

A HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN LEVEN

by

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"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he k old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs. 22.6.

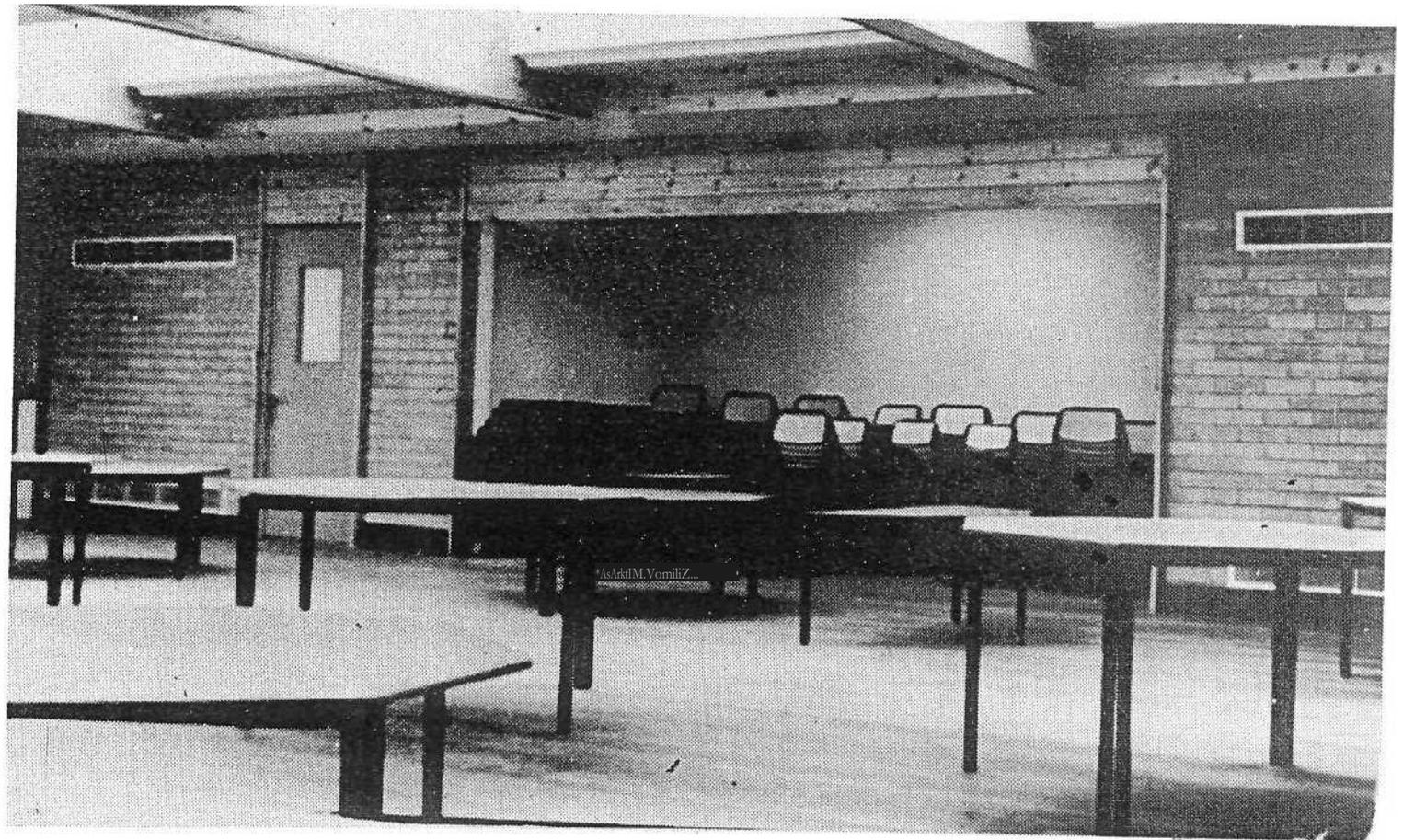
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BEVERLEY

## INTRODUCTION

This research was prompted by seeing the date and inscription (see page 15) over one of the school porch doors. It is an attempt to make available a brief account of the history of education in Leven from the 19th Century up to the present day. Several gaps still remain but it is hoped that even these will be filled with the passage of time.

Thanks are expressed by the author to the staff of both the Beverley and Hull Public Libraries and also the Hull University Library, to the National Society, to the last Rector of Leven, the Rev. Canon J. W. Lamb, to Mr. A. Assert, and to the Headmaster, Mr. P. Theasby.



Assembly Hall and Dining Area

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## LIST OF SOURCE MATERIAL

## CHAPTER ONE

### LEVEN NATIONAL SCHOOL to 1865

The early history of education in Leven is somewhat obscure. There are few documents available which help to build up a complete picture of schooling before 1866.

Archbishop Herring's Returns from parishes in 1743 have an entry for Leven saying "we have no school in the parish". However the 1906 Return of Schools to the Board of Education states "the school itself appears to have been built between 1796 and 1812 on the waste or on the highway and has since been enlarged or rebuilt." These two dates are significant because 1796 was the year of the Leven Enclosure Act and in 1812 there is a deed dated the 24th April <sup>1</sup> in which 1 rood 24 perches of land was given "for the sole exclusive use, benefit, and occupation of the schoolmaster of the school house adjoining the said prerhises", i.e. the land. The land was given by Marmaduke Constable of Wassand. 1796 was the year when the strips of farmland scattered about in North Field, South Field, Bowlam's Hotham Carr et., were re- allocated in single blocks to the owners and the shape of the fields afterWards has remained more or less the same to this day. It is interesting to note that in the Award no mention is made of a school so presumably one didn't exist then. However, the 1812 deed gives land for the benefit of an already existing school. Canon George Wray, Rector of Leven 100 years ago writes, "a school was built first, later a house was attached. It is on the highway to Hornsea. How the money was raised we do not know. Mr, Constable bought a triangular piece of land, now a garden and orchard, to stop a road being made in front of the school premises." <sup>2</sup>

This gift of land by Marmaduke Constable is, confirmed by the National Society, a Church Society providing schools for the education of the poor. <sup>3</sup> In a return of 1833 the Leven Rector, Rev, G. Sampson refers to the school being endowed with about rood of land left by the late Marmaduke Constable of Wassand. He also commented that several of the

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1. Court Rolls of Leven
  2. Canon Wray's note book 1864
  3. Letter July 1966

4.

poorer classes desirous of having their children instructed were unable to afford the means. A map of Leven drawn up by Page Spencer of Beverley on 27th July 1854 for Richard Bethell <sup>4</sup> shows this land as Lot 258 amounting to 1 rood 2 perches, Thus it must be seen that the first school in Leven was built between 1796 and 1812, on the site of the present cafe in High Stile.

Little is known about the school building, except that in March 1871 it is mentioned that the walls were so low they would not take a decent map<sup>5</sup> The fees for this first Leven school were raised on April 21st 1871 as follows:

1.	over 8 years old	3d a week
2.	under 8 years old	2d a week
3.	above 14	4d a week

Where there are 2 children in one family above 8 years of age, the first child to pay 3d a week, the second 2d a week,.

Where three children in a family, two above 8 years old, the First 3d, the second 2d, and the one under 8 years old id a week.

In 1833 28 boys and 28 girls were taught at this school <sup>6</sup> at the expense of their parents. There was, in addition, a Sunday School, where about 20 children were taught gratuitously, Thirteen years later, in 1846, there was a day and a Sunday School held in one schoolroom, with a teacher's house. 30 boys and 23 girls attended on weekdays and on Sundays, with an extra 6 boys and 3 girls on weekdays only. The salaries of the master and mistress jointly were £42 and the maintenance of the school was estimated at £45 annually. These were raised by subscription and children's pence.

The Master's name in 1823 was John Stevenson <sup>7</sup> and in 1851 George Darbyshire was the Master.

## CHAPTER TWO

### OTHER LEVEN SCHOOLS BEFORE 1866

In addition to the Leven National School, there were two others prior to the Girls' School being built in 1866.

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4. Hull Univ. Manuscripts Room. 5. Log Book 1868-1891. Leven Boys  
60 1833 Schools Enquiry. p 125

7. 1823 Baines Gazetteer, Volume 2, p,362, 8, 1858 Wm White GazettP'er,  
p.406

A Mrs Hannah Dunn had a Dame School before 1870 in a barn at High Stile.,<sup>9</sup> When the girls' school was opened in 1866 the Dame School probably declined and this would cause the school to close down. Her name appears in the records of the Girls School as a monitor in 1870..<sup>10</sup> An 1861 Government Committee reported that some Dame Schools were good but most were very bad, held in unsuitable places where children tumbled over one another like puppies in a kennel.

The other school, believed to have existed, was a British School. Such schools were sponsored by the Nonconformist Churches and as the Leven Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, erected 1816, was extended in 1835<sup>11</sup> it is quite likely that the British School started about then. Local opinion suggests a house in East Street, adjoining Northfield House, was the school-room. The master there 100 years ago was Mr. Wm, Blair, On 27th November 1866 "H.M. Inspector Joshua Fitch visited the above school and examined all the children according to the requirements of the revised code."<sup>12</sup> Mr, Fitch was "perfectly satisfied with the discipline, organisation and attainments of the children and has subsequently recommended the Master, Mr. Blair, receive his parchment certificate."<sup>13</sup> The British School closed due to lack of pupils in May 1871 and 10 pupils were admitted on 26th May of that year to the National Boys' School in Leven.<sup>14</sup> However it re-opened on June 9th the same year under Mr. W. Foster.<sup>15</sup>

Mr. Blair of the British School was quite active in local affairs. His Wesleyan connections are evident on February 1st 1866 when he visited Skirlaugh Wesleyan Chapel to give a lecture on "The life and times of Oliver Cromwell".<sup>16</sup> Shortly afterwards he took part in a Penny Reading session at Brandesburton Girls' School.<sup>17</sup> He was secretary of the Leven Temperance Society. There were periodic meetings in The Temperance Hall with songs, speeches, and anthems, all in an effort, to stamp out drink in the village. On March 1st 1866 there was an operetta in the Temperance Hall which was full, some unable to get in, 18 The musical show was entitled "Sir John Barleycorn",

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9. per Mrs Underwood, Westwood Rd., Beverley. 10, Girls' School Log Book p.86. 11. Bulmer Directory of Hull & E.R. 1892, p.452.

12. Bev. Guardian 29 Nov. 1866. 13. ibici 29 Nov. 1866. 14. Log Book, p.1320 15. ibid p.133. 16. Bev. Guardian 3 February 1866.

17.. B. Guardian 3 Mar, 1866. 18. B. Guardian 8 Mar, 1866

## CHAPTER THREE

## THE LIFE OF THE FIRST LEVEN SCHOOL. —THE NATIONAL SCHOOL

The National School continued to flourish although in Spring and • Summer particularly, the number attending wcts much lower. Many boys absented themselves to earn enough money to pay for their clothes by working on the land. The school building was inspected annually in March when the National School boys used to march to the Girls' School in order to take tests in reading, writing, and arithmetic and also in the catechism. The number of passes determined the amount of grant available for the ensuing twelve months. In 1866 there was widespread disease among cattle of Leven and district. It was referred to in the newspapers of the time as "rinderpest" or "cattle plague". Cattle which fell victim to the disease had to be reported and were subsequently slaughtered and buried in quick-lime. It is believed the field to the south of the present Leven Church was used for this purpose. On June 30th 1866, farmer William Hebblewhite of Hempholme refused to pay a special Cattle Rate of £1 8, 2d. He told the Hempholme Parish Overseers that he himself had suffered heavy losses, and had received no compensation to pay the rate. He was allowed until the next meeting to pay both the rate and court costs. <sup>19</sup> Such [cite monies were pooled and compensation paid at a later date. This disease raged during the latter half of 1866, and no doubt was a contributory cause to the poverty of the village.

After John Stevenson came schoolmaster Geo. Derbyshire, and then on 6th July 1868 came Wm. Hughes from Manchester. He left his wife dangerously ill in Manchester at this time. It seems she could not be persuaded to live in Leven and the Log Book entry for 31st July 1868 reads, "The master dismissed because his wife could not be induced to leave their son in Manchester to reside here." <sup>20</sup>

On September 20th 1868 the school re-opened with Mr. William Palmer of Haddenham, Cambridgeshire as schoolmaster. <sup>21</sup> He was master for 211 years until March, 1890. In his first week the average attendance was 7, no doubt due to the harvest work done by the children. School stock

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19. Bev, Guardian 30 June 1866.

20. Boys' Log Book p.460.

21. Log Book, p.4g0.

on September 20th included 2 dozen slates, some slate pencils, 5 maps of The Hol' Land, 1 small map of The British Isles, and almost 5 dozen copy books. The boys sat on 5 benches. There were some dry toilets and a pump outside for water. Walls were so low as to make the hanging of a wall map difficult. The first inspection in March 1869 refers to the bad state of the room and the need for new desks.<sup>22</sup> For prayers at Assembly the boys knelt on the wooden floor. Mr. Palmer had no assistants at that time although numbers attending then were just over 30 with 52 names on roll. He appears to have been on his own until January 1878 when permission was given to have Wm. Wood as a monitor but in 1884 he records "I have no monitor appointed as yet."<sup>23</sup> Some of the pupils were detailed to sweep the classroom, there being no caretaker in the 1860's and early 1870's. In November 1871 their names were N. Sales, H. Hobson, and P. Atkin,<sup>24</sup> However, a paid sweeper was appointed on 8th June 1877<sup>25</sup> when Mrs Dales had to sweep out the room, but only on alternate days. In 1866 the girls had left, leaving only boys including infants (boys). In February 1869 there were 5 standards or classes presented for examination as follows: Std 1 9, Std 2 9, Std 3 7, Std 4 3, Std 5 2.<sup>26</sup>

Mr. Palmer was a diligent and painstaking schoolmaster, having first and foremost the interest of his pupils at heart. In the winter of 1868/9 he had a night school class, the numbers at which varied from 5 to 11. The frequent absences of boys to help on the land should have resulted in visits from Mr. Sugdon, the School Attendance Officer, to the lads' homes but this was not the case. Mr. Palmer was much concerned about this and there developed some unpleasantness between the two men. On February 4th 1887 Mr. Palmer records, "Mr. John Sugdon, the School Attendance Officer, has not visited my school since 10th December although I saw him ride by on Friday afternoon. It is a great misfortune that, Mr. Sugdon will not visit the parent's. His £30 a year seems easily earned. He has only visited my school 5 times in 11 months, and positively refuses to visit the parents".<sup>27</sup> Even in July 1889 the matter was not settled (see Appendix 4). There was a lengthy correspondence in the Beverley Guardian which covered wider

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22. *ibid* p.26.

23. *ibid* p.348

24. *ibid* p.136

25. *ibid* p.216

26. *ibid* pp.22 and 26

27. Log Book, p. 398

8.

issues and other correspondents.

H.M. Inspector's reports continue to refer to the inadequacy of the premises. That for 1871/2 states, "This building cannot be accepted as being in an efficient condition. I see no other way of providing proper accommodation but by rebuilding the present school in the way suggested by a member of the committee. My Lords cannot recognise the present Boys' School as satisfying Article 17 E and they may have to with-hold the grant from that Department unless the suggestion of N.M. Inspector as to rebuilding is carried out."

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE NEW LEVEN BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

On August 4th 1873 the old Boys' School was pulled down, and 4,400 bricks delivered. Some 23,000 bricks were subsequently delivered up to November 18th 1873, in addition to 64 tons of sand and quantities of lime ... most probably brought up Leven Canal The school was completed and ready for occupation on January 16th 1874 and everything went well except that the desks ordered hadn't arrived'. There was a good attendance on the opening day. The school cost £459. 4. 4. <sup>28</sup>

The Autumn term of 1873 saw the school in Mr. John Moores shop on the Brandesburton Road when 1 cwt coal cost 1/6 and the average attendance was 20 for the first week of term. Once the new school had started to be used the numbers on the books rose to over 80. <sup>29</sup> The school inspector was favourably impressed with the new accommodation and hoped that "in future the parents and guardians of the children will shew their appreciation of the very suitable school accommodation provided, by sending them with greater regularity."

Boys were boys in those days just as in any other age of history. Boys went in Mr. Woodward's cornfield in front of the school; some threw stones over Mr. Sprbee's fence at his dog so he came into school about it; other boys were caught using stones in their catapults whilst one lad was punished

28. Log Book p.168

29. i bid p. 166

for smoking in school. There are cases recorded of deliberate inattention in lessons and in desperation Mr. Palmer notes for February 1st 1878 "in my opinion the cane for boys from 9 to 13 is essential in districts where people of low habits prevail and an absence of an Esquire with his lady to visit.<sup>30</sup> Of course the esquire and his lady were Richard Bethell and his wife, who lived at Rise. In early January 1883 one boy, Thomas Derbyshire didn't try to get his sums right so Mr. Palmer lectured the whole school saying, "I will allow no boy to shuffle his work or I will cut him nearly in two." However, two weeks after, the Managers, Messrs. N. Foster, L. Train, A. Dennison and J. Robinson, visited the school. The work of the boys and their behaviour "pleased me very much" writes Mr, Palmer. At that time he taught 62 boys ... alone.

Apart from the need of the poorer children to earn money in the fields, there were other counter-attractions which either reduced attendance or caused the school to be closed completely. In October 1868 there was a two day festival at The Temperance Hall and this was repeated in 1869 in October. During the week ending August 18th 1882 the school was well attended except for the Thursday afternoon when so many attended a performance for children at the Temperance Hall that the 8 boys who did attend school were sent home and the school closed. On a number of occasions children stayed away to see the hounds meeting at the New Inn, White Cross or elsewhere in the vicinity. On October 16th 1888 the average attendance was just over 7 ... no doubt due to the caravans passing through to Brandesburton where there was to be a Wild Beast Show. Other attractions included the Hirings when girls assembled at the Girls' School and boys in the Temperance Hall, at the end of their schooldays, to be looked over by prospective employers looking for servants and maids, or farm labourers, respectively. Of course there were the usual exciting Sunday School excursions by 'horse 'bus, and cart, to Hornsea, and ohce even to Bridlington! August 7th 1889 the Log Book records Leven having a Flower Show, On Leven Feast Days, 24th and 25th May 1869 races were held in the evening for young men, Wintry weather wa<sup>k</sup>s experienced early in 1869 and in 1870 it is recorded on December 28th that the "frost is still very severe; Leven Canal or New River, will hear; skating has been going on all week on it. 31,

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30. *ibid* p.224

31. Log Book p.114

12.

the catechism, She even kept in a school manager's daughter because she had not done her needlework satisfactorily. 42

In July and early August many girls were away harvesting and after the main Summer holiday absences still continued because of work on the land and the gathering in of potatoes, Other ,absences recorded were due to hirings both at Leven and Brandesburton, Leven Feast, and various Sunday School and Choir outings. On June 22nd 1868 Miss Wright records, "there is never a full attendance 'in a week," The February 1871 H.M. I. Report records Hannah Dunn as monitress and a note that all the infants of both the Boys and Girls' National Schools should be taught in the Gir15' School, 'A bigger room was required,' said the Inspector.' 43

Perhaps the strain of trying to get results good enough to warrant a grant, and the handicap of poor attendances by the girls, caused Miss Wright to have a nervous breakdown. On May 7th 1874 after almost 8 years at Leven Miss Wright fell ill and within 24 hours had mysteriously left Leven.<sup>44</sup> Mary Atkinson, the senior monitress, was put in charge by the committee; the Rev. Beadel, committee chairman, was to take the school pence and keep the registers until the Inspector, sorted the matter out.

Miss Emily Tindall of Durham Training College was appointed <sup>C45</sup> temporary mistress but had to return to college after only a few weeks, perhaps to re-take her examinations'. A new mistress, Miss Elizabeth Dunn was appointed from 21st September 1874. She stayed until 21st August 1884 when she married a Mr. Dunn and so resigned after 10 years service. Miss Dunn was so concerned about the absentees that she visited the homes herself, only to find the girls were helping with the housework etc. <sup>45</sup> She found her work hard. The 1877 Inspection Report mentions "an absence of intelligence like the Boys' Dept." 46

Chief events of her stay\_were the funeral of Canon Wray, attended by the girls on 3rd July 1878, October 1879 the school cleaned and painted, and in 1882 a severe chicken pox outbreak. <sup>48</sup> On December 22nd

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42. Girls School Log Book 46. Girls' School Log Book, p.145.

43., ibid p.98. (p.15.) 47. ibid p.158.

44. ibid p.111, 48. ibid p.187.

45. ibid p.123.

1880 it is recorded that "Clara Hobson fell into the fire and got very much burnt" <sup>49</sup> and on 18th March 1881 the very same girl got her finger badly hurt in the door. <sup>50</sup> The December fire episode was repeated on February 17th 1881 when Clara Pinkney got her dress on fire. <sup>51</sup> It is presumed there was no fireguard.

Miss Ann Witt became schoolmistress on September 29th 1884. Her early notes in the log book include, "the girls are very much backward; they might be made to come. I am surprised at parents paying so much for their schooling and sending them so badly. I require help for the lower standard." <sup>52</sup> Help was forthcoming from her niece, Miss E. L. Dunthorne, who started November 21st 1884 "for a few weeks". <sup>53</sup> She left, in fact, on 1st April 1887. Miss Witt was often disheartened at the poor attendance.. about 50 average out of over 80.

The Infants' Schoolroom was built on in 1876 and with boys as well as girls in that room the Inspector records her need for permanent help, in the 188,5 Report. <sup>54</sup> However, the date of the Infants' School was most likely to have been 1896 <sup>55</sup> as according to a note in the Girls' School Log Book "the workmen make much noise in the next room". This date is confirmed in Canon Wray's personal note book, according to which the Rev. Medcalf purchased at his own expense the land on the south side of the school and had built, again at his personal expense, an Infants' Wing.

In March, 1890 Miss Anne Witt resigned her post after 51- years and Mrs A.C. Richardson, the wife of the new headmaster at the Boys' School, was appointed. Her first Inspection Report shows that in March 1891 extra staff were needed and the acquisition of a partition was suggested to avoid teaching interference with older scholars, in the big schoolroom where at times the Infants were taught by Mrs Richardson. The local committee, having reduced expenditure on salaries by engaging a man teacher and his wife, still had an impecunious mentality for on May 24th 1894 they passed a resolution that numbers in the 'Infants' Class should be kept below 50.

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49. ibid p.187

50. ibid p.179

51. ibid p,178

52, ibid p,211

53. ibid p.214

54 bid p.223

55, i bid p.377

This was in order to avoid having to get an extra certificated teacher but the average numbers were about 60 said Mrs Richardson so she struggled on.<sup>56</sup> On 27th July 1894 the pupil teacher left to teach in Hull. Her name was Miss Levitt. The committee won't paA for a monitor so an elder girl takes the upper infants wrote Mrs Richardson. <sup>57</sup>

In 1898 the schoolroom fabric was in a bad state of repair. Rain was coming through the roof on to the children and windows were broken.<sup>58</sup> By September 26th 1898 the school had been cleaned and painted. Closer co-operation existed between the Boys' and Girls' School under the new husband and wife arrangement. One reads in the Log Book of Mrs Richardson taking the Boys' during Mr Richardson's illness (25th September 1899). Also on May 23rd 1898 Standard 1 Boys were sent en bloc to the Girls' School for their education only to be sent back on 24th April 1899 because the Inspector did not give permission and because there was insufficient toilet facilities for boys.<sup>59</sup>

## CHAPTER SIX

### LEVEN C.E. SCHOOL 1911 - 1968

Up to 1911 the Girls' School consisted of the main schoolroom and the Infants' Room which had a gallery stepping up to the back wall.<sup>60</sup> A further classroom, on the north side, was added in 1911 to seat 40 children and at the same time a wood and glass screen was erected in the main schoolroom. This screen would create two rooms in the large schoolroom in time for the intake of all the boys from the Boys' School. The committee decided to sell the Boys' School and with the proceeds to pay for the expenditure incurred at the Girls' School. Henceforth it would be known as Leven C. E. School.

Within the last decade the village has expanded and the new residential areas created have meant a bigger intake of pupils with the result

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56. Girls' School Log Book. p.350

57. -ibid p.354

58, ibid p.394

59. ibid p.397 and 401

60, ibid p.334

that an additional classroom was added to the Infants' Room on the east side in 1958.

Planning permission has been given for further dwellings in the village and future development suggests a further increase in school numbers. In 1966 planning permission was granted for the re-modelling and extension of the school to accommodate 180 pupils, with a kitchen for 120 meals. The scheme was accepted by the East Riding Education Committee in January 1966, subject to the approval of the Department of Education and Science. It is estimated that it will cost some E-38, 500. These extensions are now almost completed thus bringing to a close a further stage in Leven School development.

In June 1965 the population of the village, according to the census was 1,189 almost doubling the June 1865 figure of 683. In 1968 it is estimated to be 1800.

The village scene is changing rapidly in Leven. The Bible quotation once over a porch door of the old school building has now been incorporated in the new extensions.

It is :- WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE  
SHALL BE THE STABILITY  
OF THE TIMES. Isaiah 33.6.

Underneath is recorded the year, A.D.1866.

#### APPENDIX NUMBER ONE

##### THE DEED OF 1812

Extracted from the Court Rolls of The Manor of Leven (page 118) in which Maernaduke Constable of Wassand gave 1 rood 24 perches of land in the South Field of Leven for the benefit of the school master.

The manor of Leven, tokwit the customary court with the view of Frankpladge, before Mrs Charlotte Bethell, Lady of the said Manor, held there on Friday, the twentyfourth day of April, in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and twelve before Robert Norris, Gentleman, Steward of the said Manor.

<u>The</u> Homage Peter Sadler, foreman, sworn			
Jeremiah Lamplugh )	Francis Merritt		
John Maxwell	Thomas Bartindale		
Thomas Naylor	George Robinson		
Thomas Whiting	sworn	William Spruce	sworn
Thomas North -		Creasser' Hebb	
Nicholas Smith		John Hobson	

At this court it is presented and found by the Homage that Marmaduke Constable of Wassand in the County of York, Esquire, came without the Court, the Twentyfirst day of December in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven before Robert Norris, Gentleman Steward of the said Manor, and did by his hands surrender into the hands of the Lady of the said Manor according to the custom thereof all that parcel of land lying in the South Field of Leven aforesaid containing by estimation one Rood and twenty-four Perches be the same more or less, adjoining upon the Town Street of Leven aforesaid on or towards the North, upon the Hornsea Road on or towards the West, and upon the lands of John Maxwell on or towards the South and East, purchased by the said Marmaduke Constable 'of the said John Maxwell to the use and behoof of Charles Constable of Beverley in the County of York, Clerk, Marmaduke Constable the Younger, Esquire, Captain in I lis Muiesly'b Regiment of North Yorkshire Militia, Peter Jackson of Riston Grange in the County of York, Gentleman, and William North, John Jackson, and Richard Spruce, all of Leven aforesaid, Gentlemen, as Feoffees and their successors for the time being chosen, as hereinafter mentioned upon trust, nevertheless for the sole and exclusive use, benefit and occupation of the School Master of the School House adjoining the said premises for the time being, under such regulations, stipulations, and conditions as shall from time to time be made and prescribed by the said Feoffees and their successors, or the major part of them for the time being, provided always that in case any of them, the said Charles Constable the Younger, Peter Jackson, William North, John Jackson, and Richard Spruce, shall die, refuse, or become incapacitated to act so as the number of Feoffees be reduced to three, then the surviving three Feoffees shall and are required to chuse three other persons in the stead of such .Feoffees so dying, refusing, or becoming incapacitated to act and surrender the said premises to the use of themselves, and such three 15ersons who shall be chosen as aforesaid upon the Trust aforesaid and so toties

quotees Provided also and it is the intent of this Surrender that whenever the said School House adjoining the said premises shall cease to be exclusively used as a School under the regulations, stipulations, and restrictions and conditions aforesaid, then the said Feoffees or the survivors shall re-surrender the said premises unto the use of the said Marmaduke Constable the elder, his heirs and assigns, according to the custom of the said Manor. Whereupon the said Charles Constable, Marmaduke Constable the Younger, Peter Jackson, William North, John Jackson, and Richard Spruce, came here into the Court and did take of the Lady the promises aforesaid with the appurtenances to have and to hold in manner and form aforesaid at the will of the Lady by copy of Court Roll according to the custom of the said Manor by the rents and services therefore due and of right accustomed, and gave to the Lady for a fine as appears in the margin and did fealty, and were admitted tenants thereof.

Author's note; the margin note was: Constable Esqre to Constable Exors  
Fine

The tick suggests a nil fine, probably in view of the charitable bequest, There were ten cases before the Manor Court that day.

## APPENDIX NUMBER TWO

Leven news items extracted from THE BEVERLEY GUARDIAN for 1866

3rd February

On Wednesday evening last a lecture was delivered in the Wesleyan Chapel, Skirlaugh, by Mr. W. Blair of Leven on "The life and times of Oliver Cromwell". The lecture was of a most interesting and instructive character and was received with the most enthusiastic applause from a large and respectable-audience. J. Jackson presided.

3rd March

The first of a series of popular entertainments of the present day, a Penny Reading, was held in the Girls' School, Brandesburton, on the evening of Thursday last, February 22nd. The selections chosen were happy and useful (here follows a list) Mr. W. Blair of Leven read "The Shabby Surtout".

. Mr. Blair's-"No Grumbling" was one of the favourite pieces.

18.

10th March

Entertainment. On the 1st March 1866 the "Trial of Sir John Barleycorn" was performed in the Temperance Hall to a large audience by several amateurs in the style that met with the heartiest indication of approbation. The entertainment is about to be repeated at Brandesburton and no doubt will be similarly successful. The Penny Readings at Leven in connection with the Temperance Society has done much to counteract the evil effects of intoxication.

14th April

The new school was opened Thursday, 5th April 1866 when a substantial repast of tea, ham, cakes, etc. was provided by Mrs Douthwaite of the Blue Bell Inn, and was given by the Rector to 34 persons, of whom 27 were the choral singers of Leven, and the rest his personal friends. After the tea a concert consisting of two parts was performed by the choir. The first part was sacred music and anthems, the second part glees and songs. The whole performance was highly creditable and gave great satisfaction. The school-room which is a large building was full.

21st April

Before Canon Wray, Rev. Hymers, E.W. Smith, John Clark, farm servant, assaulted and beaten Mary Ann Kitching, housekeeper of Mr. W. Whiting of Leven. Fined £1 and costs.

19th May

On Wednesday last a determined case of suicide occurred near this village, the particulars of which are as follows. The deceased, a young man named Richard Chadwick, employed as an agricultural servant with Mr. T. Harrison of Leven Hall Garth, was engaged about his work on Wednesday morning when the foreman had occasion to find fault with him about his treatment to some horses, and the deceased, after an altercation, left the field. He appears to have gone to Wilfholme public house and drank freely, for in the afternoon he returned to the farm and requested his master to pay him his wages but Mr. Harrison refused to do so seeing the condition he was in. Deceased then returned to Leven where he visited another public house and had more drink. In the evening he was seen in the neighbourhood of Mr. Harrison's

farm going in the direction of the canal, and his motive being suspected, he was followed by two men who before they got up to him saw him deliberately jump into the water. An alarm was given, and the attention of a boating party from Beverley who were riding up the canal was attracted to the spot. These young men, Messrs, Millwaters, R. Loftus, and F. Crathorne immediately commenced a search for the body with a rake, etc0 and once succeeded in bringing it to the surface when they lost their hold. After three-quarter of an hour's search a lighter arrived from Leven with drags and other apparatus and the body was recovered about ten o'clock and removed to Leven. An inquest was held on Thursday before A. Iveson, coroner,, and a verdict of "temporary insanity" was returned.

#### 2nd June

According to a report of Mr. John Ireland, Inspector for the division of North Holderness, made at a meeting of the committee held at Leven on 31st May,, the entire division was, and had been for the last fourteen days,, free from the disease, ,The "infected district" will have to continue for the present as the Orders in Council authorise a month to elapse before the committee can declare the place free from disease.

Author's note, ..the disease referred to was Rinderpest or cattle plague.

#### 30th June

Before Canon Wray and E.W. Smith

Wm, Hebblewhite, farmer, of Hempholme, summoned by overseers of Hempholme Parish, He refused to pay the Cattle Rate laid down by Quarter Sessions Order. Amount demanded £1. 80 2. The excuse was he had suffered heavy losses and had no compensation to pay the rate. He was allowed until the next meeting to pay the rate and costs.

#### 17th July

Summary of the report. A confirmation was held by His Grace, the Archbishop of York. Sixty young people were confirmed. The service was over by two o'clock, and was held on Tuesday last.

#### 4th October

In a Beverley Guardian report of Beverley Minster' Choir Festival held on 4th October the Leven contingent was 12 trebles, 1 alto, 3 bass, 4 tenors and

20.

4 others not in the normal Leven Church Choir. In the Minster were 400 ' singers who had a morning rehearsal then lunch in the Assembly Rooms after which was the service at 2.30 p.m.

Author's note: This was probably the choir singing at the opening of the Leven Girls' School.

October 27th'

Last Thursday week the Temperance Hall saw a public tea at 4 p.m. and a meeting of Leven Temperance Society. There was a report by Mr. W. Blair, The programme consisted of a report, songs, and anthems. The collection was £1. 15. 6. •There was a repeat on Friday with other songs and anthems, at 5 p.m. The collection then was £3. 3. 9. It was the sixth annual effort. The year's income was £15. 5. 1, and 20 signed the pledge. Author's summary.

17th November

Mr. Geo. Derbyshire resigned as Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages Mr. W. Witty of Leven was appointed by Beverley Union.

Author's note: Mr. Witty was a grocer.

November 18th

Agcd 82, Rachel, widow of the late Mr. Wm. Northgraves of Leven, tallow chandler. - Deaths column

24th November

On Thursday evening the committee of the Temperance Society gave their first Penny Reading to a small but respectable audience. Mr. Rowntree occupied the chair, Miss Maxwell of Brandesburton presiding at the piano-forte.

27th November

Author's note: Visit of H.M. Inspector to the British School.

H.M. Inspector, Joshua G. Fitch, M.A., visited the above school and examined all the children according to the requirements of the revised code. We understand that the children passed a very creditable and successful examination and that Mr. Fitch expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the discipline, organisation, and attainments of the children and has subsequently recommended the master, Mr. W. Blair receive his certificate.

EXTRACTS FROM The Hull and Eastern Counties Herald for 1866

John Arnott, Routh, farm servant, charged by John Tenney of Brandesborton, innkeeper, of wilfully damaging his greatcoat. Fined 20/-, 8/- costs.

5th Sept. 1867 Geo. Medforth of Leven, agricultural labourer summoned for leaving his horse and cart unattended outside the Prince of Wales Inn, Eastgate, Beverley. To pay 19/6 costs.

APPENDIX NUMBER THREE

CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING WM. PALMER

1. Beverley Guardian 20th July 1889

Town Schools v Country Schools

Having seen the Rev. Mr. Barry's remarks on the "New Code", also the Attendance Committee on the Corporation's discussion on their schools' work, and the Union School Attendance Committee's remarks when appointing Mr. Craggy to succeed Mr. Sugdon as their attendance officer, on their results, in your valuable paper, I beg permission to make the following observations. Each of the authorities quoted evidently presume children to attend well; but do they in a village like mine? I will take the instance of one boy. I sent him notice to attend; Mr. Craggy sent him notice, after which Mr. Craggy visited his mother; with all this pressure out of 25 chances he missed 11. Previous to this pressure being brought to bear, out of 50 chances he missed 40. In 1888 he missed 130 chances but in 1887 he only came 247 times. Now this is a boy who by law is forbidden to be away once while in health. I say; first catch the hare, then arrange for the cooking etc.; not make a code more stringent until you secure the attendance of the boys. You will say, why is he not summoned? I answer, it is not my fault he is not made to answer for his contumacy. In towns they are not allowed to be away like this, because the attendance officer visits at once. I know a case where a week last Friday a grandmother wanted her grandson, to stay away, as she was only there for that Friday,

22.

being on annual visit. He said "he dare not, he was not allowed to be away on a Friday." Now, here the above received Mr. Craggy's notice but still did not come. The boy is not at work, he is simply doing honorary business; if afraid of Mr. Craggy he would be at school. I say, see that the boys come then make your code.

Yours grateful I y,  
WILLIAM PALMER

Leven, 17th July, 1889:

Beverley Guardian, 3rd August, 1889

Writing to the Newspapers

Dear Sir,

Perhaps Mr. Palmer will kindly inform us in your next week's paper whether "Writing to the newspapers" has done any good to the attendance in his school. If it has I dare say many of us will in future gladly employ the same medium to reach the ears of those in au thority.

Yours truly,  
C. .M.

Beverley Guardian, 10th August, 1889.

School Attendance

Dear Sir,

With reference to the correspondence in your columns, initiated by Mr. Palmer, allow me to say that I think it next to useless ID content one-self with warnings etc., to parents while the employers are held scatheless. The latter are liable to a fine of E.2 and costs each time they employ a child under 10, or who above that age has not got a certificate from the teacher, and it is to these that the attendance officer should direct his attention. When employers realize this fact, and are willing to co-operate with the teachers by refusing to engage any child who cannot show his pass to labour, the parents will in turn realize that absence from schools means certain loss

23.

of money, and there will be a corresponding improvement in attendance,  
I speak from experience.

Yours faithfully,

C. M. No. 2

Beverley Guardian, August 17th, 1889.

School Attendance

Dear Sir,

For the information of C, M. No 1 I assure him "Writing to newspapers" has fully accomplished the entire object I had in view. My average attendance has been increased "one" without any doubt. The boy's mother, like a wise woman, saw and chose wisdom's path. The boy now comes properly. Quod erat demonstrandum, To the insidious subtlety of the latter part. I say "Honi soit qui mal y pense", I look upon a school-master as "irnperium in imperio", and not a serf who must not help himself but pay piper and say nothing. With regard to C, M. No, 2 of last week, although primum mobile, still I never even implied what he now introduces, I said distinctly "doing honorary work", i implied from the pressure - Mr. Craggy having taken such pains to ensure attendance - our efforts were a failure0 I stated naked facts. I referred also to a want of uniformity of application, to secure equality of chances. Uniformity is the desideratum with schoolmasters. I had not seen Mr. Craggy after his visit when I wrote to you; sir, nor have I seen him since, so there could be no collusion. I shall be glad to supply any more information C, M. equires of a public nature, I hold C.M. responsible for all extraneous matter not stated by me, Could C.M. publish his name, or otherwise not use mine?

Yours grateful ly,

WILLIAM PALMER

Leven, August 14th, 1889,

24.

Beverley Guardian, 24th August,, 1889,

An Answer to Mr. Wm. Palmer

Dear Sir,

I think it is quite time the parents had a word in this controversy. They are very poor, many of them, and if their children can earn a few shillings per week, and six children to feed and clothe, without reckoning rent and taxes, will not go very far. Besides all that, we are very distsatisfied with the way the school is carried on; no one ever sees a report of the examination, although it has been promised every year by the com,mittee. The inspections are no criterion to go by; the children are crammed for the occasion; they are taught the 3 R's - reading, writing and arithmetic - and it takes six years to pass four standards if all goes satisfactorily, I have had a child staying here from Hull, passed fifth standard, eleven years old, and next inspection in November she takes six subjects. Our children are placed at a disadvantage in the battle of life. I paid id a week for my education, which embraced reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, drawing, land measuring and mensuration generally; the children now pay 4c1 for half an education.

P.S. Do not understand Latin.

A. PARENT

Beverley Guardian, 31st August, 1889.

The Leven School Case. Answer to a Parent

Dear Sir,

The tone of "A Parent's letter" compels any man to answer, who feels a sense of justice and truthfulness, a matter of necessity. The letter k so contrary to school law that any schoolmaster or manager will not be mis-led, but those not acquainted with regulations may be quite carried away. His lamentable ignorance in the matter has led to his publishing such an un-warrantable letter. First, the law of "presentation" is the same at Leven as at Hull, London, or any other place in England; therefore scholars have been presented in Standard Five at Leven at eleven, year by year, for the past twenty years, as at Hull. I know this from practical experience. The law does it, not Mr. Palmer. He has no voice in the matter, as a rule. The

writer ought to have known that the law fixes the age, not the schoolmaster. He has fallen into this trap through ignorance, with perhaps some spite. Is he a Christian with charity and love? I ask. Secondly he implies only the 3 R's are taken. Here his ignorance throws him again. School law compels more; for instance history must be read; and I know Mr. Palmer got the grant for grammar and music last year. He ought to have ascertained this if he wanted to be truthful, and not to injure by keeping these things back. As to publishing reports, I for one, object to it, for the very reasons shown by this letter in question; and the writer stultifies himself by saying inspections are no criterion, therefore what use are reports to such a weak minded man who publishes at random so injuriously by with-holding facts. He says for id he could learn eight subjects. Compare this with Leven for 4d. For 4d any boy who will buy compasses and books can take up reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, drawing, land measuring, mensuration, generally Latin, principles of music, including harmony and thorough bass, mineralogy, metallurgy, zoology, trigonometry,, principles of agriculture, algebra, euclid, mechanics,, geometry, principles of estimation for bricklayers, builders and painters, corrections for curvature and refraction, railway ciittings, and embankments, acoustics, hydrostatics. His id to 4d is like a fly to an elephant. There are many parents at Leven who would carry Mr. Palmer shoulder high; but that after 21 years' residence he should have some apponents, no one doubts. How he has worked for the poor man and his family is well known at Leven. He seems to have made it a rule of his life to show great respect to the poor man and his family as far as possible; duty steps in sometimes, but that is law, over which Mr. Palmer has no control. Besides, what has Mr. Palmer to do with schoolpence? Some schools are free. In conclusion, those who go with' half an education ought to have sufficient honesty to acknowledge that it is the parents' fault, by, as the letter asserts, sending their children to work instead of to school, Just this point, our friend omits, - no doubt purposely - much to his shame, to say how many attendances in a year the Hull child makes. This is a crucial test. I know for a fact, at Leven, 165 out of 425 will take all the children. My friend, the writer,, means compare this to Hull.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS A MANAGER AT LEVEN

Beverley Guardian, 7th September, 1889.

Reply to a Late Manager

Dear Sir,

I deny the untruthfulness of my last letter. I did not say anything about age. I say again the majority of children go six years to school to pass four standards. It is all very well to say what the schoolmaster can teach, but I challenge him to produce a scholar who has passed in eight subjects, in any standard, or knows the meaning of half the subjects he mentions.

I am much surprised that the late manager should say he objects to reports, and that I stultify myself by saying that they are no criterion. I say emphatically that they in no way show the children's attainments. As for the principles of estimation we used to call them duodecimals and learned them early in school life so that we might be able to measure and plan our own work. We only used to go to school six months in the year, and very few stayed after twelve years of age. I should be very glad for the late manager to read publicly Mr. Palmer's letter, or the letter signed "Late Manager", or find anyone of his educating able to read or say what half of it means. I also feel certain that if the Inspector was to ask them to read a leading article from a newspaper he would not find 5% able to read it intelligently. It is all very well to say Mr. Palmer can teach, laudably: Des he? I must express my sorrow that I was not aware about music and grammar, but I have heard that the leader of the Church choir, not only taught the children but sung with them at the inspection; and as for the grammar I think there must be a mistake; at any rate if the statement is correct, it is the first time in twentyone years they have got a grant for either.

As for the principles of agriculture I was not aware Mr. Palmer was up in them. I have heard a gentleman farmer say all the education required for a labourer's child was to be able to plough a straight furrow. Perhaps the late manager will give him a small salary to train up in the subject. The late manager says many of the parents would carry Mr. Palmer shoulder high. I rather think it would be on the American fashion, on a rail, with the etceteras. It is a very surprising thing, that Mr. Palmer, considering his vast and varied attainments, should have remained in a small village for twentyone years. In conclusion, if Mr. Palmer or the committee will publish the last four reports from Government it will do more to prove what he and, the "late manager" has said than columns of insertions.

A PARENT

George Derbyshire, Leven

P. S. As for his kindness to the working man let the way he rated them testify.

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Beverley Guardian, 14th September, 1889.

Audi Alteram Partem

Dear Sir,

You will say a case of "Lex talionis". Mr. Derbyshire will argue he has a monopoly of intelligence, that such a high pitch of perfection is unattainable in this present day. I believe he means national schools are demoralized, a poor relict of the great. What he means by going six years to pass four standards, I cannot tell. If he means from commencement of school life he must be wrong; if he means from commencement of standard then he is undeniably wrong. I admitted, say six, last year, by his way they will be 14 before passed in standard four, which wants no contradicting; it never has, and never will occur, I think. The Hull child he stated, took six subjects. Why does he not find fault with the Hull school, and say eight subjects ought to be taken? Fiat justitia ruat caelum. I have taught the following subjects during my stay at Leven: reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, drawing, Latin, land measuring, generally, music, geometry, etc. In three of the subjects the boys had compasses, and drew every figure by scale, I have a quantity of the work still by me, and so ocular demonstration must, I think, convince. I have a large map in my house now, drawn this summer, not quite finished, wants colouring when we commence again. The managers have this summer bought a new set of geographical readers, so with the old ones we have several dozens. We have six dozen history books and two dozen grammars. What can the man mean? I have passed over 90% repeatedly, and as far as I can tell, shall do so again. A little learning is dangerous. If William Simpson had happened to be at Leven he would have read all the letters and explained them for him. Again, he says with reference to music and grammar, that it is the first time we have had the grant for either for 21 years, when we have had it for 20 years at all events. See how he with-holds facts, tries to vitiate beyond reparation my popularity; and he a man who holds office where practice and theory should be exemplarily combined. Principles of agriculture he staggers at; his ignorance is unpardonable in this present day; he does not know it is a school subject now in the catalogue issued. Fancy a man calling the Principles of Estimation duodecimals, calculating quantity of lime and sand, days for preparation, quantity of slate, number of bricks to lay er day, carting, etc. all necessary to complete a building and give in an estimation. My old master would have

said *ex nihilo nihil fit*, and left him. I am anxious to unfalsify his fallacious train of ideas. *Labor omnia vincit* not *litera scripta manet*. He wants to undermine the *auro popularis* but admitting *quot homines tot sententia* still "truth must prevail". I have stopped at Leven not because I have not had good chances of various employment, two or three schools included, but being well behaved to, the parents as a whole encouraging me much, I was therefore as comfortable as schoolmasters expect to be; but that a man of Mr. Derbyshire's pretensions should try to ruin a man seems incredible. Surely he does not envy my success; and if he is trying to stir up strife there must be something abnormally wrong. I should like to see his motto of life. This surely ought to close the matter. To write *ad captandum vulgus* ought to be beneath a man of his pretensions. Astounding to talk of "rating", neither sign nor have any power vested in me. To injure the poor man - not William Palmer. I have, and always shall, *caeteris paribus*, protect and help the poor.

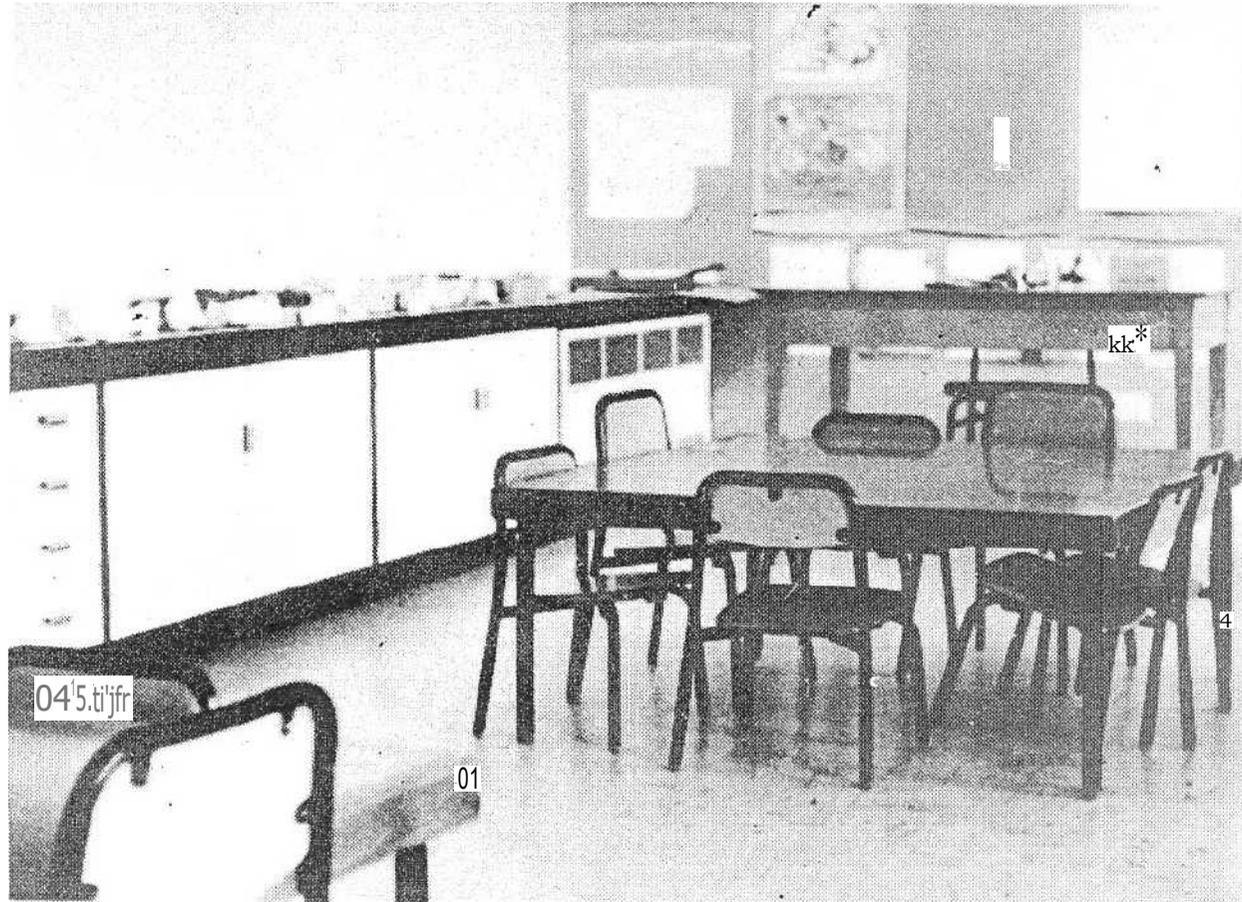
Yours respectfully,

W. PALMER,

(This correspondence has now extended to a sufficient length" and as both sides have had an opportunity of stating their views in full, it must now close. - Ed. B. G . )

Note ... Geo. Derbyshire was a painter, plumber, and sexton.

The log book for December 5th 1884 states "Thomas Derbyshire commenced as monitor this week". .., probably George Derbyshire's son.



An Infants' Classroom

## LIST OF SOURCE MATERIAL

Baines Gazetteer of the E, Riding 1823 Volume 2

Beverley Guardian for 1866

Bulmer's Directory of Hull and the East Riding, 1892

Court Rolls of Leven

Enclosure Act for Leven, 1796

Log Books of the Leven Schools

National Society, London      1833 Enquiry Records

White's Gazetteer 1858 of the E. Riding

Wray Rev. Canon .. , Personal Note Book

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. Cavendish Agency, 17, Chapel Lane, Hull