

Glenfinnan School

Fort William Archives GB3218/C1/L/5/3/142a

This scrutiny of the records was carried out by Gordon Barr and quotation marks show the entries as they appear in the school record books. Question marks indicate where the original handwriting has not been clearly understood. The other notes are comments or questions and doubts about the subject of the entries.

Front page has an entry marked "Dimensions. Length 16.5ft, Breadth 16ft, Height 15ft".

The school register is GB3218/C1/L/5/3/142e. Registration numbers 1-35 and 232-321 are available to view here.

1877 (page 1)

- February 6 "Teacher Margaret Cameron. Certified 1<sup>st</sup> Division.....Class.  
School opened for the first time under the charge of Margaret Cameron from the Liverpool Training College. Certificated Teacher. Nearly all the week spent in understanding the arrangement of Classes.
- February 16 "New pencils & chalk were provided for School. School apparatus found to be deficient".
- March 2 "Maps of Palestine & Scotland, pointers & a new Blackboard were provided by the School Board this week.
- May 18 "There were a certain number of scholars absent from school this week owing to the cutting of peat".
- November 16 "This week the School was furnished by the Board with New books, pens, pencils etc.

1878 (page 13)

1879 (page 30)

1880 (page 43)

- May 28 (p48). "His Lordship the 'Bishop of Argyll & The Isles' accompanied by the Reverend D. Macdonald Glenfinnan visited the school".
- August 3 Roll 10 boys, 16 girls. Teacher Marg<sup>t</sup> Cameron, C.J.
- August 13 "Today the School closes for the Harvest Vacation".
- October 25 "School was reopened after Vacation. Some scholars kept employed by their parents at home".
- November 5 Page 53. "Inspectors Report Received in March 1881. The Scholars of Standard IV had 'Compound Subtractions' explained to them."
- December 15 "Scholars of Standard III were taught the 'Rule of Multiplication'".

1881 (page 56)

- January 7 "The 'Uses of the Preposition' were explained to the Scholars of Standard IV on Tuesday morning for their 'Grammar Lesson'."
- January 21 "For the first half hour every morning this week the children had drilling and exercises to make themselves warm".
- April 15 "This being 'Holy Week' the School was closed on Thursday and Good-Friday for the Easter Holidays".

- April 29 “The Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. McKay, Arisaig, a member of the School Board, visited the School on Thursday along with Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Macdonald”.
- May 20 “Some children kept at home for cutting peats”.
- June 24 “Children are kept at home for work and various causes”.
- July 22 “A number of scholars are kept at home for fear of being attacked by ‘bulls’ that wander along the roads and hills sometimes”.
- October 28 “The holidays extended to a few weeks longer than the appointed time on account of the plaster on the school ceiling having to be repaired”.
- November 4 “Closed all this week on account of the opening on this ceiling which has not been replaced”.
- November 11 “School reopened”.

1882 (page 66)

- March 10 “The School Board provided this School with one dozen ‘Geography of Scotland’ books”.
- March 17 “This week the School Board provided some requisite articles for the School such as – Books, Slates, Copy-Books, pencils, Summary Book etc.”
- April 21 “There was a great snowstorm on Monday and many pupils were prevented from coming to School”.
- July 21 The Rev<sup>d</sup> J. Rogerson from England, Mrs Macdonald Glenfinnan visited the School”.
- July 28 “Several absentees in consequence of the ‘hooping-cough”’.
- August 18 “8 boys, 12 girls. School closed today for the Harvest Vacation”.

1883 (page 76)

- “Inspectors Report received August 1882. As there is no playground the children have to amuse themselves on the highway and it is to be hoped this will be rectified at once by enclosing a suitable space.”
- April 13 “On Tuesday morning His Lordship the “Bishop of Argyle and the Isles” visited the School accompanied by Rev<sup>d</sup> D. Macdonald, Glenfinnan”.
- May 4 “A few scholars were retained from School this week for home-work”.
- May 11 “Mr and Mrs Nicholson of Arisaig visited the school accompanied by Mr, Mrs and Miss Macdonald of Glenaladale”.
- June 29 “Miss Jones, Aunt of Mrs Nicholson of Arisaig visited. Afternoon visitors Miss C. Astley, Arisaig, Rev<sup>d</sup> J. McIntosh, Glenfinnan and Mrs and Miss Macdonald of Glenaladale”.
- December 14 Roll 9 boys, 5 girls.

1884 (page 91)

- June 27 “Dr Munro from Glasgow in company with Rev. D. Macdonald Glenfinnan visited the school and passed some satisfactory remarks upon the cleanliness of the pupils etc.”
- August 23 “School closed today for the Harvest Vacations”.
- October 27 “School reopened after Vacations”. (Nine weeks of vacation !!)

1885 (page 98)

- January 7 “Closed Xmas day and New Years Day only”.
- February 6 “Mr MacKenzie, Fort William Member of School B<sup>d</sup>, visited the school and made a satisfactory entry in the Log B<sup>k</sup>.”
- June 12 “Several scholars have been kept at home this week to work at peats”.
- June 30 “Thirteen present”.

1886 (page 106)

- June 2 “Present Teacher closes School for good today, she having given her resignation to the School Board more than three months ago. No teacher having been appointed to succeed on the 27<sup>th</sup> May last, present Teacher kept the school open a week longer by the request of Members of the School Board.  
The School was re-opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. Children attending well with the exception of three owing to illness and health in their family. School taught by Mrs. and Miss Macdonald of Glenaladale”.
- July 27 “Isabella Whitloche, late teacher at St. Ninian’s R.C. School, Newton Stewart, having been appointed by Ardnamurchan School Board took charge of this school. Twelve children present”.
- August 13 “On Monday, Lady Howard of Glossop and the Honourable Miss Howard accompanied by Mrs & Miss Macdonald of Glenaladale visited the school”.
- September 3 “School closes today for vacation to reopen in six weeks”.

1887 (page 115)

- May 27 “His Lordship the Bishop of Argyle and the Isles accompanied by Rev. D. Macdonald and Mrs Macdonald visited the school and heard the children sing”.
- August 5 “Two Redemptorist Fathers accompanied by the Rev. E. Macdonald and Mrs Macdonald of Glenaladale visited the school”.
- August 19 “Colonel Macdonald of Banff in company with Mrs Macdonald of Glenaladale visited the School”.
- October 10 “Commenced the work of the new Standards”.
- September 14 “Mrs Macdonald accompanied by Mr McLean of Glenuig visited the School”.

1889 (page 126)

- February 15 “School closed since Wednesday in consequence of a death (that of one of the scholars) in teacher’s house”.
- February 27 “School reopened to-day having been closed since the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. owing to circumstances connected with death”.

1890 (page 132)

- February 7 “School closed today to allow Teacher to go to Glenuig for County Council Election”.
- October 24 “The children’s annual Treat took place yesterday, therefore no school was held”.

1891 (page 139)

- June 5 “The very Rev<sup>d</sup> Monsignor Munro, Glasgow, accompanied by Miss Macdonald visited the school today”.
- June 19 Roll 7 boys, 6 girls.
- November 27 “The evenings being so short, it has been found necessary to have the needlework immediately after marking the register”.

1892 (page 145)

- Inspectors Report (page 149). “The tendency of indistinct speaking must still be combated. The industrial work is decidedly good. H.G.L. Smith”.
- December 16 “In consequence of the heavy rains, those at a distance have been unable to attend and the younger children have no shoes”.

1893 (page 152)

- February 17 “Miss Macdonald gave the children a “Treat” on Monday, therefore no school was held”.
- May 5 “One boy still absent, being employed in the field”.
- May 12 “School will be held on each Saturday during this and next month to make up for unavoidable holidays”.

December 15 “Gave the infants a lesson in Counting on the Ball Frame”.

1894 (page 159)

April 21 Roll 17.

May 18 “Colonel Macdonald of Glenaladale accompanied by the Bishop of Aberdeen visited the School and heard the children sing”.

November 30 “No school to-day being the Feast of St. Andrew’s”.  
(page 164). Inspector’s Report. “The sub-school is not properly taught”.

1895 (page 165)

February 22 “Received a new Set of Lesson Cards (Chamber’s Illustrated English) for the school”.

March 15 “Visit of Colonel J.A. Macdonald with Rev<sup>d</sup> D. Mackintosh of Moidart”.

April 19 “No school was held on Friday morning to allow the children to attend the funeral Service for Rev<sup>d</sup> D. Macdonald”.

July 12 “The Rev<sup>d</sup> Dean Chisholm of Paisley, Rev<sup>d</sup> W. Borney Denny and Rev<sup>d</sup> F. Beilly Airdrie visited the school during the week. The Rev<sup>d</sup> W Borney gave the children Sweets”.

1896 (page 172)

May 29 “Five scholars left School this week. Parents removing to Glenaladale. There are now only 8 names on the register”.

June 12 Roll 11.

Inspector’s Report (page 177) “The Lochshiel Sub School School (lit) is very backward indeed. The Kinlochailort school is very well taught”.

1897 (page 178)

February 12 The Archbishop of Edinburgh with the Bishop of Aberdeen accompanied by Miss Macdonald visited the School and heard the children sing”.

March 5 “The children of one family are suffering from Whooping Cough”.

March 19 “As all the children are suffering from Whooping Cough, it has been decided to close the school for a time”.

May 3 “School re-opened. 10 present”.

May 21 “All the children on register are now in attendance, but many of them have still a bad cough which sadly hinders attention to lessons”.

June 25 “Tuesday, being the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, the children had a holiday to attend the games held in the Tower Field in honour of the event”.

July 23 Register 18.

November 24 Register 24.

Inspector’s Report (page 186). “Of the Sub Schools, Lochshiel should make a much better appearance, especially in the Junior Section. The Kinlochailort pupils had been very credibly prepared for inspection. The Railway work has caused a considerable influx of children of school age into the neighbourhood and it behoves the School Board to make some temporary provisions for their education”.

1898 (page 187)

March 4 “Miss Macdonald visited the school”.

March 30 Roll 30.

May 27 “Owing to Scarlet Fever in one family the children are kept at home”.

June 29 Roll 30.

November 4 “Tuesday being the Feast of All Saints was a holiday”.

December 2 “Wednesday, the Feast of St. Andrew, Patron of Scotland, was a holiday”.

1899 (page 193)

- January 13 “Mr. John Cherry has been appointed Compulsory Officer for this district”.  
Report, page 194. “The fact that the Compulsory Officer does not visit the School and that defaulting parents are not dealt with at meetings of the School Board, is of serious importance. ....The Loch Shiel side school did not attend owing to alleged epidemic sickness, but the Kinlochailort pupils had been very well taught. A number of children belonging to railway employees in the latter district have not yet had any school provision made for them”.
- June 2 “Miss Macdonald gave the children a ‘treat’ on Tuesday, therefore school was closed in the afternoon”.
- Inspector Report (page 203). “The Compulsory officer visited the School only three times during the year and his visits, it is alleged, had very little beneficial effect. His visits should be at least monthly and more frequent if necessary. The Loch Shiel Sub-School is backward”.

1900 (page 203)

- March 9 Roll 16.  
March 30 “Children very careless and forgetful of lessons”.  
April 27 “Measles have broken out in one family”.  
June 29 “Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. No school was held”.  
October 8. Report. “The dampness of the interior walls should be remedied”.

1901 (page 210)

- March 1 “Compulsory Officer visited the School. Requested him to look up the children over five years who ought to be at School”.
- March 15 Roll 13.  
June 7 “Thursday – the Feast of Corpus Christi was a holiday . Report - ‘Instructions in Drawing should be commenced without delay’”.
- October 11 “Received from Clerk of School Board a supply of Cards and Drawing Material. Lessons in Drawing have commenced”.

1902 (page 217)

- September 1 “Mr Gibson, Clerk of School Board, has intimated to Teacher that from this date the Board have resolved to provide Books for free at this school”.

1903 (page 225)

- January 23 Roll 11.  
March 2 “A new Compulsory Officer has been appointed and he made his first visit to-day”.

1904 (page 230)

- January 15 “The Rev. Father McDonald visited the school several times during the week”.  
July 15 Roll 10.  
December 9 “Thursday being the Jubilee of the Definition of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M., the teacher was requested by the Rev. F. McDonald to give the children a holiday”.

1905 (page 237)

- January Glenaladale sub school.  
January 27 “The children were given a half holiday to-day to allow them to see the Shooting Competition”.
- February 3 “Yesterday being Candlemas Day, the children attended the Morning Service in Church. There was consequently no Religious Instruction given in School”.
- March 24 “A holiday in honour of Mr Robertson H.M.I. having completed his twenty five years as Inspector”.

- April 14 "Miss Macdonald of Glenaladale gave the children a treat on Tuesday afternoon. Consequently no school was held".  
Report of 20/8/1905. "The Glenaladale children made good appearance in the circumstances. The Gaelic-speaking section should, however, get more thorough bilingual training in English. Composition on the lines suggested during the inspection".
- November 24 "Some of the scholars being very irregular in their attendance, Mr. Gibson, when visiting during the week, informed them that, unless they came with greater regularity, their case would be dealt with by the School Board".
- December 8 "In consequence of a prolonged attack of Influenza, the Teacher's place has been filled lately by her sister".

#### 1906 (page 249)

- March 16 Roll 10.
- March 30 "Another boy (being over 14 years) has left school".
- September 28 "Miss Macdonald of Glenaladale gave the children a Treat".
- October 5 "Teacher sick on Thursday and Friday. School carried on by Miss M. Whitlocke".
- September 26 HMI Report. "Greater proficiency in conversational English, oral Arithmetic and Singing is promised for next session.  
The appearance made by the Glenaladale 19D (a) pupils may be regarded as satisfactory in special circumstances".
- October 12 "An old scholar – Colin McKenzie – lately attending Bursary School, Lochaber, has been readmitted here this week".

#### 1907

- March 1 "There is a great deal of sickness in the place. The children seem very listless and have no heart in their work".
- March 20 "The school which has been closed since 1<sup>st</sup> March owing to the Teacher being laid up with Influenza has been reopened today with an attendance of six children. There being sickness in most of the houses has prevented many of the children from returning to school".
- March 29 Roll 12.
- April 25 "Some kind of sudden illness has attacked quite a number of scholars belonging to this school so that only five are present out of 13 on the roll".
- April 26 "Influenza has not yet departed from the place".
- May 10 "In spite of the sickness mentioned above, there has been improved attendance this week, but the scholars' intelligence is very poor indeed".
- May 17 "On Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. the Rev<sup>d</sup> Father Macdonald visited school to admonish some of the scholars about destroying the side-paths leading to the Church in their journeys to and from the school, threatening to have the private gateway closed against all trespass of the kind, unless greater care were taken in the future".
- May 24 "School visited by Colonel Macdonald of Glenaladale".
- June 7 "There is no improvement in the work of the older scholars. They are very troublesome".
- June 12 "The Lovat Seivicto (?) having halted for a rest at Glenfinnan today, the children were permitted to have an extra half hour after dinner to go and look at them in the Glach (?) wood".
- June 14 "The best girl in the school is likely to be withdrawn soon, owing to the illness of her mother and sister, who require her services at home. Altogether the prospect for present scholastic year appears rather gloomy, as the older scholars do not study either in or out of school, giving great anxiety to the Teachers and very considerable trouble. The younger children now in training promise better results by-and-by. MacLaren".
- June 21 "Lachie McLaren, a most troublesome and idle boy of 13 years, who will learn neither in school nor at home, was kept at home on Monday to take a horse to the forge to get

shod and today to go fox-hunting on the hills, thus losing four much-needed attendances and causing habitual trouble of mind to Mistress, who has spent much valuable time in striving to arouse within him an interest for his school work : all, alas, in vain". (See photocopy of page 266)

- July 3, 5 "Another epidemic has broken out in Glenfinnan among parents and children, several scholars have fallen victims to it again this week and as a consequence Annie, Lily Anne and Mary McKenzie were obliged to be kept at home today, the first of these girls having been under the Doctor's care from the 15<sup>th</sup> April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> July this year (See photocopy of pp 267, 268).
- July 12 See photocopy of pp 269-271.
- October 4 "The most stupid boy in the school has been very troublesome, being idle and inattentive. The other children are fairly attentive".  
The HMI Report (page 273) "The children from Glenaladale made a passable appearance".
- October 14 "School coals for the year came today and the two biggest boys were allowed between lessons to help in packing them into the coal-house as quickly as possible".
- October 18 "Lachie McLaren, the most stupid and idle boy in school, has been detained at home to meet an incoming train – a bad beginning of the current year, and the peace and comfort of the Teacher in charge".
- October 25 "Letter from Coats School Libraries for supply of books".
- November 1 "Today being a Church Holiday, scholars were let off after Religious Instruction, the non-catholics doing Arithmetic meanwhile".
- December 6-20 "Enforced closure of the school owing to continued severe illness of Teacher who is under medical attendance".

#### 1908 (page 278)

- January Influenza.
- January 24 "Owing to sickness and death of late Teacher Miss J. Whitlocke, no meeting has been held since 17<sup>th</sup> inst. A temporary teacher appointed to carry on School in the meantime".
- February 13 "School closed today on account of sale of the late teacher's belongings".
- April 27 "Emily M. Dring, Certificated Teacher from Marnhull (?), Dorset Board of Education took charge on April 27<sup>th</sup>".
- May 8 Roll 12. Children pleased with their lessons and trying to improve in habits of neatness. A visit from Fr. Macdonald".
- July 2 "Colonel Macdonald on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Fr Macdonald on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. visited the School and heard children sing and recite and expressed their pleasure in both cases".
- July 17 "Mrs Bainbridge and Ladies visited the school and heard singing and recitations and quite enjoyed the performance. Each child had a box of Toffee or Chocolate given to them".
- September 24 "Inspector's Report. The pupils from Glenaladale subschool should make a better appearance in English Composition both oral and written at the next inspection. The arithmetic taught should be more practical. Emily M. Dring, Teacher".
- November 20 "Sickness worse. Three children away all this week and another on Friday and those who are here are very unfit for any mental exertion".
- November 27 "Lachlan McLaren who has been from school (over 14) since November for twelve months, has returned".
- December 18 "School Board Attendance Officer Piper Macdonald called in on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>".

#### 1909 (page 290)

- January 15 "Rev. C. McGhee sent apples, oranges and sweets for Xmas treat to children".
- January 29 "Miss Macdonald sent a Christmas treat from Edinburgh for children, box of sweets, tub of crackers, a number of toys and a very large cake".

- February 5 “On Friday, after school was over, children had their Christmas Tea party and enjoyed a very pleasant time – with games, dancing etc. etc. etc. Schoolboard Compulsory Officer visited School on Friday. No bad attendance for him to see to”.
- April 9 “Mrs Bambridge sent “Easter Eggs” and two bars of chocolate for children. Another friend sent Easter Eggs likewise from London”.
- April 16 “Sewing making good progress. Singing improving. ‘See the Merry Farmer Boy’ much appreciated by the children”.
- June 4 “Girls shown how to put on a ‘Flannel Patch’. Drawing by boys always enjoyed. Schoolboard Compulsory Officer visited the school. Of course he did not find any delinquents”.
- June 11 “16 names on Registers”.
- June 25 “Weather remains very cold and wet making it difficult to have drill out of doors which is a pity as children enjoy the exercises very much. Every minute that is available is given to mental arithmetic and tables of all kinds”.
- July 16 “School visited by Mrs Bambridge and her sisters, the Misses Gibson, one of whom gave each child a packet of Edinburgh Rock. Children sang ‘The Merry ? Boy’ and received great praise”.
- July 20 “Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> children were invited to tea by Mrs Bambridge at Glenfinnan House. They thoroughly enjoyed a most sumptuous tea, after which they ‘Recited’, ‘Told Stories’ and sang, earning great praise for themselves. Afterwards each child received a little Souvenir from Mrs Bainbridge and finished with a good game on the lawn. Four children had prizes of half a Crown each for attending every day the school had been opened (448 attendancies). Two of these were given by Miss Macdonald and one each by Mr and Mrs Bainbridge. The next two highest attenders were given one shilling each”.
- August 18 “The Glenaladale 19D(a) pupils are taught with fair success”.
- September 17 “A song of welcome to Colonel Macdonald learnt”.
- September 24 “Colonel Macdonald visited and heard children sing, recite and tell stories, all of which pleased him. On Sunday at a tea-party given by Colonel and Mrs Macdonald, children read a little address and sang a “Song of Welcome” to the Colonel who had recovered from a severe illness in the Spring and now come to Glenfinnan for the first time since then”.
- October 8 “Mr Bainbridge and Ladies visited the school and gave a reward of a ‘Story Book’ to 12 children who had written an account of a story of Jan Conquest, read to them by himself at a Magic Lantern, where he illustrated by means of eleven pictures thrown on the screen. He was very pleased with the essays, otherwise he would have given only two books – one each to the best account from a boy and a girl”.
- October 26 The last entry in the book, page 301.



Glenfinnan School

Fort William Archives GB3218/C1/L/5/3/142b

Before page 1 there are alphabetical lists of pupils who entered.

A - D

Blyth, David, 176 → → Anderson, Margaret 219, Anderson, James Thomas 220.

E - H

Grozier, Alice 183 → → Gillies, Flora 217, Galbraith, Donald Archbald Paul 223.

JKLM

Love, Mary 196 → → Monaghan, Irene 239

Mc NOP

MacMaster, Sheena 173 → → Cameron, John 242, Cameron, Jane 243.

QRST

Ross, William 187 → → Shazkly, Margaret 212 → Shgazkly, Robert 218 → Smith, Arthur Richard 221

Page 1, 5<sup>th</sup> November 1909. Last page 302, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1933.

1909 (page 1)

- November 19 "Work went on better this week, colds are less severe and the children more fit. They are a courageous little band. Some tried brush-work for the first time".
- December 3 "Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> was a Church Day Feast of St. Andrew. Children had a holiday. Weather was too dark on several afternoons to keep to the ordinary work, just did whatever could be done after 3 o'clock".
- December 10 "Katie McMillan lives 2 miles away and cannot get over an old bridge in safety when there has been much rain,"

1910 (page 4)

- January 14 "On Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. just out of 6 boys only one was present and that one the youngest Donald McLaren. Girls were braver, every one present, 9, but they were dreadfully wet."
- January 21 "Though a good fire is kept up, the room is unbearably cold; children found sewing nearly impossible this afternoon".
- February 25 "A holiday was given on Friday, a shooting match was held in 'The Monument Field'."
- March 18 "Children very pleased with work – girls large and small being allowed to learn marking stitch; boys pleased also with a little Geometry".
- March 25 "This week J. Coats Esq. junior presented Scholars with School bags and Teachers with very valuable presents". Principal Teacher Emily M Dring. Trained, Certificated 1<sup>st</sup> Class.
- July 15 "On Tuesday a treat was given to the School Children by Mrs Bainbridge, Glenfinnan House".
- July 22 "After partaking of a sumptuous meal children recited and (?), and then had a happy time on "The Lawn" playing all kinds of games. The morning closed with cake and a box of chocolates".
- September 23 "Great gloom was cast over Glenfinnan on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> by the unexpected death of Mr Mackenzie, Father of two school children absent from that date to the end of the week".
- October 14 Colonel Macdonald visited the school on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Annie McDonald has gone to Edinburgh Hospital to have her neck operated upon. She will be absent some time."
- November 11 "Work the same as last week. This is not so pleasant as having the hour for dinner at 1 o'clock, but two children live so far away that they cannot remain until 4 o'clock as it would be very dark before reaching home and the deer are about on the road just now, so the best has to be made of this dismissing at 2.30".

- December 14 "It us with deep regret that I record the death of little Annie McDonald of the Glen House of Diphtheria in "The Edinburgh Hospital" where she has been for nine weeks having an operation performed".
- December 23 "Children received a present from Mrs. Bambridge, a box of biscuits, another of dates and a thirf of sweets

1911 (page 16)

- January 6 "A tea party and Christmas Treat was held of December 27<sup>th</sup> at The Stage House, brought about through the instrumentality of Mr. and Mrs. Clark who made the arrangements and successfully carried them through".
- February 10 "A holiday was given on Friday for a Shooting Match, some children wanted to earn money at it".
- February 17 "Arithmetic is a very difficult subject to teach, doubtless on account of children not handling money".
- March 31 "Four children admitted belonging to the new Station Master".
- April 7 "18 present. Dr Fletcher newly appointed Medical Examiner for Inverness-shire came on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst.".
- May 5 "Needlework, especially button holes, making good progress".
- June 26 "On Coronation Day Mr. and Mrs. Bambridge invited children up to their house at 3.30. They had a very enjoyable time. Coronation medals were presented and pinned on by Mrs Bainbridge. God Save the King was sung by one and all. Balls and oranges were distributed owing to the kindness of Miss Gibson and Mrs. Gillespie. Photos were taken of all, and after that a most pleasant time was spent on the Lawn, ending by cakes and milk to the little Guests who went home highly delighted. Mrs Colonel McDonald of Glenaladale sent Coronation Medals to all the children in the school, so all had two".
- July 28 20 present.
- October 6 Report "The Glenaladale Section of the Sub School made fair progress during the year".
- December 15 "On dark days it is very difficult to see work in this school. However children do their best uncomplainingly".

1912 (page 30)

- January 19 "A pair of mitts knitted in school were sent to Colonel Macdonald of Glenaladale this week".
- March 1 "A boy Angus Macdonald (13) from Mallaig was admitted".
- March 8 "Weather lighter and work easier in consequence. The darkness of the school is a drawback".
- March 16 "Gardening began getting soil ready".
- March 29 "Wet and snow".
- April 5 "Gardening going on vigorously".
- May 10 "Two children kept at home with bad feet, the result of going barefoot. Nearly everyone in the school has had bleeding toes, and it is really marvellous how they manage to walk on them and that in quite a cheery manner. They are certainly a brave little set."
- June 7 "Thursday Feast of 'Corpus Christie'. The children were taken for excursion to the end of Loch Shiel in a motor-boat followed by a rowing-boat, through the kindness of F<sup>r</sup> McDonald, who also amply regaled them with sandwiches, buns, biscuits, sweets, bunanas & milk ad lebitume. They left Glenfinnan Pier at 11 o'clock a.m. and returned at 7.30 after spending a most enjoyable and lengthy day".
- July 12 **See photocopy of pages 37-38.**
- September 7 "School reopened after being closed for four weeks by Medical Orders. Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough still in Glenfinnan".
- November 2 "Mrs. Macdonald of Glenaladale gave the School children a most sumptuous tea party at the Stage House on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> . After tea they had singing riddles (?) etc. On going home they had each a bag of nuts, an apple and a bag of sweets".

November 29 "Public School record. Head Teacher E.M. Dring (?). Assistant J. McPhee".

1913 (page 44)

- January 19 "Visit of inspector James N Hood".
- January 24 "The 24<sup>th</sup> was a great day in Glenfinnan, a large Shooting Match was held, but children could not have a holiday on account of long closing".
- January 31 "Sewing and copy writing could not be taken at the regular time this week on account of the very dark days".
- March 7 "This week has proved very severe, snow falling freely. One child Lina McLaren fainted during school hours, but speedily recovered".
- November 14 "Making paper flowers has been a source of pleasure this week. Paper flowers to decorate the Church for Easter Sunday. The act of making flowers is a Kindergarten subject this year".
- March 28 "This week flowers are requested for a dance at the Stage House. Children will make them on Monday afternoon at Drawing Time".
- April 4 "A new song taught 'Come Friends (?) the world mending'. Singing is taken at every available minute such as playtime when children can not get out for the weather. Any lesson that can be turned into music is e.g. tables multiplication and Money".
- April 18 "This year with first its very long closure for sickness and then before a recovery was made from that, the very severe winter and spring and consequent dark days. More light should really be available; at times sewing and copy-writing is a moral impossibility, unless children's eyes are made to suffer. Nevertheless a perpetual cheerfulness prevails, a little singing or something cheerful perfectly breaking the monotony".
- May 9 "Saturdays May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> saw schoolwork in full use in order to make up a little for the sickness closure. Children subscribed and presented Fr. Macdonald with an umbrella suitably inscribed on his birthday".
- May 23 "The unusual wet weather is interfering very much with the school work. A number of children were absent this week totally unable to come out, whilst those who were present were in a very unfit condition and the coughing throughout the place appears more like a hospital than a school and is really very serious".
- July 31 "Children all turned up bravely on Monday morning; as the week went on it was found necessary for one family to remain and again work on the hay".
- September 15 "School reopened under charge of Jan Thomson, Certificate Teacher. Number on roll 20".
- October 10 "Mrs Bainbridge with two other ladies visited school and treated children to sweets and biscuits. Colonel and Mrs MacDonald also visited school".
- November 7 "Three children absent most of the week owing to potato lifting".
- November 14 Physical Exercises cannot be given with anything like satisfaction for want of suitable space".
- November 28 "It is quite dark in the room even at noon sometimes".

1914 (page 57)

- March 6 "Drill Mistress visited and gave drill and games to seniors and juniors".
- July 3 Roll 21.
- October 9 "Household Management given on Friday afternoon instead of Games, Singing, Dancing. Ten minutes extra given to Singing each forenoon; this has been taken off Religious Instruction".
- October 16 "Work somewhat interfered with this week through arranging Red Cross Work with Mrs Colonel MacDonald".
- October 23 "Attendance not so steady this autumn; parents say their crops are not in".

1915 (page 68)

- February "Supply of coals came yesterday".
- September 13 Roll 15.

- November 2 "Monday was a holiday being Feast of All Saints".  
 November 24 "With Father MacDonald's permission the children have been allowed to go to Church to see a Marriage Ceremony".  
 November 26 "This morning the Senior children put on Potato Soup so that it might be ready for dinner hour".

1916 (page 80)

- February 29 "There was no school today as Glenaladale was buried and all the children were at the funeral".  
 September 12 Roll 14.  
 October 6 "Mrs Hulton-Wilson, a lady in Hotel who goes about sketching in water colour came and gave a drawing lesson. Three Autumn leaves were chosen and children made wonderful attempts".  
 October 13 "Enteric Fever is in Station House and this created a scare, children stayed away and twice there was no school at all. Roll 9".  
 October 13-20 "Roads badly flooded owing to terrific rain storm".

1917 (page 87)

- January 22 "Children followed the funeral of Jno MacDonald to the Station".  
 June 1 "The School Board granted the benches formerly in use at Kinsadel to this School. Old benches are now places outside and we often school in the open. Children love it and never fail to ask outside when the Sun is the least inclined to shine".  
 June 29 "Half day-feast of S.S. Peter and Paul".

1918 (page 94)

- January 9 "School did not open till to-day owing to most extreme snowstorm. Only five out of 14 present".  
 January 14 "J. Thomson resigned charge of this school to-day".  
 January 16 "The snow is about 15" deep and children are unable to plough through it".  
 April 19 "Victoria McKenzie, Certified Teacher, entered on duty on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1918".  
 May 3 "School visited by Rev<sup>d</sup> W. McDonald and Rev<sup>d</sup> Father Macmasters".  
 July 12 "Visit from Rev<sup>d</sup> Father Emulian OJM".  
 October 11 J & B Blyth kept at home this afternoon to do some work. Some time taken by children to collect and saw wood there as there was no coal to be got".  
 November 8 "Visit from Rev<sup>d</sup> Manager".

1919 (page 101)

- January 8 "School re-opened to-day after being closed for five and a half weeks owing to teacher and children being ill with influenza. The school was closed by medical authority for four weeks and the Board gave a further extension. One child unable to return and one other complains of lack of strength".  
 April "Garden seeds received".  
 May 2 "Parcel of plants received from E. Wisemen as arranged by Board of Agriculture. As the teacher's garden is still unfit for use, tho' much has been done by the Local Manager Rev W. Macdonald to improve matters the teacher with the Rev<sup>d</sup> Manager's consent made arrangements with Mr Blyth, the station master, to use these seeds and plack this year on the understanding that his two boys, Thomas and Robert Blyth, supplementary class, should under his supervision take part in all the work connected with the garden, and this at present they are busy doing. Mr Blyth's was the nearest available garden."  
 May 16 "Victoria McKenzie, Certified Teacher, resigns charge of this school today".  
 May 19 "Moriah Shaw commenced duties today".

June 6 Roll 12.  
 June 13 "Mr Morrison and Mr Hamilton HM Inspectors of schools visited to-day. Children from Essan and Rannachan were examined here also to-day".  
 October 31 "Essan and Rannachan Side School is now under Glenfinnan School".  
 November 5 "Mrs Cameron-Head visited".  
 November 14 Roll 12  
 December 12 "Books received" page 110 (see photocopy of pp 109-110)  
 December 20 "Visited Essan and Rannachan Side School to-day".

1920 (page 111)

February 6 "Mrs Hannay from Edinburgh visited on Thursday of this week and spoke to the children about War Savings".  
 February 27 "A school War Savings Bank has been opened this week".  
 March 27 "School closed to-day for a fortnight by medical authority".  
 April 1 "Visited Essan and Rannachan Side School to-day. The pupils four in number are making good progress". Roll 13.  
 June 18 "The Very Rev. Mgr. Canon Mackintosh visited this school on Monday".  
 June 25-October 1<sup>st</sup> - see Photocopy of pp 115- 118.  
 September 17 Roll 10.  
 September 24 "School visited by Very Rev. Canon Ritchie who gave the Teacher money to get the pupils sweets".  
 October 29 "School closed on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons this week for Potato Lifting".  
 December 4 "Visited Essan and Rannachan Side School. Examined pupils".

1921 (page 121)

January 6 Church holiday.  
 January 7 "School was washed and scrubbed this week end".  
 June 23 "Miss MacLeod Physical Instructions of Fort William High School visited this school today and taught pupils four new games".  
 July 1 "Received to-day from London Inverness-shire Association two books - Ivanhoe and Treasure Island. Roll 11".  
 November 18 "Essan and Rannachan Article 19 D(a) Schools. 'The pupils of these small side schools are taught for alternate fortnights by the same teacher. The efficiency of instruction in elementary subjects is very much above the average found in this class of schools. The work of one pupil in English showed intelligence of a high order' M. Shaw. ".  
 December 9 "Mrs Cameron-Head visited this school to-day. Watched the pupils at drill and games and looked over their copy books, exercise books and drawing books. She kindly left 20/-d for treat for children".

1922 (page 129)

January 9 "A Tea party and Christmas Tree were given to the school children on 2<sup>nd</sup> January."  
 March 31 Roll 9.  
 May 7 "School closed to-day. Teacher attending the funeral of Right Rev. Mgr. Canon MacKintosh".  
 July 10 "List of school materials received".  
 September 29 "School closed this afternoon. The children went to Fort William to attend the Mod Concert".  
 October 13 "Two ladies visited from Glenfinnan Lodge. The children sang and played a few games for them. Before leaving they gave each child sixpence."

1923 (page 136)

January 26 Roll 9.  
 February 2 "Roads flooded making it impossible for the children from Callop to attend".  
 March 16 "Teacher visited Railway Cottage Side School".

- April 27 "School closed on Thursday this week on the occasion of the marriage of the Duke of York".
- May 23 "Donald MacDonald was not able to try the Bursary Exam papers on account of his bad eye-sight".
- September 10 Roll 8.

1924 (page 146)

- January 9 Miss Jessie MacPhie commenced duties at Rannachan Side School".
- February 14 "Moriah Shaw Certificated Teacher leaves this school tomorrow 15<sup>th</sup> February to take up duties at Beaully R.C. School".
- February 15 "Have taken charge here today until arrival of new teacher. Christina MacPherson".
- April 24 "I Christina M Macdougall take charge of this school today".
- May 10 "Visited Essan and Rannachan Side Schools today. Very fair and earnest work is done at both schools. E.M.M. (?)".
- October 29 "The school was closed today – Government Election".
- November 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> see (Photocopy pp159 - 162).
- December 8 "School closed today for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Posted today to the Director of Education a scheme for Gaelic which is now being taught in the school".

1925 (page 164)

- January 11 "Gave to Miss MacDonald, Essan Side School Teacher .....".
- January 21 "Visited Rannachan Side School today (Saturday). Two children".
- February 27 "Two trees behind the school and one immediately in front were cut down with the result that the light in the school is pleasanter for pupils and teacher".
- April 3 "We are busy preparing Gaelic Songs for Competing at the Children's Mòd which will be held in Fort William on 25<sup>th</sup> April. The children are doing well with pronunciation and accent".
- April 21 "Mr Craig, minister of Arisaig, held a service in the school on Easter Sunday".
- April 24 "One boy and one girl were admitted today from St. Cuthbert's Catholic School Edinburgh. Roll 17".
- May 1 "On the Saturday of last week (25<sup>th</sup> April) ten children from the school competed at the Lochaber Gaelic Mòd held in Fort William. The ten forming a very small choir tried the walking song 'Dh'èirich mi moch madainn Chèitein' Competition. Also some tried Solo singing and recitation and delivered themselves very well considering it was their first attempt at the Mòd and that they are English speaking, it being only a few months since they became interested in Gaelic. One girl took first prize for Recitation and one 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for advanced Solo Singing. Tuesday of this week was the anniversary of the opening of the school under charge of the present teacher".
- May 15 "On 12<sup>th</sup> instant Miss Jessie MacPhee, teacher Rannachan Side School, ceased teaching there and Miss Sarah Macdonald of Essan Side School will teach in both schools – alternate fortnights beginning at Rannachan on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May".
- June 12 "An outside picnic. Mr MacKellaig of Stage Coach House very kindly supplied the lemonade and milk for the tea".
- June ? "The cleanliness of the children leaves much to be desired. The incidence of Nehmin of the Head is higher in this school than in any other which I have visited in the area. The general health of the children is rather below the average. The lighting of this school has been improved by the cutting down of some of the trees. The drainage is still very defective D.A. ??".
- June 26 "As seen by last entry, the School Medical Officer examined the children this week. It is about three years since the school was last done and possibly this has some bearing on the condition of the children's heads. There is no district nurse visiting this school monthly as there is in all the other schools in the Lochaber Area".
- September 18 "The Right Rev<sup>d</sup> Monsignor Macdongall (?) visits the school this afternoon".

- September 25 "The Glenfinnan War Memorial was unveiled last Saturday (19<sup>th</sup>) and the school children took part in the ceremony by singing a hymn and the National Anthem. Then they placed two wreaths on the Memorial.
- October 6 "Visited Rannachan Side School this morning. Miss Sara Macdonald of Essan Side School, who had charge during the summer was transferred to Bunboyne Side School Glenmoriston and Miss Jessie McPhee the former teacher at Rannachan was returned from Stronlaig Side School Stratharrick. Miss McPhee teaches both Essan and Rannachan Side Schools for alternate fortnights".
- November 19 "Mr Morrison, Director of Education, Mr Smith and Canon Macmaster visited the school yesterday. Mr Smith had a look at the Library with a view to augment it through the Rural Library Scheme."
- December 4-11 Children kept away from school by a mentally ill mother.

1926 (page 183)

- January 15 "Jessie MacPhee to teach permanently at Essan subschool . Jessie Stewart appointed to Rannachan sub school (Date of birth 11 Feb 1907)".
- January 22 "Received 3 Reid's Gaelic Grammar net 2/-."
- March 13 "The Callop road was flooded some five feet all the week and prevented the three children from coming to school. School was held today, Saturday, to make up for the loss of openings".
- May 28 "The Rannachan Side School removed to the "Mill House" (near Drumuasallie) on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. The Essan Side School holds school of Saturdays now to make up for the lost attendances at Easter. Miss MacPhie teaches both schools fortnightly".
- June 18 "The Children were given a pic-nic to Callop this week".
- July 16 "Received from the Royal Celtic Society, Edinburgh "Am Fear Ciuil" as prize for Gaelic, for best Gaelic Scholar and "Aig Tigh na Beinne" for gift to teacher"
- September 3 "The Rannachan Side School (at Mill House during summer) no longer exists; the pupil Margaret MacPherson now attends the school at Kinlocheil".
- September 20 "The eight children who competed at the Gaelic Junior Mòd on Saturday (18<sup>th</sup>) carried with them eleven prizes, all first and seconds. As an entertainment during the afternoon they showed a little "Luadh" with the Songs – 'Dh'eirich mi moch madainn Cheitein' and 'Air an Luing Eirineach' and this was greatly appreciated by the audience. The President and the chairman were altogether delighted with the work of the little band from Glenfinnan. Captain J. Moffatt Pender bought chocolates for the Glenfinnan children".
- October 4 "Books supplied to Essan Side School".
- October 22 "Three bags of Coals received this week for the school fire. Owing to the continued coal strikes the coal order proper has not yet been supplied to the school"
- November 19 "The shorter lunch interval has been begun this week to dismiss the children in daylight at 3.30pm".
- November 22 "Six children (children of Allan MacDonald of Viaduct Cottage and of James MacDonald of Glenhouse) are absent today owing to the dangerous condition of the footbridge over the Finnan at the Glen".
- December 8 "Essan Side School".
- December 21 "Today the teacher received boxes of toys and 'good things' for the school children from Mr and Mrs Bates of Macclesfield. Mrs Bates also sent purses with new coins in them, for the orphans attending the school".

1927 (page 205)

- February 22 "Sir Alexander Nicolson when visiting yesterday left a shilling for the pupil first to volunteer to have teeth extracted".
- March 18 "Essan Side School pupils attended here on the 16<sup>th</sup> and had their lessons with the Qualified Pupils".



- March 30 “The Iain M. Moffat Pender “trophy which was presented for the first time was won by Margaret MacDonald of this school, last Saturday at the Gaelic Mòd (Junior) held at Fort William. The trophy was for the best girl and Margaret gained four first prizes.... In all, eight pupils competed, gaining among them ten prizes and the Silver Cup which remained in the custody of the school for a year”.
- April 12 “Visited Essan Side School today and examined pupils in English, Grammer and Arithmetic”.
- April 22 “The Qualifying Examination took place in the school today with the Rev<sup>d</sup> Canon Chisholm as supervisor. Alice Grozler was unable to attend owing to illness. Two Side School pupils were prevented from sitting the Examination by the very stormy and wet weather which continued all day.”
- April 26 HMI Report 7/4/27.
- May 13 “The Essan Side School finished this afternoon for the season having completed 300 openings. Teacher Miss Jessie MacPhee”.
- June 17 “The school was closed yesterday – Corpus Christi. Sir Arthur Nicholson, Canon MacNeill, Mr. and Mrs. Bird visited the school.”
- June 29 “Allan MacDonald, Viaduct Cottage and James MacDonald, Glen House are again kept off school owing to the dangerous bridge”.
- June 27 “Forwarded today to Mrs Tolmie, Clerk, Inverness, Reports on the Side Schools – Essan and Rannachan. Both schools are now closed down – Rannachan in August 1926 and Essan in May 1927”.
- August 23 “Roll 9. The Gaelic prizes presented by the Royal Celtic Society, Edinburgh, were given to Alice Grozier and Annie MacDonald”.
- September 9 “Dangerous bridge at Glen House”.
- November 4 “Children from Callop prevented from school by the flooded roads”.

#### 1928 (page 227)

- January 18 “The Senior Girls will receive Training in Housewifery on Wednesday afternoons in future – from 2.30 to 4.30 meantime and from 3 to 5 when longer lunch interval begins again”.
- February 25 “School held today (Saturday) to make up some of the lost openings”.
- March 2 “The attendance for the week is poor again on account of several pupils being absent for the whole week through Influenza which prevails in the place”.
- March 30 “Lorisa Murray, the best of the three pupils to sit the Qualifying Examination was unavoidably absent through the sudden death of her Guardian, Miss McVarish”.
- April 28 “The family Murray have now left the district and are residing with a guardian at Roy Bridge
- page 234 “Votes for Elected Candidates 1) Simona Macdonald (306); 2) Very Rev. John MacNeill (337); 3) Very Rev. WM Macmaster (333); 4) Rev. Donald C.C. Gollan (318); 5) Rev. A. MacKinnon (312). 1833 votes”.
- December 14 “This school suffers badly from the continued changes of pupils. Young scholars come in and, when, after a year or two, they have taken shape of promising and earnest pupils, something always happens to take them out of the district, while the dull backward seniors who formed the Juniors and Seniors at the advent of the present teacher still remain. Altogether some very sound material has passed out of the school during the last two or three years mostly to the Roybridge district.
- A board fixed to the front door of the school on 3<sup>rd</sup> December (by joiner M. Grieve, Mallaig) to exclude rain and wind, has proved a failure and the water comes in the porch even worse than before”.

#### 1929 (page 245)

- March 5 “Reverend Dr. MacKinnon of Kilmonivaig visited the school and spoke words of advice to the children regarding attendance at school”.



- May 24 "The children who have to cross the bridge over the Finnan river under the viaduct were unable to come to school because the bridge was half pulled down for reconstruction. The bridge is now put in order and is in much better condition".
- July 4 Roll 10.
- September 12 Roll 12
- October 18 "Flora Gillies sent in Gaelic names for mountains etc. with English equivalent to the editor of the "Gaidheal". Her list for the competition was 129 words".
- November 15 "The shorter lunch break began this week to continue during the winter months".
- December 15 "Flora Gillies, the pupil who tried the competition in 'An Gaidheal' with list of Gaelic names etc. received the prize of one guinea through the Reverend N. Ross, Laggan, editor of 'An Gaidheal'. We learned that the donor of the prize is Alex. Philip Esq, of Brechin, Forfar".

1930 (page 257)

- January 7 "Three children admitted from Loch Ailort School".
- January 24 "A telegram was received by the teacher from I. Moffat-Pender Esq. congratulating the school on its success in the competition for Gaelic names for mountains etc.".
- January 31 "The attendance for the week was as usual except that today almost all the children who had teeth extracted yesterday were absent (19 extractions, 10 children treated)."
- February 7 "On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> there was held at the Stage House, the first Glenfinnan Ceilidh and part of the programme was sustained by the school children. They gave Gaelic Songs, duets, recitations, reading and a story".
- August 19 Roll 10.
- August 29 "Two ladies staying at the Stage House called at the school on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Miss Waberton, Inspectress and Directress of Missionary School abroad (English Church) addressed the children and told them stories about Palestine and Africa; Miss Wallace ("Universe" Correspondent) told the children about Processions in London – all which the children enjoyed".
- September 19 "On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September the school children were treated to a picnic at Mallaig by Mrs. Young of the Mansion House. On their return there awaited them a sumptuous tea at the Mansion House and parcels of food things when they left. The day was very fine and the children who know nothing of the sea, enjoyed their trip very much and also their evening at the Mansion House, where they sang and recited to Mrs Young and her guests. Last year Mrs. Young gave the children a trip to Fort William including a Cinema Show and a delightful tea."

1931 (page 271)

- March 13 "Last Monday (9<sup>th</sup>) afternoon a coal wagon from a goods train became detached and fell down the railway bank at the back of the school building, breaking down part of the old garden wall, fence and two trees. Despite the crash, smoke and smell of gas, there was no panic in the school room".
- March 20 "School closed today. St Joseph's Day".
- April 14 "The damage caused by the train accident to the school's old garden wall etc. has now been well repaired by the railway company".
- May 1 "The Compulsory Officer visited the school on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. This would be his last visit, he explained, as Compulsory Officers were being done away with".
- May 8 "Gardening and Cookery teaching were begun last week – for children in qualifying class over eleven".
- May 29 "Children preparing for Provincial Mòd in Fort William on 12<sup>th</sup> June".
- June 15 "The competitors from Glenfinnan at the Lochaber Mòd held in Fort William last Friday were very successful and carried out twelve prizes.  
There was held in the School room yesterday (Sunday) a Church of Scotland service, the Rev. Mr Logan, Arisaig officiating".

- September 10 “The school children were entertained by Mrs. Young of the Mansion on the 29<sup>th</sup> August – Saturday. A picnic to Mallaig was arranged as last year, the children being shown over the MacBrayne Steamer “Lochearn” there. They had a sail of Loch Shiel in Mr Young’s motor launch – Josephine – and parcels of sweets and Toys were given before dispersing”.
- September 28 “School was closed during the whole of last week- the Gaelic Mòd week”.
- October 22 Roll 6.
- November 3 “Political Meetings – Government Election - were held in the school on evenings 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October and the usual monthly Church of Scotland service was held in the school”.
- November 18 “Lunch hour was altered 12.15 –1.15 for the winter months and the pupils dismissed at 3.30 p.m.”.
- December 18 “Two children of the family of Mr. Dugald Cameron, Torban, Kinlocheil, attended this school during this week – their parents having withdrawn them from the school at Kinlocheil”.
- December 25 “Word received from the Clerk of the School Management of Lochaber, requesting that the children of Mr Dugald Cameron, Kinlocheil be unaccepted in this school and accordingly the teacher turned them away on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup>.”

#### 1932 (page 285)

- January 5 “Opening hour 10a.m. instead of 9.30 as hitherto (The teacher’s request : because the school is so dark during the winter months and there is no light supplied)”.
- January 12 “Word was received from Clerk of the Lochaber School Management asking to admit the children of Mr Dougald Cameron, Kinlocheil to this school. After due investigation of the case the Management agreed to allow Mr Cameron send his children to Glenfinnan School as desired”.
- February 19 “The children Cameron were admitted this week. The roll is now 8 which is still below the average at Glenfinnan”.
- May 13 “Mòd prizes. Ten prizes and Lady Kermione Cameron of Locheil’s Shield”.
- Page 292 “The Side School ‘Essen and Rannachan’ (taught by Miss Para Macdonald) was until the Autumn 1919 attached to Lochailort Public School. Afterwards two side schools were formed, one at Essen and one at Rannachan, taught first by Miss Sara Macdonald during alternating fortnights and by 1924 when the present teacher was appointed to Glenfinnan, taught by Miss Jessie Macphee as well. Both these teachers were uncertificated. Miss Macdonald continued to teach at Essen and Miss Macphee was appointed to Rannachan. By this time the family at Essen were over school age and the teacher’s duties were with a family at Loch Eilt Side, though for a time the school retained the former name of Essen instead of Loch Eilt. For a time another uncertificated teacher, Miss Jessie Stewart, taught at Rannachan”.

#### 1933 (page 299)

- January 13 “All the children are suffering from the epidemic of influenza which is going about. Several were expelled to remain in bed and those who are attending school ought to be in bed also. The continuing coughing exhausts the children and then they lie prostrate over their desk. This is the first time since the present teacher took charge that there was influenza in the school, though it was prevalent every other winter in the surrounding districts”.

Register of Admission, Glenfinnan School

Fort William Archives GB3218/C1/L/5/3/142e

Page 1          Registrations 1-35 (6/2/1877- 31/7/1877)

Pages 2,3,4     Registrations 232-321 (10/10/1932 - 9/9/1958).

On 13/1/2012 further registrations could not be viewed.

Registrations 36 – 231 can be viewed at Fort William Archives, but are not reproduced here.

Glenfinnan School

Fort William Archives GB3218/C1/L/5/3/142c

9 Feb 2012

Page 1, May 1933. The last page that could be legally viewed in 2012 is page 275 (1963).

1933

Introduction See **photocopy of the first 5 pages**, written in 1933. Here there is a summary on the period 1877 to 1933, a list of teachers from 1877 to 1961 and a mention of the high roll of 30 in 1898.

page 2 See **these notes** on the state of the garden, the effects of the financial crisis and about a charge of 1/8d made to each pupil to pay for the use of boots supplied to the school.

May 19 "Attendance satisfactory except for the continued absence of the boy with skin trouble who now has obtained a doctor's certificate for impetigo of the face and head".

September 22 "On Saturday of last week, the pupils were given a meal at Fort William by Mrs Young of the Mansion House. They left by the afternoon train and after a sumptuous tea at the Palace Hotel they attended a cinema show. Toys, sweets and fruits were distributed, besides a gift of money to make a little purchase of their own".

October 13 "Mrs Young of the Mansion House has given her gramophone and some records to the school. ? Young are leaving Glenfinnan now altogether, their lease of the estate having terminated".

1934 (page 14)

June 1 "The school was closed yesterday afternoon, the Feast of Corpus Christie, and the weather being at least very fine and summery, the whole school and some parents went for a pic-nic to Corriehollie".

August 14 Roll 14

November 16 "Teacher leaves and replaced by temporary teacher Elizabeth MacKinnon".

December 7 "Canon MacNeil checked the register".

1935 (page 29)

January 4 "One small boy, who has been absent with bronchitis for about three months, has gone to Bracara School meantime".

May 10 "Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May was a general holiday to celebrate Jubilee Day, the Silver Jubilee of their Majesties' Reign. The day was very fine and the children were entertained to a pic-nic, games and gifts at the Prince Charlie Monument field. Jubilee medals were distributed".

May 31 "The pupils presented the teacher today in school with a beautiful silver tray suitably inscribed as a parting token on the occasion of her leaving them. Christina MacDougall (now McFadden) leaves the school today".

June 3 "I have taken up duties here to day. There are 13 pupils on the roll. Joan MacDonald has left school".

June 7 "Mrs Barchard presented the children with a gift of money after watching them dance the Quadmilles".

September 2 Teacher S. Kennedy. Roll 12.

October 14 "The papering etc. of Schoolhouse has been commenced today. The sitting room, bedroom and staircase are to be papered and distempered. The old Schoolhouse furniture has been carted away at the end of September. Consequently very few articles remain".

November 8 "School closed for Royal Wedding".

1936 (page 43)

February 14 "Canon MacMaster, Fort William, visited the School".

- February 28 "Canon MacNeil, Morar visited".
- April 3 "Two Boarded-out children at Callop absent since Monday. No excuse for their absence was submitted, it is thought, perhaps, they are playing truant as they do not seem to agree with the other children attending school. Word has been sent to their guardian for an explanation".
- June 19 "One pupil Margaret Kerrigan has been admitted".
- September 11 "An officer of the SSPCA gave a lecture to the children attending this school on 'Cruelty to Animals' yesterday. The lecture should prove of value especially if remembered at bird-nesting time".
- October 23 "Two books from the Celtic Society were received to-day. These have been presented to the school in the hope of fostering an interest in Gaelic language".

1937 (page 62)

- January 5 Roll 15.
- February 26 "Cookery class has commenced".
- March 15 "Two new pupils were admitted from Eilean Shona Public School. Donald and Mary MacDonald".
- May 12 "Today was observed as a public holiday on account of the Coronation. The school children and parents and friends were given sports and a picnic at Prince Charlie's Monument. Medals and gifts were provided for each child. 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> were given as Coronation Holidays".
- June 15 "The boy – Daniel Kane – who was to be taken by the Glasgow Authority for Boarding-Out children, has not been removed and is still attending school".
- September 4 "The Heather Day in aid of the Scottish Children's League of Pity was held today and it raised 20/6<sup>d</sup>".
- November 5 "The half-hour dinner interval was begun this week. Consequently the children are being dismissed at 3.30".
- November 22 "On account of the darkness of the School room, a number of rhododendron bushes immediately outside the building were cut down in order to allow more light into the room."
- December 1 "A supply of Horlicks was delivered to this school. Each pupil gets a beaker of Horlicks and pays 1/2<sup>d</sup> (a halfpenny) per day."

1938 (page 87)

- January 31 "No pupils presented themselves at school on account of Scarlet Fever scare. One pupil Jean MacDonald developed Scarlet Fever during the weekend".
- February 2 "Instructions were received from the Director of Education today not to close the school, but to mark absent if they persisted in remaining from school".
- February 11 "Percentage of attendance for this week is again 0%. The children are being kept from school still for fear of infection. Word has been received from the Deputy Assistant MOH at Inverness that on no account the school is to be closed".
- March 22 "A new tank was fixed today for the water supply of the school buildings".
- April 1 "The children's 'Horlicks' finishes today. £1 being forwarded to the Horlick's Manufacturers".
- May 10 "Katie MacDonald who was one of the pupils to contract scarlet fever has returned to school today after an absence of fourteen weeks".
- May 27 "Jean MacDonald has returned to school after sixteen weeks absence".
- June 20 "John A. MacKenzie was enrolled today".
- December 5 "Mrs Chamberlayne, Shooting tenant of Mansion House, presented the School with a beautiful coloured picture of the King and Queen".
- December 23 "I Miss S. Kennedy – resign my appointment with the Inverness Education Authority and have completed my final day in school today".

1939 (page 102)

- January 5 "Began temporary duty in this school today. Alexander G. Grant".  
February 6 Roll 14.  
February 25 "Material for taking census of housing accommodation (under Government Evacuation Scheme for School children in event of war) received today".  
April 5 "I have now terminated my period of temporary service in charge of this school. Alex. G. Grant".  
April 18 "Took up duty in this school today. I.A.M. Fraser. Roll 14".  
September 4 "School reopened – but owing to outbreak of war – and general instruction for closing of day school – some children did not attend".  
November 24 "In accordance with instructions received from Inverness – school now closes at 3.30. Horlicks is served at the lunch hour".

1940 (page 112)

- January 12 "Glenalladale books received this week". (Does this mean that there was a subschool at Glen Alladale?)  
February 5 "Single attendance only marked owing to teacher being held up by disorganised traffic" (?)  
March 1 "Several children have taken German measles".  
August 27 Roll 15.

1941 (page 121)

- February 26 "I took up duty here today as temporary teacher. M. Matheson."  
May 21 "Dr. McIver carried out inoculation treatment on all school and several pre-school children. Twenty four in all".  
May 23 "Many children absent suffering from effects of inoculation against diphtheria today".  
June 18 "Dr. McIver, Fort William and The District Nurse carried out second inoculation against diphtheria today".  
November 12 "Some time has been given this week – during school hours – to distribution of Point Ration Books for tinned foods".  
November 28 Roll 18.  
December 5 "Claim has been made for extra forty clothes coupons for each of the two pupils – one eligible by height – one by weight".  
December 24 "All children today partook of a 'plum pudding' which was prepared at last week's cookery lesson".

1942 (page 129)

- April 15 "Roll 18. An epidemic of whooping cough".  
October 21 "Minister of Information Film Van visited school and showed a most interesting series of pictures".  
October 22 "Measles spreading rapidly now – only two pupils present".  
November 4 "School reopened. 16 present".  
December 1 "On account of the surrounding woods being cut down for war purposes, the children have been able to cut enough wood and keep fires going".

1943 (page 136)

- February 11 "Miss MacKenzie M.O.F. gave a very helpful demonstration of wartime cookery. Report on R.I. Examination 'The roll then was 13, of these six are Catholics'".  
October 16 "Older pupils were given an hour off school for gathering rowans. Rowan jelly was made at cooking lesson – a sugar permit having been obtained".  
November 19 "A good deal of school time has to be given for gathering and chopping fire wood for school fire – as the coal supply has not yet been delivered and wintry weather has set in".

1944 (page 143)

- January 5 Roll 18.  
January 7 “On account of inferior leather being used for boots and shoes – parents find it impossible to keep their children properly shod –Boots, on average, last one month – and full allowance of clothing coupons is 4 per month. Consequently children are kept at house for want of footwear”.  
January 11 “The liberal allowance of seven pairs of wellington boots – has been received – and they have been distributed as far as possible – one pair to each family”.  
February 7 “School feeding commenced today. Miss M. MacDonald is employed to prepare and supervise meals”.  
March 4 “Another Boarded-out child admitted today. Roll 14”.  
September 5 “Father Whitiker S.J. visited the school today and the children entertained him with some Jacobite songs”.  
October 9 “Two children from Corriebuie – for whom passenger train makes two halts daily - admitted today”.  
December 22 “Children taken to Fort William to see film ‘Snowwhite and the Seven Dwarfs’.”

1945 (page 152)

- February 12 “Callop bridge was carried away by thaw flood. Two children unable to attend until bridge is replaced. Ladies of the village today gave a Christmas party to the children in the village hall”.

1946 (page 157)

- May 31 “Two children from Corrybuie have been absent because the morning train has not been able to stop for them”.  
June 7 “Illuminated personal message from King George VI to all school children were distributed in school today. Two children from Corriebuie who travel by train have been prevented from attending owing to train being too heavily loaded to make a halt at their house”.  
September 10 “Three boarded out Glasgow children have been removed from Glenhouse – roll now 10”.  
October 7 “Three children who travel by train are being kept at home owing to alteration in time-table. An early train now halts for the children while the 8.50 (at Glenfinnan) runs non-stop from Arisaig to Glenfinnan and Glenfinnan to Fort William”.  
November 8 “Three children still unable to attend owing to train-service alteration”.  
December 9 “Later train now stops for Callop schoolchildren”.

1947 (page 165)

- June 2 “Four pupils enrolled today, two of them aged 10 and 11 have not attended school for two years – others 6 and 5 years – have not previously attended school and are Gaelic speaking”.  
June 13 “Information has been received from Inverness that school meals will commence as soon as possible arrangements can be made”.  
November 20 “Wedding day of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. All schools have been granted a holiday today. The school children were entertained at a very excellent party at the Stage House – given by Mrs Milvacken and Miss Templeton. Every child received a handsome gift – The day will be indeed a memorable one for the children”.

1948 (page 174)

- January 6 “Roll 11 but 5 still suffering from whooping cough. During the holidays the children were invited to a Party at Inverailort Castle by Mr. & Mrs. Cameron-Head. Only six were well enough to attend and all of them thoroughly enjoyed this treat”.  
April 6 “Half holiday granted today in honour of the Silver Wedding of the King and Queen”.

- May 1 “Mrs McCracken and Mrs Templeton, Stage House Inn, gave the children an excellent outing trip by motor boat to Guesachan Cottage by Loch Shiel where they had picnic and sports”.
- June 18 “School closed today for attendance at Provincial Mòd held in Fort William”.
- July 2 “School closes today for Summer Vacations. All children were taken to Arisaig for a day at sea. Many children had not previously been to the sea-side, so the outing was greatly appreciated by all”.
- August 25 Roll 15.
- December 19 “Gaelic classes commenced on December 1<sup>st</sup> under the County’s Continuation Class scheme. A Gaelic class to foster interest in the language is being given to the day school pupils every Thursday. Already good results are evident”.
- December 24 “School closed. Children went from school to Stage House Inn. Two local ladies took the children to Fort William to see the film ‘Bambi’. Funds had been raised in the village. The children were also given a most enjoyable tea in the Imperial Hotel”.

1949 (page 181)

- January 5 “Roll 14. During the holidays Mrs Cameron-Head – School Manager – invited the children to a Christmas Party at Inverailort Castle. Cars brought the children to and from Lochailort Castle. The children thoroughly enjoyed their entertainment and greatly appreciated the gift books handed to them by Santa Claus”.
- May 19 “A Greenock boarded-out child has been sent to a Special School temporarily for observation and treatment”.
- June 24 “All but five children in Infant Classes attended the Provincial Mòd in Fort William”.
- July 1 “Mr Logan – Minister at Arisaig - sent a bottle of lemonade for every child in school – a gift greatly appreciated by the children”.
- October 7 “Holiday was given to enable children and parents to attend the National Mòd at Inverness”.
- November 21 “Owing to disagreeable odour in school due to choked drain-pipe – children were taken out of doors for nature study, ramble and drill”.
- November 24 “Parents refused to allow children to attend on account of unhealthy sanitary conditions”.
- November 28 “Two boarded-out children have been transferred. Roll 12”.
- December 23 “Christmas party given by Mrs McCracken and Miss Templeton at Stage House Inn”.

1950 (page 189)

- March 27 “I examined this school in Religious Knowledge on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1948. There is a Catholic teacher in charge and she gives religious instruction to the four Catholic pupils. D. McKellaig, Diocesan Inspector”.
- “There are now 8 Catholic children on the roll”.
- March 17 (page 192) “Natural lighting is poor. The lantern supplied to give some help on dull days does not appear to be very satisfactory. Of the fourteen children on the roll, six are boarded out”.
- September 12 “Mr Kelly and other Greenock Councillors called today to discuss transport for Boarded out children. They talked to the four B. C. (?) children and gave them money”.
- December 20 “The children went to the Stage House where they were entertained to an excellent Christmas Party. The children sang, danced, recited and enacted a scene from ‘The Midsummer Night’s Dream’”.

1951 (page 200)

- March 5 “Permission was given to close school today in order that the teacher might attend the Dramatic Festival in Inverness in which the village team were competing. First place for the evening performances was taken by the team – highest praise given for staging and costumes”.



- May 25 "The teacher took the school children for an outing at Loch nan Uamh on Saturday. Sea lore and flora were studied and a visit was paid to Prince Charlie's Cave".
- June 21 "A beautiful cake has been presented to the school as a mark of appreciation of their part in the Festival Parade. The children represented Prince Charlie, four chieftains, a piper, a clansman and Flora McDonald".
- August 29 Roll 9.
- September 28 "Knitting wool has just been received and socks have been started".

1952 (page 207)

- January 18 "Owing to stormy weather, pupils walking a long distance have come by bus at mid-day – making only one attendance for the day".
- February 27 "The remainder of pupils listened to School Radio programmes".
- August 8 Roll 8.
- October 10 "The school was honoured today by a visit from Her Excellency the Rani of Shamsheer Shanker of Nepal – attended by ten ladies in waiting. The Rani and her ladies showed much delight in the children's singing".
- November 11 "Today Glenfinnan Estate passed from the hands of Sir Walter Bloor. It is now severed from connection with the McDonald family – of Glenaladale who took such an interest in the village and the school".

1953 (page 212)

- May 29 "Roll 10. Coronation school photograph taken today".
- June 2 "The children were presented by Rev. Dr. O'Ragan with mugs donated by the County Council filled with sweets given by Miss Hepburn".
- June 3 "School sports were held in the Tower field".
- December 24 "Christmas party given by Mrs McBreckan, Stage House".

1954 (page 218)

- January 5 Roll 10.  
HMI Report. 'A major improvement of recent date has been the resurfacing of the approach road and part of the playground'.
- June 7 "School meals now being sent from Arisaig kitchen by car".
- August 25 Roll 5.
- October 25 "Miss Forrest Sutherland today interviewed candidates for post of Dining Assistant".

1955 (page 224)

- January 5 Roll 5.
- January 14 "The car carrying school meals was unable to get through owing to heavy snow fall – as this was expected, children had been warned to bring sandwiches".
- May 26 "General Election – school used as polling station. Advantage was taken of the holiday for annual outing to the sea at Arisaig School. Meal was partaken of in Arisaig School".
- November 4 Roll 7.

1956 (page 229)

- January 26 "On account of snow-bound roads the school meals car was delayed till 2 p.m. The children had been dismissed".
- February 28 "The other pupils listened to Radio lessons".

1957 (page 233)

- January 3 Roll 5.
- May 23 Roll 2.
- August 21 "Roll 5. Four children have been enrolled – transferred from Kinlocheil School".

- August 26 Roll 5. 1958 (page 239)
- 1959 (page 245)
- 1960 (page 250)
- August 23 1961 (page 259)  
 “Took up duty in this school today. C. MacPherson. Roll 6”.
- 1962 (page 267)
- April 17 1963 (page 275)  
 Roll 9.
- June 5 1964 (page 284)  
 “Resigned charge of this school to-day. C. MacPherson”.
- August 25 “Took up duty of this school today. A. Cameron”.
- September 6 “Father McArdle S.J. visited. Mr MacLeod HMI, visited school the same afternoon”
- October 15 “School closure owing to school being used as polling station”.
- 1965 (page 290)
- March 2 “School re-opened, only three pupils – all others have measles
- March 22 Roll 13.
- March 26 “P.C. Gorch gave children a talk and films on Safety First”.
- April 20 “John Fraser Thomson and Flora Ann MacMaster admitted. Roll 15”.
- June 16 “Christine Mgt. Gow entered today. Roll 15 again”.
- June 18 “School closure for anniversary of Magna Carta – beginning of Parliament”.
- June 25 “Rev. Father Morrison visited school for Religious Examination of Catholic pupils”.
- June 30 “Owing to illness, Rev. Father Campbell unable to distribute prizes”.
- October 7 “Mr Urquhart took children out for their religious knowledge”.
- November 19 “Mr. Craig, music organiser, called, heard children sing and do hand signs. Electricians fixed switch.” **[When did electricity arrive at Glenfinnan?]**
- December 23 “Children given a Christmas Party in the afternoon by Mrs McCrachan and Miss Templeton”.
- 1966 (page 295)
- March 30 “Polling tomorrow. Roll 14”.
- June 3 “Nurse Colquhoun examined children this afternoon. Neil and Colin Masson asked permission to go on holiday with their parents”.
- August 23 “Margaret Mary MacRae admitted. Roll 15”.
- 1967 (page 300 – the last page of this volume).
- February 18 “The school and schoolhouse were joined to the Main water supply”.
- February 20 “Rev. Mr. Urquhart gave religious knowledge this afternoon”.

### Glenfinnan School

Fort William Archives GB3218/C1/L/5/3/142d

In 2012 these archives are not accessible.