

Kinlochmoidart Primary School

Fort William Archives (January 2011, GCB). CI/L/5/3/63

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. The book of school records runs from April 1931 until the school was closed in December 1945 – almost 24 years. No records prior to 1931 seem to have survived.

Introduction pages :-

Inspection by HMI

June 11 1931	J. Hunter Craig	p6
June 6 1933	M. Murray	p32
October 25 1935	DJ Macleod	p66
July 5 1937	R Macleod	p84
June 7 1939	Messrs Barron & Macleod	p101

Medical Inspection

June 10th 1931
June 22nd 1932
June 5th 1933
June 6th 1934
June 11th 1935
July 3rd 1936
June 24th 1937
June 8th 1939

1931 (page 1)

- April 8 "I re-opened this school today after the short Easter vacation. All the children were present. Catherine A. Boyd Trained Certificated Teacher Supp. No. 18617".
- April 23 "Visited School & checked registration. Simon McDonald, Mr Morrison, Director of Education & Mr Simon MacDonald of local school management Committee visited today. Note taken of absence of lavatories for children & House".
- May 4 "Mr Reid road surveyer visited school & examined schoolhouse. In the evening Mr Chisholm plumber visited house in order to prepare an estimate for installing water lavatories."
- May 14 "Mary Marsh Anderson who was in Sen. II Class has to be placed in Advanced Div. as from April 1st 1931".
- May 22 "No communication relative to installation of lavatories has been received. Parents indignant."
- May 29 "No materials yet delivered for Cardboard modelling lessons – nor instruments or text book necessary for teaching of Geometry".
- June 5 "Mrs Stewart, Kinlochmoidart House, received communication saying that question of school lavatories, kitchen, grate & leakage in water pipe on bridge – are not to be attended to meantime."
(page 4) "Roadman delivered 2 Zinc pails today – but no lavatory prepared for their placing. Old offices condemned by School doctor & others – owing to their proximity to the pantry window of school house."
- September 1 (page 5)
"Two Dalilea children absent said to be enrolling at Mingarry School – owing to the great distance between this school & their homes".

- September 4 “Two Dalilea children are awaiting permission to enrol at Mingarry school – as the road thro’ the hills from Dalilea to this school are impassable.”
(Page 7)
Holidays fixed as follows :-
- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Re-open | Tuesday September 1 st 1931 |
| Close for session | Friday July 8 th 1932 |
| Christmas | 24 th December 1931-6 th January 1932 |
| Easter | 24 th March 1932 – 5 th April 1932 |
- (Each date is inclusive)
Jas. Mackenzie, Clerk.
- September 9 “One half ton of coal delivered, leaving one & a half Tons to be delivered later.”
- September 29 “Communication received today from Mr. MacKenzie, Clerk F. William, intimating that his Committee had decided that the three pupils here from Dalalia were to be transferred to Mingarry School”.
- October 7 “One child admitted today from Eilean Shona, only in this district temporarily while mother in hospital”.
- October 19 “Dalilea children returned to school having been refused admittance to Mingarry by the teacher there.”
- October 27 “School closed for Electoral purposes”.
- November 23 “New child from Mingarry admitted today – Veronica M Macdonald.”
- December 4 “One boy living at Kinacarra two miles from school absent all week suffering from severe chest cold”.
- December 9 “Two plumbers arrive from Fort William to instal toilet plumbing”.

1932

- February 5 “Two pupils still under doctor care. Average 11. Roll 13.
- April 11 “Leave of absence granted to teacher by School Manager from April to attend mother’s funeral at Largs, Ayrshire.”
- April 18 “Archibald Docherty – who is here on holiday from Greenock for an indefinit period, has been enrolled today. The boy is very backward.”
- May 11 “Dental cards received from Mr. Inglis – school dentist - & given to children for parents signatures”.
- (page 18)
- June 13 “School dentist visited school today. Ten pupils had teeth extracted”.
- October 2 “Mr. H. Macdonald, roadman, visited here last Thursday to repair & cement dam at water pool...Consequently, we are still without water & abnoxious smells from sink and elsewhere – are evident.”
- July 11 “House ceiling collapsed on Saturday morning the 9th”.
- July 21 “Several children absent with stomach trouble – probably through eating unripe berries.”
- September 9 “One pupil under doctor care was involved in a serious accident during school holidays, having been knocked down by a motor cycle. Wounds are still open.”
- September 16 Roll 16.
- September 23 “Two infant pupils absent this week having neither noots not shoes fit to wear. Father a shepherd & cannot afford to purchase boots meantime.”
- (page 23)
- October 7 “The boy James Weir, who was admitted here in June from Aberchalder School, although given individual attention frequently is very backward.”
- November 10 “Loch Sheil Steamboat Co. account for freightage received from Mr. Morrison for signature”.
- November 30 “New boy admitted today from Tomacharrach School, F. William, Angus Campbell. Age 13.”
- December 14 “Receipt for £1-1-8 received from Mr Tolmis today – this being pupils’ subscription for book hire.”

1933 (page 25)

- February 10 "Pupil living at Home Farm absent for 3 days. Absolutely no excuse. Supposed to be looking after young brother while parents are at Fort William attending a dance."
- May 26 "Telegram received today from Mr. Inglis requesting that pupils assemble in school tomorrow – Saturday- for dental treatment".
- June 9 Roll 15.
(page 31)
- July 28 "Veronica Macdonald has been awarded a bursary in connection with examination held here on May 16th."
- September 13 MI Report 1932-33. "No instruction is given in Gaelic". (page 33)
- October 10 "Menzie's – Salen delivered one ton of coal". (page 35)
- October 20 "Flora Ann MacPhee, the second pupil who sat Bursary Examination received information from Mr. Tolmie on the 16th October that a Bursary for £22-10-0 had been awarded to her. Consequently she left here for Fort William on Friday to attend Secondary School there."
- November 16 Roll 12.

1934 (page 39)

- April 10 "Annie Macdonald of Dalilea left being over age."
- May 2 "School dentist visited. Two pupils had a tooth extracted".
- May 25 "Margaret & Alexandrina MacPhee left school today, as parents are removing from the district on May 28th. Having gone to reside at Dalnabrich – they will attend Mingarry School in future."
- June 4 "One new child attended today. Robert Robertson. The boy is 7 years and 4 months old but has never attended school. He comes from Glen Nevis district and the boy's parents state that the nearest school was over 7 miles distant from their home."
- June 11 "Two boys Alexander & James McGregor removed to Dorlin at weekend as father has taken up position of Keeper at Dorlin Estate. They will attend Acharacle School in future. Roll 8, 4 girls and 4 boys."
- June 15th – September 7th. [See reprint of pages 42- 45](#). Robert Robertson expelled from School. Mrs Robertson used filthy language to the horrified pupils at the school.
- September 4 Roll 6. (page 48).
- October 19 "Charlotte Kennedy removed from roll as she has gone to live at Eilean Shona School House as company of her sister Mary Ann Kennedy who was recently appointed as temporary Headmistress there. This leaves number on roll as 5 – 3 boys & 2 girls".
(page 50)
- November 24 "National Gift to H.R.H. Prince George of Kent" with copies of a letter from the Duke of Sutherland & the Duke of Kent's Comptroller, suggesting that pupils should be given an opportunity to contribute to the funds."
"As the roll of this school is now 5 pupils in all, two of those in poor circumstances, I do not think it is advisable to solicit contributions for this fund".
- November 29 "School closed today. Royal Wedding.

1935 (page 52)

- January 7 Roll now 4.
- May 7 "Mrs Stewart visited school today and presented Jubilee Medals to each of the four pupils."
- June 19 "Mr Ingles, S.D.S., visited school. One extraction. The two Macdonald pupils could not have extractions as Gas was necessary."
- September 23 "One new child Millicent (?) Jones from Glasgow has been admitted today. Roll 5. 3 boys & 2 girls.
- November 6 "Royal Wedding. School closed according to instruction from C.S.M.C".

- December 9 "Millicent Jones left – returned to Glasgow."
 December 13 "Mrs Stewart – Proprietrix visited School today."

1936

- January 27 "School to be closed tomorrow – as the funeral of the Late King takes place that day."
 February 19 "Teacher's Salary Cheque has not arrived. Wire sent to Mr Tolmie last evening."
 February 28 "Salary Cheque received today with another communication bearing post-mark Glasgow & dated 13th incl. Both must have been lying for 2 weeks at intermediate post offices."
 April 20 "John Macdonald admitted for first time aged 6 years 7 mths."
 May 11 "Intimation received from Mr Morrison today of his intended visit to school on Thursday 14th May. School to be held from 2 to 6pm instead of customary period. Pupils have been notified".
 June 1 "Constable Mackenzie visited school today as complaint sent by me regarding the continued barking of keeper's dogs during school hours. On Thursday last children could not concentrate nor could teacher make herself heard in class. Constable Mackenzie says such a nuisance must not be tolerated. There has been a decided improvement since constable's visit."

(page 71)

- September 1 "School reopens Tuesday 1st September 1936. New pupil Thomas McGhee from Largs admitted. Roll 4."
 September 28 "Two new pupils admitted from Glenuig School, Allan MacPhee & Annie MacPhee. Latter had only 1 correct out of 7 sums given. Reading weak. Writing fair".
 October 12 Jessie McPhee admitted.
 October 21 Roll 7.
 October 27 "Charlotte Kennedy re-admitted today from Eilean Shona P.S.. Roll 8.
 December 2 Rev. Father Macdonald, School-manager visited school today and signed register.

1937 (page 74)

- January 8 "Flu epidemic in district. As pupils turned up today school remained closed."
 January 15 "Four pupils absent with Influenza all week. Allan & Annie MacPhee; and John & Anna Macdonald consequently only 3 pupils present during the week."
 February 3 "Two children belonging to travelling Tinkers camping in district admitted today, Jean & Alexander Macdonald, aged 10 & 9 respectively".
 February 9 "Circular with reference to Coronation received today, intimating that celebration of some should take some form as was observed on Silver Jubilee of late King George V. On that occasion pupils here received a small aluminium medal".
 February 11 "New district nurse, Nurse Macmillan visited school today & thought children looking remarkably well and bright."
 February 15 "Two Tinker children left to Kilchoan."
 March 23 "Pupils to have 3 days holidays to celebrate the Coronation, namely 12, 13, 14 May 1937, same to count as openings when making up Annual Return".

(page 78)

- May 11 Coronation Record ([see reprint of pp78-79](#)).
 September 1 Roll 6, 3 boys & 3 girls.
 September 3 "More protest at coal prices for school."
 October 15 Coal shortage (page 83).
 November 26 "As I protested when witnessing ill treatment to a horse here outside schoolhouse, the horseman Mr Macphee father of two pupils took the children out of school this morning & ordered them to return home. I have reported the matter to Mr Morrison".
 November 30 "The two Macphee children returned to school today."
 December 15 (page 87). There has never been a road accident during my almost 7 years here to any of the pupils. There is very little traffic in this district unless during the Tourist Season."

1938 (page 88)

- May 20 "Allan Macphee – after walking 4 miles to & from school yesterday was sent after school to deliver a Telegram to Smearisary, a walk of 12 miles, Today the boy being unfit is absent from school. Matter reported today to C.S.M.C.”.
- June 13 "One communication received refers to Air Raid Precautions”.
- (page 94)
- July 1 "The School Manager, Rev. P. Macdonald visited the school today to present to Peter N. Boyd, the beautiful certificate and book “Launch” awarded him by the RNLI in the “Inter School Life-boat Essay Competition”.
- November 7 "Resumed duties today. Supply teacher in attendance as advised by Mr Howat as he thought I might not be quite fit for work after my recent operation. School & house door defaced by pupils who also knocked down porch & honey suckle plant opposite house during my absence”.

1939

(page 98)

- February 9 "Communication in reference to Educational provision for children evacuated, received & answered today. Seating available 14, space accommodation 20”.
- June 5 "Telegram received intimating visit by School M Officer, Mr Barron and Mr. Macleod HMI’s visited school today and examined pupils.”
- (page 103)
- September 11 Roll 8. Two new pupils admitted Ian & Morag Bowman (twins).
- November 1 "Feast of All Saints”
- November 15 "Marked double attendance today as pupils clothes were wet through, owing to heavy rain on their way to school”.

1940 (page 105)

- January 4 "Patricia Bowman and Anna Macdonald both over age have left school”.
- January 9 "Veronica Macdonald to have teaching practises in this school from January 15th to 19th inclusive”.
- January 19 "Severe snow fall”.
- February 29 "16 ‘RECORD CARDS’ received from D.O.E”. (Director of Education).
- (page 107)
- April 3 "Communication received from Mr Howat in reference to “Protected Area” and recently for procuring “Certificates of Residence” by those leaving or entering this area. Pupils Respirators to be examined monthly and any defects notified to district warden.”
- April 12 Roll 6. “Notification sent to Mr Howat of Teachers admittance to Royal Infirmary, Glasgow for operation on 29th inst.”
- April 15 "Relief teacher will be sent of 29th inst”.
- April 16 "Communication and Questionnaire received recently from Educational Institute of Scotland in relation to the depopulation of Highlands”.
- [See the photocopy of pp108-111](#). This shows occupation particulars about 20 students who had been at the school (page 108).
- May 10 Possibility that the school might be closed (p109).
- May 10 Mr Howat Director of Education.
- (page 110)
- May 17 "No Religious Instruction can be taught in this school meantime as the teacher is a Protestant and the children Roman Catholics”.

- June 3 "Resumed duties today". Disagreement with temporary teacher – page 111.
 June 12 "Father Macdonald visited School today".
 July 12 "School Cleaning Material for the year received".
 July 22 "Intimation sent to Scottish Education Dept. for disability pension owing to Cardiac disease. Intimation Registered by post".
 August 21 "Vera Macdonald is to have one month's teaching practice when school re-opens on August 27th".
 November 18 "I took charge of this school today. Mry A. Kennedy".
 December 20 "Irregular attendance of Christina MacPhee and John MacDonald." (page 115).

1941 (page 116)

- January 7 "Intimation received from Director of Education to the effect that school should not assemble until 10.30 owing to dark mornings. This will continue throughout the month of January".
 February 3 "Assembly at ten o' clock has been resumed".
 March 21 "Cards concerning Diphtheria Immunisation received from M.O.H. of Inverness and distributed to Children".
 March 28 "Veronica MacDonald, a student from Notre Dam Training College, began her practise teaching here today".
 May 6 Diphtheria Immunisation.
 May 26 "Supply of Horlicks delivered".
 September 2 School reopened. Roll 3 (page 121).
 September 19 "According to circular received from the Director of Education, three periods of half an hour are to be given to Religious Instruction every week".
 September 29 "2 tons of coal delivered by Matheson, Salen".
 October 29 "The School was used for an A.R.P. Lecture last night". (Air Raid Protection)>
 November 27 "Opening hour to be delayed from 10am to 10.30 am from 1/12/41 to 2/2/42".

1942 (page 124)

- March 6 "Second supply of cod liver oil and fruit juices received for children under school age".
 September 1 Roll 3.

1943 (page 131)

- January 5 "Harriet MacAulay and Mary MacPherson admitted".
 January 6 "School closed – Church Holiday".
 March 3 "School closed for three days. Teacher ill and unable to attend".
 April 27 "The school was closed a week before Easter Holidays as Mrs MacDonald had to go to hospital. I took charge of the school today. Cecilia J(?) MacDonald.
 May 31 Mary MacDonald resumed duties".
 June 4 "Children allowed to go at 2.45 pm so as to meet school doctor on way back from Glenuig School. Dr. Wilson is to immunise children against Diphtheria".
 June 19 "Children came to school on Saturday morning in order to make up for some of the opening lost during my illness." (page 134).
 July 2 "A stove and two containers of dried milk received during the week".
 October 1 "Harvest Holiday fixed from 25th October to 2nd November (inclusive)".
 October 10 Roll 5.
 November 3 "John MacDonald and Annie MacPhee have left school.

1944 (page 138)

- January 4 "John MacKillop admitted. Roll 4."

- January 6 Church Holiday.
- June 30 "Three children absent with whooping cough".
- August 29 "School re-opened today. Roll 3."
- September 8 "Mary MacPherson's Record Card sent to Dr. MacLean. The former is now attending St. Margaret's School, Kinning Park, Glasgow".
- December 22 "House and school chimney cleaned. Phones attended to also".

1945 (page 144)

- January 3 Roll 3.
- January 15 "Morag MacAulay, aged 7, was admitted to school today".
- January 17 "District Nurse, Flora T. (?) Martin visited".
- February 2 "Harriet Macaulay has been supplied with a pair of wellington boots through the W.V.S."
- February 12 "A burst pipe flooded the school to such an extent that I had to send children home".
- March 16 "Plumber came at beginning of March and carried out necessary repairs to water lavatories. Burst pipe has still to be seen to".
- May 18 Morag Macaulay leaves school today, as her parents are moving to Mull". [See photocopy of pp148-149.](#)
- July 5 "General Election. School used as Polling Station".
- December 15 "Full attendance all week. School opened today – Saturday".
- December 21 "Full attendance all week. School closed permanently today. Children are to be conveyed to Mingarry School. Mary A (?) MacDonald." [See photocopy of pp150-151.](#)