

Maryburgh School Log Books

**MARYBURGH FREE CHURCH SCHOOL
1864 – 1877**

**MARYBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOL
1900 – 1940**



Head Street, Maryburgh.

Extracts from School Logbook

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INTRODUCTION

While the Nobel Prize for Literature will not come my way for this look into the past of Maryburgh Free Church School, later Maryburgh Public School, I hope the contents will be of some interest to those who enjoy local history.

I am grateful to Bob Steward, Highland Council's Archivist, for allowing me access to the log books, and to his staff, particularly Fiona Macleod, for practical help.

Mhairi Mackenzie
Maryburgh, July 2000

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EDUCATION IN MARYBURGH 1864-1877 and 1900-1940

The pages which follow contain information extracted from two school log books held in Highland Council's Archive Service. Unfortunately, the log book for the years 1877 to 1900 must have been lost.

The first entry relating to Maryburgh is dated **4 January 1864** and reads as follows:

"School met after Christmas holidays. Taught according to Time Table. Attendance fair for the first day. Alexander Colin MacKenzie, Master, began the duties of the school June 1 1863. John Wormald began June 1 1861 and Alexander Macdonald began June 1 1862, Pupil Teachers."

In the first log book the solitary reference to the name of the school is in an entry on **28 July 1864**: "Maryburgh F.C.S."; but the connection with the Free Church is confirmed by the annual examination by the Committee of the Free Presbytery of Dingwall in association with several "Managers".

Following the 1872 Education Act, the school came under the control of Fodderty School Board whose members, particularly Seaforth, made regular visits to the school to "examine" pupils in various subjects. Members of the Board, and Free Church clergy, were present, in greater or lesser numbers, during the annual inspection by Her(His) Majesty's Inspector of Schools.

Again, in the first log book, there is no description of the school building or its location.

Entries in both log books are extremely repetitive, and somewhat tedious at times, but an examination of the contents reveals a picture of the standard of education achieved in the school and of life in the community. Styles of recording vary from Head Teacher to Head Teacher, and what one would consider important is often omitted, i.e. there is no record of the death of Queen Victoria (there would certainly have been some local involvement in what would have been national mourning), of the outbreak of both Wars (apart from brief reference to War Fund and, in 1939, possible evacuation of children), and the successor to Headmaster David Clark, who resigned in 1932 is mentioned briefly as "J Macdonald opened school".

SCHOOL BUILDING

As has already been stated, there is no record in the log book for 1864-1877 of the location of the school or of the extent of the building, merely "school room, school grounds, Master's house" and, in 1867, Frank Stewart-MacKenzie and Miss Stewart-MacKenzie are recorded as having "arranged a room in the neighbourhood as a separate classroom for sewing". A month later some repairs were made to the room.

In the Valuation Roll for 1868-69 the property is recorded as "Free Church Schoolmaster's House", with the tenant being Alexander Mackenzie, and this entry continues in 1900-01. From 1901-02 to 1906-07 the property is described as "UF Church Manse, Maryburgh; Schoolmaster's House, Maryburgh; School, Maryburgh". In 1907-08 the entry reads "House (part of schoolhouse); tenant Donald Ross, Thatcher; Schoolmaster's house and garden; tenant Donald Mackay; School; tenant School Board of Fodderty" while the entry for the Manse reverts to "Free Church Manse".

In September 1875 the school opened late owing to repairs not being finished "much remains to be done on outside". No inkwells had been fixed in the desks so all writing had to be done on slates. By mid-November there was "much inconvenience caused by tradesmen working in the school and playground".

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr Bruce, inspected the school in April 1905 and was not impressed:

"The school is not properly cleaned, the floors of the classrooms are washed only twice a year and the walls of the cloakrooms are very dirty. The offices [toilets] are in a disgraceful state. In view of the difficulty the Board experiences of getting them cleaned, the construction of self-flushing water closets would appear to be necessary. Ventilation is not better than fair; while heating is unsatisfactory in the infant room [N.B. Winter fires were lit in early November] . As regards the main room, thermometers should be supplied and readings taken regularly; a record being kept for future inspection. The small classroom should be desksed."

A few weeks later Rev Mackenzie, Mr MacLennan and John Fraser (Clerk to the Board) visited the school and examined the building with a view to effecting improvements.

In October 1916 the cooking stove was under repair and repairs continued into 1917 but there were no cookery lessons until the Education Authority supplied a new stove in September 1917. Could this be the cooking stove that in 1933 was "in same dilapidated condition and quite unfit for Cooking lessons"?

The temporary Headmaster in May 1916, having been absent with a sore throat, blamed his illness on "constant draughts through a badly constructed building".

The standard of cleaning in the school varied. In May 1916 there is the entry, "The School rooms are very dirty and untidy and badly kept ; sweeping and dusting being anything but thorough. The cleaner's attention has been drawn to the matter". Pending the appointment of a new cleaner, the temporary Mrs Beaton achieved "The floor of the Senior Room (being) well scrubbed". The new cleaner's efforts resulted in the school being "especially well cleaned and dusted" but, by 1925, the standard had dropped and HM Inspector found "the offices [toilets] extremely filthy" and described their condition somewhat vividly. Action was taken, apparently, because in 1926 the school had

"new water closets". By 1929 Mrs Mackenzie was the cleaner and the technology of that era brought "the Dusmo men", who gave her a demonstration of their product.

Heating of building was by open fires which, in the 1860s were lit at the beginning of November. One ton of coal was delivered in March 1920 but in 1921 a more generous allocation is recorded as having been delivered by a Mr A Mackenzie, namely 6 tons 12 cwt "best Scotch coal" and 6 sacks firewood. Obviously the heating was not adequate because in December 1927 the school was closed due to burst pipes, which again burst in early 1929, when the Infant room was flooded. The dangers from open fires was highlighted by HMI in 1923 when he requested that a fireguard be provided in the Infant room.

Dr Philip (Director of Education), Dr Brodie (Medical Officer of Health) and Mr Matheson (Architect) visited the school in June 1920 with a view to having structural alterations made, and in the following month examined the schoolhouse to order necessary repairs. HMI Laing's report later that year referred to "an awkward and inconveniently furnished gallery in the South Classroom" and suggested that it was "possible to arrange for three good classrooms of adequate size". Some alterations were carried out in 1921 when the Supplementary and Qualifying classes were moved to the Drill Hall temporarily.

Early in 1922 HMI was still not content with the accommodation in the Infant Room which, at the time of inspection, catered for 49 children in an area designed for 32, although he noted with satisfaction that the gallery had been removed. Action was taken and the school opened a week late in September due to "remodelling of interior", although there was "still no glass in windows and no locks on doors". The alterations had included the provision of a "retiring room for the teachers" which the HMI report of 1923 noted as "a most desirable provision". At this time there is the first noted measurements of the school:

Staff room 13' x 9' ; North room 31' x 17'6"; West room 24'6" x 18'; South room 34' x 19'.
Accommodation provided for 162 pupils.

Apparently this was not sufficient, because in 1925 HMI requested that the Education Authority "take steps to provide additional accommodation" and Rev Campbell and Mr Matheson (Architect) visited the school regarding repairs. In 1932 the Inspector's report states, "It is understood that much-needed redecoration and repairs to the school buildings will be undertaken in the near future". However, it is not until 1936 that the Inspector's report mentions, "The reconstruction of the school buildings is now practically complete. The school will now have three large, airy and well lit classrooms with ample cloakroom accommodation". He also noted, "A most commendable feature has been the acquisition of over an acre of ground adjacent to the school for use as a playing field". During this time the log book records the school having transferred (May to December) to the Seaforth Hall, where the use of curtains divided the classes and everything was made "as comfortable as possible", although, in August, teaching was difficult "owing to warm weather and lack of ventilation".

SCHOOL MANAGERS / SCHOOL BOARD

The Annual Examination was conducted in March each year (after which the pupils earned 2-4 days' holiday), and in 1864 the Free Church Presbytery committee consisted of: Rev A D Mackenzie, Kilmorack; Rev James McDonald, Urray; Rev Malcolm McGregor, Ferintosh; Rev Daniel R Munro, Maryburgh. In subsequent years they were joined, or succeeded, by Rev Kennedy, Killearnan; Rev Macdonald, Applecross; Rev Mackay, Altnaharra; Rev Mackay, Maryburgh; Rev Dr Gibson, Avoch;

Managers associated with the annual examination were: D Gunn, R Johnstone, James Yule, Mr Logan, Mr Adam, Provost Mitchell, Dingwall; Mr Peterkin, Mrs Cash.

From 1873 onwards, when the School Board was formed, members of the Board mentioned include: Mr Hossack; Daniel Scott (Clerk to the Board); Mr Arras; Mr Laing; Bailie Forsyth and Councillor H A Ross, Dingwall; Colin Fraser (Clerk to the Board); A MacDiarmid; J Ewen; Seaforth; Rev John G Nicolson; Rev James Johnstone; Mr MacIntyre, Brae; Mr Mackintosh (Clerk in 1920); Mr Dalling (1924); Andrew Gillanders, Humberston (1926); Mr Riach, Dingwall (1935)

Lay persons who "examined" the pupils were: Mrs Davidson of Tulloch (reading, sewing); Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie of Seaforth (needlework); Frank Stewart-Mackenzie and Miss Stewart-Mackenzie (in 1876 they arranged "a room in the neighbourhood" as a separate classroom for sewing); Robert A MacKintosh (Standards of the Revised Code); Rev Braidwood (ex-missionary who presented books); Hon Miss Baring.

ANNUAL GRANT

1873

Dec. Mr Scott, Treasurer, attended to collect fees for current quarter.

1875

Feb. Amount of grant earned £85.11/- less deduction of £1.11/- = £84.

Average grant for Scholar in average attendance (104) earned £16.5/-

Average grant paid = £16.1/-

Amount for Special subjects £6

1876

Feb. Grant £92.19/- (£92.95) for all subjects (no deductions). Average per scholar 17/8d (88p).

1877

Feb. Form submitted had omitted 10 infants @ 1d per week (1/3d or 0.6p)

1900

Apr. Grant for year ended 28 February 1900:

Fixed grant 130 @ 14/-; Singing @ 1/-; Order & Discipline 1/6d

Therefore no. for payment = 130 @ 16/6d £107. 5. 0

Needlework (girls) 64 @ 1/- 3. 4. 0

Elementary Science (boys) 66 @ 1/- 3. 6. 0

Infants and under Standard III 73 @ 2/- 7. 6. 0

Over Standard III 58 @ 2/6d 7. 5. 0

Class subjects 112 @ 5/- 28. 0. 0

Grant for Pupil Teacher 2. 0. 0

Total £158. 6. 0

Less contribution payable to Deferred Annuity Fund (superan.) 4.11. 8 Annual Grant £153.14. 4

1901

May. Grant for year ended 28 February 1901

Under 7 = 16 @ 18/- £ 17.12. 0

7-10 = 40 @ 20/- 48. 0. 0 *

Over 10 = 64 @ 22/- 83. 4. 0

Between 7-10 = 40 @ 1/6d 3. 0. 0

Over 10 = 64 @ 1/9d 5.12. 0

Article 19E 2.10. 0

Total £159.18. 0

Less defferred (sic) annuity **£2.16. 8

Annual Grant £157. 1. 4

* and ** Attention required to 1901 arithmetic and spelling!

1902

May. Grant £154.3/- less Deferred Annuity £5.4.7 = £148.18.5 (£148.91)

1903

April. Grant £151.19/- less Deferred Annuity £5.9.7 = £146.9.5 (£146.47)

1904

June. Total £151.16. 0 less superannuation £5. 3. 4 = £146.12. 8.

1905

May. No grant due at present for Miss M MacGillivray as she had not completed a year of service at the end of the school year.

Grant = £153.10/- plus General Aid (109 @ 3/-) £16.7/- = £169.17/- less superannuation of £5.10/-, giving a total of £164.7/-.

1906

Grant £190. 1. 3 less superannuation £5. 6. 8 = £184.14.7

1907

Grant £179. 1. 3 less superannuation £4.13.4 = £174. 7.11

1909

Grant £133.11. 6 less superannuation £5.10/- = £168. 1. 6

1910

Grant £167.19/- less superannuation £5.10/- = £162.9/-

1911

Grant £166.16. 1 less superannuation £5.10/- = £161. 6. 1

1912

Grant £139.18. 8 plus £40 = £179.18. 8 less superannuation £6. 6. 8 = £173.12/-

1913

Claim £151.13. 5 plus grant for staff including Gaelic speaking teacher £40 = £191.13. 5, less superannuation 12/6d = £191. 0.11

1914; Grant £162. 2. 3
1915; Grant £141.11.10
1916; Grant £139. 3. 5
1917; Grant £147.19. 8
1918; Pages missing
1919; Grant £149.17. 1

From 1920 to 1940 there is no mention of Annual Grant.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance could be affected by certain economic and social factors. Two regular dates when pupils were absent were 12 January (Old New Year, after the "Soiree") and 28 May (Term Day, when farm workers moved to employment on other farms).

From 1864 onwards pupils were absent for "labours in the field" which involved potato planting or potato lifting and it was only in November 1904 that a member of the School Board authorised four days for potato lifting, to be followed in October 1905 by a week's holiday, which continued in the years thereafter. In 1876 children are mentioned as being "at service" during the Summer and Autumn half year, after which they resumed their education.

Other duties which affected attendance included potato cleaning, hoeing turnips, gathering weeds, the annual harvest, beating for game, home duties, helping with flittings. When, in May 1916, absences were due to children being employed gathering weeds, there is the entry, "Parents seem to have the impression that, owing to the untoward circumstances of the times and scarcity of labour, they can withdraw their children for work at any time".

Those described as "tinker children" or "hawker children" left in April each year to go to the West Coast for the season.

The summer holiday of 1877 was curtailed by a fortnight owing to "the lateness of crops and illness of the Master in the Spring".

Attendance was excused when children attended Church during Communion weeks and on the day of Census (5.4.1901).

By 1900 a "Default Officer" is mentioned regularly and his endeavours to secure regular attendance of pupils resulted in parents appearing before the Board or before the Sheriff. In 1903 parent John Gray appeared in court but the charge was found not proven, and a year later we find him promising the Board that his children will attend regularly. From the 1920s onwards there are weekly entries about the activities of the "C.O." or Compulsory Officer (or, colloquially, the "Whipper In") The C.O. was not without his faults and in 1925 it was noted, "C.O. has not been near the school when he is most required". In Jan 1933 (no doubt to the delight of pupils) the C.O. had a fall on his way to Humberston and was laid up for a few days. When, in Nov 1933, the C.O. is mentioned being in school for the last time after 26 years' service, his service does not even merit mention by name or of receiving a retirement gift.

The Headmaster was not averse to dealing out punishment to the truants, e.g. June 1920: "A few pupils are in the habit of not returning after the 11.30 interval. Donald Morrison and Thomas Paterson two troublesome boys regarding this. Paterson punished the following day but Morrison has not put in an appearance." In July the situation had not improved, with Thos. Paterson absent without permission after 3.00 pm interval and was "more severely dealt with next morning than on previous occasion. Donald Morrison has not yet returned".

Further discipline was meted out the same month and the Headmaster records: "It has become quite customary for dozens of pupils to come late in the morning, at any time up to 10.30. This is being

steadily stopped by the effective punishment of half hour at night. At first the classes rushed in in the morning all of a heap, slouching, jostling, whistling. They now enter in single file."

Lord Seaforth recorded an entry in October 1922: "Fraser, farmer, Balavil, Conon, called with his car this morning and took away children for potato lifting without asking; reported matter to local policeman; and will report matter to Authority and Chief Constable."

The introduction of a soup kitchen in December 1903 ensured an improvement in attendance.

In December 1916 an entry which, sadly, speaks for itself .. "Lack of boots". Such poverty emerges in 1925 "Bad boots" and in 1932 "Family absent; want of boots".

CURRICULUM

1864

Jan. A Latin class started

Sewing (girls) an hour every day "a great drawback on progress in Arithmetic"
Arithmetic

July. Grammar (McLachlan's Elementary Grammar)

Geography (McLachlan's Elementary Geography)

Nov. Maths (Euclid)

Book-keeping (Dr Hutton's textbook)

1866

Mar. Reading, Writing, Arithmetic (134 pupils), Geography (115), Composition (45), Maths (3),
Latin (4), Needlework (63)

June. Reading (series of the SSB Association)

Oct. Bryce's First Latin Reader

1870

Sept. Latin class (6 boys), other class Virgil

1871

Pupils now undertake regular class exams.

1874

Feb. Owing to crowded state of sewing room girls under 7 get Arithmetic. A new Latin class formed.

1875

Jan. Dictation and Composition on 2 days per week instead of one

Feb. Singing and new class in Algebra (7 pupils)

1900

Apr. Military drill

May Start made on Drawing

Nov. Request made for provision on walls of schoolrooms for free-arm drawing by pupils.

1901

July Exams twice-weekly in each class

Sept. Gaelic class; fair progress in reading New Testament.

1902

July Religious Knowledge exam.

1903

July Qualifying Test for supplementary Course ["Quali" exams??]

1904

Apr. Collection of seasonal leaves and plants.

Nov. Reading Gulliver's Travels.

1910

Oct. Cooking started.

1911

Dec. French class began.

1912

Apr. Gardening

1913

Experimental Science mentioned

Nov. Geographical Reader Distant Lands

1914

May School garden examined by Alex Kemp, County Organiser.

1917

Oct. Some textbooks difficult to get &SHY; publishers can't keep up supply.

1920

Mar. School supplied with Wall Map of Europe and one of British Isles, also outlines of History (Chambers), one gallon ink and some pointers.

Apr. Gardening. Sowed onions, leeks, carrots, radish, parsnips, formed beds for summer annuals and sowed seeds. Planted one apple tree, one plum tree, 180 cabbages and 100 onion plants.

May Temporary Head Teacher examines pupils: "Reading: want of proper phrasing; even commas and full stops are ignored, resulting in stammering, repeating, monotony, and absence of intelligent reading. Spelling: fairly good. Meanings must have been pretty well neglected, few can give equivalents. Mental is emphatically the worst, it could not possibly be any worse."

May From a class of 17, 8 have been selected for Qualifying exam, resulting in the entry, "It is inconceivable how so many absolute dunces could have been collected into one class." In 1923 the Qualifying class were described as "a stodgy lot".

Oct. Greater part of book order awaited; consequent adverse effect on work.

1923

May Qualifying exam supervised by Mr Dalling, member of School Board.

In the years 1924-1939 those supervising the Qualifying exam were Mr William Macdonald, carpenter, Dingwall, and Rev John Muirden.

1929

Sept . Late arrival of books; they were ordered 9 weeks before.

Dec. Drill mistress, Miss Davidson, made one of her very occasional visits.

1931

Feb. Miss Davidson addressed children on personal hygiene.

1939

Mar. Miss Weir addressed the pupils on cleanliness.

1940

First mention of Singing Teacher Miss Daisy Nicol, Dingwall.

EVENTS LOCAL, NATIONAL AND (sometimes) INTERNATIONAL

1864

Jan. 7 New Year's Service (evening)
Jan. 8 Holiday after "Soiree"
Feb. 17 Market in Dingwall
Apr. 21 Muir of Ord Market
June 22 Annual excursion day of the neighbourhood
July 14 Maryburgh Communion Fast Day (held in July each year)
July 27 Cattle Show, Dingwall
Aug. 18 Funeral of Robert Johnstone, Manager
Aug. 19 Annual Exhibition of the Conon Bridge and Maryburgh Horticultural Society (in school grounds and school room)
Aug. 25 School holidays (prizes gifted by Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie)
Nov. 3 Thanksgiving day for the late abundant harvest
Nov.11 School visited by Seaforth and the Misses Stewart-Mackenzie
Dec. 21 School visited by Mr Scott, Registrar, Fodderty Parish and Rev D R Munro to obtain information for Royal Commission on Education in Elementary Schooling in Scotland.

1865

Feb. 15 Candlemas Market, Dingwall
Mar. 2 Ferintosh Communion Fast Day
May 11 Muir of Ord Market
May 24 Queen Victoria's birthday
June 15 Muir of Ord Market

1866

Jan. 12 Old New Year; holiday after Soiree
Mar 29 "Fast Day" for the Cattle Plague
Sept. 6 School year now commences in September instead of January.

1868

Jan. School visited by Misses Julia and Georgina Stewart-Mackenzie
June 15 Funeral of Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie of Seaforth
July 22 Volunteer Demonstration, Dingwall

1869

Dec. 21 Miss Stewart-Mackenzie announces she will give tea for pupils during Christmas holidays.

1870

Aug. 3 Inspection of Local Volunteers
Oct. 3 Masonic Procession, Dingwall

1871

Apr. 3-4 Holidays for the Census
July 25 Examinations at Dingwall Academy
Sept. 13 "Local rejoicings"
Sept. 14 Hon. Col. and Mrs Stanley given marriage gift

1872

July 12 Annual trip to Lochluichart

1873

June 27 School visited by Colin Mackenzie, WS, Trustee of Seaforth Estates
July 1 Militia Review
Oct. 8 Marriage of Miss Stewart-Mackenzie (holiday)
Nov. 10 Funeral of Rev D R Munro (school closed)

1874

Jan. 30 Ploughing Match
Feb. 20 School closed due to congregational meeting to call a Minister
Apr. 9 Ordination of Rev Charles Gordon Mackay as Minister of Maryburgh Free Church
June 3 Dingwall Market
July 7 Militia Review, Muir of Ord
Dec. 1-2 Examinations at Dingwall Academy
Dec. 24 Curling Match

1875

Jan. 8 Conon School exams
Mar. 3 Ploughing Match
Mar. 18 Muir of Ord Market
Apr. 21 Dingwall annual holiday
June 2 Dingwall Market
June 29 Inverness Militia Review

1876

Jan. 28 Ploughing Match
Feb. 9 Ploughing Match (children present)
Feb. 24 Annual school Soiree
May 12 Muir of Ord Market
June 7 Dingwall Market

1877

Mar. 6 Ploughing Match
Mar. 16 Annual Soiree
Aug. 6 Dingwall Communion

1900

Mar. 30 Funeral from the Manse
June 8 Pretoria entered by British Forces (half holiday given)
June 29 Highland Volunteer Brigade camp, Fortrose (school closed)
July 21 Evening entertainment for children given by Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie

1901

May 3 Return of Seaforth Volunteers to Dingwall
June 18 Annual holiday, Maryburgh
June 27 Volunteer Inspection, Dingwall

1902

June 6 Peace in South Africa (half day holiday)
June 20 Village annual holiday
June 26 Intended Coronation day; postponed due to His Majesty's illness but day-and-a-half holiday granted. [N.B. There was no mention in log book of Queen Victoria's death.]
July 8 Religious Knowledge examination by Rev MacQuarrie, Ferintosh, followed by half day holiday
July 25 Cattle Show, Dingwall (half holiday)

1903

July 14 Laying of Foundation Stone of Carnegie Library and Freedom of Burgh (to Andrew Carnegie; holiday given.
Nov. 20 Soup kitchen supplied by Seaforth and Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie

1904

May 20 Victoria Day (half holiday)
June 20-24 School closed owing to death of Headmaster's daughter

1905

Mar. 2 U.F. Church Communion
June 20 Village annual holiday
July 22 Highland Mod, Dingwall (school 2nd for part singing, solo singing and recitation)

1906

May 15 Church Commissioners occupied school (pupils on holiday for rest of week for potato planting)

June 28 Leaving Certificate examination in Gaelic, Dingwall
Oct. 6 Seaforth's annual treat to scholars at Brahan Castle (also 1908)
Nov. 27 Laying of Foundation Stone of Seaforth Sanatorium (children led praise)

1907

May 20 Excursion by rail to Glasgow
May 23 Unveiling of Sit Hector MacDonald's monument, Dingwall

1908

Jan.16 Seaforth Sanatorium opened by Seaforth and Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie. Children sang opening praise, then had tea and cake in Seaforth Drill Hall.
June 19 Children's Mod, Inverness; "a number of prizes"
Oct. 30 Concert by pupils in evening

1909

Oct. 29 Funeral of Rev R Mackenzie, member of School Board
Dec. 30 Pupils marched to Drill Hall for entertainment by Seaforth and Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie, including Christmas tree.

1910

May 20 National mourning; funeral of King Edward VII; schools corps of Boy Scouts attended services in Dingwall Parish Church.
July 19 Boy Scouts off to week's camp at Kildary.

1911

June 22 Coronation of King George V (3 days' holiday). Pupils saluted Flag (that and flagpole gifted by Seaforth), followed by sports in park and tea in Hall, with each pupil given Coronation mug, and fireworks at night.
July Scout camp, Avoch (9 boys attended)
Oct. 6 Sheep Sale, Dingwall
Dec. 13 Dingwall Cattle Show

1912

Feb 17 Entertainment given to children by Seaforth and Mrs S-M.

1913

Jan. As for 1912; in Drill Hall, with tea, Christmas tree and presents
May 19 Victoria Day
Oct 23. Funeral of Dr Adam, "an old pupil"

1915

Dec. 3 "A local marriage", Brahan

1917

Nov. 6 Death of Headmaster's son; closed for 3 days

1919

Jan. Drill Hall. Tea, Christmas tree, presents from Mrs S-M and pupils addressed by Seaforth.

1920

May 24 Empire Day

June Pupil in Infants died suddenly

1921

Nov. 11 Armistice Day & SHY; children with bouquets of flowers march to monument where service is conducted by Rev Johnstone, UF Church, Conon.

1922

May 22 Empire Day. Headmaster gave a short address in the forenoon. In afternoon the pupils were arranged in the playground, the flag was saluted and thereafter they were marched to Drill Hall Park where races were run, games were played and they were treated to a plentiful supply of good things. The whole cost of the entertainment was deferred by Lord Seaforth.

1923

Feb. 2 Lady Seaforth's treat of tea, buns and cinematograph.

Mar. 1 Fast Day of Ferintosh & Urquhart.

Mar. 3 Death of Lord Seaforth. Flag lowered to half mast.

Mar. 8 Funeral of Lord Seaforth; school closed.

Apr. 19 Miss Tweedie, Edinburgh Ladies College, visited as President of Educational Institute of Scotland, to gain information of the working of a Highland country school.

May 24 Empire Day; flag hoisted, children marched round playground and saluted. Mr Sutherland gave a lecture on Temperance.

June 14 Three men from Paisley inquired about boarded-out children, a boy and girl at Dunglass Farm.

1924

Jan. 18 Lady Seaforth gave each child a bag of sweets.

May 15 Headmaster attended sub-committee drafting schemes for Advances Classes.

Nov. 11 Service held at monument. Children decorated it with leaves. Rev J I Johnstone officiated, Headmaster called out names of dead and two minutes' silence was observed.

1925

Jan. 28 Lady Seaforth's treat to the children.

Oct. 2 A funeral, a Temperance lecture and a blind man's entertainment.

Nov. 11 Annual observance of Armistice Day.

Nov. 27 Donald Mackenzie, Infant, critically injured by a motor cycle after school hours

Dec. 12 "Little Donald Mackenzie died and was buried on 15 Dec. Staff and pupils bought a wreath and the Senior boys carried the little white coffin from the house until it was taken up by the hearse."

1926

Nov. 11 Armistice Day. Children furnished with posies of flowers to put on monument. Service conducted by Rev Johnstone, Conon.

Dec. 23 Through kindness of Girls' Club children had a treat in the Hall.

1928

Feb. 29 Lady Seaforth's treat.

1929

Sept. 26 Induction of Rev Roderick Fraser, Minister of Church of Scotland (St Clement's, Dingwall); Headmaster attended.

Oct. 9 Temperance lecturer, Mr Sutherland, in school.

1930

Nov. 11 Armistice Day. Children's service held at monument and conducted by Headmaster.

Dec. WRI of Conon, Brahan and Maryburgh treat; tea and Christmas tree for pupils and under 5s (also recorded in 1931 and 1932).

1931

Nov. 11 Usual service at monument. Headmaster conducted (1) 2nd Paraphrase, (2) Lord's Prayer in unison, (3) Reading of Names, (4) Rev. 7:v.9 to end, (5) two minutes Silence, (6) God Save the King. "This is for my successor."

1933

Feb. 22 Lady Seaforth's funeral, at the Dell, Brahan. School closed for half-day and Headmaster took six senior boys with him.

Dec. 22 Children entertained to tea and Xmas tree by ladies of the village.

1935

May 6 King's semi-Jubilee. Pupils given medals and commemorative mugs, also taken to Pictures and then entertainment in Hall.

Sept. 4 Children entertained at Brahan by new Laird (not named).

Nov. 6 Marriage of Duke of Gloucester (holiday).

Dec. 20 Children given treat by local ladies.

1936

Jan. 27 Headmaster gave lecture on late King George V.

Mar. Major Hewitt addressed over 9s on work of SSPCA Junior Branch.

1936

Dec. 24 Christmas tree by generosity of people of village.

1937

May Coronation.

Dec. 2 New Director of Education, Dr George Thompson, visited.

1938

May 23 Empire Day; flag hoisted in the morning and lowered at sunset.

Nov. 11 Armistice; memorial and usual service.

1939

Feb. 7 Cards to be filled in for evacuation of school children.

HEALTH

Log books for other schools frequently contain entries regarding epidemics but Maryburgh appears to have been a reasonably healthy village, although the children had their share of serious illnesses.

Accidents: 1923: Nellie Henderson broke arm in playground. Set by Dr Brodie, who motored her home to Brahan.

1923. Door leading into senior room snapped on a girl's finger and took off the point, which was lying on the floor and which H.M. found when he returned from the school garden. The children were gazing at it fixedly. The bone was uninjured.

Chest troubles - 1911

Chickenpox: 1906, 1913, 1915, 1920, 1923, 1926, 1929.

Dentist (Mr Sinclair) visits: 1921 (teeth extractions), 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926 (many cases), 1927, 1930, 1931 (extracted molars).

Diphtheria: 1901 (school closed by Medical Certificate for 4 weeks), 1911 (school disinfected), 1912 ("diphtheric throat"), 1919, 1920 (a Bakerhill pupil who also had Scarlet fever).

Eruptions on their faces - 1920

Fever: 1868

Gastric fever: 1872

German Measles - 1927

Infectious scab - 1915

Influenza: 1900, 1903, 1907, 1912, 1913, 1918, 1922 (6 weeks' closure), 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1933.

Jaundice - 1926

Measles: 1864, 1873, 1874, 1905 (May and Nov; school closed by Med. Cert.), 1908, 1909, 1914 (brought back from Bedford by soldier), 1915 (soldier living in Humberston blamed), 1919, 1924, 1925, 1930, 1940.

M.O.H. inspections: 1921 (Dr Brodie), 1927 (Dr Pyle), 1928 (Dr Brodie), 1931 (Dr Johnstone), 1938 (Dr Johnstone).

Mumps: 1875, 1912, 1916 (school closed), 1929, 1933.

Nurse visits: 1927 (Miss Faber), 1930

Rash spots (Dr Johnstone sent for) - 1936

Rheumatic fever: 1934

Rheumatism - 1934

Scabies - 1916

Scarlet fever: 1872, 1876 (pupil died - school closed by Dr Bruce, MOH), 1909, 1913, 1920, 1925, 1928 (6 weeks' closure), 1933, 1934, 1938 (in schoolhouse).

Scarletina: 1876, 1909, 1914 (school closed by Dr Bruce, MOH).

Smallpox: 1865, in Black Isle 1920 (after which Dr Galbraith vaccinated many children, with the consequent sickness affecting attendance).

Stomach complaints

Swellings on their necks/Lumps near their ears (Mumps?): 1866.

Weighed pupils under 8 and over 13 years - 1920.

Whooping cough: 1872, 1877, 1903, 1908, 1914 (school closed by Dr Middleton, MOH), 1922 (6 weeks' closure), 1923, 1927, 1933, 1935, 1938.

REPORTS BY HM INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND OTHERS

1864

HMI James Scougal inspected the school on 17 June and reported on 28 July:

"Maryburgh F.C.S.: The New Teacher has greatly raised the character of the school. It is in all aspects much improved since my last visit. The attendance is at present much [unclear] by the prevalence of measles in the village."

1865

Inspected by HMI James Scougal on 20 June and reported on 25 July:

"This school owes much to the liberality of the Seaforth family and it must be grateful to them and all connected with the school to see it prosperous and satisfactory, a condition [unclear] its intelligent and active teacher. .. requires attention .. [final sentence indecipherable]." James Yule, Secretary

1866

Inspected by HMI James Scougal on 12 June, accompanied by Managers Rev D R Munro, Mr Gunn, Mr Yule, and also Seaforth, Mrs and Miss Stewart-Mackenzie and Mr Adam, Humberston. Reported on 17 July:

"The school, both in examination and inspection made an appearance highly creditable to Mr Mackenzie as an intelligent and orderly teacher, though one boy was dismissed from the Arithmetic as is standard for copying, yet the general tone of the school appeared to be very good." James Yule, Secretary

Addendum: "June 12. On the occasion of the Inspector's visit and during the examination of Standard VI in Arithmetic, Malcolm McLarty was detected in the act of copying or helping one of the girls in the same standard and, in consequence, was expelled from that part of the examination."

1867

Inspected by HMI James Scougal on 19 June, accompanied by Managers Munro and Yule, and also Seaforth, Mrs and Miss Stewart-Mackenzie. Reported on 12 July:

"The school is conducted in a very orderly and energetic style, and with very good results. Handwriting should improve in style and be bolder and more distinct. Of two boys (in 6th standard last year) who attempted a paper on Higher Arithmetic and a passage from 'Caesar', both did well in Arithmetic and one very fairly in 'Caesar'. The school continues to owe much to the Seaforth family, who have provided a separate room for the industrial work and who take a warm interest in the school generally." James Yule, Secretary

1868

Inspected by HMI James Scoular on 27 June and reported on 15 July:

"Though the School has suffered considerably this year from the prevalence of fever etc it has made a very creditable appearance in the different subjects of examination and inspection. The percentage of passes is fully higher than it was last year. The numbers in the schedule were necessarily fewer than they were last visit." J Yule

1869

Inspected by HMI Andrew E Scougal on 10 June and reported on 9 July:

"The school is in good order and is taught with much skill, energy and efficiency. The results of individual examination were: in Religious Knowledge, Geography and History, good; in Grammar very fair; in Higher Arithmetic and Latin on the whole, fair; in Mathematics moderate." Qualified for exam. 110; number presented 72; pass in Reading 72; Writing 69; Arithmetic 66.

1870

Inspected by HMI Andrew E Scougal on 8 July and by David A Munro, MA, Maryburgh Manse on 1 August (Latin: satisfactory progress); reported 3 Aug:

"The Discipline and Tone of the School are very pleasing, and the state of the instruction, as shown by very satisfactory results in all departments of both the individual examination and the general inspection reflects great credit upon the ability and the diligence of the Teacher. There is room for some improvement, however, in the Handwriting of the fourth Standard." James Yule, Secretary Qualified for exam. 105; number presented 78; pass in Reading 78; Writing 73; Arithmetic 75.

1871

Inspected by HMI Andrew E Scougal on 20 June and reported on 18 July:

"The school continues in a very satisfactory state of discipline, instruction and general efficiency. Standard work on the whole very well done. All the failures in the Higher Standard Reading should be more distinct throughout and in the Higher classes more intelligent. Writing improved but might in general be firmer and more legible. Religious Knowledge and the more advanced instruction (which includes Geography, Grammar and Analysis, History, Latin and Euclid) as tested by oral examination, good in the junior classes, very fair in the higher." James Yule, Secretary Qualified for exam. 124; number presented 87; pass in Reading 86; Writing 85; Arithmetic 81.

1872

Inspected by HMI Andrew E Scougal on 18 June and reported 23 July:

"Order very good. Standard work, on the whole very good, weakest in the writing and arithmetic of standard Fourth. Style of Reading and Handwriting generally somewhat improved. Religious Knowledge very good. Geography (3 classes) very fair. Grammar (3 classes) good. Elementary Euclid and Latin fair. The Industrial Department continues to be exceedingly well taught by Miss McGregor." J Yule

1873

Inspected by HMI John Macleod on 9 June and reported 16 July:

"The Discipline of this school is pleasant and the order good. Standard work is good except Reading which lacks fluency and correctness in the lower standards, and in the higher might have more expression. Higher subjects receive a judicious amount of attention. Vulgar and Decimal fractions fairly good. Grammar and History fairly good from some pupils but answers should come from a greater number. Geography very good. Algebra and Euclid have made a fair beginning. The Latin Grammar should receive more attention. Composition very fair. Sewing very good." J Yule

1874

Inspected by HMI John Macleod on 22 January and reported 23 February:

"The Teacher is a man of great power and discharges the duties of his profession with considerable enthusiasm. As eight months have not elapsed since the last examination, the children were presented in the same Standards as formerly. The pupils in the higher Standards made marked improvement in Reading since my previous visit and answered intelligently questions on the meaning of words. The subject might advantageously be commenced earlier. Standard Arithmetic throughout is very good. Dictation of the higher Standards should have fewer faults in Spelling, English Grammar is taught at an earlier stage and is fairly good in the various classes, Geography and History are fairly good. A Latin class translated with fair accuracy but in this subject more attention should be given to the quantity of words. The Seaforth family gives a very liberal salary to the Sewing Mistress and the Industrial Department is very well taught." Daniel Scott, Clerk to the Board

Qualified for exam 90; presented 66; pass in Reading 66; Writing 60; Arith. 65.

May 20: Surprise visit by HMI Macleod to inspect register, log book and timetable.

1875

Inspected by HMI John Macleod on 12/13 January and reported on 8 February:

"This school continues to be conducted with earnestness and much geniality. The order is good but it appears to me that were the Master to cultivate a quieter manner, his command over the Pupils would not be less effective and there would be an advantageous economising of physical energy. The results of Examination this year are exceedingly creditable and the work in the first three Standards was unusually accurate. Arithmetic and Dictation of the higher Standard are good on the whole and Dictation of the fourth Standard is very good. Reading still admits of improvement. The voice is not made to dwell a sufficient length of time on the individual words and there is a consequent rapidity of utterance which leads to indistinctness. Geography and History of the fourth Standard are very satisfactory but in the fifth and sixth Standard these subjects are not mastered in sufficient detail and I regret that I cannot therefore recommend My Lords to pay the Grant for this year. Singing is taught with much taste by the Senior Pupil Teachers both to the infants and the other pupils. Sewing, as usual, is taught with great care and excellent results. Knitting not so good." Daniel Scott, Clerk to School Board

Presented 81 in Standards, 14 under 7, 28 in English Lit, 28 in Physical Geography.

1876

Inspected by HMI John Macleod on 13 January and reported on 7 February:

"The order is good and class movements are quietly performed with much precision. Standard work is very satisfactory except the Arithmetic of the fifth and sixth Standards, which is backward. The Intelligence of second and third Standard is quite above the average; that of the 4th, 5th and 6th Standard is very fair. Knowledge of meanings and allusions in Poetry much improved since last year. In paraphrasing there is not sufficient effort to render the main thought of the Poet and knowledge of derivation is exceedingly meagre. In future this subject must be better attended to as a condition of receiving a Grant. Physical Geography very fair. Geography and History fair but in future a larger proportion will be expected to give correct answers. Singing very fair. Sewing and Knitting very good." Daniel Scott, Clerk

Presented 84 in Standards, 14 Infants, 5 above Standards, 28 English Lit, 29 Physical Geography, 5 Maths.

1877

Inspected by HMI John Macleod on 22/23 January and reported on 28 February:

"The teacher, being confined to bed through illness, was not present at the inspection. The school continues to be taught with geniality, enthusiasm, very good order and very good success. Writing of the first Standard good; reading good on the whole. Arithmetic good. Arithmetic of the second Standard pretty good. Dictation good, Reading, Meanings and Grammar good. Dictation of the third Standard moderate. Arithmetic very good. Reading, Meanings and Grammar very good. Reading and Grammar of the fourth Standards good; Meanings should be better. Arithmetic of the fourth Standard pretty good; of the 5th and 6th Standard good. History of the 4th Standard for a few, good, the rest moderate; Geography pretty good. History of the 5th and 6th Standards very good. Singing unusually good. Sewing and Knitting very good. Daniel Scott, Clerk to the Board

1900

Report of 30 April:

"The school has made the usual progress. In the lower school the work is conducted with skill, energy and success and the third Standard shows decidedly well in Geography. The pupils of the fourth Standard have received very satisfactory instruction (Writing deserving special praise) but in this class a little more attention should be given to the explanation (by concurrent examples) of Fractions. Some of the pupils of the fifth Standard write good composition but in the case of others sentence construction is somewhat faulty. Penmanship and Sum-setting range from fairly good to good. The Merit Certificate candidates show distinctly well in Arithmetic (slate and mental) and their compositions are in general good. Answering in Geography might be better in the fifth Standard. Singing and Sewing are quite satisfactory. Military Drill receives most careful and successful attention." John Fraser, Clerk to the Board

Merit Certificates were enclosed for Roderick Macrae, Roderick Matheson, Evan Cameron, Johanna Ross, Colin J Mackenzie, Robert Ross.

Dec 20: HMI D Munro Fraser visited and requested weights and measures for the Senior Division and an additional chart for the Infant room. The floor of the boys' and girls' offices [toilets] was reported as filthy. The Teacher was asked to communicate with the Clerk to the School Board regarding these matters. It was necessary also to erect a wooden "cover" before the urinal.

1901

HMI D Munro Fraser visited on 8 March and requested maps of England, British Isles and Australia. He reported on 3 May:

"The new headmaster, who succeeds one who was widely esteemed for his devotion to the cause of education, has made a satisfactory start in his present charge. The Infant classes and the first and second Standards are taught with diligence, care and success. The pupils of the first Standard read well, and the second is on the whole a very good class. At a visit without notice, attention was called to the importance of regularity in penmanship and to the necessity of acquiring the habit of rapid summation. The classes showed a distinct advance in these respects on the occasion of the second visit. The third and fourth Standards, which are taught by pupil-teachers under the supervision of the Headmaster, passed a good examination. Writing is very good in the third Standard and the intelligence of the pupils in the fourth deserves a word of praise. The fifth and sixth Standards showed to good advantage except in Composition. Increased attention should be given to the formation of sentences. Of seven candidates presented for the Merit Certificate five have succeeded in gaining this distinction. Sewing and Singing are good. The improvement of the offices is receiving the attention of the Board. Urinals should, if possible, be placed apart from the main offices and be entirely concealed from view. Some new maps are required. "England" and the "British Isles" should be supplied forthwith. The Board should gradually replace or repair the present desks, many of which, by reason of numerous incisions, are not well adapted for writing purposes. A grant under Article 19E is paid in respect of Campbell but she should attend to Grammar, Composition and French. No grant under Article 19E is due at present for M A Macrae as she had not completed a year of service at the end of the school year."

Colin Fraser, Clerk`

Nov 11: HMI D Munro Fraser visited and commented: "(1) At the beginning of the session special attention should be given to the correction of details, e.g. the formation of individual letters, figures etc; (2) the supervision of Composition should not be delegated to Pupil Teachers except in so far as they require training in this particular part of the work. The revision work done by the Pupil Teachers should be carefully supervised; (3) the work done at periodic examinations &SHY; it is assumed that exams are held periodically &SHY; should be kept for inspection. It would be a stimulus to the scholars if the results of the examinations were hung up on the wall."

1902

HMI D Munro Fraser visited on 28 March and examined for Merit Certificate. He reported on 6 May (see attached, original pp 45 and 46).

1903

HMI Andrew M Burdon visited on 6 January and HMI James A Macdonald on 19 May.

HMIs Fraser and Burdon visited on 2 March and reported on 17 April (see attached, original pp 64 and 65)

On 2 March the Rev MacQuarrie's report on inspection of Religious Knowledge read:

"In the Senior Department here the mistake had been made, the generous mistake, of covering too much ground in the course of the session both in the History and Memory work with the results that the appearance made was not such as to do anything like justice to the evident vigour and intelligence of the teaching. In the Middle Department, although the room set apart for her is most unsuitable, the Mistress in charge had done her work thoroughly and well, the intelligence of the answering and of the repetition as well as its readiness and correctness being very marked. In the Infant room the pupils were all very young but satisfying evidence was given that the subjects professed, which were suitably graded, had received every justice. The New Testament and the Old should be studied more or less in each class *pari/passu*".

On 5 June the report of the Rev MacDonal, Reay, on Religious Knowledge:

"This school, upon the whole, made a very good appearance. In the infant room repetition was very good and the answers to simple questions were satisfactory. Among the older pupils a number hesitated in repetition of Catechism questions, while Psalms were repeated with great ease. In the historical portions of Scripture studied, both Old and New Testaments, the pupils showed marked proficiency. Their answers gave evidence of careful work done, and while a few lagged, the classes as a whole acquitted themselves with credit".

1904

HM Sub-Inspector James W Hood visited on 31 March and inspected Drawing.
The Inspector's report dated 17 February 1904 is attached (p 80).

On 27 May the report of the Association for the Inspection of Religious Instruction read: "Here the general results of last year have been considerably improved upon and the school now ranks among the best taught in this branch of education. In the Infant room all the work professed was excellently well done, and the children showed a commendable keenness in their answers. The older pupils did all the memory work professed perfectly, and answered historical questions with great intelligence, several told the story of Parables with fullness and accuracy. The work is in all respects worthy of high commendation."

Dec 12: Report of HMI Macdonald: "The work done during last session by the pupils enrolled in the Supplementary Course is highly creditable as regards both quantity and quality. Sewing is well taught throughout the school."

1906

April 27: Visit of HMI Hood, Drawing Inspector.

April 30: HMI report: "The closing of the school on account of an epidemic of measles and the changes in the staff consequent on the illness and subsequent resignation of the Infant Mistress have obviously affected the character and continuity of the work. In the circumstances the results are for the most part good. The new teacher in charge of the infants has begun well. In the second class of the Junior Division the girls show generally greater proficiency than the boys, whose spelling needs attention. Reading is good but English Composition and Arithmetic are only fairly satisfactory. The highest class shows to greater advantage in all respects. Of the classes in the Senior Division the highest is the most efficient. Greater facility in English Composition and in dealing with arithmetical problems of a thoroughly practical nature will be looked for in the other two classes. Good progress as a whole has been made in the work of the Supplementary Class and especially in English. The attention of the Managers is directed to the irregular attendance of Alick Finlayson,

number 355 on the Admission Register. A grant under Article 19E is paid as follows: M MacGillivray 40/- (£2)." John Fraser, Clerk

June 1 Visit of HMI James A Macdonald and HMI A Macdonald to examine in Gaelic. The Rev Macdonald, Rogart, examined Bible Knowledge and the report of the Association for the Inspection of R.I. appeared in October: "Maryburgh Public School. In the lower division of this school memory work was a special feature and was excellently done. Singing too was sweet and tuneful. In Bible history all the pupils acquitted themselves well and this applies more particularly to Old Testament history in which some of them excel. Throughout, the results as brought out were very satisfactory and such as to do credit to both staff and pupils. The work of the school ranks as excellent."

1910

July 28: Rev James Johnstone visited and examined in Religious Knowledge and Catechism. " much pleasure in reporting to the School Board on the efficiency of the Instruction imparted to the children in the various divisions of the school."

1911

HMI Menzies visited in March and reported in April:

"The normal rate of grant is recommended this year, though not without hesitation as regards the Senior Division, on account of the large proportion of pupils at this stage who failed to work correctly two sample sums. In this Division also the attainments of many of the pupils lag very much behind their ages. In the Junior and Infant Division there has been an improvement since last year, though in the Junior Division the pupils did not know the meanings of words as well as they should have done, and many of them did very indifferently a test in dictation. The examination also showed that it would be well if they got more practice in ordinary counting."

1912

Feb 23: HMI Miss Littlejohn inspected Cookery Class

1915

On 25 March HMI Menzies reported: "The results in the Infant Room and the lowest Junior class may be regarded as very fair. The classes taught in the middle room give evidence of careful and painstaking teaching. The written work here is specially full, though occasionally lacking in neatness. The tests set on the day of inspection in Dictation and Arithmetic yielded satisfactory results. Reading, however, is somewhat rough and increased attention might be paid even at this stage to the meanings of the more difficult words. In the upper room satisfactory results were obtained in Composition, Arithmetic and Dictation. Grammar and intelligence, however, are subjects which would repay further study and the efficiency of the teaching would certainly be increased by a slight tightening in the discipline." John Fraser, Clerk

Sept 23: HMIs Logan and Hamilton visited and took some classes.

1916

HMI report attached (original pp 215, 216)

1917

HMI report attached (original pp 313, 314)

1919

Jan 17: Visit from HMI Logan who reported in March: "The Board are reminded that intimation should be made to the Department at the time of all unavoidable closures of a school in respect of which it may be necessary to claim an allowance of openings under Exception ii of the Code".

Nov 24: HMI Logan examined Arithmetic, Dictation, Spelling, Composition, Grammar.

1920

Apr/June: HMIs Lang, Logan and Barron visited and examined.

July: Mr Milne, College of Agriculture, visited school garden, made notes and suggestions.

July 9 & SHY; Rev Nicolson, Fodderty, and Rev Johnstone, Strathpeffer, examined in Religious Knowledge.

HMI report of 22 December attached (original pp 400, 401)

1921

School garden inspected by Messrs Milne and Longmore; HMI Macdonald examined Qualifying class; Rev Nicolson, Fodderty and Rev J Izatt Johnstone (now Conon) examined Religious Knowledge. HMIs Lang and Macdonald inspected school.

HMI report dated 5.1.22 attached (original pp 402, 403)

1922

HMI report dated 22.1.23 attached (409, 410, 411)

1923

HMI Lang inspected the school in January and October and reported on 26 October:

"Eighteen girls are enrolled in the Advanced Division. For the purposes of instruction in Cookery they have been divided into two classes, numerically equal, as the equipment provided does not permit of more than 12 pupils receiving instruction in this subject at one and the same time. Under present arrangements each girl receives only one lesson per fortnight, an inadequate allowance of time if satisfactory work is to be done. Two lessons per week per pupil should, if possible, be given. Some re-arrangement is obviously necessary and should be made without delay. The simplest course would appear to involve the provision of additional equipment. The Department will be glad to learn the result of the Education Authority's consideration after the foregoing report."

1924

Rev J I Johnstone examined Religious Knowledge and on 30 June HMI Lang inspected the school and his report on 7.2.25 is attached (original pp 425, 426, 427).

1925

June 28: HMI Mrs Waldie examined Cookery and Needlework.

1926

June 28 - HMI plus Rev Nicolson inspected school. HMI Watson examined Cookery and Needlework.

1927

June: Mr Longmore, Agricultural College, and HMI Watson visited.

1928

May 16: HMI report: "Session 1927-28. The Infant and Junior classes are housed in one room under two teachers. The conditions under which instruction is normally given are therefore not favourable because the room is usually uncomfortably full; at present they are highly unfavourable because the room is overcrowded. Both teachers have worked hard and apart from Writing, which tended to have an objectionable backward slope, the pupils have, in general, made good progress in the principal subjects. Senior 3 was in a reasonably satisfactory state but Senior 2, though improved considerably in Arithmetic during this session, is a class of poor promise. In Senior 1, which also has advanced in Arithmetic, both the oral and the written work reached a satisfactory standard. A wide selection of Poetry is studied in Senior 1 and 2 and in the Advanced division. On the English side of the curriculum as a whole &SHY; including the study of word formation and derivations &SHY; both sections of the Advanced division acquitted themselves with a satisfactory measure of success; in both sections tests in Algebra and Arithmetic were creditably done and in the Second Year Geometry, so far as it seemed, and Science had not received careful attention."

June 27: Revs Nicolson and Johnstone examined Religious Knowledge.

1930

Apr 8: HMI report: "Session 1929-30. In the lower section normal progress has, in general, been made in the principal subjects. Writing was neat and in Junior 2 Poetry was [unclear]. The middle section includes Junior 1 and Senior 3 and 2. Junior 1, though not very graceful in reading, made a good appearance in the other subjects: figuring was neat and the sums set in Arithmetic were accurately executed. Senior 3 and Senior 2 have done satisfactory work but in History and Geography there is considerable leeway and the answering to questions in these subjects was rather poor. Senior 1 worked quite successfully the test set in Arithmetic: in English the scripts submitted were of good quality and under oral examination the majority of the pupils were responsive. The lower Advanced Division class is of somewhat stiff material; both in English and Mathematical subjects the upper class reached a good standard of attainment. It is understood that a considerable number of new desks will be supplied before next Session to replace the present obsolete ones."

1931

June: Rev Muirden, Maryburgh, and Rev Maclean, Conon, examined Religious Knowledge.

Sept.: HMI Watson called to say goodbye and her successor, HMI Miss McGlashan, inspected Cookery, Needlework etc.

1932

Mar 8: HMI Dr Grieve examined Arithmetic and English and reported on 18 March: "Mr Clark has recently retired from the Headmastership of the school after a long and honourable career in the service of Education. As the new Headmaster has only lately taken up duties, no report on the work is offered meantime. It is understood that much-needed redecoration and repairs to the school buildings will be undertaken in the near future."

1933

Revs Nicolson and Muirden examine Religious Knowledge and HMI Dr Grieve, who inspected in January, reported on 19 December (original pp 474, 475 attached).

1934

Mar 5: HMI report: "Copy report by HM Inspector on Maryburgh Public School, Session 1933-34. A useful course of instruction is carried out at this school and the pupils are well versed in practical work of a garden."

Nov: HMI Dr Grieve tests in Geometry.

1936

Dec 1: HMI Miss McGlashan inspects Cooking.

Dec 28: HMI report for 1936-37 appended (original pp 486, 487)

1938

June 21: Rev Muirden and Rev Nicolson examine Religious Knowledge

Dec 19: HMI Gunn inspects school

1939

Jan: HMI Miss Marshall inspects Cooking and Sewing and HMI Gunn inspects school. On 16 March 1940 he reports on Session 1939-40 (original pp 498, 499 appended).

HOLIDAYS

In the first log book the holidays tend to follow the same pattern, namely -

Dec. 21 to Jan. 3 (approx.) Christmas

March: 2-4 days following Presbytery/Managers' annual examination

June 25 (approx.): one day

Mid-July: Thursday, Friday and Monday of Maryburgh Communion

End July: approx. to 12 Sept: summer holidays

Nov. 11 (approx.): Harvest Thanksgiving

By the 1920s the holidays appear to have been regularised in that there was a Christmas holiday, an Easter holiday, the Summer holiday ranged from mid-July to late August, 2000 and there was an official, authorised, "Potato holiday" period of one week in October (in 1922 as late as the first week in November).

PRIZEGIVING

1866

Prizes given "to the most deserving".

1869

"A large number of prizes distributed."

1870

July: Scholars' Certificates to: Peter A Yule, William R Yule, Ussie Cottage; Alexander Strachan, Brahan; Duncan Mackenzie, Ussie; Margaret Mackenzie, Schoolhouse; Annie MacKintosh, Tollie.

1872

Dux: Andrew Gillanders. Mrs Cash's prize for Sewing: Isabella MacLennan

1874

"A large number of prizes presented for Religious Knowledge and Secular subjects."

1875

"A large number of prizes was distributed."

1876

No annual exam owing to closure of school by MOH; therefore no prizes.

1877

"A large number of prizes provided by friends of the district."

1900

Mr Arras, Chairman of School Board, presided. Seaforth's medals: equal: Colin J Mackenzie and Colin Urquhart. Mr Arras' medal: Jessie Ann Mackay. Seaforth's special prizes for reading unseen passages: Colin J Mackenzie and Mary MacLennan. Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie's workbox: Mary MacGillivray

1901

Seaforth and Mr Arras presided, both representing School Board. Seaforth's medal: John Adam. Mr Arras' medal: Mary Ann Stewart

1902

John Fraser, Clerk to the Board, presided. Mrs Wilson, The Cottage, distributed prizes.
Seaforth's medal: Alick MacGregor. Mr Arras' medal: Mary MacGillivray.
Seaforth's special prize: Donella Ross (Reading), Annie Masters (Writing), Maggie MacGregor (Arithmetic), Mary A Stewart (Gaelic). Mr MacDiarmid's medal: Mary MacGillivray

1903

Seaforth presided and Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie presented prizes. Seaforth's medal (Dux): James McRae (see certificate below). Seaforth's prize: Alex MacGregor (Arithmetic)
Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie's prizes: Hector Macrae (Reading), Donella Ross (Writing), Cathy Matheson (Sewing). The Marchioness of Tweeddale's prize for Drawing: Margaret A MacKenzie



1904

Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie and Rev MacKenzie present. Seaforth's medal (Dux): William J Ross. Seaforth's prizes: William Macintosh (Nature Knowledge), Dolly Urquhart (Writing) Mrs S-M's prizes: Mina MacGillivray (Sewing), Kennedy Macdonald (Arithmetic), Cathie Matheson (Drawing). The Marchioness of Tweeddale's prize for Reading: Mina MacGillivray. Miss Noble's prize (Dux girl): Donella Ross

1905

No record of Prizegiving (school was closed due to Measles)

1906

Seaforth's medal (Dux): Hector MacRae. Seaforth's special prizes: Georgina C Mackay (Reading), Isabella Campbell (Writing), Dolly Urquhart (Arithmetic), Caleb MacLennan (English Composition). Mrs S-M's prize: Dolly Urquhart (Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize for Drawing: Duncan Sharman

1907

Seaforth's medal (Dux): Georgina C Mackay. Seaforth's special prizes: Anna B Nicolson and Archie Strachan (Reading), Donald Mackenzie (Arithmetic), Georgina C Mackay (English Composition). Mrs S-M's prizes: Christina Mackintosh (Writing), Jeannie Fraser (Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize for Drawing: Georgina C Mackay

1908

Seaforth and Rev Mackenzie present. Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie presented prizes Seaforth's medal (Dux): Donald Mackenzie. Seaforth's special prizes: Archie Strachan (Arithmetic), Donald Mackenzie (Writing). Mrs S-M's workbook for Sewing: Helen MacLennan. Lady Tweeddale's prize for Drawing: A MacLennan

1909

Seaforth's medal (Dux): Nellie Masters. Seaforth's special prizes: Gregor Mackenzie (Arithmetic), Jessie Menzies (English), Margaret Mackenzie (Writing). Mrs S-M's prizes: Mary M Mackay (Reading), Jane Allardyce (workbox for Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize: Johan Macdonald

1912

Seaforth presided and Marchioness of Tweeddale presented prizes. Seaforth's medal (Dux): Margaret Macgregor. Seaforth's special prize: Donald MacLennan (Arithmetic) Mrs S-M's prizes: Isobel Mackenzie (Reading), Chrissie Ross (workbox for Sewing)

1913

Mr Macintyre, Brae, presided. Seaforth's medal (Dux): Elsie Campbell. Seaforth's special prize: Donald Campbell (Arithmetic). Mrs S-M's workbox: Maggie Fraser (Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize for Drawing: Allan Strachan

1914

School closed due to Scarletina (no prizegiving recorded)

1915

Seaforth's medal (Dux): George Robertson. Seaforth's special prizes: Kenneth Mackay (Arithmetic), George Blair (Composition). Mrs S-M's prizes: Farquhar Maclellan (Reading), Harriet Cameron (writing), Dorothy Strachan (workbox for Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize for Drawing: Edwin Cockburn. Money given to School Board for ordinary prizes was voted by the children to be given to the War Fund.

1917

Pages missing from log book.

1918

Seaforth's medal (Dux): Annie Harrie. Seaforth's special prizes: Alick Macdonald (Arithmetic), Cath Maclellan (Composition). Mrs S-M's prizes: Maggie Matheson (Reading), Flora Mackenzie (Writing), Evelyn Fraser (Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize for Cookery: Jean Blair. Again, the children voted that the prize money be given to Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie for the Prisoner of War Fund.

1919

Seaforth presided and the Marchioness of Tweeddale presented prizes. Both addressed the pupils "in an interesting manner". Seaforth's prize (Dux): Pearl Mackay. Seaforth's special prizes: Duncan Campbell (Arithmetic), Phyllis Cockburn (Composition). Mrs S-M's prizes: Mary Menzies (Reading), Marvol Stevenson (Writing), Ruth Harvie (workbox for Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize for Cookery: Jessie Blair. SSCA prizes for essays: Pearl Mackay, Duncan Campbell, Ara Campbell

1920

Seaforth presided and Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie presented prizes. Both made "interesting speeches". Seaforth's prize (Dux): Mary Menzies. Seaforth's special prizes: Leslie Stevenson (Arithmetic), Ann Campbell (Composition). Mrs S-M's prizes: Mary Menzies (Reading), Mary Macrae (Writing), Mary Paterson (Sewing). Lady Tweeddale's prize for Drawing: Ian Menzies

1921

Rev Norman Campbell presided and Mrs Campbell presented prizes. Rev Johnstone also present. Seaforth's prize (Dux): Leslie Primrose Stevenson, Maryburgh. Runner-up: Mary Macrae, Loch Ussie

1922

Seaforth's prize (Dux): Alice May Tuach West, Maryburgh. Seaforth's special prizes Jessie Reid, Dunglass Cottage; Ian Menzies, Gamekeeper's House; Sybil Mackay, Burnbank; David MacLennan, Renfield Cottage. Mrs S-M's prize for Sewing and Cookery: May Ann McGregor (Molly), Loch Ussie. Lady Tweeddale's prize for Qualifying Class: Janet MacCulloch, Humberston. Anonymous prize for Sewing and Cookery: Murdina McGregor (Daisy), Loch Ussie

1923

Dr Maclean, Maryburgh, presided and "made feeling reference to the death of Lord Seaforth". Lady Seaforth presented the prizes. Seaforth's prize (Dux): Williamina Gordon, Pitglassie. Box for Industrial Work (Cooking and Sewing): Murdina (Daisy) Macgregor. Writing pad for Industrial Work presented by Miss Mary MacLennan: Ishbel Mackenzie.

1924

Dr Maclean presented the prizes. Seaforth medal (Dux): Marion Ross, Brahan. Lady Seaforth's workbox: Alice McCulloch, Humberston

1925

No record (pages missing)

1926

Dux medal: Williamina Elizabeth Thompson

1927

Dr Maclean presented the prizes in place of Lady Seaforth. Dux: John James Beaton

1928

Dr Maclean presided. Dux: Jessie Fraser, Clethorps

1929

Dux: Ronald Macdonald Beaton

1930

Dux: George William Ross, Brahan

1931

Dux (equal): Jeannie Reid, Balnain and Aileen Abigail Campbell, Brahan Gardens

1932

Mrs Gillanders, Humberston, presented the prizes. Dux: Marion C Ross

1933

No record

1934

Mrs Gillanders, Humberston, presented prizes and said a few words.

1935

Programme of music by Miss Campbell. Rev Muirden presented prizes as did Mr Riach, Dingwall.

1936

Councillor Riach presided and Miss Campbell's pupils gave a programme of song, which was "kept as short as possible owing to warm weather".

1937-39

No entries

1940

Final entry in the log book:

"School closed for summer vacation. No prizes given in any of the classes and pupils to return on 6th August.

SCHOOL ROLL

Year	No of Pupils	Year	No of Pupils	Year	No of Pupils
		1900	155	1920	109
		1901	138	1921	127
		1902	130	1922	131
1863	75	1903	124*	1923	no record
1864	115	1904	126	1924	140 (65 in Infant room)
1865	130	1905	109	1925	125
1866	134	1906	92		
1867	69 boys, 65 girls (134)	1907	119		
1868	119	1908	118		
1869	146	1909	106		
1870	66 boys, 56 girls (122)	1910	121		
1871	131	1911	110		
1872	172	1912	118		
1873	166	1913	121		
1874	107	1914	125		
1875	104	1915	118		
1876	126	1916	113		
		1917	124		
		1918	119		
		1919	112		

*(During this year the roll was affected by some farmers having displaced married ploughmen for single men.)

From 1926 to 1938 there is no record of school rolls but a photograph survives of one class in 1936. In 1939 there were 115 pupils.

MARYBURGH SCHOOL 1936



Back row, l to r: George Mackenzie; ? Moir; James Stuart; Forbes Beaton; Hector Mackenzie; Dick McIntosh; Alfred Tough; Robert Ingram

3rd row, l to r: John MacDonald (Headmaster); Barbara MacRae; Stewart Coghill; Georgie McIntosh; Blanche Sutherland; Eva McIntosh; Sheila MacDonald; Donella MacLennan

2nd row, l to r: Margaret McLennan; Tilda MacDonald; Marjory Menzies; Peggy MacLean; Chrissie MacLean

Front row, l to r: Campbell Cunningham; Arthur Henry; Jockie MacLean; Willie Stuart

TEACHING STAFF

1864

Alexander Colin MacKenzie, Master (appointed 1/6/1863); and Pupil Teachers John Wormald (1/6/1861) and Alexander Macdonald (1/6/1862)

June-Nov. - Miss Margaret Ross, needlework ("Industrial Department")

Nov. Miss Catherine McGregor, needlework (appointed by Mrs Stewart-MacKenzie)

1865

Dec. John Wormald left, having "expired his apprenticeship" and was given books to the value of £1.10/- (£1.50)

1866

Jan. Hugh Gordon, age 15, taken on as a candidate.

July Staff reduced to Master and one Pupil Teacher

Sept. Meeting of Managers agreed to admit Hugh Gordon as a Pupil Teacher, to date from 1 June

1866

Dec. Alex MacDonald left for Admissions Examination of Free Church Training College, Glasgow

1867

Jan. Alex MacDonald's apprenticeship expired but he continues in the school.

John MacDonald, age 13, taken on as a candidate (Alex's brother).

Feb. Alex MacDonald given handsome collection of books by Managers on leaving for post of Assistant in Lockerby (sic) Free Church School.

July John MacDonald admitted as Pupil Teacher for one year from 1 June 1867.

1868

June Hugh Gordon intimates resignation. Daniel Finlayson appointed candidate and registered as Pupil Teacher for two years from 1 June 1868.

Dec. Hugh Gordon, former Pupil Teacher presented with writing desk.

1870

From May to July the Pupil Teachers were involved in written examinations, in the school and at Invergordon (when their places were taken by boy pupils) and by the Minister in Religious Knowledge.

1871

Mar. William Bethune appointed as candidate

Apr. J MacDonald, D Finlayson and W Bethune undertake series of examinations in the school. Their marks ranged from 76% to 91% and MacDonald produced "a pretty good paper", Finlayson "a very fair paper" and Bethune "got on pretty well".

July William Bethune registered in Council Office as Pupil Teacher of second year, his service commencing on 1 July 1871.

Dec. John MacDonald given writing desk and some books on finishing his apprenticeship.

1872

Jan. William Mackenzie admitted as candidate and registered as from 1 June 1872.

Dec. Daniel Finlayson left for Admission Examination at FC Normal School, Glasgow.

1873

June William Bethune left.

July Andrew Gillanders cannot be engaged as a Pupil Teacher.

July Master (Alexander Colin Mackenzie) appointed by School Board of Fodderty as Headmaster of Maryburgh Public School, subject to the transfer of the school building from the Trustees of Maryburgh Free Church to the Board being sanctioned by the Scotch Board of Education.

1874

Jan. William Mackenzie's apprenticeship expired. Duncan Macdonald began as a candidate.

Feb. William Bethune's name removed from the Register of Pupil Teachers.

1876

Jan. Andrew Gillanders teaching at Fodderty for 7 days as Master there was ill. Two monitors substituted for him.

1877

Mar. Master's recent ill-health resulted in him being in a "hydropathic establishment" all week (in fact, for a month).

Apr. Mr Bisset, Fodderty, offered his services to superintend school.

July Andrew Gillanders attending exam for admission to Glasgow FC Normal School (advised in Oct that he had passed exam).

Oct. Maggie Watson Laing and James Bethune began as monitors with a view to becoming Pupil Teachers.

1900

Apr. Mary Ann F MacRae began as a monitor with a view to becoming a Pupil Teacher (later confirmed for 4 years from 1/7/1900).

Apr. Miss Johanna Urquhart resigned on appointment to Ullapool Public School.

Aug. Death of Alexander Colin Mackenzie, Master

Aug. - Miss Marianne MacLennan mentioned as a member of staff but there is no record of her date of appointment.

Aug. Mary Ann Munro, Maggie Macintosh, Christina Campbell and Mary Ann Macrae all mentioned as Pupil Teachers.

Aug. Marianne Maclellan, infant mistress, left for Kingussie and was presented with a gold bangle and amethyst and diamond ring.

Sept. Mr K Maclellan, interim Headmaster.

Sept. Miss Agnes G Cooper appointed to Miss Maclellan's post.

Nov. Mr D Mackay, Culburnie School, Kiltarlity, appointed Headmaster.

Dec. Miss Munro and Miss Macintosh attend Queen's Scholarship exam in Inverness.

1901

Mar. Jessie Ann Mackay commences as monitor with a view to becoming a Pupil Teacher in July.

Mar. Miss Mary Ann Munro resigns.

1902

Mar. Miss Maggie Macintosh resigned on being appointed to Dundee.

1903

Aug. Miss Agnes Cooper left to get married and received a diamond ring and silver biscuit box.

Oct. Miss Annie Logan, from UF Training College, Edinburgh, succeeded Miss Cooper.

1904

Apr. Miss Campbell and Miss Macrae passed King's Scholarship and were appointed Assistants.

1905

May Staff: Donald Mackay, Headmaster; Miss Annie Logan, Assistant; Miss Mary Ann Macrae, Assistant; Miss Mary MacGillivray, Pupil Teacher.

June Miss Mackintosh, Assistant in Orphan Homes School, Bridge of Weir, commenced as Assistant.

July Miss Mary Ann Macrae attending exam "for Certificates" in Inverness.

1906

Feb. Miss Annie Logan resigns due to illness.

July Miss Mackintosh and Miss Macrae attend Acting Teachers exam in Inverness.

1907

July Miss Mackintosh and Miss Macrae attend Acting Teachers exam in Inverness.

Sept. Miss Mary A Macrae left for Glasgow Training College for further study.

Oct. Miss Clark, Milne's Institute, Fochabers, commenced.

Oct. Miss Mackintosh left for Aberdeen Training College.

Oct. Miss Campbell, Dingwall Academy, commenced.

1908

Sept. 27 Miss Mary MacGillivray left for training in Glasgow Centre and was presented with a lady's dressing case.

1911

Mar. Visiting Teacher &SHY; Miss Bellows, Instructor for Physical Education for the County.

Sept. Miss Clark left for Aberdeen Training Centre and was given a silver manicure case.

Sept. Miss J C Riach, from Aberdeen Training Centre, succeeded Miss Clark.

1914

Jan. Headmaster absent for two days and was replaced by daughter, a junior student in Dingwall Academy (by 1918 she was a teacher in Cambusbarron School, Stirling).

Staff: D Mackay, Headmaster; Miss Jessie A Campbell; Miss Jane C Riach.

1919

Nov. Miss Macrae sent as Temporary Teacher by Dr Philip, Executive Officer for Ross-shire Education Authority.

1920

Jan. "The Headmaster, Mr Donald Mackay, after a 19 years' service in this school, died on the 9th instant to the great regret of all, and was interred amidst signs of much sorrow in Fodderty on the 12th."

Jan. Dr Philip, Director of Education, appoints Mr K A Maclean, retired teacher, Conon Bridge, temporarily as Headmaster. (appointment terminated in April).

May Mr Donald Mackay, retired teacher, 4 Windsor Terrace, Glasgow, appointed Headmaster until Summer holidays. For a few days shortly after his appointment he was absent with a sore throat which he blamed on constant draughts through a badly constructed building.

Sept. Mr David Clark was appointed Headmaster.

1921

June Assistant Teachers went to exhibition of Infant work in Dingwall Academy.

Nov. HM absent at brother-in-law's funeral in Inverness

Dec. HM attended Induction Service in Dingwall.

1922

Jan. - HM off with influenza

1923

Feb. HM sprained his foot while working at school window and was off for 2 days.

Sept. Senior room has 3 classes (48 pupils) and HM found work "very heavy".

Nov. Miss Elizabeth Clerk temporary teacher for 3 days.

1924

Jan. Miss Anne Souter Clark temporary teacher for 2 days.

Dec. HM called to Glasgow &SHY; dangerous illness of son. Elizabeth Clark in place.

1925

Feb. Miss Dorothy Watt, Cromarty, appointed.

Nov. Miss Riach mentioned as a member of staff.

1927

Dec. Mr John Sinclair, MA, Dingwall, a student of Moray House, Edinburgh, commenced practice teaching.

1928

June Donald Macdonald temporary teacher for few days.

June Miss Campbell absent &SHY; death of mother.

1929

Jan. Miss Campbell absent; death of sister.

Sept. Miss Davidson, visiting teacher of Physical Instruction, mentioned.

1930

June Miss Riach absent with strained back

Sept. Miss Campbell absent; severe illness of sister

1931

Sept. - David Clark resigns as Headmaster.

Sept. Miss Watt at Mod.

1932

Jan. David Clark presented with clock from pupils and walking stick from staff.

Feb. J Macdonald appointed Headmaster.

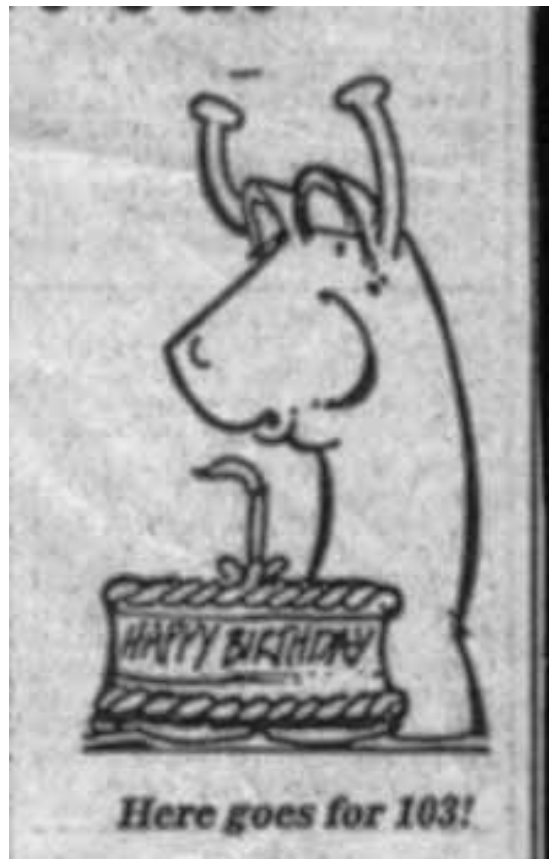
Oct. Miss Watt absent; father died



John Macdonald, shown above celebrating his 102nd birthday in March 1988 with his daughter Sheila, features in the 1936 photograph of Maryburgh pupils, which also includes daughter Sheila.

From the February 1932 entry in the log book we learn of his appointment to Maryburgh School, but the newspaper article gives a better insight into his background.

He was born in Lewiston (Loch Ness-side) on 20 March 1888 and served in both world wars; taught in Dingwall Academy prior to becoming Headmaster at Maryburgh; retired in 1953 at age 65 only to embark on work as a labourer at hydro-electric schemes; and rejoiced in a successful cataract operation prior to the milestone birthday.



1933

Aug. Miss Watt did not appear after holidays. HM understands she is in Cullicudden School.

1935

Feb. - J Christie takes place of HM, who has 'flu.

1937

May Mr Campbell, Conon, replaces HM, who is in hospital.

Oct. Miss Mary Macleod, MA, appointed to Qualifying Class.

1938

May Miss McCracken, Strathpeffer, as temporary teacher.

May Miss Riach died in Ross Memorial Hospital after 27 years' service. HM made reference to her and drew attention to her long service. He and 5 pupils attended the funeral to Mitchell Hill and the pupils contributed generously to a wreath.

Aug. Miss Munro, Kyle, appointed in Miss Riach's place.

Sep.t Miss Joan Fraser, Plockton, appointed, but sent in subsequent months to Fodderty, Avoch, Newhall and Cullicudden.

1939

Jan. Miss Paterson mentioned as visiting teacher of Physical Education

May Mr Buchanan replaces HM, who is ill. Miss Gillies another temp. teacher.

1940

June - Miss Daisy Nicol, Dingwall, now visiting teacher of Music.

TEACHING STAFF SALARIES

1864

Master £15 plus free house value £12; Pupil Teachers £9; John Wormald £15; Alex McDonald £12.10/-; total £51.10/- (£51.50).

1865

Master: augmentation £20, gratuity £9 (£29); Wormald £17.10/-; McDonald £15; total £61.10/- (£61.50).

1866

Jan: Wormald (7 months) £11.13.4; Master's gratuity (7 months) £2.6.8. (£14)
Mar: Emoluments from Committee of Free Church £11.12.6; from Committee of Council £29; school fees £33.8/-; other emoluments £7.7/-; dwelling house valued at £12; total £93.7/6 (£93.37).
July: Master £25; Pupil Teacher £17.10/-; (£42.50)

1867

Master £26.13.4; Gordon's stipend £10; McDonald's stipend £4.3.4; (£40.86)

1869

July - Government grants; Master £29; J McDonald £12.10/-; D Finlayson £10 (£51.50).

1870

Aug; From Committee of Council on Education : Master - Augmentation of Salary £20 + gratuity for training pupil teachers £9 (£29); J McDonald £15; D Finlayson £12.10/- (£56.50).

1871

July: Master £33.5/-; J McDonald £17.10/-; D Finlayson £15; W Bethune £4.3.4; (£69.92).

1872

July: Master £33.5/-; D Finlayson £17.10/-; W Bethune £12.10/-; W Mackenzie £7.5.10 (£70.05).

1873

July 16: Master £33.5/-; J Macdonald £17.10/-; D Finlayson £15; W Bethune £4.3.4 (£70.54)
July 26: Master (Alexander Colin Mackenzie) appointed by School Board of Fodderty to serve for one year from Whitsunday 1873 at an annual salary of £125, paid quarterly, subject to transfer of

school building from Trustees of Free Church, Maryburgh, to the School Board being sanctioned by the Scotch Board of Education.

In the log book of 1900 to 1940 there is no mention of Teaching Staff salaries.

WEATHER

Attendance and health were often affected by weather conditions but, again, unlike log books for other schools, there are few entries giving a picture.

Year	Weather
1864	Jan/Feb. cold; Oct. rainy.
1865	Feb. 20/21 heavy snow.
1869	Feb. 26 stormy; Mar. 1 heavy snow
1872	Feb. 21 mild; Feb. 28 cold.
1874	Mar. boisterous; Oct. very favourable for potato lifting; Dec. cold.
1875	Jan. unsettled; Feb. snowstorm.
1876	Feb. rather stormy; Mar. stormy wild; Dec. stormy.
1877	Jan. cold; Apr. stormy; Nov. st Dec. very stormy.
1900	Mar. severe
1901	Jan. stormy; Feb. stormy (children sent home early); Mar. stormy.
1902	Feb. inclement
1904	Jan. very stormy; Feb. severe; Apr. stormy; Nov/Dec. severe snowstorm.
1906	Jan. stormy; Feb. parents collected children because of blinding drift; Mar. severe and protracted storm; Dec. severe storm (closed school)
1907	Feb. exceptionally stormy; Mar. stormy.
1908	Jan. stormy/heavy sleet (children sent home); Feb. same;
1909	Jan. severe snowstorm; Nov. very stormy.
1913	Jan. - snow; Dec. cold and snowy.

Year	Weather
1914	Feb. snowstorm.
1915	Dec. very stormy.
1916	Jan. very boisterous; Feb. exceptionally severe storm (children sent home); Mar. very severe storm.
1917	Feb. cold and frosty; April very stormy (children sent home).
1918	Jan. very severe snowstorm.
1919	Nov. snowstorm; Dec. very stormy.
1920	June very wet.
1921	Mar. stormy.
1922	Jan. a big snowstorm.
1923	Jan. very stormy; May cold raw "like a December day"; July very warm; Oct. very stormy; Nov. raw Cold sleety; Dec. cold stormy.
1924	Feb. blizzard.
1925	Dec. heavy snowstorm.
1926	Jan. & snow; Mar. snowstorm; Nov. very wet "The few country children who turned up were soaked. Sent home in afternoon with an apple as a little a acknowledgment of pluck".
1927	Jan. snowstorm; Apr snowy; Sept. nasty stormy.
1928	Jan. frost.
1929	Dec. very wet and stormy.
1931	Jan. cold Frosty slippery; Mar. snowstorm.
1932	Jan. stormy.



There must be many photographs such as this, lying in cupboards and drawers, possibly with names fading or unknown. This photograph of pupils of Maryburgh Primary School dates immediately post-World War 2 and is courtesy of Mavor Wilson whose husband is on the extreme right in the back row.

Back row, l-r: Margaret Jack, George Campbell, Frances Barclay, Roderick ?, Margaret Oag, James Wilson.

Front row, l-r: ?, James Macrae, John Maclennan, Patricia Sutherland, Nan Maclean, David Sutherland, William Macdonald, Hamish Mackenzie.