



North Wraxall School courtesy of Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

A School Timeline

1881, May 5 School visited and examined by the Almeric Fitz Roy, esq., H.M. Inspector of Schools, and Mr. H. R. Mines, Assistant Inspector.

1881, June 6 Report received - "The order and attainments of this school take high rank, and reflect the great credit on all concerned. The proficiency displayed in writing and arithmetic deserves particular mention, and grammar has been taught with great thoroughness and success, but geography and history not so efficiently. A very fair proportion of those presented in English literature passed, but the girls' knowledge of domestic economy was very scant, and seems rather to have been assumed than acquired."

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; N. H. Billett, Assistant Mistress; A. E. Dawson, Assistant Mistress; M. A. Farmilo, Assistant Mistress; E M. L. West, "Woman employed during the whole day" Art 32. C. E.

Grant from Council of Education, London £90 19s. 10d., on an average attendance of 103 children, the school having been open 485 times.

1880-81	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	90	19	10	Teachers	219	18	10½
	18	0	7½	Repairs	1	11	0
		18	0	Fuel	3	2	4
	27	0	10	Books	6	6	11½
	10	0	0	Insurance		4	9
	5	0	0				
	79	4	7½				
	Total	231	3 11	Total	231	3	11

1881, September, 19 M. A. Farmilo, teacher since August 24, 1874 takes charge of the school at West Kington

1882 Kate Dawson, teacher since May 17, 1876, leaves the school

1882, May 4 School visited and examined by H. M. Inspector.

1882, June 18 Report received - "The discipline is excellent, and the elementary instruction, with the exception of the third standard reading, has been largely successful. The arithmetic of the first standard was remarkably good, the spelling of the first and fourth standards and the composition of the fifth standard were very good, while the spelling of the second and third standards and the arithmetic of the second, third, fourth and fifth standards were all fairly good, and the rest of reading fair. The grammar was on the whole good, very good in the fifth standard; but I regret that the boys' geography and history, and the girls' needlework were not satisfactory. English repetition fair, domestic economy moderate. The older infants passed well in their sums, and very well in their writing, but failed completely in their reading."

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; N. H. Billett, Assistant Mistress; A. E. Dawson, Assistant Mistress; Kate Dawson, (Women Article 84); E. M. L. West, (Women Article 84).

Grant from Council of Education, £74 7s. 10d, on an average of 91 children, the school having been open 485 times.

1881-1882	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.	
Government Grant	74	7	10		Teachers	196	18	6
School pence	16	0	6		Repairs	3	2	3
Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	7	5		Fuel	4	12	0
Interest on £333 6s 8d	10	0	0		Books	8	18	9½
Lord Methuen	5	0	0		Insurance	0	4	9
The Rector	81	0	6½					
	Total	213	16	3½	Total	213	16	3½

1882 Emma Frankcom and Ann Wiltshire, receive certificates of honour, entitling them to free education for three years.

1882, November 24 N. H. Billett, teacher since May 1, 1874 leaves to go to New Zealand.

1882 Lydia Booy, teacher since May 14, 1880 leaves the school.

1883 The schoolhouse was repaired and painted at an expense of £60

1883, March 30 A. E. Dawson, assistant mistress, teacher since August 31, 1874, leaves to enter Purton school.

1883, April 2 Emma Frankcom, born May 27, 1870, engaged as teacher. She left May 19, 1891.

1883, May 10 School visited and examined.

1883, July 11 The certificate of the mistress, Mrs. A. E. Dowding, raised to the first class.

1883, July 27 Report received "The elder children are in excellent order, and have passed well in the elementary subjects, the first standard having done their work thoroughly well. The composition of the sixth standard also was good, while the remaining portion of this work (except the spelling and arithmetic of the third standard), deserves high praise. The English repetition and grammar were, on the whole, fairly good, though the second and third standards were somewhat uncertain in their poetry, while the sixth standard shewed very intelligent knowledge of their grammar. The geography and history were barely satisfactory, chiefly owing to the backwardness of the second, third and fourth standards. Infants. The condition of this class, as to both discipline and attainments, is exceedingly creditable to the teaching staff. Though the infants over five, and under six, years of age are not so well advanced, the elder infants have done their work well, and very much to their and their teachers' credit, they have passed a very satisfactory examination in their portions, and their requirements for singing by note."

Grant from the Council of Education, London, £72 6s. 10d., on an average attendance of 80 children, the school having been open 477 times.

1882-83	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	Government Grant	72	6	00	Teachers	168	6	10½
	School pence	11	16	7½	Repairs	12	18	7
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	15	2	Fuel	2	19	7
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0	Books	3	10	8
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance	0	4	9
	The Rector	58	1	10				
	Total	188	0	5½	Total	188	0	5½

The school for some time possessed a certificated mistress, Mrs. A. E. Dowding, an assistant mistress, E. Newman, and four pupil teachers. Of these, the assistant mistress became infant mistress of Marshfield, and when the pupil teachers had served their time, they continued in the school, until A. E. Sidwell went to the Home and Colonial College in 1880, M. A. Farmilo became mistress at West Kington, N. H. Billett, November 30, 1882, sailed to New Zealand, and A. E. Dawson, in 1883, took the post of assistant mistress at Purton.

1884, May 23 School visited and examined by H. M. Inspector.

1884, May 27 Catherine Matilda Martin, born March 16, 1870, engaged as teacher. She took charge of the school June 11, 1886, and left May 28, 1887.

1884, May 27 Ann Wiltshire, born September 4, 1870, engaged as teacher. She ceased teaching May 21, 1893, and resumed May 1, 1906, as Ann Frankcom..

1884, June 27 Report received “The children are in admirable order and have passed a very satisfactory examination in the elementary subjects, as well as in English, geography, and history. The exercise in singing from notes have been performed with great readiness, and precision by the infants and the older scholars alike. The manifest care that is taken to render this school as useful an institution as possible has a most beneficial influence on the children’s attendance. It is worthy of notice that of the sixty-eight scholars whose names appear on the examination schedule, thirty seven have attended over four hundred times and eighteen have been present over four hundred and fifty times.”

School Staff:- E. A. Dowding, Mistress; Emma Frankcom, Candidate for probation, Article 40; C. M. Martin, Candidate for probation, Article 40; Ann Wiltshire, Candidate for probation, Article 40; E. McL. West “Woman,” Article 84.

Grant received from the Council of Education, £65 12s 6d., on an average attendance of 75 children, the school having been open 485 times.

1883-84	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	Government Grant	65	12	6	Teachers	121	1	1½
	School pence	14	0	7½	Repairs	2	17	6
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	15	2	Fuel	3	2	10
	Interest on £333 6s 8d	10	0	0	Books	2	9	2
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance	0	4	9
	The Rector	7	7	1				
	Total	129	15	4½	Total	129	15	4½

1884, August 11 The school mistress, Mrs. E. A. Dowding was seized with a fit of apoplexy and died within a few hours. The managers found a great difficulty in replacing her. The government grant was thus lost. The school continued to be inspected by H. M. Inspector, and has always been pronounced “efficient”. The attendance has diminished by one half, owing to causes (1) the depopulation of country parishes; (2) the fact that neighbouring villages are now provided with ample educational equipment..

1885, May 8 School visited and examined by Messrs. Mines and Coombs Assistant Inspectors of Schools.

1885, May 10 Minnie Lena Martin, born August 13, 1872, engaged as teacher. She took charge of school July 12, 1897, and left the school April 23, 1905

1885, June 28 Report received “Considering that the school has been without a certificated mistress during the last eight months, it is very satisfactory to find that the efficiency has been so little impaired. There has, it is true, been some falling off in the general character of the work of the third and higher standards; but, on the other hand, the children of the first standard and the few infants have done their work remarkably well; and a considerable measure of success has again attended the teaching of singing from notes. As there is no play-ground attached to the school, it is very desirable that some good system of school drill should be a feature of the daily routine.”

Grant received of £19 4s 5d., on an average attendance of 70 children, the school having been open 485 times.

1884-85	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	Government Grant	19	4	5	Teachers	86	10	9
	School pence	13	6	8	Repairs	59	6	3
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	15	2	Fuel	1	0	0
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0	Books	4	5	0
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance	0	4	9
	The Rector	76	0	6				
	Total	151	6	9	Total	151	6	9

1885-1886	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
**	School pence	9	10	4½	Teachers	92	7	0
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	15	2	Repairs	2	15	3
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0	Fuel	1	19	0
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Books	1	16	0
	The Rector	46	16	5½	Insurance		4	9
	Total	99	2	0	Total	99	2	0

** In 1884 the trust money was placed in the hands of the charity commissioners, thus escaping bank and lawyers' charges.

1886, June 1 School visited and examined by Mr. H. R. Mines, H. M. Inspector of Schools.

1886, June 22 Report Received, "The children are in good order and are being efficiently instructed. The hand-writing and composition of the few scholars in the upper standards are the only portions of the work which have proved unsatisfactory."

1886-1887	RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	School pence	2	13	2	Teachers	87	7	4½
	Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Repairs	2	1	4
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	15	2	Fuel	1	8	8
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0	Books		18	0
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0	Insurance		4	9
	The Rector	45	19	9½				
	Total	92	0	1½	Total	92	0	1½

The average attendance for the year, 50, and the number of times the school was open 483.

1887, May 12 School visited and examined by H. M. Inspector of Schools.

1887, May 24 Report received, "The children are wanting in confidence and do not show their work to the best advantage. In reading, needlework, and arithmetic there is fair success; writing and the setting of figures are very indifferent, and should be much neater. Some little knowledge of geography and grammar is shown but not enough to count for much."

The average attendance for the year was 51, and the number of times the school was open 475.

1887-1888	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS				
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	School pence	8	10	7	Teachers	105	13	6
	Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Repairs	2	10	0
	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	27	15	2	Insurance		4	9
	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	10	0	0				
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0				
	The Rector	56	10	6				
	Total	108	8	3	Total	108	8	3

1888, May 4 School visited by H. M. Inspector of Schools.

1888, May 17 Report received, "The children are in good order although somewhat wanting in animation, and their attainments in the elementary subjects are on the whole fair. Considerable accuracy is displayed in some of the arithmetic papers, which, however, are not as neat as they should be. An attempt should be made to secure greater expression in the reading. And also improvements in the writing."

Elizabeth Bishop, aged eight years, passed the fourth standard.

The average attendance for the year was 44, and the number of times the school was open 485.

1888-1889	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS				
		£	s.	d.		£	S.	d.
	School pence	8	15	11	Teachers	131	18	3
	Chippenham Attendance Committee		12	0	Repairs	4	12	0
	Use of School for Rural Council Poll	1	1	0	Fuel	1	8	3
**	Interest on £927 10s. 5d.	34	15	6	Books	2	0	6
**	Interest on £333 6s. 8d.	12	10	0	Insurance		4	9
	Lord Methuen	5	0	0				
	The Rector	77	9	4				
	Total	140	3	9	Total	140	3	9

** In 1888 the rate of interest was lowered from 3 to 2¾ per cent., the interest henceforth to be paid quarterly instead of half yearly.

1889, June 12 School visited and examined by the Rev. C. F. Johnstone, H. M. Inspector of Schools.

1889, June 23 Report received, "The general result of the instruction is fair, but there is a want of life and intelligence in the children, and some improvement would be desirable in the fluency and enunciation of the reading, and in the neatness of the writing and cipherings."

The average attendance for the year was 43, and the number of times the school was open 485.