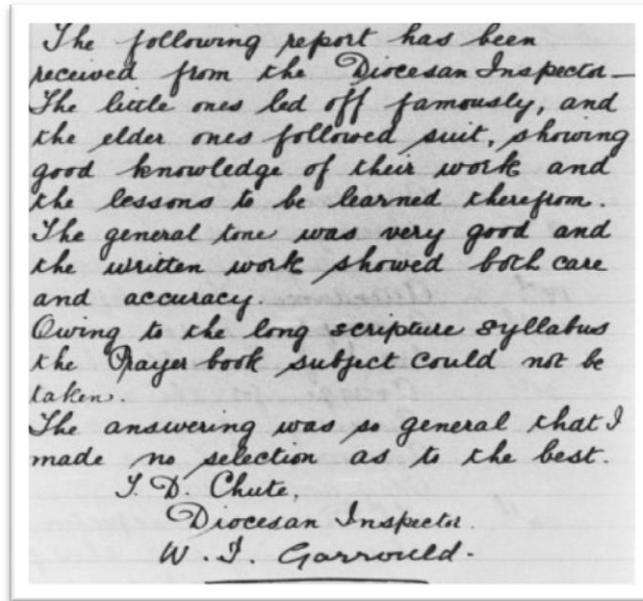


The Village Series



Tharston School Log Book

1939 - 1945

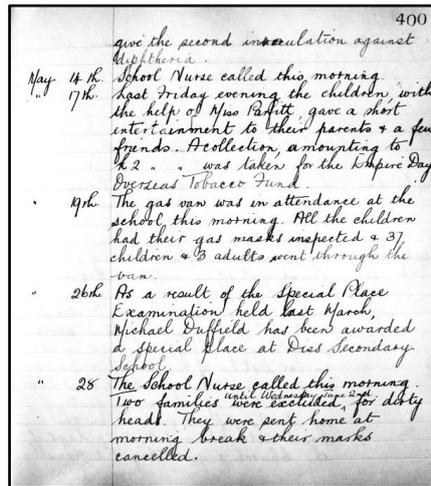
A transcript of the Tharston School
Log Book for the World War II years

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Introduction:

The use of school log books was first introduced in 1862 by the government as an initiative to promote ideals of efficiency, economy and accountability within elementary education. In the Education Department's 1862 regulatory Revised Code¹ all elementary schools open to public scrutiny, and so eligible for state grants, had to maintain a regular record of activities.



Example page for Tharston - dated 1943²

Log books can be fascinating and incredibly revealing about education in its widest sense, as well as about the locality and its people. Their quality depends considerably on the ambitions of the head teacher and their literary ability, but very few are totally lacking in interest. School logs may also include registers (although very rare); building records and deeds; notebooks with information about lessons and the curriculum; and other events such as prize-givings, fetes and fairs, awards and commendations. (It's often interesting to read the log alongside the records of managers' meetings - an example is given below.)

School log books were the domain of the head teacher and recorded important events in school life such as the visit of an inspector or manager, closure of the school or staffing changes. They often noted attendance numbers, recorded epidemics and visits of the school nurse. Copies of Inspectors' reports were sometimes recorded in the log. If the school held a celebration for a National event such as a religious festival or notable event in a conflict it may have been recorded. Pupils' names were not generally recorded unless they joined or left the school, did something out of the ordinary such as suffering an accident or medical issue, or passing an examination. During World War II it was common to record movement of evacuees.

¹ Copy can be found at <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/cce/revised-code.html>

² Original held at Norfolk Archive Centre - and shown in the catalogue at:

<http://nrocat.norfolk.gov.uk/Dserve/dserve.exe?dsqServer=NCC3CL01&dsqIni=dserve.ini&dsqApp=Archive&dsqCmd=Show.tcl&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqPos=1&dsqSearch=%28%28text%29%3D%27Tharston%20school%27%29>

The earliest log books date from 1862. Although head teachers are now no longer required to keep them some still do.

The complete transcript below is exactly as written - warts and all! In a few instances there are 'comments', items not in the log book text but have been added for information - italicised and in square brackets.

Date	Entry	Page
09 Jan 1939	School re-opened this morning. Owing to an outbreak of diphtheria ³ , a very poor attendance. 17 children present out of roll of 44. 3 children are actually suffering from diphtheria, 5 are contacts, 5 have been inoculated & are absent until the inoculation has become effective, 1 suffering from chickenpox, 1 still under doctor, being very weak & run down after attack of bronchitis, & 12 for no known reason; parents probably afraid of infection. School nurse called to investigate above absences; examined throats of all children present.	366
10 Jan 1939	Miss Burnett, Organiser for Needlework, called this morning.	366
16 Jan 1939	School nurse called & saw all children.	367
23 Jan 1939	Library van called today & books were exchanged.	367
27 Jan 1939	Owing to the floods yesterday, I was unable to get to school, so it was closed for the day. This morning only 7 children are present, many roads still being partly flooded, & the Chairman of the Managers has advised the closure of the school until Monday, the 30th inst.	367
30 Jan 1939	School re-opened this morning.	367
03 Feb 1939	Poor attendance this week - many children suffering from colds & 2 cases of the flu.	367
13 Feb 1939	Miss Newberry, County Librarian called.	367
01 Mar 1939	The School Nurse called this morning.	367
06 Mar 1939	Junior School Scholarship Examination Ina Shemming, Dora Leist, and Kenneth Palmer sitting for it. Gwendoline Barker unable to be present as she is excluded as diphtheria contact. Rev: J. Clegg superintendent.	367
15 Mar 1939	School Nurse visited this morning, & saw all children present - 38.	367
29 Mar 1939	Miss Browne absent today.	368
31 Mar 1939	Miss Browne returned to school today. Form 9E completed, & will be posted tonight.	368
05 Apr 1939	Miss Cooke C.I. called, and stayed about ten minutes. School closed this afternoon for Easter.	368
17 Apr 1939	School re-opened this morning. Three children have left - Betty Barnes aged 14. Leslie	368

³ Diphtheria is an infection caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*.

Date	Entry	Page
	Riches has gone to Long Stratton, & Myrtle Savory has returned to her own home. Two children admitted - Peter Fuller from Aslacton & Eva Tunmore.	
21 Apr 1939	Orthopaedic Nurse called & saw Gwen. Hardesty & Winifred Semmens.	368
12 May 1939	School Nurse called to see David Bailey re his ear.	368
15 May 1939	Received notice that two girls, Ina (Betty) Shemmings & Dora Leist, had been successful in the first part of the Junior C. Scholarship Examination.	368
18 May 1939	Ascension Day. The children attended a Church Service this morning, and then went home.	368
24 May 1939	Miss Burnet - Organiser of Needlework, called this morning.	369
26 May 1939	School closed this morning for Whitsun	369
05 Jun 1939	School re-opened this morning. Seven cases of chickenpox reported to S.M.O. ⁴ & M.O.H. ⁵	369
14 Jun 1939	School Dentist treated eight children this morning - others who should have received treatment were absent suffering from chickenpox.	369
28 Jun 1939	Tested the Registers and found them correct. S. Clegg.	369
04 Jul 1939	I was absent yesterday, Monday, July 3rd recovering from an attack of bronchitis. Piano tuned - 3rd inst.	369
11 Jul 1939	Miss Browne absent today Tuesday - illness. The school nurse called. Received notice on 5th inst. of Examination in Religious Knowledge to be held on Friday, July 14th.	369
13 Jul 1939	Miss Browne returned to school today - Thursday.	369
14 Jul 1939	Scripture examination - registers not marked - holiday in afternoon.	370
18 Jul 1939	School Nurse called & saw all children - 42 present.	370
25 Jul 1939	School will be closed tomorrow for Sunday School outing.	370
27 Jul 1939	School this morning as usual.	370
27 Jul 1939	School nurse called this morning.	370
03 Aug 1939	Children brought their gas-masks to school. They were fitted & examined - some needed replacing by larger ones	370
04 Aug 1939	We close today for five weeks. I proposed to have sports for the children, but have had to abandon them owing to inclement weather.	370

⁴ Abbr: School Medical Officer

⁵ Abbr: Medical Officer of Health

Date	Entry	Page
	Miss Muriel Browne terminated her engagement as Supplementary Teacher in this school today.	
11 Sep 1939	<p>School re-opened this morning. One family, the Palmers Kenneth & Cherry, has left to attend Tasburgh school, as it is nearer to their home. I have admitted Michael Hammersley, and Muriel & Frances Woods, all staying in the village with relatives. Sixteen children, evacuated from London, have also been admitted, thirteen from the Raglan School, Edmondton, & three from Dagenham. One teacher, Miss Arnold, from Edmonton is helping with the children, taking the Juniors.</p> <p>Copy of Report on Examination in Religious Knowledge. July 14th.</p> <p>"At the Religious Inspection this year there was a marked improvement noticeable throughout the school and especially in the Infants' class. The answering in the Prayer Book subject was very good. The tone of the school continues excellent. The Headmistress & her assistant are to be congratulated upon the result of their careful and capable teaching."</p> <p>Capel C. Peacey. John Clegg</p> <p>Miss Parfitt is taking temporary duty in this school, teaching infants.</p>	370/71
12 Sep 1939	Admitted two children, Jean & Barbara Hardesty, who are staying in the village with a relative.	372
25 Sep 1939	<p>Two of the evacuated children from Edmonton, Alan & Derek Grinham, have returned home.</p> <p>Four boys, Ronald & Roy Clarke, Fred Day & William Beasley, evacuated from Dagenham, have returned home.</p> <p>Muriel & Frances Woods who were staying with relatives, have returned home.</p> <p>Dr. Morrison Smith called this morning to see the evacuated children.</p>	372
19 Oct 1939	Miss Clay, head teacher of the Raglan Girls' School, Edmonton, called this afternoon, with a medical officer from Edmonton, to see the evacuated children. One girl was given exercises to remedy flat feet & one boy was recommended to be put under the care of the local doctor for nervous disorder.	372
23 Oct 1939	One ton of coal delivered from Moy Ltd.	372

Date	Entry	Page
25 Oct 1939	Miss Seggar Organiser of Physical Training visited this afternoon.	373
27 Oct 1939	School Nurse, accompanied by a nurse from Edmonton visited school this morning & saw all children.	373
06 Nov 1939	Mrs A Gascoigne spoke to the children this afternoon from 1-30 p.m. to 2-15 p.m.	373
08 Nov 1939	Mrs A.J. Cooke C.I. called this morning & stayed for about 10 minutes.	373
20 Nov 1939	Afternoon session commenced at 1-15p.m. & closed at 3-30 p.m. Today; to continue while the afternoons are short and dark, probably January 31st 1941.	373
24 Nov 1939	Miss Arnold, the Edmonton assistant is having a fortnight's leave, starting today. Miss Hunt is taking her place today. Miss Parfitt is absent today.	373
27 Nov 1939	Miss Woodburn is taking duty today in place of Miss Arnold.	373
28 Nov 1939	Miss Parfitt returned today.	373
05 Dec 1939	Miss Woodburn ceased duty today.	373
11 Dec 1939	Miss Arnold returned from leave & takes up duty again today.	373
22 Dec 1939	We close school this morning for Christmas. On Wednesday, the 20th inst, the children sang carols to a party of relatives & friends & yesterday they had their usual tea & party, with a present for each child,	374
08 Jan 1940	We open school this morning - 5 children absent with colds. I hear that there is whooping cough in the village. Miss Arnold absent illness.	374
18 Jan 1940	I was absent on Tuesday & Wednesday Jan: 16th & 17th suffering with a bad bronchial cold. The school nurse visited the school yesterday, Jan: 17th.	374
19 Jan 1940	Three boys, Michael Hammersley, John Barker & Derek Bowman reached school at 9.35 a.m. - after register had been closed.	374
22 Jan 1940	Miss Arnold returned to Edmonton during the week-end, as most of the children evacuated from the Raglan School have returned home - 4 only remaining in the village. A snowy morning, resulting in a very poor attendance - 15/37; 2/5. As the majority of children present stayed at school for dinner, & the rest returned before one o'clock, registers were marked & closed by one o'clock, and school will be	374

Date	Entry	Page
	dismissed at three o'clock - numbers present - same as this morning. Percentage of attendance today, including native children & evacuees = 40.4%	
23 Jan 1940	% of attendance as above = 45.2% These 4 meetings - falling below 50% will be omitted when calculating weekly returns.	374
26 Jan 1940	Owing to illness & rough weather attendance this week is very poor - native children average 18 - no. on books 37. 48.6% Edmonton evacuees Average 4. No. on books 4. 100% Private evacuees Average [...] No. on books 1. 33% No. of meetings in all instances 6, as Monday's and Tuesday's meetings were cancelled.	375/376
31 Jan 1940	Owing to bad traffic conditions the library van was not able to call today.	376
05 Feb 1940	From today, afternoon sessions will begin at 1.30 p.m. & close at 3.45 p.m.	376
09 Feb 1940	School nurse called.	376
14 Feb 1940	I was absent from school on Monday & Tuesday this week - Feb: 12 & 13th - having sprained my ankle.	376
27 Feb 1940	School nurse called & saw all children.	376
05 Mar 1940	Miss [Masrae?], head teacher of the Edmonton Technical School at present evacuated to Frinton-on-Sea called this morning to interview two Edmonton girls, who are to be admitted to her school at the beginning of the Summer Term.	376
06 Mar 1940	School Nurse called this afternoon re' absentees.	376
11 Mar 1940	Miss Parfitt absent.	377
18 Mar 1940	Examined Register & found then correct S. Clegg	377
19 Mar 1940	Medical Examination. Dr, Norman Smith Miss Parfitt returned today.	377
20 Mar 1940	School closed this afternoon for the Easter Holidays.	377
01 Apr 1940	We re-opened school this morning - admitted two child, Ruth Duffield and Sylvia Goose - both under 5. Six children absent - suffering from german measles,	377
02 Apr 1940	Reported 5 cases of german measles, two suspected, one case of earache & one cough to M.O.H. & S.M.O.	377
05 Apr 1940	Reported three cases of german measles, one of mumps, one suspect g. Measles, one sore throat & one bilious.	377
08 Apr 1940	Reported four cases of german measles and two coughs.	377

Tharston School Log Book for 1939 to 1945

Date	Entry	Page
16 Apr 1940	School will be closed tomorrow, as the examination for Junior County Scholarship will be held on that date, the candidate from this school will sit at Long Stratton.	377/378
18 Apr 1940	School open again this morning. The school dentist Mr Nixon, called on Friday last, the 12th inst, & inspected the teeth of all children present - 24 children present - 16 absent - german measles etc.	378
26 Apr 1940	The school dentist called again this afternoon, and saw children who were absent at his last visit.	378
30 Apr 1940	The school dentist visited this afternoon and treated eight children.	378
02 May 1940	Ascension Day: The children attended Church Service this morning, & then went home.	378
07 May 1940	School nurse called & saw all children 37 present	378
10 May 1940	School closes this morning for Whitsun - 3 meetings	378
14 May 1940	School re-opened this (Tuesday) morning by order of the Government - following the invasion of the Netherlands by Germany. Admitted one child - Wendy Riches (31-10-35) bring no. On books to 41.	378/379
30 May 1940	Mr Frayn called this afternoon to talk to the children about the Savings Association.	379
05 Jun 1940	A.E.J. Cooke Esq called this morning	379
03 Jul 1940	School Nurse called this morning & saw all children present - 39 - 42 on books.	379
25 Jul 1940	Signed Registers: found them correct. J. Clegg (Manager)	379
02 Aug 1940	School closes this afternoon for harvest holiday - 5 weeks.	379
09 Sep 1940	School opened this morning. One boy, Michael Hammersley, a voluntary evacuee, has returned to his home.	379
10 Sep 1940	A girl, Winifred Semmens, slipped in the playground during the dinner hour & hurt her right leg, which was already in a weak state, through rheumatism. I took her home, & her mother sent for the doctor who was not at home, so at present I do not know how badly she is hurt.	379
11 Sep 1940	The child, Winifred Semmens, was seen by Dr. Owens of Long Stratton, who sent her to the Jenny Lind, where after X ray treatment, she was found to be suffering from a broken thigh. I have informed the Chairman of the Managers, the Rev: J. Clegg, yesterday afternoon of the occurrence, & am writing	379/380

Date	Entry	Page
	to the Secretary of the N. E. Committee this afternoon.	
16 Sep 1940	School Nurse called this morning & saw all children present - 40.	380
04 Oct 1940	School Nurse called.	380
17 Oct 1940	School Dentist called & examined all children present - 6 infants absent & elder girls were at cookery centre.	380
17 Oct 1940	Admitted one evacuee, Kenneth Sheed, on Tuesday - the 15th inst.	380
21 Oct 1940	School Dentist treated nine children this morning.	380
12 Nov 1940	Signed Registers and found them correct J. Clegg Chairman of Managers	380
12 Nov 1940	School Nurse called this morning & saw all children - 36 Norfolk present + 6 evacuees. One family, Patricia, Alan & Wendy Riches, was excluded, as the children were found to be suffering from scabies ⁶ . I have burnt all books, pencils etc. That they have been using, & given orders for the desks they occupy to be disinfected.	380/381
14 Nov 1940	School will be closed this afternoon until Tuesday morning, the 19th inst, when it will re-open at 9.30a.m - this later time of opening to continue until Feb: 15th 1941 - according to instructions received this morning. Morning session will close at 12.5 p.m. & afternoon session will be as at present - 1.30 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.	381
19 Nov 1940	From today until Feb: 15th 1941, the Morning session time table will be as follows. 9.30 to 9.35 - Registration & opening prayers to 10.5 - Religious instruction & registers closed to 10.20 Physical Training to 11.5 Arithmetic to 11.15 Recreation to 12.5 M. W. & F. Geography & English. Tu & Th History & English	381/382
10 Dec 1940	School Nurse called	382
18 Dec 1940	Official from Education Office called to examine condition of distemper, paint etc.	382
18/12/1840	Received notice by telegram of Medical Inspection to be held on Friday morning.	382
20 Dec 1940	Medical Inspection this morning - Dr. C. Morrison Smith	382

⁶ Scabies, previously known as the seven-year itch, is a contagious skin infestation caused by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*

Date	Entry	Page
	School closed this morning for Christmas.	
06 Jan 1941	School re-opened this morning. One child Ruth Duffield has contracted scarlet fever during the holiday - her brother is therefore excluded for a week - also D [<i>Daphne</i>] & S [<i>Stuart</i>] Crisp & M [<i>Michael</i>] & C [<i>Christopher</i>] Gowing - who are also contacts.	382
09 Jan 1941	The Orthopaedic Nurse called this morning.	382
23 Jan 1941	A. E. J. Cooke Esq C.I. Called this afternoon.	382
11 Feb 1941	Gas Masks inspected this afternoon.	382
17 Feb 1941	Morning session commced at 9 o'clock this morning.	382
04 Mar 1941	The Junior County Scholarship Examination is being held in Long Stratton tomorrow, Wed March 5th. This school will be closed.	382/383
06 Mar 1941	School re-opened this morning. One ton of coal delivered yesterday. School nurse called this morning. Found three members of one family - Tunmores - were suffering from scabies. A fourth member of the same family was absent - bilious.	383
13 Mar 1941	Terrence Hicks arrived at school this afternoon after registers were closed, consequently had been marked absent.	383
24 Mar 1941	Examined Registers and found them correct. J. Clegg	383
03 Apr 1941	Frances & Robert Thorpe arrived this morning after registers were closed, having been to Dr. Owen's surgery at Long Stratton to be inoculated.	383
06 Apr 1941	Kenneth Sheed, an evacuee, has returned to London.	383
21 Apr 1941	School closed this afternoon for Easter.	383
21 Apr 1941	Re-opened school this morning. Gwendoline Hardesty & Kathleen Thorpe both over 14½ years have left & Sydney Kettle has returned to Norwich. Admitted Joan Wade & Gwendoline Riches, and one evacuee, Thomas O'Neill.	383/384
12 May 1941	Admitted 5 evacuees.	384
22 May 1941	Ascension Day - Children attended Church Service this morning & then went home.	384
26 May 1941	Found note left by piano tuner to say he had tuned piano & cleaned keyboard on Friday, 23rd inst, after school hours.	384
29 May 1941	The Wright family (3) & Terence Hicks arrived at school this morning at 9.50 a.m. After registers were closed. Gave excuse that clock stopped.	384

Date	Entry	Page
30 May 1941	School closed for Whitsun - 11 meetings.	384
09 Jun 1941	School re-opened this morning.	384
23 Jun 1941	Mr Nixon, School Dentist, visited school this afternoon, to carry out dental inspection.	384
23 Jun 1941	Children wore their gas-masks for ten minutes this afternoon.	384
03 Jul 1941	Scripture Examination - no registers marked - holiday in afternoon.	384
07 Jul 1941	Dentist visited for treatment.	384
10 Jul 1941	Received report of Script Examination	384
10 Jul 1941	<p>Copy of Report of Religious Instruction</p> <p>The opening prayers were reverently said & the singing was tuneful. The Head Teacher shewed imagination in teaching the scholars a chant to the Venite⁷, & I suggest that the practice might be extended to include other canticles (for example the Benedictus⁸). This would be a help to the children in their Sunday worship.</p> <p>The lower school knew their New Testament stories, & in her instruction the teacher introduced some useful practical lessons. Care should be taken that the scholars in all departments know the meaning of uncommon words, & some of the Old Testament stories ought to be known by the smaller children.</p> <p>All departments were good in the matter of the repetition of the Church Catechism & they responded well to the Inspector's questions as to interpretation.</p> <p>There was a little confusion in the minds of some of the smaller children as to the Greater Festivals of the Church, and the events of Christmas Day, Ascension Day & Whitsun should be known.</p> <p>There was a quiet atmosphere about the school & the tone & discipline were good.</p> <p>Signed - H. W. St. Leger Chambers Diocesan Inspector of Schools.</p>	385/386
11 Jul 1941	The Orthopaedic Nurse called this afternoon to see Winifred Semmens. Was very pleased with the improvement in her	386

⁷ Psalm 95 used as a canticle in Christian liturgy, chiefly at matins. Latin, literally 'come ye', the first word of the psalm.

⁸ The Benedictus was the song of thanksgiving uttered by Zechariah on the occasion of the circumcision of his son, John the Baptist. The canticle received its name from its first words in Latin (Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel")

Date	Entry	Page
	walking.	
15 Jul 1941	The Wright family (evacuees) arrived this afternoon after registers were closed, so had been marked absent.	386
21 Jul 1941	School Nurse called this morning, and examined all children present 33 + 7 evacuees. Two girls - Ruby & Eva Tunmore sent home suffering from scabies. Tested Registers & found them correct. J. Clegg (Chairman of managers)	386/387
23 Jul 1941	Dr. S. Owen Edwards called this afternoon & saw Dorothy & Frances Thorpe, Margaret Brookes, Winnie Semmens, the Wright family, Terence Hicks & Derek Denne	387
01 Aug 1941	School closes this afternoon for five weeks.	387
08 Sep 1941	Re-opened school this morning - six children absent with sores on face - suspect impetigo ⁹ .	387
--/09/1941	School nurse called & saw all children with sores & spots on their hands etc.	387
22 Sep 1941	Percy & Basil Tunmore returned to school this morning, but I sent Percy T home again, as he had a sore place (impetigo?) on his neck, uncovered & running. The Wright family (evacuees) did not return to school after the summer holiday. I hear that they have left the parish & gone hop picking. The School Nurse called re' children suffering from sores.	387/388
24 Sep 1941	I examined all children this morning for sores, & open wounds - put elastoplast covering on five sores, & three places where skin was broken.	388
25 Sep 1941	I examined all children present this morning. Found one boy with an uncovered running sore & put an elastoplast dressing on it. School nurse called this morning & examined all children, especially for sores.	388
29 Sep 1941	School nurse called this morning, & saw all children - 27 present & 2 evacuees.	388
14 Oct 1941	Admitted Kathleen, Frank & John Whymark, & Violet & William Kent, evacuees, who have been living in Chestnut Loke, Hempnall, & attending Tasburgh School. They are at present living in Blake's House, Tharston.	389
17 Oct 1941	Sent Violet & William Kent home, as I considered their heads were in such a condition as to make them a certain source of infection for the other children.	389

⁹ Impetigo is a skin infection that's very contagious, but not usually serious.

Date	Entry	Page
20 Oct 1941	School Nurse called this morning & examined all children - excluded the Kent family for a week.	389
13 Nov 1941	Medical Inspection by Dr. S. O. Edwards.	389
17 Nov 1941	Morning session - 9.30 a.m. - 12.5 p.m. Time table re-arranged as last year - details on pages 381 and 382 of this book.	389
04 Dec 1941	Examined School Registers & found them correct. J. Clegg (Manager)	389
08 Dec 1941	School Nurse called this morning.	389
19 Dec 1941	School closed this morning for Christmas. 21 meetings.	389
05 Jan 1942	School re-opened this morning. All children present. One boy, John Leist, not returned from visit, but is attending Weybread school. One ton of coal delivered.	390
15 Jan 1942	School Nurse called this morning.	390
28 Jan 1942	I was absent from school yesterday, the 27th inst., suffering from the effects of a fall.	390
04 Feb 1942	School nurse visited.	390
06 Feb 1942	Patricia, Wendy & Gwendoline Riches were fetched this afternoon to be taken to Pulham Infirmary for treatment for scabies. I was ignorant of the fact that they were suffering from that complaint, otherwise I should have excluded them, pending instructions from the School Medical Officer. According to the messenger the doctor in attendance has said to the mother that the children had the complaint "slightly, & might as well go to school."	390
20 Feb 1942	Orthopaedic nurse called.	390
26 Feb 1942	Piano tuned.	390
02 Mar 1942	Gas masks inspected & tested. I was absent from school on Friday, Feb: 27th - bronchitis.	390/391
05 Mar 1942	School will be closed tomorrow, Friday, March 6th - Junior County Scholarship - 4 Candidates sitting at Long Stratton.	391
09 Mar 1942	School re-open this morning as usual.	391
12 Mar 1942	Dentist visited this afternoon to complete inspection of children absent at last inspection.	391
18 Mar 1942	School Nurse visited & inspected all children present.	391
24 Mar 1942	Miss Parfitt absent today - illness - Tuesday.	391
27 Mar 1942	Examined Registers and found them correct. J. Clegg (Chairman)	391
30 Mar 1942	Miss Parfitt returned today - Monday.	391

Date	Entry	Page
01 Apr 1942	School closed this afternoon for Easter - 14 meetings. A Committee of five senior scholars arranged a short entertainment which was given this afternoon to an audience of about twenty five mothers & friends. A collection, amounting to £1..0..6 was taken for the Children's Gift to the Overseas League Tobacco Fund.	391
13 Apr 1942	School re-opened this morning. Two children absent suffering from mumps. One girl left, aged 14 years 1 month, & 1 boy, who is away visiting. One boy re-admitted on return from a visit, & three under fives, Stuart Aldridge, Valerie Howell, & an evacuee, James Kent.	392
20 Apr 1942	The School Dentist has been here today - thirteen children have had their teeth attended to.	392
06 May 1942	I was absent from school yesterday - illness. School nurse visited yesterday.	392
11 May 1942	Admitted nine children this morning - all visitors from Norwich - staying with friends in the village (5 official evacuees 4 private evacuees)	392
12 May 1942	Admitted 1 boy, evacuee (not official) from Norwich	392
14 May 1942	Ascension Day - all children attended Church Service & then went home.	392
15 May 1942	Admitted 1 boy, Norman Hawes, from Crook's Place, Norwich.	392
22 May 1942	School closed this morning for Whitsun - 11 meetings.	392
01 Jun 1942	School re-opened this morning - four Norwich evacuees have returned home.	392/393
01 Jun 1942	The Orthopaedic nurse called this afternoon. Re-admitted Bernard Leist who has been away from home, visiting relations. Admitted Gerald Lance Knivett, who will be five on August 22nd.	393
05 Jun 1942	Library Van called today & books were exchanged. Miss Burnett C.I. Called today.	393
10 Jun 1942	School Nurse called today.	393
12 Jun 1942	Received notice of Examination in Religious Knowledge to be held on Tuesday, July 7th.	393
25 Jun 1942	Examined Registers; found them correct John Clegg (Chairman)	393
26 May 1942	School Nurse visited this morning.	393
30 Jun 1942	I shall be absent from the school this afternoon, with the	393

Date	Entry	Page
	consent of the Managers, to attend a Tribunal in Norwich.	
02 Jul 1942	Charles Hardesty & Derek Bowman have each been awarded a free place at Diss Secondary School.	393
07 Jul 1942	Examination in Religious Knowledge - registers not marked, & holiday in the afternoon.	394
15 Jul 1942	Copy of Report on Religious Instruction Examination held on July 7th 1942. I got the impression on the morning of the Inspection that the subjects covered by the syllabus were being faithfully being taught. Young as they were, one or two of the children in the class of the Assistant Teacher were able to say the Creed. The Catechism takes on an increasing importance as the children move up through the school and, on the whole, there was a good knowledge of its text. Once again, however, there was a confusion in the minds of both classes as to the events of the Great Festivals (Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Day, Ascension Day.) School was reverently opened, & I enjoyed the singing of the hymns and canticles. The correspondent was, this year, not well enough to visit the school during the religious inspection. He kindly sent a message to say so. H. W. St. Leger Chambers. Diocesan Inspector.	394/395
20 Jul 1942	Miss Newberry, County Librarian, called this afternoon.	395
21 Jul 1942	School Nurse visited this morning.	395
31 Jul 1942	School closed this afternoon for Bank Holiday.	395
04 Aug 1942	School re-opened this morning.	395
07 Aug 1942	School closes this afternoon for Harvest.	395
14 Sep 1942	School re-opened this morning Admitted Philip & Eric Scott, who are lodging in the village - & David & Bridget Curry, visitors.	395
21 Sep 1942	Philip & Eric Scott have left the village, supposed to be gone to Bunwell. David & Bridget Curry have returned home.	395
22 Sep 1942	Winifred Semmens arrived this morning after the Registers were closed, consequently had been marked absent.	395/396
30 Sep 1942	A very wet morning. Attendance 13/21; 10;18; 3;8. One family, Patricia, Wendy & Gwendoline Riches, did not leave home until the weather improved, & arrived at school about 10.15 a.m., therefore had been marked absent.	396
01 Oct 1942	The Orthopaedic Nurse called this morning, & saw Winifred Semmens & Patricia Riches.	396

Date	Entry	Page
02 Oct 1942	School Nurse call this morning & saw all children - 34 present.	396
12 Oct 1942	Gas-masks examined and tested. Children walked on the meadow for five minutes wearing them.	396
15 Oct 1942	Patricia Riches was withdrawn from instruction at 11 a.m. - attendance was cancelled.	396
21 Oct 1942	Examined Registers: found them correct J. Clegg	396
30 Oct 1942	Mrs. Derbyshire Bowles spoke to the Seniors this morning on Gas etc. from 11 - 12 a.m.	396
06 Nov 1942	Mrs. Derbyshire Bowles gave the second gas lecture this morning from 11 - 12 a.m.	396/397
02 Dec 1942	Visit of school dentist for inspection.	397
03 Dec 1942	Visit of school nurse, to examine all heads, as I had received complaints from 3 families, that members had become infected. The Kent family were excluded.	397
10 Dec 1942	School nurse visited - Violet Kent again excluded, but two boys are now clean.	397
17 Dec 1942	School nurse visited - Violet Kent not at school - nurse will visit her at home.	397
23 Dec 1942	School closes this after for Christmas - to re-open on Monday, Jan: 11 - 24 meetings.	397
11 Jan 1943	School re-opened this morning, the Kent family, 3, have returned to London. Dorothy Thorpe has left being 14 years. No. On books now 35 + 2 evacuees. (Norwich.)	397
25 Jan 1943	School nurse called this afternoon, & and saw all children present.	397
29 Jan 1943	I was absent from school on Wednesday & Thursday, the 27th & 28 inst - illness. The dentist visited and treated children yesterday, the 28th inst. Piano tuned yesterday, the 28th inst.	398
01 Feb 1943	Miss Parfitt absent today - illness, (Monday	398
08 Feb 1943	Miss Parfitt returned today (Monday	398
16 Feb 1943	School dentist called, but as children had received treatment as recently as Jan: 28th - he did not examine.	398
01 Mar 1943	Morning session 9.a.m to 12 noon, commencing today. Mr. Wilkinson, C. Organiser of Physical Training visited this afternoon.	398
04 Mar 1943	School Nurse called this morning & inspected all children - present 31 + 2 evacuees.	398

Date	Entry	Page
	School will be closed all day tomorrow, Friday, March 5th, for the examination for special places in Secondary Schools. 3 candidates from this school are sitting at Long Stratton.	
08 Mar 1943	Tested Registers and found them correct J. Clegg School re-opened this morning at 9 a.m.	398
01 Apr 1943	Library called at 12 o'clock. Medical Inspection this afternoon - Dr. E. G. Rose.	399
12 Apr 1943	Monday - Miss Parfitt absent - her mother ill.	399
13 Apr 1943	Dr. Owens called this afternoon, & treated children - immunisation against diphtheria.	399
14 Apr 1943	School Nurse called this morning.	399
16 Apr 1943	Mrs Duffield has taken temporary charge of the Infants, during Miss Parfitt's absence.	399
20 Apr 1943	A few parents & friends visited this afternoon for a short concert of school songs. A collection (12/6) was taken for the Overseas Tobacco Fund. Mrs Duffield resigned charge of the Infants today.	399
21 Apr 1943	Miss Parfitt returned today - Wednesday. School closed this afternoon for Easter - 14 meetings.	399
03 May 1943	School re-opened this morning. Admitted six infants. One boy Percy Tunmore, left 14 years.	399
10 May 1943	Dr. J. Owens called this afternoon, to give the second inoculation against diphtheria.	399/400
14 May 1943	School Nurse called this morning.	400
17 May 1943	Last Friday evening the children with the help of Miss Parfitt, gave a short entertainment to their parents & a few friends. A collection, amounting to £2 " " was taken for the Empire Day Overseas Tobacco Fund.	400
19 May 1943	The gas van was in attendance at the school this morning. All the children had their gas masks inspected & 37 children & 3 adults went through the van.	400
26 May 1943	As a result of the Special Place Examination held last March, Michael Duffield has been awarded a special place at Diss Secondary School.	400
28 May 1943	The School Nurse called this morning. Two families were excluded until Wednesday, June 2nd for dirty heads. They were sent home at morning break & their marks cancelled.	400
02 Jun 1943	School Nurse visited & saw all children present.	401
03 Jun 1943	Ascension Day - all children attended service in church & then went home.	401

Date	Entry	Page
07 Jun 1943	School Nurse called this morning.	401
11 Jun 1943	School closes this afternoon for Whitsun. 4 meetings.	401
02 Jul 1943	Examination in Religious Knowledge registers not marked - holiday - afternoon session. School closed for Fruit Picking - 10 meetings.	401
13 Jul 1943	School re-opened yesterday morning. I was absent yesterday, suffering from Bronchial cold. Copy of report on Religious Instruction. "There appeared to be some exceptionally bright children in the junior section of the school, & I was glad to find that the little ones were able to link up the main facts of our Lord's life as outlined in the Creed with the outstanding days of the Church's year. They did themselves and their teacher credit. There was some hesitancy about some answers in the upper section of the school, but in the main, the scholars were familiar and at ease with the parts of the syllabus which had been covered in Old & New Testament, and the church catechism. I enjoyed the sense of fun which I found in the Head Teacher's class, & the friendly disposition of the children. Some certificates of merit were awarded. J. Clegg Signed - H. W. St. Leger Chambers. Diocesan Inspector	401/402
15 Jul 1943	School Nurse called this morning.	402
16 Jul 1943	Children warned against anti-personnel bombs.	402
20 Jul 1943	To avoid petrol rationing difficulties I have received permission from the Director of Education for the morning session to begin at 9.15 a.m. & end at 12.15 pm; & the afternoon session from 1.45 p.m. to 4 p.m.	402/403
23 Jul 1943	Examined Registers & found them correct C. Clegg (Chairman)	403
30 Jul 1943	The school closes this afternoon for the Harvest Holiday - 50 meetings. The Rev: J. Clegg is acting as umpire this afternoon in a cricket match for the boys. The usual races etc., in connection with the Physical Training were held early this morning before it became too hot for the smaller children.	403
06 Sep 1943	School re-opened this morning. Michael Duffield has left to attend Edward VI Grammar School; Ruth Duffield to attend Notre Dame High School, & Stuart Crisp to attend Bungay Grammar School. The Whymark family has removed to Harleston.	403/404

Date	Entry	Page
	Gave a talk, again warning children against anti-personnel bombs.	
09 Sep 1943	School Nurse called this morning, & examined all children. 30 present - 5 girls at cookery - 1 absent.	404
17 Sep 1943	I returned to school this morning, having been absent for three days, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - suffering from Bronchial cough & "clergyman's throat".	404
20 Oct 1943	School Nurse called this morning & saw all children present 32 + 2 evacuees	404
27 Oct 1943	Miss Burnett called this morning.	404
02 Nov 1943	School Nurse called this morning.	404
15 Nov 1943	From today until Feb: 25th 1944 morning session 9-30 am to 12.5 p.m; afternoon session 1-30 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.	404
17 Nov 1943	Owing to an accident to my dentures I was unable to be at school yesterday, Nov: 16th. This morning I find that my assistant was taken ill & also unable to attend yesterday. The children therefore returned home and the school closed for the day. Miss Parfitt is also absent today.	404/405
22 Nov 1943	School Nurse called this morning & examined all children present.	405
29 Nov 1943	Miss Parfitt returned to school today.	405
14 Dec 1943	½ ton of coal delivered - Thomas Moy Ltd. Forncett Depot.	405
22 Dec 1943	Examined School Registers - correct - J. Clegg	405
11 Jan 1944	½ ton of coal delivered - Thomas Moy - Forncett Depot.	405
01 Feb 1944	School Nurse called & inspected all heads.	405
07 Feb 1944	Received 1 ton coal - Moy's - Forncett Depot.	405
14 Feb 1944	I returned to school this morning, having been absent since Wednesday Feb: 9th through illness.	405
25 Feb 1944	School Nurse called this morning.	405
29 Feb 1944	Received a supply of bandages, borasic lint & adhesive plaster from the Medical Department, Thorpe Road.	405
02 Mar 1944	School will be closed tomorrow for the Examination for Special Places. Two candidates are sitting at Long Stratton.	406
17 Mar 1944	Checked Register & found them correct J. Clegg	406
20 Mar 1944	Received one cricket & ball from the Office. Received two registers Invoice 1882 16/3/44. Jarrold & Sons.	406
29 Feb 1944	School Nurse called this morning.	406
30 Mar 1944	One ton of coal delivered - Thomas Moy Ltd. - Forncett Depot.	406

Tharston School Log Book for 1939 to 1945

Date	Entry	Page
05 Apr 1944	School closed this afternoon for Easter 14 meetings.	406
17 Apr 1944	School re-opened this morning. Admitted one boy - Colin Riches - perfect attendance.	406
12 May 1944	I returned to school this morning after three days' absence, due to a severe bronchial cough.	406
22 May 1944	One ton of coal delivered - Thomas Moy Ltd. - Forncett Depot.	406
23 May 1944	School Nurse called this morning.	406
18 May 1944	Ascension Day - children attended service and then went home.	406/407
26 May 1944	School closed this afternoon for Whitsun - 4 meetings	407
01 Jun 1944	School re-opened yesterday - I was absent attending funeral of near relative.	407
16 Jun 1944	Received notice that the Examination in Religious Knowledge will be held on Monday, July 3rd at 9.45 a.m.	407
03 Jul 1944	Scripture Examination - registers not marked - school closed in the afternoon.	407
04 Jul 1944	Medical Examination - afternoon session - Dr. E. V. Rose.	407
07 Jul 1944	Nurse visited - general inspection of school. School closed this afternoon for currant picking - 10 meetings.	407
17 Jul 1944	School re-opened this morning. Copy of report on Religious Instruction. "The school did creditably on the morning of the Inspection & the Head Teacher & her Assistant spare no pains to make the teaching of Religious Subjects interesting to the children. Quite wisely, I think, the staff does not attempt to cover too wide a field in too short a time but to teach well & thoroughly limited portions of the syllabus. The singing with which we began the morning was good & seemed to be enjoyed by the children. Attention is drawn to the many Biblical passages memorising in the syllabus."	407/408
26 Jul 1944	Dentist called - afternoon session - & examined all children's teeth. Peggy Tunmore absent.	408
31 Jul 1944	Visit of dentist to give treatment. Admitted five evacuees - Sylvia & Valerie Stigand, James, Doris & William Parsons, all from the West Ham L.E.A.	408
04 Aug 1944	School closed this afternoon for Harvest - 50 meetings. The	408/409

Date	Entry	Page
	children had their sports this morning, & almost every child entered for the wild flower competition. The exhibits were judged by Miss Clegg, who also judged the writing & plasticene modelling exhibits.	
11 Sep 1944	School re-opened this morning. Admitted Dawn Knivett & Sylvia Blott. Also admitted Thelma & Michael Rell- evacuated from Romford & Heather Hurst, also from Romford.	409
13 Sep 1944	School Nurse visited this morning & examined all children. She left 10 jars of maltoline ¹⁰ for Patricia & Alan Riches to take in school, & three families, (2 Tunmores and Brookes) bought a supply of virol ¹¹ .	409
15 Sep 1944	I was absent from school yesterday, suffering from a severe cold.	409
03 Oct 1944	Library Van called today, & books exchanged.	409
25 Oct 1944	School Nurse called this morning. A supply of virol was bought by the Tunmores & G. Brookes.	409
13 Nov 1944	From today until Monday, Feb: 23rd. Morning session will begin at 9.30 & close at 12.5 p.m; afternoon session from 1.20 3.45 p.m.	409/410
17 Nov 1944	Workmen have been fixing wire netting over all the windows, glass in doors etc. today.	410
05 Dec 1944	15 cwts ¹² coal delivered - Thomas Moy Ltd. Forncett Depot. School nurse called this morning 36 present + 3 evacuees. W. Semmens, G. Brooks & the Tunmore family had a further supply of Virol.	410
14 Dec 1944	Examined & signed Registers of Attendance J. Clegg Chairman	410
22 Dec 1944	School closes this morning for Christmas 21 meetings. The children have received invitations to a party at Tibenham aerodrome this afternoon.	410
08 Jan 1945	School re-opened this morning.	410
09 Jan 1945	A heavy fall of snow during the night - attendance poor - seniors 11/19. infants 7/17. evacuees 5/6. 54.7%	410
12 Jan 1945	The weather has been very severe this week, & some of the by-roads almost impassable for children unprovided with	410/411

¹⁰ Doctors often recommend Maltoline for children. especially in winter, rich in vitamin D and an excellent tonic

¹¹ Virol was a concentrated food of high nutritional value. Constituents of Virol include malt extract, refined beef fat, maltose, sugar, malto-dextrins, glucose, fructose, egg, orange juice, salt, flavourings, and added vitamins and minerals.

¹² Abbr: hundredweight - a imperial unit of measurement for weight, twentieth of a ton - equivalent to 50.8 kilograms

Date	Entry	Page
	<p>wellingtons. Attendance has been very poor - Tuesday - Jan: 9th. Seniors 11 & 12; Inf 7 & 7 : Totals 18 : 19 Wed: " 10th. " 12 & 13 ; 9 & 9 21 : 22 Thurs. " 11th. " 12 & 13 ; 10 & 10; 22 : 22 Friday " 12th. " 11 & 11; 8 & 8; 19 : 19 % for week 61.6 Entrance Form for Junior C. Scholarship completed and sent to Office. Miss Parfitt has been absent since Wednesday, Jan: 10th.</p>	
22 Jan 1945	1 ton coal delivered - Thomas Moy Ltd. Forncett Depot.	411
25 Jan 1945	<p>School Nurse called - left 15 bts. maltoline. Miss Parfitt returned this morning.</p>	
11 Feb 1945	<p>School was closed yesterday as, owing to the heavy snowfall, neither Head nor Assistant teacher could get to school. Yesterday's (Jan: 31st) attendances will be disregarded, as they were below 50% - being 17/36 & 16/36 respectively. This was due to rainfall, & floods following heavy snowfall of previous day. (Par: 15 (1) Admin: Memorandum No. 51.)</p>	411/412
26 Feb 1945	School opens this morning at 9-15 a.m. Morning session ends at 12-15 p.m. & afternoon session lasts from 1-45 to 4pm.	412
01 Mar 1945	School will be closed tomorrow, Friday, March 2nd. For the Norfolk Secondary Schools Examination. 2 candidates from this school are sitting at Long Stratton.	412
09 Mar 1945	1 ton coal delivered - T. Moy Ltd. Forncett Depot	412
28 Mar 1945	School closed this afternoon for Easter - 14 meetings.	412
09 Apr 1945	School re-opened this morning - Jessie Thorndyke has left - 14 years - to start work in her father's tent & cover making factory - admitted Barry Hawes.	412
19 Apr 1945	I returned to school today - Thursday having been absent since Monday, the 16th. Suffering from a bronchial cough.	412/413
25 Apr 1945	Patricia Riches arrived at school this morning after registers were closed & therefore had been marked absent.	413
07 May 1945	I returned to school today, having been absent from Wednesday, May 2nd to Friday, May 4th. 3 days. Suffering from bronchitis. I find that the school was not open on Wednesday, May 2nd, as the assistant teacher was unable to cycle owing to the inclement weather.	413
10 May 1945	School was closed on Tuesday & Wednesday, May 8th &	413

Date	Entry	Page
	<p>9th, VE day & the following day having been declared a public holiday. Today being Ascension Day, the children attended a Church Service in the morning & then returned home.</p>	
18 May 1945	School closes this morning for Whitsun - 11 meetings.	413
28 May 1945	School re-opened this morning - admitted Betty Wade - Graham Knights has returned to Norwich.	413
14 Jun 1945	Received stock from Jarrolds - checked & entered in Stock Book.	413/414
15 Jun 1945	Checked all Registers - correct J. Clegg (Chairman)	414
02 Jul 1945	Library Van called & books changed.	414
04 Jul 1945	The school will be closed tomorrow, as the building is being used as a Polling Station for the Parliamentary Election.	414
06 Jul 1945	Examination in Religious Knowledge - registers not marked morning session - school closed afternoon session.	414
09 Jul 1945	School re-opened this morning.	414
12 Jul 1945	<p>School nurse visited. One ton of coal delivered - T. Moy Ltd. Forncett Depot.</p>	414
25 Jul 1945	<p>Copy of Report on Religious Instruction - July 6th. 1945. The number in attendance, I found, were much the same as last year. The small children knew well the main outlines of our Lord's earthly life & some of them, young as they were, were able to recite their creed to me. In the Head Teacher's classes the parts of the syllabus she had covered were all well known to the scholars, & I seemed to see that she had been able to inter-relate her teaching of the Gospels & the Church Catechism which is always most desirable. In the singing I was pleased to note that she was helping the children to know more than one of the Psalms which is an example to be followed in other schools. H. W. St. Leger Chambers. Diocesan Inspector.</p>	414/415
02 Aug 1945	School closes this morning for Harvest - 63 meetings.	415
17 Sep 1945	School re-opened this morning - 3 children have left - admitted Derek Riches, & Harold & Joyce Philpott, removed here from Hapton.	416
04 Oct 1945	School Nurse called this morning, & examined all children - 32 present.	416
08 Oct 1945	Medical Examination this morning - Dr. M. V. Rose.	416

Tharston School Log Book for 1939 to 1945

Date	Entry	Page
19 Oct 1945	I was absent from school on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday of this week, returning to duty this morning, Friday 19th. I have had a severe bronchial cough.	416
22 Oct 1945	Mrs Woods (nee Parfitt) is absent today (Monday).	416
25 Oct 1945	Mrs. Woods returned to duty today (Thursday.)	416
30 Oct 1945	School Nurse called - left 14 bottles maltoline for following children - Eva, Ivy & Pamela Tunmore, Jasmine Howell, Kenneth George, Gordon Brooks, Peter Snowling.	416
31 Oct 1945	School closes this afternoon until Wednesday, Nov: 7th - 4 sessions half term & 4 sessions V.J. Holiday.	416/417
07 Nov 1945	School re-opened this morning. From today until Feb: 28th the school hours will be as follows - morning session 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Afternoon " 1.15 p.m. To 3.30 p.m.	417
12 Nov 1945	School Nurse called & examined all children.	417
15 Nov 1945	Miss Parker - Assistant Education Officer called this afternoon.	417
30 Nov 1945	Library Van called this morning to exchange books. Raymond Wade was withdrawn during morning session, & mark was cancelled.	417
13 Dec 1945	Examined Registers - correct J. Clegg (Chairman)	417
18 Dec 1945	Parents & friends visited the school this afternoon when Mrs. Woods was presented with an 8 day clock on the occasion of her marriage, & of her leaving the school.	417
19 Dec 1945	School closed this afternoon for Xmas - 34 meetings.	417

Notes:

- 1 Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the transcription is correct, as with all human actions there may well be some differences in interpretation, and not all handwritten text is easily readable.
- 2 The transcription is of the text as it is in the log book. No attempt has been made to correct spelling, grammar or punctuation; although in a few cases the text has been made 'readable'.
- 3 Notes in the text, items which have been added to give more information, have been garnered from a variety of sources and should always be taken as opinion rather than fact.
- 4 There are some items in the notes which have been the result of conversations with people alive at the time when this extract was written. Many thanks go to them for their help in bringing this more to life.

Example report of a School Managers' Meeting:

17th February 1940

A meeting of the managers was held at the vicarage on Tuesday 27th Feb 1940 present Rev. J. Clegg, chairman, Messrs C. Barnes, H. Duffield, W.S. Gowing & C. J. Dye. The minutes of the last meeting were read & passed.

With regard to the store in the infants' room, the correspondent said he would get in touch with the N. E. C. again to ascertain what they would do on the matter. Mr. Button's bill for various repairs was next gone into & passed for presentation to the N. E. C. The correspondent was asked to forward the bill for repairs to the folding partition, amounting to £2. 2. 3. to the Education Committee, with a letter requesting their help as far as possible to meet it, & explaining our poor financial position.

Rules & conditions for the forthcoming Examinations for the County Scholarships were next discussed & the chairman said only 1 child from the school was sitting.

The annual scripture report was then read, & it was unanimously agreed that it was very satisfactory.

John Clegg
(Chairman)



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