

HADSTOCK WWI - SCHOOL LOG BOOK

seen at Essex Record Office 12 Jan 2020

E/ML 62/1 - Log Book Hadstock School
(not to be produced until 2021, but studied with permission of archivist RC)

I looked at this primarily to see if there was any reference to any of the boys who were later killed in World War I. References to them, or sometimes their families, are given in bold below. However there were other interesting snippets, and this note tries to give a flavour of life in this small village school at the turn of the 19th-20th centuries. Regular font indicates a direct quote - comments in italics.

The Log Book consists of weekly reports (apparently on Mondays relating to the previous week) from the Mistress in charge from the opening of the school in 1872. It is not a register, and although admittance of individual children is recorded (usually at the end of the weekly entry) these mainly appear to be in the middle of term: presumably the main intake of pupils was recorded elsewhere. I ended up recording most of the names - they do give an insight into many of the long-established families in the village.

The weekly reports - of which the ones quoted from here are only a small selection - usually start with general comments about attendance and the level of attainment: the farming calendar (harvesting, turnip harvest, etc), as well as fairs in the area, are frequently reasons for low attendance - as are outbreaks of whooping cough, colds, and measles. Boys are often at work. Though not recorded here, there are accounts of regular inspections which seem to involve a great deal of singing taking place, and lists of the songs performed are given.

The school evidently charged fees - see the reference to some fees being 'allowed' [presumably, waived] in 1882.

One gets the impression that the teachers found it an uphill struggle against the general low level of literacy - and perhaps the priority given to education among the families.

On inside page:

Dimensions of school rooms

| | Length | Breadth | Height |
|----------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1. School room | 27.6 | 18 | 11.6 |
| 2. Class room | 20 | 16 | 11.6 |

Dimensions presumably in feet and inches

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1872 October 14th Hadstock School

Entered upon my duties as Mistress of this School Clara Poole

19 The entire week has been spent in arranging the children and classes + finding the extent of their ignorance rather than their amounts of knowledge....

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Summary of the Inspector's Report on the School

17th February 1873

The School has been open only 3 months, and the Mistress has hardly had time to make much impression on it.

Francis E Smith
Manager

The Revd Francis Smith was of course the Rector of Hadstock for many years.

There is much concern throughout about attendance, and absenteeism. Knitting, needlework and singing feature prominently in the weekly reports. Some boys are said to be at work. The Rector comes in regularly to give lessons. A typical entry:

1874 March 23rd

The Rector gave his lessons - The spelling in Dictation being very bad. Reading, a little better.

In September 1874 Miss Poole leaves. There seems to be an unqualified teacher for a term. In January 1875 Miss Salmon arrives (and evidently makes an improvement although attendance is still sporadic).

1877

June 23rd Attendance not so good as this last week being holiday week in the village.

...Admitted John Henry Taylor and **Jonas Freeman**.

[The previous week of course would have included St Botolph's Day!]

Oct 5th ... Admitted George Fordham.

Nov 30th On Monday a holiday was given. A confirmation was held in the church and the school was used by the candidates.

1878 March 8th ...Admitted William Turner

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1878 Sep 23rd Admitted Millie Turner, Edward Linsdale, Clara Salmon + Agnes Fordham + G Fordham

Oct 11th ...Readmitted Beatrice Cutter

Nov 4thAdmitted Arthur Phillips

1879 Jan 10thAgnes Hawes has been absent the whole of the week owing to the illness of her mother.

Jan 27thAdmitted Anthony Watson.

Feb 4th ... Readmitted Elizabeth Bye.

May 9th ... Readmitted Sarah Fordham

July 4thReadmitted Ellen Barker.

July 21st ... Admitted Charles Swann, Alice Mallyon + George Mallyon

Agnes Hawes and Honor Fordham are noted as being paid Monitors

1880 *In the Inspector's summary report the school is noted as being 'in highly satisfactory condition'.*

Honor Fordham and Mary Ann Davey paid monitors

May 24th ... Admitted Angelina Linsdell.

June 18th *School closed for the afternoon, 'the elder children having to attend Mrs Smith's funeral'*

1881 March 18th... Admitted Joseph Fordham, James Mallus, Maria Ellis +Stephen Ellis.

March 28th...Admitted Daniel Barker.

June 6th ... Admitted Mary Ann and Florence Hills

July 8th ... Admitted Annie Ketteridge, Fannie Hills + George Robinson

1882 April 9th ... Admitted Nellie Fordham, Harry Linsdell + Sam Fordham

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From Summary of Inspector's Report that year:The School Fees for A. Free, E. Davey and M.A. Fordham have been allowed.

Good report on the school.

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1883 March 30 ... Readmitted **Walter Bye.**

1884 Jan 4th ... Admitted Minnie Fordham, +re-admitted Jane Burgess.

March 21st....Emma Davey admitted as Monitor.

March 28th... Admitted Sarah Swan and Catherine Terry.

Sep 26th ... Admitted Sidney Swan, Constance Fordham, Alfred Robinson.

Oct 3rd Holiday this week. The Church has been re-opened after restoration + the school was required for the clergy.

Oct 30th ...Admitted Eliza Malyon.

Dec 3rd Today the School was visited by the Bishop of St Albans.

At this time Hadstock was in the Diocese of St Albans - Chelmsford Diocese had not yet been founded.

1885 Jan 19th ...Admitted George Garnwood Aged 10. John Garnwood aged 8.

Jan 20th Admitted Charles Free aged 8.

Feb 27th ...Admitted Harriett Cutter

Oct 9th Today Mary Ann Davey left to go to service.

1887 Sept 26 ... Admitted Millie Swan, Emma Free, Annie Barker

1888 Jan 25th ... Elizabeth Robinson came to school this afternoon at ten minutes to four and made a disturbance about her child

Nov 9th ... Admitted John Whitehead, Elizabeth Whitehead and Berthan [?]
Whitehead

Nov 23rd ... Admitted Maud Fordham

1889 March 29th ... Admitted Daisy Bush and Stephen Mallyon

1890 Ap 14th ... Admitted Millie Pearson, George Swan and Kate Mallyon

1890 Oct 12 ...Admitted Alice and Thomas Pask + Edith Frost

1892 March 21 ...Admitted one boy.

March 29 Several children left today.

April 29 Admitted three children to the Infant Room.

From now on individual names of children admitted are hardly ever recorded - just numbers given

1893[?] Oct 23rdA night school was opened this evening and the attendance was fair.
Was this to compensate for the boys who were working?

+ Oct 30 Attendance better - as the days grow shorter the boys leave work earlier,
are therefore better able to attend.

1894 Feb 14 Night school closed
But it opened again in October. When I finished looking at the register I found that further consecutive entries relating to the night school had been made from the back of the book - I haven't studied these.

I skipped to the entries closer to the War.

1906[?] Ap 4 ... The Inspector for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children called today to enquire about the children of Elizabeth Burgess and Emma Cutter.

1910 June 17 Report of Religious Education Inspector: 'The children did very creditably [*though there were clearly some holes in their education too*]... The following answered well: Rupert Crawley, Milly Robinson, **Grace Pearson, Moses Pearson**, Bertha Fordham, Ernest Robinson, Winnie Crawley... Edith Robinson, George Free ... **Sam. Pearson**, George Chapman.' *Not all names noted.*

1912 Report of Religious Instruction
'The following answered best:
Olive Robinson, ... Stanley Crawley, Ruth Crawley, Winnie Crawley, Ernest Robinson, John Crawley, George Malyon, Bertha Fordham, ... Jeanette Fordham, **Alfred Rowlandson**, Moses Pearson...' *Not all names noted.*

1913 1 April Admitted Herbert Pearson, Infant and Edith Chapman.

There is now a new Head and individual names are again recorded, though I did not note them.

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The Great War made no impact on the school's records:

1914 Aug 4 Admitted Mary Rogers from Needingworth, Cambs.

Holiday yesterday being Bank Holiday

Rev F E Smith visited, also Mr Hailstone Attend. Officer

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1918 *School was closed between 9 and 25 November because of influenza epidemic - no reference to Armistice!*

25 Nov Reopened school, 16 children still away, several in bed.