area donated should be set aside for all time for the purposes named in the deed of gift, and that the land should be vested in a domain board elected by the district, for the purpose.

Mr. Thomson said he had already given the matters suggested some consideration and had in view the setting aside of a suitable block for school purposes, the present ground being far too small for the rapidly-growing school. The setting aside of a piece of bush as a scenic reserve had also in a measure been accomplished, as he had reserved 15 acres as a catchment area for a future water supply for the valley. The question of setting aside a block of at least five acres as a playing area had not been considered, but if the residents would appoint a small committee he would be pleased to go into the question with them.

The deputation cordially thanked Mr. Thomson for the kindly reception he had given them, and Messrs. H. Hawthorne, M. King, C. Young, and G. Parker were appointed to view certain suggested sites, discuss the matter with Mr. Thomson, and report to a later meeting.

The gathering then discussed various matters affecting the welfare of the valley, among them being the alteration of the name of the valley (Stokes being really the name of a small subsidiary valley which runs off the main valley), a water supply for the district, the beautifying of the valley by planting of an avenue of deciduous trees on either side of the road, and other matters.

Finally, it was decided to call a further meeting with a view to the formation of a progressive and beautifying association.

20th September 1923 Miss F Malcolm resigned

29th October 1923 A very enjoyable function was held in Whiteman's Valley, the guest of honour being Mrs. Baskette, who is leaving the district to reside at Stokes Valley. On behalf of the district, Mr' Baskette was presented with a gold wristlet watch, and the chairman of the school committee spoke in highly eulogistic terms of her work in connection with the school, stating that he was sure he was right in saying everyone was heartily-sorry that she was being transferred to another district Mrs" Baskette suitably replied Musical items from the pupils and- others, interspersed with dancing, were much enjoyed, and the singing of Auld Lan" Syne" brought a very successful social to a close

[Mrs Basket taught at Whiteman's Valley from at least 1917 before coming to Stokes Valley. Spelling in her 4 records of teaching was recorded as Baskett, Baskette, Baskett and Basket

## Post 1923

4th May 1926 There was a good attendance at the Stokes Valley School meeting, when the following committee was elected:—Messrs. H. Hawthorn (chairman), T. Delaney (secretary), S; D. Thomson, J. Chamberlain, and A. J. White. A resolution was passed congratulating the teacher, (Mrs. Baskett) on the splendid results achieved by the pupils at the annual examinations, at which no failures had been recorded. Four pupils gained proficiency certificates, and one a junior national scholarship.

10th December 1926 Eric Spenseley Thompson, Frederick William Page, and James Crlchton Young were successful in gaining proficiency certificates at the recent examination at the Stokes Valley School

19th July 1927 Sir, —There seems to be a general outcry against a further increase of public expenditure for education purposes, and as a taxpayer and a resident of Stokes Valley I beg to protest against the rumoured proposal of the Education Board to move the local school a mile further up the valley. The district at present extends for a distance of two and a half miles, and if the school is moved it means that seven children now attending from Haywards and Taita Gorge will be compelled to attend other schools, and the cost of transport will be at Government expense. Moreover, as two large blocks of land will shortly be opened up near the present school, another school will subsequently be needed to replace the loss of the present school, thereby necessitating cost of erection and maintenance of two second-rate schools where one good school centrally situated would meet all requirements, both present and future. I do hope the Education Board will give the matter further consideration in the interests of Dominion taxpayers in general and this district in particular.—I am, etc.  
RESIDENT

21st July 1927 Concerning the proposed moving of the Stokes Valley school.- I think the Education Board has wisely chosen a central site. At present there are only five children attending the school who live out of the valley, the majority living near the proposed site. Perhaps the Education Board are also considering the financial side of the question in using an education reserve, whereas another site would be an additional cost to the taxpayers. The land around the reserve has already been cut up and mostly sold. There are 16 children attending the school to which the proposed site would be more central; also there are about 12 future pupils living close to this site. I think in moving the school the board should study the children and not blocks of land which have not yet been cut up and have yet to be sold.—I am, etc., FATHER OF TINY TOTS.

22nd July 1927 -May I add my protest to that of "Resident" regarding the proposed removal of the Stokes Valley School. It is now situated practically midway between Stokes Valley and Haywards", and anyone with a fair sense of judgment cannot fail to see that the present position is the most suitable to serve both districts. "Father of Tiny Tots" writes that it would be much more suitable for the majority to have it moved, but what about the "tiny tots" from Haywards? Although in the minority, are they not to be considered? There will be more of them ready for school after Christmas, and they may not always be in the minority. I agree with "Father of Tiny Tots" that the board should study the children before blocks of land, and in the event of the school being moved higher up the Valley the "tiny tots" at Haywards would be compelled to travel by train, with its attendant risks, either to Silverstream or

Belmont, so I trust that the Education Board will give this point due consideration and place the safety of the children first.— I am, etc., THE MOTHER OF TINY TOTS

19th December 1927 most successful concert was given recently by pupils and friends of the Stokes Valley School. The first part of the programme consisted of songs, recitations, and dancing by the school children, the second part being contributed by their seniors, both sections meeting with cordial appreciation from the large audience. At the close of the concert, a presentation basket and a gift from the pupils was made to the headmistress by the head girl of the school. Rose Elson, and by the youngest pupil, Nola Hurl. Mr. Wakelin (chairman of the School Committee); spoke enthusiastically of the good work done by Mrs. Baskette. and of the appreciation of both parents and pupils. Mrs. Baskette suitably replied and thanked the parents for their kindly support. "God Save the King" brought to a close a much-enjoyed evening.

23rd April 1923 In view of the preponderance of votes at the 1927 meeting of householders being in the hands of those having no direct interest in the school, it was resolved at a meeting of parents held last week that a "ticket" representative of parents' interests be nominated for the School Committee. It was also decided that the incoming committee should be requested to meet parents during each half of the year: The first meeting to be held as soon as possible in order to come to a conclusion as to the best site for the new school, and to arrange for a deputation of parents to wait upon the Board of Education in regard to it.

21st July 1928 SITE MOSTLY DONATED; Members of the Education Board'; and a representative from the Survey Department paid a visit to Stokes Valley- yesterday morning for the of viewing the new school- site. They congratulated members of the School Committee ;(who were also present) on the excellence of the site and its advantageous position. The land comprises approximately ' two and a half acres; to 'provide this area, seven building sections,; which had been roaded and fenced, have been lumped together. This land is valued at approximately £900 and was the property of Mr.. S. D. Thomson. Adjoining this on the one side, a further acre section '(valued at approximately £300) has been secured :from Mr. Gibson Young, and on ; the other boundary the board has purchased from Mr. Parker the balance of the land, a section worth £130, making ,in all a school site of about four acres. The School Committee was congratulated on its perseverance in securing as a gift to the Education Department such a ,valuable site, on terms which give the Department, for £100, property worth over £1000. It was stated that the Department is proceeding, immediately with the erection, of the new two-roomed; up-to-date school which. Stokes Valley has worked to obtain.

29th July 1929 AND CLOSE SOUP KITCHENS

Indicative- of Wellington's suburban expansion is the new Stokes Valley School, of which the residents of the Valley are justly proud, and which was formally opened on Saturday afternoon by the Minister of Education, the Hon. H. Atmore. To commemorate the occasion, the Minister was presented with a silver key by Master John Bough, who is the school's youngest pupil, and who is also the son of the chairman of the school committee. The Minister, who hopes to find in his education policy the key to the unemployment evil, emphasised the importance of educating each child according to his or her own gifts, with due allowance for individuality and for all the different classes of ability that the work of New Zealand needs. He recognised the value of school committees as securing the interest

and co-operation of parents and residents, and he congratulated Stokes Valley on its school, its school ground (four acres), and its competent committee.

The chairman of the school committee, Mr. Rough, introduced Mr. W. H. Field, M.P., and Mr. Forsyth, chairman of the Education Board. On behalf of the residents, Mr. White congratulated the committee, and one of the pupils, Miss Jean White, made an excellent address on behalf of the school children. After the ceremony at the school Mr. and Mrs. Rough entertained about fifty guests to afternoon tea at the Stokes Valley Hall. Mr. C. A. Dickson, president of the Ratepayers' Association, thanked the host and hostess for their hospitality

24th December 1929 Proficiency Certificates were awarded to Edna Wylie and Andrew Deer, and a competency certificate to Jan Chamberlain, all of Stokes Valley School.

29th May 1930 A second householders' meeting was held at the Stokes Valley School on Monday last. About thirty-five people were present, and Mr. R. A. Rough (retiring chairman) presided. Owing largely to an improvement in average attendance, the amount received as capitation showed an upward tendency. Considerable discussion again ensued as to the propriety of making payments on general account out of special funds, and the responsibility of the incoming committee for the deficiency so created in the special funds. Nominations were called for, and seven names were put to the ballot, the elected committee being Messrs. Moggord (chairman) and Gibson Young, and Mesdames Moggord, Shearme, and Gibson Young (secretary).