

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE

Excerpts from the Log Books of Ayton Parish School

February 1864 to July 1876 Headmaster William G.F.Tod
October 1876 to March 1893 Headmaster William Cook.

This work is not intended to be complete transcription of the above, many of the entries in the log books are of a repetitive and routine nature referring as they do to the daily routine of the School, what subjects were taught or revised that day, what standards achieved etc. To transcribe them all would not only be pointless, but would make exceedingly boring reading. The excerpts chosen are those which give an insight into the social history of the times. There are frequent comments on the weather, state of the roads, children being required to work instead of attending school, local events and other distractions to school work which are of interest. The handwriting of the entries is very variable; many in William Tod's hand are almost totally illegible and require much figuring out, whilst those of his successor, William Cook are neatly written and relatively easy to read. Where an entry is so illegible that I have been unable to make a confident translation, I have indicated this in a footnote and/or have printed the offending passage or letters in italics. William Tod, in many parts, makes an all too frequent use of abbreviations the full meaning of which is by no means always clear. Where their meaning is fairly plain I have written them out in full to avoid confusion, others I have had to try and work out by deduction or research from other sources, while others still remain unsolved. I would be grateful for anyone who could throw any further light on

them. William Tod appears to have religiously entered comments for every School working day until May 1873, after which the entries become more sparse. Often he summarises a week's work in one entry. In others he simply writes "Nothing worthy of mention occurred in school this week." There is evidence that by this time he was rapidly falling out with his Lords and Masters. In April 1874 a new H.M. Inspector of schools named Andrew Scougal appears on the scene and his reports on Tod's standard of teaching are scathing to say the least. They clearly did not hit it off and this may account in part for his more laid back approach to writing up the log book.

Tod's successor, William Cook, was somewhat more expansive in his writing, though again many of the entries are routine and have consequently not been transcribed. He adopted Tod's practice of making weekly entries. These were written up on the Friday of each week summarising the week's activities.

I must give my special thanks to Miss Betty Christie (who now has the honour of being Ayton's oldest resident), she was able to enlighten me on some of the old customs of the local schools which it seems were still being carried on well into the first quarter of the twentieth century and through this I was able to decipher the meaning of some of the more curious references. Also to my wife Annette who has given me much help with the typing and the deciphering of many of the illegible entries.

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2013

**EXCERPTS FROM THE LOG BOOK FOR AYTON
PARISH SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 1864 TO MARCH 1877**

1864

February 1864

- 8th Lessons given according to timetable. The children made the usual progress. The attendance was unusually thin, from the heavy fall of snow. The few country children that did attend were behind time.
- 9th Attendance one less than yesterday: snow is deeper.
- 11th Attendance considerably improved. The country roads are tracked and a sharp frost without any extra material fall of snow.
- 12th Attendance the lowest this week. A frost set in and the roads are in a fearful state of slush. The school generally behind time and uncomfortable from wet feet and legs.
- 15th Attendance punctual and full. The snow was entirely dispersed by the high rains of Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- 19th Began exercising the grammar class on correcting “Scotticisms”. Found them very

deficient in correcting them with one exception, his father is English. Geography class commenced Scotland.

26th The roads are very slippery.

29th Heard on Saturday of Weatherstone's failure and communicated the result to him and his Grandfather.

March 1864

1st Received the *Goot*¹ Grant £15; but not the gratuity. James Weatherstone still officiating.

2nd Attendance considerably reduced. The absent children were drawing branches from the trees felled to clear the land for the New Parish Church.

4th Attendance punctual and good. Weatherstone still officiating. He has accepted to take his money and leave.

7th Attendance very thin owing to the very bad weather. It has been very disagreeable, snow, sleet and hail by turns nearly all day.

9th Attendance good in the forenoon; several have been carrying sticks this afternoon.

¹ Another illegible word but appears to be 'goot'.

- 11th** Attendance improved. Weatherstone still assisting. Money not come yet.
- 14th** Weatherstone's money £17-10-0 came and was paid to him. I also received the gratuity £5.
- 23rd** Heard from Miss Morrison that the presbyterial examination is to be on Monday next.
- 28th** Presbyterial examination committee. Rev'd Messrs Cameron, Drummond of Houndwood and Bell of Eyemouth; an average attendance of parents and friends of pupils. Attendance of children under average, the poor not sending out their children for want of clothes.

April 1864

- 5th** Attendance getting less. Country children starting to go to work.
- 6th** Holiday for the 29th ult; the day after the Presbyterial Examination being given as a holiday if the appearance of the children has satisfied the Examining Committee, as on this occasion.
- 7th** No school today there being a large sale at Peelwalls House.
- 14th** Lessons not strictly as per timetable some time having been devoted extra to arithmetic on

paper and slate as for Govt inspection; results in some cases not up to expectation.

- 25th Weather bad, cold east wind.
- 27th Attendance somewhat thinner, a few being absent owing to a grand Bazaar being held in aid of the funds of the Summerhill U.P. Church.
- 29th Heard today of proposed alteration of Time of Govt Inspr's examination from Decr to March and of the returns requiring to be made up for the twelve months ending 29th February.
Marked No 2 dated 28th April 1864.

May 1864

- 4th Progress satisfactory except in 1st sequel, lesson not sufficiently prepared, the fine weather has induced the young things to devote rather too much time to play.
- 17th Heritors' meeting; school out for two hours
- 20th A terrific thunderstorm having fallen during the dinner hour wet many and deterred others from coming; several had to be sent home being drenched, attendance lowest of the week.
- 26th Term day – school thin. Spent the day testing arithmetic and dictation – result tolerably fair.
- 27th Berwick fair day; school thinner. Spent the day much the same as yesterday.

June 1864

- 9th Attendance thinner in the afternoon;
Oddfellows Procession
- 10th Country children late, the roads being heavy
from last night's rain.
- 17th Eyemouth Boat Races – School very small – no
class complete; the senior class being almost a
blank. No regular teaching – Gave the
afternoon.
- N.B. The new parish Church was begun on 23rd
June 1864 – The ground staked off.
- 30th N.B. I find I have omitted to mark 28th as a
holiday, the 28th was the annual holiday so read
one day forward.'

July 1864

- 7th Find the fair weather leads the children to stay
out rather late and that they come in tired.
- 25th The heat has caused a great deal of coughing.
- 28th Fast Day.
- 29th Preaching Day

August 1864

- 1st **Preaching Monday.**
- 11th **The Pic Nic the subject, progress almost if not quite nil.**
- 12th **This being the annual Pic Nic day the forenoon was got thro' as well as might be expected. The afternoon was a splendid one!!!**
- 17th **As the spirit was gone I had to make lessons as entertaining as possible, rather discursive.**
- 19th **Breaking up day. The day's lessons were got pretty well in the forenoon. A portion of the afternoon was devoted to clearing away, then we broke up for the holidays.**

**1864 SUMMER HOLIDAYS FROM 19TH
AUGUST UNTIL 3RD OCTOBER**

October 1864

- 3rd **Opening day, small attendance put books in order. Had a reading writing and arithmetic lesson.**
- 4th **Tried to get into order – no class complete so had to mass and work on as best we could.**
- 7th **Same as yesterday, a great deal of time has been bestowed on breaking in again. The children, the young ones in particular very chatty.**

- 19th Lessons as closely to Time Table as circumstances would admit. Paid extra attention to drawing, with an eye to girls' braiding.
- 26th Arranged sittings for the classes; forwarded them to take the place of those left. Proved spelling by dictation, found it good in all classes.
- 31st Enrolled a few scholars, school begins to look full.

November 1864

- 17th Heritors' meeting, 1 ½ hours.
- 24th Pretty much as per T. Table but owing to my voice giving way from cold, I gave a good deal of Arith on B Board.
- 28th Same as Friday, my voice if anything improved. Weather wet and uncomfortable.

December 1864

- 6th Lessons as per timetable etc. Weather delightful – Children all alive and active.
- 7th Registrar applied for information to Education Commission sitting in Edinburgh relative to the number of Scholars on role (102) & number in actual attendance. To what religious

denomination do the children attending school belong (Established & United Pres'). State the number belonging to each denomination; 70 EST – 32 U.P. Nature and extent of School buildings;

1 Schoolroom 40'x 31' x 10' 8". Separate Offices &c / 1 Schoolhouse & offices attached. All in good repair. Total amount of any money received during the last year from Privy Council None - £15 is the money value of certificate - I expect it will be got in March next.

21st Attendance thin owing to very boisterous and cold weather.

1865

January 1865

9th Opened school after Christmas recess, attendance pretty good, not regular lessons

10th All in good working order, admitted two new children.

20th Closed an hour early to allow time for school cleaning for annual party.

26th Snow storm, considerable interest in snow balling.

27th **Heavy fall of snow last night, few country children.**

February 1865

13th **Heavy snow distant scholars absent.**

14th **Weather improved. Country children late.**

20th **Attendance very low, the country roads impassable in several directions from drifts.**

21st **The Duns road children have got in, the road having been cleared to admit the passing of the mail. Thomson left.**

23rd **Fast Day.**

27th **Attendance full. From so many having been absent on Friday lessons were by no means satisfactory. Had to return one or two classes the majority not being up to the mark.**

March 1865

1st **Got intimation of inspector's visit – 8th March. Had to put the children in order for examination, found it a heavy matter.**

6th **Children who have been away from the severe weather have returned again.**

8th Staff Mr Wm Tod C of M Master ²
Ed Woodford
Vide Supra – Verbum Sat sap[ienti est].³

30th School worked remarkably well today, the first
day of spring has had a good effect

April 1865

3rd The following is a summary of the Inspector's
report:- “ In reading there is much
improvement and the appearance made was
good. The dictation has been less successful and
in arithmetic about fifty four percent of the
children failed, including all the second
standard but one. The order is not good, but it
is scarcely better in any of the schools that I see
in this immediate neighbourhood. The people
seem to be turbulent.

6th Received notice of presbytery exam on 12th.
Began to arrange for it – specimens written.

7th Received the Govt' Allowance.

11th Arranging matters for Presbytery exam.

12th Presbyterial Examination Committee: Rev'd
Ministers, Cameron of Ayton, Drummond of
Houndwood, Bell of Eyemouth and Munro of
Coldingham. A small attendance of parents and

² This entry is in the inspector's hand The Latin inscription is in the headmaster's hand.

³ Latin: See above – A word to the wise is sufficient

friends. Attendance of children below average – many not being able to be present for want of clothes.

14th Play for Examination day.

27th School thin today, Potatoe planting.

May 1865

1st Entered two new scholars.

10th Weather very cold for the season.

11th Wet and cold.

12th Attendance low, still wet and cold, had fires on for the last two days.

15th Term Day.

16th Admitted a boy.

June 1865

21st Had a case of truantism. Long, long since I had one.

27th Midsummer Holiday – always last Tuesday in June.

29th Half day, only half or better of the School present. Large sale at Whiterigg, pupils fidgety.

July 1865

- 4th Entered a little girl, day very close and warm, told severely on the activity of the pupils.
- 5th Got up a song (words) for the expected Pic Nic.
- 18th Attendance low. U P Sunday Schools Pic Nic.
- 24th Eyemouth Boat Races and Games. School almost a blank. Had it not been to make an attendance, there would have been no school. Formed all that could read into a class, writing and simple addition.
- 27th Fast Day.
- 28th Preaching Day.
- 31st Preaching Monday.

August 1865

- 1st Conduct good, though rather chatty in the morning. Find the 'Pic Nic' holding a prominent position in their talk.
- 8th Heard that the Pic Nic is to be next Tuesday.
- 9th Lessons slightly altered to allow of trying over a few times for the Pic Nic which is now altered to Friday next. Excitement intense.

- 10th** Lessons rather abridged to enable us to get the music in order. School noisy in the afternoon excitement increasing.
- 11th** The annual Pic Nic. Forenoon lessons pretty well for order, preparation defective, attendance small. Country children not coming till starting time 2-45. Weather wet last night, this morning misty forenoon, breezy - clearing up.
- 18th** Broke off for the Holidays.

1865 SUMMER HOLIDAYS FROM 18TH AUGUST TO 2ND OCTOBER

October 1865

- 2nd** Opening day, small attendance put things in order, maps, books, slates etc.
- 9th** Entered a fairish number of pupils. A wet day fires put on.
- 19th** 3 ships wrecked between Burnmouth and Berwick.
- 26th** Being wet, school had only 40 minutes for dinner.
- 27th** Day wet, school not comfortable, shortened the dinner hour from the wetness.

30th **Entered a few more, school filling up slowly, potatoes not all up yet.**

November 1865

22nd **Term day. R.Robertson's mother removed him as I had punished him on the testimony of three boys for stealing ink – no great loss.**

24th **David Laidlaw played truant. See to that on his reappearance.**

December 1865

15th **Found that my watch was 10 min fast. Bad throat, had to give up teaching but kept the children to work in their seats.**

21st **Shortest day, no Barring out⁴ tried on here: there being only one Master.**

25th **Christmas day, the annual currant bun &c, very commendable practice.**

28th **A dark day. School generally uneasy, holidays in view. Had a call from Mr Gibb from Wilson & Co Publisher, got some specimen books.**

29th **Broke up in the afternoon.**

⁴ A custom of barring the school master from the premises

1866

January 1866

- 8th** School opened languidly the morning was dark, School generally late and attendance low.
- 22nd** Tested the multi' tables in standard II, found 8 could say the whole, several failed on 12 times, several on 9 times and only one or two on 6 times.
- 24th** Had to omit British poets today. Six boys late in the afternoon – extra lessons penalty.

February 1866

- 2nd** Closed at 3pm to allow time for school cleaning for annual tea party. Think it will be the last.
- 3rd** Entered a return Girl. Lost 20 minutes this forenoon thro' attendance at a Sheriff Court on Summons.
- 12th** Entered a Burnmouth Boy – School has been long closed there from Mr Falconer's illness – fever. The parents are desirous of putting their child into a school. Distance is the great obstacle so the friend of the boy said this morning - we'll see what its worth.
- 19th** Admitted one Burnmouth Boy.

21st **Five boys enjoying hounds and hare 20m extra fell into disgrace and were duly cautioned.**

22nd **Fast Day.**

28th **Heavy snowstorm, attendance low.**

March 1866

5th **Wages not being yet settled – the wages were raised in Berwick on Saturday.**

6th **Attendance very low, weather wretched.**

7th **Attendance still very low. Snow, sleet, hail and rain awful morning. Heard of inspector's visit. Time short, spent the afternoon on inspecting printed papers.**

8th **Arranging for inspection. School active.**

9th **Spent time arranging much as yesterday, got some boys to help with register.**

12th **Arranged as per directions in printed paper accompanying intimation of inspectors. Urged the necessity of turning out in force tomorrow.**

13th **Staff – Mr G.F.Tod Cer. 3-3 Master
Ed. Woodford ⁵**

⁵ As on the previous year this entry is in the hand of the School inspector.

- 23rd School thin, heavy snow. Rec'd notice of Privy council order relating to article No 530. Lieut' James Martin 3 BRV⁶ Millbank formerly a pupil of this School was buried today.
- 30th Got note on Wednesday night intimating Presbyt. Ex[amination]. on Tuesday next. Put classes for exam. Did the best under the circumstances. – Cheap Trip to Edin[burgh]. Attendance thinner than usual. Good Friday.

April 1866

- 2nd Attendance light, weather bad, continued to do what required for presbytery exam. All fools day occupied their spare exertions.
- 3rd Presbytery exam. Committee same as last year. Every class was satisfactory. School not full. Attendance of parents small.
- 6th Play for presbytery exam.
- 9th School matters as usual. Rec[eive]d the following summary:- "In the number of passes the Reading is Satisfactory and continues to improve in quality. The Writing to dictation is now very good. In Arithmetic however, the failures are still above the average, but from the ability of the master, I have no doubt that this branch also will be improved by next year. The Religious Knowledge and Geography are

⁶ These initials probably stand for 'Berwickshire Regiment of Volunteers'.

satisfactory, Grammar is at present very elementary.

The master should be cautioned that a much larger proportion of the scholars will be expected to pass in Arithmetic at the next Examination of the school”.

10th After reflection of the above report I conclude that it will be a matter of difficulty to do more than I have done with arithmetic without impairing other branches.

11th Nothing worthy of record – work all done.

12th Ditto - Money came.

23rd Tried to introduce a new arrangement of classes to have more time for arithmetic. Entered a fresh comer, very far behind. The teacher had not the fear of H.M’s Inspector behind his £.s.d.

May 1866

1st May day, Snow showers.

4th My throat being very bad lessons neither in full nor in order.

9th Country children leaving for farm work.

14th Country children still leaving. The Burnmouth Boys have left.

15th Term Day.

- 18th** H[eritors] M[eeting] for allocations of sittings in new parish church.
- 22nd** Two Boys bathed this dinner time – first of the season.
- 23rd** Very warm, many barefooted.
- 25th** School kept in to make up attendance on account of several girls been bathing.
- 28th** The term is over and gone – sundry slight changes in school. Entered a girl and two boys. Attendance low, preparation not good.
- 29th** Everything improved. One boy entered yesterday should have gone to infants' school.

June 1866

- 1st** The Great Odd Fellowes Gala Day. Attendance a failure – Pleasure nil - wet.
- 15th** Heavy rain has kept back several from the country.
- 26th** Annual Holiday.
- 27th** Attendance light did not feel to care for work, very tired.

- 28th** Attendance still light, measles spreading. Thunder yesterday afternoon made the air cooler today.
- 29th** Attendance ditto. Crystal Pox⁷ broken out amongst the P⁸ schoolchildren. Bronchitis combined with Measles has proved fatal in several cases. The usual routine gone through.

July 1866

- 2nd** Entered two girls. Measles on the increase.
- 9th** Measles have not as yet caused any deaths among my pupils, but where combined with Bronchitis, they have been fatal.
- 10th** Announced tomorrow as a holiday for the Eyemouth Games owing to the small attendance during the last two occasions.
- 11th** Eyemouth Games. Went to Greenlaw per NBR⁹ and walked over to Stichell House. Very hot.
- 12th** Lessons indifferently prepared and attendance light. Personally footsore and weary. Day very warm, children melting visibly.

⁷ A popular name for chicken pox

⁸ It is uncertain as to what the Letter 'P' refers, possibly 'Parish'.

⁹ North British Railway

- 13th** **The weather very sultry and warm breezes. Close on 4 o'clock the lightning broke. Every prospect of plenty of rain – very much needed.**
- 16th** **The storm of the 13th last 1 hr 26 minutes without cessation of lightning, rain and hail. The streets were flooded. Such a storm has not been this quarter for 32 years, so says the oldest inhabitant.**
- 17th** **Summerhill U.P. Church's Pic Nic. A Beggarly account of Empty Benches¹⁰. No class complete tried to get on and subsided into Class Arith.**
- 26th** **Fast Day.**
- 27th** **Preaching days.**
- 30th** **Preaching Monday.**
- 31st** **Small attendance. We have had nearly 48 hours constant rain – much needed.**

August 1866

- 1st** **Attendance slightly improved. Splendid growing day.**
- 2nd** **Attendance again light. Damp foggy day. The marriage day of Laird Innes's eldest son. Children unsettled. Bonfire Meetings of**

¹⁰ Presumably a pun on Shakespeare's words "A beggarly account of empty boxes" in Romeo and Juliet.

**Tenantry, Villagers & Volunteers all the talk.
Progress nil.**

6th Attendance fair, several absentees returned. Measles still in the district, another fatal case yesterday morning. Thinking of the holidays.

10th Pic Nic seems doomed. Children by no means active.

13th Attendance improved, weather not good. Intend, if weather proves good, to break up this Friday.

14th Weather thick fog. Measles got into my own family.

20th Very glad to find ourselves at the last Monday of the session. What shall I say as to school work? Read the preceding record thro' and take an average.

**24th Took it easy - Broke up for
The Holidays.**

**25TH AUGUST TO 8TH OCTOBER ANNUAL
HOLIDAYS.**

The Holidays 1866 The holidays towards the end were miserable. Farmers got their crops in in a hurry, heating stacks, springing stooks, rotten broad band, such the tale. Potatoes are badly diseased from the late misty weather. For 10 days the sun never penetrated the mist

October 1866

- 8th **Opening Day. Small attendance putting things in order. Maps, books etc. Had classes in the 3 R's No class very good. The day has broken up fine, so many are off to the gathering.**
- 9th **Admitted one new boy yesterday and one today – Got intimation of Pic Nic next Friday.**
- 12th **School unsettled. Pic Nic in afternoon.**
- 15th **A few more entrants – Fine sharp harvest day. Gathering resumed, worked very cheerfully.**
- 17th **School thin. Gathering sticks at Kirk Banks. Worked very cheerfully, fine day.**
- 18th **Attendance still very thin – stick gathering .**
- 19th **Still sticking. The usual routine gone thro'.**
- 22nd **Entered one fresh boy. Discovered two smokers – gave a caution: will inform their parents. Still stick gathering.**
- 24th **Attendance lighter, potatoe lifting. Drilled extra on numeration.**

November 1866

- 2nd **Day dull and unhealthy for the season. Children wet and in class spiritless.**

- 5th** Worked very well no fault to find. Still drilling on vowel sounds. Improving. Opened Latin class (Junior).
- 6th** Attendance still light. Worked very well except in grammar, rusty in rules. French slow. Weather frosty. Potatoes being got up. Fully one half whites bad and reds bad eaters. Flour 2/6d a stone (Retail).
- 7th** Blowy day – quite a hurricane during midday children glad to stay in school during dinner hour.
- 12th** Term day. Days getting very dusky at four o'clock. Entered a few more, school begins to look fuller.
- 14th** Last night the meteor shower was seen by some of the boys, much talked of today. Read the Scotsman thereon and explained so far as I could. Clear frosty day.
- 16th** Rather a mixed day Her[iters] meet[ing] at 12. School thin - day wet and disagreeable.
- 19th** Keen hard frost. First snow fell on Friday night last. Keen frost all Saturday, Sunday and today. Everybody active and on the whole well prepared.
- 20th** Keen frost.
- 21st** Weather mild frost gone.

- 22nd** **Scotch Term. Day fine. School inclined to noise. Cut down swing pole in playground – dangerous, loose and decaying.**
- 23rd** **Got this afternoon Annual Present of game from Ayton Castle.**
- 26th** **Admitted a stranger from Ed[i]n[burgh] and one child returned worse by far than when he left. Initiated the shortening of the dinner time to save the attendances.**
- 27th** **Admitted a stranger from Paxton. Far behind. One or two late at dinner time from change of hours.**

December 1866

- 3rd** **Entered five girls and four boys, of these only one is a newcomer.**
- 6th** **Heavy murky day. The homework of VI & VII was very unsatisfactory. Could scarcely make an attendance for want of light in the afternoon.**
- 7th** **School very dull from the weather, worked much better after dinner – cleared up. Attendance pretty fair. Heavy storm last night.**
- 10th** **Everything pretty fair, attendance good. Entered two boys one a new comer. Mr Robert**

Grieve Quondam¹¹ P[upil] T[eacher] learnt on Saturday, that he is to get Millburn School 5 miles above Dunse.

- 12th Miss Morrison got in a Belle Stove in the Inf School. Children interested in it.**
- 13th Forenoon dull & misty could scarcely see. A very sharp sleet shower between 12 and 2 filling the drains.**
- 19th Read today a scene or two from ‘The Clockmaker’ as illustration of reading aloud.**
- 21st Shortest day. No barring out.**
- 25th Xmas day. Got the bun. Good practice, but this year not up to the mark- gave afternoon.**
- 26th The Guisarting ¹² was in full force last night and sundry lessons were not good.**
- 27th Last night’s heavy rain prevented play and lessons were unusually good.**
- 28th Thin attendance of boys. Of girls the day has been the best of the week. Here finished I and dismissed for the Holidays.**

¹¹ Latin quondam: former

¹² Illegible word, this appears to be the spelling.

1867

January 1867

- 7th** **Opened school. Attendance short. Weather changed yesterday from the snow storm that lasted all last week. School wet & uncomfortable children spiritless, slush and discomfort predominant.**
- 8th** **The school very damp & miserable, attendance improved, lessons good. Heavy fog all day.**
- 10th** **Last night was a fearful storm at sea, roads not good, yet attendance satisfactory, lessons fair.**
- 11th** **Frost began this morning and is now most intense, have had to keep big fires on in the stove to keep the room at all comfortable. Attendance below average. Some lessons by no means up to the mark, eg. Grammar & French rules.**
- 14th** **Heavy snowstorms set in on Saturday morning and continued all Sat & Sunday and at present, 4pm, shows no symptoms of abating. 32 boys and 3 girls. Made classes as we could, exercised on blackboard. Postmen floundering amid snow wreaths – mails late- no such storm for thirty years in this district.**
- 15th** **Cold – very. Storm still holding. Attendance improved, roads being tracked in the country.**

- 16th** **Still storm – attendance pretty much the same as yesterday.**
- 17th** **Storm still holds – snowing as I write. Frost begins to affect the children – quieter more inclined to doze despite all my fires. Lessons fair had to exercise arithmetic in classes to keep them awake.**
- 18th** **Heavy falls of snow this morning and at 12½ noon. Attendance low. School not so cold, sent the classes out in turns for snow balling in the forenoon and soon warmed them up. Heard from the Dunse postman that the snow outside Chirnside from Mains to Edington hill was deeper than him sitting in his gig. The road was cast and he could not see over the snow.**
- 21st** **Storm still lasts, there has been more or less, snow every day since Friday. Attendance improved. Lessons in pretty fair order, working cheerfully, admitted a new boy.**
- 22nd** **Fresher look but still frosty, no snow fell today. Children and parents tired of storms. Began to clear away snow from school lane.**
- 23rd** **Rain this morning for a short time, attendance fair, lessons by no means satisfactory. School inclined to play, snow balling in full force. The numbing influence of the clean clear hard frost wearing off.**

- 24th** **Fresh: snow fast disappearing.**
- 25th** **Snow rapidly disappearing. The usual routine.**
- 28th** **Admitted a new boy, school inclined to noise – a dragging day lessons in general heavy.**

February 1867

- 1st** **Began to work with a special eye to examination, attendance good except in country children. Weather mild. Began the parables of our Saviour as home lessons.**
- 18th** **Attendance low owing to many having caught cold from the changeable weather of Friday & Saturday.**
- 21st** **Fast day.**

March 1867

- 4th** **Lessons pretty well got thro' – children restless thro' report that artillery men were going north thro' Ayton in the forenoon. False, they went thro' Foulden as per advice of travelling woman at Ayton toll. Dense mist from sea.**
- 5th** **Dunse fair. Several country children absent on that account.**
- 6th** **The eclipse distracted their attention in the fore part of the day. Explained and illustrated in the afternoon.**

- 11th Did almost no work, very weak from diarrhoea had last night. Put in the day and dismissed. Wintry storms.
- 12th All right, nearly. Did full work. Wintry day snowed more or less all day.
- 13th Very sharp frost and very cold. School suffering from cold.
- 14th Got information of inspection, school cheery, attendance average. Punctuality satisfactory. Began arranging for inspection.
- 22nd *Entry in inspector's hand.*
- Staff – Mr G.F.Tod cert 3-3 Master
Ed. Woodford.
- 25th Got intimation of presbyt' exam.
- 26th Began new songs for Pres' exam.

April 1867

- 1st Hunt the Gowk was a favourite amusement today. Admitted two - boy & girl who had stayed home all winter.
- 3rd Presbyt' exam usual committee with the assistance of Rev Mr Harrower U.P. Eyemouth.
- 4th Play for exam.

- 8th** **Trees planting going on.**
- 9th** **Received the following [inspector's] summary ¹³**
The school makes a satisfactory appearance in
order and management; but as tested by
individual examination stills falls short of what
may be expected from the ability and
intelligence of the master. The arithmetic is
better than it was last year, tho' the failures
amount to 39 per cent. The master should be
informed that my Lords' will not be able to pay
any grant for the current year unless a large
number of the scholars pass in arithmetic at the
next examination.
- 15th** **Upon considering the summary at leisure, it is**
very like the advice of a big one as onlooker to
the lesser combatant in a boxing match – go in
and win. I'm expected evidently to provide
brains along with instruction.

May 1867

- 10th** **Nothing worthy of note took place today in**
school work. A little late in afternoon due to
Oddfellows procession.

June 1867

¹³ Presumably from the school inspector.

- 3rd** Entered a new Boy and a new Girl – very small. Attendance improved.
- 14th** Finished this weeks work – on the whole not entirely satisfactory as regards home work – the warm nights have tended to induce prolonged play.
- 17th** Admitted two girls – one can read well but totally ignorant of writing or counting.
- 21st** H[eritors] M[eeting] Got Scale of Fees revised. brought up something towards my neighbours. Sundry lessons omitted.
- 25th** Midsummer Holiday
- 26th** School late at dinner time – Kept all in for it, rather than lose attendance. Very warm everyone almost done up with heat.

July 1867

- 8th** Admitted a boy – Rara Avis¹⁴.
- 9th** My Rara Avis has returned to his nest. His parents did not authorise his leaving Infant School. Very warm, school inclined to talk and rest.
- 11th** Great thunderstorm last night fully equal in intensity to that of 13th July 1866 went direct

¹⁴ A rare or unique person

over Ayton – later a storm passed down the Tweed – Very warm and thundery looking today.

12th Attendance light – U P Pic Nic: an institution into which all possessed of sixpence can go. Several classes decimated.

16th Attendance of girls light. Heavy rain last night not very clearing up like this morning. Day turned out pretty good - warm & close. Senr Geog finished Ch X Geog. Passed on to the use of globes. Gave introduction and swallowed up fran time.

18th Globe lesson swallowed up a great deal of time, had to omit the French lesson. School noisy.

19th Attendances light in the forenoon – very, very light in the afternoon. U P Pic Nic of Sunday scholars and friends at Whitehale took the children away in the afternoon

22nd Attendance extremely light. Poured with rain all Sunday and today.

23rd Rain all last night and this forenoon. Misty. Attendance very light. River heavily swollen. A woman, to get her cow home from the Haugh to Aytonlaw, had to bring it round by Prenderguest.

24th The weather no better attendance lighter than yesterday. Spent the day in exercising

elementary arithmetic, good generally, lit the stove to dry the air.

25th **The Fast Day.**

26th **Preaching Days.**

29th **Preaching Monday.**

31st **Attendance good, rather lighter in the afternoon, several boys away to see volunteer buried - John Clarke who was killed at Millbank on Monday last.**

August 1867

2nd **Let school out early at 3 o'clock- room stifling and scholars frequently desiring to get out.**

6th **Inclined to restlessness- speculation as to Pic Nic afloat. General idea – doubt.**

8th **Pic Nic settled for Thursday week.**

9th **Rather talkative towards 4 pm in seats.**

12th **School in capital working order. Very warm, hot in fact.**

13th **Awfully hot, beat yesterday when thermometer 75 degrees. Lessons in pretty fair order had to break off for a bit at 3pm.**

- 14th** Tremendously hot!! 61 in shade. Boys worked with jackets off, nearly all barefoot.
- 15th** Forenoon's work done after a fashion, one half of the school absent – Country children come to the Lodge Gate 3-30 – a few drops of rain at 12.
- 16th** The Pic Nic broke up with a very wet night immediately after tea – 4-35. Country children and several village bairns absent today. P.S. & infant school held – attendance very light, put in the day as best we could.
- 21st** Attendance light. Several gone to see the Queen at Kelso- Several Pic Nic-ing. – chiefly arithmetic and dictation.
- 22nd** Queen's visit to Kelso – Holiday
- 23rd** Lessons not extremely well prepared, granted play for breaking up – deferred said event for a week as Harvest is late. Wont be general for a fortnight.
- 28th** Attendance light, getting beautifully less. Cutting commenced on Glebe Lands yesterday.
- 29th** Splendid harvest day – attendance improved from yesterday.
- 30th** Light attendance – worked easily. Made up my weeks register and closed for

THE HOLIDAYS.

October 1867

- 7th **Opening day – V.S.S vids £84-10-2 ¹⁵**
- 8th **Admitted two new boys and one girl. Worked what we could. Gave out new scale of Fees.**
- 14th **Entered a few more scholars including two boys returned from O.F.S. ¹⁶ They have not gained by their years exchange of schools. Both considerably behind their classes in all the R's.**
- 21st **Entered a pupil from O.F.S. Several returns. School looking more itself. Entrants interfere with general regularity.**
- 28th **Entered two new and several return boys.**

November 1867

- 18th **Entered a new boy – Weather still open and children employed at work.**

December 1867

- 2nd **Took Isabella¹⁷ in to see the bone doctor (Isaac Millburn) in the afternoon. He comes out once**

¹⁵ The meaning of these abbreviations is unclear, possibly the sum represents annual fees collected?

¹⁶ O.F.S Is presumably the initials of another school which the boys referred to had attended. Probably Odd Fellows School

¹⁷ Mr Tod had a daughter Isabella. This is probably her.

in 4 weeks on a Monday. Heavy gale broke on Sunday and continued today. Very cold, frost.

- 6th Intense cold, attendance light. Cheery and busy.**
- 20th Keen frost last night rendered the roads like glass. Little ones scarce.**
- 24th Rather noisy over new books and Xmas present.**
- 25th Christmas Gift. Gave the afternoon.**
- 26th Gave out a/cs for the quarter past.**
- 27th Completed the quarter a/c paid very few.**

1868

January 1868

- 6th Reopened. Attendance pretty good, noisy and restless. Misty day difficulty seeing towards 4 o'clock.**
- 7th Morning scrip. Hist bad, detained all forenoon. Attendance deficient in country children. Roads in an awful state, Still misty and murky.**
- 21st The usual routine. Day fine and frosty. Marbles began today – drawings given out for home and writing specimens**

- 22nd** **An old pupil R.Wood was buried with honours today.**
- 23rd** **Attendance average. Prep by no means good (Clifton's concert last night – the first in the Vol Hall). School generally late not by any means very active reaction.**
- 31st** **Finished a week & month of work chiefly dedicated to perfecting for gov' inspection.**

February 1868

- 6th** **Tremendous wind last night, several B[urn]m[ou]th boats not returned – considerable talk of them.**
- 7th** **Mr Gibb, Nelsons' traveller called and left some specimens of *St^{l8}* arithmetic etc.**
- 13th** **I have got cold myself all in pains and aches.**
- 14th** **Worked as well as I could as the day wore on.**
- 20th** **Fast Day.**
- 24th** **Attendance of country children light, very frosty. Entered some new children.**
- 27th** **Marbles predominant at night, fine weather.**

¹⁸ Standard

March 1868

- 3rd Dunse fair. Light attendance of country children.
- 5th Some of last quarter's fees only paid today. Heard of some alterations among country children consequent upon parents leaving.
- 6th Got intimation of insp[ector's] visit next Thursday.
- 10th Recd' intimation of presbyt[ery] exam
- 11th Practised and arranged for the inspector.
- 12th Staff – Mr G.F.Tod cert 3-3 Master
Ed Woodford.¹⁹
- 17th Got certificate returned. Lessons for presbyt[ery] exam gone over. Attendance light many boys away planting trees.
- 23rd Tree planting still keeps the school thin. Put St IV into Comp Add, St III into Division and St II into regular book work in Arith.
- 25th Presbyt' exam, usual committee – expressed themselves as highly pleased as usual.
- 26th Call for tomorrow to be given as play for presbyt' exam – agreed.

¹⁹ Writen in Inspector's hand

- 27th Play for presbyt' exam.
- 30th Entered three new boys & one return. Attendance not up to the mark, tree planting – talk – Lamberton races.
- 31st Races all the talk – worked well attendance satisfactory - splendid day.

April 1868

- 1st Lamberton races- made a poor forenoon attendance, no country children present and only a few about the doors.
- 2nd School tired and jaded. Chatty, but not active. Lessons generally deficient. Improvement as the afternoon wore on.
- 3rd Lessons in good order so far as gone thro[ugh]. School quiet. H[eritors] Meeting – not knowing how long it may last, have given the afternoon. Rec'd on Friday afternoon:- “The school continues to be in good working order and to improve in the elementary branches, though the percentage of passes is not yet what might be expected. The grammar is very moderate. The sewing as good as mentioned in the report of the female school”. (*This is the inspector's report*).
- 6th Money came under name Ford – returned to their Lordships' accountant.

- 9th** Fires on again very cold. Announced play for tomorrow.
- 10th** Took Isa²⁰ to the Infirmary for her knee.
- 13th** Money came alright on Friday. Jubilee of Mr Stark U.P. min[ister]
- 14th** Finished Int with St IV. Entered into brokerage etc
- 15th** Rev[ised] St III, IV, V, & VI in arith[metic] – good speed – pretty accurate.
- 16th** St IV finished brokerage
- 17th** Tried St II on X table. Not good.
- 28th** Some country boys away to herding the cows before the term.

May 1868

- 11th** Sundry boys away to herd the cows on the roadside until the term.
- 22nd** School unsettled. Circus – gave afternoon as there was a penny school exhibition.
- 25th** School thin in girls. Entered two boys. O.F.S. teacher levanted, starved out. Term weekk. Lessons all in fair order.

²⁰ Presumably his daughter Isabella

26th School thin but not so bad as I have seen it on a (wet) term morning. Entered two boys O.F.S. Learnt that nearly two pounds of fees has gone for certain with two Hinds'²¹ carts.

29th Attendance rather light – Berwick Fair.

June 1868

1st Entered a few from O.F.S. Gives the school a fuller look. Very warm and close.

4th Attendance thin. O[dd] Fellows procession in the afternoon.

8th Pushing on O.F.S. pupils in Arith[metic] etc.

9th Spent extra time in explaining reduct[io]n to O.F.S. lads.

19th The Dancers at Dancing School Ball absent with two exceptions.

26th Much talk of Volunteer Pic Nic.

30th Midsummer annual holiday. The Volunteer Pic Nic at Pease Bridge.

July 1868

10th Very oppressive and warm.

²¹ Hind is a farm servant

- 14th** Children much oppressed by the heat.
- 15th** Began to brush up a few songs for the Pic Nic which has been a source of talk today. Very, very warm and close – gave a pitcher of Pump water forenoon and afternoon – heat increasing.
- 16th** Still very warm.
- 17th** School worked very well considering the intense heat. Song learning and singing still progressing.
- 21st** Still very warm, the very breeze is heating.
- 22nd** Yesterday was reported as the warmest day of the season.
- 23rd** The Fast – Preaching Days.
- 27th** Preaching Monday.
- 29th** Did the morning lessons – Sang the songs over and broke up for the Pic Nic.
- 30th** School tired. A splendid Pic Nic. A shower during the previous night tempered in a slight degree the intense heat of the season.
2 St passed in at Lodge Gate.
- 31st** Attendance light. U.P. Pic Nic in afternoon.

August 1868

- 3rd** Attendance light. The farmers are generally busy with harvest preparations.
- 4th** The usual work done. Very warm indeed. Harvest in full order on some farms in the greater part of the parish. Attendance getting lighter daily.
- 5th** Lessons in pretty fair condition but the fact is the heat is so awful that we all seem suffering from softening of the brain !! School sprinkled with water and a watering can full dispensed forenoon and afternoon – every body in shirt sleeves for some days past.
- 6th** Doing what we can – very close- Thin attendance. Gave out lines in order to finish up tomorrow.
- 7th** Here finished I & We for
The Holidays.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAYS UNTIL 21ST
SEPTEMBER**

September 1868

- 21st** Opened school with an extra good attendance. Arranged classes and did a little work. Gave out lessons for tomorrow. Talkative.
- 22nd** A little more settled owing to a little persuasion (sic). Improved attendance.

29th Lessons in fair order considering. Had to give several noisy ones a soothing mixture!

October 1868

2nd The lessons, attendance and conduct satisfactory. The talkativeness considerably abated.

19th Entered two new boys.

26th Attendance low: potatoe lifting. Conduct good. Showed views on “ Abyssinian War” Ill[ustrated] Lond[on] News to Geog Class which has entered Africa.

27th Potatoe lifting, thin attendance.

29th Great potatoe day, attendance very thin not a class complete.

November 1868

10th Worked the forenoon as per T[ime] T[able]. Gave the afternoon as I wished to attend a sale of furniture.

17th Very foggy.

18th A regular foggy day.

20th Very thick & foggy up above the line of Cocklaw Hills

23rd The term day, attendance fair considering the general tendency to sore throats.

December 1868

16th The morning was very wet, had to send home several country children who were wet through.

21st Shortest day, very wet, roads very bad, attendance good considering – very misty & wet all day.

25th Lessons in the forenoon as per T[ime] T[able]. Xmas gift. Gave the afternoon.

1869

January 1869

4th School re-assembled entered a few more. Talkative – lessons (sic) as per T[ime] T[able].

11th Lessons in the forenoon: gave the afternoon. Distribution of Ch Collect[io]n among the poor of the parish.

19th A girl (Janet White) got the fleshy part of the tip of her left little finger taken off by the Infant School door.

- 22nd** Day very foggy could scarcely see in forepart of forenoon.
- 25th** School rather inclined to talk over the Railway accident (goods train) at Flemington Bridge. Had to use considerable exertions to get quiet.

February 1869

- 9th** Complaints on some little ones throwing the new laid gravel into neighbouring gardens and doing damage.
- 11th** Suffering from a sore throat, had to be careful in speaking.
- 12th** Much coughing, my throat very bad still.
- 15th** Managed to get along better today than expected.
- 16th** Voice much improved worked all day lessons very satisfactory.
- 17th** Voice where it was from yesterdays exertion, had to be very careful.
- 22nd** Got notice on Saturday of inspector's visit, lessons with a view chiefly to it.

25th **The Fast Day.**

26th **Some talking of leaving for work in fields.**

March 1869

2nd **Dunse Fair. Cold snowy day attendance very light – many children unwell from swelled throat coughs and colds.**

3rd **Attendance very light, ordination of U.P. Minister has taken away a few. No class complete.**

4th **Received intimation of Presbytery exam next Thursday.**

5th **Quarter day**

9th ***Entry in inspectors hand:* “Examined school – staff: William G.F.Tod C.S. 3-3 William Jolly H.M. Insp[ector].**

11th **Presbytery exam, Revd Messrs Cameron, Bell and Drummond. Small attendance - Few visitors.**

26th **Good Friday – Cheap Trip - Holiday for Pr[e]sbyt[ery] examinations.**

29th **Admitted a boy and two girls. Attendance pretty good, stick carrying.**

30th **Sticking still going on.**

April 1869

- 1st Children sportively inclined.
- 7th Considerable talk over Lamberton Races
general feeling of uneasiness.
- 8th Lamberton Races made forenoon attendance
mainly town's children. Gave from 12 o c[loc]k.
At dismissal 25 B[oys] 8 G[irls], many left at 11.
- 13th Rec[ieve]d the following (*Inspector's*) summary:
"This school is conducted with very great care
and earnestness and the discipline is quiet and
effective. In the standards 1 failure in reading
which very greatly wanted fluency especially in
the upper standards and requires increased
drill; 22 percent in writing; 20 percent in
arithmetic. Other subjects did not make a good
appearance except Geography. There is too
much simultaneous answering, more rigour
should be shown and the intelligence of the
children more exercised. The (*illegible word
looks like 'mere'*) text book is too much adhered
to. The numbers are too great for one teacher,
assistance is much required and would increase
efficiency."

Av	Q	P	R	W	A
80	61	43	42	32	34 ²²

²² This written in the margin at the end of the inspector's summary

Attendance ordinary – Bad touch of influenza or cold – all out of sorts and not inclined to work at all.

14th Close sultry day – like July. Many children barefoot. Rather better than yesterday, got a good sweat – but not nearly right.

15th Got well after last night's thunderstorm, worked well today lessons in capital preparation. School active.

16th Money come but not delivered yet.

19th The usual routine for the day gone thro[ugh]. The school was late this morning waiting for the plasterer clearing away the rubbish from mending the school roof.

22nd Spent the day in fatigue duty – up all night Mrs Tod unwell – jaundice – Potatoe setting occupied a good few.

23rd Finished a wearisome day.

26th Very warm and close.

27th Still very warm and close.

May 1869

7th It has rained for forty eight hours, thin attendance.

- 10th** After a sharp frost on Saturday which killed a good few potatoes, we have had a very heavy fall of rain.
- 18th** Several country children are leaving before the term. A fine rain & warm.
- 21st** Finished an honest weeks work.
- 24th** Entered two – cut off several who are going to flit this week and made up my new register.
- 26th** Term day – few country children present.
- 28th** Personally, not at all in good working order, work seemed dull and children noisy.
- 31st** Quarter day a few paid fees, lessons only fair – might have been better – writing indifferent, school noisy.

June 1869

- 4th** Hot and close. Thundery looking.
- 7th** Very warm and sultry.
- 9th** A hot day.
- 15th** All country children absent, heavy rain all day.
- 17th** Gave intimation to correspondent of employing my son William Warden Tod as P[upil] T[eacher] in order to notify it to *C.O.*

- 18th Rec[eive]d intimation last night that Mr Cameron had notified W.W.Tod's employm[en]t as P.T. A considerable batch of bathers detained for being late.
- 22nd Found several attempts at evading Arith[metic] & work this afternoon on the part of some youngsters. Taught them better. Very warm this afternoon.
- 23rd Rec[eive]d notice that 'My Lords' could not sanction W.W. Tod's engagement as P.T.
- 24th Very unwell myself; slight attack of dysentery yesterday evening.
- 25th Slightly better able to work pretty well. 73°. Warmest day yet.
- 29th Midsummer Holiday
- 30th Attendance a shade light. Lessons badly prepared. Pic Nic came home late – school generally tired.

July 1869

- 1st Hot! Hot!! School worked well but very warm.
- 2nd Sultry and thundery looking.
- 12th This has been the warmest day of the season, 74° but a fine breeze tempered the heat.

- 13th** Had to give an example to the school of the results of disobedience – punished a boy who had wilfully gone away after being told to stay in.
- 15th** School worked wonderfully well considering the great heat (78° shade).
- 16th** U.P. Pic Nic thinned the school very materially. Gave out a song for approaching Pic Nic.
- 22nd** Fast Day. Preaching Days
- 26th** Preaching Monday.
- 27th** Attendance light. Funeral of Rev'd Jas Stark²³ who was found dead in his chair on The Fast Day.
- 29th** Began to look up a song or two for the Pic Nic. The usual work gone thro' in rather quick time.
- 30th** The usual course done in pretty smart time to get some time for Pic Nic songs.

August 1869

- 3rd** Pic Nic occupying much speculation and probable breaking up day.

²³ Minister of the West United Presbyterian Church.

- 4th** **Work in good order – kept on to preparing songs for Pic Nic.**
- 5th** **The usual course on instruction curtailed for time for singing as on the previous day.**
- 6th** **Pic Nic singing abbreviated, doubts being afloat as to the return of ‘The Family’ previous to breaking up.**
- 9th** **The usual lessons gone thro’ more or less particularly to enable us to go over the songs for the Pic Nic wh[ich] becomes everyday the more problematical as there is no accurate statement relative thereto. Ayton Law begun harvest.**
- 12th** **Attendance lighter than usual made out accounts preparatory to breaking up tomorrow – no word of Pic Nic.**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAYS TO 27TH
SEPTEMBER.**

September 1869

- 27th** **Opening day, formed registers, made up classes so far as possible – Got under way and dismissed.**
- 28th** **One or two more returned. Worked on as best we could. Had to operato for noise on one or**

two subjects. John began to work one or two classes.²⁴

October 1869

- 12th Entered a new pupil from across the Tweed.
- 15th Several boys away last few days at potatoes.
- 18th Gloomy oppressive day, entered a new boy.
- 19th Several country children absent from the severity of the weather – very cold and stormy, hail and snow.
- 20th Potatoe lifting still going on.
- 21st A good number of boys still absent at potatoe lifting.
- 25th A few children away at potatoe lifting today, much coughing. Entered one or two Boys & Girls.
- 26th School very cold, showers of snow and hail.
- 28th Very hoarse myself, weather extremely cold.

November 1869

²⁴ First mention of his son John Tod

- 1st** Very hoarse. The day got foggy in the afternoon. Boys had to leave centre for side desks.
- 4th** Several absent at potatoe lifting which was broken in upon by the weather lately.
- 5th** Thick & foggy could scarcely see at four.
- 8th** Entered two boys, one old, one new.
- 11th** Term Day.
- 12th** Afternoon dim, could scarcely make an attendance.
- 15th** Several confined for talking – extra lines.
- 17th** Several cases of negligence were punished.
- 18th** Very dusky day.
- 29th** Entered two boys and a Girl, school very cold.

December 1869

- 1st** Keen frost, several played truant for the ice on the waterside.
- 2nd** Sliding in full force, school excited.
- 3rd** Very dark this afternoon could scarcely see to get on.

- 6th** Admitted 2 Girls and a Boy, the afternoon was very dark.
- 10th** Came in at 1-45 to get out by light.
- 13th** Such a heavy storm of rain occurred this afternoon that work came to a standstill for want of light.
- 14th** As I had to go over to Burnmouth school this afternoon, I crammed in geography & grammar. The visit is by order of the Heritors to make over inspection of the premises.
- 20th** Fees came poorly in. Two boys detained all week for non preparation.
- 23rd** Gave drawing in the afternoon to show them how to amuse themselves at home.
Broke up for a week.

1870

January 1870

- 3rd** Opened, attendance fair, talkative and noisy.
- 13th** Too much sliding last night. Keen frost.
- 14th** Scholars' portraits taken in forenoon. Weather bad.
- 18th** School heavy and dull, thick fog, work done was by no means lively.

- 24th** Entered three new scholars.
- 26th** Many Boys away gathering sticks.
- 28th** Several had to be kept in who had gone sliding
– keen frost.

February 1870

- 1st** Attendance thin in the afternoon owing to a wedding in the village.
- 3rd** Stick gathering still detains a few from school.
- 4th** Several away in the forenoon at sticks. William Tod Candidate, away unwell, influenza.
- 7th** Thick heavy mist could scarcely see to make an afternoon attendance.
- 8th** Heavy snowstorm roads impassable from slush, thin attendance of country children
- 9th** Snow still lying, attendance light, coughs and colds.
- 14th** Valentines Day, School chatty, attendance light snow still falling.
- 15th** School worked well lessons in good order, many away from the weather, coughs.

17th Heard of the inspection. Looked over the registers. Weeded out the weaklings for special nursing.

24th The Fast day.

28th Worked with an eye to inspection day. Results variable, good on some trials and defective on others.

March 1870

2nd William Tod examined and my books tested by The Revd D Cameron and passed.

3rd Practised and arranged for Inspection.

4th *The entries for this day are in the Inspector's hand*

Wm G F Tod Certif. Teacher

John Gordon U M Insp

R Smale Insp Assist

State of income & expend[iture] for last year

Income	Heritors salary	£ 55
	Sch[ool] pence	50-9-8
	—————	£ 105-9-8

Expend[iture]

Teachers Sal[ary] £105- 9 - 8½

Requirements, Books 4 - 6½

Repairs	5 - 8 - 6
Sundry	<u>3 - 3 - 1</u>
	<u>114 - 5 - 10</u>
	£ 8 - 16 - 2 *

**This figure is entered underneath with no comment but is clearly a deficit.*

11th The usual routine gone thro'. Much talk of Wombwells Menagerie coming tomorrow

16th Got notice today of Presbyt Examination

18th Received the following report:
 "The School room is old, rather low in the ceiling and not very well lighted. A new building with a better access is very desirable in this considerable village. The many absences are owing to prevalent cold. Three not entered on the schedule are unprepared. Failures in standard examinations 24 per cent. The extra instruction is of quite moderate amount and no subjects of the secondary kind are taught in the parish school, there being as the Teacher says, no desire for them.
 My Lords will look next year for a better report and for better results as a condition of paying any augmentation grant to Mr Todd.
 William Warden Tod is registered as P.T. ²⁵ His services commences from the first of March 1870.

²⁵ This abbreviation stands for P[upil] T[eacher]. It appears that William Tod's son was engaged from this date. As previous entries show, his father had previously tried to engage his son in June 1869 but his employment was not sanctioned at that time.

Drilled for Presbyt. Examination.

- 21st** Prepared Specimens for Presbyt Examination. These were drawings – maps - writing
- 22nd** Attendance lighter than yesterday, snowstorm & frost. The money came.
- 23rd** Presb[yttery] Ex[amination] Committee Revd' ministers; Cameron, Drummond, Bell, Munro. Few visitors.
- 25th** This was to have been a holiday for Presbytery exam “if the morning had been favourable”, but as the day did not look propitious, snowy & cold, I opened School. No country children came, only villagers, attendance light and work nil.
- 31st** Read to Sen[io]rs Geog[rrophy] wh[ich] has gone into “France”. The History of The Black Prince “Collier Eng. History”.

April 1870

- 1st** All fools day. Much childish excitement trying to Hunt The Gowk, lessons creditable.
- 6th** Drawing and board writing not given today from want of chalk.
- 7th** Sent P[upil] T[eacher] to Eyemouth for chalk in the afternoon.

- 15th Good Friday. Holiday for presbytery exam.**
- 20th Very hot, had to bring in a pitcher of water in the afternoon. Omitted drawing & board writing, taking dictation and arith instead.**
- 22nd The day was much cooler, more appearance of rain, children were easier to manage.**
- 27th Thin attendance – very cold 44°**
- 28th Yesterday's report will do for today's - 40°**
- 29th Attendance thin – wet day – potatoe planting.**

May 1870

- 2nd Attendance very thin – cold weather.**
- 5th Read to S[econdary] Geog[raphy] class from Leisure Hour on Shaw's Explorations on Central Asia – seemed much interested.**
- 9th Warm close day. Children much prostrated.**
- 16th Term Day. School light. Hail.**
- 20th Attendance thin in afternoon. H[eritors] Meeting**
- 25th Holiday – Millbank sale.**

26th Term Day. Attendance extremely meagre, Lessons in a very indifferent condition owing to Term day and Millbank sale yesterday.

27th Attendance thin still. Berwick Fair and last day in week after Term day.

June 1870

3rd Quarter Day

6th Entered a new boy from Paxton Girls School. The usual remarks will apply to today 110°

10th Sundry boys were late in order to see the funeral of Mr Innes's son.²⁶ They were confined to make their attendance and got extra work.

13th Attendance very thin. Hooping cough very prevalent.

14th Attendance exceedingly thin in forenoon. Errands etc for children ill of Hooping cough.

20th Coughing not so bad today.

21st The hottest day of the season as yet.

27th Considerable excitement over tomorrow's Pic Nic.

²⁶ George Augustus Innes, 4th son of Alexander Mitchell Innes and Fanny Augusta Vine who died at Kenilworth 7.6.1870 aged 11 years.

28th Midsummer Holiday.

July 1870

11th Considerable coughing. Whooping cough diminishing, very warm.

12th Summerhill U.P. Church pic-nic.

13th Had to be very lenient with memory lessons, in some cases had to give time for preparation. Pic Nic not coming home till 10¼ pm. Several absentees from fatigue.

22nd Very warm in afternoon. Many of the bathers late.

28th Fast Day. Preaching Days.

August 1870

1st Preaching Monday.

2nd Attendance fair considering the broken week. Thursday is Pic Nic and the children excited. Improved the singing of a few songs. Very warm.

4th Pic Nic Day. Made a forenoon's attendance, gave the afternoon. Came home 7pm.

5th Made out and delivered accounts. Put up books for the Holidays.

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS TO 19TH SEPTEMBER.

September 1870

- 19th **Opened School after a weary six weeks holidays. Attendance capital.**
- 22nd **Very warm summer like. Attendance light in afternoon – brambles.**
- 28th **Gave afternoon U.P.Church Bazaar.**
- 29th **Lessons only so-so, the majority having been at the bazaar till after 10 o clk pm.**
- 30th **Bazaar was open till near 12 and many children were in at the ‘finish’.**

October 1870

- 13th **Several boys absent at potatoe lifting.**
- 14th **Gave out sundry vols of Blackwood rec[eive]d from Mrs Innes Ayton Castle to the Duxes for the week of Sen Bible, Eng, Gram, Ind Geog & Sen do**
- 17th **Boys away at potatoe lifting, country ones chiefly.**
- 18th **Still light attendance in Boys. Had to go to Burnmouth Schoolhouse in afternoon P[upil] T[eacher] heard such lessons as he could.**

24th Attendance fuller, potatoe lifting being pretty well over.

25th Attendanc elighter than yesterday Ayton Law potatoes being got up.

November 1870

4th P[upil] Teacher, Wm Tod, absent unwell, had to work as best I could.

7th P[upil] T[eacher] is suffering from scarletina. John Tod has taken Wm's place so far as he could.

21st Got very dark about 4 o'clock, had to light lamp to see to take off home accounts.

28th Entered two boys who have been away for a long time.

December 1870

1st Tree planting, attendance thinner than yesterday.

2nd Tree planting – thin attendance. Announced alteration of hours viz 1½ to 3½ pm for winter mo[nth]s.

5th Attendance still light, P[upil] T[eacher] still not allowed out. Weather foggy & damp. Announced the formation of a new French

class, having been requested to form one as soon as convenient.

- 15th Began new French class. Morning lessons only moderately prepared. P[upil] T[eacher] returned today.
- 21st Shortest day. Stormy - snow fell all day, attendance very thin.
- 23rd H[eritors] M[eeting] on H.M. Insp[ection] Report on state of Par[ish] Sch[ool] buildings.
- 26th Stormy weather, attendance thin.
- 27th Sliding all the game in the play ground.
- 28th Dict[ation] & Arith[metic] of a very common place nature the children being more taken up with a good slide than hard work.
- 29th Storm still continuing very severe
- 30th Broke up for the Christmas Holidays.

1871

January 1871

- 9th Commenced operations after the holidays, cold weather, school talkative.

- 11th** Morning lessons bad, decidedly bad, bad all thro' – too much sliding. No play at 11. Thaw in afternoon.
- 12th** Several detained at 11 for inattention in dictation. Plans for improvement on school came to hand.
- 13th** The usual routine gone thro' as well as a very bad throat would allow of speaking. Thaw set in.
- 20th** Keen frost, throat worse. Nothing worth recording occurred in particular.
- 23rd** Attendance very low, heavy snow storm broke out this morning.
- 25th** Too much sliding, No 'Leave Out'. Very cold.
- 26th** Gave out Mrs Innes' Drawings.
- 27th** Got instructions to proceed with plans etc for improvements on Par[ish] Sch[ool] Buildings.

February 1871

- 15th** Fresh cases of fever in the parish.
- 16th** Attendance thin, tree planting.
- 17th** Coughs plentiful, tree planting.

20th More cases of scarlet fever, attendance light.

22nd Coughing and hoarseness prevalent.

23rd The fast day.

27th Arranged so far as I could for inspection.

March 1871

1st Statement of income & expenditure for last year.

	£	
Income: Heritors' Salary	55 - 0 - 0d	
School Pence	<u>48 - 11 - 3</u>	
		£103-11 - 3

Expenditure:

Teacher's Salary	£103-11- 3	
Registers etc	3 -10	
Repairs	6 -14 - 8½	
Feu Duty	3 - 3 - 1	
Insurance	<u>4 - 6</u>	£113-17 4½
		£10 - 6- 1 ½

The following in the inspector's hand

Wm G F Tod Certif Teacher

P T Wm W Tod 1st year

John Gordon U M Insp

R Smale Insp Assist

2nd Plans for new school came yesterday in time for Inspector's examination.

- 6th Several inclined to be lazy, found out their mistake.**
- 9th Fever still prevailing.**
- 13th Very cold, snow.**
- 16th More fever cases reported.**
- 20th Rec[eive]d the foll[owin]g report:
 “There is a considerable improvement in the state of progress since the last inspection. In particular, I commend the Geography, French in a class of 7 and Freehand Drawing given to the whole school. The master’s intelligence is apparent throughout”
 Her[itor] Mitchell Innes.**
- 21st Half holiday, Marquis of Lorn’s marriage day²⁷.**
- 22nd Preparation indifferent, tar barrels and rockets last night.**
- 23rd Money orders came.**
- 24th Money orders cashed, worked for Monday next which is to be the presbytery exam.**
- 27th Presbytery examination committee: Rev Messrs Cameron, Drummond, Bell & Munro.**

²⁷ Married Princess Louise, Queen Victoria’s 4th daughter.

April 1871

- 3rd** **Holiday for presbytery exam. Census Day.**
- 10th** **Several who have been away unwell returned.**
- 17th** **Estimates for improvement submitted and certain accepted. Wet day.**
- 19th** **Wet day & very cold, country children absent.**
- 20th** **Holiday, Census papers had to be personally lodged at Dunse.**

May 1871

- 1st** **Attendance very light, potatoe planting.**
- 3rd** **Potatoe planting & Kye herding keeps the country lads away.**
- 4th** **13th Hussars passed through, gave a little extra play to let the children hear the Band play before The Castle.**
- 8th** **Attendance still light: country boys feeding cows by roadsides.**
- 15th** **Term day**

June 1871

- 8th** **Nothing indoors worthy of note occurred. Labourers began to prepare ground for lime & sand for new school.**
- 13th** **One new boy entered. Find that some have definitely left for the season. Corn weeding, turnip thinning etc.**
- 20th** **Assess[men]t for School (Parish) improvements imposed today.**
- 21st** **Longest day – wintry and very cold.**
- 26th** **Admitted four boys from infant school.**
- 27th** **Annual Holiday.**

July 1871

- 3rd** **Admitted 3 new boys, several absentees turned up with the warmer weather.**
- 4th** **Lessons in fair order among old hands, incomers awkward.**
- 7th** **Removed to our new room. The old Court Room.**
- 10th** **Arranged work in the Court Room and worked wonderfully well in relays of desks.**
- 11th** **Got along wonderfully sweetly considering.**

- 19th Room much more bearable today than it has been since we occupied it first - fine mild showers cooled the air.
- 21st Thin attendance, Mr Montgomery's Sunday school Pic Nic to Whitehall.
- 26th Because of the cooler air large room quite pleasant. The summer fast. Preaching days.

August 1871

- 7th Tremendously hot in the Courtroom.
- 14th Harvest has commenced at Ayton Law.
- 15th Talk of harvest and holidays occupy the children's minds.
- 18th Here we closed for the Holidays.

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS UNTIL 2ND OCTOBER.

October 1871

- 2nd Opened school in the old courtroom. A very meagre affair.
- 3rd Little done beyond getting things put into working order.
- 5th Nothing extra occurred.

- 6th Finished up a dreich week.**
- 9th A few more put in an appearance, the work was chiefly routine.**
- 10th Worked in our confined space as well as we could.**
- 16th The cry is still they come: More disarrangement and re-arrangement. Wet.**
- 17th Got along pretty well by using 3 of new desks & forms and using spare room.**
- 19th Several away at the Potatoes.**
- 23rd Entered a few more returns and same disarrangement and re-arrangement.**
- 30th Considerable returns, school looks full enough.**

November 1871

- 2nd Lessons considerably improved from yesterday – Tawse more at rest.**
- 6th A few more entries, school close and fire smoking – nothing else worth recording.**
- 7th Still damp and disagreeable.**
- 9th Expected to have got in to new school today but no fire places fitted up yet.**

- 10th Content ourselves till Monday. School unsettled in expectation of being rid of this hole.**
- 13th Two entries – slight alteration in fixing class places. Expected to have had entry to new school premises – no sign of it this week – school dissatisfied.**
- 17th Glad to have got thro' another week in this close stuffy hole.**
- 20th Entered on The New School Premises although not quite in order, no writing.**
- 21st Settled down and worked as well as we could – no writing.**
- 22nd Got a little more into trim. Lessons etc satisfactory – Inkwells ordered.**
- 23rd Still more ship shape – school damp.**
- 24th Glad to finish this week.**
- 27th School still damp, no writing.**
- 28th Worked heartily and well – school very cheery, no writing spent time in arith and dictation in seats.**
- 29th Still no writing nor drawing, blackboards being all away. Like the new school more and more every day. Not the same weariness experienced in the old building at 4 o'clock.**

30th Worked away plodding on in a most uncomfortable, damp, close school.

December 1871

1st Fires – heavy fires only draw out the damp. Began sponging the walls and windows and keeping on fires night and day.

The page in the log for the week 4th – 8th Dec is totally blank

12th A little excitement over Wombwell's Menagerie coming.

13th Sawdusted the school floor for the damp, consequent on washing the floor last night. Think a good plan, abates noise.

14th Wombwells have come and all are excited.

18th School sweating very much – Damp day and very gloomy. Lessons and conduct satisfactory – One or two morning exercises rather humorous.

21st Shortest day. Smallpox, 2 cases.

25th Xmas day. Got presents. Nothing out of the usual course occurred to call for comment.

26th Fine frosty day, walls not sweating much.

- 27th Things went on pretty much as usual, drawing from examples not from B[lack]board. Board newly painted.
- 28th Dark dismal day, school sweated very much.
- 29th School cheery, albeit intimation was made that there would be no week's holiday.²⁸

1872

January 1872

- 8th Resumed operations. Attendance good.
- 10th Hard frost – school very cold from the condensation of the children's breath.
- 12th Got Black boards up and school finished. Begun July 7th and finished Jan 12th, a period of six months and 5 days.
- 15th Full attendance – Allowed a family whose Father had smallpox, to return upon med[ical] certificate of safety. Got a supply of Condy's fluid.²⁹
- 19th Mr Hume's family again removed, servant having taken smallpox.

Despite this statement, the usual New Year week's holiday must have been given as school did not re-start until January 8th.

²⁹ Condy's Fluid was a disinfectant

- 24th Drawings, capital some of them - creditable most of them. Walls very wet from the cold moist atmosphere.
- 29th A very disagreeable day, thin attendance and school sweating very much.
- 31st Nothing particular occurred. Few drawings done at home. Majority wrote 20 lines instead of Bible Narrative Essay at home in second Bible Class.

February 1872

- 1st Attendance thin – stick gathering.
- 19th First fine day in the month, good attendance.
- 26th School rather restless over not getting tomorrow as a holiday – can't be helped must work. Tree planting has begun.
- 28th Drilled as far as I c[oul]d for Inspection tomorrow.
- 29th State of Income & Expenditure for last year:

		L s d	
Income:	Heritors salary etc	55- 0- 0	
	School pence	<u>44-11-9½</u>	
			£99-11-9½
Expenditure:	Teacher's salary	£99-11-9½	

Registers etc	4- 0	
Feu duty	3 – 3 -1	
Repairing school	224- 18- 0	
		<u>£327-16 - 10½</u>
		£228 – 5 – 1

The following is written in the inspector's hand

Wm G. Tod Certif[ied] Teacher
P[upil]T[eacher] W. W.Tod 2 years.

John Gordon U.M. Inspector.

March 1872

- 4th Got the following report on certificate:
“The master is intelligent and attentive to duty,
but on the whole there is room for
improvement.”
Signed (John Gordon)
- 6th Performed the usual duties of the day. Very
warm. Thermometer 62° in school.
- 7th Thermometer 60° without stove. Boys leaving
this week for summer work.
- 8th Thermometer 61° in afternoon.
- 11th Trees still require some lads and country work
others. Much colder today. Several away from
colds.

- 12th** **A damp nasty sort of day – school did not do first rate by any means.**
- 15th** **A bad cold in head, c[oul]d scarcely make a go of it.**
- 18th** **Many away from coughs and colds.**
- 19th** **Rec[eive]d the following:
 “The two not presented for individual examination have left the school. The standard examinations give on the whole fair results and much of the usual elementary extra Instruction is of this same character. Desirable generally more distinct articulation in Reading and better penmanship. There is at present no Latin or Geometry and but a very little French. The supply of Class Books and maps is insufficient.”
 Daniel Cameron. M?S³⁰**
- 20th** **Very cold. Heavy snowstorms. Wrote the alphabet in pencil on the school walls.**
- 21st** **Storms prevented one or two country children putting in an appearance.**
- 22nd** **Rec[eive]d the money for self and P[upil] T[eacher] alright.**
- 25th** **Snow – heavy fall last night.**
- 26th** **Still wintry, more snow.**

³⁰ The parish minister. The letters after his signature are unclear.

- 28th Parish Church Fast Day.
- 29th Hashie day – thin attendance. Show Book Keepers how to Post The Ledger. Filled up the time as near as possible according to T[ime] T[able].

April 1872

- 1st Hunt the Gowk's day. The usual gammocks.
- 2nd Got notice of Presbyt[ery] exam. Began to prepare for it.
- 4th Heavy rain this morning, roads very bad.
- 8th Tree planting still going on.
- 10th Presbyt[ery] exam, Messrs Cameron, Bell and Munro.
- 11th Play for The Exam.
- 12th Only five appeared, so shut up.
- 22nd Very, very wet morning. Country children conspicuous by their absence. A very miserable drizzly day.

May 1872

- 1st May day. Very hot & nothing worth recording, 65°.

- 9th** **Potatoe planting in great force.**
- 13th** **Raw day. Attended Sh Court on a Poors Rates case. Re Eyemouth taken ad avizandum³¹**
- 14th** **Another very disagreeable day.**
- 16th** **Another awful day, yet attendance was good.**
- 20th** **Made up my reg[iste]r for next quarter. Many have left for farm work last quarter. Slightly warmer today than yesterday when hail, snow & sleet fell.**
- 21st** **H[eritors] M[eeting] at 12 oclock. Made forenoon and afternoon attendance.**
- 23rd** **And what shall I say further – nothing new.**
- 27th** **Term day, school noisy – warmer.**
- 28th** **New Maps of Eng, Scot, Irel & Europe came to hand. Also D Entry Book Keeping Ruled Sets.**
- 30th** **Began explanation of Double Entry.**
- 31st** **Berwick fair.**

June 1872

- 3rd** **Entered 3 boys.**

³¹ Latin “to consider”. A Scots law term; the judge "makes avizandum with a cause," i.e. takes time to consider his judgment

- 4th Entered 1 boy.**
- 10th Entered two more boys.**
- 14th Wound up a hot day's work – Therm[ometer] 71°– full sail and glad to get out.**
- 17th Very warm am, thunder showers. Therm[ometer] 75°.**
- 18th Tremendous thunderstorms, school very quiet.**
- 24th Lost one boy to Miss Morrison.³² Attendance thin, warm.**
- 26th Midsummer Holiday – Very hot.**

July 1872

- 2nd Advanced my Fifth Book into my Sixth Book.**
- 4th School worked reasonably well considering the heat. Windows and doors [open] yet 75° and not a bright sun but a warm breeze.**
- 5th Therm[ometer] at 4pm windows down, blinds down and no bright sun 77°.**
- 8th Thick mist and constant rain – School very close.**

³² Miss Morrison was the Teacher of the Female and Infant's school in connection with the parish school.

- 9th One boy entered yesterday having come in without orders from home. Returned to Inf[ant] Sch[ool].
- 12th Several stayed away chiefly little ones on account of Berwick Pic Nic to the Castle.
- 15th School excited over The First Parish School Pic Nic tomorrow to Houndwood.
- 16th Pic Nic a capital affair. Not a check had to be given to the boys. Got wet coming home. Left at 9-30am returned at 5-20pm. Fine day. nearly fifty went.
- 18th Very thin attendance, U[nited] P[resbyterian] Pic Nic.
- 23rd Thunderstorms not mentioned yesterday. still very warm.
- 24th The Fast – Preaching days.
- 29th School re-assembled inclined to restlessness.
- 30th Thermometer 62° – cold east wind.

August 1872

- 7th Thin school – Wilson's Pic Nic.

- 12th School in fits about the Annual Treat by Mrs Mitchell Innes to be held at Whitehall this year – if Thursday first be favourable.
- 13th Pic Nic despite arduous administration in the ascendant.
- 14th Working useless so put on singing etc for tomorrow.
- 15th Pic Nic (Thunderstorm came on at 4pm).
- 16th No one turned up, too tired I expect judging by my own feelings.
- 19th What shall I say more than that the Holidays were announced this morning to begin on Friday next. Considering the other schools are broken up attendance good.
- 20th Laziness is the prevailing tone of the school.
- 21st Worked very well. Prospect of play seems to have inspirited the bairns.
- 23rd The only remarkable event today was
Breaking up
for
The Holidays.

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS UNTIL 7TH OCTOBER.

October 1872

- 7th **Opened school with a very small number. The late harvest, no gathering, yet the grain not being all carried and potatoe lifting not begun yet, has operated very materially against large numbers.**
- 11th **Wound up a heavy dreary week's work.**
- 21st **Entered a new girl today and one return boy. School worked well.**
- 28th **A few old pupils from the country put in an appearance. Nothing else out of the way occurred.**

November 1872

- 1st **Attendance pretty low like yesterday, potatoe lifting going.**
- 4th **A few returns came back for the winter. Took school in at half past one – so wet.**
- 7th **An awful night of wind last night.**
- 13th **Snow.**
- 14th **School cold and could not be made warm, children cold and spiritless.**
- 15th **Went in sharp time H[eritors] M[eeting] at 12. Took in at 1.35. Nothing extra occurred.**

28th Thin attendance in the afternoon – boys away at the sticks in the churchyard.

29th Stick gathering as yesterday.

December 1872

2nd Lessons in pretty fair condition considering the state of the school towards the end of last week. Much coughing and colds. Very thick in afternoon.

3rd Much coughing many absent from colds.

4th Still coughing and hoarseness.

6th Snowy and very cold.

9th Entered several newcomers. Attendance good. Lessons on the whole satisfactory.

17th Fearful morning with sleet, attendance remarkably thin.

20th Very thick, can scarcely see to write this – 3-25.

23rd Still thick and dark this afternoon. Worked very well, home composition in general well done. Grammar kept in.

25th Christmas day. Got the usual cake and gave play.

27th Quarter day – closed for the Holidays.

1873

January 1873

- 6th** **Opened school, good attendance – lessons nowhere.**
- 7th** **Lessons in proper order today, still the school inclined to be idle and chatty.**
- 8th** **Miserable, wet, dark depressing afternoon. Nothing else worth remarking.**
- 10th** **Good many away sticking this afternoon.**
- 14th** **Very high winds – good roads considering.**
- 16th** **School late – Country children detained by heavy roads – never ceased steady rain since last night till the present hour 4-10pm. Capital attendance and lessons satisfactory.**
- 17th** **Very bad cough – not much teaching but lots of drill done.**
- 20th** **Two boys (returns) entered. Worked along as well as possible till my voice failed – then drilled numeration & reading – Snow.**
- 21st** **Voice completely done – drilled reading and arithmetic exercises. Cold hard frost – a good number of the children hoarse and colded.**

- 23rd** Attendance very thin, most of the village children are gathering sticks.
- 29th** Many children still away gathering sticks.
- 30th** Attendance good, snow stopped the gathering of sticks.

February 1873

- 10th** Two new scholars admitted. Attendance pretty fair, very cold.
- 11th** Arith in St[andards] IV & V rather deficient (homework). Soiree last night.
- 12th** Good number of boys away at the sticks this afternoon, coals from Berwick selling at 15d per cwt.
- 13th** More boys away today than yesterday at the stick gathering - attendance thin. Worked away as well as circumstances would admit.
- 14th** Attendance still thin – stick gathering – H[eritors] Meeting to settle Returning Officer – Afternoon attendance very thin - several country children not having returned.
- 17th** Attendance still very thin, stick getting and colds.
- 20th** Fast Day

21st Ex[amination] of P[upil] T[eacher]s at Reston.

25th Arranged work for inspection.

Statement of income & Expenditure for last year:

Income -	Heritors salary	£55-0-0	
	School Pence	<u>41-4-7</u>	£96-4-7
Expenditure -	Teacher's Salary	£96-4-7	
	Registers etc	7-10	
	Feu Duty	3- 3- 1	
	Repairs	2-9- 5	
	Maps etc	<u>4-10-2</u>	<u>106-15-1</u>
			<u>£10-10-6</u>

26th Inspection Day.

28th More stick gathering in afternoon.

March 1873

3rd Admitted a batch of boys from Inf[an]t School.
Several away at the sticks.

4th Attendance thin. Stick gathering by the
villagers and many country children away to
Dunse "Mercat".

5th Country children re-appeared.

- 6th Hounds threw off at Ayton Castle, a good number broke the afternoon attendance.**
- 10th Attendance good, day being fine, except the village boys stick gathering & some country children at thrashing.**
- 12th Many of the children who have been at the sticks are now off to tree planting.**
- 13th Election of school board – 101 out of 207 voted: Innes 166, Montgomery 76, Leitch 38, Wilson 52, Wood 34.**
- 17th Entered two boys. Number of village boys away tree planting.**
- 24th The following report received on Saturday:**
- “Of twelve not presented for individual examination, three have left the school and the rest are unprepared and reported by the master as incapable. The failures are too many in the standards subjects. The parsing is pretty fair and three boys do well in the rules of proportion & vulgar fractions”.**
- “J.Tod cannot be engaged under article 107 (OC)”³³**
- William Wilson, .**

³³ It would appear that William Tod was attempting to employ John Tod, another of his sons, in place of his elder son William Warden Tod. The entry for 14th April indicates that he succeeded despite the negative remark by the governor.

26th Money came – warm day, food at attendance.

April 1873

1st The usual amount of childish joking disturbed the school work consequent on ‘All fools day’.

2nd Suffering personally from rheumatics.

7th Entered two boys (ret[urn]s). One after a long and serious illness. The morning work was delayed by getting in the quarterly payments a week beyond issue.

8th More stick gathering

9th Attendance pretty much as yesterday. Stick gathering and tree planting in active operation.

11th Good Friday – Cheap trip to Edin[burgh]. Holiday to go to Edin[burgh] on business.

14th Rec[eive]d the following: “ John Tod (Second year) is registered in this office as a P[upil] T[eacher] whose service commences from the first day of March 1873. * * * *
W.W. Tod’s name has been removed from the Register of P[upil] T[eacher]s.”

May 1873

2nd Admitted one new scholar.

- 9th** **Two new comers.**
- 16th** **Again, two entrants.**
- 23rd** **Nothing worth recording happened this week.**
- 30th** **Term changes having settled down had a considerable addition to supply the place of the scholars left (12) Gave notice of history class. Took in names for class.**

From the second half of 1873 onwards, the entries in the log gradually become less and less, often only one per week or less and frequently stating that "Nothing worth recording occurred".

June 1873

- 6th** **Books got for history class and we made a beginning. Entered two new pupils.**
- 13th** **Gave notice for bookkeeping class and took in Boys names. Three girls have given in their names.**
- 20th** **Nothing particularly worthy of mention occurred this week.**
- 27th** **Midsummer Holiday and Election Day filled up two days. Only 7 put in an appearance on Election Day.**

July 1873

11th School getting very warm, spent all the time I could spare on bookkeeping class.

18th Worked away as usual. U[nited] P[resbyterian] Pic Nic on Friday left me with an attendance of 11 whom I sent home. Very wet day for it from midday till their return.

25th Measles have broken out this week a few affected.

August 1873

1st Pic Nic, Cattle show and measles have affected the attendance. Had to shut up on Friday from Biliiousness.

8th Monday I was not very good for much. Measles increasing. Book keepers doing very satisfactory – dropped grammar and geography for them. Friday very wet and attendance comparatively small.

15th Closed up for the Sessions. Holidays.

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS TILL 29TH SEPTEMBER.

September 1873

29th Opened after six weeks vacation - the last of which was enforced as no scholar put in an appearance - with Ten Boys and Four Girls. The broken harvest has delayed gathering etc.

October 1873

- 6th Considerable increase – up to 60
-
- 11th Closed with a few absent at potatoe lifting – not many – got printed form of time table last night
-
- 15th Potatoe lifting going on, keeps a few away.
- 24th Potatoe lifting not finished yet.

November 1873

- 7th School has been very full – Several entries – worked as per T[ime T[able] except on Wednesday when dict[ation] took the place of drawing.
- 14th Nothing noteworthy occurred – Entered 3 boys.
- 21st Got a heavy detachment from Infant School causing confusion, & delay in work.

December 1873

- 5th Five boys entered – Nothing else extra beyond the usual routine.
- 12th School cheery, weather mild.
- 19th Nothing worth remark occurred.
- 26th Broke up this day for the holidays.

1874

January 1874

- 5th Re-opened and did the best we could.
- 9th Nothing particular occurred.
- 23rd Pushed along as hard as we could.
- 30th Entered three of last year's boys who have returned for a few weeks.

February 1874

- 20th School in general during the week inclined to play.
- 27th The usual week's work done in anticipation of the coming Inspe[c]t[io]n.

March 1874

- 6th Great many children coughing this week, very stormy.
- 10th Nearly empty school – Snowstorm.
- 13th Finished a miserably cold week's work.
- 27th Some boys leaving for business and farm work.

April 1874

- 2nd School inspected.**
- Present 58 B[oy]s 5 G[irl]s under
Wm. G.F. Tod, C[ertified] T[eacher] of 3rd
Degree.
John Tod, P[upil] T[eacher] of 2nd year.**
- And E Scougal, HMI.
Jas R. Whitton IA**
- 3rd Play after inspection.**
- 10th Arranged stand[ard] for new Scotch Code so
far as possible.**
- 17th Worked on trying to get things to fit S Code.**
- 24th Same as last week – very hot on Thursday &
Friday.**

May 1874

- 1st Potatoe planting has taken some away for half
and whole days this week.**
- 8th A few are dropping off for various purposes for
a few days. Made application to Board Meeting
for assistance to work the School under Scotch
Code. Question deferred till meeting on
Monday next.**

15th Took an afternoon this week to see a school or two in Berwick. Found them closed except the National and the attendance was nil almost. Boys still leaving for the summer.

22nd Boy came as Monitor on Monday. School getting thinner. Term approaching and farm work getting more plentiful.

June 1874

16th *The following is clearly a report by the school governors:*

“The discipline of the school is very fair, but I regret to have to report that the instruction is by no means satisfactory. About one fourth of the children entered on the Examination Schedule were absent on the day of Inspection. The results attained by those actually present were, in no one subject, what the experience and capabilities of the teacher would lead one to expect. Reading was only passable and greatly lacked intelligence. Twelve presented in standards one and two passed Creditably in writing and arithmetic, but out of 35 in standards three and four only 13 passed in Writing and only 10 in Arithmetic. The results in Geography and Grammar were meagre except in the case of two or three children in the highest class. New Admission and Summary Registers are required. The P[upil] T[eacher]s wrote creditable papers.”

My Lords will look for better results next year, otherwise the grant will be seriously reduced (Article 326 Scotch Code)".

William Wilson, Corr[espondent].

29th Unable to make entry on Friday having been injured by Gas Bracket in right eye.

July 1874

3rd Tuesday was midsummer holiday. School rather easier during the week.

17th Grand U[nited] P[resbyterian] Pic Nic this week which thinned the attendance on that day and interfered with next days lessons' preparations.

22nd Worked in full as per T[ime] T[able]. This being Fast week attendance has been rather loose.

31st Finished up with a good days work. The Monday's lessons were generally imperfect. Maps on Tuesday & Friday deficient in exactness.

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS TILL 24TH SEPTEMBER.

September 1874

21st Opened school with the lowest number I have ever had during 19 years. Vide att Roll.

25th Wound up an idle week, with 16 boys and 3 girls. Harvest not finished yet and gathering scarcely begun.

October 1874

2nd Considerable improvement in attendance. Worked with a little more spirit.

16th One day this week a great many absent gathering sticks.

Omission in last week's entry

Ext[ract] Min[ute] of Ayton School Board:-
"In consequence of intimation from Mr Tod declining to allow his son James to be bound for five years it was unanimously resolved to advertise for a P[upil] T[eacher] for the Ayton Public School".

23rd Attendance variable owing to gathering sticks and lifting potatoes.

November 1874

6th Admitted a few more returns. Still potatoe gathering keeps the attendance fluctuating.

13th Nothing worthy of mention occurred in school this week.

27th Rec[eive]d intimation of Inspector's visit. Worked away as usual per T[ime] T[able] except on Friday when a slight deviation was

made to find out per trial those whom it would be advisable to keep back.

30th School inspected.
Special inspection under *E.A.sec 60 (2)*³⁴
And E Scougal H.M.I.

December 1874

11th Nothing worthy of remark occurred during the week. Weather very changeable causing irregular attendance on the part of the country pupils- several away from indispositions.

25th Adam Weatherhead entered on his duties Dec 22. James has continued to work as P[upil] T[eacher] till today.
Broke up for the holidays.

1875

January 1875

8th Have been obliged to continue my son James to work the school. School thin from the thaw set in.

15th P[upil] T[eacher] absent from ill health. James has had to assist me in his place. School attendance low owing to much sickness, coughs and colds.

³⁴ The 'E.A'. abbreviation probably refers to 'Education Act'

Omitted from last week's entry
Duplicate Copy of Report
(Berwick)

Ayton Public School

“The discipline has improved since last inspection, but there is I am sorry to say no evidence of improvement in the very defective state of the instruction then reported. While out of 70 present only 28 were entered on the examination schedule for individual examination, of these 28 only 12 passed in writing, and only 6 in arithmetic, while reading was only barely passable, and without intelligence. During the six months of actual work since my last visit, nothing appreciable has been learned in History, and Grammar is even worse than it was then. Geography seems the only subject in which any real progress has been made. The scholars not entered on the Examination Schedule consisted I was informed, mostly of new comers and of those who had only recently returned. Naturally their attainments were behind those of the Scheduled Scholars. No higher (or specific) subject is taught”.

“In obedience to their Lordships’ instructions of the 20th October, I made on the 30th ulto a special inspection and examination of Ayton Public School under section 60(2) of Scotch Education act, and I have now the honour to present to you my special report thereon. Referring to my ordinary report on Form herewith you will see that I feel myself

compelled there to state that the results of this Examination afford no improvement upon a state of instruction which, on the occasion of my last inspection of this school (on the 2nd April) for annual grant, I regretted to have to characterise as ‘by no means satisfactory’ and as ‘in no one subject what the experience and Capabilities of the teacher would lead one to expect’. In these circumstances I have no hesitation in reporting that the state of the instruction bears out the resolution of the School Board of Ayton that Mr Tod is ‘inefficient’ in the discharge of his duties as Master of the Ayton Public School”.

Init[ial]l[e]d A.S.

22nd

The P[upil] T[eacher] has put in no appearance. Worked away with James as well as I could under existing circumstances. Attendance improved but variable. Sent in the following Explanatory Statement in reply to the foregoing Report of Special Examination.

Ayton January 18th 1875

To the School Board of Ayton.

Gentlemen

I am deeply grieved to find by the Special Report on my school that I am declared ‘inefficient’. What that word may mean I do not profess to explain, but I presume in my case it implies that I cannot get my scholars to produce the ‘results’ expected by The Inspector.

If so allow me to state a few particulars which may, in part, account for such Report.

1. The average attendance for last year was 87.4
2. The number on the roll was 157
3. The highest weekly average was 105

From the above you can judge what work I had daily to do. I may say single handed.

You must recollect that the number 'on the roll' comprises all who have passed through my hands during the year for a long or short period.

Being unable to get P[upil] T[eacher]s I was obliged (a) to put my own sons on, one after the other, as long as they would stay: (b) to take the benefit of them as monitors (and that without payment) and (c) I am compelled to do so still.

At the commencement of the School Year when the School came under the Scotch Code, I found it impossible to bring the school up to the requirements without adequate assistance. I applied for it, and it was refused.

In a few words I will state the vast increase of work -

Under the Old System, Grammar, Geography and History were only taught to those children whose parents wished them to learn these subjects and would pay for them as Extras.

Now these subjects are more or less required in every Standard above Standard I, and I have done my best to push the Classes through Grammar, Geography and History to suit the various Standards for the next Examination: but without proper assistance it is

impossible for any teacher to work up the Classes of my school to the requirements of the Scotch Code.

The fluctuating character of the Country population, the periodical removal for a few days or weeks, now and then, and unavoidable detentions at home from ill health, bad weather or other necessary causes have a deteriorating effect on the childrens' progress.

I may state that on the day of The Inspector's Annual Visit, the children sat from 9am when I assembled them, on a very cold stormy day till about 12 ocl[oc]k when he began to examine them: of course, they were wearied before he began. And on the occasion of the Special Inspection the children were examined nearly the same as they will be 3 months hence.

The school was closed for 6 weeks holidays, and opened 21st Sept. The following shows the attendance as per Weekly Roll

1. 19	6. 83
2. 50	7. 93
3. 63	8. 98
4. 78	9. 105
5. 81	10. 109

Some of these have since left and others come but at present the number on the Roll is 106.

From the foregoing statement you will see how hard my work has been with only the help of my son.

I have been 19 years and 4 months teacher in this school, and I have great pride in thinking of the number of young men and women who now hold respectable and

responsible positions in society which proves that if I cannot “cram” I have ‘educated’ these persons when children and susceptible of training.

You may know that a teacher has a hard fight among many little ones who must be led gently but firmly before any attempt at education can be made and that in a country school like mine of a fluctuating character, the most energetic teacher labours under peculiar disadvantages and especially when the principal burden rests on himself.

I may also state that the want of adequate assistance for these two or three years has to a certain extent frequently affected my health and energy which would not have been the case if I had had the benefit of such assistance as a school like mine requires.

I have been told that I have been too gentle with the children – not punished enough – but no one who has attended to the home preparation of their children’s lessons ever found fault with the state of their children’s progress.

Gentlemen, hoping you will take these statements into your kind consideration.

I am

Your obed[ien]t Serv[an]t.
William Tod.

29th

P[upil] T[eacher] unwell.

February 1875

- 12th P[upil] T[eacher] returned 8th, after a fortnight's absence from ill health.
- 19th Added some more boys (5) to the Roll , got some maps done.
- 26th Nothing particular during the week.

March 1875

- 5th Weather changeable good deal of Coughing – stick gathering has caused a lightish attendance.
- 12th P[upil] T[eacher] absent on 10th. Still east wind.
- 18th Stick gathering and colds are diminishing attendances.

April 1875

- 2nd P[upil] T[eacher] absent – goes up to Dunse tomorrow for examination. School worked during week much as usual.
- 9th Rec[eive]d intimation of annual visit. Tested the standards, began to make up returns etc.
- 16th School inspected.

**Present B. G.³⁵ under
W.G.F.Tod C[ertified] T[eacher] of 3rd degree.
Adam Weatherhead Cand. pt 3rd Yr
And E Scougal H.M.I.
Jas R Whitton.³⁶**

**23rd P[upil] T[eacher] absent on Monday & Friday.
Several children away stick gathering & potatoe
planting – Slack work – nothing unusual
occurred.**

**30th P[upil] T[eacher] up to Chirnside to finish his
exam in Special subject.**

May 1875

**7th Assistant appointed on Wednesday.
Weatherhead away since Monday. Worked
away as best I could with Monitors. Attendance
light from potatoe planting & Hinds changing.**

**10th Mr Massie Assistant entered on his duties
today. School very light, Hinds preparing to
move, or the boys kept at home to herd the cow
by the roadside.**

13th Weatherhead returned – ill health.

**14th Finished up a week's work – nothing unusual
occurred.**

³⁵ Spaces before the B and G suggest that it was intended to enter the numbers of boys and girls at the school.

³⁶ The entire entry for this date is in a different hand.

28th Weatherhead was only here one day this week which has interfered with the T[ime] T[able] work. School so thin on Term Day (17) that I gave play.

June 1875

4th Worked away steadily as per T[ime] T[able]. Gave Monday afternoon – Swallows Circus came and only a few put in an appearance.

11th Admitted a few newcomers.

14th Mr Massie had a Telegram regarding his Father who had met with a severe accident, so he has left today 12 noon. Admitted a few more scholars. The school is filling up now after the flitters have settled down. Tremendous hail storm on Saturday – much coughing.

15th Rec[eive]d the following report:-

“There is some slight improvement in the general state of the School since the last inspection (special) in November 1874. But in regard to the instruction much improvement must yet be looked for in the Arithmetic and Spelling throughout and in the Grammar and History of the higher Standards; and the Organisation and Discipline should be more exact and Class movements more ready. The Schoolroom is in need of cleaning.

A new Admission Register and Book of Summaries should be provided.”

My Lords have been obliged to make a deduction of two tenths from the Grant for faults of Instruction under article 32(b).

It must further be understood that great improvement is still required in the School and My Lords will look for unqualified Certificates from the Board on behalf of the Teacher next year.

**Signed AC
Geo Wood – Manager**

22nd Mr Massie has returned.

25th The P[upil T[eacher] has been away on 25th & 26th.

July 1875

2nd P[upil T[eacher] still absent.

5th P[upil T[eacher] returned today. Attendance fair. Got new Admission Reg[iste]r & Book of Summaries.

16th Hooping cough prevalent. Much alternation of weather. Pic Nic on Friday took away some children.

21st Weather very variable – thunder & rain. Country children generally late after the rain.

August 1875

6th Chin cough and Hooping cough having been prevalent attendance has been thin.

13th Pic Nic and broke up today at Dinner time
for
The Holidays.
P.S. P[upil T[eacher] absent on 9th

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS TILL SEPTEMBER
27TH.

September 1875

27th Opened school. P[upil T[eacher] absent.

October 1875

8th P[upil T[eacher] absent yesterday. Attendance improved: many boys away stone gathering. Rec[eive]d intimation of change of time of Inspection.

15th P[upil] T[eacher] absent yesterday and today. Attendance on Thursday light, wet morning. Potatoe lifting going on.

29th Mr Massie left tonight after nearly 6 mo[nth]s service.

November 1875

- 1st Mr Ellis – new assistant entered on his duties. Four re entrants. Good attendance potatoe lifting all but over.
- 2nd P[upil T[eacher] absent today –School filling up and working well.
- 3rd P[upil T[eacher] still absent – Took his class.
- 4th No P[upil T[eacher] nor reason assigned for his continued absence - took his classes in addition to my own work.
- 5th No words of P[upil T[eacher]. Today has been very wet, attendance light - vide yesterday's remarks.
- 8th P[upil T[eacher] returned today. He stated that he had been ill.
- 19th P[upil T[eacher] absent yesterday and today, worked all his duties along with my own.
- 26th P[upil T[eacher] Weatherhead absent all week, no intimation regarding him has been received, I took all his classes.
- 29th P[upil T[eacher] retrnyred – ill health

December 1875

- 3rd Snow fell – school working well. Attendance good.
- 6th Heavy snowstorm- attendance of country children light, worked in the chief classroom.
- 10th The snow has lasted until yesterday morning when a thaw set in. The result is that a good many have been away so attendance thin, and broken attendance has not been beneficial for steady work & progress.
- 24th Was locked out on Shortest day, a thing I don't allow and punished the ringleaders. Got Xmas present and broke up for the holidays.
PS. One boy refused punishment and voluntarily left the School. I would not yield on a matter of discipline.

1876

January 1876

- 14th Attendance variable, much coughing. P[upil] T[eacher] absent yesterday.
- 20th School half empty – coughs & colds, many away carrying sticks from Castle grounds.
- 21st Thin attendance, carrying sticks, much coughing among those present.

28th Stick carrying has still caused a thin attendance.

31st P[upil] T[eacher] absent.

February 1876

3rd Very wet, P[upil] T[eacher] absent.

9th Good attendance, P[upil] T[eacher] absent took his classes in addition to my own.

10th No P[upil] T[eacher] today.

11th P[upil] T[eacher] still absent no reason assigned for his absence, worked his work as well as my own as far as possible in accordance with T Table.

14th P[upil] T[eacher] returned.

15th P[upil] T[eacher] absent. Nothing else worthy of entry.

16th P[upil] T[eacher] returned.

17th Attendance under average. Boys off to the sticks.

18th No P[upil] T[eacher] today, worked his work as well as my own as far as possible in accordance with Time Table.

- 21st No P[upil] T[eacher] today, no letter assigning any reason.
- 22nd Again no P[upil] T[eacher].
- 23rd No P[upil] T[eacher]. Tomorrow being Fast Day and sundry repairs being required on woodwork in School, viz Forms & ventilators etc wh[ich] will be done on Friday, I closed the school till Monday.
- 28th No P[upil] T[eacher], worked his work and my own.
- 29th No P[upil] T[eacher] See supra.

March 1876

- 3rd P[upil] T[eacher] has not returned – got a note yesterday stating he had been ill. School worked as usual in his absence.
- 6th P[upil] T[eacher] returned – ill health the cause of absence. Many children away to Reston Prize Cattle Show.
- 16th Mr Ellis left by permission of the Board for a week.
- 17th No P[upil] T[eacher] had the whole school on my hands. Thin attendance wintry weather, did the best I could.

20th P[upil] T[eacher] returned – arranged work and got thro as well as we could.

24th Slack attendance some days - children away carrying sticks – Worked Mr Ellis’s classes as well as my own.

28th P[upil] T[eacher] absent.

29th P[upil] T[eacher] returned.

April 1876

10th A Weatherhead again absent, cold snowy morning. 11th Stormy day. No P[upil] T[eacher] and thin attendance of country children. Got notice of Exam. of P[upil] T[eacher]s and posted it to A Weatherhead.

21st P[upil] T[eacher] absent on 17th & 21st. I worked his classes along with my own as well as I could. Weather has been very variable during the week and attendance the same. P[upil] T[eacher] goes to Dunse tomorrow.

May 1876

5th P[upil] T[eacher] returned on Monday morning. School attendance fluctuated a good deal from weather & other causes.

- 12th** Attendance on Thursday (Reston ????³⁷ Sale) very meagre of country children. Worked as per T[ime] T[able] and tested for inspection. Results pretty fair.
- 19th** School thinning away. Got forms for Inspection. Very unwell myself can scarcely stand.
- 22nd** Still they go, worked on conscientiously.
- 23rd** P[upil] T[eacher] absent and his work thrown on me.
- 24th** P[upil] T[eacher] required at a Fiscal's precognition in regard to a boat accident by which a boy lost his life.
- 29th** Tide turned. In they come, entered five today.

June 1876

- 2nd** Finished up a weeks work – nothing worth recording in school affairs. Mr Ellis to be retained for a time to allow of my going into the Doctor's hands. Could not stand long yesterday & today.
- 9th** Drilled thro' the week, expecting Inspector's notice of visit every day. Not come yet. Admitted four boys this week, one left today.

³⁷ This word is indecipherable as written it looks like 'Hile' but this makes no sense.

17th Finished up a steady week's work preparing for inspection. Failed myself this (Friday) afternoon in my feet.

22nd Very heavy thunderstorm in the morning; immense quantity of rain fell preventing a good many country children from coming. P[upil] T[eacher] absent in forenoon. Telegraphed for him to come as some portion of the summaries required correction. ³⁸

23rd & 26th School inspected. Present 88 Boys 8 Girls under Mr G.F.Tod C.T.
Mr A. Ellis
Adam Weatherhead P[upil] T[eacher] 4th Yr.

And E Scougal H.M.I.
N.Pennycook I.A.

30th Owing to Mr Tod's illness the school during the week has been under the charge of A.M. (A.Ellis) & P[upil] T[eacher]. The classes have been arranged for their new work, the inspection being over. The attendance for the week good.

July 1876

6th School still in charge of A.M & P.T. Mr Tod is a little better. Ordinary amount of work gone

³⁸ This is the last entry in William Tod's hand who by this time was clearly very ill, his letter of resignation to the Board is dated 25th July 1876.

through with fair success. Admitted 13 Boys & 2 Girls during the week.

14th Mr Tod not able yet to be in the school. The boys have been a little dull at their work for the last two days. The extraordinary heat seems to be the principal cause of this. (A.M.E)

21st Mr Tod scarcely any better. School still in charge of A.M & P.T ³⁹ (A.M.E)

Inspector's Report for year 1875-76:

“The order is decidedly better than it was: but notwithstanding the increase to the Staff, the instruction does not show the further improvement so greatly needed.

It remains exceedingly defective in Arithmetic and Writing, particularly in the third, fourth, fifth & sixth Standards; in the Intelligence and Grammar of the higher standards: and in the History of the fourth & fifth Standards.

Mr Ellis discharges his duties as Assistant Teacher in a very intelligent and careful manner. The head Master was suffering from illness at the time of my visit. The Pupil Teacher passed a highly creditable examination. Several of the maps need renewal.”

³⁹ This is the last of the few entries made by Mr A. Ellis and marks the end of William Tod's reign as Headmaster.

There then follows the inspector's report and William Tod's letter of resignation. The School then closes for the holidays until October 1876.

William Cook is appointed to the post and begins his duties on the 13th October.

A deduction of five tenths under article 32(B) has been ordered on account of continued bad instruction.

A. Weatherhead has passed well under article 19(E)”.

Now follows William Tod's letter of resignation

Resignation of Mr Tod

To the Members of the School Board Ayton.

Ayton July 25th 1876.

Gentlemen. In consequence of the state of my health, I am sorry to inform you that, with your consent, I intend to resign my situation of Teacher in Ayton Parish School at Marts. next and beg to enclose Medical Certificate. I hope to be able to go down to the School for the fortnight or three weeks which will elapse between Mr Ellis leaving and the holidays. After the holidays I shall attend to the duties of the School which will be comparatively light for a time & perhaps near to the term. By this arrangement you will have time for choosing a teacher, and he will have time to give reasonable notice to his employers.

As the Act authorizes you to grant an allowance, in lieu of my house & garden, it would confer on me a very great boon, if you would be pleased on this authority to act in my favour and grant me such an allowance as you

consider reasonable for the loss of house & garden.

I beg also to direct your attention to the almost impossibility of my leaving my house until Whit. next as no house can be got in the Village before that time. And Since my successor in all likelihood will be either a young man, or one newly married it might be made a condition of his selection that I & my family be allowed to retain so much of the house as would accommodate us till the May term. In regard to the arrangement between Mr Ellis & myself as to the proportion of fees he is to receive, I may state that we agree to your proposal viz that Mr Ellis should receive one third of the School Fees for the time he has taken full charge.

Confiding in your sympathy & liberal consideration of this letter.

I am Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

William Tod.

October 1876

First entry of William Cook

13th

On Monday, entered upon my duties as Teacher of this School, was introduced to the pupils by Rev Mr. Wilson who spoke to them and to me in a very encouraging manner. The number of pupils enrolled was seventy.

Age thirty-four years – third Class of Certificate and have been a teacher for fourteen years. Arranged the classes and got the pupils into working order.

20th Admitted a goodly number of pupils. The work of the School was gone into with vigour and energy. The lessons on the whole well prepared. Gave as a home exercise the Map of Scotland to draw – there were some very good specimens. Gave an hour's lesson in Music practised the Modulator - explained the mental effects of the notes and sang a new song, which was fairly done.

27th Admitted several pupils at the beginning of the week; the attendance has not been so regular as the preceding. A number of pupils has been employed at potato digging. The attention and application of the scholars have improved. Mr Wood, member of the School Board called and took an inventory of maps etc belonging to the school - also requested a list of furnishings required. The work of the School fairly done, the pupil teacher at his post and attentive.

November 1876

3rd The attendance this week has not been so good – a good many of the children being employed in the potato field. Had a call from the Rev Mr Wilson a member of the School Board.

17th Got from the School Board three new maps – Scotland, England and Berwickshire. Made enquiry regarding absentees.

December 1876

1st Had a call from the officer who made enquiries regarding absentees; the rain today prevented several from the country. For the convenience of country children changed the dinner hour from a quarter to one to half past twelve, thus fulfilling the requirements of the code and permitting them to get home a little earlier. Had a case of discipline today and made it the occasion of enforcing useful lessons as to integrity and honesty. By moral power obtained a confession and a regret.

8th James and Wm Crow have left School.

15th Made inquiry regarding absentees found that the Lugtons were still unable to attend School owing to their brother not being convalescent.

29th Got as a Christmas gift a beautiful photographic album from the pupils. Dismissed the scholars for the new year holidays. They were in high spirits.

1877

January 1877

- 12th Resumed school duties after the New Year holidays – the children turned out well. Had a visit from Rev Innes and friend, also on the following day was visited by Mrs Mitchell and the Misses Innes all of whom take an intelligent interest in the education of the Parish.
- 19th Enquired regarding the absence of William Clark, found he had left and assigned no proper reason for his so acting.
- 26th Thursday being a stormy day, the attendance was not so good; had a call from the School Board officer who got the names of absentees. The children are earnest at their work.

February 1877

- 2nd The weather for the past week has been very unsettled, which has always a serious effect on the attendance. The Pupil Teacher who is not very robust was laid up on Tuesday. His attention to duty has been marked. During his absence his place was supplied by monitors.
- 9th The Board agreed to a Monitor being engaged in Ayton Public School with the view of his standing as candidate for Pupil Teachership. In accordance with this Andrew Spratt entered

upon his duties. Introduced the “Brief History of Scotland” for standard IV find it a most useful book.

23rd Thursday was the Parish Fast – School vacant that day. Enquired regarding absentees – several carrying sticks.

March 1877

2nd Andrew Spratt has been acting as monitor he performs his duties very well.

9th The past week has been unusually stormy which has had a great effect upon the attendance. Tuesday was the Hiring Fair for the district which kept some of the pupils at home.

16th Several are absent owing to colds.

23rd We have had a week’s hard steady work – hard drill. Had a visit from the officer who took note of absentees. Several of the pupils are employed in farm work.

30th The weather at the beginning of the week was very stormy – both Monday and Tuesday were coarse days. The trip⁴⁰ (Friday) had an effect on attendance.

⁴⁰ What this ‘trip’ was, or where it was to, is not recorded.

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Annual treat by Mrs Mitchell Innes at Whitehall	81	
Belle Stove installed in infant school	28	
Berwick Fair	6,43,65,84	
Bonfire meeting	23	
cattle show	96	
Census day	73	
Cheap trip to Edinburgh	19,94	
Circus	43	
Clifton's Concert	39	
coals from Berwick 15d per cwt	91	
Dunse Fair	31,41,50	
Dunse Mercat	92	
Election of School Board	92	
Eyemouth Boat Races	7	
Eyemouth Games	22	

Funeral of John Clark killed at Millbank	35	
Funeral of Lieut James Martin	19	
Funeral of Mr Innes's son	65	
Funeral of R Wood	39	
Guisarting	28	
Heritors Meeting for allocation of sittings in new parish church	21	
Hiring Fair	127	
Hounds threw off at Ayton castle	92	
Hunt the Gowks Day	83	
Lamberton races	42,51	
Marquis of Lorn's marriage day	72	
Marriage of Laird Innes's eldest son	23	
Meteor shower	26	
Midsummer Holiday	13	
Millbank sale	64	
New Parish Church begun	7	
New School premises	77	
Oddfellows procession	7,33	

Odfellowes Great Gala Day	21	
Ordination of UP Minister	50	
Party, annual	10,17	
Penny School Exhibition	43	
Picnic	25	
Picnic of Sunday School	25	
Picnic, annual	8	
Picnic, Berwick, at the castle	86	
Picnic, Cattle Show	89	
Picnic, First parish school, at Houndwood	86	
Picnic, Summerhill U P Church	23,66	
Picnic, Sunday School, to Whitehall	75	
Picnic, U P	14,35,45,52,86, 101	
Picnic, Volunteer, at Pease Bridge	43	
Picnic, Wilson's	86	
potatoe lifting	97	
Prize cattle show, Reston	109	
Queens visit to Kelso	37	
Railway accident	49	

Registrar applied for information to Education Commission	9	
Reston Prize Cattle Show	117	
Sheriff Court Summons	17	
Soiree	91	
Stick gathering	92	
U P Church Bazaar	6,67	
Wedding in the village	60	
Whiterigg sale	13	
William Cook's first entry	123	
William Tod's Resignation	122	
Wombwells Menagerie	62,78	