

Records at Canterbury Cathedral Library, relating to Schools in Chelsfield parish 1851-1872.

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G/IM/1

Schools in the Deanery of Chelsfield, inspected in June and July 1851 by the Rev. B.F. Smith, Diocesan Inspector.

No. 78 – Chelsfield Boys’ School.

1 July 1851.

It spoke well of the influence of the Master that he was able to command an attendance of 49 out of 55, besides some Sunday Scholars as lookers-on, notwithstanding that fruit-picking was at its height. To be able also to enforce a fine for absence without leave, implies that the school is thought well of by the parents. The progress made in Instruction is as yet very slight: in Religious Knowledge especially the whole School is very deficient. Ciphering is fair as far as it goes, but its principles should be better understood. The writing is good; the reading tolerable: and each class appears to have its share of attention. The discipline is not what it should be, but perhaps in the present crowded schoolroom it is unreasonable to look for much improvement in this particular. But a quieter manner, with the same amount of energy, on the part of the Master might do something for the cause of order.

Details from printed form.

Master – Robert Jackson, aged 21: Normal School at which trained – B+ up at National School [sic]: how long in training – no response.

Dimensions of School room: 18 x 18.

No playground, no teacher’s residence.

Numbers of children on books:

Under 6 – 17: 7 to 9 – 27: 9 to 12 – 16: 13 – 1: 14 + - nil: total 60.

The School is regularly visited by the Rector (the Rev. Folliot Baugh) and the Curate (the Rev. W. Downing).

There is a Library.

There is an evening adult school in the winter taken by the Master.

No. 79 – Chelsfield Girls' School

2 July 1851.

Religious Instruction to any good purpose seems almost wholly confined to the first class, where however it is satisfactory. The needle-work is good, writing only tolerable, and arithmetic as bad as can be. The lower part of the school is much neglected, and wants a thorough management. The payment of one or two Monitors (if the Mistress would take pains with them) would tend to raise the School.

Details from printed form.

Mistress, Sarah Woodcock, aged 40: trained at Central Westminster School, 4 months.

[Details from 1851 Census returns:

Robert Jackson was lodging with Edward Dunmall, licensee of the Rock and Fountain at Well Hill, and gave these details:

Robert Jackson, unmarried, 21, School Master, born Notts., Worksop.

Sarah Woodcock, a widow with a five year old son, was living with her parents in Chelsfield:

Telegraph Cottage.

Charles Thomas, Head, Married, 74, butcher, born Keston, Kent
 Read Thomas, Wife, Married, 66, born Boughton Blean, Kent
 Sarah Woodcock, Daughter, Widow, 40, National Governess, born Chelsfield
 Mark T. Woodcock, Grandson, 5, Scholar, born Cleckheaton, Yorks.].

G/IM/3

No. 117 – Chelsfield Mixed School.

Inspected 16 May 1854. 89 on books, 70 present at the examination. In 1851 these numbers were 60/49 and 63/51.

General remarks: on a better footing.

The separate schools have been amalgamated, a master teaching the elder children, the mistress the younger in mixed classes. The room is

thus rendered much more available as well as the teaching power economical. The girls in the 1st. class who attend more regularly than the boys are the best instructed generally in Religious Knowledge. The writing and spelling are creditable. The Reading will be better for secular class books, Maps have been provided and the girls had a very fair knowledge of the outlines of Geography. The children are neat and well-behaved, and the school altogether is on a better footing.

Master: Edward Oliver, trained at Bristol and Bath for 3 months.
Jane Oliver

	Under 6	7-9	10-12	13	Total
Boys	19	16	8	---	43
Girls	11	17	12	3	43

G/IM/29

No. 135 – Chelsfield Mixed School

Inspected 10 March 1857.

On the books – 82: present - 62.

A new master has been appointed since harvest; who has brought the school into a very promising condition. The assistance of the sempstress during the day is of great use in the younger classes. There is a very fair knowledge of Scripture shown; a little Geography and Grammar, and the subjects of the reading lessons were well reproduced in an abstract. The arithmetic is unusually correct; the writing wants more attention. The present desks might be arranged in parallel groups without difficulty. The children were attentive and well behaved.

G/IM/31

No. 142 – Chelsfield Mixed School

Inspected 3 April 1859.

On the books – 77: present – 71.

The project of a new building has necessarily been postponed owing to the restoration of the Church. The same master, assisted in the lower classes by his wife, continues to keep good discipline, and to bring the school well on in their mechanical work. The knowledge of Scripture and Catechism was fair. The arithmetic failed in correctness and the

reading and repetition, except among the elder boys, though forward was almost inaudible. The needlework flourishes.

G/IM/42

Managers' Report, Chelsfield, 6 April 1859.

Number of inhabitants – 850.

Thomas Beale, appointed 1856; Jane Beale, appointed 1858.

77 on books –

Length of attendance –

Boys: under one year – 14: 1-2 years – 12: 2-3 years – 8: 3-4 years – 5:
4-5 years – 2.

Girls: under one year – 11: 1-2 years – 7: 2-3 years – 7; 3-4 years – 6;
4-5 years – 5.

Average attendance –

Boys: weekdays 32, Sundays 38.

Girls: weekdays 28, Sundays 28.

Income –

School pence - £15	Salary, Master - £60
Other - <u>£67</u>	Mistress - £15
	<u>£82</u>

Evening School established 1856, taught by the Master and the Curate. 72 evenings for 2 hours. 3d. per week – the 3 Rs taught.
On books – 21 under 20 years, 8 over 20.

Signed Folliott Baugh.

G/IM/33

No 179 – Chelsfield Mixed School inspected 19 March 1861.

On the books – 84; present – [not entered]

The School continues to be soundly and successfully taught by the master who has gained his certificate. The religious knowledge is accurate and ready and the demeanour both of boys and girls very pleasing. A new schoolroom is still in contemplation.

G/IM/44

Managers' report, Chelsfield, 19 March 1861.

890 inhabitants.

Thomas Beale, Jane Beale Sept. 1846 Registered.

84 on the books.

Length of attendance –

Boys: under one year – 16; 1-2 years – 12; 2-3 years – 7; 3-4 years – 8;
4-5 years – 3.

Girls: under one year – 11; 1-2 years – 9; 2-3 years – 6; 3-4 years – 5;
4-5 years – 7.

Income –

School pence, £18, other income £64. Salaries – Master £60, Mistress
£15.

Evening School taught by the Master and the Curate. 63 evenings for
1½ hours, 3d. per week. On books – 19 under 20, 1 over 20. The 3 Rs
taught.

[Details from the 1861 Census of Maypole, Chelsfield:

Thomas Beale, head, Marr., 30, National Schoolmaster, born
Greenwich:

Jane Beale, wife, married, 24, National Schoolmistress, born
Shoreham:

William Beale, son age ?.. month, born Chelsfield:

Jane Griffiths, aunt, unmarried, 42, Dress maker, born Shoreham].

G/IM/37 – No. 102; Chelsfield Mixed School inspected 4 May 1865.

On books – 111; present – 95.

Staff – Master (Certificated), Mistress.

The attainments are not so good as at the last inspection, but the
school has passed through great changes since.

A handsome schoolhouse has replaced the old one. The present Master has been but a few months in charge. He manages the children well. The scripture instruction he had given did not shew well in his examination; and a systematic reading of the Scripture text would probably lead to more satisfactory results. The Catechism however had been well learnt. The youngest children are taught apart by the mistress and are getting on fairly.

G/IM/48

Managers' report, Chelsfield, 4 May 1865.

Number of inhabitants – 784.

Master - John Eastman, appointed Christmas 1864, certificated
Battersea
Mistress – Clara Eastman
One assistant.

Length of attendance –

Boys: under one year – 16: 1-2 years – 23: 2-3 years – 16: 3-4 years – 1.

Girls: under one year – 13: 1-2 years – 19: 2-3 years – 21: 3-4 years – 1: 4-5 years – 1.

Total – 111 pupils, 56 boys, 55 girls.

Income and expenditure [nb not clear what this means] -

School pence – 20/6/9

Other – 65/10/10

Total salaries £70.

Average 85 and 60.

No evening School last winter

Folliott Baugh.

G/IM/39

No. 214 – Chelsfield Mixed School inspected 7 December 1871.

On the books – 130; present 97.

Certificated Master, Trainee Mistress, Pupil Teacher.

The terrible scourge of epidemics which has visited the school during the past year forbids the expectation that the range of Religious

Instruction will be a wide one. The teaching however both of the Master and Mistress is able, attractive and thorough; and with some necessary alterations of the time-table and the distribution of the Religious teaching, I am sanguine of finding more satisfactory results hereafter; while already considering the circumstances, the teachers have done more than could be expected.

G/IM/41

Chelsfield Mixed School inspected 26 November 1872.

On the books, 147: present 115.

Master certificated, Assistant, Pupil teacher.

The Religious Knowledge of the elder children is decidedly above the average; and the master has taken care to teach them in a practical spirit. They also repeat well considerable portions. The infants under the mistress are excellently taught. The Scripture lessons are made the vehicle for imparting fundamental truths so that they are appreciated and readily reproduced. The texts they have learnt are not only carefully repeated, but are also well understood.

[details from the 1871 Census of Chelsfield –

School House

Charles E.L. Wright, head, married, 28, School Master, born Brinklow, Barks:

Fanny Wright, wife, married 27, School Mistress, born Oxford, Oxon.

Elizabeth A. Bath, boarder, 8, scholar, born Brompton, Kent].