

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
IN THE PARISH OF BRANSTON.

The school in High Street, Branston which houses this exhibition has been a centre of education for more than a hundred years, as a day school, an evening school and in recent years a Teachers' Centre.

The education of the Village children goes back much further however.

- 1620 Garretts Charity. Thomas Garrett of Heighington gave land and properties to build and endow a school at Heighington for the education of boys from Heighington, Washingborough and Branston.
- 1830 At this time some 25 poor boys of Branston were receiving instruction at the school in reading, writing and arithmetic.
- 1836 Peregrine Curtois, the rector, built an annexe to the Chancel, now the Choir Vestry, to serve as a school for boys and girls.
- 1837 The Hon. A.L. Melville of Branston Hall, erected a school in Hall Lane. It was attended by about 70 children who each paid 1d - 2d a week.
- 1856 A school was set up on the border of the Fen in a building hired by the rector.
- 1857 A boys Day School was appointed for 59 boys at 1d. a week, it was held in a building belonging to the rector. The master was the Parish Clerk. The girls remained in the Vestry school.
- 1860 The boys school was taught by J.R. Sharpe (untrained) 21 adults attended Night School 13 weeks a year, five nights a week at 2d a week.
- 1870 At a Parish meeting it was decided to establish a new school for all the children.
- 1873 Branston National School opened at a cost of £1,200. Mrs. Melville's school in Hall Lane continued as an Infants school.
- 1901 The Infant school was closed due to the financial burden of the upkeep of two schools.
- 1906 The Managers decided to admit no more children under five.
- 1933 Electric lighting was installed to replace the oil lamps.
- 1939 Evacuees from the Cowper Street Boys School, Leeds, spent a few months in the village. The Methodist school room was used as temporary accommodation.

- 1944 The Fen School was closed because of the condition of the school room. The Village hall was used as a temporary school.
- 1946 The Fen School was demolished by Mr. Bailey for £35.
- 1948 The school became a Voluntary Controlled School.
- 1951 The Chapel School room was used once again.
- 1956 New classrooms were built on land adjoining the school, rented to the L.E.A. by the Leslie Melville Trustees.
- 1960 Branston Fen C.E. Controlled School was closed - only two children attending.
- 1963 Central Heating Installed in the village school.
- 1968 The swimming pool was opened.
- 1970 The new school was opened on Station Road, following a well organised campaign by the P.T.A.
- 1971 The Dedication of the New School by the Bishop of Lincoln, Dr. Riches.

HEAD TEACHERS GIRLS AND INFANT SCHOOL - HALL LANE.

- 1870 Miss Hopkin (Eliza Ann)
- 1872 Blanche Gertrude Anne Denial
- 1877 Mary Chambers
- 1881 Rose Satchell
- 1885 Miss Betsy Blagg
- 1888 Miss Jane Barraclough
- 1890 Miss E.M. Gopsill
- 1892 Helen Edmeston
- 1892 Alice Coldron
- 1894 Phoebe Scott
- 1894 L. Highley
- 1894 S.V. Bamford
- 1894 Lucy Panton
- 1899 Elizabeth Jane Taylor



HEAD TEACHERS MIXED SCHOOL

|      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 1873 | Mr. John Greenlaw      |
| 1876 | Mr. Matthew Handscomb  |
| 1881 | Miss E. Beet           |
| 1881 | Mr. W.J. Smith         |
| 1884 | Mr. Edwin Beevers      |
| 1890 | Mr. John Richard Sharp |
| 1925 | Mr. W.P. Williams      |
| 1950 | Mr. F. Cook            |
| 1959 | Mr. W. Eyre            |
| 1962 | Mr. L. Amphlett        |
| 1963 | Mr. A. Kemp            |
| 1971 | Mr. C. Newman          |

HEAD TEACHERS - FEN SCHOOL.

|      |                            |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1903 | Miss Mabbett               |
| 1904 | Miss Aylott                |
| 1906 | Miss Roberts               |
| 1910 | Miss Newton                |
| 1911 | Miss Edith Archer          |
| 1922 | Mrs. Johnson               |
| 1924 | Mr. Whitehead              |
| 1927 | Miss Cox                   |
| 1928 | Miss Clifton               |
| 1944 | Miss Amy Margaret Charlton |
| 1946 | Mrs. R. Bailey             |

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL LOG BOOKS 1870 - 1925.

ROYAL OCCASIONS

1887  
June 21st. Holiday for Her Majesty's Jubilee.  
June 30th. Large picture of the Queen sent by Hon. Mrs. Leslie Melville - to be hung up in school room.

1893  
July 6th Royal Wedding Day. A whole days holiday given. Free tea and sports for children.

1897  
June 22nd Day off for Diamond Jubilee.  
June 29th Day off for Branston Jubilee Fete.

1910  
May 9th The Schools flag was run up to half mast on account of the Kings death.  
May 20th Holiday for Kings funeral.

1911  
June 19th - School closed for the week for the Coronation.  
23rd.

1917  
April 9th School closed for the afternoon for the Kings visit to Lincoln.

LOCAL DIGNITARIES

1875  
Oct. 19th. Day off for Melvilles Golden Wedding.

1878  
Dec. 2nd. Children presented Willoughby Curtois with  $\frac{1}{2}$  guinea towards his new Church in Australia.

1879  
April 28th Children attended funeral of Mrs. Melville of Branston Hall.

1887  
June 16th Half day holiday for Miss Melvilles wedding.

1892  
Feb. 12th The Countess of Enniskillen, the Hon. Mrs. Melville and Miss Constance Melville, visited the school, examined some of the work, heard the children sing and also saw them at some musical drill.

1893  
June 22nd A whole holiday was given today for Miss E.A. Melville's wedding.



1894  
Jan. 4th

Half holiday. Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Melville invited the children to a Christmas tree in the Old Hall, in honour of the coming of age of their son Mr.A.B. Leslie Melville.

1907  
Aug. 22nd.

School was closed on Thursday afternoon - Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Melville kindly entertained the whole of the children to tea and a cinematograph entertainment.

1908  
Sept. 30th.

School closed for two days, for Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Melville's Golden Wedding.

#### MILITARY MATTERS

1874  
July 17th

20 Children absent to watch soldiers pass through Branston.

1900  
March 2nd

The School was closed on account of the relief of Ladysmith.

May 21st.

Telegram from Melville - Relief of Mafeking.

1902  
June 2nd.

School closed for the Declaration of Peace. The National Anthem was sung and cheers given for the King.

1908  
May 25th

Empire Day - We have purchased a new Union Jack, which was hoisted today. Patriotic songs were sung and the flag saluted.

1914  
Nov. 11th

Admitted Georgins L. Blomma' 4yrs. 9 mths. a Belgium refugee. At present he can speak no English.

Nov. 17th

Lessons included a talk about the late Lord Roberts, whilst the 12 speeches of Lord Kitchener and Mr. Asquith in the Lords and Commons were read.

Nov. 27th.

The girls are knitting scarves and gloves for the soldiers. New song learnt "Land of Hope and Glory".

1915  
May 14th

As part of the sewing lesson, the children are helping to make sandbags for the army - 72 this week.

1917  
Jan. 5th.

Good attempts by boys at making models of Zeppelins.

1918  
Nov. 11th.

Armistice Day - flag was hoisted and National Anthem sung - half holiday given.

ILLNESS

- 1882           Scarlet fever epidemic. 23 out of 220 homes with cases of the disease. 4 Houses ordered to be disinfected.
- 1889  
Feb. 19th.    Outbreak of measles. School closed by order of Medical Officer. Closed 4 weeks.
- 1894  
May 26th      Absences due to scarlet fever and diptheria.
- 1896  
October       Measles epidemic - school closed for 1 week.
- 1901  
June 19th     We have scarletina in the schoolhouse, two of my children and the servant being ill. Dr. Harrison ordered the school to be closed for 7 weeks.
- 1908  
Sept. 26th    Child died of diptheria evidently imported from Lincoln. School rooms disinfected.
- 1911  
April 28th    A few children are still away owing to ringworm, jaundice and whooping cough.

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I hope you have enjoyed looking round this Exhibition. It is, however, only the beginning of a genuine attempt to discover the history of education in Branston, and personally I am interested in finding out much more. In particular I have been given little information about the period 1930 - 1950, yet it must hold vivid memories for some people in the Branston area.

If you can supply any additional information, photographs etc., about this, or any other period from the history of the Branston schools, I should be delighted to hear from you. Perhaps you can supply the answer to several notable queries:-

- (1) Where was the boys school in 1872?
- (2) Were any types of souvenirs issued to schoolchildren in 1897, 1911, 1937, 1953? - Do you have any?
- (3) Where are the Fen Schools Log Books?
- (4) Where are the Log Books of this school from 1925 - 1967?
- (5) What happened in school between 1930 - 1950?
- (6) Are there any copies of the school photographs taken in 1875 and 1882?

W.S. Stead.