

MIKER SCHOOL.

written in 1978 when it celebrated its

TERCENTENARY

Preface

First, I must begin by saying how difficult it is to get accurate information: "people say" cannot be relied upon because of the frailty of one's memory. People tell me that the loft above the stables opposite the "Farmer's Arms" was the original school -- but as this was not built until 1842 this is not possible. (Possibly this may have been a Dame School.) Even the written word is not always accurate -- even when written at, or about the time of happening. In the same Parish Magazine of August, 1899 under Muker the great flood occurred on "Wednesday, the 12th. of July", but under Melbecks it was "Wednesday afternoon, July 13th." Mr. Sowter, headmaster of Muker School recorded at the time of happening, "I am sorry to have to record the death of a scholar, Isabel A. Guy, this week!" This girl was Elsie Guy (my husband's sister.) In many books it states that there were to be 10 free scholars at Muker School -- but in others the number is 12. Some books say that "land" & others are more precise & state "14 acres" was left by Anthony Metcalfe, but another states that he left a house in London and that this was later sold by the Trustees. It is recorded that the "Heed" money was used to augment the Master's salary, yet in the Trustees Minute book it states, "1st. quarterly salary was £12. 10s. & £2. 15s. 2d. of this was from the (children's pence" (1865) -- and according to this minute book in the years 1868 & 70 public subscriptions were collected to pay the Master's salary.

Then again, some events were so big, that it was presumed everyone knew and that therefore there was no need to record it. The school was enlarged in 1870 and yet there is no mention whatsoever of it in the School Log Book.

Many documents have been lost: Mr. Fawcett, in his "History of Muker Church" 1937, says that a copy of Mr. Lister Metcalfe's "English Grammar" is in the possession of the Vicar of Muker. The present Vicar assures me it is not.

I know these are only small details, but they do present problems when on a large scale.

The Early Days.

We do know however that it all began the 11th. of July, 1678, the date of Anthony Metcalfe's Will.

Whether the school was on the site of the present school we do not know but Mr. Edmund Cooper sees no reason why it should not have been. Nor do we know whether a building was purposely built or whether one already there was bought. (The money was not a large amount and from this the Master had to be paid and 10 scholars provided with free education.) It is even possible that at first the children were taught at the Vicarage as was the case in a great many villages.

However a building was obviously acquired at some date. Dr. Raistrick in "Buildings in the Yorkshire Dales" writes, "Many of the cruck buildings were replaced in the 17th. century by the new all stone houses" - and as it was late in the century, one can presume that it was stone, with mullioned windows and that the interior was white limewash. At that time Huker Church had a thatched roof - so possibly the school had too(?) The floor may have been beaten earth, but more probably flag stones.

A new feature of the Stuart period was coal fires (in fact a tax on coal financed the building of the new St. Paul's Cathedral), but it is very doubtful whether it was used here as early as that. In the log book for the school it refers to children being away from school "on account of turf operations" and in the log book for Gunnerside School the children were absent "on the peat moors" and when coals were used at Gunnerside the children had to pay "fire money" 24. 11. 1863 "Gave orders for fire money to be brought" and on 12. 10. 1863 "A load of coals brought by --- towards paying for Mary Lane" Even then fires were used sparingly: Entry on 18. 10. 1869, "Had a fire for the first time this season" and 18. 10. 1878 "The weather is cold and we have only fires lit on Tuesdays and Thursdays - sewing days"

The early fires would be lit by means of a Tinder Box.

There is no record of what went on in Huker School in those days, but in similar schools of that period, school began at 6 a.m. There was a short break at 9 a.m. and lessons then continued until 11 a.m. It was resumed at 1 p.m. and continued until 5.30 with a short break at 3 p.m. This was for 6 days a week, there being no holiday on Saturday. In Winter time the dinner time would be only 1 hour and school would finish earlier, thus obviating the need for candles.

The Renaissance or "New Learning" had a great effect on education in the Stuart period - but even so, the main subject would be Latin, a little arithmetic in the form of accounts and much Bible study. For a long time after the Reformation school masters had to be members of the Church of England. After the restoration of Charles 11 Protestant Nonconformists were forbidden to teach at all - if they were caught doing so, they were fined £40.

Admittedly William Caxton brought a printing press to London in 1476 - but books did not become either cheap or plentiful for a long time after this. Kings and Parliaments regarded books and newsheets with active dislike. "With a pamphlet in

his hand describing the government's action, he might decide to demand his rights" So printing was controlled; licensers supervised the publication of news and the first newspaper was not printed in England until 1622.

There was available the Authorised Bible - but it was expensive.

The "Horn book" would be much used in schools. This was a rectangular piece of wood with a small handle. On this was written on paper the alphabet, the numbers and The Lord's Prayer or Peter's Prayer as it was generally called. The whole was then protected by a thin sheet of horn - hence the name "Horn Book." Learning by rote was the main method of teaching. There would be a counting frame (still in use today, though now generally referred to as an "abacus"). It is possible that we still have the original one in school. Discipline was strict and in all pictures of that period the birch is very much in evidence.

For the first hundred years or so one can only presume and hope that the Curate was also the Master. I say "hope" because neither the position of Curate nor the size of the salary would be likely to attract well qualified persons. There is an interesting article in the Parish Magazine of July, 1898 in which a Vicar writes about schoolboys of the past in his own village. I quote, "The energetic little man who received the appointment was entirely self-taught!" and "The next master remained many years. I have often wondered how he ever became a Schoolmaster, except on the principle that a man must live, and he had tried many other means of earning a livelihood and failed. He had been a traveller in tea, had sold books in numbers, had kept books for small tradesmen, and had always been industrious and upright. His wife had been our nurse. Was that the reason he got the appointment? I suspect it was -- aided by the fact that the salary was not big enough to entice a teacher of higher pretensions!"

The Second Century.

A hundred years later (1797) William Raynard was the teacher of Miker School and he was not the Curate. He was a man of enterprise and obviously quite a learned, capable man. He augmented his salary by earning £6 a year as Clerk to the Overseers; he prepared returns for Somerset House and in 1833 even went to London on business for the Parish. He was also Clerk to the Vestry, was an Overseer of the Poor and later became Assessor for the Township. In 1815 he built "Straw Beck" as his own personal residence, but it was not until 1874 that a beginning was made towards acquiring a School House. Log Book 15. 5. 1874 "At a meeting on the 13th. held at the School Edward (Leasby Esq. (Kisdon) gave the Managers of the School £100 towards a Schoolmaster's House which has long been wanted! There is no further reference to this until 31st. March, 1882 when another entry states, "An attempt was made to purchase a residence for the Master of Miker School, but nothing definite was arrived at!" The present house was acquired later that year.

However by this time we have written records to which we can refer. The School Log Books date from 1869 and the Trustees' Minute Books date from 1865. The Trustees also have the Tender for the alterations of 1849. The work included taking off the roof, pulling down the wall, cutting foundations, windows, doors, flags, fire-place, plasterings, walls. This work done by W. Metcalfe and J. Peacock was completed 1st. August, 1849 and the total cost was £25. 10s.

Their lists of free scholars date from 1805.

The deed establishing a Charity is dated 5th. January, 1886 and from this we learn that the appointment of the Master rested with them (Incumbent & 6 others); they could appoint any additional teacher if funds and resources of Charity be sufficient. The secular instruction was to be reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, arithmetic, general history and geography and "such subjects of useful knowledge as may from time to time be directed or authorised by the Trustees. . The religious instruction shall comprise the Bible and Bible History and the Church Catechism and "shall be consonant with the principles and doctrines of the Church of England!"

The children were required to attend school on Sundays and Divine Service at least once every Sunday in Miker Church. There was however a Conscience Clause - but the only mention of this in the School Log Book is April 29th., 1887 - when it lists the contents of the school and these include "a copy of the Conscience Clause!"

There was to be a yearly examination by the Trustees. This deed also states that "Head" money was not to exceed 6d. to be paid weekly in advance every Monday morning.

Fees were changed for pupils until the 1st. Sept., 1871 when it became a "free" school. When Thomas Gilleard was Master (1866) one could learn to read for 2d., read, spell and write for 4d. and have "everything" for 6d. In 1888 these payments were altered and Infants paid 1d. a week, Standards 1 & 2 paid 2d. Standards 3 & 4 paid 3d. and Standards 5, 6 & 7 paid 4d. There are entries in the School Log Book showing that this was not always paid willingly:

3rd. June, 1869, "There was one of the parents grumbling this week about the fees being high. The man is a farmer and has two boys at School, one turned 10 and the other nearly 7. The one at 10 according to Standard 2 pays 2d. per week and the other nearly 7 pays 1d. per week. Last year as now he was sending them to an opposition school kept by a woman and for which he paid 2d. per week and was only learning to read. This shows at once a view which parents put upon education and the niggardliness to pay the School fees!"

7th. Oct., 1881 "Three children were sent home again on Tuesday for their School pence which is over £5. They have not returned to School!"

28th. Oct., 1881 "One of the children sent home for school fees has been engaged for service. She is not of age and not passed her standard!"

In 1870 an Act was passed and it became the Government's responsibility to provide elementary education. As some places had no school, schools had to be built and it was not until 1880 that attendance could be made compulsory. On the 3rd. May, 1878 the log book states, "The girl who was taken from school April 12th. has returned by Order of Clerk of Reeth Union on Monday, April 30th!" and on the 6th. Jan., 1879

"Some of the parents very indifferent in sending their children to School. An officer has been nominated by the Guardians of Reeth Union, but wants confirmation by Poor Law Board. The attendance officer visited the School on Wednesday for absentees which we trust will do good!" 13th. Feb., 1880 "Application was made by Mother May

Whitfield to Attendance Officer to allow her son James Walker aged 13 July 13/79 to commence work at the mines!" 18th. April, 1884 "The attendance of Upper Standard is bad on the whole and it appears from the Attendance Officer, The Attendance Committee decline to deal with them as satisfying the bye Laws!"

23rd. May, 1884 "Average lower than last week, 36. This is occasioned by three things - 1st. Farm operations and cleaning for Spring. 2 Carelessness on the part of parents caused by the Enquiry Officer informing them that if they are 13 no matter what standard, he has no control over them, and thirdly by the population decreasing!"

These were indeed bad years in the history of Education because although trained teachers were now coming out from colleges, teachers were paid according to their pupils' attendance and examination results, and grants were withheld if either of these did not reach the required standard.

On the surface "Payments by results" which lasted from 1862 for 30 years may appear to be a most noteworthy thing -- but the result was that children were "drilled" in the examinable subjects to the detriment of all else and schools in remote areas like Laker were often deprived of part of their grant through no fault of the teacher: it was simply because the children were unable to attend because of bad weather and because of the many epidemics which forced the school to be closed. A few of the entries in log book:

19.3.71 Typhus fever has broken out here.

26.5.71 Black fever & Smallpox flying about.

10.1.73 A nasty disease is going about here & a great many of the children are afflicted with it.

17.1.73 One of our little scholars is dead of disease named last week (Dysentery).

21.2.77. Another scholar dead of the same disease.

4.5.78. Death of another.

Jan. 74. Three cases of Typhoid.

29.2.78. No less than 22 down ill of Whooping Cough & Bronchitis. The few who are now attending school are pitiful to hear and see what with red eyes and bloated faces with violent coughings and retchings.

5.1.79- 21.2.79 School closed - Scarlet Fever.

21.3.79. Death of William Peacock of Scarlet Fever.

23. 3. 79. School was closed this afternoon by order of Dr. Connon through outbreak again on Scarlet Fever. (was closed 9 weeks)

4.6.80. One child is dead in the place not 24 hours ill.

11.6.80. The school was closed this week through illness of children and fear of others. The illness is supposed to be "Enteric Fever"

9.10.83. Diphtheria.

Much of the log book is given over to recording the state of the weather which adversely affected the attendance, which in turn affected the payment of the grant. Thus began the vicious circle: unattained standards; no grant, therefore worse results next time.

The time appointed for Government Inspection at Luher was March -- hardly a suitable month when one considers some of the winters we get up here!

The report of the H.M.S. was written into the Log book and there are often adverse ones.

In 1875 "Looking to the warning given last year, My Lords have ordered the grant to be reduced by one tenth for defective instruction in Handwriting & Spelling."

The 1876 report concludes, "My Lords will look for decidedly better results of Examination next year as the condition of an unreduced grant."

1877 "My Lords will look for decided improvement in Arithmetic next year as the condition of an unreduced grant."

1878 "My Lords feel considerable hesitation in allowing an undiminished grant."

1881 "Reading fairly satisfactory, though hesitating and indistinct in many cases. Spelling weak, more especially in upper standards. The Arithmetic will require very great attention throughout the School. I regret that I do not feel justified in recommending the Grant for Special Subjects as in no respect did they approach the requirements of the Code."

At the end of these reports it gives the Master's name and in 1875 it says H. J. G. 3rd. Class. In 1880 however we read H. J. G. 2nd. Class. In the Parish Magazine August, 1895 under Richmond National Schools it says, "At the certificate examination of the Board of Education held last July, two of the Assistant Teachers in the Senior School were successful in passing. Miss --- is placed in the second class, and Miss --- is in the third class. Both are now certificated teachers on probation for their certificates."

So we can only presume that H. J. G. passed into a higher grade at some time during his sojourn at Luher. (Incidentally after he left a "first class teacher" Mr. Bouldry took charge, but he only stayed a year and resigned "for good and

sufficient reasons (his own words).

Mr. Routledge writes, "The children in this school are very backward and because they have not been thoroughly and skilfully taught for many years (vide school reports) doubtless the Examination will as I expect be a complete failure." It was! "This school has been closed for a lengthened period on account of the prevalence of Whooping cough, and there has been other exceptional circumstances that have no doubt tended to impair its efficiency. The children have passed a thoroughly unsatisfactory Examination in the Elementary Subjects. Reading is poor, the Handwriting poor (this is crossed out) moderate, the Spelling most indifferent, and the Arithmetic could scarcely be worse. No grant can be recommended for Needlework as the Girls seem to have received little or no instructions in this subject."

When Mr. Sowter (who was a 2nd. Class teacher) took over, he, too confirmed the above. 27.5.87. "I have spent the greater part of the week examining the children. I find they know nothing about Arithmetic. Spelling is very bad and writing will require great attention."

However, having said all that, Mr. Myers did manage to turn out our two most distinguished pupils, Richard and Cherry Kearton. They were pioneers of photography of wild life and wrote books and lectured on Natural History. Their names are commemorated on stone tablets at the front of the school. The village has always been proud to be associated with the Keartons and in his Parish Magazine of March, 1894 Rev. Cooke writes, "You will be glad to learn that Mr. Kearton has also become an author. He has written a book on "Birds' Nests, Eggs and Egg-Collecting" - Price 5s. This book is well spoken of by Her Majesty the Queen, Mr. Gladstone, Sir John Lubbock and many others. It contains sixteen coloured plates, and gives a description of the eggs and nest building of about 200 birds."

Perhaps Mr. Sowter did much to further Richard's education because on the 9th. Sept. 1887, "Admitted a boy on Wednesday aged 16 from Thwaite" (Richard Kearton)

In Mr. Myers time Scripture was certainly not neglected.

An indirect result of the 1870 Education Act was "The Diocesan Inspector." Before that time H.M.I. used to report on the religious as well as on the secular attainments of the pupils in Elementary Schools. The Vicar attended the school regularly to both teach and examine the children.

3rd. Dec., 1869 "The Scripture appointed for Examination being the Book of Genesis, Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and John Baptist." "The Scripture Lesson by Rev. J. P. Nicholson this morning being "Imprisonment of Joseph."

6.12.69 "Scripture lesson this morning was the 'Creation'."

9&10 Dec. "The Second and 3 Standards (boys in particular) are a little behind in their Catechism. Many of their parents object to it being Methodists. The Scripture by the Rev. J. P. Nicholson this morning being "Healing the lame man" at the gate called Beautiful."

14 Dec. "The Rev. J. P. Nicholson's lesson this morning being the 'Parable of the Sower'."

21.1.70 "The Rev. J. P. Nicholson Examined the 4-3 Standards on the outline of Our Lord and John the Baptist."

4.2.70 "Rev. J. S. Nicholson examining in Catechism."

4.3.70 "At the request of the Rev. J. S. Nicholson the children attended Divine Service this morning."

13.4.70 "The children attended Divine Service this morning."

5.5.72 Scripture for., Wed., & Frid. by Rev. J. S. Nicholson.

From these few examples of entries one can see that Scripture was well catered for and a report was given annually.

Diocesan Report June 27th., 1883

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
1st Division	Good	Good
6, 5, 4, 3 St.		
	<u>Catechism</u>	<u>Repetition of Scripture</u>
	Fair	Good
	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
2nd. Div.	Good	Good
2, 1 & Inf.		
	<u>Catechism</u>	<u>Repetition of Scripture</u>
	Fair	Good
	Hymns for both Divisions	Good

"This School passed a good Examination in Old & New Testament, but some not so well up in Catechism, though some portion of it was written out very fairly. A few of them had some knowledge of the Confirmation Service which was gratifying. The younger ones also answered nicely but should have learned the Commandments. The Religious instruction appears to be well catered for and the children are not as shy as formerly." J. C. S. Knight, R.A.

The times of the school sessions are not recorded but just before Mr. Myers became master Harry Peacock was a pupil and Mrs. Fontenact records in her book "Spaledale", "In her childhood she went to the day school at Baker, where the vicar was the schoolmaster. School began at half past eight each morning, and ended at five, and there were no Saturday holidays. The girls arrived half an hour before the boys to sweep and dust the room." There is an entry in the log book which records a visit of a Mr. Sutcliffe on a Saturday in October, 1870, but the day session appears to have ended somewhat earlier because on the 17th. Sept., 1871 Mr. Myers was reprimanded for not closing the school at the time stated on the timetable. Mr. Myers exonerates himself with the entry, "The school was closed for working at the time of his (H. M. S.) arrival 4.10 and more preparing for prayer and dismissal, but more kept until 4.30 by him."

There is one brief allusion to "night scholars". "22 in number were presented for examination on 24th. February, 1871."

It would appear that one could be in school at whatever age the parent chose, and there are records of children beginning at the early age of three. The reason for this makes interesting speculation: Was the parent and the child and of the wife was it to give the child a greater chance of success in life or was it so that the

child would cover the Syllabus at an earlier age and then be free to leave and commence earning a living? It was possible to leave at the age of 13 provided that one had made the required number of Attendances and reached a certain standard.

The subjects studied appear to have been very limited: mention is made of Scripture, Writing, Reading, Spelling, Grammar, Arithmetic, Singing and Sewing.

Slates were used, but so were exercise books. Metal pens did not come into general use until about 1840, so it is probable that quills were used for writing in the earlier part of this time - the ink being made from oak galls.

Homework was a recognised thing and in 1869 on the 13th. Dec., "The Second, Third and Fourth Standards have got Exercise Books for their Home Lessons instead of Slates."

--but in 1870, 17th. August, "A boy was sent home for his slate and his lesson books." --- presumably a younger one.

Holidays were given for Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit. Monday, approx. a fortnight at Christmas and 4 weeks at Summer - the school closing when the hay harvest was ready, and if it was poor weather for hay-making the school remained open for a further week. Various odd day's holidays were given for Fairs at Asknigg, Thurstle, Hawes etc.

The children arrived at school in clogs, ~~arrived~~ and pinafores (even the boys) and those from any distance brought something with them for their midday meal -- this invariably included a can of cold tea!

When Mr. Sowter took over he made a "Catalogue of Books & Apparatus" 29.4.67
Books List: Poor, Scanty & Miscellaneous. Mostly rubbish.

Maps 9

Desks 9 (Parallel)

" 1 (Master's)

Table 1 (Mistress)

Forms 12

Clock 1

Slates New (Large) 36

" " (Small) 11

" Old 19

3 doz. Rules

3 " Penholders

2 Blackboards

2 Easels

44 Inkwells

1 Ball Frame

Exercise Books (old & new)

1 Alphabet Card

1 Time Table

1 Conscience Clause

1 Tabulated Abstract Gill

Portfolio containing School Reports etc.

9.

4 Attendance Registers

1 Summary "

1 Admission " 2 old do.

1 Log Book & Key

With such a little amount of apparatus or equipment there was much scope for enterprise and initiative on behalf of the teacher - but we are led to believe that this expertise was not greatly exercised. Although I must put on record that Mr. Myers did occasionally put children in for "Queen's honours" at the examination.

Before concluding this chapter, I must place on record how conscientiously the Trustees undertook their duties. They were frequent visitors at the school and at such times examined not only the building, but the children as well. The Correspondent seldom missed a week checking the registers and they presented themselves to witness the examinations by the Inspectors. 26th. May, 1882, "Examination on Wednesday afternoon by Mr. Harrison. J. Peacock, and Rev. J. P. Micholson were present!" Good work was appreciated and did not go un-rewarded and frequent honoraria were given to both Mr. & Mrs. Souter when funds became more plentiful.

The Later Years -- 3rd. Century.

"In this life, we want nothing but Facts, sir, nothing but Facts."

This is a quotation from "Hard Times" by Charles Dickens. (Mr. Gradgrind speaking to village schoolmaster.)

Add to this the axiom, "Spare the rod, and spoil the child!" - and you have a fair picture of Miker School at the beginning of this period. Old scholars all have vivid recollections of Mr. Sowter and his cane, though I fail to see the psychology of it -- having been caned for doing a sum wrong would surely not teach the children the correct way of doing it! Be that as it may, discipline was very strict and the Victorian principles of how to bring up children were certainly adhered to in the school. (Even so, it was possible to hoodwink Mr. Sowter, and I am told that if the back of the fireplace - where the stove now stands, is ever removed, innumerable canes will be recovered. The younger children were bullied by the older ones into doing this and Mary Scott, who sat near the clock, often recalls how it was her job to put forward the clock, which she duly did, fearing the wrath of the other children more than that of the master.)

Nevertheless Mr. Sowter does seem to have pulled the school up to standard. The Managers decided that only Reading, Writing and Arithmetic should be taught by him for the first six months and this wish was duly carried out.

Here I must mention that the Managers and Trustees seem to have become one body - or rather, the Trustees took over the roll of managers, although now they are once again two separate bodies. They continued to supply the School with various items of equipment. 13th. Jan., 1893 "During the holidays the old stove has been removed from the middle of the room and a new one placed in front of the fireplace." (They reverted to open fires in 1909.) They also bought a harmonium in 1896 and desks for 6 and what a disturbance was caused when the ones in the centre needed to get out!) A new map of Palestine was procured for the school in 1901.

By this time there appears to have been a school cleaner, but Mr. Sowter was no respecter of persons and in 1891 the said cleaner was reported for not having washed the floor during the Christmas holidays. The next entry states that the school cleaner "has resigned."

However steady progress was the order of the day and the reports confirm this. 5th. May, 1888, "The children throughout the School had their work on paper today."

In 1870 there was a New Code and Drilling became a school subject. It is not mentioned in Miker log book until 1894 though I presume it was taken, but in Gunnerside log book there is an entry, 22.9.71 "Commenced Drilling the Boys according to the 'Manual of Field Exercise, 1870'." What pictures this conjures up! Mr. Sowter did take full advantage of this Code which allowed greater freedom of classification and scholars were no longer committed to a standard - regardless of their abilities.

Geography is mentioned in 1899 and the following year the grant was increased by 1s. per pupil on account of this. It did not appear in subsequent years, but in May, 1899, "Commenced geography in the upper part of the school instead of Grammar." In September of the following year 'Drawing' was added to the Curriculum and progress must have been made for in 1892 the Drawing Inspector arrived and the school received a further grant for drawing and the annual Drawing Examination was added to the list of examinations. History is mentioned for the first time in 1893 - but it may have been taken before. Concern for Arithmetic seems to occupy the Master's mind, almost to the exclusion of all else and is repeatedly mentioned in the log book. But a grant for History was received in 1894. Mature Study was begun in 1896 and the children were actually taken for a Mature Walk in 1903.

What a relief to some teachers it must have been to receive on November 1st. 1895 notification that, "My Lords have sanctioned the omission of the annual inspection," Not so for Mr. Souter: he immediately undertook a monthly Examination of the scholars! Strangely enough the drawing exam and grant is always listed as a separate thing and not part of the main H.M.I.'s exam - nor is the examiner the same - so one can only presume this is extra-curriculum and Muir was indeed privileged to have a teacher who could draw.

Nevertheless the impression gained from reading the accounts is that the children were "drilled" rather than educated, and were pressurised into passing the examinations for the glory of the school and teacher alike. School was not a place to which one ran in eager anticipation of the delights to be found therein - but rather a place to which one was compelled to go.

Balfour's Education Act of 1902 brought another change. Schools were placed under the control of "Local Authorities" and they were encouraged to provide secondary schools to which children from elementary schools could go if they won a "Scholarship!" (This was later called the 11+) The first record of anyone getting this is on 9th. Sept., 1927, "Annie E. Raw left school to enter Richmond High School."

Possibly as a result of this act a Pupil Teacher was appointed to the School in 1903. He remained until 1907. From 1907 until 1921 Supplementary Teachers were appointed to teach the Infants and Sewing to all the girls and the classroom was utilised. As far as I am aware these teachers had no qualifications because had they attended High School and obtained their leaving certificate, they would have been termed "Uncertificated Teachers." By this time a "Certificated" teacher was one who had obtained a certificate after attending a College.

Schemes of work and timetables had to be submitted to the Education Committee for their approval. Organising masters were appointed by the Education Committee to advise teachers on given subjects. The first to arrive at Muir was the Instructor for Drill in 1906 and in 1907 the Organising Master for Rural Subjects came. An Organising Mistress for Sewing arrived in 1909. In 1913 a County Inspector for Buildings duly inspected the same.

From this time the doctor seems to have paid an occasional visit to the

school, but the first recorded mention of a medical inspection was April, 17th., 1908, "Dr. M. E. Thompson was a visitor on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and examined five children under the Medical Act". They must have had a thorough examination for it to take all that time! It is interesting to read the log books and note the progress of medical treatment. Time after time the school had to be closed owing to epidemics of everything from diphtheria, typhoid fever, whooping cough to measles and scarlet fever. Deaths of young children are not infrequent entries. Even ringworm often took three months to cure. So it is with sincere gratitude to the pioneers of our new medicines etc. that I can report that the school has never been closed since my appointment- nor has any child had to be excluded because of lice or scabies etc. No mention is made of the dental inspections until May 1926.

Water was laid on in the school in 1906 and electricity in 1950. The school playground was enclosed in 1927.

There are occasional references made to prizes being given by the Trustees for regular attendance, but a new innovation was the introduction of the "Merit" holiday. Presumably this was to encourage more regular attendance and half a day's holiday could be taken if a certain percentage of attendances was reached. I well remember these holidays in my childhood- but they seem to have been seldom earned in Muker. The first one mentioned is 17th. June, 1921.

The Education Acts of 1914 and 1944 brought more changes. Milk and school meals were provided for the children, although it was not until 1968 that we were able to have school dinners at Muker. Psychology assumed a greater importance. Piaget and many others brought "enlightened" ideas to the field of Education. A teacher now fails his certificate if he does not pass in psychology. Gone are the drillings and carings of the past and a new era has begun.

Children leave Muker School at 11 regardless of their attainments. The three 'A's have taken the place of the 3 'R's and children are taught according to their age, aptitude and ability. More apparatus and facilities such as Radio Lessons have become available. Educational outings are encouraged and books of all kinds are readily available from Libraries. The head has greater freedom and gone is the strict adherence to the timetable. Modern methods replace the old ones and although older people may look with askance at some of the things done, schools are on the whole happier places. Children are free to express their own feelings and everyone develops his own talents at his own rate. Possibly the change that are more apparent to the outside world are those in Art and Maths. Gone are the days when one drew the bowl of fruit (with one fallen out). Pictures are made of anything from straw to old cartons and the results are most effective. Maths has certainly undergone a change and today's parent views his child's books with bewilderment- but children are now encouraged to think and reason for themselves and nowhere is this more apparent than in the maths lesson.

If you were to ask Muker children which books are most used, I feel sure the reply would unhesitatingly be "The Encyclopaedias". Is this a good thing? It is certainly impossible to teach the children every fact- but at least they know where and how to find the knowledge they seek.

And yet, have things changed all that much? It was their ability to look, to see, to observe, to think, to reason and then to draw their own conclusions that made Richard and Cherry Kearton so deservedly famous.

I wonder what William Raynard would think were he to walk into the School in this day and age! The room in which we work is pleasantly warm at all times, spotlessly clean and tastefully decorated. The children sit on chairs at tables which can easily be moved so that Physical Education can be taken indoors when the weather is inclement. (Even this subject has changed beyond recognition and again the children are not given the old barrack type instructions, but are asked to find ~~left~~ ways of doing certain activities, thereby involving their brains as well as their bodies).

The Open Plan was supposed to be an innovation of these recent years---but through necessity this school has been one for a long time. Numbers may be limited, but each child works according to his own ability. Had Mr. Raynard come in yesterday afternoon, he would have found one child playing the glockenspiel in one corner of the room, two children painting in another part, several doing some historical research, another in the room used for dining, playing the chime bars and yet another reading to me in another area. Unrestrained, the children move at will about the building and as the discipline is self imposed and the work enjoyed, there is no problem. In fact the children are more likely to correct each other behaviour-wise and certainly help each other. This can possibly only be achieved with small numbers and we are only 9. It seems a pity that this ideal state must come to an end-but I doubt the School will close itself as there are no younger children in the Dale, and a 4th. chapter on the 4th. century will never be added----- but as I keep telling the children there is room for yet another commemorative tablet and some remarkable children have passed through the School. Who knows??

Wartime Days.

The earlier wars do not appear to have disrupted school life much.

There is neither mention of the outbreak of the Great War, nor of peace being declared. The first reference to this war is on the 16th. Feb., 1917, "The Pupil Teacher was absent on Wednesday, he having to appear before the Military Medical Board."

20th. Apr., 1917 "The Pupil Teacher has not returned to School. he is called up for Military Service on April 23rd.

4th. May, 1917 "Three children absent today owing to funeral of wounded soldier from the district."

25th. Aug., 1919 (No, I haven't got the year wrong) "Closed for another week's holiday in celebration of peace."

The 1939-45 war did affect Haker School. Do you remember the billeting Officer, Mr. W. T. Jacob going round finding how many spare bedrooms you had? 1st. Sept., 1939 "Emergency Regulations - Reception Areas." School closed for one week. On Sunday 3rd. Sept. at 11 a.m. England declared State of War against Germany - B.B.C. announced that all schools would close for one week."

Evacuees were brought here and the school was closed for a time to prepare for their arrival. On the 11th. Sept., 1939 26 evacuees and 2 teachers arrived from Sunderland. The teachers appear to have had to do a 3 month stint of duty and then were replaced by others. The evacuees went back gradually of their own accord. 1st. Apr. 1940 "School reopened. Nine evacuees failed to return."

So another batch, 21 in number, this time from Gateshead, arrived on 6th. July, 1940 and the process began all over again, until in 1944 On the 10th. Jan. there was only 1 remaining. There are several entries showing that gas masks were inspected at regular intervals and on the 5th. April, 1944, "Lecture on Butterfly bomb by Sergeant Martin."

The School collected waste paper and was closed on several occasions for Red Cross Gift Sales held in the village.

There are two entries which must have given the writer great pleasure: 8th. & 9th. May, 1945, "School closed to celebrate the victory in Europe." 4th. Sept., 1945, "School closed for three days for V.J. Holiday - Tea & Sports on Sept. 7"

List of Teachers at Muker Endowed School

- It is highly probable that in the early days the Curate was also the master of the school
- 1678-1680 Michael Waggett (there is some doubt as to whether he was ever permanent Curate at Muker)
- 1680-1687 Edward Wilkinson
- 1687-1694 Henry Docker
- 1694-1703 James Moore
- 1703-1713 Thomas Gowlin
- 1713-1772 Christopher Foster

The above were all known to be Curates at Muker but there is no written record as to whether they were also teachers.

- 1773-1779 Lister Metcalfe (Curate & Master)
- 1797(?) - 1846 William Raynard (1st. record of master other than the Minister)
- 1846-1865 Richard Lowther (curate as well as master)
- 1866 Thomas Gilleard (^{50 applicants} for job) (wife taught Needlework)
- 1867-1886 Henry Myers (wife taught Needlework. He was given 3 months notice
The reason for this is not recorded, but his grandson informs me that he then took a job as Attendance Officer in Lancashire)
- 1886-1887 James Routledge (He was given notice because he didn't occupy School House nor make provision for Needlework)
- 1887-1924 John Sowter (His wife took Needlework. From 1907-1923 he had Supplementary Teachers. There were also Pupil Teachers from 1903-1907 & 1913-1917)
- 1924-1925 Miss L. Hancock
- 1925-1936 Mrs. E. Staniforth
- 1936-1950 Miss Dixon
- 1951-1955 Miss Brown
- 1955-1965 Mrs J. Chapman
- 1966- Mrs. E. D. Guy

Supplementary Teachers

- 20-9-1907 - 30-4-08 Miss J. Huxley
- 14-6-08 - 11-6-09 Miss Eva Waters
- 1-9-09 - 31-5-10 Miss Meleta Appleton
- 7-10-10 - 31-7-13 Miss Eva Waters
- 5-9-13 - 31-8-15 Miss O. F. M. Sowter
- 7-10-15 - 6-12-15 Miss Jane Morris (She did not come up to the standard required by Inspector)
- 3-1-16 - 11-10-16 Miss A. Emmerson
- 6-11-16 - 31-12-20 Miss E. Dodd's
- 10-1-21 - 21-12-23 Miss A. Hugill

Pupil Teachers

- 1903-1907 Sidney J. Sowter
- 1913-1917 William Caldwell

Number of Children on Register at various times.

In 1870 according to the Trustees Books there were 28 boys & 22 girls = 50, but according to the School Log book 17th. Sept., 1870 there were 66 average for the week, and I think it would have said had there been 100% attendance.

The following numbers are taken from the School Log Book:

Nov. 1871	64
May. 1872	62 (Average)
May. 1874	53
Feb. 1875	50
Aug. 1877	57
May. 1878	60
Apr. 1883	53.4 (Average)
Dec. 1885	42
Aug. 1886	36
Sep. 1887	35.7 (Average)
Jan. 1888	40
Nov. 1894	40
Sep. 1898	35
Jun. 1900	42
Feb. 1902	41
Jun. 1908	48
Nov. 1912	35
May. 1916	26
Mar. 1919	34
Jan. 1925	38
Jan. 1931	39
Aug. 1935	24
Jan. 1939	14 + 26 children from Sunderland.
Jul. 1940	19 + 21 children from Gateshead.
Nov. 1941	31
Jun. 1943	21
Jan. 1944	16 + 1 from Gateshead.
Jan. 1945	21
Jan. 1948	21
Jan. 1951	19
Jan. 1954	18
Jan. 1957	13
Jan. 1960	10
Jan. 1963	11
Jan. 1966	17
Jan. 1972	10
Jan. 1976	12
Jan. 1977	9

In December 1885 there were 42 children on the registers.

It is interesting to note the average weekly attendances in 1886 up to the time Mr. Myers left. Had this any connection with the fact that he was given 3 months' notice, and for which no reason is recorded?

Jan. 8th.	Average for week	17.4
" 15th.	" " "	16.42
" 22nd.	"	13.2
Mar. 15th.	"	8
" 26th.	"	14.8
Apr. 2nd.	"	13.7
" 9th.	"	14
" 16th.	"	24
" 22nd.	"	23
" 30th.	"	17.6
7th May	"	24.8
12th "	"	12.2
21st. "	"	18.3
28th. "	"	16.9
4th. June	"	21.4
11th. "	"	23.4
18th. "	"	19
25th. "	"	14