

## SCHOOL REGISTERS

Levens School retains some of its old registers. We have set out below some of the entries made by the master of the boys school. George Stabler, father of Harold Stabler of Poole Pottery fame, was headmaster throughout this period. They show how pupil numbers fluctuated with the agricultural and social year, and provide some interesting comments on the weather and childhood illnesses.

### *Date*

- 06.04.1863 Holiday in the afternoon to roll eggs.
- 01.05.1863 The thinness of the school this week may be attributed to Milnthorpe Fair and skifting (shifting) (changing house).
- 27.05.1863 School very thin today owing to the school being open part of the week only being Whit week and also from the Wesleyan Sunday Scholars have a treat.
- 11.06.1863 School very thin a very wet day.
- 26.06.1863 Broke up for holidays ..... paid up all receipts to Rev W Stephens on School pence.
- 03.08.1863 Re-opened school after 5 weeks vacation.
- 02.09.1863 A very wet day only 22 boys at school.
- 07.09.1863 William Proctor returned to school for winter.
- 15.09.1863 The harvest is commencing and affects the attendance.
- 23.09.1863 Children enjoyed an excellent treat at Levens Hall.
- 05.10.1863 A very wet day affecting attendance.
- 06.10.1863 Had to complain against the number of boys leaving school to take dinner to their fathers at work.
- 08.10.1863 Closed the school early. My reason for this is the shortness of the days and also the great distance which some boys have to go home.
- 12.10.1863 The harvest may now be said to be in.
- 19.10.1863 Opened evening school for the winter.
- 21.10.1863 The school very thin the day being favourable for taking up potatoes.
- 28.10.1863 Half holiday to prepared for an entertainment with The Magic Lantern.
- 30.10.1863 to Extremely wet and stormy - school thin.

02.11.1863

01.11.1863 Much sickness amongst the children.

05.11.1863 Half holiday - Guy Fawkes Day and toffee feast.

10.11.1863 This being Martinmas week. Accounts for the poor attendances.

25.11.1863 Much sickness.

01.12.1863 Very cold winds and much sickness.

08.12.1863 No home lesson because the very wet night would obliterate their sums.

11.12.1863 Very wet day affecting attendance.

18.12.1863 Sickness still continues. Chiefly colds.

24.12.1863 School closes for 3 weeks.

27.01.1864 James Penny stopped from school all morning that he might take his father's dinner.

01.02.1864 8 trees felled in the playground of the school which makes the school might lighter.

12.02.1864 Very poor attendance because of the rain.

15.02.1864 Thomas Robinson died yesterday morning. He has not been to school since Christmas.

29.02.1864 A very wet day affecting attendance.

24.03.1864 The weeks so far has been extremely fine causing several boys to be absent. I have forbidden anyone to be absent from school to go "a jolly boying".

28.03.1864 School opening morning only.

29.03.1864 Holiday this afternoon being Easter Tuesday.

01.04.1864 Holiday in the afternoon.

04.04.1864 I felt indisposed and gave holiday in the afternoon.

13.04.1864 School thin this afternoon, some boys at Milnthorpe seeing a menagerie of wild beasts.

27.04.1864 The weather for the last 3 weeks has been extremely fine so that many boys have been absent peating, planting potatoes etc.

- 29.04.1864 Some boys absent to attend Kendal Fair.
- 05.05.1864 The attendance today does not count under Revised Code (Holy Thursday).
- 06.05.1864 Very wet affecting attendance much.
- 12.05.1864 28 boys in attendance this morning it being Milnthorpe Fair.
- 18.05.1864 School very thin today it being Whit week.
- 04.06.1864 Half holiday instead of the afternoon of 29 May.
- 07.06.1864 Wet. 10 boys absent.
- 20.06.1864 School thin. Wet day.
- 22.06.1864 Rev W Stephens, the acting manager and secretary of the Levens Boys School has died.
- 26.06.1864 Holiday. Rev W Stephens' interred.
- 27.06.1874 Broke up for mid-summer vacation.
- 08.08.1864 Re-opened school.
- 31.08.1864 Very wet - 20 boys absent.
- 05.09.1864 Children through the kindness and liberality of Mrs Gandy were to partake of tea at Heaves. The weather being unfavourable the party was deferred. Several boys had come without their dinner. Consequently absent in the afternoon.
- 06.09.1864 Very unfavourable - wet.
- 07.09.1864 Holiday in the afternoon for the party.
- 29.09.1864 The week fine after much wet weather consequently some boys assisting in the harvest.
- 13.10.1864 School very thin this afternoon. The present fine weather causes them to be gathering potatoes.
- 19.10.1864 The day very wet affecting attendance.
- 26.10.1864 The day very wet affecting attendance.
- 07.11.1864 Attendances affected by the season of Martinmas.
- 08.11.1864 Half day holiday granted by Rev A Smith.

- 17.11.1864 A very cold and wet day affecting attendance.
- 28.11.1864 A very wet day, attendance thin.
- 30.11.1864 The day again very wet and cold and attendance thin.
- 02.12.1864 Average attendance this week considerably lessened by the very stormy weather.
- 09.12.1864 Holiday yesterday as Rev A J Smith the present incumbent of Levens married Miss Stephens.
- 19.12.1864 Half a dozen boys away from school on account of sickness.
- 20.12.1864 R Postlethwaite and H Airey away from school planting trees this week.
- 22.12.1864 Christmas holiday.
- 16.01.1865 Re-opened school.
- 24.01.1865 Half a dozen boys away on account of sickness.
- 30.01.1865 Very heavy snow storm. Because of the small number of boys the sessions will not be entered on the class register.
- 13.02.1865 There was a very heavy fall of snow yesterday and the bad state of the roads so seriously affects the attendance this morning there being only 31 boys.
- 16.02.1865 The snow continues and very thin.
- 21.02.1865 Weather again bad as storms. School thin.
- 29.02.1865 Pancake Tuesday - Holiday in the afternoon.
- 01.03.1864 Ash Wednesday - Holiday all day.
- 10.03.1865 Light fall of snow this morning but 6 boys absent.
- 03.04.1865 John Todd left school for the summer to work.
- 05.04.1865 Joseph Holme has left school for the summer to work on the peat moss.
- 05.04.1865 The school yard is now being levelled.
- 11.04.1865 Only 57 boys in school. A beautiful day.
- 21.04.1865 Holiday yesterday on receiving the news of Mrs Stephens' arrival at Melbourne.
- 24.04.1865 The school shows effects of the fine weather - boys peating.

05.05.1865 Several boys peating.

10.05.1865 At present there are 3 or 4 boys away from school minding cows.

12.05.1865 The wet morning and Milnthorpe Fair caused several boys to be absent.

22.05.1865 William Mackereth was sent home this morning. He has been owing school pence for more than a year and came without any. He has brought his pence this afternoon.

29.05.1865 A very wet morning school thin.

07.06.1865 This being Whit week the attendance is very small.

09.06.1865 Holiday in afternoon.

16.06.1865 Thomas Baines away thinning turnips.

20.06.1865 Some boys away making hay.

27.06.1865 Hay time slightly affecting attendance.

29.06.1865 School broke up for 5 weeks holiday.

10.08.1865 School thin owing to wet morning.

06.09.1865 Half holiday annual tea party for Sabboth Scholars.

07.09.1865 Force and Sizergh Fell boys absent in the afternoon to go to a tea party at Lt Col Gandy's - Heaves.

18.09.1865 4 or 5 boys returning to school today after harvest and peating.

29.09.1865 School was not open yesterday because of Thanks Giving for the harvest.

10.10.1865 & Wet days causing the school to be thinly attended.  
11.10.1865

06.11.1865 Sickness prevalent.

09.11.1865 More boys absent than usual it being Kendal Fair.

10.11.1865 Holiday for the usual one on 05 November.

17.11.1865 School unusually thin. Wet day.

24.11.1865 Weather very stormy several boys sick.

04.12.1865 On the Saturday 02 December fire grates were put in the school.

- 08.12.1865 Holiday in the afternoon for Mr Whitwell to prepare for showing a series of pictures by means of the Magic Lantern illustrating the Old and New Testaments.
- 21.12.1865 Home lessons cease for the half year.
- 22.12.1865 Break up for Christmas holiday.
- 15.01.1866 Resume school.
- 26.01.1866 Session times changed. This arrangement made for the convenience of the concert.
- 20.02.1866 Bad weather affecting attendance.
- 06.03.1866 Heavy snowstorm this morning preventing many boys from being present at the examinations. .... The day for the examination was one of the most unfavourable in the whole year. There had been a great fall of snow during the night which had covered the ground to considerable thickness.
- 23.03.1866 Very wet day affecting attendance.
- 02.04.1866 Not less than 8 boys have left to work for the summer principally on the peat moss. Yesterday was Easter Monday consequently a holiday. The school was kept open on Easter Tuesday because half a day was lost at the general examination and another half was lost in May owing to the drawing examination.
- 23.05.1866 Holiday yesterday and the day before being Whitsuntide.
- 30.05.1866 Sent William Rutledge home because his parents will not pay up the school pence due.
- 05.06.1866 William Rutledge was sent home this morning because he had not brought his school pence.
- 29.06.1866 Holidays commenced.
- 06.08.1866 School re-opened.
- 07.08.1866 Very wet day. Moderate attendances.
- 14.08.1866 Holiday this afternoon.
- 27.08.1866 On Saturday last the children of the school assembled at Levens Hall to give a welcome to the Honourable General Upton and the Honourable Mrs Upton on the occasion of his first visit to Levens after his marriage.
- 03.09.1866 Sickness prevalent.

- 01.10.1866 School thin as some boys are away at pheasant shooting.
- 12.10.1866 Throughout this week the school has again been very badly attended. This is accounted for by the favourable weather for taking up potatoes.
- 16.10.1866 I have to find great fault with irregular attendance.
- 01.11.1866 We commenced fires in the school this week.
- 02.11.1866 Attendance this week has been very meagre in consequence of the bad weather.
- 05.11.1866 We did not take the usual holiday.
- 07.12.1866 The attendance this week will be found to be seriously affected by the wet days, several boys not being in attendance at all.
- 11.12.1866 Sickness very prevalent.
- 21.12.1866 Closed school for 3 weeks.
- 14.01.1867 Re-opened school.
- 15.01.1867 The weather is extremely severe. Thermometer on the night of 13<sup>th</sup> was 5 degrees above zero.
- 25.01.1867 Holiday this afternoon in consequence of preparations for the concert to be given this evening. The proceeds are to furnish a treat at the school children.
- 11.02.1867 On the 6<sup>th</sup> of this month both Sunday and Day Scholars had a treat with the proceeds of the concert. No holiday was given.
- 15.02.1867 Half a dozen boys away on account of sickness.
- 09.04.1867 There is now a considerable falling off in the attendance from boys leaving for outdoor work.
- 11.06.1867 This day along with yesterday have heretofore been holidays. The school was open today because the Master wanted to go away on Thursday and Friday.
- 12.06.1867 There are more boys in school this week than is usual at this period. I cannot well account for it.
- 17.06.1867 It is usual for the boys to pay no school pence for Whit week if they were present in Easter week. Eight boys had to pay.
- 28.06.1867 Broke up for mid-summer vacation.
- 05.08.1867 Re-opened school.

- 19.08.1867 Three boys have returned to school who have been peating all summer.
- 09.09.1867 This week the farmers are in the midst of harvest and consequently the attendances are thin and irregular.
- 13.09.1867 The school is unusually thin owing to the beautiful day which is favourable for the harvest and for collecting fruit.
- 18.09.1867 Half holiday.
- 01.10.1867 The Honourable Mrs Howard has decided to have the remainder of the boys school boarded.
- 05.11.1867 Did not give the usual half holiday today.
- 12.11.1867 The school is much thinner in attendance this week than last it being Martinmas.
- 13.12.1867 The chimney at the south end of the school (which was found fault with by H M Inspector of Schools for admitting the rain) is now under repair.
- 20.12.1867 Break up for Christmas holiday.
- 13.01.1868 Re-opened school. School room has now been boarded during the Christmas holiday.
- 20.01.1868 Fever is prevalent.
- 27.01.1868 Commenced pre-payment monthly with very little opposition from the parents of the children. One boy is staying at home in consequence. This step was taken upon the recommendation of the Rev C H Pariz, H M Inspector of School.
- 25.02.1868 The average attendance lately has been influenced because of the prevalent of scarlatina.
- 28.02.1868 This afternoon the school was very thin as a number of the boys went to the "prize ploughing". Today ends the school year.
- 30.03.1868 Boys beginning to go out peating.
- 01.04.1868 William Mackereth will not come to school and Rev A Smith ceases paying his school pence.
- 14.04.1868 Yesterday and today being Easter Monday and Tuesday have usually been holidays but the boys are to have the whole of Whit week instead.



- 27.04.1868 Jacob Hoggarth has left the school and gone into Mr Keightleys office at Crooklands as clerk. Admitted Joseph Robinson (aged 15½ ) the paige at Heaves. He will attend school about a month.
- 27.05.1868 The fever has again appeared in the village and boys are absent in consequence.
- 29.05.1868 Royal Oak Day. We will not take the usual holiday today as the whole of next week being Whit week will be holiday.
- 15.06.1868 The school remarkably badly attended this week. Several are away because of mumps, other of fever and others at work, such as thinning turnips.
- 04.08.1868 There are only 24 boys attending school this week. This very bad attendance is accounted for mainly by the prevalence of fever in the village. A few are also away because of the harvest.
- 06.08.1868 During the month of July the thermometer was 88 degrees in the shade (94 degrees in some places) and during one of the nights in the same month the thermometer was not lower than 64 degrees.
- 11.08.1868 Fever is subsiding as the weather is cooler.
- 04.09.1868 The harvest was all secured on 29 August.
- 08.10.1868 We had a frost and had a fire in school yesterday.
- 23.10.1868 On the whole the attendance has not been so good this week. Some boys have been gathering potatoes. The school is unusually thin this afternoon because of the Clothing Club Sale.
- 11.01.1869 We usually have had 3 weeks holiday at this season but have only taken a fortnight.
- 15.02.1869 The attendance today is very much improved like the weather - the 2 have been very intimately connected lately.
- 16.02.1869 John W Bolton has left the school and the district going to an orphans home at Bristol.
- 15.03.1869 This week we have more sickness than usual. NE winds have been prevalent lately. Scarlet fever has again appeared in 2 families.
- 12.05.1869 Milnthorpe Fair and Levens Radish Feast.
- 16.06.1869 Last night there was snow storm. The hills are quite white with snow this morning.
- 21.06.1869 Mid-summer day. There are 2 or 3 patches of snow still on the mountains. .... Colds are prevalent amongst the children.

- 19.07.1869 Beak up for holiday.
- 16.08.1869 Re-opened school. .... Following boys were admitted (4 from Sedgwick) George A Graham and A E Graham from Leasgill. Mrs Argles of Eversley engages to pay their school pence. Richard Clement and L Clement from Lyth. They have heretofore been taught there by an old woman and reflect credit from her.
- 17.08.1869 John Lucas son of General Upton's coachman was admitted this morning.
- 20.08.1869 Half holiday. The Honourable General Upton treated the children of the school handsomely. There was an excellent tea provided on the bowling green at Levens Hall after which the boys ran races and leapt for knives, neckties and tops. 22 of the boys also played the Levens Cricket Club a game at cricket and there they won a cricket ball. The boys won easily.
- 15.10.1869 Harvest Home Service and a half holiday.
- 26.10.1869 Today the children at school were photographed.
- 08.11.1869 John Cross was sent home for his school pence. Kendal Fair.
- 22.11.1869 George Carradice (a dumb boy) has left the village.
- 06.12.1869 The 3 Hoggarths from Sizergh Castle are away from school because of measles.
- 22.12.1869 Willie Craig away before of Scarlet Fever at home.
- 11.01.1870 The 3 Hoggarth from Sizergh Castle Farm have left school to attend a dancing school at Heversham.
- 31.01.1870 Robert Sergeant has gone to Heversham Grammar School. He was selected by the Rev T M Gilbert.
- 05.04.1870 Robert Holme, Benjamin Hoggarth, Thomas Robinson, William Wearing and William Dobson have all gone on the peat moss for the summer.
- 18.04.1870 Stopped having fires in the school.
- 13.06.1870 Re-admitted R Atkinson who has been attending the dancing school for 3 months.
- 27.06.1870 Thomas Wilson is away from school having broken his collar bone.
- 29.06.1870 3 or 4 boys are away from school having gone to Milnthorpe to see Whombwells Menagerie.
- 21.07.1870 Half holiday. Farm sale at Burton.

- 29.08.1870 Re-opened school after 5 weeks holiday.
- 18.10.1870 Half holiday - Harvest Home.
- 31.10.1870 The measles are very prevalent at Sedgwick hence the fall in attendance.
- 04.11.1870 Half holiday - Guy Fawkes day tomorrow.
- 07.11.1870 Kendal Fair.
- 14.11.1870 H Prickett who left school last Christmas to learn dancing returned today.
- 23.11.1870 Received Government forms from the overseers connected with the new Education Act.
- 06.12.1870 Several cases of measles in the village.
- 07.12.1870 Along with the measles there are 2 or 3 cases of Scarlatina.
- 16.12.1870 Broke up for Christmas holidays at noon. The bad weather and the great amount of sickness causes the school to be closed a week earlier than usual.
- 1871 For the 2 or 3 years we have only had a fortnight holiday but as the village was very full of sickness we have had 3 weeks.
- 17.03.1871 Several boys to see the ploughing with double furrowed ploughs.
- 20.04.1871 Thomas Park is suffering from Scarlet fever. It is an isolated case.
- 12.05.1871 Levens Radish feast.
- 12.06.1871 N Gibson has attended school so badly and almost always without leave that I recently sent him. The Rev A J Smith re-admitted him today on condition that he attends more regularly.
- 30.06.1871 There is a great falling off in the attendance this week because of turnip thinning and hay making.
- 28.08.1871 General Upton gave the school a treat in the gardens at Levens