

The First World War at Sampford Peverell School

PB: Attached are the relevant extracts from the School Log books – very little of interest, unfortunately. These extracts were made during the research for the Schools' Book, and may not be comprehensive. However, I doubt that it's worth the trouble of getting permission to look at the books again just to see if there's anything else there.

As to the sex of teachers, there were several women employed before the war, teaching sewing, the juniors and infants. Mr Smith was the Head Teacher, and in 1914 he had an assistant, Sidney Charles Moyses. Sidney had been a seaman with Naval Ordnance in 1911, living in Saltash, Cornwall, where he had been born. He was married and born about 1883, so it is possible that he joined up later in the War, but there is no obvious record for him. He doesn't appear in the 1915 Electoral Roll for SP, so his connection with SP may have been both short and weak! After his departure from the School (date uncertain), it would seem that the only male was the Head until more recent and enlightened times."

(Extracts from School Log)

1912

24th May

On the afternoon, being Empire Day, there was no school meeting. In the morning session the timetable after 11 o'clock was departed from to lay stress on the subject of "Empire".

1914

4th August

War with Germany declared.

November 20th

With the permission of the Education Committee, the first half of the Sewing Time is being devoted to work for the soldiers engaged on the continent.

1915

January 8th

Admitted a Belgian girl of eleven, Julia Mahien, Flemish in her native tongue, but as she has some knowledge of French, the language difficulty is not great, and she promises to pick up English rapidly.

January 15th

Am allowing Julia's brother, Jules (16) to sit in one of the spare desks for the purpose of improving his English. He does not conform to the school timetable, nor, of course, does his name appear on the books.

April 13th

School reassembled with a poor attendance, a large proportion of the "Home" boys being absent for the purpose of parading Tiverton.

June 25th

The attendance Sub-Committee had recommended that the school be closed for the hay harvest, but that course has not been considered necessary for this parish, - the shortage of agricultural labour not being exceptional.

July 13th

The "Home Boys", being wanted for a Recruiting Meeting, there was no school meeting.

1916

May 3rd

No meeting. Home boys proposed marching to Cullompton in connection with their Pound Day

May 16th

Mr Moyle left school at 11am to interview the Tiverton military tribunal.

1917

June 15th

Miss Turner had leave of absence to meet her brother before his departure for the "Front". It appeared afterwards that he failed to get leave.

July 11th

Miss Turner left school at 3pm for the postponed meeting with her brother. She promised to return to duty by 10am Friday (13th) at the latest.

July 13th

Miss Turner absent without justification.

October 7th

News has come from France that Henry Heyward has lost his life in the advance now being made by Sir Douglas Haig. He, together with Walter Gale and Robert Hine, attended this school in the early years of this century.

1918

? Jan 1918.

The teachers and children of this school donated £1 12s. 6d. to the Christmas Fund for the Children of Blinded Soldiers.

? May 1918.

Children out collecting herbs - in response to request from Tiverton - dandelion (root), coltsfoot (whole) celandine (leaves).

November 11th

Yesterday the abdication of the Kaiser was announced. Today at noon the news came that fighting ceased at 11am, - an armistice having been signed with Germany. After singing the National Anthem etc, the school was dismissed till Wednesday (13th) morning. (i.e. a day's holiday had been granted).

1919

June 21st

German Plenipotentiaries signed the Peace Treaty.

July 21st

In the afternoon, the school closed at 3pm to enable the Peace Celebrations Committee to carry out that part of the programme which had to be omitted on the 19th owing to the rain.

July 29th

The King having expressed a wish that school children should have an extension of their summer holidays - Re-open 3 September.

November 11th

The anniversary of Armistice. At the Incumbent's request the teachers and children observed 2 minutes silence (asked for by the King) in the Parish Church.