

SPITTAL SCHOOL LOGBOOK, 1910 ONWARDS

5 Jan. 1909

School re-opened after Christmas Holidays. Mr Robert Cooper Clements began duties as Assistant Master. This causes a few changes. Miss Jeffrey is removed from Standard VI VII to Standard IV and her place is taken by Mr Clements. Miss Gregg who has had Standard IV now takes Standard II and Miss Davey leaves Standard II to assist Miss Johnson with a difficult Standard...

Mr Clements is engaged to take entire charge of the teaching of Form throughout the school.

22 Jan. 1909

Mr Clements gave an outline at the weekly conference of the scheme of drawing he proposes....

25th June 1909

Thursday June 24th school was closed by order because of Sunday School excursion. On Wednesday evening 18 boy scouts represented the school at the inspection by General Baden Powell...

14th Jan. 1910

Mr Clements VI VII is absent today – Influenza

21st Jan. 1910

...Mr Clements was absent on Monday and Tuesday – Influenza

20th June 1910

Owing to the visit of Messers Wombwill's Menagerie, the school was closed in the afternoon by order of L.E. Authority.

1st July 1910

...The Headmaster, accompanied by all the members of the Staff and 50 scholars paid the annual visit to Edinburgh. The party started at 3 am and returned at 10pm. The visit by steamer from Leith to the Forth Bridge gave all a rest and was a new feature of the outing. A most enjoyable day was spent ...

7th July 1910

This morning Mr W.J. Dixon presented a pair of field glasses to the company of Boy Scouts belonging to our school. Mr Clements is the Secretary of the

Borough Scouts Association. Delicate boys are becoming robust; manners, alertness and general tone have much improved and the training of boy scouts is truly educational when properly conducted. I cannot speak too highly of the work Mr Clements is doing for boys in the Borough and in our own school. He has gained the esteem and affection of all the boys.

9th September 1910

.... It may be interesting to note that a Boy Scout's Camp was held at Wooler for 10 days during the summer holidays. Twelve of our boys with the two assistant masters and myself spent a pleasant holiday and I can say from experience that the movement is worthy of support and is educational.

3rd February 1911

...Evidently there is much sickness. The doctor and nurse have been in school every day during the past fortnight. ...The Headmaster and members of the staff assist at the Soup Kitchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Only those children whose fathers are out of work are fed. No less than 1/5 of our school children (80 children) are present regularly.

10th February 1911

The number attending Soup Kitchen this week = 119 or 30% of the school.

3rd May 1911

Mr Clements was not in time to inspect his class this morning.

3rd July 1911

Mr Clements with some boys at present attending school has gone to Windsor to the rally of Scouts – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

6th July 1911

Mr Clements summoned as witness in a local case.

29th August 1911

...Richard Teesdale has won a scholarship and goes to Grammar School. Harry Forrest and Robert Moffatt are also going to Grammar School. Evelyn Borthwick will go as a day scholar to St Mary's Convent.

8th December 1911

Took Mr Clements class to enable him to make preparations for the School Concert. ...

15th December 1911

A concert and operetta have been given by the children during the week. No part of the operetta was learned in school hours. The success has been most gratifying and the response of the parents, who have loyally supported the school and the teachers has inspired the whole staff and renewed hops and vigour. All the Managers supported us by their presence. The concert consisted of Recitations, Swedish Drill, Folk Songs, Games and Morris Dances. Mr Clements, senior assistant designed and painted a beautiful proscenium and two beautiful scenes, which will be stored for use on a future occasion.

On Thursday afternoon the Infants rendered a programme. The Central Hall was crowded with happy mothers. The Headmaster was present and testifies that the work done by Miss Grigor is refined and excellent in tone, and has given unbounded delight to the little ones.

3rd May 1912

Our School Football Team has been successful in winning the Shield and Medals in the Borough Schools Football League. This success is a record, and they did not lose a single match.

HMI Report – Inspected 25th and 27th September 1912

....Composition is the subject in which the Headmaster'[s ideals have been most nearly realised, and in good classes such as the VIth standard [Mr Clements] – which is in the hands of a very capable teacher – much good work is being done. This teacher deserves praise for the enthusiasm which he shows in all subjects and especially in Drill and Drawing....

20th March 1913

Closed today at noon for Easter Holidays

Annie Cringle , 11 ½ year of age has been awarded First Prize offered by the Berwick Debating Society for essay writing in a competition open to all boys and girls in the Borough under 14.

The second prize was awarded to Richard Davidson, another scholar of this school. Both reside in Spittal. The prizes were presented in Berwick by Dr Maclagan, Chairman of the Education Committee.

23rd May 1913

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman Adam Logan) presented each child in the school with a new penny and an orange.

The School Football Team retain the Darling Challenge Shield for another year having beaten all records. They have not lost one point and have 50 goals to 3 to their credit. The team has been solely in the charge of Mr Hunter.

31st October 1913

Mr Clements has been absent all week: he is very unwell. Headmaster took Standards VI and VII as one class

7th November 1913

Mr Clements still absent. Drawing in Standard Vi and VII not taken

14th November 1913

Mr Clements still absent.

21st November 1913

Mr Clements still absent. Mr Joseph Hince (certificated) from Backworth began duties on Thursday morning Nov. 20th (on supply)

12th Dec. 1913

Mr Clements still absent. Numerous cases of German measles among the younger scholars.

6th Jan. 1914

Resumed after Christmas Holidays. Mr Clements absent Tuesday and Wednesday owing to mother's death.....

15th July 1914

School closed tonight at 4pm for summer holidays. Mr Clements and Miss Gregg were presented with wedding presents from the Headmaster, Assistant Teachers and Scholars.

25th August 1914

School re-opened today with a good attendance. Miss Iris Allott began work as Student Teacher. Owing to the absence of Miss Gregg (Mrs Clements) the Student Teacher took charge of Stnd III.

4th Sept. 1914

Mr Clements absent today owing to inspection of scouts by General Baden Powell

22nd Jan. 1915

J.Wilson Esq., Mayor of Berwick accompanied by Major Bose visited and conferred with Headmaster about a possible bombardment. The Mayor saw the whole school emptied in less than one minute.

30th June 1915

Scholars and staff entertained 54 wounded soldiers with their nurses during the afternoon.

14th July 1915

Mr Clements informed the Headmaster that he had joined the 7th N.F and would be leaving on Monday. The day was spent in re-arranging classes, removing desks, etc.

15th July 1915

These two days have been spent in preparing for the departure of Mr Clements....

The Headmaster takes over St VI, VII and EX VII = 65 scholars....

29th September 1916

With deep regret we record that Robert (Roy) How Hunter M.A. who was an assistant in this school for 5 years from 1909 to 1914 was killed in action in France on Sept. 15th 1916.

13th October 1916

A considerable number of families have removed to Pegswood. They were miners who had dispute with owners of Scremerston Colliery.

3rd Nov. 1916

More families of miners have removed.

15th June 1917

Lieut. Tate , one of our assistant masters from the front, visited. Miss Noble is absent news having come that her brother Charles (an old scholar) has been killed in France...

28th August 1917

School reopened after summer holidays. Mrs Clements took charge of Standard III. All members of staff were present. Very wet weather.

18th Oct. 1917

...Mr Clements visited. He is home from the front to take up his commission.

14th June 1918

Again it is my painful duty to record the death of another assistant teacher, Mr J.M. Tate B. Sc. Mr Tate was a Captain in the 18th Battalion N.F. and was killed in France on May 27th 1918.

28th June 1918

Mrs Clements absent today to see her husband off to the Front.

16th Sept. 1918

With deep sorrow, I have to record that Mr Robert Cooper Clements , 2nd Lieutenant N.F. the third and last of the assistant masters who have served in this school, has been killed in France. Mrs Clements is absent this week.

25th Sept. 1918

Mrs Clements not yet returned to her duties.

6th Jan. 1919

... James Palmer Huffam, a former pupil of this school has won the V.C.

17th April 1919

School closed this afternoon at 4 for Easter Holidays.

2nd Lieut. James P. Huffam V.C. made a visit this afternoon in the company of his parents. He was entertained by the scholars and teachers and congratulated on the honour he had brought to the school. The teachers presented Lieut. Huffam with a pocket wallet.

11th Nov. 1919

Armistice Day. Two minutes silence kept in Central Hall. Special lessons given. Half holiday in afternoon.

(to end 1919)