

For a long time after the reformation, many rural parishes lacked even a minister or reader not to speak of a schoolmaster. A Parliamentary Act of 1633 required the heritors of every parish to establish a school – many disregarded it. Further Act 1646 brought more pressure – still some evaded. Act of 1696 empowered Presbyteries in face of obstinate heritors to apply to Commissioners of Supply, who had power to establish a school and fix a salary of at least 100marks (?)

1598 In Methlick – At a visitation where officials of the parish kirk were examined no reference to a parish school or schoolmaster but “the catalogue off the eldaris and deaconis”. 3 names are prefixed by ‘Mr’, in those days always an academic, never a country title.

Notes from Tarves School Log Books

1873

- October 10th Principal Teacher Mr D M L Salmond M.A. Attendance 40 increased to 50 next day.
- November 6th Thanksgiving Day for the harvest consequently the school was closed.
- November 14th Fair progress made during the past week especially in writing, the pupils being given to understand that there must be neither blots nor miss-spellings in their copy books. The second class is being drilled in grammar in which great deficiency had been shown.
- December 29th Start of Christmas holidays. During the quarter now closed 115 pupils (1 teacher, 2 monitors) have been enrolled and the average daily attendance has been 88 187/1760. During the quarter Nelson's Royal Readers were gradually introduces as text books.

1874

- January 6th School re-opened
- March 20th School work not very satisfactory owing to incessant interruptions by children suffering from coughs.
- August 14th Closed for Harvest holidays
- September 28th School re-opened. Attendance 20
- October 5th Roll 52
- October 23rd No assistance (eg monitors or assistant teachers) for Principal Teacher – roll 60
- November 4th Holiday being day set apart by the Synod of Aberdeen for the thanksgiving for the harvest.
- November 26th Mr T Fraser of Inverebrie commenced to assist teacher.
- December 31st Closed for Christmas holidays

1875

- January 11th School re-opened
- May 5th School inspected by Robert Harvey HMIS.
- May 26th Holiday being Term day.
- June 23rd Closed for Communion Holidays

June 29th School re-opened

July 28th Holiday being St Margaret's Fair

August 20th Harvest holidays

October 8th School re-opened by new Principal Teacher Mr Peter Cruickshank A.U. Roll 15. 3 more on Wednesday, 3 absent today (Friday)

1876

March 16th only present 27.6% - stormy weather.

April 24th School inspected by Robert Harvey HMIS

April 27th No school being sacramental fast day

April 28th Mr Lawrie Dick Bequest Inspector **mooted**

June 30th Dr Christie, Milne Bequest Inspector visited school with Rev. J Pringle

August 18th The scholars got their berry feast on Thursday afternoon at the manse.

December 8th One expelled for insubordination.

1876 Summary of Inspectors Report

The Present Master took charge of the school when it was not in very good order and this may account in some degree for the somewhat lax discipline, the one shilling grant has therefore been recommended, but an improvement in this respect will be looked for next year.

1877

June 14th Sacramental fast

November 9th Two holidays this week being the Earl of Aberdeen's marriage day and Fast Day

November 16th One teacher – 82 pupils.

December 21st School was placed on the roll of the Milne Bequest

1878

February 8th Milne Bequest list made up.

February 15th 2 more pupils admitted this week (Milne Bequest) 114 on roll

April 12th School visited by Professor Lawrie for Dick Bequest on 10th April

June 14th Thursday given as a holiday being the day of the Tenantry's Dinner

1878 Summary of Inspector's report
A fair appearance was made in geography but history was not sufficiently well known to gain the special grant. The girls are not taught needlework. Provision for the instruction of the girls in needlework must be made at once otherwise next year's grant may be endangered.

July 5th Girls began this week to receive instruction in Industrial Work from Mrs Cruickshank

July 26th Intimated to the scholars that when absent they must bring a written excuse from their parents.

November 7th A number of parents refuse to give written excuses for absence as required by the School Board.

November 15th Attendance not so good this week owing to the inclemency of the weather and the steam-mill being in the neighbourhood.

1879 Part of Inspector's Report

Attention should be given to the improvement of penmanship from the infants upwards and for this purpose the ruling of the slates suitably to the needs of each child and the provision of pointed pencils of sufficient length.

July 4th New pupils necessitate 8 classes

July 11th Principal teacher has had no assistance

August 29th Annual treat from Earl and Countess of Aberdeen

September 5th Number off hay making

December 5th Roll now 136

December 12th Roll now 141

December 12th Mrs Cruickshank having retired from teaching of the Industrial work the girls attending the school have, by the direction of the School Board, begun this week to go over to the female school an hour daily except Friday which is there surgery day.

1880

January 9th The parents of 4 of the girls refuse to let their girls go over to the female school for industrial work.

January 30th Mr Peter Singer Pyper who served his apprenticeship in Maud Public School commenced duty as Assistant teacher.

March 5th The parents of all the girls except one or two have now refused to allow their children to go to the other school for Industrial Work.

April 9th Attendance this week has been lowered by a number of boys being engaged to gather stones for the roads by a contractor.

May 14th The school being swept only twice of thrice a week, the just is almost insufferable.

June 25th The warm weather seems to engender laziness in 4th standard especially.

Inspectors Report

The majority of the girls in attendance at the school are said to be taught needlework at the female school in the village. Very few specimens of their work were shown.

1881

February 25th Snow affected attendance but now better. A great many of those who have been absent about 2 months had fallen back to an alarming extent and will require much extra drill before they can be brought abreast of the others.

April 15th Special drill in standard work

May 20th Attendance affected greatly on Monday by rain and by feing markets during the week.

May 27th Thursday being term day school was not open.

June 3rd Attendance broken owing to the term flittings.

Inspector's Report Summary

Elementary Grammar has been taught with much care and with a considerable degree of success in the second, third and fourth standards. Arithmetic in all the standards except the fourth with good composition in the 6th. The following show much shortcoming, namely spelling in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th standards, composition in the 5th standard, arithmetic in the 4th and writing in the 2nd and 3rd standard which might be easily improved in this respect were adequate. Attention paid to the instructing of the children in the scrupulous observance of the ruled lines with which

the slates are furnished. The Grant payable to the school made under the provisions of Article 19(c) of the code have both been gained that for instruction in Elementary Grammar with much credit, the other for Geography and history fairly excepting the 5th standard where the scholars are deficient in both of those branches and in map drawing. The children are singularly inert under examination, school drill if judiciously and continuously practised throughout the year ought to be effective in giving more life and spirit to the work. The indistinct reading and answering prevalent in all the classes and in particular the tendency to lounge shown by the scholars generally should no longer be tolerated.

July Alteration being done, lack of space, so school in Melvin Hall.

July 8th Monday morning the girls from female school met with boys in the Melvin Hall for singing.

August 12th Children got a treat of gooseberries, rolls and ginger ale from Lord Aberdeen.

September 2nd - October 29th Harvest Vacation (not summer holidays)

October 31st This day the Amalgamation of the Tarves Boys and Girls Schools took place.

November The new girls in standard 5 though fairly grounded in analysis are found to be quite deficient in **Parsing**.

1882

May 5th Roll in Senior Dep 140. Lack of space.

May 26th A number of girls have begun Domestic Economy.

August 4th Wednesday. St. Margaret's Fair.

1883

June 15th Attendance somewhat irregular, fireboys found out playing truant.

Inspector's Report

The attendants in History and geography though sufficient to warrant recommendation of the grant, could not be said to go much further.

October 26th Thursday being the Communion Fast day so school was not opened.

November 16th On Wednesday this week a soup dinner began to be supplied to all who wish it at 1 o'clock.

1884

January 11th Standard 4 has begun to write dictation on paper.

March 7th Tuesday being 'Fastern's Even' school was not opening in the afternoon.

June 27th Miss Barrowman began duties.

November 21st Hot soup dinners began on Monday through winter weeks.

1885

January 30th This week ends short day (winter only)

April 3rd Hot soup dinners brought to a close

April 10th School closed on Thursday and Friday after inspection on 8th.

December 11th Attendance very poor.

1886

July 9th Attendance has been broken this week by turnip hoeing, crow scaring.

July 30th From Dick Bequest Trustees

'The trustees considered Professor Lawrie's report on the School of Tarves of which Mr P Cruickshank is teacher. The school is very favourably spoken of and is mentioned as being now, for the first time in its history a high class school, and the Trustees have pleasure in awarding Mr Cruickshank an addition to his marks for merit in teaching.

1887

January 21st Rev Mr Pringle called on Wednesday and taught the highest maths class.

February 25th The attendance of boys remains satisfactory but a number of girls are constantly absent.

1888

January 30th Miss Chalmers began duties.

Extract Inspector's report.

"excellent" grant recommended for Infants and Junior Standards

May 25th Attendance has been injured this week by the 'Term'

August 3rd Wednesday being St Margaret's Fair, school was not opened.

October 12th Harvest operations have drawn away a number of boys.

November 2nd Short day begins on Monday.

November 9th Potato gathering has taken away a number of scholars.

December 21st Soup dinners begin this week.

1889

February 22nd Soup dinners have been stopped.

October 11th School re-opened on Tuesday 8th with an attendance of 42. Notice shown in School of Free Education up to and including Standard V. The fees of VI EX VI to be 2/- per quarter

November 7th W Duthie (visit by member)

1890

February 4th James Hay (Chairman)

March 28th W Duthie

June 6th A number of the bigger boys have this week been employed at turnip sowing.

June 27th Hay making, turnip hoeing takes away scholars.

1891

January 30th Girls on the whole attend regularly but boys are irregular especially about the end of the week.

1892

January 29th During the week the attendance has been good till today when a number of girls were absent because they are going to a ball tonight.

May 12th Closed again on Thursday 12th owing to an outbreak of Scarlet Fever in the village.

June Inspector's Report

Government Grant £193. Per child on average attendance £1 2s 0.5d

1893

December 1st On Thursday evening an Evening Continuation School was commenced when 2 scholars ere enrolled.

1894

January 26th Several have dropped off from the Continuation School and a number more attend very irregularly.

Inspectors Report on Evening Class

All the work professed is taught on good lines and the pupils are evidently deriving much benefit from the course of instruction. Separate accounts must be kept (see appendix Act 17g) and no expenditure for fuel, light etc. incurred in connection with the evening school may appear in the day school accounts.

June 1st Mr Anderson made his last visit to the school as music master on Monday 28th May. Singing is hereafter to be taught by the teachers.

1895

January 14th School closed this morning by Doctors order owing to a very wide and rapid outbreak of measles. Re-opened February 18th.

April 5th On April 2nd the school was required for the poll at the election of the first Parish Council

Inspector's report

Headmaster criticised for sitting with 18 pupils and not supervising the rest of the school where Mrs Robertson taught 70 alone.

November 22nd Feeing markets have spoiled the attendance on two days of this week among the older boys.

1896

February 7th It was found necessary to close today for some time owing to a diphtheria scare.

February 14th School closed this week due to diphtheria scare.

1897

April 9th Inspector Topping first mentioned.

April 30th Have begun to open school with a hymn before prayer.

May 7th Have begun religious instruction.

1898

December 23rd Being a holiday granted by the school board at the request of Lord Aberdeen on his return from Canada.

1900

Inspection. The offices are not quite sufficient and are not well situated.

July 20th Compulsory attendance.

August 10th Games Day

1901

July 19 The great heat has greatly affected the attendance.

August 2nd The Sunday School picnic was held on Friday afternoon and therefore the school was not opened in the afternoon.

1902

- January 31st A severe snowstorm has this week proved very detrimental to the attendance. On Tuesday the attendance was only 34 with 158 on roll so that attendances were cancelled.
- February 14th Snowstorm still brings down the attendance. Today only 32 were present with 165 on roll so attendances were cancelled.
- June 27th School closed till 7th July for Coronation Week.
- November 7th Violent rainstorm 32 present out of 180.
- December 19th Mr Cruickshank (headmaster) died this day.

1903

- January 21st A ploughing match in the Parish many scholars absent.
- March 2nd Copying arithmetical exercises, surreptitious looking on books in class, telling one another in class and all other dishonest practices strictly forbidden.
- April 21st Alexander A Pirie commences duty as headmaster.

1904

- March/April Lot of mumps and scarlet fever
- July 29th On account of another outbreak of scarlet fever school was closed today.
- September 14th All exercise and drawing books that were being used have been burned and replaced by others on the instructions of the School Board.
- During the holidays Maggie Leslie, a pupil in class 5, died of Scarlet fever in the hospital at Ellon.
- September 16th The attendance is worst among the bigger boys and girls who are being kept at home either to help at harvest work or to allow their mother to help.
- September 22nd No sewing this week the seam bags and sewing having been taken home to be washed as a means of disinfection.

1905

- January 3rd Many of the bigger boys are absent being employed as beaters at Haddo House.
- January 17th 10 boys absent again today employed as beaters at Haddo House. At the beginning of this absenteeism it may be stated that the headmaster's consent was asked and was refused.
- May 5th There being no room for drill in the senior room it was taken in the village square this morning.
- December 15th Received a parcel of books to form the beginning of a school library.

1906

- January 11th Timetable was departed from today on the invitation of the secretary of the Tarves Literary Society (Mr J D Webster) the scholars under the guidance and superintendence of the teachers visited the Exhibition of Paintings, Prints, Pottery, antiques etc in the Melvin Hall. The visit had a highly instructive and educational value and ought to be of lasting value. Hearty thanks were given to Mr Webster and his committee for the great privilege.
- March 10th Received notice from the Clerk of School Board of 4 exemptions granted.
- May 29th A large number of scholars, the children of cotters left school yesterday.

- June 7th More than 20 new pupils have been enrolled this week.
- June 21st 2 pupils are attending the Leaving Certificate exam in Methlick
- July 6th Miss Donald absent this week attending Government Certificate exams, a monitor having taken charge of ST III part of each day.
- August 13 On the recommendation of Lord Aberdeen, the children are to have a holiday tomorrow that they may take part in the rejoicing in connection with the home-coming of Lord and Lady Haddo.
- November 30th There has been a great deal of irregularity this week. A large proportion of the scholars are the children of cotters and every term week many of them are kept from school.
- December 7th Attendance unsatisfactory especially in classes 4 and 5. Names of defaulters given to compulsory officer.

1907

- February 1st Received this week from James Coats Jun. Esq., Paisley a handsome present of 140 excellent books for the supplementary class library. This gift is very highly appreciated especially by the boys and girls for whose benefit they were intended.
- April 8th At a conference between the members of the school board teachers in the parish on the the 6th inst. it was agreed to have uniformity of books in the four schools. It was agreed to use in classes 1,2 and 3 Chambers Twentieth Century Readers, McDougalls Concentric History readers. In classes 4,5 and 6 Nelsons Royal Star Readers. Cormacks History and Cormacks Geography. Nelsons Literature readers were recommended for use in the supplementary class and whatever other supplementary readers were necessary to be left to the choice of the teacher.
- August 7th School closed – Haddo House games

1908

- April 7th During last 3 weeks, 109 of the scholars have had measles.
- July 23rd Holiday was granted as many of the scholars are going to the Highland Society's show in Aberdeen, many others would be absent the day being almost a general holiday among farm servants.
- November 27th Progress much hindered by bad attendance. All this week about 40 have been absent every day with whooping cough and bad colds.

1909

- January 15th Violent snowstorm and only 45 present attendance was cancelled.
- April 21st Local fast day and school dismissed at dinner time.
- June 11th At the term just past 25 left and 15 admitted.
- August 18th Excursion by Supplementary class and headmaster to the Hill of Tolquhon. Observation of wild flowers, countour of surrounding country, landmarks, hill, mountains, heights, distances. On their return at 4 o'clock the class was entertained to tea by Mrs Munro on the lawn at Maryville.
- December 23rd All scholars present today above class 3 attended the funeral of the Hon Archie Gordon at Haddo House at the request of his excellency Lord Aberdeen. They sang 23rd psalm and the 54th paraphrase at the grave.

1910

- April 20th Funeral of King Edward VII, school closed.
- May 26th Inspectors Report

New school will provide facilities for practical instruction which will give new interest and variety to the work of the older pupils.

1911

- January 6th New school bags from Mr Coats presented.
- October 11th Received notice from the clerk of the School Board that the new school is to be opened on Wed 18th October at half past two.
- October 18th New school opened this afternoon by Lord and Lady Aberdeen. The Rev Mr Sutter Chairman of the School Board presided and there was a large representative gathering. Mr Wattie? Mr Topping HMIS were present. The ceremony took place in the Central Hall. The children marched up from the old school and after the door had been opened by Lady Aberdeen entered the new building and arranged themselves in lines at the far end of the hall. On leaving each scholar received a present of sweets and an apple from Mrs Sutter and Mr J D Webster, Tarves.
- December 12th 181 on roll.
- December 22nd School gardening and cooking began this week.

1912

- June 7th Flitting – 36 left – 29 admitted.
- October 7th Several over 12 have applied for exemption during the harvest.

1913

- June 17th Over 200 pupils on the roll for the first time in the history of the school.
- December 22nd On Saturday 27 boys and girls from the supplementary classes on the invitation of Lady Aberdeen paid a visit to the Red Cross and National Health Service exhibition in Aberdeen.

1914

- September 22nd Harvest work and threshing mills are interfering considerably with attendance and work of the higher classes.
- October 14th During the past week the scholars have been giving their odd pennies in order to send comforts to the soldiers at the front. Today £3 was sent to Capt Brooke of Fairley who has kindly undertaken to lay it out to good advantage and send gifts to the Gordon Highlanders at the front. £1 10s was also sent to the Belgian Relief fund.
- December 24th For the second time the scholars have saved odd pennies and with the teachers have subscribed 45s as Christmas gift for homeless Belgian children.

1915

- June 9th At the term 18 left for other parishes, 6 were exempted from attendance and 30 new pupils have been admitted.
- June 11th Roll 203 for the first time so far as there is any record for the school. The girls outnumbered the boys 105 to 98.
- July 23rd 209 on roll, a record.
- September 3rd Attendance not so good in the senior classes. Several boys and girls kept at home to help with harvest or to allow mothers out to help. Harvest hands are scarce.
- September 17th To help harvest, school closed for a week.

1916

- February 7th Letter of thanks from Sgt James Mort, an old Tarves pupil, to the children for gifts sent at Christmas.
- February 28th During the winter a large number of khaki scarves, mitts and helmets have been knitted by the girls and some of the boys.
- May 9th A big roup in the vicinity was the cause of several boys and girls being absent today.
- May 17th Special time and attention being given to the backward boys.
- June 12th 201 on roll
- October 27th Very bad attendance today. A number of boys absent beating at Haddo House and several others kept away to help with threshing by steam mill.

1917

- February 14th The induction of the Rev Macnair being fixed for today, the school was not opened.
- February 22nd 33 off with mumps
- February 28th Extra boys from class V have been taken out to help in trenches – a war plot.
- March 9th 50 off with mumps
- March 12th School closed on account of mumps epidemic.
- April 2nd School re-opened.
- April 27th Several off with measles, whooping cough and mumps
- May 7th 93 absent. School closed until further notice.
- May 21st School re-opened. 134 absent. School again closed.
- June 4th School re-opened. Still measles, whooping cough, younger pupils have pneumonia.
- June 9th 38 scholars have left school and 31 admitted since the term.

supplementary class have spent extra hours in the woodwork room this week.

1918

- 30th ? School visited by Dr Cruickshank, Chief Medical Officer. Scotch Education Dept/
- June 10th Last week, 26 scholars left school and 43 were admitted, Roll 211.
- August 30th Miss Barrowan who has taught in the school for upwards of 34 years stopped work today.
- September 8th Miss Eliz Thomson from Torphins HG Public School began duties in infant department
- November 11th Word reached Tarves at 1 o'clock that Germany has accepted and signed the terms of the armistice drawn up by the allies. School dismissed for half holiday.
- November 19th 84 absent from a roll of 194 owing to influenza. School closed meantime.
- November 25th School assembled and dismisses as only half scholars present.
- December 2nd School re-opened.
- December 12th One of the scholars Nellie Porter, a pupil in class 3 died yesterday of influenza and pneumonia.

1919

February 3rd Boy with ringworm sent home.

February 20th Ina Rae, a pupil in class 2, died today in RI Aberdeen

May 16th School visited by Dr Watt, County Medical Officer. To prevent scarlet fever spreading further school closed until further notice. There are 9 pupils in Fever Hospital in Ellon. 7 suffering from scarlet fever and 2 from diphtheria.

June 9th School re-opened. The whole of the school buildings have been disinfected, the walls distempered or lime washed and all thoroughly scrubbed and cleaner.

June 16th 42 left including several exemptions. 47 admitted. Roll 195

1921

May 26th Saturday being the term day and as many of the scholars who are leaving the district will not be at school tomorrow – Friday, a holiday has been given. It is also given instead of a fast day which used to be held as a holiday,

June 8th To see a menagerie at Oldmeldrum, a number of scholars were allowed off at dinner time.

September 30th Balance of holidays to be taken next week and onday week instead of October fast day.

October 13th School Dentist working in school all day. Some parents withheld consent for dental treatment.

1922

October 12th First of the series of the Control Examination being given to the qualifying class this week.

1923

Pupils in the Supplementary Class at Craigdam Public School came here today – first time, to get practical instruction, boys woodwork, girls cookery.

April 25th School granted a holiday tomorrow (26th), the wedding day of the Duke of York and Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, daughter of the Earl of Strathearn?

May 29th 66 pupils left for term.

June 8th More pupils admitted. So many going and coming considerably upset and hinder the work.

1924

May 8th Exams being held in the highest class for the purpose of deciding the award of the Adam Duthie Memorial Medal. This is the gift of Mrs Duthie in memory of her late husband Mr Adam Duthie, Merchant, Tarves.

Log Book Tarves Public School commenced 4th January 1927

Method of Keeping the Log Book

The log book must be stoutly bound and contain not less than 30 ruled pages. It must be kept by the principal teacher, who is required to enter in it, from time to time, such events as the introduction of new books, apparatus and courses of instruction, any plan of lessons approved by the Inspector, the visits of Managers, absence, illness, or failure of duty on the part of any of the school staff, or any special circumstances affecting the school, that may, for the sake of future reference or for any other reason, deserve to be recorded. No reflections or opinions of a general character are to be entered in the log book.

1927

- January 4th Roll 178. Mr Pirie HM app April 1903, Helen Buchan app Dec 1917, Annie Chalmers app Jan 1888, Ethel Hunter app Oct 1922, Helen Thomson app Oct 1924.
- February 7th Children tested for diphtheria and scarlet fever by Drs Rae and Harris. The parents of 161 out of 174 gave written consent.
- February 18th 140 pupils inoculated today against scarlet fever and diphtheria for the first time. 25th – second injection. 4th Feb 3rd injection.
- April 17th Dentist visit.
- April 22nd 195 on roll.
- May 16th Instead of the ordinary history lesson as in scheme of work, the Advanced Division is reading 'A short history of the world', 'The Adventure of Man' by F C Happold.
- May 30th 58 pupils left for other schools at the term. Record cards sent to 17 different schools.
- June 5th 35 pupils admitted from other schools.
- June 13th Visited the school today and found all in order (signed JDW, member)
- August 26th A school savings bank in connection with the Methlick branch of Aberdeen Savings Bank is started.
- December 13th A pupil residing in the village is reported to have measles. A boy living in the same family excluded. Notice sent to Clerk of the Ed Authority.
- December 16th Dr Robb, a member of the County Medical Staff called and made enquiries into the case of measles. He suggested excluding the class in which the case occurred but as the pupil had been in 3 different rooms the last day she was at school this was not considered of much practical use.

1928

- January 23rd Several other cases of measles reported. Fifty pupils absent.
- January 24th Dr Robb, one of County Medical staff called today. All children from households in which there are measles to be excluded unless they already have had measles.
- January 25th 79 absent
- January 27th 87absent
- February 13th 97 absent
- March 5th Epidemic of measles nearly over. Several pupils have been, and still are, seriously ill.
- May 25th This being the flitting term day, school was closed. A great many pupils are leaving the district.

June 4th 36 pupils left for 14 different schools.

June 11th 32 admitted from other schools. Roll 181

December 3rd Hot meals for the pupils began today. 96 had soup. The necessary coal and utensils have been supplied by the Education Authority. The cook, Mrs Lawrence is also being paid by the Authority. Food is being paid for by the pupils and from a voluntary local fund.

November/December School hit by mumps

1929

January 29th The hot dinner scheme is very successful. The cost to the pupils has been reduced. One pupil paying 3d per week, 2 or more paying 6d. Between 120 and 130 meals supplied every day.

April 12th Whooping cough has broken out and several in the infant group are absent.

April 23rd 20 absent

May 6th 30-40 absent

May 15th still 30-40 absent

1930

June 3rd 41 pupils left, 33 to other schools, 4 aged over 14 and 4 granted exemption.

June 10th 21 new pupils from other schools Roll 203 – 183

September 5th Class in poultry keeping and dairying taught by Miss Watson from the College of Agriculture taking place of science in advanced girls timetable. Hot dinners again during the winter.

1931

March 16th 5 pupils sent to Inverurie today, examined by oculist.

1932

February 12th Measles and chickenpox still prevalent.

February 19th 71 excluded with measles

April 28th Diphtheria broken out in a family

June 1st Term time 30 left, 38 admitted.

June 28th Visit by Sam Davidson (member)

August 26th Mr Pirie resigned (started 21April1903)

August 29th Mr Duthie Webster introduced Mr J H Longman as head master. Roll 205

September 29th As instructed by Education Committee the school was closed today being the centenary of the death of Sir Walter Scott.

December 2nd Hot dinners started. 160 served

1933

May 29th Highest on record to date 222. (17.4.1936 – 227, 24.6.1938 – 229)

July 20th 53 in a room

1934

March 12th Primary V and Advanced division attended funeral of The Marquess of Aberdeen & Temair at Haddo House Cemetery. At the request of the Marchioness, the school children sang the 23rd psalm.

Each Christmas Pupils served with tea and apples

1935

January 3rd Shed for preparation of soup completed.

January 7th 163 served hot dinners.

May 10th School closed Monday and Tuesday for celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the King. On Monday pupils of four schools in the parish assembled here and marched to the parish church where a united service was held. The address being delivered by Lord Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire. In the afternoon the children were fed in the school and sports were organised for them. Each child received a Jubilee cup and saucer and in the evening most attended a free cinema entertainment in the Melvin Hall. On Wednesday Lord and Lady Aberdeen visited the school. Lord Aberdeen addressed the pupils on outstanding events during the reign. Also present were Rev. J Murray, Mr Webster, Mr Maitland Mackie who introduced Lord Aberdeen.

June 21st A party of 49 pupils under the headmaster and Miss Hendry visited the Highland Show at Aberdeen today.

September 13th Four pupils have been excluded during the week, contact cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

October 25th Dr Walker of P.H.D. visited school re immunisation against diphtheria.

November 1st Tuesday 198 schoolchildren and 40 below school age were inoculated.

November 6th School closed re marriage of Duke of Gloucester to Lady Alice Scott

December 24th 12 pupils excluded - contact with diphtheria

1936

January 28th Funeral of late King George V

April 17th Roll 227

September 16th School was closed sharp this afternoon as all the staff are taking part in an effort for the Lord Provost Infirmary Building Fund.

1937

May 12th-14th School holiday on the occasion of the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

May 17th Talk for teachers and parents by Sir John B Orr of Rowett Institute on how to make of deficiency of diet in pupils.

October 19th Rowett Institute medical examination of pupils about nutrition

November 8th Sir John Orr, the Director of the Rowett Institute, Mr Morrison, Director of Education, Mr Lubboch, Rowett Institute, Mr Maitland Mackie, North Ythsie, Mr J Duthie Webster, Collynie Cottage all met in the school to discuss final arrangements of the feeding of the children. Headmaster left to make local arrangements.

November 15th Feeding of the children started today. Each child gets 1/3rd pint of milk in the forenoon and soup at lunchtime.

November 19th This afternoon pupils got ½ an orange and a halibut oil capsule.

1938

- May 27th 44 left, 41 to other schools.
- June 3rd 58 admitted
- June 17th Altogether 64 pupils admitted since the May Term. Roll 229
- October 27th Mr Lubboch and Miss Hadden visited the school today and were present when the children were taking their soup.
- November 17th Classroom required tonight by Chief Constable, County Police, in connection with classes for the training of Air Raid Wardens and Special Constables fire drill.
- December 23rd A grant of £15 has been received from the Trustees of the Dick Bequest to instal a wireless receiving set in the school.

1939

- April 22nd Lord Aberdeen requested 48 senior pupils attend the funeral of the late Ishbel, Marchioness of Aberdeen & Temair to sing the 23rd psalm
- August 21st P5 moved to Queen's Room for temporary accommodation
- August 30th School closed until further notice. Roll 235
- September 2nd Arrangements are well in hand for the reception of a maximum number of 759 evacuees from Glasgow into the civil parish of Tarves.
- September 3rd Approx 300 evacuees have been billeted in the parish.
- September 8th During the week the school has been closed and the teachers have been assisting in the work connected with evacuees who all assembled at Garrioch School, Maryhill, Glasgow. Mr O'Beirne, Headmaster, is supervising the arrangements in Tarves, Udny, Pitmedden where the Garrioch party have been billeted.
- September 11th School was reopened this morning to enrol Glasgow children. For this week the whole will work on the double shift system 9.15am – 12.15am and 12.30pm-3.30pm. Two Glasgow teachers are to be retained and the Glasgow pupils are to be absorbed in their respective classes.
- September 29th Several Glasgow children have returned to Glasgow but there are still 50 on the roll
- October 10th 276 on roll

1940

- At Easter Ex headmaster Pirie gives pupils oranges
- September 13th Mr Murray, HMIS visited to discuss air raid precautions
- September 20th Most windows of school have now been covered with net against splintering.
- November 4th Air raid signal 2.23pm/all clear 3pm
- November 18th Air raid signal 12.00/all clear 12.15pm
- November 20th Air raid signal 11.15/all clear 11.25am

1941

- December 3rd 2 cases of diphtheria Braeside, both school age

1942

- April 17th 16 new entrants
- May 1st Several children over 12 off planting potatoes
- May 7th Over 30 off planting potatoes
- May 21th Headmaster out of School to Ellon Secondary School in connection with the issue through the school of new ration books to the public.
- May 28th 6 pupils transferred to other schools at the May term
- June 1st Ration books are to be issued to public this week.
- June 25th Constable Ramsay in school inspecting gas masks.
- September 2nd The telephone has now been installed in the school by P.A.C. for use in connection with the Emergency Rest Centre.

1943

- January 22nd Continuation classes have been started, the subjects being signalling, maths, English and navigation. Members of the Air Training Corps attend all classes and in addition 6 members of the home guard take signalling, Sgt William Matthew of the home guard instructs in signalling and the headmaster takes the other classes.
- September 3rd Roll 200
- September 27th Mr John Longmore start as Head Teacher of Bridge of Don
- September 29th Mr C McPherson started today.

1944

- January 24th Funeral of Mr Longmore.
- March 2nd Wild morning snow drifting 41 pupils present out of 196
- April 24th 20 pupils off potato planting

1945

- January 19th Roads completely blocked 36 out of 169 present.
- May 7th School closed at 4pm for V day celebrations.
- May 10th School re-opens
- August 6th HT, staff, sec pupils visited German sub

1946

- January 25th Payment made to secondary parents in respect of books taken over by Education Authority
- June 27th Census of pupils taken today in connection with school canteen to open on 26th August. Approximately 130 pupils to take 2 course meal. Cost 4d per meal. 122 pupils, 3 staff.
- August 26th Cook Miss Lawrie. Assistant Mrs Williamson. Kitchenmaid Miss Marshall

1947

- May 30th HMI visit to see accommodation for RSLA

1948

- October 15th Pupils off potato gathering. Majority are being fed in the canteen at the farmer's expense.

1951

August 21st Alterations to school in progress. Craigdam pupils still in attendance due to Miss Buchan's absence.

1953

January 14th Lord Aberdeen and Director of Education visit re school land for school garden.

February 2nd Gale – greenhouse total loss, girl's cycle shed ripped to shreds, chimney off tech room.

June 26th Presentation to Mr Alex Robb, part time janitor

July 16th Mr George Smith, full time janitor

Session 1953-1954

The use of slates should be discontinued as soon as circumstances permit. As part of the reconstruction of the school, a new infant room has been built to replace the primary classroom which was used to provide a headmaster's room and a passage. Further welcome improvements are the installation of electricity and a new heating system, and the provision of indoor sanitation. The premises have been redecorated and are well kept.

October 11th Progress in Sec Depts considerably hampered in consequence of exemptions for potato gathering.

1955

January Roll 156, of these 33 in secondary department.

January 13th 111 pupils absent today all roads completely blocked

January 18th 124 off

February 28th Conditions worst of winter, only a small number of pupils present. Three visiting teachers stranded for the night. As a safety measure tractors brought in to take pupils home.

March 1st Bus marooned between village and crossroads

June 10th A new greenhouse has been erected in the new school garden. The old lavatories adjacent have been converted into a tool shed for the garden.

August 24th Roll 176

September 30th Work in secondary department of school has been brought almost to a standstill in consequence of potato gathering.

1960

January 19th Snowfalls and severe drifting begin immediately after school has assembled. The day becomes progressively worse. Children being sent home as parents come for them. By dinnertime it is unsafe to let any children home unattended. 20 pupils and 4 visiting teachers to be housed in the village overnight.

January 20th 23 present out of 153

November 15th Widespread foot and mouth – pupils advised not to visit farms.

1963

May 16th Sub-committee of Education Authority appointed to look into the proposed farm school at Tarves met in school and adjacent fields and farm steading looked at.

1964

June 3rd Typhoid scare, pupils warned to observe the washing rules.

1965

October 1st Mr McPherson retired after 22years as headmaster

October 25th Mr McCallum starts. Roll 155

1966

August 23rd Mrs Forbes went with P6 and P7 to Queens Room

October 24th Started swimming baths. 21 boys Mr S and Mr D

August 28th 1967 Mr Pirie 100 years old

January 22nd 1974 Building starts Stephen's houses prices £10000-£19815