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WENTWORTH EDUCATION

RUSHEEN CRAIG November 2012.

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2. How the Wentworth School started.

3. Individual Teachers.

Information held at State Records pertaining to some of the individual teachers.

Unfortunately there seem to be no surviving records of pupils attending the early Wentworth Schools. The only pertinent records I could find at State Records at Kingswood related to reports about the teachers at the school (sometimes there is mention of individual students). These I have copied in slightly abbreviated form.

These records do not give a list of the teachers as such. Therefore, for ease of understanding, I will give here David J. Tulloch's List of TEACHERS, from

The Historic Town of Wentworth.

1860 George McDonnell.

1861 Mrs Elizabeth Thring.

1863 Philys Townsend [elsewhere referred to as Philip Townsend]

1863 John Goold.

1869 William Gordon.

1871 Mr & Mrs Thring [only Mr. Thring in State Records]

1872 Thomas Alcock.

1876 Richard Hunt.

1878 Carl Meyer.

1882 Benjamin Stokes.

1885 James Mulholland.

1889 Robert Miller.

1891 William Kelly.

[Addition from State Records: Katherine J. Keelty, Teacher at Wentworth, who married Edward/Edwin Cotching 1897 at Wentworth having resigned February 1897.]

1891 Frederick Wilson.

1899 James Sullivan.

1902 Herbert Stoyles.

1904 Austen Hayes.

1907 William Draffin.

1909 William Hall.

1911 Albert Page.

1912 Herbert Garney.

1915 James McCarthy.

1921 James Brigden.

1924 Cecil Preston.

1926 Lionel Whitbread.

1929 Thomas Ransley.

1932 Herbert Skevington.

1936 Athol Taylor.

1939 Vernon Truskett.

1942 Arvon Williams.

1944 Leslie Barber.
1950 Stanley Condon.
1956 Alan Warner.
1960 Norman McDonald.
- Kenneth Todd.

4. Annual Examination of the School at Wentworth on 17 July 1862.

School has only been in existence for a little over 12 months. **Awards to various named pupils.** Mrs. & Miss Thring to leave.

South Australian Register, 30 July 1862.

5. Annual examination of the non-vested National school at Wentworth, 25 June 1863.

This lists the **names of the pupils who gained awards** in the various subjects. Patrons and parents attended. Two new replacement Patrons elected. New teacher, Mr. John R. Goold, of Swan Hill, selected.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 10 Jul 1863.

6. Annual examination of the district school at Wentworth, July 1864.

This lists the names of the **pupils who gained awards** in the various subjects. Patrons and parents attended.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 8 Aug 1864.

7. Should (insufficient) money collected to build a Hospital be spent erecting a School??

South Australian Register, 2 Jan 1869.

8. Opening of the new building 1870.

South Australian Register (Adelaide) 25 Apr 1870.

9. School Examination Dec 1873.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 6 Jan 1873.

10. Sep 1874 School attendance good and teachers well paid; new schoolhouse.

South Australian Register, 4 Sep 1874.

11. List of Schools by County in Wentworth area.

1. INTRODUCTION.

Wentworth School Site.

Fronting Darling Street, bounded on the north by Arthur Street, and backing onto the Darling River. Section 29.

1 acre 2 roods 33 perches.

Dedicated as a Public School **site** on **18 November 1870.**

Adjoining the School Site, on the southern boundary is the **site** of the **School Residence** which measures 2 roods.

To the south again is a 2 rood **Parsonage site** and then the 1 acre **Church of England site**; this site being dedicated to be used to build the Church on 18 November 1870.

Schools at Wentworth.

Government Schools of NSW 1848-2003.

This book is used by the State Records, Kingswood, as an authority on Government Schools in New South Wales.

Concerning Wentworth it lists records from these dates:

Public School August 1860 to December 1940.

District School January 1941 to December 1943.

Central School January 1944 to December 1974.

Public School January 1975 - .

For an explanation of the different terms used above you could not do better than to quote directly from the book itself.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Public Schools were **known as National Schools from 1848 to 1866,**
and **Public Schools since 1867.**

Originally attendance of 30 children was required for establishment of such a school, but this was reduced to 25 in 1867 and to 20 in 1880.

Until 1875 parents had to pay one-third of the costs of the buildings, but the Council of Education and then the Department of Education have since met total costs.

Until the 1880s there were no Government Secondary Schools. and no official post-primary courses in Public Schools.

But the 1880 Act recognised the presence at school of numbers of children who had completed the primary course, by providing for the establishment of Superior Public Schools with primary and post-primary courses, and for separate High Schools incorporated one or more distinct secondary departments or 'schools'.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

District Schools operated 1906 to 1945. They contained both primary and secondary departments.

Wentworth was originally a Non-vested National School

The first Wentworth Town allotments were sold in March of 1860. Just two months later it was reported that plans were afoot to establish a school at Wentworth and place it under the National Education Board Sydney as a non-vested National School.

[Pastoral Times and Deniliquin Telegraph, 25 May 1860]

Non-vested schools remained the property of the owner and were not paid for by the National Board of Education. A private school or other premises could thus be converted into a non-vested school. **The National Board of Education provided the books and the teacher's salary and the school followed the National programme of education.**

The local residents, under the direction of a Local Board, reserved to themselves the use of the premises for any local purpose such as religious services, while at the same time the school under the management of the Local Board was bound to carry out the National System of Education intact.

2. HOW WENTWORTH SCHOOL STARTED.

No school or schoolmaster in 1857.

Lower Darling.

The following is an extract from a private letter, dated 18 June:-

... I fear my son may be a long time on the Darling ere a school-house be erected, or a schoolmaster settled on its banks.

Empire (Sydney), 16 Jul 1857.

A [Private] Schoolmaster in 1859.

The population within a mile of the Junction is nearly 100, and we have four stores, at one of which the Post-Office is conducted; one public-house, two surgeons, one schoolmaster, one blacksmith, one carpenter, one butcher ...

South Australian Register, Fri 24 Jun 1859.

Preliminary Report for Requested Non-vested School at Wentworth.

12 Dec 1859.

To: Sec of National School Board.

From: G. McDonell [Teacher at Private School at Wentworth].

[Note that his signature is clearly written both as McDonnell and McDonell on other letters.]

A [Private] school has been in existence here for the past six months. As yet the scholars are few and barely afford the teacher a scant subsistence.

I am unwilling to give up having spent money on it and likewise because there is every prospect of the township increasing my funds and therefore have authorised me happily to apply to the Government for pecuniary aid. I therefore request information as to how to apply for this aid and what qualifications are required to enable me to become a teacher under the National School Board, and whether it is necessary that I should proceed to town [Sydney], a journey out of my power at present.

[Reel 4014 p.311.1/2 Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; Sep 1859 - May 1860; Sydney Records, Indexed under 'Murray and Darling Junction.]

Superintendent's Report, 20 Jan 1860.

From W. C. Wilkins, Esq, Sec, Board of National Education.

It is desirable to provide aid towards the support of a school at the Junction of the Rivers Darling and Murray, for which application is made in the annexed letter.

It is also desirable to encourage the teacher to persevere in carrying on the school.

[Reel 4014 p.312 Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; Sep 1859 - May 1860; Sydney Records, Indexed under 'Murray and Darling Junction.]

The situation in March 1860 by McDonnell.

Monday 12 March 1860.

To Sec, Board of National Education.

From **G. McDonnell**.

Wentworth, Murray and Darling Junction.

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No.60/193. I have been prevailing upon the inhabitants to erect a suitable building to be placed under the Commissioners as a Non-vested National School.

Owing to the high price of labour and materials the sum required is necessarily large, however having interested one or two gentlemen well disposed to furtherance of education I have the honour to inform you that **there is every certainty of a suitable school being erected in a very short time.**

At present the [private] school is held in a calico tent, (my own property) in the township of Wentworth, the centre of a very large district embracing the whole of the River Darling and several hundreds of miles likewise of the Murray. The township has been proclaimed for sale and will be sold this week.

The children are at present under the stipulated number but what with the effect the land sale must produce on the population and the appearance of support I have received from various parties, that difficulty will be removed very shortly after the school is finished.

With regard to myself, I have to inform you that I am a Graduate of Medicine of the University of Edinburgh, and that I have received a liberal education and that though I never before undertook the charge of education children, yet I believe I fully comprehend the National teaching, if I may so call it, in contradiction of the old method, is that which is to be adopted, mostly from having taken an interest when at home in the establishment of an Industrial School which induced me to turn my attention to the subject of coaching and also from what also may be obtained in the ordinary course of reading.

I am at the moment unable to give the name of any gentleman residing in Sydney who is acquainted with this district but I will be able to comply with your request when I send the printed form of application.

[Reel 4014 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; Sep 1859 - May 1860*; Sydney Records, Indexed under 'Murray and Darling Junction.]

Calling for tenders to build school, May 1860?

From Wentworth Correspondent, 15 May 1860.

Having provided for their own spiritual welfare, the inhabitants would seem to have turned their attention to the obtaining of a suitable place of instruction **for their children**, as may be inferred from **their calling for tenders for a building**; this, I think, they ought to make of brick, that it may be in unison with others. They will doubtless take a lesson and warning from the *fracas* that took place in your locality. I believe it is intended to place it in connection with the National Education Board ... Sydney, as a **non-vested National School**, ... reserving to themselves the use of the ... for any local purpose, while at the same time the managers will be bound to carry out the National System of Education intact. This is as it should be; that system is the only one adapted for outlying districts, where the population is sparse, and where the professors of the different denominations are nearly equal in numbers, no denominational school can possibly exist; this I am well assured is the case here, therefore Government aid will be a benefit to the school, and a boon to the neighbourhood.

Pastoral Times, 25 May 1860.

Preliminary Application for a Non-vested School at Wentworth.

16 May 1860.

To: Secretary of National Education Board.

From: **G. McDonell, Teacher [Private School, Wentworth].**

I have the honour to announce to you that matters here are in such a state of forwardness that **a site for the school has been obtained**, as has a call been made for tending, the money required having been nearly all subscribed.

Acting on the suggestion contained in your letter, the building will be placed under the Commissioners [of the Board of National Education] and the Local Patrons [in Wentworth], as a Non-vested National School, and I am authorized by the Committee appointed by the inhabitants of Wentworth to carry out the project of the School, and to enquire of your Board the usual mode of transferring [?] Lands of private parties to the Local Patrons, and whether the Board would, in the absence of any other agent, attend to having the transfer completed in Sydney.

It being distinctly understood by the promoters and subscribers that at no one time that the building ever become denominational and that it will not be left in the power of the Patrons to do so, but rather that it be so preserved that when we [?] it can be handed wholly over to the Commissioners.

As also to enquire whether in the event of all of the Local Patrons leaving the Colony or dying out it would entail an additional expense for a new transfer.

I trust that by the course of my [?] I will be able to forward the application in vide with Local Patrons names.

[Reel 4015 p.9 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; 1 Aug 1860 - 23 Oct 1860*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Public Meeting regarding Education at Wentworth, 19 May 1860.

Wentworth
From our Correspondent.

A public Meeting was held at Wentworth, junction of the Darling, on Saturday evening, the 19th ultimo, for the purpose of appointing local patrons, trustees, and a committee of management, for a **public school about to be established** in this rising and important township.

About 15 persons, principally heads of families, were present. Dr. Cotter was voted into the chair, and briefly explained the objects of the meeting. It appeared that **Mr. Fletcher**, of Tapio, had **generously given an allotment of land to be devoted to the purpose of the school.**

A wooden building of 20 feet by 14 feet IS TO BE ERECTED which will be at the service of any denomination of Christians for public worship on Sabbaths. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Fletcher for his gift of land. Messrs G. B. Fletcher and Hugh Jamieson were appointed trustees. Messrs. Goodwin, Perry, McClymont, McGeorge and Cotter, local patrons; and the Messrs. McClymont, Davie, Randell, Renner, and McGeorge, the committee of management. Mr J. D. Smith was appointed treasurer, and Mr G. McDonnell as secretary.

[Wentworth, From our Correspondent; *Pastoral Times*, 8 June 1860.]

My Comment: On 16 March 1860, at the first sale of Town Land in Wentworth, Mr. Fletcher purchased:

Section 1 - Allots 1, 2, and 3.

Section 4 - Allot 1.

Section 6 - Allots 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Section 9 - Allot 2.

Section 22 - Allots 14, and 15.

Section 24 - Allot 4.

The question is which one of these blocks of land did Fletcher donate for the Wentworth's first non-vested School?

Maud Crang, in *Maud's Second Book of Houses*, 2006, believes that this first National School was at what is now **39 Cadell Street, Allotment 2 of Section 9**, one block away from the NE corner of Cadell and Beverley Streets. She quotes that a bell on a tree near Beverley Street is mentioned in one reminiscence held by the Wentworth Historical Society (Valentine 1940). She says that Mr. Des Foley whose family lived on this site for many years remembers a big old Box tree on the eastern boundary about half-way down the block. Maud says that the 1879 Rate Book shows the property as being owned by Des Foley, with improvements listed as a "wood cottage."

The official Records show the Board of Education to own land elsewhere in that Section:-

Allots 13 & 14 Section 9 - BOARD OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

1 acre. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol VI Folio 12.

Notation on Map: R.576.

Notified 10. 3. [??]

W2

This is in Adelaide Street, one block from the SE corner of Adelaide and Beverley Streets. This land was not offered for sale in the March 1860 Wentworth Town Land Sale.

On 7 Aug 1861 the Inspector of National Schools wrote:-

On my last visit to Wentworth I selected Allotments 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Section 9

as the site for a National School. At a Meeting of the Local Patrons and others it was resolved that steps be taken to erect a vested school, and as in all probability, an application to this effect will shortly be submitted to the Board for consideration, it is advisable that the proposed site be applied for to the Government.

[Reel 4017 Second Index p.510 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

As these blocks of land were not offered for sale in March 1860 then there is no way that Fletcher would have officially been able to buy them. Strangely this does not preclude him from "owning" the land. Pre the 1860 Sale Dr. Cotter was shown to "own" a block of land with a house and stables but was unable to purchase it officially because it was not offered for sale in the March 1860 Land Sale; he did buy the two adjoining blocks that were on offer. By the time that "his" block (with his house etc) was put on the market the doctor had moved out of the district so the original purchaser of that land appears wrongly on maps as the original holder of that land.

Formal Application for the Establishment of a Non-vested School at Wentworth 29 May 1860.

Post Town: Wentworth.

Parish: Unnamed.

Police District: - .

T. McGeorge of Wentworth, Presbyterian.

A. McClymont of Wentworth, Presbyterian.

Dr. Barry Cotter [? - very hard to read] of Wentworth, Catholic.

G. M. Perry [? - very hard to read], Church of England.

Thomas Hill Goodwin, Missionary Church of England.

Building.

20 feet by 14 feet clean and good substantial wooden building consisting of one room 20ft by 14ft **TO BE ERECTED within two and a half months from date of tender.**

Trustees.

G. B. Fletcher Esq., "Tapio" Darling.

Hugh Jamieson Esq, "Mildura" [Station], Murray.

Tenure.

Gift deed.

One remove [Not obvious if this applies here in column one where it is written or if it fits into column two between 'Desks' and 'Sufficient for'. "Remove" in connection with schools can also mean an intermediate Class].

Desks and Forms.

Desks [one remove?]. Sufficient for a third of the pupils, Namely 10.

Forms complete for 35.

Apparatus.

Blackboard and Easel.

Expected Attendance.

12 Boys and 12 Girls - Total 24.

The number of actual attendance [as written].

Corrected to [as written]

12 Boys and 14 Girls - Total 26.

9 CE; 8 RC; 9 Pres.

The size of the present Schoolroom will not permit addition of any more.

Proposed Teacher.

George McDonell, widower.

33 years, born Edinburgh Scotland.

Trained at Edinburgh University.

Employed at Wentworth for past 7 months.
Proposed to this appointment by T. McGeorge and A. McClymont.

[Reel 4015 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; 12 May 1860 - 6 July 1860*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Formal application to establish a non-vested School at Wentworth was signed by T. McGeorge, A. McClymont, Dr Barry Cotter, and G. M. Perry.

[By 29 March 1861 Henry Burne, Police Magistrate, was elected as Local Patron of the Wentworth School in room of Dr. Cotter who had left the district.
Wentworth School Records, State Archives, Kingswood.]

GEORGE McDONELL [1860?] - 1861.

The situation May 1860 by McDonell.

29 May 1860.
From: G. McDonell.

Wentworth, Junction of Murray Darling.

Application signed by Local Patrons for Salary and Aid in Books, Maps &c.

Number of scholars on List in actual attendance are 26 and could easily be made over to 33; but this the smallness of the present premises will not permit.

Since my appointment is subject to the approval of the Board these are my qualifications:-

University education.

Many opportunities of serving through different methods of teaching.

In consequence I have been able to raise the numbers from 6 (all that were in attendance when I succeeded to the school) to its present number.

That it is in a satisfactory state is evidenced by the recommendation of the Local Patrons.

I intend to apply for a First Class certification [as a Teacher] as soon as possible and therefore request that the following books be sent by the Commissioners [these are for McDonell's study to pass the Teacher's Exam - not for his students]:-

Principles of Teaching, English Language and Literature, Algebra, Geometry and Higher Mathematics, Balfour's Botany*, Gregory's Chemistry and Physics.

Could they come with the rest of the books [that are to be provided by the Commissioners for the School pupils]. The best route is to Melbourne, thence to Adelaide for the Junction. Or direct to Adelaide.

But I am sadly in need of a few of the 1st and 2nd course reading books ... a great favour if you could send a few by return post.

As all the business for this town is done by way of Adelaide we are unable to refer you to any one in Sydney who can have any idea of the progress of the town in the past 2 months; there is one Member - Mr. Morris but the town has greatly progressed since he was here; the only thing we can do is refer you to any of our Magistrates, one of whom Mr Perry, is one of our Patrons.

[Reel 4015 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; 12 May 1860 - 6 July 1860*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

* Balfour's Book of Botany can be seen in full online:

000266 First Book of **Botany (Balfour)** 1874 118 pages

First Book of **Botany (Balfour)** 1874 118 pages (Digitally Scanned Copy). An introduction to the study of anatomy and Physiology of plants suited for ...

<http://www.majesticmole.com/GenealogyBooks/000266.html> - (link broken)

Report upon Application for Non-vested School at Wentworth, 2 July 1860.

Necessary conditions appear to be met as far as one can ascertain without visiting the district. No doubt that a school is required and that the case is deserving of assistance. Every expectation that the school will be efficiently and permanently supported.

The School House, according to the description given in the formal application, is sufficient for the purpose and suitably furnished and a competent teacher has been appointed.

On account of the remote location of the place and consequent difficulty in obtaining education, the Application may be viewed as an exceptional case and as entitled to the highest assistance the Board may be in a position to award. Distance will place it beyond regular inspection.

As to the books requested by the Teacher [not on the Commissioners' list for the scholars] it is thought that they could be more cheaply provided from Adelaide.

[My comment: *The Historic Town of Wentworth* (Dec 1984), states that the school was **opened on 16 March 1860. This is wrong.** It should be noted that the approved suitable school house had **yet to be built**. The letter of 29 May 1860 stated that it was estimated that it would take two and a half months to build this 20ft by 14ft wooden structure after tender.]

[Reel 4015 p.278 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; 12 May 1860 - 6 July 1860*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Request for rules of Non-vested Schools, 2 Feb 1861.

From: Thomas Hill Goodwin, Church Mission Station, Yelta, near Wentworth.

[p.236 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Regulations: Establishment and Conduct of Non-Vested National Schools in New South Wales.

To extend the benefits of National Education in the Colony, on a plan similar to that so successfully pursued in Ireland, the Commissioners of National Education will give assistance to a Schools which in origin or ownership may be other than National - subject to conditions making their conduct responsible to the Board:

(1) For adequate instruction of the same nature as that prescribed for Schools, purely National and open to all.

and

(2) For the strict limitations of special religious instruction to those whose parents approve of it.

The following are the conditions on which said aid will be afforded to Schools not vested in the Commissioners:

1: The aid to such schools will be limited to [Teacher's] Salary and Books.

2: Before aid can be granted the Commissioners must be satisfied that the case is deserving assistance; that there is a reason to expect that the school will be efficiently and permanently supported and that the School-house is sufficient for the purpose, and suitably furnished.

3: To entitle a School to a continuance of aid, the House and furniture must be kept in a state of good repair by means of local contributions; the School conducted in all respects in a satisfactory manner, and that in accordance with the regulations of the Commissioners, and the instructions of their Inspectors; and that there must be an average daily attendance of at least 30 children. There may be temporary assistance to Schools with less than 30 students at the discretion of the Commissioners.

4: While appointment and removal of Teachers in Non-vested Schools will rest with the Local Patrons or Managers, the Commissioners will be required to be satisfied with the character and competency of the Teacher so appointed as a condition to payment and continuance of salary.

5: A Time Table sanctioned by the Commissioners must be kept constantly hung up in a conspicuous part of the School Room.

6: During the hours appropriated in the Time Table, to the ordinary instruction of pupils, usual routine of National Schools must be observed in the Non-vested School; but the Commissioners will [words blanked out by binding at edge of page] exercise any control over the use of the School at any other

time. Note - Any religious exercise or instruction peculiar to the private character of the School must, therefore, occupy [words blanked out by binding at edge of page] time before or after the hours fixed for the ordinary duties, so as to admit the convenient absence of any children whose parents object to their attendance.

7: No books shall be used for ordinary instruction under the proceeding Rule but such as are sanctioned by the Commissioners.

8: Registers shall be kept in each School, and returns forwarded to the Commissioners, accordingly on forms that will be supplied by them.

9: Commissioners and their officers are to be allowed to visit and examine the Schools when they think fit.

10: The public generally must have free access to every School during the stated School hours, no [word blanked out by binding at edge of page] take part in the business or to interrupt it, but, as Visitors to observe how it is conducted.

11: Commissioners reserve to themselves the right to alter or revoke any of the afore-going regulations as from time to time, it shall seem to be expedient.

W C Wells, Secretary,
National Education Office,
Sydney 14 Dec 1857.

[Reel 4015 pp.82-85 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; 1 Aug 1860 - 23 Oct 1860*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Teacher McDonell wishes to resign, 11 March 1861.

From: G. McDonell at Wentworth, 11 March 1861.

Teacher wishes to resign and forwards an order for his salary in favour of G. M. Perry Esq.

I beg to enclose my return £00 for Quarter ending Dec 1860. It is more than probable that you will blame me for such delay. Circumstances ... when Section ending Sep 1860 was sent to me ... doubt suitable for Non-vested School.

[I can't make sense of this. Letter continues for quite a bit]

I have received books sent by you [to enable him to study to qualify as a teacher]. If I came to Sydney could I sit the examination and have the opportunity to become a teacher in a more populous neighbourhood?

Mr Perry has authorised me to draw my salary from the Board.

.....

G. M. Perry, Esq JP is authorised to draw all salary of undersigned as teacher in Non-vested School at Wentworth.

Signed: G. McDonell.

Witnessed: A. McClymont.

G McDonnell appointed as Teacher to the Non-vested School at Wentworth at a salary of £5 per month in July last.

[Reel 4017 pp.50-54 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

.....
12 March 1861.

From: G. M. Perry, Esq.

Resignation of Teacher Mr G. McDonnell.

Mr McDonnell has sent in his resignation which has been accepted from 31 March 1861.

[Reel 4017 pp.50-54 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Temporary re-employment of McDonnell.

29 March 1861.

From: G. M. Perry Esq. and Local Patrons Wentworth.

Temporary re-employment of McDonnell; Need for replacement.

We have been unable to find a suitable person to fill the vacancy of Teacher at Wentworth. We have re-engaged Mr McDonnell for 2 months viz from 31 March.

As we are not likely to meet with a suitable candidate here we request you send a married couple from Sydney. It would be better if the examination for Teacher could take place prior to them leaving Sydney.

The Local Patrons have **recently rented a good slab building, the only one [available?], as the residence for the teacher.** It consists of two rooms.

At a meeting of the Local ... Henry Burne Esq PM [Police Magistrate] was elected as Local Patron in the room of Dr Cotter who has left the district.

Burne to be Patron in place of Cotter, March 1861.

At a Meeting of the Subscribers to the Wentworth School held in the School House on the evening of Tuesday 26 March 1861, G. M. Perry in the Chair, it was proposed by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. McDonnell that Burne Esq. PM be elected Local Patron in the room of Mr Barry Cotter who has left the district.

Carried unanimously.

[Reel 4017 pp.50-54 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

McDonell leaves School, Jun 1861.

From our Correspondent, 4 June 1861.

On the occasion of Mr. McDonell, our late school-master, giving up the school in order to resume his professional duties here, an examination was held at the schoolroom, attended by a number of townspeople and others. It went off very satisfactorily, and reflected great credit on Mr. McDonell.

South Australian Advertiser, 12 June 1861.

MRS. THRING 1861 - [1863?].

Mrs. Thring appointed as teacher, 10 June 1861.

From: G. M. Perry.

Appointment of Mrs Thring to teach at Wentworth.

Local Patrons of the Non-vested National School at Wentworth have appointed Mrs Thring. ...

[Reel 4017 p.500 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

20 July 1861.

From: G. M. Perry, Neilpo, Wentworth.

Mrs. Thring - not Mr. Thring - appointed as Teacher.

We have received a letter of notification that the Board has approved of the appointment of Mr. Thring as a Probationer Teacher, but it is Mrs. Thring who has been nominated by the Local Patrons.

Also there is a difficulty re her salary.

[Reel 4017 Second Index p.289 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

From: G. McDonell, 24 July 1861.

£50 put into the account of G. M. Perry.

Also to inform you that I will be in Sydney in two or three weeks.

[Reel 4017 Second Index p.332 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

.....
From: G. M. Perry.

Mr. McDonnell, late Teacher at Wentworth, showed me a receipt from one of the clerks in the office stating that £5 (his salary) had been placed in my credit in the bank in Sydney.

I have not received notification from you advising of payments.

[Reel 4017 Second Index p.346 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Description of Selected Wentworth School Site by Inspector, 7 Aug 1861.

From: [B. H. ?] McCann, Inspector of National Schools.

On my last visit to Wentworth I selected Allotments 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Section 9
as the site for a National School.

At a Meeting of the Local Patrons and others it was resolved that steps be taken to erect a vested school*, and as in all probability, an application to this effect will shortly be submitted to the Board for consideration, it is advisable that the proposed site be applied for to the Government.

[* I don't know if this was just a mistake in recording what was meant to be a Non-vested School (supplied fully by the local people), or if it is the Board of Education now providing two thirds of the cost of building a vested National School.]

My Comment: These are large allotments on the southern side of Murray Street. Starting at Short Street Allots 11 and 12, then 13 and 14 and (the two blocks reserved from selection), and the 15 on the south-

east corner of Beverley and Murray Streets. **This is nowhere near the site of the present school that was opened in 1870.**

[Reel 4017 Second Index p.510 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; April 1861 - August 1861*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Leave of Absence Application from Mrs. Thring, 25 Jan 1862.

From: Elizabeth Thring, Teacher at Wentworth.

[Impossible to read this letter - and this from a teacher.]

For the past three months my health has been generally declining owing I fear to the ... in the school; ... dwelling ... being ... to all the changes [or charges] of the ...

The advice of my [Medical?] ...

And with the approbation of the Patrons as well ... of all my pupils ...

[Reel 4019 p.202 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Inventory of Books at School, 10 Feb 1862.

Index of Inventory of Books, Maps etc. I have no idea of the value.

[The list is not included in the Correspondence. However it does show that the out-going teacher has to give a full account of the situation at the school.]

[Reel 4019 p.320 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received*; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.]

Teacher enquires as to extra allowance to Teachers, 5 May 1862.

From: Elizabeth Thring.

Teacher enquires as to extra allowance to Teachers

Mr Perry called to tell me of additional salary made by the Board to Licensed Teachers in this District. ... Persuing on our former acquaintance I shall be obliged ... before the Board ...

Hoping that Mrs Wills and yourself and family are well.

[Reel 4019 Second Index p.342 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.*]

20 May 1862.

From: G. M. Perry and Thomas Hill Goodwin

Concerning letter of 24 March indicating salary increase of £18 per annum to teachers of schools in certain districts ... Hold a Meeting to consider whether Mrs. Thring would be entitled to the increase. When the Inspector Mr. McCann visited he omitted to give Mrs. Thring the certificate to show that she was no longer a probationer and was therefore entitled to the salary rise.

[Reel 4019 Second Index p.313 *Board of National Education, Misc. Letters Received; State Records Kingswood or Sydney Records.*]

Mr. & Mrs. Townsend.

Tulloch states that in 1863 when Mrs. Thring left,
'her position was taken by Philip Townsend, who resigned in June and was succeeded by John Goold.'

This was not sighted in the State Records that I was viewing. However Townsend was in charge of the Wentworth School at the time of Annual Examination of the school on 25 June 1863. Thirty pupils were present.

For the full report of the examination results and the winners of awards see item 4 South Australian Register (Adelaide), 10 Jul 1863.
This appears towards the end of the Education Section.

JOHN P. GOOLD 1863 - [1867?].

*Teacher at Wentworth approx. Jun 1863 to 1867?
Possibly MRS GOOLD 1868.*

Tulloch has him as Teacher at Wentworth from 1863 to 1869. He states that the School found difficulty in retaining staff and when Goold left in 1869 it closed until the arrival of William Gordon in 1869.

I dispute this dating, based on the information below. Goold wanted to go to Albury for Teacher Training, and it was suggested in Dec 1867 that **MRS GOOLD could keep the school open**. Whether or not that happened I don't know. However John Goold did go to Albury and completed his training there in December of 1868. So he could not have been teaching at Wentworth over that training period.

Official information on Goold.

In July 1883 Goold stated that his age was 52 years and that he had served 20 years continuously. This would mean that he was born about 1831 and that he had been involved in teaching since about 1863.

Tulloch has that he was a teacher at Wentworth from 1863 until 1869 when Gordon took over.

This would mean that Wentworth must have been Goold's first posting as a teacher. He would have been about 32 years old - quite old to start on a new career.

[Index to Teacher's Rolls 1869-1908; Reel 1990 Sydney Records Office, The Rocks. This directs to Roll 1, p.427]

For the report of the examination of the school and its pupils see the newspaper article quoted later on this page:

[4. Annual examination of non-vested national school June 1863. Election of Rev. William Ross and Mr. James Thomson Smith as patrons to replace Messrs. Perry and McGeorge who had resigned. Selection of Mr. John R. Goold, of Swan Hill, as teacher at Wentworth, Mr. Townsend having resigned.]

[5. Annual examination of the district school at Wentworth, July 1864]

Note that his name here is spelt as Gould.]

Land for Presbyterian Church, School and Manse, Jul 1863.

Section 6 Allots 3, 4, 5, 6 & 13 & 14 - **Dedicated to be land for a PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SCHOOL and MANSE.** 2 acres. Gazetted 2 July 1863.
p.1548 Government Gazette 1863.

Concerning the results of Goold's examination, 26 Nov 1864.

A teacher wishing to be upgraded or to receive training had to pass an examination set by the Board. A letter was sent to the Chairman of the National Board of Education from the Manse at Wentworth on 26 November 1864 concerning the results of Goold's examination.

Sir,

It is now nearly 12 months since I forwarded to the Secretary of the National Board of Education in Sydney the answers given by Mr. Goold to the questions transmitted by the Board. I cannot sufficiently express my surprise that no acknowledgement of their receipt has reached me and I shall be glad to hear from you on the subject as Mr. Goold is anxious to know whether he has papers or not.

[Miscellaneous Letters Received, Board of Education, 7 Sept 1864 to Jan 1865 and 13 Oct 1864 to 18 March 1865, No.302 on Reel 4028, Sydney Records, The Rocks.]

Correspondence from another source - Sydney Records Office

has been **INSERTED** here:

1867 Wentworth Schools.

From Frame No.0418, Reel 1796, Sydney Records Office, The Rocks, Sydney.

Only **eight items of Correspondence** have so far been copied onto microfilm, the rest is available at Kingswood. These eight items have been copied in the order in which they were presented on the microfilm. On some of them the date is unclear and I would like to see the originals to make certain that the correct date is attached to each letter. Where I have given a date then that date is clearly written.

J. McCredie, Inspector of Schools
To the Council of Education.

The teacher at Wentworth informs me he has not been furnished with the usual supply of Quarterly and Annual Returns. Will you forward to him?

Albury, 29 April 1867.

Memo: Were sent 16 March 1867.

Memo: Send another supply (4-5-67).

Memo: A supply sent (7-5-67).

Telegram.
From Wentworth Station. Date - . 21 words costing 7/9.
From J McCredie, Inspector of Schools
To Sec of Council of Education, Sydney.

Teacher wishes to be examined Shall I do so using old papers. Has a local [?] been gazetted for this school.

Site suggested to be reserved for School [present School site].

Memorandum to the Secretary of the Council of Education, Sydney.
Wentworth site for School.

It is desirable that application be made for the following piece of ground for the site of a public School at Wentworth.

Allotments 3 to 10 inclusive of Section 29 being between Arthur Street and the Church Reserve.

The above is in my opinion the best available site for a school in Wentworth.

J. McCredie,
Inspector of Schools,
Albury District.

Results of Mr. Goold's Teacher's Examination.

Wentworth Public School. Examination of Teacher.
Mr John P. Goold.

The following is my estimation of the practical skills of Mr Goold.

- 1) Reading - Tolerable.
Practical Skill - Moderate.
- 2) Mr. Goold is a man of excellent character, fair intelligence, and gentlemanly manner. He has however never been trained for the office of Teacher and is on that account deficient in the knowledge of good methods and how to apply them.

I consider him eligible for training should he, as is probable, apply for admission to Albury Model Public School.

J McCredie,
Inspector of Schools,
Albury.

Members appointed to the Wentworth School Board.

Wentworth Public School.
Memorandum to the Secretary of the Council of Education.

I beg to recommend that the following gentlemen are willing and eligible to become **Members of the Local Board of the above school:**

William Lyle Richardson, Esquire, J.P.
James Scott, Esquire, J.P.
Messrs Edward Squire
William J Holding
William Crozier
J. T. Smith

A. McClymont
P. Weltie.

J. McCredie
Inspector of Schools,
Albury.

Mr. Goold requests move to Albury Training School.

Public School
Wentworth Oct 12, 1867.

To the Inspector of Schools, Albury.

I have the honour to apply for admission to the Public Training School, Albury, in order to make myself competent to take a higher classification and also to initiate me in the method of teaching as pursued in that establishment.

I will forward the names of the gentlemen who are willing to become sureties according to No.22 of the 'Councils' Regulation immediately the names of the 'Local Board' have been gazetted.

Sir
I have the honour to be
Your most obedient servant
John P. Goold.

Balranald
18 October 1867.

I beg to recommend Mr Goold's admission for having to be sanctioned as soon as he has complied with the necessary conditions and his successor appointed.

J. McCredie,
Inspector of Schools,
Albury District.

Hope to have sufficient money in a few months to build School, Dec 1867.

To the Chairman of Education Board.
14 December 1867.
Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st ultimo saying that you have received Inspector J. McCredie's report on the condition of the Public School at this place.

The Local Board have taken the matter into consideration and **hope in a few months to have a sufficient sum raised to enable them to erect a suitable building.**

The Local Board requests me to submit the name of **Mr John Moody**, Wentworth, as an **additional Member of the Board.**

I have the honour
Sir
Your obedient servant
W. L. Richardson.

END OF INSERTED MATERIAL.

Request for Forms, Mar & Apr 1867.

29 April 1867.
From J. McCredie, Inspector of Schools, Albury.
To the Council of Education.

The teacher at Wentworth School informs me he has not been furnished with the usual supply of Quarterly and Annual Forms. Will you forward them to him.

Notation: Were sent 16 March 1867.
Notation: 4-5-67 - Send another supply.
Notation: 7-5-67 - A supply sent.

Route of intended visit of School Inspector, Sep 1867.

26 Aug 1867.
From: J McCredie, Inspector of Schools, Albury District (which includes Wentworth).

I intend a tour of Inspection starting in the direction of Wentworth on 2 September, travelling on horseback to Deniliquin and Moama, and thence by steamer to Wentworth. I shall return via Balranald and Moulamein to Deniliquin by coach.

[Council of Education Misc Letters from Inspectors; Vol 25 Albury to Maitland; Reel 1798; Kingswood.]

Members of the Local Board of Wentworth Public School.

5 October 1867.

From: J. McCredie, Inspector of Schools, Albury District.

To: Sec Council of Education, Sydney.

I beg to recommend that the following gentlemen are willing and eligible to become members of the Local Board of Wentworth Public School.

William Lyle Richardson

James Scott, Esq, J.P.

Messrs

Edward Squire

William J Holding

William Crozier

J. T. Smith

A. McClymont

P. Weltie.

Goold's Application for admission to Public Training School at Albury, Oct 1867.

12 October 1867.

From John P. Goold, Public School, Wentworth.

To Inspector of Schools, Albury.

I have the honour to apply for admission to the Public Training School Albury in order to make myself competent to take a higher classification and also to initiate me in the methods of teaching as pursued in that establishment.

I will forward the names of the gentlemen who are willing to become sureties according to No.22 of the "Councils" regulation immediately the names of the "Local Board" have been Gazetted.

Teacher's request for Examination, Oct 1867.

24 October 1867.

Telegram.

From Wentworth Station, J McCredie, Inspector of Schools.

To Sec Council of Education, Sydney.

21 words costing 7/9.

Teacher wishes to be examined shall I do so using old papers. Has a local ... been Gazetted for this school.

Suggested that application be made for SITE for School, Oct 1867.

October 1867.
From J McCredie, Inspector of Schools, Albury District.
Memorandum to Sec Council of Education, Sydney.

***** WENTWORTH SITE FOR SCHOOL.**

It is desirable that application be made for the following piece of ground for the site for a Public School at Wentworth.

ALLOTS 3-10 INCLUSIVE OF SECTION 29 being between Arthur Street and the Church Reserve.

The above is in my opinion the best available site for a school.

[My Comment: This means that **the present Wentworth Public School was NOT built in 1867.**]

Examination of Teacher Mr John P. Goold, October 1867.

From J McCredie, Inspector of Schools, Albury District.
Wentworth Public School.
Examination of Teacher Mr John P. Goold.

The following is my estimation of the practical skills of Mr. Goold:

1) Reading tolerable.
Practical skill moderate.

2) Mr. Goold is a man of excellent character, fair intelligence, and gentlemanly manner. He has however never been trained for the office of Teacher and is on that account deficient in the knowledge of good methods and how to apply them. I consider him eligible for training should, he, as is probable, apply for admission to the Albury Model Public School for that purpose.

.....

18 October 1867.
From: J McCredie, Inspector of Schools, Albury District.

I beg to recommend Mr. Goold's admission for having to be sanctioned as soon as he has complied with the necessary conditions and his successor appointed.

.....

4 Dec 1867.
From: J. McCredie, Inspector of Schools.

I was led to believe that Mr Gould (sic) wished to train preparatory to removal to another school. He did not specifically state this. Communicate with him as to whether he has applied for training - which in my opinion is desirable.

If so, **the school might be kept open by Mrs. Gould.**

[Council of Education Misc Letters from Inspectors; Vol 25 Albury to Maitland; Reel 1798; Kingswood.]

.....
14 December 1867.
From W. L. Richardson.
To Chairman of Education Board.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st ultimo saying that you have received Inspector McCredie's report on the condition of the Public School at Wentworth.

.....
The rest of Goold's Career.

Goold's ability and potential being recognised he **completed his training at Albury Model School at the Session ending December 1868. This would mean that he would not have been at Wentworth during his training period.**

He was transferred to Bowling Alley Point Public School (date not given). In December of 1875 he was promoted from Grade 3B to 3A. On 14 September 1877 he transferred to Walcha Public School, and the next month he received £10-10-0 to cover travelling expenses to this new school. On 7 November 1881 he became a teacher at the Evening School at Walcha.

At some stage Mrs. Goold was appointed as Assistant Teacher at Walcha Public School.

On 19 December 1881 John Goold failed his examination that would have promoted him to Grade/Class 2. On 16 June of the following year he again failed the examination. On 2 February he was Awarded Certificate 3A [? which I thought he had achieved earlier]. On the 3 September 1888 he retired.

Rough Wentworth census (Equally divided township Sep 1868).

At the town of Wentworth a rough unofficial census was lately taken in connection with the school, and the following results appeared:-

Total population - 703.
Males and females about equally divided.
As also those above and below fourteen years of age.

Taking the main street as a dividing line, there were about the same number resident on the one side and its environs as on the other.

A very evenly balanced township.

The Argus (Melbourne) 8 September 1868.

WILLIAM T. GORDON - to 1871.

Teacher at Wentworth from [1869 according to Tulloch] until 31 March 1871.

All that is written about him in the records that I viewed was that on 31 March 1871 his resignation as Teacher at Wentworth was accepted. (.../2640)

[Index to Teacher's Rolls 1869-1908; Reel 1990 Sydney Records Office, The Rocks. This directs to Roll 1, p.440]

We know that when Mr. Goold went for teacher training at Albury it was suggested that Mrs. Goold could keep the school open (Dec. 1867). Mr. Goold completed that training in December 1868. This would fit in well with the idea of Gordon taking over in 1869 as stated by Tulloch, but it would also mean that Mr. Goold could not have been teaching at Wentworth until 1869 as Tulloch claims.

As to the time of Gordon's departure being March 1871, in 1872 Greville Directory he is still listed as a teacher, Darling Street, Wentworth. Yet official records (see below) have William Thring as teacher at Wentworth School from August to December in 1871.

NEW SCHOOL OPENS 14th April 1870.

Correspondent,
Wentworth, Monday 18th April 1870.

On Thursday last the opening of the new public school was celebrated.

The children had a holiday, but met at the schoolroom at 12 o'clock

[South Australian Advertiser, Sat 23 Apr 1870.]

WILLIAM THRING Aug to Dec 1871.

August to December 1871.

[Index to Teacher's Rolls 1869-1908; Reel 1990 Sydney Records Office, The Rocks. This directs to Roll 1, p.960]

William Thring was appointed on probation as a Teacher at Wentworth Public School on 16 August 1871. His annual salary was to be £60. [7/6281]

This would have been in the newly built specially constructed Wentworth Public School. **The land had been set aside (or designated) for the building of this new school on 18th November 1870** (as Gazetted and as appears on the Plan of Wentworth).

His stay as a teacher was very brief. **Four and a half months** later - on 31 December 1871 - **he was dismissed on account of incompetency.** [.../12961]

THOMAS ALCOCK 1872 - 1875.

His Career at Wentworth.

Teacher at Wentworth **1 Jan 1872 to 26 October 1875.**

In July 1883 Alcock stated that he was 37 years old and that he had served continuously for 23 years; and that he had entered the service in January 1860 (P.S.B. Return 1896).

This would mean that he had been born about 1846 and that he had entered the service at what to us now would seem to be an extraordinarily early age of about 14 years. It has to be remembered however that there were no High Schools until the 1880s, so "entering the service" in teaching would mean a continuation of your training and education towards the goal of becoming a fully fledged teacher.

The next line of the entry for Thomas Alcock in the Teacher's Roll 1869-1908 simply states without date or explanation:

First Assistant Albury Public.

On the 1 January 1872 Thomas Alcock was appointed as a Teacher at Wentworth Public School, holding the Grade of 3A. His annual salary was £96.

As a reward for his good service at Albury and Wentworth he was promoted on 1 November 1873 from Class 3A to 2B.

He married another teacher - Annie Nelson. Annie had trained during the Session ending September 1869. She was appointed Mistress of the Infants Department of Albury Public School in November 1873. Having attained Grade 3B she was granted a salary of £72 a year.

By moving to Wentworth Public School to join Thomas in November 1873 she took a considerable cut in her salary. She was now just an Assistant Teacher Grade 3B with a salary of £36.

The School under Mr. and Mrs. Alcock.

The Wentworth Public School is in a flourishing condition under the charge of Mr & Mrs Alcock. It is built of brick, and was **completed at a cost of £1200**. The large schoolroom is 50 feet long and 14 feet wide; and the classroom is 16 feet by 16 feet.

The number of children on the roll is **84, and the average attendance is 55.**

Messrs W. L. Richardson, P.M., W Crozier, A McClymont, W. Holding, John Moody, Peter Weltie, and J. T. Smith are the members of the Local Board.

[A Tour to the South, The Murrumbidgee - Balranald - Wentworth, 28 September 1872 p.401.]

New Schoolhouse space for 200 pupils, Sep 1874.

Since the flood of 1870 **St. John's Church and the Roman Catholic Chapel** had been erected, and there was accommodation in those buildings for every member of the Protestant and Roman Catholic communions of an age to attend service. **The new schoolhouse would provide space for 200 children, and there were upward of 120 on the rolls of the Sunday-school.** Moreover, St. John's Church was commenced in the worst time for the district, and was opened when wool was almost at its lowest value. When the foundation-stone was laid the flood had not receded from the streets of the town more than four months. Might they not, he asked, adapt the sentiment of the poet -

*"There is a tide in the affairs of towns
That taken at the flood leads on to fortune."*

South Australian Register, 4 Sep 1874.

School attendance, and teacher's pay - Sep 1874.

From the report of the New South Wales Council of Education he found that throughout **the colony there were 18 children out of every 100 units of population attending the public schools. In this very small community [of Wentworth] there were 116 attending**, which gave 30 to every 100; **besides that they had a successful private school.** Whilst throughout the **colony two shillings per head of population was paid for school fees, in Wentworth eight shillings was paid to the teacher.**

Taking the towns of the Riverina as nearest in relation to themselves, the average attendance to the 100 was:-

Wagga 18
Deniliquin 12¹/₂
Balranald 19
Wilcannia 14
Bourke 15
Hay 11
Wentworth 30.

South Australian Register, 4 Sep 1874.

The rest of their Careers.

Both Thomas and Annie left Wentworth towards the end of 1875. On 26 October Thomas was moved to Hay Public School as a Class 2B Teacher on £114 a year. Annie followed on 30 December when she was appointed for six months as a Temporary Assistant Teacher at the same school. Nothing more is written about her in these records.

Thomas Alcock was given £21-4-0 to cover his expenses for his next move to Wollongong on 2 January 1877 as a Grade 2B Teacher on £120 a year. He was promoted to Grade 2A on 1 November 1878.

On 29 October 1880 he was removed to Pitt Town Public School and granted £5 to cover travelling expenses. On 3 June of the next year he was instructed to act as Teacher at the Evening Public School at Pitt Town. In December of that year he failed to gain promotion at examination. It was in July of 1883 that he passed the examination to gain promotion to Grade 2A.

His next move was on 10 September 1884 when he was instructed to act as Teacher at 'Randwick VI'.

From then on things seemed to take a turn for the worse in his career. On 29 March 1890 he was cautioned as to failure of a Pupil Teacher. In August of 1891 in connection with an Inspection Report he was cautioned against similar indifference to duty in future. By 3 September 1895 things had got worse. He was warned that unless at the next inspection the proficiency exhibited be generally of a satisfactory character then there would be a question of lowering his present classification and consequent removal from his present position. Again on 16 February 1897 he was warned that if much better results were not shown at the next inspection his classification would be reduced and he would be removed from his present position.

On 16 February 1897 attention is drawn to the low state of proficiency of his work in many subjects. On 7 February the next year his state of health and his family's afflictions are taken into consideration otherwise the poor condition of his school as regards attainments would certainly have caused him to be de-rated.* It is expected that under more favourable auspices satisfactory results will be achieved generally at the next inspection.

On account of continued unsatisfactory work it was decided on 15 December 1898 that he should be removed to a less important school. On 4 January the next year he is appointed to act as Teacher at Wilberforce Public School.

From January 1906 he is granted leave on full pay for three months and 20 weeks prior to his retirement on 17 August 1906.

* Thanks to information supplied by Ed Foley in February 2010 we are able to understand and sympathise with Thomas Alcock as he struggles to maintain his professional standards.

Two of his children died in 1885-1886, and his wife Annie in 1894. Talk about mitigating circumstances.

Once again I am humbled when it shows how little the official records really show what was happening in people's lives.

Rusheen.

RICHARD HUNT 1878 - 1878.

Teacher at Wentworth from Jan 1876 to end of Dec 1878

His Background and Family Tree.

The background of Richard Hunt can be seen on the Hunt-Beeston Family Tree website:

<http://www.philiphunt.com/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I40&tree=tree1>

Richard (Dick) Hunt was born on 9th March 1852 at Dural, NSW. He was the son of George Thomas Hunt and Elizabeth Williams. He was educated at Dural Primary School, the Kings School Parramatta, and Newington College (being one of their first boys). He began teaching at Mr. Medcalf's Private School, Goulburn.

On 29 June 1875 at Parramatta he married Fanny Eliza Smith, daughter of Gilbert Hunter Smith and Eleanor Hickman. **The next year he was appointed to teach at Wentworth.** On 28 May 1877 Fanny Eliza gave birth to a son Gilbert George Grosse Hunt.

Later Richard taught at Richmond.

In 1881 he was persuaded by G. T. Hunt to manage the Obley property, Obella Park. He also ran his own property, Yoorooga. In 1898 he took up residency at Yoorooga. Between 1883 and 1909 he was a member of the Molong Pasture Protection Board, being President 1909 to 1925.

He retired to Parramatta in 1911. He was active at Leigh Memorial Methodist Church like his father, a circuit steward there for 18 years. He held every other lay position possible.

He died on 10 June 1929, aged 77 years. He was buried on 12 June at Western Road Cemetery, Parramatta, NSW.

Children of Richard (Dick) Hunt and Fanny Eliza Smith

Gilbert George Grose (Gil) **Hunt 1877-1951** b. 28 May 1877, d. 12 Aug 1951

Frank Richard **Hunt 1880-1944+** b. 9 May 1880, d. 21 Apr 1944

Allan Hope **Hunt 1881-1958+** b. 10 Nov 1881, d. 26 Jun 1958

Sidney Smith (Sid) **Hunt 1884-1949+** b. 19 Apr 1884, d. 1 Sep 1949

Norman Bruce **Hunt 1886-1956+** b. 24 Feb 1886, d. 25 Aug 1956

Fanny Verena (Ve) **Hunt 1888-1967** b. 6 Aug 1888, d. 6 Feb 1967

Richard Percy (Dick) **Hunt 1890-1957+** b. 18 Apr 1890, d. 2 Jun 1957

Eleanor Elizabeth (Nell) **Hunt 1892-1977+** b. 10 Jun 1892, d. 29 Oct 1977

Raymond Hickman **Hunt 1895-1985+**

.....

His Wife - Fanny Eliza Hunt nee Smith

Charts

Descendants of Richard HUNT (1797-1852)

Descendants of Thomas BARBER (1763-1838)

Descendants of Thomas WILLIAMS (1760-1829)

Fanny Eliza Smith was born on 1 March 1855. She was the daughter of Gilbert Hunter Smith and Eleanor Hickman. She married Richard (Dick) Hunt, son of George Thomas Hunt and Elizabeth Williams, on 29 June 1875. Her married name was Hunt. She died on 11 March 1915 at Launceston, TAS, at age 60. The Hickman family were from Tasmania. Fanny died while on a visit.¹

Children of Fanny Eliza Smith and Richard (Dick) Hunt

- * Gilbert George Grose (Gil) Hunt b. 28 May 1877, d. 12 Aug 1951
- * Frank Richard Hunt+ b. 9 May 1880, d. 21 Apr 1944
- * Allan Hope Hunt+ b. 10 Nov 1881, d. 26 Jun 1958
- * Sidney Smith (Sid) Hunt+ b. 19 Apr 1884, d. 1 Sep 1949
- * Norman Bruce Hunt+ b. 24 Feb 1886, d. 25 Aug 1956
- * Fanny Verena (Ve) Hunt b. 6 Aug 1888, d. 6 Feb 1967
- * Richard Percy (Dick) Hunt+ b. 18 Apr 1890, d. 2 Jun 1957
- * Eleanor Elizabeth (Nell) Hunt+ b. 10 Jun 1892, d. 29 Oct 1977
- * Raymond Hickman Hunt+ b. 19 Jul 1895, d. 19 Jul 1985

Citations

1. [S3] Ken Roughley *These Walls of Time*.

.....

GILBERT GEORGE GROSE (Gil) HUNT.

b. 28 May 1877,

d. 12 August 1951

This pop-up charts part of the Hunt-Beeston Family Tree website is a little confusing.

Pop-up Pedigree

Gilbert George Grose (Gil) Hunt|

b. 28 May 1877\nd. 12 Aug 1951|p16.htm#i1509|

Richard (Dick) Hunt|b. 9 Mar 1852\nd. 10 Jun 1929|p2.htm#i40|

Fanny Eliza Smith|b. 1 Mar 1855\nd. 11 Mar 1915|p2.htm#i45|

George T. Hunt|b. 2 Jul 1823\nd. 19 Aug 1899|p1.htm#i14|

Elizabeth Williams|b. 26 Nov 1825\nd. 10 Jun 1902|p1.htm#i15|

Gilbert H. Smith|b. 31 Jul 1825|p18.htm#i1717|

Eleanor Hickman|p18.htm#i1718|]

Charts

Descendants of Richard HUNT (1797-1852)

Descendants of Thomas BARBER (1763-1838)

Descendants of Thomas WILLIAMS (1760-1829)

Gilbert George Grose (Gil) Hunt was born on 28 May 1877 at Wentworth, NSW, . He was Grazier. He was the son of Richard (Dick) Hunt and Fanny Eliza Smith. He married Noela Marcia Fitz Chambers in 1929. He died on 12 August 1951 at Boree, NSW, , at age 74. He was buried at Tottenham, NSW, .

Citations

1. [S22] Family Tree of Shirley Kingsford McLeod.

Richard Hunt at Wentworth School

January 1876 to end of December 1878.

CORRESPONDENCE WENTWORTH ADMIN FILES 1876-1884.

[State Records, Kingswood. 5/18078.4.]

INDEX to TEACHER'S ROLLS 1869-1908.

[Reel 1990 Sydney Records Office, The Rocks. This directs to Roll 1, p.200]

Council - Usually means Council of Education.

Board - Usually means the Local Board of Education.

Dec 1875.

Richard Hunt was awarded the classification of 3B during the session ending Dec 1875.

6 Jan 1876.

Appointed Teacher at Wentworth Public School; classified as 3B. Annual salary of **£102.**

[?6/1639]

15 Jan 1876.

Granted £40 on account of travelling expenses to Wentworth.

Complains about the Teacher's Residence, Jan 1876.

29 Jan 1876

To W. Wilkins, Council of Education.

From Richard Hunt, Public School, Wentworth.

Complaining of conditions of Teacher's Residence.

Arrived the 26 inst.

With the Local Board I inspected the School and Teacher's Residence ... After some consideration they thought it would be better to leave the premises as they are until the proposed building is commenced. They think that the repairs necessary to be done would then be done at a more reasonable cost.

The Teacher's Residence is in a terrible state. The plaster from about one to two feet above the floor all around the three rooms is greatly broken and in many places there is no plaster at all.

On account of want of accommodation I will be unable to keep a servant and will therefore be deprived of Mrs Hunt's assistance during the morning of each day.

Notation: Not understood. Ask him what he wants.

My comment: It seemed to be required that the teacher have someone to assist them. If Fanny Eliza was to help him in the school then the housework would need be done by a 'servant'. However there was no room to accommodate such a person in the Teacher's Residence. I don't know why Hunt didn't just call on the help of one of the local women.

.....

Suggests enlargement of the building, Feb 1876.

19 Feb 1876.

To Wilkins.

From Richard Hunt.

Explaining that he was requesting increased accommodation.

In the Teacher's Residence there are only two rooms and a kitchen. I find it difficult to manage with this little accommodation and at the same time have Mrs Hunt's services at the school.

The Local Board, on 8 October 1875, had **suggested enlargement of the building by adding a wing to the southern end of the Teacher's Residence** corresponding with the school and classrooms.

I request the above or similar be built; or build one or two rooms to the present residence; **plus put present Residence in good repair, and build a veranda between the kitchen and the schoolroom for a weather-shed for the girls.**

Notation: 6 March 1878.

Proposed additions on Plan appear suitable for requirements. Advance their adoption.

.....

Plans for enlarging the building, June 1876.

9 June 1876.
From Peter Dunne of Wentworth.
To Council of Education.
Forwarding Plan of School Buildings.

Diagram - Plan Ground etc.
Note - The buildings are not drawn to scale.
Accurate diagram to scale with my letter of 8 October.

.....

Fencing March/June 1876.

25 March 1876.
From Peter Dunne.
Stating fence is in the course of erection and applying for blank vouchers.

Fence being erected by Mr Brooks.

Notation: Amount of tender for fencing and gates together about £30. One third remitted £12. Council of Education to pay £24.

.....

9 June 1876.
Fencing completed. Request vouchers.

.....

Fencing and Proposed Extensions, June 1876.

26 June 1876.
From Wentworth.
Correspondence as to fencing and additions.

On 18 June 1875 the Local Board suggested timber for the proposed fencing should be obtained from Echuca while the Darling River was navigable, at a cost of £62. In his report the Inspector thought the timber for certain additions viz:- **weather-shed, second lavatory and two additional rooms to the Residence, should be obtained at the same time.** The Council of Education has agreed to this and the Board will be informed accordingly.

On 8 September the Board notified that the timber for the fence was on the ground, but that the cost would be £71-3-0. The Council sanctioned the entire amount paying a third of the whole. On 6 October the Board requested the Council by telegram to authorise the acceptance of tender for erecting fence (amount £36) which the Council did, the Local Board paying a third.

On 8 October the Board submitted a plan of **the proposed additions** which the Inspector altered. The additions, proposed by the Inspector and subsequently approved by the Architect, consist of:

**Two additional rooms to the Residence
And a Bathroom for the Teacher.**

What the Board suggests can be seen on their rough plan (8.8.75) [Mean?]

The Board now forwards a rough plan of School-ground showing position of the buildings. Plan of present buildings also herewith.

Signed - C. C.

Notation: 13 December 1876.

Submit this plan to Mr Hopkins for his opinion.

.....

[Double-page Plan showing measurements eg
Classroom 15 feet by 14 feet.
Schoolroom 45 feet 8 inches by 16 feet.]

.....

[Another plan. "Public School Wentworth 1869" has been written at some later date across the corner. This is nothing like any of the other official notations.]

.....

17 August 1876.

Vouchers for fencing have been lodged in A J S Bank at Wentworth and forwarding certificates.

Notation: Vouchers had to be returned because did not have impressed stamp required for payment.

Hunt asks how a teacher can obtain a higher qualification, Nov 1876.

18 November 1876.

From R Hunt.

Requesting information as to how a teacher can obtain a higher classification.

That is, can a teacher holding Class IIIB obtain (without passing examination or gaining Class IIIA) Class 11A or Class IIB?

Notation: 1) As a rule Teachers cannot overstep a Grade except under exceptional circumstances.

2) Hunt's is an exceptional case - The growing importance of the place and school, the position held by the former Teachers, the increase of pupils, and the alleged need of additional teaching power - all point to the expediency of having at Wentworth a teacher holding not less than Class II Section B.

The present report (also Hunt's first inspection) under the circumstances was very favourable and showed Results valued at something over the limit "Fair". I am therefore of the opinion that the examination may be sanctioned.

3) Hunt should understand the risk is his own - Should he fail to gain Class II Sec B, he has no claim upon the intermediate Grade ie failing to obtain Class Second he may remain where he is.

Extra money owed to McLean for erection of Infants School, Dec 1876.

7 Dec 1876.

Certify that **D. G. McLean** of Wentworth is entitled to the second sum of £300 for his **erection of the Infants Public School** at Wentworth.

Signed by [?], Architect of Public Schools.

Pupil Teacher for Wentworth based on pupil numbers, Dec 1876.

29 December 1876.

Albury. From the Inspector.

To Council of Education.

Wentworth Public - Application from Mr Brown for the appointment of his son as a Pupil Teacher.

Average attendance for December Quarter 1876

65 pupils.

Average attendance for September Quarter 1876

70 pupils.

Decrease due to the boys in many cases being drawn away to assist in the wool-washing on the stations.

Council of Education Circular on "Staff of Schools":

A pupil teacher is necessary at Wentworth. Council sanctioned the application.

Notation: Asks the Inspector to give reasons for departing from Council Regulations by appointing a Pupil Teacher, [This seems to be contrary to the above.]

.....
15 January 1877.

From the Inspector.

Reasons for the need for a Pupil Teacher at Wentworth.

- a) Climate at Wentworth for several months is exhausting (more so than in eastern states).
- b) Average attendance at school considerably exceeds the minimum required of such appointment being close to 70 pupils.
- c) Mrs Hunt, on the eve of becoming a mother, cannot in future so efficiently and zealously aid her husband in the teaching, as heretofore.
- d) That Mr Hunt only awaits the Inspector's summons to be examined for the next Grade of classification which although successful it will not entitle him alone to a pupil teacher; will show at all events that he is not sleeping at his post, but will I believe, is strongly inclined to show a young man fond of his profession and striving to rise in it.

Request departure.

My Comment: Mrs Hunt gave birth to their son Gilbert George Grosse Hunt on 28 May 1877.

.....
24 Jan 1877.

From Inspector, Albury District.

Request departure from Regulations in this case.

Notation: Is Hunt properly competent to sustain Pupil Teacher?

Further Notation: Regarding appointment of Pupil Teacher and Hunt's competency, Hunt is -
Fair in Geometry and Algebra.

General proficiency Fair to Very Fair.

Organization of whole School is Good.

Discipline is Fair.

Conclude Hunt is quite competent to teach a Pupil Teacher in the subjects required.

.....
25 Jan 1877 (or 1876?).

From: Peter A Dunne, Hon. Sec., L.B.

To: W Wilkins, Sec to Council of Education, Sydney.

Reminder as to letter as to enlargement of School Buildings.

Local Land Board has directed me to inform you that **the teacher has procured a good assistant female teacher for whom additional accommodation is required.**

The Teacher's residence has always been inconveniently small and is more so now than ever. The Teacher having applied to the Board to erect certain much needed additions. The Board instructed me to request the early attention of the Council of Education to my letter of 8 October 1876 relative to the enlargement of school building, being unwilling to recommend any other plan until advised by the Council of the improbability of the aforesaid plans being carried out.

Amended Sketch Plan for proposed additions to Teacher's Residence, Jan 1877.

[22 Jan 1877 - attached to above]

From: W Wilkins.

Proposed additions to Teacher's Residence at Wentworth.

Council of Education desires you to prepare a sketch plan for:-

2 Additional rooms

20ft by 16ft

16ft by 10ft.

AMENDED SKETCH PLAN.

Amended Plan of proposed additions forwarded to the Council of Education by the Wentworth Local Board.

Peter Dunne

Wentworth

29 March 1877.

Architect - Allen Mansfield, 26 Feb 1877.

Estimated cost £320.

Notation in pencil without explanation - £400.

Actual sketch shows:

On left

School room 45 x 16.

Then moving right

Veranda across 2 rooms:

1) Proposed Servant's Room 13 x 12.

Present use Sitting Room and Assistant Teacher's sleeping room. Fireplace on left wall.

2) Proposed Girls' Dormitory.

Behind this a Kitchen 12 x 12. Fireplace on back wall.

Then to the right to the end of the building

Dining Room 18 x 16 which comes out beyond the Veranda.

Coming off the back of the Dining Room is a Hallway 24 x 4.
This opens to the Kitchen on the left (already mentioned) and 2 rooms on the right:
1) Teacher's Bedroom 12 x 12. Joined fireplace with Teacher's bedroom
2) Boys' Dormitory 12 x 12.

.....
2 March 1877
(Stapled to last letter which cuts off rest of date.)
From: Peter A Dunne.
To: W. Wilkins.

Forwarding an amended plan for approval.

By means of passage shown all the rooms would be easy to access from one to the other (Details).

To enlarge viz. reception of boarders as in Plan, provision is made for reception of one sex only and teacher's accommodation is very slightly increased, whilst in Amended Plan provision is made for the reception of girls also and Teacher's accommodation will be considerably increased.

Attention drawn to position of chimney which would be unsightly on the outside especially as there is a fine Ecclesiastical edifice on the side within about 60 yards. Amended Plan would be better and also provide a fireplace for teacher's bedroom - "a want which has been felt and complained of by all teachers who have been here."

End of passageway would provide excellent lavatory for boys.

Estimated Cost of Amended Plan about £400 and, should the Council of Education be unwilling to adopt it, the Local Board would much rather recommend an extension of the present cottage front to the extent of £320.

.....
5 May 1877.
From: Peter A Dunne, Wentworth.

The Local Board is willing to pay £50 towards the erection of the Amended Plan. The estimated cost is £400 but if extravagant specifications be prepared it may cost even more. Hence the Board requests you to forward specifications in order that tenders can be invited and a definite reply from your liberal proposal.

.....
26 June 1877.
From: Peter A Dunne.

Submitting Amended Plan of proposed additions &c.

No architect in the town and original plans not here.

By using similar materials to those used in existing plan our estimate would not exceed £400.

Briefly mention what to use and what to avoid.

Use rubble stone foundations, avoid cut stone in any part.

Specify Echuca gum doorsteps and same timber for all other parts where hardwood necessary.

Specify Deal or pine doors, sashes, architraves, skirting, mantle-pieces and all internal fittings. "Avoid Cedar".

Specify boarded ceilings instead of plaster - the lime here not being suitable for ceilings.

Window sills etc of Brick cemented. There is good clean sharp sand procurable here.

.....

11 Aug 1877.

From: R. Hunt.

Inquiring whether proposed additions to residence are likely to be proceeded with.

I beg to state that several public buildings are likely to be commenced this year and the person who built the present Public School buildings here told me that he would be prepared to tender reasonably low - and that he could do the work quicker than in the course of a few months.

I beg to state that unless the rooms are soon added that the teacher here will be in the same inconvenient state as must have been experienced by the late teacher during the Summertime and by myself last Summer.

I have been informed of several pupils who have been sent away to Adelaide who would have come here had there been accommodation for them.

The buildings according to Plans sent in and approved by the Local Land Board can be **effected for about £400. And the people in Wentworth seem quite willing to make up the £50 or £60 required to supplement the £350 sanctioned by the Council of Education.**

Employment of Miss Hickman, Sep 1877.

7 Sep 1877.

From: Inspector of the Albury District.

To: Sec of Council of Education.

Concerning employment of Miss Hickman.

This young lady is employed by Mr Hunt in the school, whenever Mrs Hunt is engaged in her domestic duties, or feels unwell.

The teacher states that he has the permission of the Council of Education to the arrangements and exhibits letters containing this permission; but it appears to me that these contemplate Miss Hickman's employment during the period of Mrs Hunt's confinement and restoration to health; not her permanent employment. I have therefore instructed Mr Hunt not to employ her again, until the Council's express permission is obtained.

Mr Hunt further explains that attendance at school warrants the appointment of a Pupil Teacher; but that he has no youth sufficiently competent to take the position; he is therefore employing the young lady in the school with the view to her becoming a candidate for the position.

She appears sufficiently competent for the junior classes and has had some experience as a monitor in one of the Victorian schools.

In view of Mr Hunt's explanation, and also that Mrs Hunt appears to be delicate, I would recommend her application to be favourably received.

.....

8 Sep 1877.

From: R. Hunt.

As to his wife's absence from duty and the employment of Miss Hickman to assist at school.

Mrs Hunt's leave of absence from May to the end of June vacation. Miss Hickman assisted during this time. etc.

Mrs Hunt's health is not sufficiently good to allow her to be at school during the whole of each day. She however not only performs the duties required of her as mentioned in Article 38 of the Council of Education's Regulations but also assists as much as possible in general school work usually from 9.30 to 11am and the afternoon of each day is worked in Four Classes and it would have a very bad effect on the school to reduce the classes to Three so as always to be able to attend to the whole myself.

Miss Hickman is now and has been qualifying herself for the position of a teacher under the Council of Education. She is likely to remain with us for some time in order to prepare herself for the office of Teacher.

If the Council will grant me permission to make use of Miss Hickman in the School at such times as necessity demands I shall feel obliged. If not I see no other course but to apply for the assistance of a Pupil Teacher.

.....

In a letter of 21 April mention is made **that Miss Hickman is Mrs Hunt's cousin.**

.....

Reference for Miss Marion Annie Hickman.

Public School, New Town, Tasmania.
Christmas 1876.

Memorandum,
Miss Marion Annie Hickman has been a Pupil at this School for two years.

Her attention to the courses of studies presented to her and her consequent improvements have been very good. She was placed in the Third Class upon joining the School, and had passed into the Upper Fifth prior to her leaving. Her conduct both in the Schoolroom and in the Playground has been excellent.

I consider that after a proper course of "Training" she would become a good teacher. She possesses, at least to the best of my knowledge, three of the qualities that I conceive everyone aiming at the profession should possess, viz., Good Conduct, Perseverance, and Conscientiousness.

S. Hughes,
Head Teacher.

School water tank needs repair; Attendance figures, Sep 1877.

9 Sep 1877.
To: Sec, Council of Education.
From: Dewhurst, Director of Wentworth Local School Board.

School Tank needing repair.
Wish to bring to your attention that the school tank needs repairs. The tank won't hold water and the river water often is muddy but is all the schoolmaster and scholars have to drink.

Mr Mitchell [written in red] (correspondent) asks whether tenders have been procured.

Notation on back of page in red:

W Scott 14-9-77.
Attendance:
March Quarter - **59.6.**
June Quarter - **66.4.**
Month of July - **67.3.**
Month of August - **72.4.**
J.H.D.
17-9-77.

Mr Mitchell again asked whether any tenders have been received 9-1-78. Reminded 14-3-78. Again 15-5-78.

.....
2 Oct 1877

From: Inspector of Albury District (Yes - Wentworth was in Albury District).
To: Sec of Council of Education.

Concerning specifications and repairs of Water Tank.

Tank defective due to **defective foundations**. Soil underneath is of very unstable character and liable to be disturbed whenever the Darling River rises in flood. As during **my visit to Wentworth, there was no bricklayer in town**, it was impossible to obtain a rough estimate of probable cost, but I should think not less than £10 to £15 would be required to repair it.

The work is decidedly needed, as the river water is poisoned by the filth from the wool-washing up above, during the hottest part of the year.

The posts to be rammed down firmly, and a few short hardwood props dis... along, to and in withstanding the pressure of the wind, the cause of its present weakness: this should be done for about £2; in fact £15 should cover all.

W. Scott, 2-10-77.

.....
17 Oct 1877.

From: D. S. Mitchell, Hon Sec pro tem, Local Land Board.
To: Sec Council of Education Sydney.

Telegram from Wentworth (telegraph) Station.

10 words 1/-

Advertise Pastoral Times Deniliquin Plans Specifications at Court House Wentworth.

Notation:

Deniliquin - 3 insertions:

- 1) "Pastoral Times"
- 2) Chronicle"
- 3) "Riverine Advertiser"

Tenders advertised to be in by 18 Nov next.

J.H.D. 19-10-77.

.....
19 Oct 1877.

From: D. S. Mitchell, Acting Sec of Local Board.

We have advertised.

Local Board have not yet elected a Sec in place of P. A. Dunne who has resigned.

Course of Studies for Teachers.

Printed pamphlet "**Course of Studies for Teachers**", Council of Education.

Gives subjects and what is required.

[At Kingswood, State Records - sorry I haven't seen this yet.]

Rest of Hunt's Career.

1 November 1877.

Richard Hunt - Promoted from Class 3B to Class 2B. Examination.

[?/17765]

.....

29 Dec 1877.

Richard Hunt's [first] application for promotion by removal received 29 Dec 1877.

Notation: No vacancy in the District suitable for Mr Hunt.

Further Notation: 10-1-78. His request should be granted if an opportunity arises.

.....

2 Feb 1878.

From: R Hunt, Teacher at Wentworth.

Applying for permission to employ **Miss Hickman** in the Wentworth School. Enclose certificates of character and attainments from Miss Hickman's teacher in Tasmania.

The School under my charge now numbers 85 and there is the likelihood of the number reaching about 100.

Miss Hickman hopes to present herself for Training next Xmas.

Notation: General approbation.

Further notation: 21-2-78. Cannot formally sanction Miss Hickman being employed but will not interfere with any private arrangement the Teacher may make with her. The Council of Education will not pay her.

.....
30 March 1878.

From: R Hunt.

As to acquittance of Salary of £8-10-0 for the month of October 1877 which amount would make my salary £105 for the year.

I believe the whole amount has been paid into the bank credit of G. T. Hunt.

Memo: 6 April 1878. I can't see this amount paid into my account. Signed G T Hunt.

Notation: 16 April 1878. No voucher for October appears to have been received.
.....

Reapply for Removal; heat in classroom 125 degrees.

19 July 1878.

From: R. Hunt.

Urging Removal.

I have applied for removal prior to the June holiday. The Council of Education replied that there was no suitable opening in the Albury District.

I now reapply for removal. The reason being the impaired state of both Mrs Hunt's health and that of my own.

He points out that he was appointed to Wentworth in January 1876 and therefore it has been nearly three years since he came. The climate here is always severe in Summer months, but owing to prolonged drought, the last two Summers have been particularly so. **The heat during the whole of the School hours ranging often from 112 degrees to 118 degrees in the schoolroom and on two occasions 125 degrees.** The exertion necessary to keep up the interest of the children and perform our duties conscientiously has undermined our health materially.

I also to beg to state that Mrs Hunt is an only child, and that **she has not had the opportunity of seeing her parents who reside at Parramatta since our appointment here**; also that at the time of our appointment her mother was on a visit to Tasmania.

I request a school in a cooler and healthier climate and within easy rail distance from Parramatta.
.....

9 Nov 1878.

From: R Hunt.

Applying for Leave of Absence 6 Dec 1878 to 31 Jan 1879 and for Removal to a cooler District.

Notation: I think this should not be granted. It bears the appearance of a stratagem to force himself into another situation at once, instead of waiting till arrangements can be made for his transfer in regular order.

.....

Tenders Resignation at Wentworth from 31 Dec 1878.

23 Nov 1878.
From: Richard Hunt.

Tendering his resignation as Teacher at Wentworth from 31 Dec 1878.

Notation: 12 Dec 1878. To be accepted. Inspector not to nominate.

.....

Also on 23 Nov 1878.
From: Richard Hunt.

Requesting appointment to another School.

If the Council of Education accepts my resignation as Teacher at Wentworth at the end of the year I trust they will appoint me to a cooler climate.

I am prepared to enter on my duties in a new sphere as soon as the Council be pleased to appoint me.

Notation: 12 Dec 1878. His name will be noted on List of Applicants.

.....

7 Dec 1878.
From: [H W ?] Goodwill?.

Requesting that a Teacher be appointed as soon as possible.

Our present teacher at Wentworth Mr Richard Hunt is leaving. You will remember there was considerable time between the departure of our former Master (Mr Alcock) and the arrival of our new Teacher (Mr Hunt). We are hopeful that the same should not happen again.

Notation: Teacher appointed.

.....

31 December 1878.

Resignation of Richard Hunt as Teacher at Wentworth Public School.
[?/29600]

Rest of Richard Hunt's Teaching Career.

14 Feb 1879.

Hunt - Appointed Teacher at North Richmond Public School with Classification 2B. Annual salary £156.

[?/2811]

22 Feb 1881.

Hunt - Instructed to act as Teacher at North Richmond Evening Public School.

31 Dec 1881.

Hunt - Resignation as a Teacher at North Richmond Public School accepted.

CARL MEYER 1878 - 1881.

Teacher at Wentworth: **20 Dec 1878 - 24 March 1881.**

Before coming to Wentworth.

August 1873.

Meyer received one month's training at Eden Public School.

September 1873.

Appointed provisionally as Teacher at Curry Flat and Myalla [Ha.]. Annual salary of £60.

[10/3/11243]

1 May 1874.

Removed from Curry Flat to Nelligen Public on probation.

[?/4/6345]

19 May 1874.

Granted £4 travelling expenses to Nelligen.

[10/4/8502]

1 Oct 1874.

Awarded Certificate of Class 3 Section B (Examination).

2/4/8898]

13 Nov 1874.

Removed from Nelligen Public to Merrigundah with a classification of 3B.

[01/4/22222]

13 Nov 1874.

Granted £11-6-0 travelling expenses.

[2/4/22224 and 24038]

1 Oct 1875.

Promoted from Class 3B to 3A.

[3/5/21242]

7 Jan 1876.

Removed from Merrigundah to Batemans Bay.

[?/76/449]

3 Aug 1876.

Removed from Batemans Bay to Jandra Public with classification of 3A.

[7/6/14901]

Carl Meyer removed from Jandra to Wentworth Public School 20 Dec 1878.

with Classification of 3A. Annual salary £132.

Series of letters concerning cost of moving to Wentworth School.

Undated:

From: Meyer at Jindera (place of his previous posting; about 15 km north of Albury).

Asking by telegram for an advance of £15-0-0 for coach fare to Wentworth.

.....

1 Jan 1879.

From: Meyer.

Request for £45-10-0 travelling expenses.

On the advice of Messrs McCulloch & Co of Albury I adopted the route [to get from Jindera, about 15km north of Albury to Wentworth] by coach via Deniliquin instead of railway via Melbourne and Echuca and steamer to Wentworth.

Statement of Charges.

1. Removing luggage from Jindera to Albury £1-5-0.
 2. One day at Albury waiting for the coach £1-0-0.
 3. Coach Albury to Deniliquin for self, wife, and one child (half fare) £8-15-0.
 4. Three days in Deniliquin waiting for coach £3-0-0.
 5. Coach from Deniliquin to Wentworth £17-10-0.
 6. Expenses on road £4-0-0.
 7. Carrier's charges for luggage from Albury to Wentworth £10-0-0.
- Total: £45-10-0.

.....

5 Feb 1879.
Meyer was granted £30 travelling expenses.

.....

15 Feb 1879.
From: Meyer.

The Council had given him only £30 travelling expenses. This was only about half the amount expended.

You must bear in mind - travelling in the heat of summer with two children, who for the latter part of the journey were ill with diarrhoea caused by the bad water they were compelled to drink. The most trifling necessary requirements where obtainable were charged at very high rates.

.....

3 March 1879.
From: C. Meyer, Teacher at Wentworth.

Requesting additional sum for travelling expenses.

The route I adopted was chosen by the advice of Messrs McCulloch & Co at Albury. I was told if I had gone via Echuca I would most likely have found the river closed for navigation and so made the journey even more expensive. This I pointed out in my first letter of application on 1 Jan ultimo.

The Council of Education should have notified me that only half my expenses would be allowed. I would then certainly have declined the situation. **A year's income will not cover the losses sustained in removing from Jindera.**

Since writing the above I have found that the route by rail to Echuca via Melbourne and thence by steamer to Wentworth, or via Melbourne and Adelaide would have been still more expensive.

Notation:

Still consider Meyer should, for economy in carriage of his luggage most particularly, have taken the river route. The fare from Echuca to Wentworth would not be more than £5; whereas from Deniliquin to Wentworth by Cobb's Coach, it would be £7 each.

Murrumbidgee was navigable to Hay on 1st Jan, this is a good indication that the Murray was navigable from Echuca.

It is one excuse for Meyer that trustworthy information about the river is difficult to obtain.

Necessity to Enlarge Residence, Jan 1879.

[Slightly out of order - but keeping previous letters, regarding costs of transferring to Wentworth, together.]

18 Jan 1879.

From: Carl Meyer, Teacher.

Representing necessity for enlarging residence.

In a hot climate like this with the **thermometer while I write at 114 degrees**, the Council must easily perceive that **a house with only two small rooms and a kitchen**, each room scarcely averaging 12 square feet, is quite inadequate, with due regard for the health of the teacher and his family.

Under the 38th clause of the Regulations, **my wife is required to devote a certain portion of her time to instruct the female pupils in Needlework etc. besides which she has always assisted me in the general work of the school in connection with the lower classes**, but how can the Council expect her to continue to do so when we are **not able to accommodate a servant to take care of her two little children** - respectively three and one year old - during her presence in the schoolroom..

I had not assumed that with a school that had been established so long a time the teacher's house would have been smaller than the one I was leaving.

Notation: Remind teacher of the proper medium of communication.

.....

Water from the roof of extension is required so use galvanized iron; quote too expensive.

15 Feb 1879.

From: D Mitchell, Hon Sec Local Board.

Concerning a letter of 8 Dec 1877 that did not reach the Board.

[This letter attached to the letter below dated 15 Feb 1877.]

Forwarding **tender of Mr. Cumming for erection of new buildings and alterations** to the present Teacher's residence.

Only tender received by the Board.

£497-0-0 is far in excess of estimate. Suggest that we do not need such a heavy foundation to the new buildings. Suggest also that **since water from the roof is required for use** that, instead of shingles, **galvanized iron should be used**, the water from the shingles being so stained as to be scarcely fit for use; and the present building being roofed with galvanized iron.

This would not necessitate anything like so much timber in the roof or work in the construction of the roof and consequently would be less expensive.]

Mitchell's letter of 15 Feb 1879:

I received no reply to the above. Facilities for getting work of this kind done in Wentworth are now much greater than they were then.

The Local Board has advertised for tenders for altered specifications to be in by 26th inst.

.....

Inventory of Wentworth School, Jan 1879.

16 Jan 1879.

From: R Hunt, Teacher at North Richmond (and former Teacher at Wentworth).

Hunt's salary for teaching at Wentworth in December 1878 would not be paid until an Inventory of Wentworth School had been received by the Council. This Inventory had gone astray in the mail.

25 Feb 1879.

Signed by R Hunt, Teacher at North Richmond (and former Teacher at Wentworth).

Inventory of Wentworth School.

- 40 Scripture Lessons, Old Testament, No.1.
- 43 Scripture Lessons, Old Testament, No.2.
- 45 Scripture Lessons, New Testament, No.1.
- 43 Scripture Lessons, New Testament, No.2.

- First Book of Lessons, I.N.B.
- 74 First Book of Lessons.
- 21 Sequel No.1 to First Book of Lessons.
- 23 Sequel No.2 to First Book of Lessons.
- 36 Third Book of Lessons.
- 29 Fourth Book of Lessons.

24 Supplement to Book of Lessons.

18 Australian Class Book, No.1, Part 1.

22 Australian Class Book, No.1, Part 2.

44 Australian Class Book, No.1, Part 3.

12 Second English Reading Book, Constable's.

10 Third English Reading Book, Constable's.

1 Fourth English Reading Book, Constable's.

2 Fifth English Reading Book, Constable's.

12 Reading Lessons, in Sheets.

93 Framed slates.

Five and a half Boxes of slate pencils.

7 dozen Pencil cases.

4 Boxes School pens.

93 Penholders.

- Bottles of ink.

10 Ink Powders.

5 Boxes Chalk.

12 School Maps, viz.,

The World; 2 Europe; Asia; Africa; Australia; North America; South America; British Isles; 2 New South Wales; New Zealand.

2 Ball Frames.

4 Blackboards.

4 Easels.

48 Inkwells.

Diagrams: 1 Zoological Map; 1 set Australian Animals.

13 School Registers, viz.,

Admission Register; 2 Daily Reports; 2 Class Rolls; 4 Lesson Registers; 1 Fee Receipt Register; 1 Visitor's Book; 1 Observation Book; 1 Standard of Proficiency.

6 Fowle's Drawing Books.

Salary Abstracts.

Quarterly Returns.

Annual Returns.

.....

[Deakin University's Australian schools textbook collection

A recent purchase is *The Sydney drawing book, composed of little scraps for little hands: in a progressive course of easy shaded studies* by Joseph Fowles, Sydney, c.1857. It consists of five volumes, each with four leaves of lithographed sketches, and is a rare and important set of drawing guides intended for use by Australian children. Fowles arrived in Sydney in 1838 and quickly became a popular artist and illustrator. He also worked as a drawing master in many of Sydney's private schools and from 1855 trained art teachers in drawing for the National Board of Education.]

Tender for Additions to Teacher's Residence, Feb 1879.

28 Feb 1879.

From: D. Mitchell, Hon Sec Local Board, Wentworth.

Forwarding the tender Plan of the **additions to the Teacher's residence.**

The tender of Messrs **Whitcomb Bros** is **£331-10-0.**

They have the contract for the erection of the Jail in Wentworth which work they are **just about to commence.**

The quote from them is *to provide all materials and do the work of building additions etc to the Public School agreeable with the Plan and amended specifications. 17/2/1879.*

.....

13 Mar 1879.

Messrs. **Whitcombe Brothers' tender for £331-10-0** is recommended for acceptance. Bond should be £100.

Alterations acceptable, with the exception of the omission of the 'Wood Preserving Oil' which should be included in the contract.

.....

William Gunn destroys another pupil's clothing, Mar 1879.

[Slightly out of order - with the rest of the story.]

7 March 1879.

Extract from Daily Report Book.

William Gunn (4th Class) was punished severely for destroying another pupil's clothing with ink, and attempting to run out of the schoolroom when ordered out for punishment.

SignedMeyer.

.....

25 Feb 1879.
From Meyer.

Telegram.

Reporting that he is **summonsed by the Local Board for assaulting a pupil** - William Gunn - yesterday. Case to be heard next Tuesday. Board is prejudiced against me.

.....
Claim Meyer is mistreating children, Mar 1879.

23 March 1879.
To Mr Hopkins, Esq, Inspector of Schools, Albury.
From D S Mitchell, Hon Sec Local Board.

Mitchell has two children at the School and he claims that they have been ill-used by Meyer.

The teacher Mr Meyer is unsatisfactory. He has been summonsed to the Police Court for an assault upon one of the boys and two have been withdrawn from the school because of his excessive punishments.

Amongst the other complaints is the fact that he **often speaks to the children in broken English.**

Another complaint is that he has **placed one of the Girls in the School in the position of Teacher.** If he persists several of the children will be withdrawn.

We request that you visit the School to make an enquiry.

MEYER'S DEFENCE:

The boy was not ill-used; he was punished very slightly for defiance. The boy is systematically irregular, unpunctual and neglectful of school and homework.

Meyer gives examples:

- Note from boy's father to the teacher, 'Please let Willie out of school at 3pm this afternoon.'
- On 21 Mar 1879 Meyer wrote, 'Your son William has been absent from school this afternoon without leave.'
[It turned out that the boy had complained that he felt sick and had been excused from class.]
- On 17 April 1879 Mitchell wrote, 'Please excuse Sarah's not having the whole of her exercise done.'
- On 18 March 1879 Mitchell wrote, ' Please excuse my son for not doing his homework. He cannot find his book.'

Meyer regarded these letters as no valid excuse. He said they showed disregard and neglect of duty.

- 25 March 1879 Letter from Mr Mitchell.

In reply to yours of yesterday.

I have not withdrawn Sarah from the School. Mrs Mitchell wishes her to stop at home for a few days. She will return to school after the Races.

With reference to Willie's illness on Friday I don't think it admits of a doubt he was really ill.

- 27 March 1879 Letter from Mr Mitchell.
Please excuse Willie's being late this afternoon.

- 14 March 1879 Letter from Mr Mitchell.
Please excuse Willie's exercise not being done this morning.

- 28 March 1879 Letter from Mr Mitchell.
Please excuse the remainder of Willie's home lessons.

- Undated Letter from Mr Mitchell.
Please allow Sarah to come home at 3.30 this afternoon.

- Undated Letter from Mr Mitchell.
Please allow Sarah to come home at 3pm this afternoon.

.....

Included by Myer in his defence of his case:

19 Letters in support of Meyer from:

[Very hard to read; The occupations have been added by Meyer]

- ... Dewhurst, J.P. (Bank Manager).
- Robert G. (Chath?) (Manager Commercial Bank).
- H. Breton, M.D.
- Ellis Crozier (Squatter).
- E. Stewart (Gaol Warden).
- W. H. Carbis (Gaol Warden)
- William Higgins (Storekeeper's Assistant).
- Mr W. (Hillin?) (Husband butcher).
- William Betts (Wood-cutter).
- T. G. Butcher (Dairy-man).
- Fred ... Osborne (Hotelkeeper).
- William Cumming (Contractor for New Court House etc).
- E. A. Randall (Music Teacher).
- H. Balchin (Cordial Manufacturer).
- E. H. Black (Dressmaker).
- (?William ?Brown) (storekeeper).
- (Newspaper Proprietor).
- Joseph B. Woodhead (Tailor).
- M. Greene (Nurse and Laundress).

.....
Meyer cautioned to be more circumspect as to corporal punishment.

79/22794

Request for payment for School repairs, Apr 1879.

2 April 1879.
From: Meyer.

Asking for payment of amount expended in repairs during Christmas Recess of last year.

Repairs carried out:

Repairing fence £12-18-1.

Plastering, whitewashing and cleaning and repairing Teacher's residence £13-16-0.

Repairing clock £1-5-0.

Repairing pump £1-9-6.

Total: £29-18-7.

Notation:

These works have been executed upon their own responsibility without obtaining the Council's sanction, **payment is declined.**

Second Notation:

Local Education Board states that these works were absolutely necessary.
Education Council will pay.

Request School be closed for race week, 1879.

Date hard to read - possibly 31-3-79.

From: Mitchell, Hon Sec Local Board.

Telegram.

This being Race Week teacher desires that the school be closed for the week giving a week at mid-winter instead. Attendance small. Majority of Board favourable.

Reply.

Application to close schools at irregular periods **cannot be considered.**

Request for house rent, Jul 1879.

12 July 1879.

From: Meyer.
Applying for allowance for house rent.

Tenders have been called for additions to residence. No hope that they are procured at early date.
Therefore make application for allowance for house rent.

Notation.

Board agrees that the accommodation is insufficient. Tenders for additions accepted 2 August. Rent allowance therefore not required.

.....

12 Aug 1879.
From Meyer.
Request for rent allowance during period in which residence is under construction.

A house of four rooms almost opposite the school is available at 15 shillings a week.

Notation.

Deferred 18-8-79.
Ask teacher from what date this is required.

Further Notation.

Tender just accepted. Will take about four months at least to complete work.

.....

22 Sep 1879.
From Meyer.
House is no longer available for rent. They got a longer-term person to rent.

Repairs and additions needed, Sep & Nov 1879.

20 Sep 1879.
Local Board requires sanction for purchase of:
- 2 chairs for school at 16 shillings each.
- A Book press for school; available at 20 shillings which is very cheap.

28 Oct 1879.
From: Local Board.
Notifying contractor's offer to line and repair tank for £25.

24 Nov 1879.
From: Local Board.
Requesting erection of Shelter shed for Girls and veranda for Boys. Need a place under cover when thermometer stands at **120 degrees in summer.**

27 Nov 1879.

As to additions and repairs.

Repairs urgently required particularly to tank and Boys' closet. Boys' closet is within 16 yards of schoolroom windows; it is full of faecal matter, and although the weather was unusually cold, the stench was most oppressive. The building itself is largely rotten etc. It is highly recommended for Health that it be erected some 80 yards away.

Veranda at front of schoolroom should be removed since now the new wing has been completed the veranda is unsuitable and spoils the appearance of the front. This material may be used to erect a shed for the girls while the veranda at the side would be for the boys.

The school generally **needs painting and cleaning.**

Quote for work, 1879.

[Wrongly dated?? - Looks like it belongs here.]

9 Oct 1879.

£331-10-0 Tender is for:

- a) Cleaning and lining tank.
- b) Replace bad bricks, repair broken plaster in Girls' WC.
- c) Pull down and re-erect Boys' WC.
- d) Clean and repair brick drains.
- e) Clean and repair all unsound brick work in base course and chimneys.
- f) Make good brickwork at back porch, and coping of lavatory. Provide 4 basins with plugs and chains.
- g) Enclose back porch with weatherboards.
- h) Whitewash walls of schoolroom and classroom. Repair all locks and fastenings.
- i) Take up old floor in front porch and replace joints where required.
- j) Take up and relay floor to veranda of residence.
- k) Two cupboards for sitting room.
- l) Pull down and reconstruct veranda in front of schoolroom.
- m) Paint all woodwork usually painted.

Board also asks for:

Two chairs.

A Book Press.

Notation

Work recommended.

Whitcombe Bros. were the contractors.

Letters for and against Meyers.

18 Oct 1879.

Letter in support of Meyer.

Removal of Meyer would be a very great loss.

Petition against him was signed by:

Richardson - who has no children,

Gunn - prominent townsman who is a JP and Publican but has no young children,

Goodwill - a quack doctor who is a grumbler.

23 Oct 1879.

Letter against Meyer.

Meyer is not popular. Parents representing 45 pupils at the school signed a petition against him:

His Faults :

- Excessively severe and frequently uses the cane.
- Reserved manner towards parents and children.
- Defective pronunciation of the language (He being a Dane).
- Want of control of his pupils.

Hasty temper:

- Marked a boy so heavily as to draw the ire of the School Board.
- Another time he caned a boy for not saying "Present" to a girl-pupil who was called to say the Roll.

Wentworth children are not particularly difficult to control (The last teacher had no trouble).

They are vivacious not vicious.

He has cruelty of disposition.

Meyer applying for legal costs for his prosecution of a parent, Jan 1880.

5 Jan 1880.

From: Meyer.

Meyer applying for payment of legal costs in the case of Meyer Vs Goodwill.

£2-0-10 legal expenses in prosecuting H. Goodwill for using threatening language to me.

Young Goodwill complained to me on 17th October last that some of his schoolfellows had, during play, pelted him with clods of earth. At the time of the complaint he had hold of a smaller boy whom he accused, at the same time attempting to kick him.

I declined to listen to his complaint for this reason and told him if he could not agree with his schoolfellows he should remain in the schoolroom during recess. He was always complaining and disagreeing.

As the boys came back into school Mr. Goodwill rushed in and asked in a threatening manner - *How I dared to laugh at his son when he complained to me.*

I then noticed that his son was absent. I was about to tell him this when he said -

If you say a crooked word to me I will cane you or kill you.

These words were overheard by the whole school - 65 pupils and especially the 4th Class. Goodwill shook a heavy walking stick at me; he is a strong powerful man. I ordered him to leave the room but he declined until he had collected his older children.

I instructed Mr. Higgins to take proceedings upon these facts, but although the defendant pleaded 'Guilty' the bench consisting only the Police Magistrate Mr. Richardson dismissed the information because the Public Schoolroom is not a Public Place. The other Justice on the Bench Mr H. O. McCormack declined to be a party to the decision.

Notation.

Council agrees to pay his costs. Minister of Justice to look into the case.

Decision:

School is a Public Place.

Meyer's Costs.

£0-6-8 Attending office.

£0-6-8 Attending police court.

£0-6-6 Paid.

£1-1-0 Attending Court prosecution.

£2-0-10 Total.

Members of the Board, Jan 1880.

31 Jan 1880.

Letter from Meyer mentions **members of Local Board.**

N. Dewhurst, Esq, J.P.

William Crozier, Esq, J.P.

W. J. Holding, Esq.

D. McHenry, Esq, Collector of Customs.

Mr J ... Edward, Alderman.

Ada Hargrave Breton applies as pupil teacher, Jan 1880.

5 Feb 1880.

From: Meyer.

MISS ADA BRETON started as **pupil teacher** at Wentworth on 26th ultimo.

This followed on:

Examination of Miss Ada Breton in application for position of Pupil-teacher.

15 Nov 1874 **Miss Ada Hargrave Breton.**

Attainments

Reading - Fair 60 marks.

Writing - Tolerable 50 marks,
Arithmetic - Tolerable and Fair 55 marks.
Grammar - Small 20 marks.
Geography - Indifferent 30 marks.
Music - Failure.
Drawing - Tolerable.
Dictation - Fair 60 marks.

Character - Satisfactory.
Aptitude for teaching - Moderate to Tolerable 270 marks.
Attainments - 275 marks.

Miss Breton is **NOT eligible for appointment. 14 Jan 1880.**

Report of 15 Nov. [year?]

Ada Breton is 16 years of age. Her father, Henry Breton, is Wentworth's resident medical practitioner and a gentleman of good repute. Born in Warrnambool, Victoria. Protestant Church of England.

Her education:

Penola, South Australia.

Wentworth, New South Wales, since July 1879.

Have altogether been under instruction in schools for 6 years.

Her teachers:

Mrs Plunkett.

Mr Greenlees.

Mr Myer.

I am still a pupil in Wentworth Public School.

Her history:

I have been employed for the **last 3 months teaching the First Grade.**

My parents, Dr. & Mrs. Breton, are willing to support me while I am a Pupil-teacher.

Report on Miss Breton by Mr. Myer:

Her attainments qualify her for the Fourth Grade according to the Council Standards.

She is **unpunctual** in her attendance, **her conduct and demeanor to me are not always exemplary**; she is **dilatory in playground duty**; she **lacks classroom control** etc.

Extract from the Punishment Book, Mar 1880.

10 March 1880.

Memo.

Extract from Punishment Book of Wentworth School. C Meyer.

Miss A. Breton, pupil-teacher, through Mrs Meyer, reported to me that **pupils George Upton, Andrew Stewart and Arthur Woodhead**, had yesterday in the school, while I was engaged in the lower end, **indecently exposed their persons to her**. Immediately brought the complaint before W. L. Richardson, P.M., chairman of the Public School Board.

A meeting was held at 12 am, present W. L. Richardson, McHenry, Upton, Mitchell, Edwards and McClymont. The boys were severely reprimanded and threatened with expulsion if a similar complaint were ever again made against them.

Meyers fails exam, Apr 1880.

15 April 1880.

Teacher's failure to obtain classification of 2B.

His re-examination during 1880.

Remind the Inspector that he should advise as to Myer's continuance at Wentworth School.

26 April 1880.

His failure means that **he has forfeited the right to continue in charge of a school of the rank of Wentworth Public.**

26 April 1880.

From: Hopkins, Inspector.

It is expedient to give Myers another chance:

- a) Wentworth, from its remote position, its isolation, and general unattractiveness both of climate and scenery, is not liked by teachers generally, and few would be content to make it their home.
- b) The expense incurred by the Council in removal of teachers to and from this place.
- c) To remove Meyers now after he has had to incur the loss in his change from Jindera and before he has had a chance to recover himself.
- d) Meyer is content to stay.

Application for expenses for fuel for heating, and for sweeping the classroom, Jun 1880.

5 June 1880.

Application from Myer **for expenses for fuel for warming the Schoolroom during winter and for sweeping and cleaning the room.**

Notation.

Denied. Wentworth is not particularly cold. It is the teacher's duty to keep the room tidy.

1 Oct 1880.

Again requesting allowance for heating.

The weather is very cold, rendering a fire in the Schoolroom absolutely necessary. I have spent £3 on fuel last winter. Firewood is scarce and expensive here (dearer than in Sydney).

Clerk of Petty Sessions as well as the Post Office and Custom-house - all are provided with firewood.

Notation.

Again rejected.

Further complaints against Meyer, Jun 1880.

21 June 1880.

From: Dr H Breton.

Complaint against Meyer by Dr H Breton.

Mr Meyer is highly objectionable; he cannot pronounce or speak English properly; and his infirmities of temper are intolerable. Almost daily something crops up to provoke vexation, annoyance, and disgust.

... Complaint from Mitchell etc.

Need for staff increase at school, May 1880.

12 May 1880.

From: Meyer.

Need for staff increase at school.

Enrolment since the beginning of the month has increased from 83 to 109.

12 more pupils are expected next week.

Further increase when most of the pupils who attend a Private School - about 40 - will, at the termination of the present quarter, become pupils of the Public School.

4 Sep 1880.

**Report of the Inspector on
Request from Meyer for additional teaching staff.**

Pupils enrolled: 55 boys; 38 girls; Total 93 pupils.

Pupils present: 46 boys; 30 girls; Total 76 pupils.

In ordinary attendance: 46 boys; 32 girls; Total **78 pupils.**

Children between **6 & 14 yrs living within 2 miles** -
100 boys; 75 girls; Total - **175 children.**

6 Nov 1880.

The Inspector, Wilcannia.

The number of children in ordinary attendance at Wentworth Public is likely to **increase as soon as the woolsheds have ceased operation.**

The **appointment of a more popular teacher** is likely to increase attendance which falls much below what should be expected of a school population of 175 children.

Another pupil teacher should be appointed - not an assistant - and I have examined **Miss BENNETT** with a view to her appointment.

29 Dec 1880.

Report of Chief Inspector.

Concurs. Proper staffing level would be a Teacher and two Pupil-teachers.

Intends to appoint a duly competent teacher in place of Myer.

Miss Breton already acts as Pupil-teacher at the school, and Miss Bennett has recently undergone examination with a view to be appointed in that capacity.

Ada Breton absent without due cause? Jan 1881.

25 Jan 1881?

Is this the date of the start of this new bundle of letters and not the date of this letter?].

Complaint against trial Pupil Teacher Ada Breton for absenting herself from duty on 12th & 13th without sufficient cause.

1) On 12th she was seen playing with Mrs Chatto's children on their veranda almost opposite the school and from which she walked with a slight limp to another house 300 or 400 yards away.

2) Her absence reported by Meyer along with a medical certificate from her father Dr Breton saying that she had a sprained foot. Meyer claimed that the excuse was not valid; that she just took time off to practise music for a concert.

3) Miss Breton denies it is a falsehood.

4) 5) 6) Investigated. She had sprained her foot. There had been the suggestion made that her sister should take her place.

Inspector's Report on the matter:

Miss Breton WAS injured.

Offer of her sister was not a satisfactory substitute.

Her explanations and denials of being seen by Meyer are suspect.

Meyer's assuming Miss Breton shirking duty is absurd.

***** In a separate report I have recommended Meyer's removal to a less important school.**

Meyer removed from Wentworth to a less important School, Mar 1881.

24 March 1881.

MEYER REMOVED FROM WENTWORTH to Bowna Public School.

The rest of Carl Meyer's Teaching Career.

26 June 1882.

Failed to obtain promotion at examination.

12 June 1883.

Appointed school attendance and payments officer.

22 June 1889.

Also instructed to act as Teacher at Smith St Public Evening.

19 Aug 1889.

Also instructed to act as Teacher at Redfern Evening Public.

Undated.

Retired on a pension of £87-7-0 pa.

Further information on Carl Meyer.

Welcome Wall search.

Inscription

MEYER Carl Wilhelm Rudolph

Comment

Carl Meyer, grandson of Levin and Sarah Meyer,
son of Kgl. Kapelmusicus Rudolph Meyer and Rose, nee Wallich.
Melbourne salesman.

Private tutor Jindabyne, NSW.

Public school teacher at Nelligen, Nerrigundah, Bateman's Bay, Jindera, Wentworth, Bowna.

Married Georgina Helen Crompton ECKLEY, Nelligen, 1874.

They had 7 sons, 5 daughters. Many descendants living in Sydney.

Welcome Wall Location

Panel: 4

Column: 1

Line: 110

Name 1 details

Given names Carl Wilhelm Rudolph

Surname MEYER

Origin

Occupation Schoolmaster

Town/City Copenhagen

Country Denmark

Arrival

Town/City Port Phillip, Melb.

State VIC

Arrival date 06/1860

Method S

First settled

Town/City Melbourne

State VIC

Occupation Schoolmaster, later School Attendance Officer

Submitted by: P H R MEYER

Relationship to person/s registered: Great grandson

.....
'The Teacher From Snowy River' [Book]

Author : Peter Meyer

If the Man from Snowy River and the other legendary stockmen actually existed and went to school then Carl Meyer could have been their teacher. If so, they would have hated him. Meyer was a cultured Danish immigrant, snob and martinet totally unsuited to the bush.

His catastrophic career included the public schools at Cooma, Nelligen, Batemans Bay, Jindera and Wentworth. **A brute in a brutal system**, his excessive use of the cane provoked rebellion in pupils and parents alike. The final chapter is an account of the mixed fortunes of Meyer's twelve children and their descendants.

BENJAMIN STOKES 1881 - 1885.

Teacher at Wentworth 28 Apr 1881 to 14 Aug 1885.

His early career.

Young Certified Denominational Roman Catholic School - Mr Benjamin STOKES, Teacher.
Government Gazette, 18 June, 1880, pp.3047-3062.
(Rusheen Craig - 27 October, 2006.)

In July 1883 it is stated that Benjamin Stokes had then served 18 years and was 40 years of age (C S Return). This would mean that he had been born about 1843. He had been a teacher at Grafton Roman Catholic School.

1868.

St Mary's Parish in Grafton has been offering Catholic Education in Grafton since 1868 when a Catholic Denominational School was established in a storeroom belonging to Mr Philip Sullivan in Victoria Street between Mary and Queen Streets. The teacher was Mr Benjamin Stokes.
<http://www.grafplism.catholic.edu.au/media/school-information/school-forms/prospectus%202012.pdf>

July 1872.

Removed from Grafton RC to Newcastle. Classification 3B.
Promoted from Class 3B to 3A.

18 July 1874.

Stokes removed from Newcastle RC to Pymont RC. Classification 3A. Annual salary £90.

Nov 1875.

Stokes promoted from Classification 3A to 2B.

1 July 1877.

Stokes removed from Pymont RC to Kent Street RC. Classification 2B. Annual salary £108.

1 Apr 1878.
Awarded full Class salary.

17 July 1879.
Removed from Kent Street North RC to Young RC.

30 Oct 1879.
Reprimanded and cautioned as to neglect of records.

28 Apr 1881.
Removed from Young RC to Wentworth Public School.

At Wentworth 28 Apr 1881 to 14 Aug 1885.

School closure due to pupils' sickness, Dec 1881.

12 Dec 1881.
Telegram [abbreviated form given].
64 words. 5/6.

Only half pupils at school - **diphtheria & ophthalmia during last week & scarletina** is also cause.
Recommend [accepted] closure of school for Christmas.
W L Richardson,
Police Magistrate.

Evening School for Wentworth?? Aug 1881.

Evening School at Wentworth under consideration since 31 August 1881.
SignedWilliam Bowring.

Notation: Application referred.

Further Repairs, Oct 1881.

27 Oct 1881.
Forwarding Vouchers £33-10-0 for Frederick Betts, contractor for repair of the tank to be paid to the Australian Joint Stock Bank.

30 Aug 1881 [Presented in this order]
Agreement that repairs keep tank water tight for six months.
SignedWilkins.

20 Aug 1881 [Presented in this order]
Repairs.

Three courses of solid brickwork on bottom to be well bedded in cement and grouted every course. Also 4/12 brickwork inside the tank set in cement and grouted between old and new work and also cement tank on new face to connect downpipes to tank with 4/12 in drainpipes from back of Private house to tank 18 feet in length to provide New Pump to tank etc. £33-10-0.

.....

3 Aug 1881.

Letter from Mr Upton (Mayor) and other papers re Accommodation.

Hicks, District Inspector, Wagga Wagga, 27 July 1881.

Recommends:

- 1) Two porches to serve as hat and cloak rooms.
- 2) Floored verandah 10 ft wide on two sides of the building.
- 3) Lavatory for girls at one end of verandah.
- 4) Refitting present lavatory to make suitable and complete use of boys.
- 5) Repairing the tank.
- 6) Gravelling space between schoolroom and front-fence and also space of 12 ft on other side of building.

Estimated cost £150 to £200.

Comment: Concur.

.....

3 Sep 1881.

Additional Improvements Requested.

- 1) Complete set of new desks and forms.
- 2) New flooring for teachers verandah.
- 3) **Removing gallery and substituting desks in schoolroom.**
- 4) Laying 100 loads of gravel round building, when enlarged and on path, to be carried between entrance gate and school door.
- 5) **Raising the bell to roof of schoolhouse.**

1. Desks:

Old, obsolete in pattern, unbecoming in appearance through inkstains and dirt.

2. Floor:

Destroyed by white ant and in a dangerous condition.

3. Necessary because all the room in the main school will be required for desks; the Gallery is too small, uncomfortable and unsuited to children above the age of infants.

Recommended. Mr J. Lowmer's tender accepted.

4. Highly necessary. **The school stands on a plain of stiff adhesive mud**, of such character that walking on it is difficult. This mud, walked into school on pupils' boots, sticks to the floor and imparts

a most unpleasant aspect to the old room. The gravel is largely used on the lower footpaths, and can be obtained at 2/6, or less, per load, in quantities.

5. The bell is fixed to a post about 8 feet above the ground and is about 2 feet out of perpendicular and will soon fall. Elevating the bell onto the roof, it will be heard plainly all over the town. As it is it is heard only in the immediate vicinity.

Request for higher salary, Oct 1881.

22 Oct 1881.

Wages.

From: Mr Stokes.

In remote places such as Wentworth the late Council of Education allowed teachers a much larger salary than if they were in the centre of population.

30 Nov 1881. [Reply]

- Not actually paid from the office but by allowing teacher **to charge an advanced scale of fees.**

- Request not acceded to.

- Wentworth has an excellent and regular line of communication by steamer unlike Menindie, Wilcannia, Balranald.

Nothing can be done for Mr Stokes.

Although Wentworth has regular communication with Echuca it is my understanding that Wentworth storekeepers Reef up prices at an exorbitant pitch and living is very dear. Far worse in Menindie and Wilcannia and a teacher sent to these places at **£216 a year** is much worse off than a brother teacher near Wagga at £180 a year.

- Will not compensate teacher for loss of income seeing Stokes was removed from [...] RC at his own application.

My comment.

This works out as just **about £4-3-1 per week at Menindie** and Wilcannia; About £3-9-3 per week at Wagga.

Sewing Mistress for Wentworth?? Oct 1881.

1 Oct 1881.

From: W. Wilkins, Esq.

Recommending Miss Joaves for the position of **Sewing Mistress.**

Known her for some time. She has been educated in a first-rate school in Melbourne and is thoroughly accomplished.

Plus application from M. Lena [??Boakes].

20 Oct 1881. [Reply]

This school, like Corowa, Balranald and Tumberumba, being in the sixth class, is not entitled to a sewing mistress.

Use of Schoolroom for Meeting?? Aug 1881.

25 Aug 1881.

Application for use of Schoolroom for Meetings of the Sons of Temperance.

Once a fortnight from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

Mr Stokes is willing.

[Reply]

Not recommended.

Very mixed character of those likely to attend such meetings. Could cause loss or need for repair of furniture and damage.

Hookins, Inspector.

Wentworth Evening Public School, Jan 1882.

1 Jan 1882.

Stokes authorised to act as Teacher at **Evening Public School** at Wentworth.

Boarders at the school, Jul 1882.

[Insert from Wentworth Telegraph and Murray and Darling News, 1 July 1882.]

Advertisement.

Public School, Wentworth.

Vacancies for **BOARDERS**, Boys and Girls.

Terms moderate.

B. P. Stokes, Teacher.

Applications for Work Mistress, Oct 1883.

6 Oct 1883.

Appointment of Work-mistress to succeed Miss Richardson who has resigned.

Applications from:

Miss A. C. Clymont - A pupil of Wentworth Public School and since as a private teacher. Daughter of a gentleman long resident in Wentworth as Inspector of Stock. A young lady of good moral character.

Miss S. Brown - A stranger to me.

Miss Eliza Kielly - The daughter of the Police Sergeant at Wentworth and a former pupil of Wentworth School.

[Can't read signature]

Stokes leaves Wentworth, Aug 1885; the rest of his career.

14 Aug 1885.

Stokes to leave Wentworth and instructed to act as Teacher of Gulgong Public School.

The rest of Stoke's Teaching Career.

Inspect 5-6-86; M M 1-6-86.

In view of results of first inspection in 1886 informed that considerable improvement in proficiency of pupils and general discipline will be expected at next inspection.

24 March 1888.

Removed from Gulgong to Hartley Vale.

Reprimanded for accusing a boy of taking property without having fully satisfied himself that there was no reasonable grounds for doing so, and for using unbecoming words to pupils.

19 Jan 1889.

Cautioned as to the necessity for giving full and regular instructions to Pupil Teacher.

28 Feb 1890.

Retired on pension of £96-6-0.

JAMES MULHOLLAND 1885 - 1888.

Teacher at Wentworth 14 Aug 1885 TO 28 Dec 1888.

In 1881 Mulholland stated that he was 21 years of age [so born about 1860]. 'Married' denotes that he was married at some stage during his teaching career.

June 1881.

Mulholland awarded Classification of 3B at the end of Training Session.

8 July 1881.

Mulholland instructed to act as Teacher at Long Reach and Broken Bridge.

30 March 1883.

Mulholland removed to Berrima Colliery to act as Teacher.

1 Jan 1883.

Promoted from classification of 3B to 3A.

9 May 1884.

Mulholland instructed to act as Assistant at Junee Junction.

1 July 1884.

Mulholland promoted from classification 3A to 2B by examination.

14 Aug 1885.

James Mulholland instructed to act as Teacher at Wentworth Public School.

15 June 1886.

Failed to obtain promotion at examination.

28 Dec 1888.

James Mulholland removed from Wentworth to Burrowa VI as Teacher.

14 Jan 1891.

Instructed to act as Temporary Assistant at Glebe Public School. Annual salary £180.

27 July 1892.

Mulholland instructed to act as Teacher at Prospect Public VI.

7 Sep 1897.

Mr Mulholland's promotion from classification 2B to 2A approved by the Public Service Board.

28 Dec 1897.

In connection with charges preferred by Mulholland against Constable Beattie, Mulholland was severely censured; he was to be removed from the school and appointed to a place at a considerable distance from Prospect.

19 Jan 1898.

Mulholland instructed to act as Assistant Teacher at Leichhardt Public School 1.

10 Mar 1899.

Mulholland instructed to act as Substitute Teacher at Mosman Public School. Annual salary of £192.

3 May 1899.

Mulholland instructed to act as Assistant Teacher at Leichhardt Public School. Annual salary of £171.

20 Nov 1899.

Mulholland instructed to act as Substitute Teacher at Sussex Street Public School. Annual salary of £192.

19 Feb 1900.

Mulholland instructed to act as Assistant Teacher at Leichhardt Public School. Annual salary of £171.

2 Mar 1900.

Mulholland instructed to act as Substitute Teacher at Newtown Public School. Annual salary of £171.

5 Apr 1900.

Mulholland instructed to act as Substitute Teacher at Hay Public School. Annual salary of £224.

27 Apr 1900.

Mulholland instructed to act as Assistant Teacher at Leichhardt Public School. Annual salary of £171.

25 June 1900.

Failed to gain promotion at examination.

21 Sep 1900.

Mulholland instructed to act as Teacher at Ulmarra Public School V. Annual salary of £204.

24 June 1901.

At a Supplementary Examination Mulholland eligible in point of attainments for Classification 1 - subject to passing of Music, Geometry and Perspective Drawing (Skill yet to be tested.)

17 Dec 1901.

Mulholland failed to pass Perspective Drawing at examination.

3 July 1902.

Passed the Music examination. Still to pass in Geometry and Perspective Drawing before he can attain Class 1.

June 1903.

Mulholland failed Geometrical Drawing.

April 1903.

James Mulholland passed a Perspective Drawing examination.

Brown, Pupil Teacher at Wentworth, promoted - Aug 1887.

Mr. Ernest J. Brown, pupil Teacher in the Public School at Wentworth, has been promoted to class 3. Sydney Morning Herald 31 Aug 1887.

ROBERT MILLER 1889 - 1891.

Teacher at Wentworth 8 Jan 1889 TO 9 Sep 1891.

In 1879 Robert Miller stated that he was 14 years old [so born about 1865]. 'Married' means that during his teaching career he married.

23 Feb 1880.

Miller appointed as Pupil Teacher at Mudgee (Boys) on probation.

1 Apr 1880.
His appointment confirmed.

1 Apr 1881.
Miller was promoted from Class 4 to 3.

1 Apr 1882.
He was further promoted from 3 to 2.

1 Apr 1883.
Miller was further promoted from Class 2 to 1.

To 30 June 1884.
Teacher training from 1 Jan 188? to 30 June 1884. Obtained classification of 3B but this withheld on account of failure in Drawing.

17 July 1884.
Temporary Attendance at Mudgee authorized. Annual salary of £54.

16 Aug 1884.
Temporary Attendance at Macquarie Street South authorized. Annual salary of £54.

28 Aug 1884.
Acting temporarily as Teacher at Lower Tallawang Public School.

6 Nov 1884.
Having passed a satisfactory examination in Drawing Miller was awarded a provisional classification of 3B.

1 July 1885.
Miller awarded classification 3A (exam 15-6-85).

7 July 188?
Robert Miller appointed to Wilcannia Public School as Assistant with an annual salary of £150.

1 Jan 1887.
Miller granted an extra allowance of £24 a year.

18 Apr 1887.
Failed to obtain promotion at examination.

1 June 1888.
Due to the Supplementary exam of 7 May 1888 Miller was promoted to 3A.

8 Jan 1889
Robert Miller appointed to Wentworth Public VI as Teacher.

9 Sep 1891

Robert Miller transferred to Sutherland Public VI.

The rest of Miller's Teaching Career.

9 Jan 1895.

Miller transferred to East Orange Public School V.

30 Dec 1897.

Miller transferred to Wilberforce Public School V.

31 Jan 1898.

Miller transferred to Muswellbrook Public School IV.

15 Jan 1903.

Miller transferred to Deepwater Public School I.

Apr 1906.

Miller failed to complete exam for classification I.

WILLIAM KELLY.

Suggests 4 pupils' school fees be waived, Sep 1893.

29 Sep 1893.

Arrears of School Fees.

Teacher's Report.

Case of James Gadson, of Wentworth, labourer.

Circumstances: Poor.

Amount of debt: 13/-

From June 1892 to Sep 1893.

Bills and notices sent. Instalments tried.

Number of children to be supported: 4.

Cause of inability to pay: Out of employment.

Opinion of such a cause: Satisfactory.

What you recommend: Cancellation of amount.

What grounds for recommendation: Father is away shearing and the mother is in the Gladesville Asylum. Children to run out of Charity by certain of the Townspeople. Two children are kept by different members of the Salvation Army, and the other two are looked after by a poor widow.

Signed by William Kelly, Teacher at Wentworth.

Katherine J. Keelty (Mrs Cotching) Teacher at Wentworth ? to 1897.

[Not in Tulloch's list - but this was Head Teachers.]

BDMs

Katherine J. Keelty
married 1897 at Wentworth
Edward Cotching.

Cecil J. Cotching
born 1899 at Wentworth
father Edwin, mother Katherine J.

Charles E. L. Cotching
died 1899 at Wentworth
father Edward, mother Katherine J.

Edward Cotching
died 1925 at Wentworth
64 years (bc 1861)

.....

1 June 1897.
From: Mrs. K. Cotching, Cuthero Station.

Resignation in Feb of Mrs Cotching.

Resignation of Teacher at Public School, Wentworth. Pointing out that I have previously forwarded my resignation in February last; it appears to have gone astray.

.....

25 June 1897.
From: F. J. Wilson (Chief Inspector?), Public School, Wentworth.
Concerning Mrs. Cotching.

I have the honour to state in reply to your letter of 19 inst that Mrs. Cotching's last appearance at the above school was on Monday 1 February 1897 when she called to state that her absence on the previous Friday was due to the fact that "domestic affairs" had rendered it necessary for her to leave Wentworth at once, and TO MARRY ON THAT DATE, HAVING DECIDED SO ONLY ON THE NIGHT BEFORE.

She also handed in her written resignation which I endorsed and forwarded to you at once, besides despatching a telegram.

Among the numerous theories as to the cause of Mrs. Cotching's hasty marriage, one is casting the suspicion that her marriage was compulsory. Personally I have no reason to entertain that opinion.

She left Wentworth at once and as far as I can ascertain has been residing in Adelaide since from where she posted her marriage certificate and application for refund of superannuation subscriptions.

Mrs Cotching resigned 1 February having applied for Leave of Absence on 29 Jan.

Fanny Fiddes 8 Feb 1897 - Assistant Teacher at Wentworth.

[State Records, Kingswood]

Any connection with below (from Google search)??

A SCARLETT LETTER

No. 1

August, 1980

Conducted by:

Errol Lea-Scarlett, P.O. Box 150, Northbridge, 2063

Max Scarlett, 6 Kenilworth Road Lindfield, 2070

David Scarlett, 11 Slade Avenue, Lindfield, 2070

DESCENT OF THE FIDDES FAMILY

- by Tony Fiddes -

JAMES FIDDES -

son of Donald Fiddes, was born at Tarbet, Ross-shire, Scotland, 17 June 1834 and arrived in Victoria on the ship *Bloomer* 5 July 1853. Twenty-two years later he moved to New South Wales and set up as a photographer at Wagga Wagga where he married Fanny Devine on 7 May 1875. He died at Shaftesbury Road, Burwood, N.S.W. on 17 August 1922. His wife who was born in Co. Cavan, Ireland about 1850 died in Sydney on 18 April 1907. By their marriage they had issue –

I **Fanny Jane Fiddes**, born Wagga Wagga 26 April 1876 died at Artarmon, N.S.W., 29 January 1961; married Francis Xavier Bell and had issue –

- 1 Bruce Henderson Fiddes; married Muriel and has issue Pamela, Jan Elizabeth and Sue.
- 2 Fanny Jean Fiddes; married Eric Hilton Paddle (who died prior to 1965) and has issue, a daughter Patricia Ann, born North Sydney 1946; married Colin James Murray.
- 3 Kathleen Fiddes; married James McCloy and has issue Peter, John and Jeanette.
- 4 Rupert Fiddes; married Joyce Grahame and has issue 2 sons and a daughter.

Official Records:-

8 Feb 1897.

From: Fanny Fiddes, Wagga Wagga Superior Public Girls' School.

Acceptance of appointment as Assistant at Wentworth Public School. Asks for travelling expenses.

Travelling Expenses*. 17 Feb 1897.

For travel Wagga Wagga to Wentworth. Not the most direct route but considerably less expensive.

Train Wagga Wagga to Albury - £0-15-3.

Train Albury to Melbourne - £1-14-1.

Train Melbourne to Swan Hill - £1-18-5.

Coach Swan Hill to Wentworth - £3-0-0.

Expenses before the way from Friday 12 inst to Monday at £0-10-0 per day - £2-0-0.

Total Cost - £9-7-9.

[* Note the route taken to get from Wagga Wagga to Wentworth in those days.]

Soil salinity caused water pipe corrosion, Mar 1897.

8 March 1897.

From: F. J. Wilson, Headmaster, Wentworth Public School.

Repairs to Water Service.

Water pipe, through saline nature of the soil, has corroded and burst.

Repairs done by F. D. Kerridge of Darling Street Wentworth at a cost of £1-5-0.

Qualifications, and request for examination exemption, May 1897.

3 May 1897.

From: F. J. Wilson.

Request examination for I.B.

Regarding exemption from taking alternative subjects.

Trained during 1889 and 1890 and obtained a Degree of BA from the University of Sydney on 8 April 1893.

Notation: Held BA for more than 5 years so not entitled to exemption.

HERBERT G STOYLES 1902 - 1904.

Teacher at Wentworth - **10 Feb 1902 to 2 June 1904.**

(Reel 6, p.679.)

His teaching career.

Aged fifteen and one twelfth in April 1892;
bc March 1877.

[George Clark STOYLES married (Braidwood) 1873 Clara FISHER. Child Herbert George STOYLES born (Braidwood) 1877.]

2 March 1893 - Employed on probation, as Pupil Teacher, at Pennant Hills Public School.

7 April 1893 - Employed from date of entry.

1 April 1894 - Promoted to Level 3 (exam 18 Dec 1893).

1 April 1895 - Promoted to Level 2 (exam 17 Dec 1894).

13 July 1895 - Removed to Braidwood Public.

1 April 1896 - Promoted to Level 1 (exam 16 Dec 1896).

December 1896 - Gained full Scholarship at examination for admission to the Training School.

25 January 1897 - Admitted to Fort St Training School.

28 January 1898 - Temp attendance at Fort St Public authorised. Salary £96 per year.

Dec 1897 - Awarded Level 2A Provisional at training session ending Dec 1897 - Subject to passing in Trigonometry.

1 Jan 1898 - Having passed Trigonometry exam on 27 June 1898, Awarded Level 2A Provisional.

28 December 1900 - Provisional classification of 2A confirmed.

10 February 1902 - Instructed to act as Teacher at Wentworth Public Level 6. Salary £192 per year.

June 1903 - Eligible in point of attainment (and by exam of that date) for Level 1B (Skill yet to be tested).

2 June 1904 - Instructed to act as Temporary Assistant at Fort St I. Salary £180 per year.

26 December 1904 - Married to Miss M. L. E. Butler of Wentworth by Rev G [Dainty?], C of E Minister. Noted on 9 January 1905. [Muriel L E in BDMs].

1 December 1904 - Promoted to Level 1B (skill sufficiently satisfactory).

3 March 1905 - Instructed to act as Temp Assistant at Ashfield. Salary £210 per year.

27 September [1905 or 1906] - Instructed to act as Temp Assistant at Sydney Boys High. Salary £210 per year.

[Was he the Herbert Stoyles who was the first principal of Gosford High School in 1929??]

AUSTEN HAYES - PHOTO OF HIS CLASS OF 1905.

Tulloch states that Hayes was head-teacher at Wentworth from 1904 until William Draffin took over in 1907.

The Sydney Mail of 6 December 1905 has a wonderful **photograph** of :-

MR HAYES, TEACHER AT WENTWORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND HIS PUPILS.

This photo shows 39 people (unnamed):-

- Mr. Hayes

- A woman with a baby [Mrs. Hayes?? The BDMs show the birth at Wentworth in 1905 of Phoebe Hayes, mother Elizabeth. No name shown for father.]

- Since pupil teachers could be as young as 14 years it is difficult to know if all the rest of the people shown in the photo are pupils or if one or two of the older looking ones were pupil teachers or assistant teachers [the photo is not clear enough to distinguish age of the taller girls.]

There is a second photograph:-

IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN THERE ARE ABOUT 14 DISTINCT PLANTATIONS.

In addition to the floriculture, the boys are growing vegetables, and a trial is being made of amber cane and other fodder plants.

W. S. DRAFFIN.

From Mittagong to Public School at Wentworth - Jan 1907.

Jan 1907 MITTAGONG, Wednesday.

Mr. W. S. Draffin, who has been promoted to the charge of the Public School at Wentworth, left by train last night amidst the good wishes of a crowd of friends, and musical honours.

Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 24 Jan 1907.

WILLIAM M. C. HALL.

Teacher at Wentworth - **According to Tulloch from 1909 to 1911** (Information on the Reel only goes to 1908.)

(Reel 6 p.604)

Further work in progress on teachers' file.

4. ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE SCHOOL AT WENTWORTH ON 17 JULY 1862.

School has only been in existence for a little over 12 months*. Awards to various named pupils. Mrs. & Miss Thring to leave.

[* This would indicate that the school did not open until early 1861 - NOT 1860 as usually reported. Rusheen]

A Correspondent writing from Wentworth on July 17 says:-

The annual examination of the school; at Wentworth, under the superintendence of Mrs. and Miss Thring, took place on the 17th instant, in the presence of Messrs. Hugh Jamieson, J.P., Mildura [station]; John Crozier, J.P., Kulnyne; G.M. Perry, J.P., Neilpo; Henry Brown, P.M. [As written but should this be Henry Burne, P.M.?], and a number of ladies and others interested in the cause of education.

The examination was conducted by the Rev. William Ross, M.A., and the result was most gratifying to all present, and creditable in the extreme to the teachers. The answers to the questions put by the examiner were given with great readiness and uniform correctness, so much so as to surprise those who were aware of the fact that **the school has only been in existence for little more than 12 months, and that the majority of the children having been brought up in the bush had received little or no previous education.**

The whole proceedings occupied nearly four hours, at the conclusion of which the Rev. William Ross, in the name of the assembled visitors, addressed a few words to the teachers, complimenting them on their diligence and success, and to the children, urging upon them increased assiduity.

Prizes were awarded as follows:-

Reading.

1st Class - Charles Gilletth [as written but should this be Charles Gillett?]

2nd Class - Mary Kerridge.

3rd Class - Betsy S. Smith.

Writing.

Sarah Gunn.

Arithmetic.

Thomas McGeorge.

General Good Conduct and Proficiency.
Mary Ann Hancock.

Grammar.
Thomas Pain.

Geography.
Sarah Gunn.

General Progress.
Selina McGeorge.

Diligence and Attention.
William Ferrier and Mary Ferrier.

In the evening the children were entertained at tea, provided for them by the kindness of **Mrs. and Miss Thring**. It is a matter of great regret that these ladies, who have so faithfully discharged their duties as teachers of this school, should have found it necessary to intimate their intention of **resigning their charge**, in consequence of ill health. It is to be hoped however that efficient successors will be provided. What is **required** in a locality such as this is **a male teacher** to instruct the boys in the usual branches of an English education, **and a lady** to impart to the girls a knowledge of those matters in which they are more peculiarly interested, and who will be willing to receive **boarders at a very low rate of remuneration**; so that the benefits enjoyed by the residents in the township might be accessible to the many children of labouring people who are scattered throughout the district, and who at present are totally without the means of obtaining education.

South Australian Register, 30 July 1862.

5 ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE NON-VESTED NATIONAL SCHOOL AT WENTWORTH ON 25 JUNE 1863.

This lists the names of the pupils who gained awards in the various subjects. Patrons and parents attended. Two new replacement Patrons elected. New teacher, Mr. John R. Goold, of Swan Hill, selected.

WENTWORTH SCHOOL.

We have been supplied with the following:-

The annual examination of the pupils attending the **non-vested national school** at Wentworth under the superintendence of **Mr. and Mrs. Townsend** took place on Thursday, the 25th June, in the presence of the Revs. William Ross and J. H. Goodwin, Yelta; Mr. Jamieson of Mildura; Mr. Henry Burne, Police Magistrate; the local patrons, and a number of patrons and others interested in the cause of education.

About 30 pupils were present, who were carefully examined by the Rev. William Ross on all the branches of education usually taught in the school, and acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable to them and their teachers, as well as to the satisfaction of the examiner and visitors. The examination lasted from half-past eleven to five o'clock, with the exception of a short interval, during which the children were supplied with cake, sandwiches, &c., kindly provided by the ladies.

The proceeding of the day were terminated by the distribution of prizes, the gift of Mr. Jamieson, of Mildura, whose kindness in annually providing them ought not to pass unnoticed. The following are the pupils to whom the prizes were awarded, the Rev. Mr. Ross accompanying the presentation of each with a few encouraging remarks:-

General Proficiency - Charles Thomas Gillett.

Geography - Thomas McGeorge.

Grammar - Sarah Kerridge.

Arithmetic - Margaret Stuart.

Reading - Charles Price.

Spelling - Betsy Sharp Smith.

Writing - Adelaide Price.

General Good Conduct - William Gunn.

Attention and Punctuality - Jane Stuart, Margaret McDonald, Lizzie Renner, Jane Hosie.

Several very creditable specimens of needlework were exhibited, and a prize for excellence in this department was presented by Mrs. Burne to Sophia Gunn.

On the day following the examination a public meeting of subscribers to the school was held for the purpose of electing two local patrons to fill the vacancies created by the **resignations of Messrs. Perry and McGeorge, when the Rev. William Ross and Mr. James Thomson Smith were elected**, Mr. Ross being also requested to act as Secretary and Treasurer.

The patrons then proceeded to examine the testimonials forwarded by various candidates for the **office of teacher**, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Townsend; and, after anxious deliberation, they unanimously **agreed to appoint to that office Mr. John R. Goold**, of Swan Hill.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 10 Jul 1863.

6. ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL AT WENTWORTH. 26TH JULY 1864.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 8 Aug 1864.

A gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of Wentworth writes the following:-

The annual examination of the **district school** at Wentworth took place on Tuesday, the 26th July, in the presence of the local patrons and many of the parents and others interested in the cause of education.

As usual the examination was conducted by the Rev. William Ross, who, at the conclusion, expressed himself in terms of satisfaction with the appearance of made by the children, and distributed prizes, the gift of Mr. Jamieson, Mildura; Mr. Price, Mrs. Burns, and Mrs. John Davie. Annexed are the names of those to whom the prizes were awarded.

Geography

First - Thomas McGeorge.

Second - William Hillier.

Grammar

First - Selina McGeorge.

Second - William Wright.

Writing

First - Mary Ann Hancock.

Second - Adelaide Price.

Reading (First Class)

First - John A. Hancock.

Second - Louisa Blore.

Reading (Second Class)

First - William Smith.

Second - Betsy Smith.

Reading (Third Class)

First - Susan McGeorge. (Given as Susanna McGeorge in SA Register)

Second - James Smith (Given as James T. Smith in the SA Register - see below).

Needlework

First - Adelaide Price.

Second - Susan McGeorge.

(SA Register has

Needlework (plain) - Adelaide Price

Stocking Darning - Susanna McGeorge

Crotchet work - Agnes Stewart)

Extra Prize
Betsy Smith.

Crotchet Work
Agnes Stuart.

Additional information contained in the South Australian Advertiser of 26 August 1864.

The examination commenced at 11 a.m., and finished about 5 o'clock in the evening. The Rev. gentleman ... pleased with the progress which it was evident the children had made since the last examination, and stated that the proficiency of the children was above that exhibited by the children in schools of much greater pretensions than the one in question.

The prize won by Adelaide Price was for Needlework (Plain). While the next prize is listed here as "Stocking Darning" awarded to Susanna McGeorge.

The "Extra Prize" won by Betsy Smith seems to be Second prize (listed after Reading) in the Sequel Class - Betsy Smith..

The number of children during the examination was 45, the remainder of the schoolroom being occupied by the parents and others interested in the education of the rising generation in Wentworth. After the conclusion of the examination the children were treated to an exhibition of the magic lantern by their schoolmaster, Mr. J. P. Gould, their delight at which was very plainly and sometimes noisily evidenced.

7. SHOULD (INSUFFICIENT) MONEY COLLECTED TO BUILD A HOSPITAL BE SPENT ERECTING A SCHOOL? 1868.

There is no place in Australia more requiring of a Hospital for the working class than Wentworth and about three years ago the philanthropic gentlemen of the township formed themselves into a Committee, with the laudable intention of establishing an Hospital. A considerable sum was collected by subscription, and lodged in the Bank.

It appears that the Committee used their utmost endeavours in the cause; but as the squatters would not give sufficient support, the requisite capital could not be realized, and the undertaking was abandoned; and it is now contemplated by the Committee to transfer the funds towards erecting a school at Wentworth to aggrandise the township at the expense of the working man. This course would appear strange, without convening a meeting to render an account of the trust reposed in them by the public.

It is an extraordinary circumstance that at both the Townships of Menindie and Fort Bourke Hospitals have been established in a short time, while at Wentworth, a more important place than either, this desirable object could not be accomplished; but this is in no way to be wondered at, when they have shown such an indifference in erecting a house for the worship of God after so many years.

I am, Sir, &c.,
Henry Dalway,
Wentworth, December 21, 1868.

South Australian Register, 2 Jan 1869.

8. OPENING OF NEW SCHOOL BUILDING 1870.

The public school at Wentworth was on **April 14** decorated with flags, and a fete day was made to give eclat to the opening of the new building. Sports were lustily entered into, while temperate beverages and all kinds of cakes and condiments were provided by the trustees who acted as stewards.

In the evening an entertainment for the benefit of the school was given in the Wentworth Hotel; Mr. W. Farrand, P.M., in the chair. It was well attended by a respectable and appreciative audience. Singing, readings, and recitations formed the programme. Messrs. Geyer, Alston, J. A. Quin, R. Mockridge, J. P. Squires, A. D. Gore, and Moody performed their parts satisfactorily. Mr. William Jamieson, of Mildura, gave a lecture on Education. ... The lecturer adopted as the foundation of his remarks, that man was possessed of a power which placed him far superior to all created beings in this world - the power of reason. Divine wisdom evidently permitted, he considered, that a certain amount of good should be mixed with a comparative amount of evil, but that such a condition of affairs could, and indeed must be improved, so also ought the mind of man to be cultivated and brought into a higher state of refinement. He reviewed the state of education from the earliest days, contrasting the attainment of each era with the present conditions of the world, and concluded by alluding to the benefits derived from education in our own day amongst the sons of toil, showing that manual labour, education, and self-improvement, so far from being incompatible, ought to go go hand in hand. ...

South Australian Register (Adelaide) 25 Apr 1870.

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Mr. Wm. Jamieson, of Mildura [station], gave a lecture on Education, which was listened to throughout with marked attention. The lecture was not an ordinary composition, but exhibited a force and power rarely equalled. The selections from different authors were happy and well chosen, and the lecture in its entirety proved its compiler to be (irrespective of his other good qualities) possessed of high culture. He illustrated his discourse from personal travel, study, and research. These combined with the facility of utterance and a graceful delivery arrested his hearers, all present declaring it was the best lecture they had heard. There are special difficulties because of the immense amount written and spoken upon the question by the leading intellects of the day, and in saying or writing anything new thereupon. The subject was treated in a masterly manner, admirably illustrated, and marked by an eloquence and rhetorical power in its delivery which riveted attention from the first, and drew forth frequent and enthusiastic applause. The lecturer adopted as the foundation of his remarks, that man was possessed of a power which placed him superior to all created beings in the world - the power of reason. Divine wisdom evidently permitted, he considered, that a certain amount of good should be intermixed with the comparative amount of evil, but that such a condition of affairs could, and indeed must be improved by civilization and education. As under the laws of nature everything was progressive and improving, so also ought the mind of man to be cultivated and brought into a higher state of education from the earliest days, contrasting the attainments of each era with the present conditions of the world, and concluded by alluding to the benefits from education in our own day amongst the sons of toil, showing that manual labour, education, and self-improvement, so far from being incompatible, ought to go hand in hand. At the close of the lecture, which occupied about an hour in the delivery, a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Squires, seconded by Mr. Moody, and carried by acclamation. A similar vote was accorded to Mr. Farrand, and both were suitably acknowledged.

South Australian Advertiser, 25 April 1870.

7. SCHOOL EXAMINATION DEC 1873

Wentworth, December 30.

Recently the examination of **the Public School conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Alcock** took place. There were numerous children present, but few visitors, owing to the misconception as to the time. Ready and correct answers were given by scholars, showing a creditable proficiency. **The improvement in writing was marked.** On a table were displayed specimens of plain and fancy needlework, crochet, &c., for which prizes were awarded.

On Friday the **prizes were distributed by Mr. W. L. Richardson, P.M.**, and there was a **picnic** for the children in the afternoon at the back of the Manse, where various games were enjoyed, and tea provided by several ladies. A steady rain, which lasted several hours, spoiled the outdoor programme.

The award list was as follows:-

GENERAL PROFICIENCY

Third Class

Boys - J. Crick, W. Crick, J. Egge, A. Lockhart;
Girls - C. Price, E. Stewart, A. McClymont.

Second Class

Boys - H. Brown, J. Crick, F. Moody, W. Holding.
Girls - A. Stewart, K. Williams, M. Perring.

First Class

Upper Division

Boys - E. Stewart, J. Wright, P. Seward, E. Birt.
Girls - A. Williams, C. Stewart, J. Eastwood.

Lower Division

Boys - F. Egge, G. Kerridge, H. Barnet.
Girls - F. Davie, L. Price, I. Gazby.

NEEDLEWORK.

Shirts

E. Stewart, C. Price, J. Sharp.

Plain Sewing.

C. Minogue, C. Stewart, F. Davie.

Crochet

A. Stewart, S. Egge.

Braiding

E. Stewart.

The number of pupils on the roll was -

Boys 54.

Girls 41.

Average attendance for the quarter ending December 28 -

Boys 39.

Girls 32.

Number admitted during the year -

Boys 75.

Girls 51.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 6 Jan 1873.

9. SEP 1874 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GOOD AND TEACHERS WELL PAID; NEW SCHOOLHOUSE.

From the report of the New South Wales Council of Education he [Rev. W. Cocks] found that throughout **the colony there were 18 children out of every 100 units of population attending the public schools. In this very small community there were 116 attending**, which gave 30 to every 100; **besides that they had a successful private school.** Whilst throughout the **colony two shillings per head of population was paid for school fees, in Wentworth eight shillings was paid to the teacher.**

Taking the towns of the Riverina as nearest in relation to themselves, the average attendance to the 100 was:-

Wagga 18
Deniliquin 12½
Balranald 19
Wilcannia 14
Bourke 15
Hay 11
Wentworth 30.

Since the flood of 1870 **St. John's Church and the Roman Catholic Chapel** had been erected, and there was accommodation in those buildings for every member of the Protestant and Roman Catholic communions of an age to attend service. The new **schoolhouse would provide space for 200 children, and there were upward of 120 on the rolls of the Sunday-school.** Moreover, St. John's Church was commenced in the worst time for the district, and was opened when wool was almost at its lowest value. When the foundation-stone was laid the flood had not receded from the streets of the town more than four months. Might they not, he asked, adapt the sentiment of the poet -

*"There is a tide in the affairs of towns
That taken at the flood leads on to fortune."*

South Australian Register, 4 Sep 1874.

10. LIST OF SCHOOLS BY COUNTY IN WENTWORTH AREA.

Book at desk at State Records, Kingswood (Further details not taken).

No.130 COUNTY OF WENTWORTH.

Buronga
Burtundy
Cavan (2)
Connorgie
Coomella High
Curlwaa
Dareton
Gol Gol
Palingewah
Strathmore (1)

Wentworth and Wentworth Evening.

No.084 COUNTY OF MENINDEE.

Menindee

Menindee Aboriginal

*Netley

No.100 COUNTY OF PERRY.

*Netley

Pooncarie

Pooncarie Aboriginal