

EXCERPTS FROM THE LOG BOOKS OF
AYTON PARISH SCHOOL

APRIL 1877 TO MARCH 1893

April 1877

- 6th Adam Weatherhead absent from sickness – Monitors supplied his place. Entered three new pupils, Jane White, Jane Purves and John Purves.
- 13th Adam Weatherhead's apprenticeship as pupil teacher having expired, he has taken advantage of this week to prepare for his examination. Monitors have supplied his place. Visit from Rev Wilson of the School Board on Tuesday afternoon, who waited until dismissal.
- 20th Adam Weatherhead has had a severe attack of toothache which has kept him at home. Had a visit from H.M. Inspector who gave some valuable hints which will be acted upon.
- 27th Today we had a general examination in view of H.M. Inspector's visit – find it to be of great advantage. James Davidson has been acting as monitor during the past week. Adam Weatherhead is still ill.

May 1877

- 4th This afternoon there was a procession of the Oddfellows, which was an attraction to a few.
- 11th Andrew Spratt and James Davidson at their duty. Spent the usual time in singing. Hand a select choir which gave a variety and inspired the others with confidence.
- 18th Impressed upon the careless ones the necessity of paying the utmost attention to their lessons.
- 25th Several pupils are leaving the district – some are going considerable distances. The Pupil Teacher and Monitor have been diligent at their work.

June 1877

- 1st Found that several pupils had left the district – paid special attention to the dullards. Today has been very wet which has kept the country children from School. Had a visit from Rev Wilson who examined the registers and found them correct.
- 18th Impressed upon absentees the absolute necessity of being at School.
- 22nd Preparing very diligently for the examination which we are expecting early. Had a visit from

Rev Wilson, correspondent, who mentioned that the examination had been fixed for Wednesday first. School board officer called and got names of absentees.

29th There was a holiday on Tuesday which told on the attendance for the week. Made enquiry regarding absentees – found that some were laid up with colds.

July 1877

6th Had a visit from Mr Whitley clerk to the School Board who intimated that the examination was on Tuesday 10th July at 9am. Informed the children and called upon the absentees so that they may be present at the examination

**10th School Inspected:
Present 78 Boys, 26 Girls under:
Wm Cook Certified Teacher of third class;
Adam Weatherhead Pupil Teacher of 5th year;
Jane Cook S.M. ¹**

Signed: Andrew Scougal H.M.I.

12th There was a good turn-out of children at the examination – Friday was a holiday which the children enjoyed.

¹ S.M. = School Monitor.

20th Several cases of measles were reported – where one of a family has them – the other children are not allowed to come to school.

27th A few of the older pupils have left for situations – Measles are still prevalent – Thursday was the Fast day which has told on the attendance.

August 1877

3rd Received intimation that the holidays were to begin on the 17th of this month and to continue until the 1st October. Also the duplicate examination schedules having been presented: “The board express satisfaction with the decided general improvement manifested in this school under Mr Cook’s tuition”. Several new cases of measles have been reported.

10th The attendance this week has been broken measles are still prevalent. Entered a new pupil John Moore.

17th Dismissed for the holidays – gave a few words of advice. The attendance this week has been considerably less owing to several new cases of measles.

21st Ayton Public School – summary of the Inspector’s report on the School and remarks. “Under the new Master this School shows decided and very creditable improvement in every respect. There is still, however, much leeway to make up in arithmetic especially in the third and fourth standard and spelling in the second should also receive special attention. The playground and offices have been much improved. The managers must exercise a strict supervision over the keeping of the registers.” A.Weatherhead has passed well. A.Spratt Spelling and grammar.

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS TO 5TH OCTOBER.

October 1877

5th Resumed work after the holidays – had a very good turn out considering the late harvest. Began to use Philips Standard Register. The scholars with few exceptions neat and clean. Gave them advice as to conduct. Impressed upon them the benefits of punctuality, diligence, order, neatness, care, fullness and attention.

12th The attendance for the past week has improved, there is still however a good number of children occupied with farm work. Had a call from the Rev’d Mr. Wilson MSB.² Showed him the register.

² MSB = Member of School Board.

- 19th A goodly number still engaged with farm work. Required a good deal of extra work to take off the "rust". In some cases there is an inclination to slip the work – vigorous measures used. Tuesday afternoon being a general holiday, there was no schooling.
- 26th Had a call from the School Board Officer who got the names of absentees. Wednesday was very wet preventing the country children from attending.

November 1877

- 2nd The work for the past week has been considerably broken by absentees. The weather being favourable for potato lifting a number of scholars have been engaged at that work.
- 9th A good number who came this week are very 'rusty'. There has been a good deal of honest work done this week. Andrew Spratt's place supplied by monitors.
- 16th The attendance this week has been very good – enforced the preparation of lessons at home – encouraged the backward and curbed the forward – gave them marching exercises in the playground – manual exercises in the school which they enjoyed very much it having an *inspiring* effect upon them.

December 1877

- 5th *(Note in log book)*
Examined the Registers and found them correct up to date.
- Signed William Wilson.
- 7th Had a call from the Chairman of the School Board.
- 14th The work of the school has gone on very pleasantly – the children have had the true spirit of learning school work satisfactorily – home lessons well prepared. Had the services of Isabella Ward as pupil Teacher – takes an interest in her work and her homework well got up.
- 21st A hard weeks work with good results. All the staff at their work and doing it with a mind and will. Had occasion to reprove certain boys who manifested a spirit of thoughtlessness.
- 28th This week has been very wintry and has told much on the attendance – a good number ill with colds. Broke up for the Christmas and New Year Holidays, the children left in high spirits.

1878

January 1878

- 11th Resumed work after the holidays. Got notice that William and Thomas Darling of Ayton Mains had left, they are going to America. Admitted two new pupils James and Maggie Edgar.
- 18th Received notice that Anne Bickerton would not return as she was required for home work.
- 25th The Rev'd Mr. Wilson, member of School Board called. Intimated to the children that the fees would for the future be taken weekly instead of monthly.

February 1878 (*Note in Log*) – SCHOOLS AMALGAMATED FEB 1878. ³

- 1st This week the schools have been amalgamated and divisions were re-arranged. Several members of the School Board met and introduced Miss Cowan to the pupils and her work. In honour of the occasion the chairman desired the pupils to get a half holiday. We resumed work on Tuesday and the work goes on pleasantly with fair results.

³ This was an amalgamation of the Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schools which had hitherto been separately managed.

- 8th** Several pupils were added to the roll of infants. Miss Cowan and pupil teachers attentive to their duties. Today being fine we had drill in the playground which was much liked by all and has the effect of quickening their attention.
- 15th** Informed Miss Cowan to exercise a little forbearance towards the younger children until they understood her manner.
- 22nd** Made enquiry regarding absentees – the officer called and informed me that Peter Carr was at home and that he had exerted himself to bring him to school.

March 1878

- 1st** School inspected without notice.
“The drainage of the offices needs immediate attention, registers duly marked up to date”.
Signed Andrew Scougal H.M.I.
- Informed Miss Cowan and pupil teachers to pay marked attention to the awkward conduct of the children.
- 8th** There have been several cases of discipline on account of orders being disobeyed. Enforced upon the pupils the benefits of being honest attentive and diligent in their work. Made an inspection of playgrounds, offices and urinal.

Prevented playing at rude boisterous games and games where danger was incurred.

15th The attendance for the past week has been much broken owing to a good number of children having the mumps. Received the time tables from H.M.Inspector, approved. Had a visit from the Rev'd Mr. Wilson MSB, Showed him the registers.

22nd The officer called and got the names of the absentees – several are still ill.

April 1878

**4th “Examined the registers and found them correct up to date”
Signed : William Wilson.**

5th The school is still rather slack – several cases of illness – cases of fever reported. Had a visit from the Rev'd Mr. Wilson MSB, who stayed until dismissal.

12th Received information that the examination of pupil teachers and candidates takes place tomorrow at Dunse at 9-45 am. Allowed the pupil teachers this afternoon to revise their lessons.

26th Potato planting having commenced some children are kept from school on that account. The school board officer called and got a list of

absentees. Had a visit from the Rev'd Mr Wilson MSB who stayed until dismissal.

May 1878

- 3rd Rev'd Mr Wilson called, examined the registers, summary and log book and found them correct.
- 10th All work done in view of the examinations – received the examination schedule – returned one to Rev'd Mr Wilson correspondent of the School Board giving the approximate number of those who would be presented. Received a letter from Mr Lewis stating that his son Robert was to be apprenticed to Mr Henderson, joiner – that he wished him to commence work immediately. Also that Maggie Jane Gillies would not return, leaving the district.
- 31st This being term week the attendance has considerably diminished. Several are leaving the district – others have been assisting their parents. Received intimation from the Rev'd Mr Wilson that the examination of the school takes place on Thursday the 6th and Friday the 7th June at 9-30. Sent notice to those who had left to be present at the examination. The school children were invited to Ayton Castle to see Miss Innes's presents on the occasion of her marriage, hence the half holiday on Tuesday afternoon.

June 1878

- 6th & 7th** **School Inspected**
Present 108 Boys, 106 Girls under
William Cook Certified Teacher of 3rd class
Mary Cowanditto.....
Margt Purves Pupil Teacher of 4th Year
Isabella Wood Pupil Teacher of 3rd Year.
Signed: Andrew Scougal H.M.I.
- 14th** **Had a visit from the Rev'd Mr Wilson who**
waited until dismissal.
- 28th** **The weather for the past week remarkably**
warm – every means used to secure proper
ventilation – the children under the
circumstances doing their duty well. Tuesday
being Midsummer holiday the school was
closed. Received notice that the School Board
propose examining the children in Religious
knowledge on the 31st July at 2-30 pm, also that
the parents are invited to be present. It will
perhaps interest the parents and encourage
education.

July 1878

- 12th** **Had a visit from Rev'd Professor Blaikie of**
Edinburgh who took a kindly interest in the
children – gave them a short address on George
Moore after which the senior class gave a
specimen of their compositions which the

learned doctor examined and pronounced remarkably good. Isabella Wood requested leave for today as she was going from home – which was granted.

19th The weather is still very hot.

Examined the whole of the registers and found them correct up to date
Signed: William Wilson.

26th The attendance today has not been so good yesterday being fast day and this being the last day of the School week. Rev'd Mr Wilson visited the school this afternoon – examined all the registers.

August 1878

2nd Dismissed the Schools for the holidays. The Rev'd Mr Wilson announced to the Scholars on Wednesday afternoon that the holidays were to begin on Monday August 5th and continue for six weeks; but there being a special meeting of the School Board today, they considered it would be better to dismiss this forenoon. Received extract of minute stating that my share in the government grant would be £ 70-3-4d. Received the following note from the Post Office Ayton –“Isabella is unable to be at school today. She fainted this morning and still feels quite giddy”.

There now follows a School Board Report:

“Ayton Public School (Berwickshire)

Educational arrangements have been greatly improved here by the amalgamation of the Boys’ and Girls’ and infants Schools. Under the present able and zealous Head Master and Mistress there is every prospect that the united school will be efficiently taught. During the coming year special attention should be given to securing thoroughness in the elementary work and intermediate subjects of instruction. The percentage of passes in the elementary work is this year only a mere fraction above the minimum requirement for grant under article 21 (c) of the specific subjects professed. English Literature and Domestic Economy were good. Physical Geography moderate. The access to the infants’ room is to be improved. M. Purves and I. Wood have passed well.

Signed: William Wilson.

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS TILL 20TH
SEPTEMBER.**

September 1878

20th Resumed work after the holidays a great number still engaged in harvest work. The

Chairman of the school board together with the Rev'd Mr Wilson visited the school. James Davidson monitor has left. Improvements have been made during the holidays, the two classrooms have been made into one, which is a nice airy room. A door has been made specially for the infants and the schools have been freshened up. Made alterations on timetable on recommendation of Her Majesty's inspector.

27th Had our weekly music lesson from notes, sang three exercises illustrating the Sol-Fa system. The staff at their duties – informed them to be at the school room five minutes before the hour.

October 1878

4th Miss Cowan having received a telegram that her aunt was dead and that she was immediately required at London, left on Wednesday at the dinner hour. My sister has occupied her place as serving mistress and we have had additional help in the person of monitors.

11th Miss Cowan returned to her duties on Tuesday. R.J. Johnston began her duties as candidate pupil teacher on Monday. The school is now in a good state of organisation, the classes are well attended and the teachers are earnest in their work.

- 18th The attendance this week has been rather broken owing to the potato lifting in which young and old have been engaged. Had a visit from Mr Guise, a retired gentleman who gave the boys an encouraging word.
- 24th ‘Examined the whole of the registers and found them correct up to date’
Signed: William Wilson.
- 25th A considerable number of scholars engaged with the potato lifting, the weather being good, farm work is being urged on. Received information that Hugh Fraser was dead. The Rev’d Mr Wilson M.S.B ⁴ visited the school yesterday. Had occasion to administer reproof and correction in cases of discipline.

November 1878

- 1st The attendance during the past week has been rather irregular. The potatoes are not yet all lifted and being an extra crop they require longer time than usual. Gave the clerk to the school board a list of requisites which would be beneficial to the school.
- 8th Although the weather has been stormy, the attendance has been good. Workmen began operations to drain the surface water at the offices. Instead of having a whole hour at dinner

⁴ Member of School Board.

time it has been curtailed to three quarters thus enabling scholars to get away earlier in the afternoon. Gave extra time to the slow ones in standard II, punished the careless and stimulated the dull ones.

15th Our attendance is materially affected by the weather, the past week has been stormy. Got improvements at the water closets so that the surface water might be drained. Mr Mitchell Innes and Miss Innes visited the school this afternoon. The pupils and teachers gave them a hearty welcome.

22nd With better weather, we have had better attendance. Miss Cowan is teaching the children part singing. Impressed upon the boys the duty of being decorous and attentive to her instruction.

29th Several cases of sore throat and colds reported. The school board officer got a list of absentees.

December 1878

6th Sore throat is common which has kept many at home.

13th This has been a very severe week upon country and young children the attendance, owing to the severe snow storm, has been very defective. Colds and sore throat are common. Got notice that Mr James McAdam had left for the

tailoring trade. To relieve the tedium of the afternoon the senior boys received a lesson in drawing from models. The school was visited by the Misses Innes and Governess, they made enquiries after numerous families who would be better off of a little help.

20th ‘Examined the whole of the registers and found them correct up to date’
Signed: William Wilson.

Made diligent enquiries after absentees and found that sore throat, toothache and earache were common. The infant room has been slack owing to the severity of the weather. Made special enquiry after Sarah Moore and learned that she had left.

27th The officer of the school board called and received the names of absentees. The stormy weather however prevented the attendance being kept up. Dismissed the school for the new year holidays, the children were in great joy.

1879

January 1879

8th ‘Examined the whole of the registers and found them correct up to date’.
Signed: William Wilson.

10th **The Rev'd William Wilson visited the school and gave the children an address upon the life of Samuel. Frosted feet and hands are common excuses for absence. The severity of the weather has still a diminishing effect.**

17th **The weather still cold and stormy.**

24th **The weather having moderated our numbers have increased. The school board called for names of absentees. He received the names of several who are above thirteen years of age and who have not yet passed the fifth standard, but it appears their age is their protection.**

31st **Got notice that Mary and Annie Collin who came from Eyemouth had gone to the Parish school there. Enrolled a new pupil Mary Donaldson from the same place. All the unprepared and careless scholars kept in and extra attention given to them.**

February 1879

5th **'Examined the whole of the registers and found them correct up to date'
Signed: William Wilson.**

7th **The heavy roads have kept children from attending. The Rev'd Mr Wilson called on Wednesday morning and examined the pupils on their religious knowledge, he also examined the log book and registers.**

21st **With a return of the stormy weather there has been considerable decrease in the attendance. Thursday was the Parish fast day and the school was closed.**

28th **Being unwell on Monday Miss Cowan took the principal charge and was assisted by the pupil teachers and monitors.**

March 1879

5th **'Examined the whole of the registers and found them correct up to date'
Signed: William Wilson.**

7th **Tuesday was the hiring fair at Dunse and several of the older children were kept at home. From information several are leaving the district. Rev'd Mr Wilson called on Wednesday and examined the registers. To prevent undue leaving, the school board has erected a gate.**

14th **Today being the election of the school board and it being conducted in the school, we were required to dismiss after the forenoon attendance.**

20th A report having been circulated that certain children had an infectious disease, the school board thought it proper to close the school for a day and disinfect the premises. Three members were present Messrs Henderson, Hume and Wood.

28th The attendance this week has been remarkably small owing to the panic and the severity of the weather. The report was circulated that certain pupils had an infectious disease, which report spread so rapidly that the attendance was greatly decreased. This led the board to take measures which resulted in an examination of the pupils. Although there was nothing serious the Doctor considered it proper that certain pupils should absent themselves for a few days.

April 1879

4th Received notice from the clerk of the board that the examination of pupil teachers takes place tomorrow at Dunse. Informed the pupil teachers, allowed Miss Purves to have a few days for revisal of work, her time as a pupil teacher expired on the 31st March.

May 1879

- 2nd** Informed the school board at their meeting on Tuesday that a monitor would be an acquisition, their decision was that one would be appointed.
- 9th** George Weatherhead entered upon his duties as monitor.
- 16th** The weather has been rather stormy which has told on the attendance.
- 30th** This week our numbers have been greatly decreased owing to parties leaving at the term. Entered three new pupils who have come to the district.

June 1879

- 6th** Received information from the clerk of the board that the examination of the school would be on the 12th and 13th of this month.
- 9th** ‘School visited without notice, found everything in due order’
Signed: Andrew Scougal. H.M.I.
- 11th & 12th** School inspected – Present; 98 Boys – 95 Girls under
William Cook certified teacher of 3rd class
Mary Cowan “ “ “
Isabella J. Wood Pupil Teacher of 4th year
Signed: Andrew Scougal H.M.I.

20th Was informed that George Weatherhead had made application for a pupil teachership at Eyemouth it being more convenient.

27th Tuesday being the general holiday the school was closed on that day. The weather has broken which has affected the attendance. Paying marked attention to the backward pupils and on no account allowing whispering nor prompting. Everyone must think!

July 1879

10th As tomorrow is to be observed as a holiday my weekly entry is made today (Thursday). The weather has been rather wet which has kept country children from attending.

25th The attendance during the past week has been very irregular owing to broken weather, the fast day on Wednesday and a Cattle Show at Berwick yesterday.

August 1879

1st Several cases of fever have been reported when it is in a house if the children are attending school they all remain at home.

15th

School dismissed for the Summer Holidays the children were in great spirit the teachers pleased at prospect of a rest.

Summary of inspector's report:-

“As regards instruction the school does not show the improvement I had expected to find this year. The results of the standard examinations reveal considerable weakness in both Spelling and Arithmetic and in the class examination under article 19(C) the grant for Grammar and Intelligence was but narrowly gained; while that for History and Geography was lost owing to the unsatisfactory appearance made by both the 4th & 5th Standards. The general tone and the discipline are on the whole good. Both the teachers seem very zealous and painstaking in their work. I trust to find next year distinct improvement and uniformly good results. I. J. Wood has passed well and M. Purves fairly, but Wood should attend to Map Drawing and History and Purves to Arithmetic. Purves should be informed that she is now qualified under article 79 but can only qualify herself under article 60 by passing satisfactorily the examination under article 91. R.J. Johnstone's age is not sufficient to warrant her admission to a shortened term of apprenticeship.”

Joseph Wood for Correspondent

HOLIDAYS UNTIL 3RD OCTOBER

October 1879

- 3rd** Resumed work after the holidays. The attendance fair considering we are in the midst of harvest. David Beattie, Assistant Teacher entered upon his duties on Monday last. The other members of the staff commenced work on that day. The Board agreed to put desks in the classroom thus improving the organisation of the school.
- 10th** Country children are still absent. School Board Officer called and got the names of absentees in the village.
- 17th** Still a considerable number absent they are mainly engaged in lifting potatoes.
- 31st** The late Harvest and children employed lifting potatoes are telling on the attendance. Got desks into the classroom.

November 1879

- 7th** Isabella wood has been off duty owing to a sore throat. Miss Cowan gave intimation that she would be leaving about Christmas her reason is she is required at home. Maggie Purvis called to inform us that she was now provisionally certificated.

December 1879

- 5th Severe winter weather and long distances preventing the children from attending.
- 12th Children are still prevented from attending school owing to the severity of the weather. We have curtailed the interval during the winter month from 1 hour to $\frac{3}{4}$ hour with 5 minutes of an interval in the afternoon.
- 19th The Officer called and gave the names of scholars who had left; the reason being that they were above age or had passed Standard 5.
- 26th The pupils, to express their kindly feeling to their teachers, presented valuable gifts. Today Messrs. Henderson, Wood and Fulton visited the school also Rev'd Mr Wilson and a number of ladies and gentlemen. The children sang several songs and after wishing the compliments of the Season to their teachers they were dismissed for the New Year Holidays. The school closed in the usual manner.

1880

January 1880

- 9th** Resumed work after the holidays. Miss Lithgow our new female assistant was introduced by Mr Henderson Chairman of the School Board.
- 16th** Today has been stormy which prevented a considerable number from attending.
- 23rd** The wintry weather has kept some at home and others are ill.
- 27th** “Examined all the registers and found them correct.”
Signed Joseph Wood, Thomas Bickerton.

February 1880

- 6th** As the days are now considerably longer we have given an hour at dinner time.
- 13th** Maggie White who has been absent for a long time returned. Got intimation that Catherine Liddell and her brother were leaving the school. Their father had got a situation in Northumberland.
- 26th** Jane Nisbet and her sister Annie who have come from Eyemouth for a considerable time left today.
- 27th** Yesterday being the fast day the school was shut.

March 1880

5th The attendance for the past week has not been good the weather being wet.

19th School Board Officer called for the names of absentees was informed that George Wood (a) and Jane McCrow had left school. The former was to assist his father, the latter was going into service.

April 1880

9th Tuesday being the county election it was made a holiday. The Rev'd Mr Wilson and the Rev'd W Burgess of Peebles paid a visit to school also Mrs & the Misses Innes of Ayton Castle. The Chairman of the school Board called to inform us that the examination of pupil teachers was to be held at Dunse on Saturday First. School board officer called to receive names of absentees.

16th The work of the school has been performed with vigour called the attention of the Chairman to certain improvements.

May 1880

14th Received notice that Louisa Stone had left, the reason being leaving the district.

June 1880

4th **A considerable number of pupils have left the district. Enrolled several new pupils.**

15th **“Examined all the registers and found them correct.”**
Signed: - Joseph Wood

16th & 17th **School inspected:-**
Present 103 boys, 94 girls under:
William Cook certified teacher of 3rd class
David Beattie assistant teacher Article 79
Agnes B. Lithgow certified teacher of 3rd class
Isabella J. Wood Pupil teacher of 5th year
Rebecca J. Johnstone pupil teacher of 1st year
Signed Andrew Scougal H.M.I

Our Inspection has been this week and today is a holiday. Isabella Wood whose apprenticeship as pupil teacher has expired, left today.

July 1880

2nd **The attendance this week has been rather broken. The annual mid summer holiday was on Tuesday, the next day several were absent case of whooping cough have been reported.**

9th **Classes have all been re-arranged. Having to go to my brother’s marriage on Thursday, standards V & V1 did not meet.**

- 16th There being a general picnic in the village a great number of the pupils were absent; on that account it was a holiday.
- 23rd Thursday being the Parish Fast the school was not open. A number Infants have the whooping cough.
- 30th A number of the infants is still ill with the whooping cough.

August 1880

- 6th Mrs Innes of Ayton Castle called and expressed the desire that the children should go to the castle for tea upon a day to be fixed.
- 13th School dismissed at mid-day for holidays, would resume duties on the 27th September. The children and teachers received an invitation from Mrs Innes of Ayton Castle to have tea on Thursday 19th the children full of joy at the prospect.
- 17th Ayton Public School (Berwick):- *(Inspector's Report)*
- “The discipline of the school continues good on the whole. But, in spite of the increase of the staff, the state of the elementary instruction above the second standard shows falling off

instead of improvement. Below the Third standard the work under the new mistress is much better throughout. Under the classes examinations (Article 19c), the Second standard did very fairly; the Third standard very poorly; the Fourth & Fifth but moderately; Sixth & Ex-sixth standards creditably. The hand writing of the paper work generally should be improved. The boys of the highest class made a very creditable appearance in the second stage of English literature. Three boys have made a moderate beginning in elementary Latin & Algebra. I.J. Wood & R.J. Johnston have passed well. Wood should be informed that she is now qualified under both articles 60 & 79. If you will refer to the marginal notes on paragraph two of Johnston's Memorandum of Agreement you will see that the intention of such instruments is to provide for making shorter engagements where the facts of the case appear to require them, but not for shortening engagements once made."

Signed: *(No signature only initials)* A.S.

HOLIDAYS UNTIL 1ST OCTOBER

October 1880

1st

Resumed work after the holidays. William Kerr entered upon his duties as assistant teacher. The female assistant and pupil teacher were at their posts. Gave pupils instructions regarding

punctuality and precision. The Infants received their weekly lesson.

15th Several pupils came on Monday but the lifting of potatoes has been general this week so that the bigger boys and girls have been absent assisting in that work.

22nd There is still a number of pupils absent the excuse is they are involved in lifting potatoes.

29th The weather for the past week has been very stormy which has kept a number pupils from school. Potato lifting is the excuse assigned by several who have absented themselves. Received permission from chairman of school board to attend a marriage.

November 1880

12th As the days are shortening the interval at mid-day has been curtailed, meeting at half past one instead of 1.45.

19th The weather during the past week has been stormy but the attendance on the whole has been good.

26th The stormy weather has told somewhat on the attendance. The school board officer called to receive names of absentees.

December 1880

- 2nd** Three new pupils admitted and one re-admitted. Today the singing was continued until we dismissed.
- 10th** The school board officer called for the names of absentees there have been several cases of illness.
- 17th** Yesterday afternoon Miss Lithgow was absent owing to sickness, her place was supplied by monitors.
- 24th** Today the children presented their teachers with valuable Christmas gifts. The school was shut during this afternoon.
- 31st** Dismissed for the New Year Holidays. Both children and teachers were in good spirits. Addressed a few words to the children taking for subject the word 'Try'. Great attention was paid. After singing an original hymn we dismissed in the usual manner.

1881

January 1881

- 14th** Resumed work after the holidays, severe snow storms prevented a great number of pupils from attending.

21st **The severe storm has told materially on the attendance. Country children have been prevented from attending and many of those in the village have been absent.**

28th **The weather for the past week has been very severe and the attendance meagre. The school board officer called for names of absentees. The following excuses were offered:- colds, heads broken out, sick, weather too stormy, roads blocked up.**

February 1881

25th **Reported to the school board officer certain pupils whose attendance was very irregular. Yesterday the school was closed it being the Spring Fast.**

March 1881

4th **Today has been stormy and the children from the country have been absent.**

11th **The attendance of some has been very irregular. Stormy weather, subject to colds, being unwell and waiting upon unwell parents has been the excuses.**

18th **In order that the singing may receive due attention it has been to be found an**

improvement to extend the time from 3.10 to 4.00 pm. All the staff at their posts.

25th Received notice that Alexander Miller had gone to a situation.

April 1881

8th Was told that John Purvis had gone to serve his apprenticeship as a baker. All the staff very diligent in their work and they have manifested a commendable anxiety.

15th Today the drill Sergeant gave half an hours drill to the senior and junior boys of the first division. Was informed that Joan Barrie was unwell. Assistants and pupil teacher very attentive to their duties.

22nd Admitted four new pupils, three girls and a boy. Sent a list of absentees to the school board school board officer.

29th Was informed by the clerk of the school board that the examination of pupil teachers would be on Saturday the 30th in Dunse Public School; communicated this to pupil teacher.

May 1881

13th Got notice that Thomas Parker and his brother Alexander had gone too reside at Paris; that

**Elizabeth Sanderson was leaving the district.
Admitted Walter Young as pupil.**

20th Alice Waddell informed that she was leaving the district. The pupil teacher absent today; her place was supplied by monitors.

27th Obtained permission to give the scholars a half holiday today.

June 1881

3rd Received notice form clerk of the school board that the examination of the school would take place on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th June.

10th Today has been our annual inspection and examination.

**10th – 11th School inspected.
Staff: - William Cook certified teacher of third class**

William Kerr probationer

Agnes B. Lithgow certified teacher of third class

Rebecca J. Johnstone pupil teacher of second year

Signed: Andrew E. Scougal H.M.I

16th **The school board agreed to give Friday 17th and Monday 20th current as holidays. The announcement to the scholars was hailed with delight.**

24th **The attendance during the last week has been thin several cases of illness have been reported.**

July 1881

1st **Tuesday was kept as a holiday school board officer called and reported cases of illness he also received the names of absentees.**

8th **Received from chairman of school board the duplicate examination schedules, so that the classes might be re-arranged. Several of the children are unwell and the stormy weather on Wednesday prevented a good number from attending.**

15th **The singing lesson was given yesterday so as to enable William Kerr to get away this afternoon. Several children are still unwell and cases of absence were reported to school board officer.**

29th **On Wednesday the children attending Springbank U.P. Church Sabbath School had their annual picnic, which reduced our attendance considerably. Yesterday being the half yearly Sacramental Fast the school was closed.**

August 1881

5th **The attendance on the whole continues good. Extra attention bestowed upon careless pupils and slovenly work has to be redone. Yesterday the pupils and teachers were treated by Mr & Mrs Mitchell - Innes of Ayton Castle.**

12th **Today we dismissed for the holidays. Informed the children that the vacation would extend for six weeks and that the school would be reopened on Monday 26th September. The children gave three cheers for the school board and left in high glee. Received from the chairman of the school board the government inspector's report a summary of which follows.**

Summary of Inspectors Report Ayton Public School Berwick

“The Junior department, under Miss Lithgow shows further marked improvement and is in a highly satisfactory state. The senior department has also greatly improved in instruction, discipline and general working tone. The improvement in the highest classes (fifth, sixth and ex-six standards) is very decided and most creditable to the ability and diligence of the Headmaster. There is still however, much weakness in the Arithmetic of the third standard; and the fourth standard, while it did

very creditably in the elementary work was not equal to the others in its appearance under oral class examination. The English Literature was very good; the domestic economy only moderate. A class of six has made a beginning in Latin. R. J. Johnston has passed well she must take the papers for the third year next year.”

HOLIDAYS TO 7TH OCTOBER

October 1881

- 7th School duties have been resumed after the holidays. The vacations extended for seven weeks owing to alterations on the school. The attendance this week has been respectable considering the lateness of the harvest.
- 13th The chairman called to inform me that here would be no schooling tomorrow since the labourers would be employed on the road connecting the school drains with the main.
- 21st The attendance during the past week has been very unsatisfactory. A considerable number have been absent; the excuses given were collecting sticks and gathering potatoes. Those who have shown weakness in their work and an inclination to be idle have received extra attention. To be harmony with requirements of the code, the English Literature Class received

their lesson on Friday (today) instead of the ordinary reading lesson.

28th The attendance during the past week has been much better; a number is still absent the excuses tendered being that they are engaged lifting the potatoes. Owing to the number of pupils in the large room, the other not being finished yet, the class are more crowded than we would wish.

November 1881

4th Several are absent assisting with lifting of the potatoes. Informed the pupils that as the days were getting shorter, the interval at dinner time would be shortened so as to enable the children to get away earlier in the afternoon.

11th Owing to the want of space and size of the classes, they have been rather difficult to work. However, by exercise of patience the work has been performed.

18th Children who are backward received extra attention so that they may be upsidest with their neighbours.

25th Made enquiry after absentees and found there were several ill. The weather being mild the attendance on the whole has been good.

December 1881

- 2nd The weather continues very mild for the season and the attendance is good. Standards V & VI are now in the new classroom which is a great improvement on the old one.
- 9th The weather continues mild and the attendance is good.
- 16th Owing to the change in the weather there have been several cases of absence. The school board officer received the names.
- 23rd School board officer called to receive names of absentees. He reported that several were laid up with colds. The children yesterday gave proof of their kindly feeling towards their teachers by presenting them with valuable Christmas gifts. The afternoon was given as a half holiday.
- 30th Dismissed today for the New Year's Holidays. Intimated to the scholars that our duties would be resumed Monday 9th January 1882.

1882

January 1882

- 13th School duties were resumed with a good attendance of pupils. Mrs Mitchell –Innes of Ayton Castle invited the children and teachers to a Magic Lantern exhibition in the Volunteer Hall on Monday afternoon.
- 20th The classroom being now ready the senior class occupied it.
- 27th Informed William Kerr as to points requiring attention.

February 1882

- 3rd The school board officer called and reported cases of illness also that May Martin had left school. The work of the school has been performed in a painstaking manner.
- 10th Various excuses have been given for absence such as “being from home”, ”laid up with cold”. Was informed that James Edgar had been very poorly.
- 24th Yesterday being the half yearly fast day the school was closed. James Grieve informed me that he was going to leave the district.

March 1882

- 3rd Stormy weather affects our attendances. Wednesday was coarse and a good number of

the pupils were absent. Was informed by the school board officer that Matilda Young had left school.

16th Tomorrow being the triennial election of the school board there will be no schooling. Re-admitted Isabella Friskin who has been absent a considerable time.

April 1882

14th The weather yesterday and today has been very stormy which has prevented a good number from attending school. Cases of whooping cough have been reported.

21st Received intimation from the correspondent with the education department that the examination of pupil teachers would be on Saturday 29th current at Dunse. Intimated the same to Miss Lithgow and pupil teacher.

28th The school board officer reported several cases of illness mainly whooping cough.

May 1882

5th A good number of our pupils are ill with whooping cough.

12th There is still a number of pupils absent owing to illness there have been several bad cases of

whooping cough. Was informed that Isabella Friskin had left the district.

19th School board officer called and reported cases of illness. Pupils ill of whooping cough have not returned to school. Was informed that John Fairlie had left school, also that Alexander Todd was going to America.

26th The school board officer called he reported that several were still unwell. Yesterday the Rev'd William Cameron Parish Minister was buried and the school was closed during the afternoon. Today being the May Term there are several removals. Our attendance has been thin. Admitted two new pupils this week viz Walter Thomson and William Johnstone Wood.

June 1882

9th School board officer call and reported those that are unwell. The clerk to the school board informed me that our inspection would be on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th June at 10.30 am.

**15th & 16th School inspected: present 102 boys 94 girls
Under: Staff as last year
Signed: Andrew Scougal H.M.I.**

The attendance yesterday and today has been good, some were prevented from attending the

inspection by illness, others had removed from the district.

23rd The attendance has not been good in the senior department; several of the pupils have signified that they have left the school. School board officer called for the names of absentees and informed me that he would call every two weeks and not weekly.

30th The school was closed on Thursday it being observed as Mid-summer holiday. The attendance has since been broken.

July 1882

7th Received form the correspondent duplicate schedules and re-arranged the classes. Informed the pupils as to rate of fees which would now be charged for standards 111, 1V, V and V1.

14th School board officer called and received the names of absentees several of whom it was doubtful whether they would return to school having passed standard V.

21st Yesterday the school was closed it being held partly a Fast day and partly a holiday.

28th Today the school was closed for the holidays. There were present Rev'd William Wilson,

Rev'd John Duncan - ? ⁵, Mr Edington and Mr Henderson, members of the school board were also present. Rev'd William Wilson, by request, presented the deserving pupils with prizes that were granted by the Border Counties Association and supplemented by friends. After the distribution and votes of thanks were passed, the Rev'd Mr Wilson pronounced the benediction.

HOLIDAYS TO SEPTEMBER 12TH

September 1882

12th

Summary of inspectors report Ayton Public School (Berwick)

The discipline and tone of the school continue very good. But it has not as a whole made by any means so good and appearance this year as it did last year. In the Junior department (Infant and first and second standards) the results of both individual and class examination were very satisfactory, but in the intermediate department (third and fourth standards), although the oral class work was creditable, the standard work was no more than fair; and the senior department (fifth, sixth and ex-six standards) while it did very creditably in history and geography, was exceeding defective in

⁵ This is a double barrelled name the second part of which is illegible.

grammar and arithmetic and only fair in spelling. A distinctive improvement on the accommodation has been effected by enlarging the classroom for the senior department; but this room should have independent communication with the entrance lobby. The pass in English Literature of the scholar number 153 on examination schedule has been disallowed under article 21(E), and that of the one numbered 155 under the fourth schedule of the code. R. J. Johnston has passed well. William Kerr will shortly receive his certificate.

15th The school was re-opened after the holidays. The school board has appointed Mr Bissett; assistant master instead of William Kerr resigned. He and Miss Lithgow together with the pupil teacher commenced work.

22nd Gave instruction to Mr Bissett regarding the marking of the registers particularly in cases where pupils leave before the expiry of the two hours. Mr Bissett being colded, an extra drill in Arithmetic was substituted for singing.

October 1882

6th Instructed Miss Lithgow to make list of those who are in arrears with their school fees. Mr Bissett gave the usual singing lesson.

20th The school board officer called and reported Elizabeth Cockburn had left school, I also received a note from Mr Brown, Highlaws intimating that owing to the long distance his boy had left. Having to leave for a distance this afternoon the interval was from 12.30 to 1.30.

27th During the past week the attendance in the senior department has been very defective. The pupils have been employed in lifting potatoes.

November 1882

3rd Intimated to the children that the interval would be three quarters of an hour on Monday and until further notice, this is to enable the children from the country to get home in daylight.

17th The attendance this week has been broken on account of yesterday being a very wet and stormy day. There was no singing for the upper standards this afternoon Mr Bissett having the toothache.

24th Towards the close of the week several pupils have been absent the excuse being that they were gathering sticks. The singing lesson was give by Mr Bissett.

December 1882

- 1st** **The school board officer called he reported that James Mason, Agnes Greig and Elizabeth Redpath had left the school. At the wish of the school board, yesterday was a holiday.**
- 8th** **The attendance this week has been small owing to the heavy snow storm. Reminded Mr Bissett regarding the cancelling of attendance of those who leave before the full time. Although the officer reported that James Mason had left, he returned last Monday. Laura Martin entered upon her duties as monitor.**
- 15th** **The weather still continues very stormy which has told considerably upon our attendance.**
- 22nd** **The weather being improved the attendance this week has been better. Yesterday the pupils presented their teacher with Christmas gifts. There was no schooling in the afternoon.**
- 29th** **Today we dismissed for the New Year holidays, the school board agreed to give a week. Having sung a few songs and given a reading and wishing all the children a Happy New Year we dismissed till January 8th 1883.**

1883

January 1883

12th Resumed duties after the holidays. Was informed that several of the children were laid up with cold. At the beginning of the week the children were rather rusty, but towards the end they were in better working order.

February 1883

16th Made enquiry regarding absentees and found that several of the pupils were ill. School board officer called for the names of absent scholars.

23rd Nothing of importance to record regarding school work. The school was closed yesterday it being the half yearly fast day.

March 1883

9th The weather for the past week has been stormy which has kept a number of children from attending school. Children having sore throat have been absent.

16th The attendance during the beginning of the week was good but towards its close a good number of pupils has been absent owing to the severe weather. The school board officer reported several cases of illness. Received notice from Clerk to School Board that the general examination of pupil teachers and candidates

was to take place at Dunse on Saturday 31st March at 9.45 am.

22nd The weather during the past week has been stormy and the attendance has been broken. Informed the pupils that tomorrow (Good Friday) would be a holiday.

30th The Monitor (Laura Martin) has been unable to attend to her duties this week owing to illness.

April 1883

6th School board officer called and reported several cases of illness.

13th William Henry informed me that he was removing to Edinburgh.

May 1883

4th The attendance of several pupils has been broken during the past week; illness in some cases has been the cause. The school board officer received the names of absentees and gave names of pupils who had left. The Clerk of School board called with examination schedules and other papers.

11th The weather for the past week has been cold and stormy preventing pupils from attending school.

25th Several pupils are removing at the May term out of the district.

June 1883

1st The school board officer called and reported that James Mason had left again.

8th The weather being fine several of the senior pupils are engaged with field work. Admitted several new pupils this week.

15th Clerk to the school board informed me that our annual examination and inspection was to take place on Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th June at 10.30 am.

18th & 19th School inspected. Present – Boys 95- Girls 105.
Staff:- W. Cook certified teacher of third class
Andrew Bissett assistant teacher article
79

Agnes B. Lithgow certified teacher of third class

Rebecca J. Johnstone pupil teacher of fifth year

Laura J. Martin School monitor.

Signed:- Andrew E. Scougal HMI

21st After our annual examination and inspection the pupils are promised a holiday which will be tomorrow Friday 22nd.

29th Tuesday being the village annual holiday the school was closed. The attendance during this week has been very broken. Several pupils have left the school for field work. Got a new admission register.

July 1883

6th A new reading book has been introduced into the senior department which is a great improvement upon the one formally used.

13th Received examination duplicate schedules and rearranged the classes. Informed the pupils what books they were to get for the various classes.

27th Owing to a large number of pupils in the first class, it was found necessary to change rooms and to work the standards thoroughly, slight alterations were necessary in our timetable. Thursday being the half yearly Fast Day the School was closed. Today several pupils were absent.

August 1883

3rd The attendance during the past week has been very broken. A picnic on Wednesday and

Reston Flower Show today have told upon the attendance.

10th Some pupils have absented themselves from school in anticipation of the holidays. Several pupils were absent yesterday – there being an Agricultural Show at Berwick - on – Tweed. Miss Lithgow was able to resume her duties today having been ill for the last four days. Laura Martin has been unwell today but her place was taken by her sister.

17th Dismissed the school for the autumn holidays which were to last for six weeks till 1st October. Impressed upon the pupils the need for regular attendance and the benefit of commencing work when the school would be re-opened was shown.

Ayton Public School (Berwick) Summary of the Inspectors Report on the School.

“The discipline and tone of this school are this year excellent. The results of individual examinations are highly creditable in all respects up to the end of the Fourth Standard, but in Fifth & Sixth Arithmetic is again very poor, and Grammar is so utterly bad as to be much worse than useless, and has to be, in the absence of compensating excellence in intelligence, the cause of failure in reading of nearly three quarters of those presented in these

standards. Under oral class examination (Article 19 c) the second and fourth standards did very well; the third pretty fairly; the fifth, sixth and ex-sixth well in Geography, but only moderately in History. The Map drawing was very creditable. I have to repeat my remark of last year as to the need for independent exit to lobby from the senior school room. Lavatory accommodation is also much to be desired especially for the girls.”

The improvements recommended by H. M. Inspector should be made without delay (Article 32 b). R. J. Johnstone has past well. She should be informed that she is now qualified under both Articles 60 & 79.

HOLIDAYS TO 1ST OCTOBER

October 1883

5th

Resumed work after the holidays, the attendance during past week has been fair. The harvest being late, a good number of children are still absent. Gave special instruction to Assistant and Pupil teacher regarding attendances, both with regard to those present and also those who may leave before the expiry of the full time. The improvements notified by Her Majesty’s Inspector have been made during the holidays.

19th A good number of the senior pupils are still absent being engaged with “gathering” and potato lifting.

26th This week a great number of the pupils have been engaged in lifting the potatoes, the consequence being that the attendance has been very much reduced. Impressed upon the scholars the need of being punctual and attentive to their lessons.

November 1883

2nd School Board officer informed me that Isabella Fraser had left.

16th The School Board officer reported that Jessie Young had left the school and was going to service.

23rd Had occasion to caution George Spratt for his thoughtlessness.

December 1883

7th Intimated to the pupils that as the days were getting shorter, the interval would be three quarters of an hour for dinner. The hour for re-assembling would be half past one o'clock.

14th School board officer called and reported that several pupils had whooping cough.

Information was also received regarding other cases of illness, Scarlet fever was in two homes, the other children were absent on that account. The pupil teacher has been off duty yesterday and today having a bad cold.

21st Pupils who have the whooping cough or Scarlet fever and their brothers and sisters are still absent. The pupil teacher has not yet returned to duty being still confined to bed. Yesterday the pupils presented their teachers and Mrs Cook with valuable Christmas gifts; the afternoon was given for play.

28th School Board officer called reported cases of absence. Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough still exist and precautions are taken to prevent their spread. Received notice from Clerk to school Board that the New Year Holidays extend from 31st December to 7th January 1884. The children received their annual treat from their teachers.

1884

January 1884

11th Resumed school work after the New Year Holiday's. The pupil teacher was able to perform her duties. Informed Miss Lithgow of

an effective method by which accuracy of attendance could be secured.

18th The School Board Officer made enquiry regarding those who were absent and was informed that several of them were unwell.

25th The attendance during the past week has kept well up not withstanding the very stormy weather.

February 1884

22nd Yesterday the school was closed it being the half yearly Fast Day.

29th Today the weather has been wintry thus preventing a number of infants from attending school.

March 1884

7th Made enquiry regarding absentees and found that several were unwell also that Katie Whitelaw had left school.

14th Monday was a very stormy day and thus a good number of pupils was prevented from attending school. Was informed by the Clerk for school Board that George Crow's name was to be deleted from the register.

21st Received information from Clerk to School Board that Tom Greig had gone to Burnmouth school, also that the general examination of pupil teacher and candidates will be held in Parish School Dunse on Saturday the 29th inst at 9.45 am, when they should attend with pens and foolscap paper. Intimated the same to Miss Lithgow and pupil teacher. Further that the board at their last meeting granted a holiday to all their schools on the 11th April next being Good Friday.

28th Was informed that Alexander Shearlaw who was above school age, had left school and gone to work. Told pupil teacher to be in good time for the Dunse railway train tomorrow morning.

April 1884

4th School board officer called informed me that Annie Swanson had left school.

10th Intimated to teachers and pupils that tomorrow would be a holiday.

25th Wednesday morning was very stormy and country children were absent.

May 1884

9th During the past week several of the senior girls have been kept at home assisting their mothers with the “cleaning”.

30th The attendance during past month has been considerably broken by “May cleanings”, Mumps and removals. Clerk to school board called to inform me that the inspection and examination of the school would be on 2nd and 3rd of June.

June 1884

2nd School inspected – present 90 boys 95 girls under:-

William Cook certified teacher of third class

Andrew Bissett assistant teacher Article 79

Agnes B. Lithgow certified teacher of third class

Signed: Andrew E. Scougal H.M.I.

6th Tuesday being the day after our examination it was given as a holiday. The attendances of Monday were transferred to the new registers. Mr Bissett received liberty to attend a rifle competition yesterday.

13th Received the duplicate examination schedules and arranged the classes. Informed those who had not passed that they must attend more regularly and be more diligent in their work.

27th **The school was closed on Tuesday it being the village annual holiday.**

July 1884

4th **The attendance during the last week has been broken owing to a Sabbath School trip which was on Tuesday.**

25th **Thursday being the half yearly Fast day, the school was closed. Informed the assistants and pupil teacher of the parts of the government report for the past year which related to them.**

August 1884

8th **The attendance during the past week has been very much broken. On Monday a good number of children was attending picnics.**

Ayton Public School (Berwick)

Summary of inspectors report on the school and remarks (if any) to be made.

“While the discipline and tone of the school continue excellent, the results of examination do not show the improvement that was needed in the instruction of the Senior department; the individual work of the third and fourth standards has fallen off, the third being exceedingly weak in spelling, the fourth also weak in spelling and very poor in reading (with

intelligence and grammar). The writing (with spelling and composition) of the fifth and sixth standards is this year only middling, their Arithmetic is even worse than it has been for the past two years and their Grammar continues miserably poor. In class work (Article 19c) the third standard while very fair in intelligence, was decidedly weak in grammar, the fourth standard did creditably in both Geography and History, the fifth fairly in Geography, but poorly in History the sixth well in Geography fairly in History. The junior department under Miss Lithgow made in every respect a highly satisfactory appearance. The access to the senior school room has been improved as suggested and lavatory accommodation – though to a very limited extent – has been provided for the girls. One tenth is deducted from the grant for faults of instruction (Article 32b). L.J. Martin has passed fairly but should attend to spelling and Arithmetic.

15th

In view of the holidays the attendance of the past week has been broken. The school was dismissed for the autumn holidays which are to extend for six weeks. Mr Bissett's name is withdrawn from the school staff.

HOLIDAYS UNTIL 3RD OCTOBER

October 1884

- 3rd** Resumed school work after the holidays Miss Lithgow and the Pupil teacher were at their posts. The male assistant appointed by the school board not having accepted the situation standard 11, 1V,V, and V1 have been taught by myself.
- 10th** Several pupils have returned to school this week. As no male assistant has yet been appointed the work in connection with standards 11, 1V, V, V1 and exV1 have devolved on me.
- 17th** The attendance at the end of this week has been broken owing to a number of the senior pupils being engaged at the potato lifting.
- 24th** Potato lifting being general a good number of the senior pupils have been engaged at that work. Mr Yule of Ayton Station called for a boy to take the place of William Lyall who is in very bad health James Edgar was the boy selected.
- 31st** The attendance at the beginning of the week was good, but towards its close it became much broken; the older pupils being engaged at potato gathering and gathering sticks.

November 1884

- 7th** Mr Pryde entered upon his duties as assistant teacher on Wednesday last.

21st **The weather being good the attendance is also good. Mr Pryde informed me that he had drawn up a new timetable for the intermediate department.**

28th **School Board officer called was informed that Mary Ann McNeil was coming back to school. Sent the draft of the timetable for the intermediate division to H.M.I. for his approval.**

December 1884

5th **Received timetable from H.M. Inspector of schools with suggestions which will be attended to. Clerk to School Board called to say that the New Year Holidays would extend from 26th December to 5th January 1885. Informed him about the state of the ground at the water closets which is too low and floods them, also that the attendance for the past week had been very much reduced from the former owing to the severity of the weather.**

19th **Several girls of the senior division had been absent owing to colds. The sanitary inspector inspected the closets and remarked that they were remarkably clean. The pupil teacher was off duty on Wednesday owing to illness.**

26th **Yesterday the pupils presented their teachers with Christmas gifts, a half day holiday was granted. Today we dismissed for the New Year holidays which are to extend for a week.**

1885

January 1885

- 9th Resumed duties after the holidays. The staff at their posts except Mr Pryde who went home to attend his brother's marriage. Several pupils have been absent. Received word that Maggie Liddell had left school. Informed Miss Lithgow to be very particular in making the registers.
- 16th The past week has been stormy which has told materially upon the attendance. Pupil teacher required to go home on Wednesday afternoon owing to sickness.
- 30th The school board officer called he reported that Joan Purvis, Mary Jane Gilroy and Alice Yule had left school. Several pupils have been laid up with cold during the past week.

February 1885

- 6th The attendance during the past week has been very bad. A great number of children are laid up with colds. Attended the funereal of my much respected friend Mr Mennon on Thursday afternoon. During my absence Mr Pryde took charge of the classes.
- 13th A good number of children have been absent during the past week. School board officer called he reported the Thomas Greig, and Mary

Ann Allan who was required at home had left school.

20th There is still a considerable number of pupils laid up with colds. Yesterday the school was closed being the half yearly Fast Day. The attendance today has been considerably diminished as is often the case after a break.

27th The school Board officer called he reported that Maggie Nisbet had left school being required at home. The weekly lessons in Music were given.

March 1885

6th Tuesday being the March Hiring Fair at Duns several of the senior pupils were kept at home. Wednesday was very stormy which told very much upon the attendance. Was informed that Christina Anderson was going to service.

20th The School board officer called for the names of absentees of whom there was a good number. The following are some of the excuses for absence – “Mother unwell”- “Gathering sticks” – “Away from home”-“Mother needs her”- “Unwell”.

27th Received notice from Clerk to School Board that the Pupil teachers’ examination was tomorrow at Duns at the usual time. Miss Lithgow being on the short list for a situation under the Govan School board was absent

yesterday and today in order that they might have an interview with her. Miss Johnston ex-pupil teacher took her place during her absence. Mr Pryde's throat being affected by the cold, there was no singing lesson today.

April 1885

2nd Was informed by Mr Pennycook H.M.I.A ⁶ that until further notice the examination of pupil teachers would be at Duns on the last Saturday of March. Tomorrow, being Good Friday permission was given to make it a holiday.

10th Mr Pryde having gone home on Good Friday was unable to get a suitable train for Monday morning, he returned in the afternoon. Today has been very wet and a number of children from the country have been absent.

15th The attendance during the last three days has been gradually decreasing the cause being an epidemic of Measles. The school is closed until April 27th.

Copy of Medical Certificate.

“I hereby certify that there is at present a very severe epidemic of measles in the village and

⁶ This abbreviation probably means Her Majesty's Inspector's Assistant.

neighbourhood, which makes it expedient, that the school should be closed.”

Signed James D. Jeffrey L.R.G.P&S Ed’
Ayton April 15th 1885.

27th Resumed work today but the number of pupils was so extremely small that they were dismissed before the full time specified in the code. The school was to be closed until the 11th May.

May 1885

15th Resumed work on Monday a good number of scholars is still absent. The pupil teacher was absent one morning owing to illness.

22nd School board officer received the names of absentees. Was informed that Mary Ann McNeil, Jane Aikman and John Rae had left school; the first was required at home and other two were leaving the Parish at the term.

29th This being the Term week the attendance has been broken and there have been several removals. The pupil teacher being unwell her sister has taken her place during the past week.

June 1885

5th The pupil teacher was still unable to attend to her duties and her sister has continued to take her place.

12th **The pupil teacher has still been unable to be at her post but her duties have been well discharged by her sister.**

19th **The pupil teacher was able to resume her duties. The Clerk to the school board called and said that the inspection and examination of this school was to take place on Thursday 25th current. The songs prepared by the scholars for examination day were rehearsed.**

25th **School Inspected:- Present 79 boys 90 girls, under:-
William Cook certified teacher of 3rd class
Agnes B. Lithgow certified teacher of 3rd class
David Pryde Assistant teacher Article 79
Laura Martin pupil teacher of second year.**

Signed:- Andrew E. Scougal H.M.I.

Tomorrow being the day after our inspection and examination was given as a holiday.

July 1885

3rd **The classes met on Monday and were re-arranged on the understanding that those who has not passed would return to their former class. Gave orders for certain new school books, viz History for standard 1V, and Historical Reader for standards V & V1. The boys of standards V & V1 received lessons in map and**

free hand drawing during the time the girls were sewing. Tuesday being the Annual Holiday of the Village the school was closed on that day.

10th Have got new reading books (Chambers Graduated Series). Received the duplicate examination schedules and got the classes properly arranged. Gave some words of advice to the scholars regarding regularity of attendance at school.

17th The attendance during past week has been broken. Today a good number of pupils have gone picnicing to Coldingham sands.

24th Thursday being the fast Day the school was closed.

31st Dismissed for the holidays which are to extend for six weeks. The pupils received advice regarding regularity of attendance at school. Those who had excelled in Spelling received Prize books.

Ayton Public School (Berwick)

Summary of Inspector's report on the school and remarks (if any) to be made.

“The school has suffered much lately from epidemic and had to be closed from the middle

of April till the middle of May. Notwithstanding this, the results of examination show this year marked and most creditable improvement in the state of the instruction in the Senior department (i.e:- above the second standard). There is still weakness in the Arithmetic of the fourth standard and great weakness in that of the fifth; but in all other portions of the work, both written and oral the results are highly satisfactory. Grammar and Intelligence are now very good throughout and special commendation is due to all the written work and to the map drawing. The instruction in the junior department continues in every respect most satisfactory. The discipline throughout the school is excellent.”

J. L. Martin⁷ has passed well.

HOLIDAYS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14TH

September 1885

- 18th Resumed work after the autumn holidays. The scholars of the Junior and Infants departments are well out; but those of the intermediate and Senior Departments have not turned out well. All the staff were ready to commence work.
- 25th A Fancy Fair has drawn away a number of the senior pupils during the past two days.

⁷ Although entered as J.L Martin, it should be L.J. Martin

October 1885

- 2nd Made out a list of absentees for the school board. A good number of the senior pupils is still absent; the excuses given are, “the harvest is not past”, “that they are required at home”, “they are gathering corn”.
- 9th Photographs of the children were taken according to their classes and arrangements were such as not to interfere with the working of the school.
- 23rd The classes now are in good working order. The School board officer called it was reported that William Haggarty, and John Shearlaw had left school both having passed standard V. The School Board Officer was to report whether Thomas Wood & Robert Fairlie had also left school. The attendance yesterday was reduced owing to a number of the senior pupils being at Eyemouth on the occasion of the opening of the new harbour and the laying of the memorial stone.
- 30th The attendance of the senior division during the past week has been very far from satisfactory. The reason assigned in some cases is that they are helping to take up the potatoes. The infants received their usual lessons and also a lesson on “Milk, Butter and Cheese”.

November 1885

- 6th The attendance has been very unsatisfactory the cause has been taking up potatoes. Showed to the Clerk to School Board the names of irregular attenders and the attendances they had made during the past month. During the past week the dinner hour has been only half and hour so as allow country children to get home earlier.
- 13th A good number of the senior boys have been engaged in lifting potatoes. Impressed upon the pupils the great benefit arising from regularity of attendance.
- 20th The School Board Officer called. Made special enquiry regarding pupils who had passed standard V wished to ascertain if they were coming back again to school.
- 27th Mr Pryde was allowed to leave half an hour earlier and standard 111 to ex1V had special drill in Arithmetic.

December 1885

- 3rd Owing to the school room being used for General Election purposes we dismissed till Monday.

- 11th** **The weather during the past week has been very wintry and several pupils have been absent owing to the cold.**
- 18th** **Several pupils have been absent during the past week on the account of illness.**
- 25th** **Today the pupils presented their teacher with valuable Christmas Gifts- a half holiday was granted. Several pupils have been absent owing to colds and sickness.**
- 31st** **Dismissed for the New Year holidays which are to extend to 11th January 1886.**

1886

January 1886

- 15th** **Resumed work after the New Year Holidays. The pupil teacher was off duty for two days owing to bad health.**
- 29th** **The attendance at the beginning of the week was very much broken owing to stormy weather.**

February 1886

5th **The staff have been attentive to duty. Mr Pryde was allowed to get away a little earlier this afternoon, having to go from home.**

19th **A good number of children are laid up with cold. Today the weather has been very stormy and the attendance has been thin.**

26th **Thursday being the Spring Fast Day the school was closed.**

March 1886

5th **The school was opened as usual on Monday and on Tuesday a storm of snow and wind took place of uncommon severity. The consequence was that the attendance was a mere handful. On Wednesday morning there was no improvement in the attendance and it was agreed that the school should be closed for remainder of the week.**

12th **Some of the roads have been impassable during the past week so that the children could not come to school. Received information regarding the death of Annie Cairns.**

19th **During the past three weeks the weather has been very stormy and consequently the attendance has been very bad. On Tuesday afternoon the school was closed as a mark of respect for Mr Innes of Ayton Castle who was buried on that day.**

26th **The pupil teacher was informed according to information given last year, that the pupil teacher examination would be at Duns on Saturday the first, gave instructions to be in time. A test examination was held for standards 111 and 1V.**

April 1886

2nd **The attendance of the senior division during the past week has been very irregular, the cause of which is that the senior pupils are kept for home work, or are sent to work.**

16th **During the past week four new pupils have been admitted into the infant department. About this season of the year pupils who can be of service are taken from school to work.**

22nd **The School Board having agreed to make tomorrow a holiday the school will be closed.**

30th **Mr Pryde having gone to Glasgow on Good Friday was unable to be back in time for his duties on the Monday morning. All the dull pupils have had extra care during the past week.**

May 1886

21st **The sanitary Inspector inspected the water closets this day and found all correct.
Signed John McRae.**

28th **The weather during the past week has rather stormy for the season. This being term week the attendance has suffered in consequence.**

June 1886

4th **The work of the past week has mainly consisted of revising. Several pupils have left school, some have removed from the Parish, others have gone to work in the fields.**

11th **Received intimation from Mr Edington that the examination and inspection of the school would be on Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th June at 9.15 am.**

16th **School Inspected: - Present – Boys 108, Girls 98
Staff - William Cook certified teacher of 2nd class
 Agnes B. Lithgow certified teacher of 3rd class
 David Pryde Assistant teacher Article 79
 Laura Martin Pupil teacher of third year
Signed :- Andrew E. Scougal H.M.I.
 W. Pennycook Inspectors Assistant.**

The school was closed till Monday 21st for holidays.

**23rd Visited school without notice for completion of annual inspection.
Signed Andrew E. Scougal H.M.I.**

25th Re-arranged the classes for the coming year. The scholars were informed what school books would be required for the various classes. The singing lessons today consisted in drill on the modulator.

July 1886

2nd Having received the duplicate examination schedules the classes were properly arranged. Tuesday being the annual holiday the school was closed.

9th Owing to the school being used for General Election Purposes we were required to close from Monday at dinner time till Wednesday morning.

16th On Tuesday the attendance was small owing to a picnic which took away a good number of scholars. Some of the senior pupils are working and it is probable they will not return to school.

23rd

The school board officer called and reported that William Thompson had left school. Thursday being the half yearly Fast Day there was no schooling on that day.

30th

Dismissed for the summer holidays which are to extend for six weeks. Mr Joseph Wood, member of the school board, visited the school this afternoon and gave the children some suitable advice regarding attendance at school and improving the days of their youth. A number of books were awarded to pupils who had attended well during the past year, also to those in the intermediate and senior divisions who had excelled in Arithmetic and Dictation.

Ayton public School (Berwick)

Summary of Inspector's Report on the School and remarks (if any) to be made.

"The school continues throughout all its departments in a state of discipline and instruction that reflects much credit on the ability and zeal of the teaching staff. Very good progress has been in the past year in both standard and class subjects. The written work of the fifth and sixth standards is not quite up to the high mark of all the rest of the work".

L. J. Martin has passed well.

School staff for the current year:-

**William Cook certified teacher of 2nd class
Agnes B. Lithgow certified teacher of 2nd class
David Pryde Assistant teacher Article 79
Laura Martin Pupil teacher of 4th year.**

HOLIDAYS TO 13TH SEPTEMBER

September 1886

- 17th Resumed school work after the autumn vacation. Harvest work is not finished in this district which accounts for the small number of country child present.**
- 24th Introduced as text books Nelsons Geography for standards V & V1; also Chambers History and Geography combined for standard 1V.**

October 1886

- 1st Sent to the Clerk of School Board the following list of articles which would be required for school use. Viz : “Howard Vincent’s Map of the British Empire”, “a large map of the British Isles”. A set or sets of illustrations for lessons in elementary Science and lesson sheets with alphabet and money tables.**
- 8th Philip Hastie and his sisters have left for Dunbar.**

15th **The wet weather has interfered with the attendance of the past week. Got maps and a number of object lessons from school board; also lesson sheets for infant department.**

29th **A good number of the senior pupils have been engaged at potato lifting which has considerably reduced the attendance. All the staff have been at their posts and they have faithfully discharged their duties.**

November 1886

5th **During past week the attendance has been very much reduced owing to potato lifting.**

12th **Our numbers are not yet fully up. Was informed that Maggie Marshall and Maggie Cairns had left the school both being required at home.**

19th **The School Board Officer called and he was requested to ask if some who have passed standard V were going to return to school. As the days are gradually getting shorter the dinner hour has been curtailed by a quarter of an hour thus enabling the scholars to get home earlier.**

26th **Was informed that John Aitchison and William Purves had gone to work.**

December 1886

- 3rd With sudden appearance of winter the attendance has considerably fallen off. Received information that William Jackson and George Swanson had left school as they were going to work. Duties of the school have been discharged in a faithful and painstaking manner.
- 10th Weather on Wednesday was very stormy and it told upon the attendance.
- 24th The weather during the past week has been very stormy and our attendance has been very irregular. Today the children with their accustomed liberality presented their teachers with Christmas gifts which were kindly given and as kindly received. The school was closed this afternoon.
- 31st Dismissed for the New Year holidays which are to be the first week of the New Year 1887.

1887

January 1887

- 14th Resumed work after the New Year holidays. The weather is very unsettled and the attendance is considerably broken. The work of

the school has been performed with care and energy.

21st The stormy weather has kept a good number of pupils from school.

February 1887

4th Maggie Ewart entered upon her work as monitor with the object of being a pupil teacher. Had a visit of the agent of ‘The North of England School Furnishing Company Limited’ who showed specimens of books and maps.

11th As scarlet fever is in several homes in the village the scholars of the different families are kept from school. Mr Pryde’s request to get away a little earlier this afternoon, as he was going from home, was granted. The modulation of the voice when reading has been carefully attended to and illustrated by the teachers.

18th School Board Officer called and reported that as scarlet fever was prevalent a good number of pupils were absent.

25th In families where the scarlet fever is, the children are still absent from school. Thursday being the Spring Fast Day the school was closed.

March 1887

4th **The pupils who are absent on account of scarlet fever, have not yet returned to school.**

11th **Today the weather has been very stormy and as a consequence our attendance has been considerably diminished. The pupils on the whole have taken great interest in their work where negligence was manifested special attention has been bestowed. Weak points have been noted and means adopted to strengthen. Received information that George Lugton and Thomas Haggarty had left school as they were going to work.**

18th **In families where the fever is, the pupils are still absent. Miss Lithgow got leave of absence on Wednesday as she was going to Edinburgh to attend the marriage of a friend.**

25th **Received a note which informed that Sarah Greig had left school to go to service. Informed the pupil teacher and candidate that the examination would be tomorrow (the last Saturday of March) at Duns.**

April 1887

1st **Pupils in whose homes scarlet fever was, are now back to school.**

8th Today our attendance in the senior and intermediate departments has been considerably diminished it being Good Friday.

15th Mr White from Newcastle, a former pupil of this school paid a visit.

21st As the scholars did not get Good Friday as a holiday it was announced that tomorrow would be holiday. Miss Lithgow and Mr Pryde got leave of absence for two days (Wednesday and Thursday) as they were going to a marriage. School Board Officer called was informed that James Haggerty was not coming back to school until after the term.

29th There are still cases of fever in the district and families where it is, are still absent.

May 1887

6th Ruth Duncan, Alistair and Annie Mackenzie have gone to Edinburgh.

27th Yesterday being the term day a great many scholars were absent. The school board officer got the names of absentees. He informed me that several of the children were leaving the district. Gave the boys of standards V and VI lessons on the manufacture of paper.

June 1887

- 3rd** Received the new registers and began to mark them according to the instructions issued by the education department. Admitted several new pupils.
- 10th** Received notice from clerk to school board that the examination and inspection of the school would be on Monday the 13th June at 9.5 am. Gave instructions to pupils to be in time.
- 13th** School inspected.
Present 115 Boys, 96 Girls under staff as at page 172 ⁸
Signed Andrew E. Scougal H.M.I.
- 17th** Mr Pryde obtained leave of absence this afternoon.
- 24th** Tuesday 21st was a holiday in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. The School Board Officer called he reported that Blanch Sinclair had left school.

July 1887

- 1st** The school was closed on Tuesday as it was the annual midsummer holiday. The pupils having got their new school books are now ready for their new work. Introduced a new Geographical

⁸ This refers to the page number in the original log book and not this transcription, for names see entry for 30th July 1886.

and Historical reader for standard 111; also Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" and Chambers Course of Arithmetic for standards V and VI.

8th Introduced Royal Scottish reader for standard 111. School Board Officer informed me that Marion Tait had left school. The attendance of senior girls has been irregular.

15th Introduced as a second reading book "Royal Scottish Reader" for standard 1V.

22nd Yesterday several of the senior boys went to the bathing and were late in afternoon. They received suitable punishment for their conduct. Was informed that Jessie Walker had left school.

29th Was informed by Clerk to School Board that the school would be closed for vacation today. Mr Joseph Wood member of school board called this afternoon and after hearing the children sing he announced that the vacation would be for six weeks. He trusted that the pupils would return to school after the holidays and keep on attending steadily. Thursday being the Summer Fast Day the school was closed.

HOLIDAYS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12TH

September 1887

- 16th** Resumed the work of the school after the holidays. Owing to the additional room not being ready for occupation the scholars have been confined to two rooms. Informed Miss Lithgow regarding perfect accuracy of registration.
- 23rd** Owing to a considerable increase of pupils this week, our accommodation has been very limited. The work has been performed under great disadvantage to both teachers and pupils.
- 30th** The clerk to School Board called with pupil teacher indenture, examination schedules, and report on the school which is found below. The various classes are now properly arranged, the new room being now occupied. Was informed that Blanche Sinclair and Elizabeth Cockburn had left school.

Ayton Public School (Berwick)

Summary of the Inspectors report on the school and remarks (if any) to be made.

“Discipline and tone of the school continue excellent throughout. The standard work is highly satisfactory in all points except the Arithmetic of the fifth and sixth standards. The style of all the written work deserves special commendation. Praise is due also to the care bestowed upon the reading which is especially good in the first, second, third and fourth

standards. The work in both English and Geography and History as class subjects is good. Elementary Science has been taken upon as a third class subject for the boys with fair success. In the teaching of it more use should be made of illustration by actual objects, specimens and experiments. The formation of a school museum would do much to promote interest in this subject. Sewing as a third class subject for the girls has been taught with very creditable success. More attention to thoroughness and finish will, however be looked for next year as a condition of recommending the higher rate of grant. The junior section of the school is, as formerly, taught with much care and efficiency; but the cramped and unsatisfactory nature of the present accommodation for the infants causes considerable hesitation in awarding to this section, as a whole the mark “good” under Article 19B (a).

J. L. Martin⁹ has passed well. She should be informed that she is now qualified under Articles both 60 and 79.

A.S. (*Andrew Scougal*) H.M.I.

Thomas Thompson Correspondent.

October 1887

14th The weather during the past week has been very stormy and that accounts so far for the broken attendance; also a number of the senior pupils

⁹ Although entered as J.L.Martin, this should have been L.J. Martin

have been engaged lifting potatoes. Was informed that Agnes Wicks had gone to London; and Jane Stewart who had passed in standard V1 had left school. Informed the pupils that money for the purchase of coals would be taken on Monday.

21st The attendance of the senior division during the past week has been very irregular. The chief cause of which has been the potato lifting; when the children are employed. As the days are shortening the pupils were informed that they would meet at 9 o'clock am instead of 9.30 and thus the work of the school would be properly performed.

28th The attendance of the senior division has been very slack, the pupils having been engaged at potato lifting. The school has been taken in during the past week at 9.00am thus enabling the scholars to get home half an hour earlier.

November 1887

4th In the senior division the attendance has been defective. The pupils are still engaged at potato lifting.

11th The beginning of the week was wet and stormy which lessened the attendance. The school board officer called and reported that James Darrie was coming back to school.

- 16th** Examined the registers and found all correct Arch' Edington. Correspondent.
- 18th** Owing to the severity of the weather the attendance has been irregular. The duties of the school have been discharged with faithfulness and zeal.
- 25th** Tuesday being a very wet and stormy day our attendance was very much reduced. The weather being very changeable several of the pupils have shown symptoms of illness.

December 1887

- 2nd** A numbers of pupils have had colds owing to the changes in the weather.
- 9th** Was informed that measles had broken out at a family in Ayton and it was thought advisable that the other children of the family should remain at home. The Clerk to the School Board called to inform me that Miss Laura Martin would during the next week take the place of Mr Pryde who was going to Edinburgh for the Christmas Examination.
- 16th** During the past week the interval for dinner has been curtailed by a quarter of an hour thus enabling the scholars to get away earlier in the afternoon. Miss Martin, ex-pupil teacher has

taken the place of Mr Pryde who has attended the Christmas Examination. The School Board Officer called and reported that Alexander White of Ayton Law had left the district, also that Maggie Phillips had left the school.

23rd The weather during the past week has been very stormy which has kept a number of scholars from school. They received a half holiday today. A great number of pupils absent owing to a Soiree which is to be held in the Volunteer Hall at four o'clock pm.

30th The school was dismissed for the New Year Holidays which are to extend for a week. Before the children left two books were given to boys who had made the greatest number of attendances during the past year. Suitable addresses were given to the pupils showing the advantages of regularity of attendance at school. The benefits would be twofold both for the present and the future.

1888

January 1888

12th Resumed work after the New's Year holidays. The attendance was a great deal less than the ordinary owing to colds and sore throats. The

school was closed on Friday owing to my mother being buried on that day.

20th Several are still absent on account of colds. Sent Clerk to School Board a list of school fees collected from 1st June 1887 to 31st December 1887; also a notice that we would be much the better for illustrations in connection with our lessons in Natural History, Botany, and Agriculture.

27th The following have been found to be improvements on the timetable – Bible Knowledge from 9.30 to 9.50 – Registers from 9.50 to 10.00 am. Interval from 10.50 to 11.00 am. Dinner hour from 12.30 to 1.30pm. Interval in the afternoon from 2.50 to 3.00pm. Dismiss at 4.00pm. The Infants leave in the Forenoon 11.40 and in the afternoon 3.15.

February 1888

10th The Clerk to School Board called and informed me, that the School Board Officer had Reported that the children whose names were give to him as absentees were unwell.

17th Wrote to H.M.I. of Schools regarding pupil teacher examination on 31st March and was informed that it would be according to the new code first schedule. Mr Pryde has been laid off duty for three days on account of sore throat.

Today the weather has been stormy and the attendance has not been so good.

24th Yesterday being the Spring Fast Day the school was closed. Today the weather has been stormy which has prevented the children from attending. Held an examination for standards V and VI in arithmetic, composition and grammar.

March 1888

2nd Mr Edington member of school board called and checked the registers. Mr Pryde received notice from the School Correspondent that he has passed in the Second division first year and would receive a third class certificate. He requested to get home this afternoon as his brother was going to America and he would like to bid him good-bye. His request was granted.

9th The attendance has been low owing to a good number of infants being unwell, also the March hiring fair was held on Tuesday when several of the older pupils were absent.

16th The weather during the past week has been very stormy, particularly the last two days, so much so, that after consulting members of School Board- the school was to be closed this afternoon. Yesterday the attendance was small, but today it is even considerably reduced on account of the roads being blocked.

23rd During the past week there has been a great deal of stormy weather, the result being that the attendance has been irregular. Illness has prevented several from attending. As the days are now considerably lengthened we are enabled to have the dinner hour from 1.00pm to 2.00 pm.

29th Tomorrow being Good Friday the school will be closed, it being a holiday. Today the weather has been wet and stormy thus preventing several from attending. Today all the scholars attending school were presented with an orange the gift of friends.

April 1888

6th With consent of the chairman of the school board instead of meeting at 9.30 we will meet during the summer months at 9.00am. Several new scholars have been admitted during the past week. I was informed that Isabella McCrow had left school.

May 1888

11th Received notice that Alexander Nisbet and Thomas Learmouth had left school and gone to work; also that James Haggerty would be absent all the summer and harvest and perhaps during the winter. When the pupils get the

length of the fifth standard, the parents consider they have more liberty to employ their children at home, the consequence being that interest in their school work is broken and they fall behind the rest of the class.

18th Had occasion to go from home on Wednesday, the school was left in charge of Mr Pryde and Miss Lithgow. As the May term approaches the senior pupils are kept more at home, thus making the attendance irregular.

25th The Clerk to the School Board gave notice that the examination and the inspection of the school would be on Tuesday 5th June at 9.30 am. This being the term week a number of children have left school. The school was closed on Wednesday afternoon the school board having granted a half holiday, on the occasion of the laying of the Memorial Stone of Burnmouth Hall.

June 1888

1st A considerable number of children have left the parish owing to the changes at the May term. The pupils were informed as to the day of the examination by H.M. Inspector of schools.

5th School inspected W.N. King H.M.I.¹⁰

¹⁰ This is a change of H.M.I., the above appears to have replaced Andrew Scougal who had been the inspector since 1874.

7th

In accordance with use and want tomorrow (Friday) will be a holiday.

22nd

The Clerk to the School Board called with the report of H.M. Inspector a copy of which is given below. For English Literature standards V, V1 and ex V1 will study during the coming session, the First Canto of Scott's Lady of the Lake.

Ayton Pupil School (Berwick)

Summary of the Inspectors report on the school and remarks (if any) to be made.

“The tone and the discipline are excellent and general results of the examination are quite satisfactory. The junior classes are very well taught. Reading and writing are especially good, but mental arithmetic is not quite on the same level. A regular and graded course of object lessons should be given in this department. The third and fourth standards make a very creditable appearance in the ordinary subjects, while in the fifth and sixth reading is good and the written work is fair. The higher grants for English, History and Geography are well earned and the older boys have also received intelligent instruction in Agriculture and Botany. Sewing is very good”.

M. Ewart has passed fairly.

29th **Tuesday being the Mid- Summer holiday the school was closed.**

July 1888

6th **The School Board officer called with a book for entering the names of irregular and absent scholars; the list was made out and given to him. The children in standard 111, 1V, V,V1, and ex V1 have been taught part singing.**

13th **During the past week the weather has been wet. Received information that A.W. Hume, a former pupil, had obtained a Bursary in connection with Heriot School in Edinburgh.**

20th **The weather during the past week has been very wet which considerably reduced our attendance. Was informed that Jane Liddle who has passed standard V1 had left school.**

27th **The school board Officer got a list of irregular attenders and absentees for three weeks ending 21st June 1888. Yesterday being the Half Yearly Fast Day the school was closed. Standards V, V1, exV1 had an examination today in order that the prize book given by the Boarder Counties Association may be awarded.**

August 1888

3rd

The attendance today has been very poor owing to most of the children being at a picnic. Was informed by the Clerk to the School Board that the following had received leaving certificates, viz:- Andrew Marshall, James Brown, John Hume, and Agnes Nisbet, also that Annie Simpson who has passed the V1 standard had left school.

10th

Today the school closed for the autumn holidays. The Board Counties Association having given a donation of prize books; after well contested competitions they were distributed today. The School Board, having invited parents and friends to attend, of whom there were a large number, announced by their chairman the holidays would extend by six weeks. The infants and the junior department after being exercised in various pleasing ways; the intermediate and senior departments executed a programme of songs, recitations and readings to the evident satisfaction of a large and deeply interest audience. After a few remarks from the Chairman of the Board, and Rev'd Mr Wilson the closing song was sang and the benediction was pronounced. Having gone to the playground. An interesting list of sports was entered upon and carried through with great éelat. The whole proceedings of the day were conducted in a true business like spirit and they afforded great delight to spectators, pupils and teachers.

HOLIDAYS UNTIL 22ND SEPTEMBER.

September 1888

28th School was reopened Monday last after six weeks vacation. The harvest is late this year and senior boys and girls are needed to carry food to the harvesters.

October 1888

8th Examined all the registers and found them marked up to date and correct
Signed:- Joseph Wood.

12th Was informed that Maggie Spratt and exV1 pupil had left school.

19th A number of the senior pupils have not yet put in an appearance. The excuses are, they are engaged in harvest work or have the potatoes to take up. Was informed that John Foster had left school to become an apprentice draper. Mr Innes from Llanelly in Wales visited the school today and expressed his pleasure at seeing the children so healthy and the instruction and discipline excellent. Informed the pupil teacher that style of reading must be improved.

26th A number of children have been assisting with the potato lifting and some of the senior pupils

have not yet put in an appearance since the holidays. Directed the attention of Mr Pryde to the timetable approved by H.M. Inspector where from 3.00pm to 4.00pm there is time set apart for lessons in science. I find it is highly beneficial to take drawing from 3.00 to 3.30 pm and science from 3.30 to 4.00 pm.

November 1888

2nd Potato lifting has been very general during the past week. The School Board Officer received a list of scholars who have not attended school since the holidays.

9th A good number of pupils are still engaged in potato lifting. The interval for dinner has been shortened by a quarter of an hour thus enabling us to dismiss earlier in the afternoon.

16th The past week has been rather stormy and has told upon the attendance. Brogan's father called to say that being a Roman Catholic he had gone to Berwick School.

23rd The Clerk to the School Board called with the following extract of minutes:
Copy of letter dated 23rd November 1888.

Mr William Cook,
Dear Sir – I am instructed by the Board to inform you that the school doors must be kept open for all children attending Ayton Public

School, during the dinner hour in order to their comfort; and no child must be kept after 4.00pm in the afternoon any day in which the school is open for instruction. ”

**Yours truly,
Thomas Thompson (clerk).**

30th Mr Pryde obtained leave on Friday afternoon to attend a marriage. Mrs Rae called to explain the causes of absence of her son John – which was very unsatisfactory.

December 1888

28th Examined all the registers and founded them all marked up to date and correct. Signed:- Joseph Wood.

Dismissed for the New Year Holidays. Before doing so the boys presented their teachers with beautiful gifts. After a few suitable remarks the school was closed in the usual manner.

1889

January 1889

11th Resumed work after a week’s holiday. This week has been mainly taken up with efforts to

rub off the rust which had gathered during the vacation. The Wood family, five in number, have left for Swansea.

25th A case of fever having been reported it was considered best, that the children from that family should not attend school until the Doctor gave liberty. There are some laggards who require spurring up.

February 1889

1st During the past week the weather has been rather wet and stormy which has lessened the attendance. Received intimation of the death of Joan Braidwood, who has been ill for a considerable time. As a mark of respect Mr Pryde and myself along with a number of the senior pupils attended her funeral. At the grave we sang the beautiful hymn “Asleep in Jesus, Blessed Sleep.” – To the tune “Retreat.” Many of the children were much impressed by the service.

15th The weather during the past week has been very much against the attendance of pupils. Several have colds and others cannot come owing to the severity of the weather.

22nd Thursday (yesterday) being the Spring Fast Day the school was closed.

March 1889

- 1st Was informed that Thomas Shearlaw who had passed the sixth standard had gone to work. Made enquiry regarding Thomas Swanson who is confined to bed with a very sore leg, found that he could not attend school for a considerable time. Intimated that several pupils had not paid their coal money, nor ink money for the last two months.
- 8th Tuesday being Duns hiring for farm servants, we learnt the next day that several pupils were leaving the district.
- 15th Informed those who had not paid their coal money that it was overdue and should be paid at once.
- 22nd Wednesday being a very stormy day attendance was greatly diminished. Most of the country children being absent.
- 29th Tomorrow being the last Saturday of March informed the pupil teacher that the annual examination would take place at Duns. Through the kindness of friends, each pupil was today presented with an orange.

April 1889

- 5th** Was informed that John Kerr had gone to work. Admitted George White as a new pupil; and James Cowe and Maggie Virtue who are now passed seven years of age, were transferred from D Registers to C Registers.
- 8th** Examined all the registers and found them all correct and marked up to date.
Joseph Wood chairman.
- 12th** A great deal of rain has fallen which has made the roads very muddy. A good many scholars are complaining of colds.
- 18th** Tomorrow being Good Friday according to use and want the school will be closed. Filled a schedule bearing upon the amount of school fees for the year ending 31st May last; the number of scholars who paid and the number of free scholars.
- 26th** Mr Pryde got leave of absence this afternoon as he was going from home; also Miss Lithgow, having gone home (Stevenson, Ayrshire) on Good Friday, obtained leave of absence last Monday.

May 1889

- 2nd** Found the water closets connected with the public school in Ayton in a good sanitary condition.

Signed:- John McRae. Sanitary Inspector.

10th Yesterday the school was closed in the afternoon having to attend the funeral of my sister in law. Received the government examination Schedules and relative papers from clerk to School Board.

24th The pupil teacher became ill yesterday before noon and required to go home, she has been absent today.

31st Received intimation form Clerk to School Board that H.M. Inspector would examine the school on Tuesday 4th June 9.15 am.

June 1889

**3rd Examined the registers and found the all correct and marked up to date.
Joseph Wood chairman.**

4th School inspected. W.N. King H.M.I.

7th Received duplicate examination schedules, and arranged classes accordingly. The various classes were told the school books that would be required and the need of getting them soon so as begin the work of the year in earnest. After the examination of H.M.I. the attendance is slack, some imagine that their work is past and that there is no necessity for regular attendance;

others regard it as a holiday week and they are absent till it is known whether they have failed or passed.

14th Admitted during the past week a good number of new pupils, also a few re-admissions. The School Board Officer called, he received a list of those regarding whom it is doubtful whether they will return to school.

20th As it is customary for the scholars to have a holiday after examination by H.M.I. the school will be closed tomorrow (Friday). Mr Pryde obtained leave of absence today to attend the marriage of a friend in Edinburgh.

28th Tuesday being the annual mid summer holiday the school was closed. Received from Clerk to School Board H.M. Inspectors report on this school for 1889 of which a copy is given below.

Ayton Public School (Berwick).

Summary of the Inspectors report on the school and remarks (if any) to be made.

“The efficiency of this school is very creditably maintained. In the first and second standards reading is excellent and the other work is good. The infants under the pupil teacher make a very fair appearance. In the senior division reading throughout is good and dictation and composition are satisfactory. On the other hand

considerable weakness was shown in the arithmetic particularly in the sixth standard. Of the class subjects, English, Geography and History are very good, and higher mark has been assigned, although after some hesitation, to needlework and elementary science. Singing by ear is very fair. The drawing of the elder scholars requires commendation. Cards and wall pictures are required for Miss Lithgow's room".

M. Ewart has passed fairly. Mr Pryde will shortly receive his certificate.
Thomas Thompson, Correspondent.

July 1889

- 12th Gave as subject of essay for the senior division "The Three Most Celebrated Characters in History from 1714 to 1820" and from "1820 to the Present Time"- the successful essayists to received prizes. Also informed them that there would be a spelling competition, the final test of which would take place on the day that the school is closed for the vacation. And to make the scholars expert in calculations there would also be a mental Arithmetic competition on the same day.
- 26th Yesterday being the half yearly Fast Day the school was closed. Had a visit from the chairman of the School Board. The scholars

have during the past week received extra play ground drill in view of the picnic which is to take place on Friday 2nd August. The youngster enjoyed it very much.

August 1889

2nd

Today the school closed for the autumn holidays, and we had our exhibitions and distribution of prizes. There was a large number parents and friends present who enjoyed very much what they saw and heard. A number of excellent drawings were shown, and competitions in mental Arithmetic and dictation kept the interest of the audience. Rev'd Wilson on behalf of himself and parents and friends present, expressed his great satisfaction with the proceedings of the day. After a few remarks from the Chairman of the School Board (Mr Joseph Wood); the children were formed into marching order and proceeded to the castle grounds where they were regaled with milk and buns. Afterwards an interesting programme of games was carried through with great spirit. The children having spent an amusing and profitable afternoon, returned to the playground, where they were dismissed for their six weeks vacation. A number of instructive and beautiful books were given to the most meritorious of the pupils.

HOLIDAYS UNTIL 16TH SEPTEMBER 1889.

September 1889

- 20th Resumed work after the autumn vacation. Made out a list of Natural History plates for the use of the infant and junior classes; also illustrations of botany published by W. and A. K. Johnston, Edinburgh.
- 27th Some of the senior children are absent being occupied with potato lifting. The children were informed that school fees would cease to be taken up.

October 1889

- 4th Yesterday afternoon all the scholars got a collective object lesson having received from the school board a good number of illustrations of natural history, botany and agriculture.
- 11th Was informed by parents that the senior pupils who are absent would return after the potatoes are lifted, which means the end of October – thus instead of six weeks holiday they extend the holidays to twelve. Was told that William Greig had left school.
- 18th The weather during the past week has been wet and stormy, fires have been put on for the comfort of the scholars. William Purves Esquire from Blenheim Oxfordshire, visited the school

Monday forenoon and expressed his pleasure and delight at the work of the school.

25th On dry days the older children have been involved with potato picking. Yesterday the teachers, along with a goodly company of pupils attended the funeral of Annie Patterson.

November 1889

8th The weather has been good which has enabled those who have potatoes to lift to carry on such work the consequence being that attendance of senior pupils has been irregular. Received information that Robert White, James Jackson and Simpson Buglass who have passed standard V had gone to work. Admitted James Mennon as a new pupil.

15th The weather has been good but the potato lifting is not finished. The school Board Officer got a list of names who have not yet put in an appearance since the holidays, he was to ascertain the cause of their absence. To improve the appearance of the rooms, and at the same time the minds of the children, illustrations and pictures have been hung on the walls.

22nd The dinner hour during the past week has been from 12 noon to 1pm; thus enabling the scholars to get home earlier in the afternoon. The school

was dismissed at 3.30pm. The children have also during past week received warm dinners.

29th School Board Officer reported that Mary Laurie, Jane Paterson and Janet Borthwick had left school. The School Board Officer also called with the regulations relative to the relief of school fees, which regulations are hung up on a prominent part of the school.

December 1889

13th A good number have been absent with colds. A case of scarlet fever was reported. Mr Pryde being absent for two days, there was a change in the ordinary work. When he returned he said, that he had received an appointment at Dundee as Assistant.

20th A good number of pupils still complaining of colds.

27th Today the school was dismissed for the new year holidays. Connected with it the circumstances were more than usually interesting. The chairman of the school board (Mr Joseph Wood) and the clerk and treasurer (Mr Thompson) were present. The teachers received valuable Christmas gifts and the Headmaster in the name of the scholars, presented Mr Pryde, who is leaving for a situation in Dundee, with a handsome Silver

Albert Chain and Pendant. After remarks had been made expressing kind wishes both for, and by Mr Pryde, “Auld Lang Syne” was sung with great spirit and the scholars were dismissed in the usual manner.

1890

January 1890

10th Resumed work after the New Year holidays. Miss Laura Martin entered upon her duties as assistant teacher. The ceiling of one of the rooms having fallen, the plasters have been engaged all week renewing it. This has necessitated the crowding of pupils in the classrooms. There has been no sewing this week. The singing lessons were given as usual. In order to facilitate matters standards V, V1 and ex V1 have been taught in the large room and it is especially needed in the afternoon when the boys of standards 1 and 11 come round for their lessons.

17th Some pupils are absent owing to scarlet fever, others have bad colds. Mr Herriot of Berwick gave the children a magic lantern exhibition

entitled “Trip to Canada” which was very instructive.

24th A good many children laid up with colds. The tradesmen having finished the west school room, Miss Lithgow and pupils had more comfort. Miss Martin has given object lessons on animals and plants connected with Agriculture thus following a regular graduated course of instruction.

February 1890

7th The weather has been mild but the attendance has not improved, many pupils being absent owing to colds and weakness. The school did not meet on Tuesday last, the school rooms being required in connection with the election of county councillors.

21st Examined the registers, found correct and marked to date.
Joseph Wood Chairman.

The chairman of the school board called to examine the registers. Yesterday being the Spring Fast Day, the school was closed.

28th Yesterday Miss Martin was absent – the reason given was that she was slightly unwell. Told the children to sing with expression and instructed them how to do it.

March 1890

- 7th Tuesday being Duns hiring market, a good many of the senior pupils were absent. Several pupils have been absent during past week and they have sent unsatisfactory excuses.
- 13th Examined the privies at the Public School Ayton and found them clean.
John McRae:- Sanitary inspector.
- 14th Cases of fever have been reported, and where such are, the other members of the family are not allowed to attend school.
- 21st Fever still lingers in the locality and precautions are taken to prevent its spread. Yesterday was a very wet day, attendance much reduced.
- 28th Tuesday being a wet day our attendance was greatly reduced. In homes where the fever is, the children are prohibited from attending school. Tomorrow being the last Saturday in March, the pupil teachers' examination takes place at Duns.

April 1890

- 3rd** **The utmost caution is exercised regarding pupils in whose homes there is scarlet fever, so as to prevent its spread. Tomorrow being Good Friday the school as usual will be closed – the School Board have also given Monday as a holiday. The children received the news with great delight. Hung up new regulations regarding fees.**
- 11th** **Monday being a holiday, school duties were resumed on Tuesday. New cases of scarlet fever were reported and the sanitary inspector called to receive particulars regarding fever cases.**
- 18th** **Was informed of fresh cases of scarlet fever. Mr Pryde, formally assistant teacher visited the school and gave the pupils a word of encouragement.**
- 25th** **Several pupils still absent on account of scarlet fever. On Tuesday afternoon attended the funeral of Mr George Wood formally a member of Ayton School Board. During my absence, about three quarters of an hour, Miss Martin had charge of the departments.**

May 1890

- 2nd** **Made enquiry regarding absent pupils. Although there have been no fresh cases of fever reported, in families where it is, the other members of the family are absent.**

- 9th** Another case of scarlet fever was reported and in consequence the children kept from school. Mr McRae, sanitary inspector, called and made enquiry regarding fever cases.
- 16th** Was informed that Jane Nisbet had left school, also that Alexander Virtue and Alexander Foster had left school in the mean time. Miss Martin was absent yesterday owing to illness – she was able to resume work today.
- 23rd** As it nears the May term the attendance decreases – a number of pupils leaving the locality.
- 30th** Our attendance for months past has been irregular owing to cases of scarlet fever being in our village and neighbourhood. There are for the present year many removals. Was informed by chairman of school board that our annual inspection and examination would take place on Wednesday 4th June at 9.15 am.

June 1890

- 4th** School inspected signed W.N. King H.M.I.
- 5th** According to use and want, tomorrow will be a holiday. Several new pupils have been entered on the registers during the past week. Received the examination schedules and arrange the

classes properly. Several new school books have been introduced viz Chambers Expressive Reader for classes 1, 11, 111 and 1V, also Chambers Course of Arithmetic for the same classes. Classes V and V1 have also got new reading books with Geographical lessons.

20th Having to go to Edinburgh on important business and the Female Assistants being unable to take charge for the day, the school was closed on Wednesday.

27th Tuesday being the mid summer holiday the school was closed. Several of the pupils have been absent for the remainder of the week.

July 1890

4th Received from Clerk to School board H.M. Inspectors report of which a copy follows. Tuesday being a very wet day the attendance was below the average.

Ayton Public School (Berwick)

Summary of the inspectors report on School and remarks (if any) to be made.

“In this school the classes below the third standard have been very carefully taught and may receive the highest mark. In the senior division reading is very fair throughout, in the third and fourth the written exercises are good,

in the fifth and sixth composition and arithmetic are distinctly weak. The higher mark may be recommended for English; but improvement will be looked for in Grammar next year. Geography and History are good in the senior class, but barely fair in the third and fourth. Elementary science and needlework are on the whole good. The girls do their sewing exercises with creditable skill but the display of finished work is not so good, owing apparently to the indifferent quality of the material supplied by the parents. The scholars numbered 154 and 164 on the examination schedule are disqualified under Article 19 B (a). M. Ewart has passed fairly”.

18th The School Board Officer called and he afterwards reported that George Jackson and Margaret Walker have left school being fourteen years of age, also that Charles Greig had gone to work.

25th Yesterday being the half yearly Fast Day the school was closed. The pupils of classes V and under, got musical drill, whilst the other pupils received their music lessons. Was informed that George Miller had received an appointment at Ayton Railway Station.

August 1890

1st

The attendance during past week has been exceedingly irregular owing to picnics which the children attended. On Tuesday a good number were absent owing to the above cause and on Wednesday afternoon there was a repetition of the same. Today the school was closed for the autumn vacation which is to extend for six weeks. The chairman of the school the board called this afternoon and after addressing a few words of counsel to the pupils, books were given to scholars who during the past year had made complete attendances, the school was then dismissed in the usual manner.

HOLIDAYS UNTIL MID SEPTEMBER.

Copies of medical certificate :-

I here by certify that the Ayton Public school should be closed from September 15th to September 29th 1890; on account of an epidemic of whooping cough in the village and district.

James Duncan Jeffrey L.R.C.P and S. Edin.

October 1890

3rd

Owing to the prevalence of whooping cough the reopening of the school was postponed till 29th September. The attendance has been hardly fair during this week. The illness of a great number of pupils, and country children still absent, have reduced our numbers considerably.

- 10th** **The work of the intermediate division has been curtailed owing to the absence of Miss Martin – she having been absent four the last four days because of illness. The chairman of school board called today to see if Miss Martin had returned to duty, but she was still absent.**
- 17th** **The attendance has been very slack owing to whooping cough, colds and potato lifting. A great number of country children have been engaged at the last employment. Informed the children that the weather was much colder than it had been, money would be required to purchase coals and wood. At the beginning of the week Miss Martin was able to resume work.**
- 24th** **Whooping cough still lingers in the village and several of the senior pupils are still engaged in farm work.**
- 31st** **The weather being cold, fires have been on in all of the rooms for the comfort of the children.**

November 1890

- 7th** **Weather during the past week has been wet and the afternoons dull. One of the water closets, which was not working, has been repaired by the plumber and joiner.**
- 14th** **A number of pupils are still unwell.**

21st Helen S. Wood who had left the school for a considerable time returned, and was re-entered on the register. A good number of pupils are still absent owing to whooping cough and other complaints.

28th Wintry weather having set in, the attendance has been irregular. As the days are shortening the interval for dinner has been reduced to half and hour enabling the pupils to get away earlier in the afternoon.

December 1890

5th Received the following note regarding Miss Martin's absence from school:-

Hillburn 1st December 1890.

Mr Cook, Sir, I am sorry my sister is not able to come to school today. She is suffering with her face and will need to go into Berwick to the Dentist.

**Yours respectfully,
A. E. Martin.**

Three new pupils have been enrolled this week, the brothers Scouler. The weather was very stormy on Wednesday morning and a number of country children did not attend.

- 12th** **The weather has been raw and cold which has kept several pupils from attending school.**
- 16th** **Visited school today. Examined all the registers and found them correct and marked up to date. Joseph Wood chairman.**
- 19th** **The weather although cold is seasonable. A good number of pupils are absent, some owing to illness, others unable to give satisfactory excuses.**
- 26th** **Several pupils are still unwell and that combined with stormy weather and Sabbath School Treats have caused the attendance at school to be very low. Miss Martin was absent from duty on Wednesday on account of illness. Yesterday the pupils according to use and want presented their teachers with Christmas gifts for which the teachers expressed their thanks; and a half holiday was given in memory of the occasion. Today the pupils were dismissed for a week's holiday which is to extend till 5th January 1891.**

1891

January 1891

- 9th** **Resumed work after the New Year's holidays. The weather is very cold and there are many cases of sickness, measles included. Miss Hope**

entered upon her duties as a monitor on Monday last.

16th The attendance during the past week has been low owing to the prevalence of measles, colds and the severity of the weather. Mr Wood, chairman of school board, called to make enquiries regarding the attendance of scholars. After consideration it was thought better to keep the school open till Monday and then see if the attendance was improved.
Copies of medical certificate:-

I here by certify that I advised that Ayton Public school should be closed from January 16th 1891, to February 15th 1891; on account of an epidemic of measles in the village and district.

James Duncan Jeffrey L.R.C.P and S. Edin.

February 1891

20th The school was reopened on Monday last having been closed for four weeks on account of measles. The break yesterday (it being the winter Fast Day) did not improve our attendance today.

27th Received intimation of the death of George White a pupil in the junior department. As a

mark of respect, a number of pupils and myself attended his funeral yesterday.

March 1891

- 6th Tuesday being March hiring at Duns for farm servants, a good number of country children were absent; and when there is a break in the week the attendance becomes irregular during the remainder of it.
- 13th With stormy weather there has been a decrease in attendance. Was informed that Christina Swanson had left school, she has passed standard V, and the reason given is, that she is required to help her grandmother at home. Had occasion to impress upon the minds of irregular pupils, the evil that was done by their irregularity.
- 20th Monday and Tuesday of this week were two very wet and stormy days and our attendance was very low. As the days are lengthening there is a tendency with some pupils to neglect the preparation of their lessons that however is counterbalanced by giving extra drill to those who are careless.
- 27th Informed the pupil teacher of the annual examination at Duns tomorrow and made enquiry regarding the correct time that the train left.

April 1891

- 3rd The chairman of the school board gave instruction regarding the fires.
- 17th The weather has improved and so has the attendance on the whole, but so far as the senior department is concerned, fine weather reduces the attendance, which is accounted for from the fact the their parents set them to work.
- 24th When pupils reach the sixth standard, the idea is acted upon, that regular attendance is not obligatory and consequentially the attendance of pupils above the fifth standard is very irregular. During the past week, as formally, neither time, nor attention have been speared to enable backward pupils to understand their work.

May 1891

- 1st Received intimation that John Purvis, who has passed standard V had left school and gone to work.
- 8th Was informed that Edward Nisbet had left school having gone to work. During the past week three new pupils have been enrolled (infants). Clerk to School Board called with examination schedules and other papers.

15th Was informed by Clerk to school board, that Miss Lithgow was to get the material required for the specimens of sewing.

22nd Received notice that Annie Swinney had left school, and that Mary Learmouth would not return to school for some time. Made enquiries regarding Jessie Swinton and Andrew Philips. During the past week there has been no abatement of energy and attention to benefit backward pupils.

29th This being the Whit Sunday term week the attendance has been greatly reduced on account of scholars leaving the district. The past year has been greatly broken in upon by epidemic disease which has kept scholars from school several weeks, in some cases months. Extra attention has been bestowed to overcome the difficulties. Received the new registers for next year and requisites for the approaching examinations. Miss Hope, who has been absent for a fortnight on account of measles being in her home, returned to duty on Monday last.

June 1891

5th Mr Thompson clerk to school board intimated that the annual visit of H.M.I. would be on Wednesday 24th June at 9.15.am. Received some new maps.

24th School inspected W. N. King H.M.I.

25th According to use and want, tomorrow (Friday) is a holiday.

July 1891

3rd Tuesday being the midsummer holiday the school was closed on that day. Got the classes all re-arranged and announced that pupils would be advanced according to capacity and regularity of attendance.

10th The attendance during the past week has been low the chief reasons for which are illness; pupils engaged at field work; and the wrong idea that attendance is not necessary until after the holidays.

17th Was informed that Adam Smith, whose father is a Berwick Burgess, had left school to go to Berwick Corporation Academy; also that Helen Braidwood, who has been an ex V1 pupil during the past year had left school.

Ayton Public School (Berwick)

Summary of the inspectors report on the school and remarks (if any) to be made.

“In assessing the results on the present occasion allowance has been made for the effects of the

epidemic. The infants make a very fair appearance. It is understood that slates are now to be provided for this class. In the first and second standards reading and spelling are very good; Writing is good, arithmetic is on the whole good. In the four upper standards, reading is good, but some weakness is shown in the written exercise and particularly in arithmetic. In view of the special circumstances the mark good may this year be recommended for the elementary subjects in both divisions. The higher mark for needlework has been recommended after considerable hesitation, on account of the indifferent character of the sewing shown as the work of the pupils during the year. The other class subjects are quite satisfactory. Singing by ear is very fair. Margaret Ewart has passed fairly – she should be informed that she is now qualified under both articles 60 & 79.”

24th Yesterday being the half yearly Fast Day the school was closed.

31st Was informed by Chairman of school board that the vacation would take place on 14th August and would extend for six weeks; also that Miss Martin was leaving (giving up teaching) and that Miss Ewart ex pupil teacher had been appointed to take her place as female assistant.

August 1891

- 6th As the vacation draws nigh, the attendance gradually decreases. Having to go to Duns on important business the school will be closed till Monday.
- 14th The school was closed today for the autumn vacation which will extend for six weeks. The chairman of the school board being present gave the children a short address – the subject being “Irregularity of attendance at school – its evils and cures”. Received from chairman of school board a circular letter about instruction in Technical Education sent by the committee of the Berwickshire County Council.
HOLIDAYS UNTIL 28TH SEPTEMBER.

October 1891

- 2nd Resumed the duties of the school on Monday last. Miss Ewart ex pupil teacher has taken the place of Miss Martin, resigned. Received circulars about attendance at school from school board, which were distributed amongst the scholars.
- 9th Received liberty from the school board to go to Duns on Monday forenoon to confer with a committee of the County Council about technical Education. With an increase of pupils there has been a considerable increase of duties.

Standard 1V has along with upper standards been taught by me. Gave Miss Ewart instructions regarding the conducting of her classes.

16th A number of the children being engaged at potato lifting and the stormy weather has prevented a number of children from attending school. Required to take standard 1V under my care, which has very much improved the working of the school. As the weather is getting cold, we propose putting fires on, on Monday morning. Arrangements have been made by the school board to improve the water closets.

23rd As the potato lifting has not yet ended the attendance has been much reduced. John Turner, who was formerly a pupil of this school, has been re-admitted. The singing lessons were given from notes – Sol-Fah method. Gave ex pupil teacher some advice regarding the conducting of her class.

30th Made enquiry regarding the absence of Jane Shearlaw and James Foster. The reply was uncertain regarding the first, and the second would return to school shortly.

November 1891

6th Was informed that Jane Shearlaw had left school.

13th **The passed week has been very stormy particularly by Wednesday when the attendance was very low. Informed Miss Ewart that more attention must be paid to the reading of standard 111 and also that the intelligence should be fuller.**

20th **Having to go from home last Tuesday the school board considered it better to close the school for the day. The following scheme of history has been approved by H.M.Inspector of schools. Viz Standard 1. Stories about Alfred the Great. Standard 11. Stories about Wallace. Standard 111. Stories about Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots. Standard 1V. From the Union of the Crowns to the Death of Queen Anne. Standard V. The Accession of the House of Hanover to the Death of George 111. Standard V1 & ex V1 The Death of George 111 to the present day. Alterations have been made on the time tables:- History instead of elementary Science. Agriculture is a specific subject and only taken by pupils above the compulsory standards. As the days are rapidly shortening the interval at midday has been curtailed to half an hour enabling the scholars to be dismissed at 3.30pm. Informed Miss Ewart that certain improvements were needed in the reading and Intelligence of standard 111.**

27th Weather during the past week has been rather trying on the health and the absentee list has been high. Owing to family affliction the school was closed yesterday.

December 1891

4th Owing to the amount of sickness in the village and neighbourhood the attendance has been much reduced. Informed Miss Ewart regarding certain defects in reading and meanings, which require immediate remedy.

11th A good number of pupils are still absent owing to colds and kindred ailments. As the mornings are dark the pupil teacher would receive her lessons from 8.15 am to 9.15 am and the school work would begin at 9.15, also the dinner interval would be from 12.30 to 1.15.

18th Cautioned pupil teacher with regard to carelessness in finding the totals of attendances for the month.

24th Dismissed for the Christmas and New Year holidays. School resumes on the 4th January 1892. Ordinary school duties have been performed.

1892

January 1892

- 8th** Resumed work after the New Year Holidays. Chairman of school board called and informed me that Miss Marshall, who had been appointed assistant teacher in room of Miss Ewart, had influenza and was thus unable to attend to her duties. Weather cold and stormy attendance much reduced.
- 15th** The weather continues cold and trying, absentees numerous. Miss Marshall entered upon her duties Monday last. The infants received an object lesson upon the elephant.
- 22nd** Miss Marshall shows much attention and energy in her work.

February 1892

- 12th** A foolish notion has got abroad, that pupils above standard V can attend school as they please, thus causing considerable irregularity and breaking the progress of the classes. Mr Smith, member of the County Council called to make arrangements for a course of lessons in cookery.
- 19th** Owing to the severity of the weather the attendance has been low. At the beginning of the week it was good but gradually fell with the temperatures. The infants received an object lesson subject "The Cow".

26th Yesterday being the Spring Fast, the school was closed. The weather being stormy our attendance for the week is low.

March 1892

4th Colds are prevalent, result being the attendance is low.

11th With the stormy weather there has been diminished attendance.

18th The infants received and object lesson subject "The Horse".

25th Tomorrow being the last Saturday of March the pupil teacher examination takes place at Duns.

April 1892

1st School Board Officer called and informed me that James McCrow, Robert Spence, Maggie Swanson and Isabella Irvin had left school. Was also informed that John Friskin had gone to work.

8th With return of fine weather the attendance has improved and this is also the time that senior pupils leave school for work.

14th Tomorrow being Good Friday the school is to be closed – as well as on Monday – the children and teachers received the news with gladness. Had a visit from Mr Pryde, who was formerly assistant teacher, now in Dundee. Yesterday attendance was very much reduced owing to the severity of the weather.

29th The attendance on Monday and Tuesday was good, on Wednesday it was much reduced owing to the stormy nature of the weather. Mr Wood chairman of school board called today, examined the registers and signed the log book.

May 1892

20th As the Whit Sunday term approaches certain senior pupils are less regular in their attendance. Those who are leaving the district are regardless, and while some are kept at home to assist at household work, others are absent without valid excuses.

June 1892

3rd Received intimation from clerk to school board that H.M.I. would visit the school on Wednesday 8th June 9.15 am.

8th School inspected W. King H.M.I.

Ayton Public School (Berwick)

Summary of the Inspectors Report on the School and remarks (if any) to be made.

“In the Junior division of this school taught by Miss Lithgow, the work is, as a whole quite satisfactory. Mental arithmetic still requires attention especially in the Infant room. The work of the third standard is quite good in all respects. In the higher standards considerable weakness was shown in arithmetic; and composition is not more than fair. The higher marks may be recommended for the three class subjects on the present occasion, but improvement will be looked for next year in the grammar of the higher standards, and in the geography and history of the fourth and fifth standards. Singing by ear is very fair; Sewing is good; Discipline throughout the school is not more than good. The pupils presented in Agriculture have made very fair progress. A. Hope has passed fairly, but should attend to spelling”.

10th

Our annual inspection took place on Wednesday 8th June and according to use and want the following day Thursday was a holiday. The School Board considering the school week nearly closed agreed to give Friday as well, and thus the school was closed till Monday morning at 9.00am.

17th Resumed work on Monday and re-arranged the classes. Gave instructions what school books to get. Introduced The Citizen Reader as a reading book for the highest class. Enrolled a number of new pupils who have come to the neighbourhood since the May term.

24th Several pupils are absent without sufficient excuse, they imagine, that it is a matter of little consequence being absent till the vacation.

July 1892

1st Tuesday being the Mid summer holiday the school was closed. During the past week the attendance has been much reduced which may arise from two causes – that the week was broken by Tuesday’s holiday or which is the more likely reason – viz that after the examination the attendance is of less importance. The School board clerk called and informed me that the Thursday 14th current would be a holiday as the school would be required for General election Purposes.

8th Yesterday, it being the occasion of a picnic and the weather being fine, the turnout was large and our attendance at school small. Today our attendance has been reduced as result of yesterday’s enjoyment.

15th On account of the General Election the school had to be closed on Wednesday afternoon to

enable the joiners to fit up the polling booths. Today we resumed work but the attendance was only fair. After school hours the children present had the opportunity of viewing an interesting stereoscopic exhibition which afforded them much pleasure.

22nd As the vacation draws near the attendance decreases and the Agricultural Show at Berwick on Tweed on Thursday (yesterday) had a decreasing effect.

29th Received intimation from School Board that the vacation would extend from 29th July till 12th September being a period of six weeks; also that our pupil teacher Miss Hope would be transferred to Burnmouth school and that Miss E. Ellis would take her place here. According to custom Mr Wood, chairman of School Board, visited the school this afternoon and gave the children some suitable advice prior to the holidays.

HOLIDAYS TO 12TH SEPTEMBER.

September 1892

16th Resumed duties after the autumn holidays. The attendance was fair for an opening day. All the staff was present and Miss E. Ellis entered upon her work taking the place of Miss A. Hope.

23rd Gave Miss Ellis some notes on teaching. Was informed that Miss Lithgow had got a situation as an assistant teacher in Glasgow and would leave after giving a months notice.

30th The harvest being late our attendance is still defective. The old custom of children being kept from school during harvest operations prevails to a large extent in this district – especially as regards senior pupils. Mr Wood chairman of School Board called with testimonials of the candidates for the female assistantship.

October 1892

7th There is still a good number of senior pupils absent which is very hurtful so far as the higher classes are concerned. Some act upon the stupid notion, that home assistance is more needful than attention to school work. The pupil teacher was instructed to give full attention to her studies; she was also shown how to maintain order, without which there cannot be effective teaching.

14th The work of the past week has been changed Miss Marshall has had standard 1V only and standard 111 along with standard V, V1, and ex V1 have been under my tuition. Discipline has thereby been much improved. This afternoon Miss Lithgow received parting gifts from the pupils and other friends. Mr Wood, chairman of

school board was present and after mutual wishes for future success – the school was dismissed in the usual manner.

21st With stormy weather and an attack of crystal pox, our attendance during the past week has been very much reduced. Miss Dunne entered upon her duties as Female Assistant on Tuesday morning. Gave Miss Ellis some instruction regarding the discipline and instruction of her classes.

28th The attendance in the senior division has, during the week which is now closed, been very irregular. A large number have been employed at potato lifting, others are laid up with crystal pox.

November 1892

4th There has been another week of very irregular attendance, owing to the number of pupils engaged at potato lifting. The manner of imparting and eliciting information was shown to Miss Ellis.

11th With a late harvest, wet weather and prolonged potato lifting our attendance has considerably decreased. Pupils above standard V are very peculiarly placed, they are to be prepared for examination and yet they may attend school or not as they please.

18th Received information that Hill Lyall who had passed standard VI had gone to work; also that William Bell had also gone to assist his parent.

December 1892

2nd Had an examination of standards 111, V, VI and V11 Arithmetic, Composition, Geography and History. Informed pupil teacher to prepare for lesson thoroughly and also to maintain good order when marching into the school room.

9th With the stormy weather there is a tendency to reduce attendance. Made enquiry regarding pupils who have been absent for a considerable time and found that some of the reasons advanced were very unsatisfactory.

16th During the past week an extra amount of work has devolved upon me, owing to Miss Marshall having gone to Glasgow for Christmas examination. The chairman of school board called and informed me that the holidays would begin on Friday 23rd December till 3rd January 1893. Was informed that Arthur McCrow had gone to reside in Edinburgh.

23rd Dismissed for Christmas and New Year holidays. Made enquiry regarding absentees and the answers received were unsatisfactory.

1893

January 1893

- 6th Resumed work after the Christmas holidays the attendance was not quite satisfactory. Many stay away and when pressed for reasons, give the most frivolous answers; others make the attendance of their children at school a matter of conscientious attention. As the days are longer the interval for dinner can be extended to an hour.
- 13th Made enquiry regarding absentees and received varied answers – some were ill and some had very unsatisfactory answers to give. By kindly firmness the negligent have been led to do their duty, so far as attention to their school work is concerned. Cases of down right deceit are rare but when they do occur they are smartly dealt with.
- 20th Philip Vickery's father having got a situation in London, the family has gone south.
- 27th Gave a list of very irregular scholars to the school board officer. The Clerk (Mr Thompson) called and gave reasons for their absence. The majority promised to attend school on Monday first; one was seriously unwell and another had to attend to a sick grandmother.

February 1893

- 3rd Some of the absentees made their appearance on Monday morning. Gave instructions to Miss Dunne to make a fortnightly list of absentees, so that with an improvement in the weather, there may be an improvement in the attendance.
- 10th Made out a list of absentees for the past fortnight, and found that in nearly every case a sufficient reason could be given. Miss Dunne having to go from home was permitted to leave earlier than the usual time.
- 17th The work of the school has been carried on with spirit and in the main with satisfactory results. There have been cases where negligence has appeared and inattention to duty – all such cases have had firm dealing. Gave special instruction to pupil teacher in school management.
- 24th Yesterday being the spring fast Day there was no schooling; when there is a break the attendance suffers.

March 1893

- 3rd On Monday the attendance was low owing to the stormy weather. A number of scholars are absent owing to illness.

- 10th** Duns hiring fair, which was held last Tuesday, took away some of the senior pupils. Miss Marshall has been off duty for a day and a half, owing to inflammation in the gums. Revised the work of the pupil teacher so that a better grasp of subjects might be obtained. The geography and history of the higher standards was supplemented by information not found in the readers.
- 17th** The work of the school has been performed with energy and attention. The children have been trained to express their difficulties and thus endeavour to see them in their true dimensions. For the past month illness has been prevalent. Yesterday several senior pupils were absent their attention being taken up with a pigeon shooting held in the Red Lion Field. J. Gribben visited the school at the interval and showed how the blind are taught to read and do arithmetic. The school was closed on Monday on account of tradesmen being employed in the large room.
- 24th** The false notion that when children attain the fifth standard their attendance is optional, causes a great amount of irregularity. Tomorrow being the last Saturday of March the pupil teacher was informed regarding the pupil teacher examination at Duns. Gave instructions to be in good time and to have all necessary arrangements completed.

30th

The School board have agreed that the school be closed tomorrow (Good Friday) also on Monday, so that both teachers and pupils will have a lengthened holiday. Was informed that Miss Marshall had passed in the third division of the first year, at the recent examination for acting teachers. Several new pupils were admitted into the infant department. This being the last page of this log book the next entry will be made on a new one.

Index

People	page	Other information
Aikman, Jane	72	pupil
Aitchison, John	85	pupil
Allan, Mary Ann	69	pupil
Anderson, Christina	70	pupil
Barrie, Joan	39	pupil
Beattie, David	28,32	Assistant Teacher
Bell, William	145	pupil
Bickerton, Anne	11	pupil
Bickerton, Thomas	30	School Board member
Bissett, Mr Andrew	50,51,52,56, 64,66	Assistant Master
Blaikie, Rev	16	visitor from

Professor		Edinburgh
Borthwick, Janet	115	pupil
Braidwood, Helen	132	pupil
Braidwood, Joan	107	pupil
Brogan's father	105	pupil's father
Brown, James	102	pupil
Brown, Mr	51	Highlaws
Buglass, Simpson	115	pupil
Burgess, Rev	32	Peebles
Cairns, Annie	79	pupil
Cairns, Maggie	85	pupil
Cameron, Rev	47	Parish Minister
William		
Carr, Peter	13	pupil
Cockburn, Elizabeth	51,92	pupil
Collin, Annie	23	pupil
Collin, Mary	23	pupil
Cook, Jane	7	School Monitor
Cook, Mrs	60	Headmaster's wife
Cowan, Miss Mary	12,13,15,19, 21,24,26,29	Certified Teacher of 3rd Class
Cowe, James	108	pupil
Crow, George	62	pupil
Darling, Thomas	11	pupil
Darling, William	11	pupil
Darrie, James	94	pupil
Davidson, James	5,18	Monitor
Donaldson, Mary	23	pupil
Duncan, Rev John	49	
Duncan, Ruth	89	pupil
Dunne, Miss	145,148	Assistant Teacher
Edgar, James	11,46,67	pupil

Edgar, Maggie	11	pupil
Edington, Arch'	94	
Edington, Mr	49,81,97	Member of the School Board
Ellis, Miss E	143,144,145	Teacher
Ewart, Margaret	86,101,112, 123,133,134, 135,136,137	Monitor, pupil teacher, assistant teacher
Fairlie, John	47	pupil
Fairlie, Robert	76	pupil
Foster, Alexander	120	pupil
Foster, James	135	pupil
Foster, John	104	pupil
Fraser, Hugh	20	pupil
Fraser, Isabella	59	pupil
Friskin, Isabella	46,47	pupil
Friskin, John	139	pupil
Fulton, Mr	30	School Board member
Gillies, Maggie Jane	15	pupil
Gilroy, Mary Jane	69	pupil
Greig, Agnes	52	pupil
Greig, Charles	123	pupil
Greig, Sarah	88	pupil
Greig, Thomas	69	pupil
Greig, Tom	62	pupil
Greig, William	114	pupil
Gribben. J	149	visitor
Grieve, James	46	pupil
Guise, Mr	19	retired gentleman
Haggarty, James	88	pupil
Haggarty, Thomas	87	pupil
Haggarty, William	76	pupil

Haggerty, James	99	pupil
Hastie, Philip	84	pupil
Henderson, Mr	15	joiner
Henderson, Mr	24,30,49	Chairman of the School Board
Henry, William	55	pupil
Herriot, Mr	117	from Berwick
Hope, Miss A	127,131,141, 143	monitor, pupil teacher (transferred to Burnmouth School)
Hume A W	102	former pupil
Hume, John	102	pupil
Hume, Mr	24	School Board member
Innes, Miss	15,20	Ayton castle
Innes, Mr	79	
Innes, Mr	104	from Llanelly, Wales
Innes, Mrs	32	Ayton Castle
Innes, the Misses	21,32	Ayton castle
Irvin, Isabella	139	pupil
Isabella	17	
Jackson, George	123	pupil
Jackson, James	115	pupil
Jackson, William	85	pupil
Jeffrey, James Duncan	71,124,128	Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Johnston Rebecca J	19,28,33,34, 40,42,50,56,58	Pupil Teacher, Qualified Teacher
Johnston, Miss	70	ex pupil teacher
Kerr, John	108	pupil

Kerr, William	35,40,41,45, 50,51	Assistant Teacher
King, W N	100,121,131, 40	School Inspector
Laurie, Mary	115	pupil
Learmouth, Mary	130	pupil
Learmouth, Thomas	99	pupil
Lewis, Robert	15	pupil
Liddell, Catherine	31	pupil
Liddell, Maggie	68	pupil
Liddle, Jane	102	pupil
Lithgow, Miss Agnes	30,32,36,40, 42,47,51,56, 57,61,62,64, 65,66,68,70, 73,81,83,88, 91,99,109,111, 117,130,140, 143,144	Assistant Teacher (from Stevenson, Ayrshire)
Lugton, George	87	pupil
Lyall, Hill	145	pupil
Lyall, William	67	pupil?
MacKenzie, Alistair	89	pupil
MacKenzie, Annie	89	pupil
Marshall, Andrew	102	pupil
Marshall, Maggie	85	pupil
Marshall, Miss	137,138,144, 146,147,149	Assistant Teacher
Martin A E	126	Miss Martin's sister

Martin, Laura J	52,54,56,57, 66,73,75,81, 83,93,95,117, 118,120,124, 125,126, 127,133,134	Monitor, Pupil Teacher, Assistant Teacher
Martin, May	46	pupil
Mason, James	52,55	pupil
McAdam, James	21	pupil
McCrow, Arthur	146	pupil
McCrow, Isabella	99	pupil
McCrow, James	139	pupil
McCrow, Jane	31	pupil
McNeil, Mary Ann	67,72	pupil
McRae, John	80,109,119, 120	Sanitary Inspector
Mennon, James	115	pupil
Mennon, Mr	69	
Miller, Alexander	38	pupil
Miller, George	123	pupil
Mitchell Innes, Mr	20,32,41	Ayton Castle
Mitchell-Innes, Mrs	34,41,45	Ayton Castle
Moore, George	16	teaching topic
Moore, John	8	pupil
Moore, Sarah	22	pupil
Nisbet, Agnes	102	pupil
Nisbet, Alexander	99	pupil
Nisbet, Annie	31	pupil

Nisbet, Edward	130	pupil
Nisbet, Jane	31,120	pupil
Nisbet, Maggie	69	pupil
Parker, Alexander	39	pupil
Parker, Thomas	39	pupil
Paterson, Jane	115	pupil
Patterson, Annie	115	pupil
Pennycook, Mr W	71,81	Inspector's Assistant
Phillips, Andrew	131	pupil
Phillips, Maggie	95	pupil
Pryde, Mr	67,68,69,70, 71,73,77,78, 80,81,83,87, 88,90,95,97, 99,104,105, 107,109,111, 112,116,120, 139	Assistant Teacher, moved to Dundee
Purves, Jane	5	pupil
Purves, John	5	pupil
Purves, Miss Maggie	15,18,25,28,29	Pupil Teacher, Qualified Teacher from Blenheim, Oxfordshire
Purves, William	85,114	
Purvis, Joan	69	pupil
Purvis, John	38	pupil
Purvis, John	130	pupil
Rae, John	72,105	pupil
Rae, Mrs	105	pupil's mother
Redpath, Elizabeth	52	pupil
Sanderson, Elizabeth	39	pupil

Scougal, Andrew E	7,13,15,26,33, 40,48,56,63, 73,81,90,93	H. M. Inspector
Scouller brothers	126	pupil
Shearlaw, Alexander	62	pupil
Shearlaw, Jane	135	pupil
Shearlaw, John	76	pupil
Shearlaw, Thomas	107	pupil
Simpson, Annie	102	pupil
Sinclair, Blanch	90,92	pupil
Smith, Adam	132	pupil
Smith, Mr	138	County Council
Spence, Robert	139	pupil
Spratt, Andrew	9,10	Monitor
Spratt, George	60	pupil
Spratt, Maggie	104	pupil
Stewart, Jane	93	pupil
Stone, Louisa	32	pupil
Swanson, Annie	63	pupil
Swanson, Christina	129	pupil
Swanson, George	85	pupil
Swanson, Maggie	139	pupil
Swanson, Thomas	107	pupil
Swinney, Annie	130	pupil
Swinton, Jessie	131	pupil
Tait, Marion	90	pupil
Thompson, Thomas	93,105,112, 131,147	Clerk to the School Board
Thompson, William	82	pupil
Thomson, Walter	48	pupil
Todd, Alexander	47	pupil
Turner, John	135	pupil

Vickery, Paul	147	pupil
Virtue, Alexander	120	pupil
Virtue, Maggie	108	pupil
Waddell, Alice	39	pupil
Walker, Jessie	91	pupil
Walker, Margaret	123	pupil
Ward, Isabella	11	Pupil Teacher
Weatherhead, Adam	5,7,9	Pupil Teacher
Weatherhead, George	25,26	Monitor
White, Alexander	95	pupil
White, George	108	pupil
White, George	128	pupil
White, Jane	5	pupil
White, Maggie	31	pupil
White, Mr	88	former pupil from Newcastle
White, Robert	115	pupil
Whitelaw, Katie	62	pupil
Whitlie, Mr	7	Clerk to the School Board
Wicks, Agnes	93	pupil
Wilson, Rev Mr William	5,6,9,10,11,13, 14,15,16,17, 18,19	Member of the School Board
Wood family	106	
Wood, George	31	pupil
Wood, George	120	Former member of School Board
Wood, Helen S	125	pupil
Wood, Isabella J	15,16,26,28, 29,32,33,34	Pupil Teacher

Wood, Joseph	1,24,28,30, 32,82,91,104, 106,108, 110,113,116, 118,126,127, 140,143,144	Member then Chairman of the School Board
Wood, Thomas	76	pupil
Wood, William Johnstone	48	pupil
Young, Jessie	60	pupil
Young, Matilda	46	pupil
Young, Walter	39	pupil
Yule, Alice	69	pupil
Yule, Mr	67	Ayton Station

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