**Oxonhoath School Log**

1865 January 29. I Elizabeth Coppins commenced my duties as mistress of the above school on this day. There are two paid monitors namely Mary Alchin aged 13 and Sarah Stone aged 15. The school is not as large as I had anticipated numbers on books being 58.

January the 30th found the children very low in arithmetic. Monitors not much use.

31st Gave a geography lesson children attentive and interested

Feb 1st wrote dictation in excursive books this afternoon no regular home lessons this week. No time table prepared at present

2nd February Very wet day attendance lower than usual in consequence.

5th February Took john and Mary Banfield off books. Admitted Maryanne parks. Lady and Miss Geary came in this afternoon

6th February Alice Rymer commenced her duties as assistant mistress today. Miss Geary came in this afternoon

7th February not much needle work in hand from want of materials. Sang for half an hour this afternoon

8th February Miss Geary gone from home; more needle work today gave a geography lesson.

9th February Wet day numbers lower assistant mistress read to children whilst at needle work.

12th February Elizabeth parks from west Peckham admitted today

13th February Learnt a new school song. First class wrote letters to Miss Geary

14th February Took first and second classes to church this morning, half-holiday this afternoon.

16th February Very wet again commenced school at 1pm dismissed at 3.30 on account of the rain.

20th February Received an answer to children’s letters from Miss Geary’s assistant mistress gave a geography lesson.

21st February First class wrote letters to Miss Geary again

27th February Numbers higher although a wet day one of the monitors away, another letter from Miss Geary to myself and children in which she gives me good advice respecting children’s lessons.

28th February first class wrote letters to Miss Geary commenced school at 2pm for children to get some flowers to send to London

March 1st Snowstorm this afternoon many of the children have bad colds and coughs.

2nd March read a moral tale to the children whilst at needle work.

7th March first class wrote their letters to Miss Geary chiefly describing their lessons. Reverend Jones visited this afternoon

8th March taught children a new school song ‘all among the barley’ coughs very troublesome

14th March first class wrote letters to miss Geary came in at 2pm went to get some flowers heard from miss Geary this morning monitor went to Mr jones to prepare for confirmation.

26th March reverend and Mrs Jones visited this afternoon one of the girls taken suddenly ill this afternoon.

12th April miss Geary came up this afternoon chanted the psalms to her

19 April monitor away all day took the baby class my self

20th April miss Geary came in this afternoon and told us she was going away for some time lady Geary also visited

24th April most of the bigger children away for work

30th April numbers much lower girls away to gather flowers for the gallons

May 1st holiday all day it being May Day

3rd May Mary Alchin away afraid of the sweeps

7th May Priscilla Farrell, Ellen stone, Thomas sanders admitted today. Flora Grinstead came back has been away for the winter. Mary Alchin one of the monitors left today her services not being required any longer. Sarah not at school

9th May first class wrote letters to miss Geary Eliza may came back after 9 weeks visit to London. Sarah away this afternoon

14th May several of the bigger children away for work the last two weeks and also this.

18th May confirmation to east Peckham church went with the candidates, therefore gave the children a holiday.

24th May a great many children away on account of a fair held at west Peckham.

25th May some of the children too tired to come today, heard from Miss Geary she desires the children to get some flowers for the children of the cripple’s home in London.

31st May first class wrote letters to Miss Geary. Sent a hamper of flowers for the poor cripples this afternoon

7th June first class wrote letters to Miss Geary. Heard from Miss Geary that the crippled children were very pleased and grateful for the flowers

18th June Sarah the monitor away for the week

25th June some of the first class away for hay making

27th June Very hot in school had lessons in the playground

28th June Girls didn’t write their letters as usual very heavy thunder storm. Read to children whilst it lasted and kept school in longer than usual

6th July boy punished for cutting one of the trees

9th July several children away gathering fruit

13th July some children away with the measles

16th July more children away for fruiting

18th August eldest children making wreaths of holly for cottage flower show

14th August mistress not well school carried on by the assistant

16th August most of the first class away for harvesting

17thy August children rather troublesome all week

22nd August several boys punished for being rude

23rd August mistress still unable to attend much to the school

Oct 1865

Oct 15th School reopened after the hop picking holiday. Numbers very low. Children not ready to return this week. Alice Rymer the assistant left.

Oct 16th Mary Godfrey a monitor from Loose aged 17 came today for a month trial to fill the office of assistant. Miss Geary came up this afternoon.

Oct 17th Children seem to have gone back in their lessons but are more industrious than they were before their holiday.

19th Oct Annie Jenkins appointed monitor

21st Oct Several of the children returned this week but many still away. Find the arithmetic still very incorrect. Miss Geary visited.

22nd Oct Trying the plan of 5 minute tables between each lesson.

23rd Oct Went to find out where some of the children were and found good reason for their absence.

30th Oct Miss Geary came up this morning to hear the older one’s scripture lesson which she wishes altered from the first lesson to the last lesson of the morning.

Nov 1st Miss Geary and 2 other ladies visited the school this morning and Miss Geary this afternoon gave a lesson on All Saint’s Day. Rewards offered to each child who attends school punctually for a month without missing a day.

Dec 1st Some boys punished for going to drive the pigs this morning after school commenced.

14th Dec Miss Gear =y came at 10am to see some of the parents about the clothing club. Gave 11 bookmarks to children who had been at school every day in November.

24th Dec No school Christmas holiday. The assistant mistress gone for a week.

25th December Holiday for Christmas day.

26th Dec Miss Geary sent a note as she was unable to come up saying we were not to have regular lessons, but to work on something to give away on New Year’s Day. Miss Alexander came and gave us a lesson on the old year.