

RETURN TO FILE 368

A short history of *Craigie Primary School*



by Rhoda Fothergill

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Foreword

With the approach of the Centenary Year of Craigie School on its present site, it seemed an appropriate time to consider the production of a History of the School. The project began in a modest way, with the senior pupils of the school being involved in it as part of their history studies, and a number of senior citizens of the area were interviewed. A letter in the local newspaper intimating the project produced an encouraging response, and much information; telephone calls, personal calls at the school, and letters from former pupils now resident in all parts of the country, both north and south of the border, brought a wealth of very interesting facts and anecdotes.

It was thought that the History would take a few years to compile and therefore was commenced in good time so that it would be ready for Centenary Year. However, when Miss Rhoda Fothergill was approached in order to take advantage of her expertise and experience in the writing of local histories, apart from her great knowledge of the history, architecture and archaeology of Perth, the project suddenly took a tremendous impetus. The energy, drive and enthusiasm of Miss Fothergill has resulted in the publication of this booklet a year or two earlier than was anticipated, but it is no less valuable, and, it is hoped, of no less interest to parents, friends, former pupils and pupils because of that.

The History is almost entirely the work of Miss Fothergill and we acknowledge with gratitude her immensely valuable contribution; grateful acknowledgment is also due to the many pupils of the school who assisted in gathering information and producing some excellent drawings of features of the school building, to Mr. James Morrison for his advice on architectural details of the Watergate School and of the present school building, and to Mr. Cameron Murray whose advice on the art work was most welcome. To the many others who assisted, our thanks, and lastly but by no means least acknowledgment is made to the present school staff whose support and encouragement is very much appreciated.

SAMUEL WALLACE.

Craigie School,
May, 1982.

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Craigie Primary School, Perth

A SHORT HISTORY

RHODA FOTHERGILL

Craigie Primary School, Perth, situated in Abbot Street, meets the educational requirements of the children living in part of Perth's western suburb. Indeed when erected in 1884 the school was known simply as Western District Public School, Perth, as it was then the most western of the city schools. Farther west there existed a small school in the village of Cherrybank! Internal alterations and rear additions have been made in the intervening years but as the school now approaches its centenary the facade stands today practically unchanged from the day when the school was opened in August 1884.

Prior to that date the need for a school in this area of the city had been evident. Indeed since the opening of Perth's Railway Terminus in 1846 there had been a formation of streets with tenements and terraced houses west of the Terminus, many of these accommodating railway workers and their families.

When Western District School opened it was not an entirely new foundation but was merely continuing an educational tradition which had already spanned half a century. By decision of Perth School Board the staff of the National School in the Watergate, Perth, transferred in 1884 to the newly-built school in Craigie to receive and instruct scholars from five to fourteen years of age. It is of interest to give some details of the National School which was superseded by Western District.

The Victorian epoch is marked by great industrial progress, colonial expansion and political and educational change. The value of education had never been denied but until the early decades of the nineteenth century it had been the prerogative of the favoured few. At that period there were in Perth the Seminaries in the splendid new building erected in Rose Terrace in 1806 amalgamating the Grammar School and the Academy and supplying the higher branches of learning under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee of Perth Town Council. Younger children were taught the basic skills of reading, writing and counting in the Parish and Free Church Schools, the Church as from earliest times taking some responsibility for education. Facilities for educational opportunity were felt to be sadly lacking in our city and in November 1834 an Education Committee consisting of the Lord Provost, the Dean of Guild, the Treasurer, four Bailies and four Councillors was formed to consider the problem.

In January 1835, two years before Queen Victoria's accession, this Committee appealed to the inhabitants of the city stating that "the Education of the rising generation is unquestionably entitled to one of the first places among the objects of public attention. Upon it are based the future happiness of the young, the comfort of the aged and the public welfare". The Government acknowledged the existing deficiencies of

the country's educational system and had set aside a considerable sum of money in aid of the erection of schools in the larger towns of Scotland where "local exertions had been made and corresponding subscriptions obtained". With this provisional promise of additional funds the Committee proceeded.

The elders of the four Perth parishes were asked to make returns of the numbers of children attending and not attending school in their various districts. The following details speak for themselves.

	At School	Not at School
The East Church Parish	787	675
The Middle Church Parish	553	337
The West Church Parish	568	349
St. Paul's Church Parish	349	182
	2,257	1,543

Of the total of 3,800 children in the four parishes nearly 5/12 of them were not receiving education. Indeed it was also found that in the suburb beyond Methven Street and the Hospital the fraction not receiving education was nearer 7/12. Such a deplorable situation undoubtedly required action. The Education Committee suggested the building of four schools to which the Town Council might be induced to grant a total of £200 and an annual donation of £10 to each. A resolution was made to write to the Lords of the Treasury requesting a grant of £500 and to call a meeting of the inhabitants of the City in the Middle Church—that is, of St. John's Kirk—in an attempt to raise an additional £300 for the erection of educational establishments and thereby procure "the alleviation of an evil which unless checked must ultimately undermine the foundations of religion and morals and the blessings of a civilised society".

The success of that meeting of inhabitants of Perth was evident in the immediate formation of subscription lists naming the public spirited gentlemen and ladies with their donations ranging from one shilling to five guineas. The original ideal had been to erect four new schools for the education of "the poorer classes" where "reading, writing and common rules of Arithmetic might be obtained at a more moderate rate than in the principal seminaries". Eventually, however, with a Government grant of £400, the Town Council's donation and public subscriptions two National Schools were erected in Perth, one in the Watergate and the other in the Newrow. Perth National Schools would, it was felt, afford "opportunity to the children of the operatives generally but in particular those engaged in manufactures of receiving instruction in the first and most important branches of Education" and would "widely diffuse the blessings of a sound knowledge". Pupils accepted in these schools were between five and fourteen years of age and it was stipulated that fees were to be 18d. per month. The text books used in the National Schools had to be approved by the Town Council's Education Committee

and the selection and appointment of a teacher for each school was to be vested in the Magistrates and Town Council of Perth who were responsible for payment of salaries. Each teacher was to receive £10 per annum paid in two instalments at Whitsun and Martinmas and the whole of the fees also belonged to him.

In the Town Council Minutes of April 1836 there is for us a glimpse into education of the past. The Watergate National School House was to be sufficient to accommodate two hundred scholars, the inside measurements being 46 feet in length and 29 feet in breadth! The internal arrangements were "adapted to the monitorial system of teaching—the tables placed up to the walls all round leaving a vacancy for the Master's Desk, the body of the rooms to have no furniture except for a few seats for the use of visitors. Some striking and useful objects were to be placed on the walls such as representations of a kind that may impress and improve the youthful mind". Such were the visual aids of last century! The seats for visitors were no doubt used by the gentlemen of the Education Committee of not less than seven Magistrates and Councillors appointed annually to visit and inspect the school at least once every month! An annual examination took place before the Magistrates, Councillors and Clergymen of the Town. The day school hours were from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and children were to be allowed within those times to amuse themselves in the playground "at the pleasure of the master, having one or more monitors with them". School holidays were fixed at four weeks during Harvest.

Mr. William M. Mackenzie, the city architect, prepared plans for the Watergate National School once the land adjacent to the Tay belonging to the Town and Dr. Patrick Murray of Kilmadock had been bought. Adjoining was property of Matthew Bell, salmon fisher at Elcho including a shed, Fish House and Ice House. Indeed the side wall of the Ice House was taken down to the surface of the ground and rebuilt to the height necessary for the gable of the new school. The building was simple in construction and Huntingtower quarry stone was used. The playground was laid with lime, small gravel and smithy ashes to a thickness of four inches. The total cost was in the region of £390!

In April 1836 Mr. Peter Howie was appointed by the Town Council as Master in the Watergate School. The candidates for such posts had to be "men of sober and unblemished character in full communion with some Protestant religious body". They had to be well instructed themselves and have a facility for communicating instruction to others. School had to be opened daily with a prayer and the reading of a chapter from the Bible. Thus began the Watergate School which put many feet onto the first rung of the educational ladder in Perth from 1836 to 1884. Within that period extensions were made to the school in 1857 when the roll was recorded as 127 pupils. By that year the Government had issued explicit instructions as to the requirements regarding pupil space—ideally 8 square feet for each child—ventilation, drains, smoke flues and so on! In the event of non-adherence to the regulations the Government could withhold Pupil Teachers' Stipends and Monitors' Gratuities.

As the Watergate School was a Subscription School of which the Magistrates and Council were Managers it did not necessarily come under the new School Board of Perth formed after the Education (Scotland) Act of 1872. By September 1873 the Town Council, after much discussion, had decided to hand over that school to the Board provided that they paid the master's salary. At that time the school roll was 226. The Headmaster, Mr. William Barclay, was voted a salary of £130 per annum by the School Board. The Watergate School, built for 200 pupils with its schoolroom and two classrooms was confined as was the playground area and the Board tried to acquire neighbouring tenements for demolition to provide playing space and extra light and air in the school. Considerable difficulties defeated attempts to improve the facilities of the Watergate School and in December 1882 the Board was negotiating with the Glover Incorporation to feu ground "behind Glover Street and north of the new street now called Abbot Street". The Incorporation agreed to feu to the School Board not less than an acre of ground "on the North side of Abbot Street and between two new streets to be formed there from Abbot Street northwards" at the rate of £28 feu duty per acre provided that the Board would pay expenses of forming a kerb, channel and footpath and meet the expense of laying the street. The Glover Incorporation wished the plans of the new school submitted to them for approval. The School Board, however, asked for a reduction of the duty to £25 an acre. To this the Incorporation agreed and the Board proceeded to appoint an architect for the school. Mr. Charles S. Robertson, Perth, was invited "to submit plans of a good, substantial school to accommodate about 600 children to be built to conform to Government regulations".

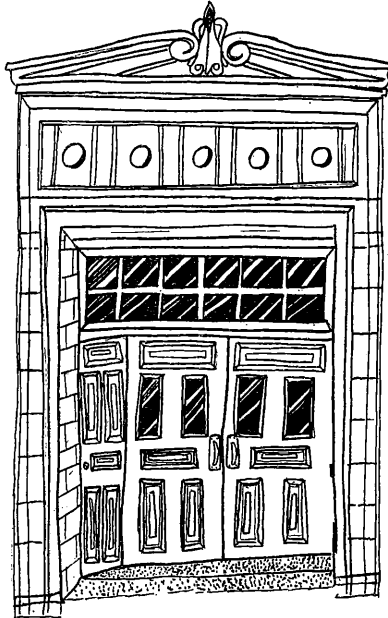
When these plans were ready they were sent for approval to the Board, to the Glover Incorporation and to the Scotch Education Department. The new school was to be called "The Western District Public School, Perth". Contractors were given the opportunity of estimating for the construction. The mason work of Huntingtower square rubble with Bannockburn corners and rybats and dressings was given to Robert Brand. This with the estimates for joinery, slating, plastering, glazing, plumbing and ventilation work totalled £3,982 17s. 10d. The painting, furnishing and fitting of the school increased the sum to £5,274 17s. 10d. and a loan was obtained from the Public Works Loan Commissioners to be repaid over a period of thirty years at interest rate of $3\frac{3}{4}\%$. Work proceeded and by August 1884 Mr. Barclay who as Headmaster of the Watergate School was transferred with his staff to the new school, was requesting maps and apparatus. Illustrations of Natural Philosophy and of Human Physiology, maps, of the various countries of the world, globes, natural history pictures and large Ball Frames all figure in his list of requirements. Pointers, map sticks, staff-room furniture and stools for the use of Pupil Teachers were not forgotten.

So began a new page in the history of education in Perth. The old school in the Watergate was considered for a time as a Technical Education School but as there was no way of extending and improving

the building the School Board eventually in 1890 sought permission to sell the property valued at £350.

The opening of Western District School is reported in the Perthshire Courier of August 1884. The ceremony was performed by Mr. D. McKenzie in the presence of a large assembly including members of Perth School Board, Mr. Walker, H.M. Inspector, local ministers and dignitaries, Mr. C. S. Robertson, the architect, the staff of the new school and representatives of the contractors for the building. Mr. McKenzie explained that one of the major concerns of Perth School Board when it came into existence in 1872 was the poor state of school accommodation which threatened a loss of Government grants if steps were not taken. The architect had designed a substantial and suitable school to meet the future requirements of the population of Craigie but had avoided extravagances in mere ornamentation.

Western District School was the third new building erected by Perth School Board after its inception in 1873 when it inherited several inadequate and dilapidated schoolhouses. Indeed the opening of Northern District School, now St. Ninian's Primary School, was attended in May 1876 by Mr. William Barclay, then Headmaster of the Watergate School. In that year too a new school was built at Kinnoull. All these were single-storey buildings with large schoolrooms and two—Craigie Primary and Kinnoull Primary are now listed buildings. At Craigie the original school building was in the shape of an E with the frontage facing

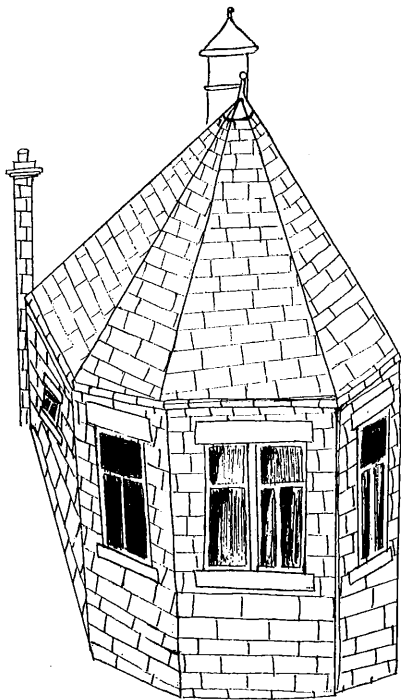


A front entrance door.

south on Abbot Street and showing two fine tall doorways. The door pediments are ornamented. The double doors are of Oregon pine and have their original bolts and locks. The outer porch is partially lined with stained fir. The height of the inner doorways with glass fanlights made more light available in the entrance halls beyond.

The school was heated originally by coal fires and the chimney stacks are still visible as are the ventilator shafts of zinc providing the natural ventilation so important for the health of the scholars. Unfortunately the original fireplaces have been covered in or removed at structural alterations but there do remain decorative ventilator grilles in the ceilings of two classrooms. Externally the door pediments and the central pediment with its ornamental swag give a pleasing symmetrical effect. The small circular lights, an architectural feature, are ornamental as well as giving extra light. The rainwater heads have swags and are probably original. The down pipes are square. Flights of stone steps, trodden by the feet of many pupils, lead to the entrance doors and are the original ones from Carmyllie Quarry, Dundee. Repair work to the worn steps is clearly seen.

The building was constructed with Huntingtower sandstone which throws off its facing easily and was showing signs of deterioration.



Octagonal Cookery Room.

However, the stonework has now been restored and cleaned. The corners of the building and the window architraves are ashlar of Hailes stone near Edinburgh. Quite often such stone was brought from Leith to Perth by ship. The stonework surrounding the windows has a fine moulding. In the playground there stand the lodge of artificial stone and the interesting octagonal Cookery room of Errol brick. The brickwork is in Scotch bonding which means that there is one course of headers to every five courses of stretchers, the headers having the shorter end of brick and the stretchers having the longer end of brick pointing out.

Is there a suggestion that Perth School Board was rather short of cash? On the east wall of the school there is a vacant stone area which would appear to have been for a plaque but has remained unused. Immediately above is a bell turret provided for the school bell. The chimney piece with two flues is another interesting feature.

Although the school interior has been modernised in the passing years there are still to be seen some of the fine original doors with fielded panels. Such panels are of comparatively thick wood chamfered or thinned to fit into the framing of the door. This type of door construction was used until after the First World War when plywood came into use. In the older part of the school there is the high wooden skirting and the lofty ceilinged rooms showing cornices of plaster work.

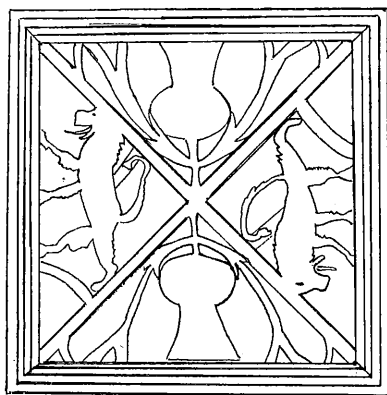
Alterations and additions to the school include in November 1892 a new cookery kitchen for which Mr. C. S. Robertson supplied plans and in 1927 a new Cookery and Laundry Room. In that year too came the first instalment of central heating completed in 1929. Earlier in 1907 extensive improvements were made to the interior providing an enlarged Infant Department suggested in the Inspector's report. It is perhaps surprising that electric light was installed in the school only in 1949 after the Second World War. Indeed it was the last city school to be wired and the poor lighting figures prominently in the Log Book entries. A former pupil attending in the years of the Second World War recalls the janitor, old Sandy, going into each classroom on winter afternoons to light the gas lamps which spluttered and flickered! At that time too it was the janitor's duty to ring the handbell for assembly and dismissal. In 1942 the railings in Young Street were sacrificed for the War Effort but those remaining now are original. In 1957 a hot water system was installed to supply the sewing room, the cloakrooms and the staffroom. New toilets and cloakrooms were constructed in 1965. Undoubtedly the largest structural alteration was in 1972 when a new classroom block of three rooms was made, allowing three older classrooms on the east wing of the school to be formed into a General Purpose Room with kitchen area at one end.

The first Log Book of Craigie Primary School is an interesting educational record as it begins on 25th September, 1871, the year prior to the Education (Scotland) Act of 1872 and is not the logged events of Craigie School but of the National School in the Watergate. Inside the cover of the Book are guide lines for keeping the Log. It is recom-

mended that daily entries should be brief—as they are! Every school receiving an annual grant from the Government was obliged to keep a Log Book which would be available for Inspectors and summaries of their reports were to be copied into the Book which had to “contain not less than 500 ruled pages” and be “stoutly bound”. It is of note that on 25th December, 1871 the comment is “Usual work in progress!” The Magistrates and Town Councillors made annual examination of the National Schools in Perth and it was they who appointed Mr. William Barclay Headmaster in September 1871, his curriculum including Practical Geometry and Drawing. Little respite was given and the Inspectors descended upon him in November! Their comments are interesting. The pupils’ achievements were humble but the roll had doubled from the previous year’s visit. The first mention of Perth School Board is in May 1873 when a return of numbers was made to them. The Queen’s Birthday was celebrated annually and among the early entries are holidays for “Sacramental Fast Days” in April and October. Such holidays were frequently followed by low attendances, some of the scholars taking the remaining days of the week as a bonus. How many pupils were on the roll of Watergate School? In 1873 there were 122 boys and 90 girls. These numbers rose when the Free St. Leonard’s School was discontinued. Mr. Barclay had an outstanding knowledge of and enthusiasm for botany and mycology. Indeed he was a member of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science from 1883 until his death and was President of that Society in 1907. He introduced into his pupils’ curriculum Botany and Physical Geography and his teaching of these subjects was greatly commended by the Inspectorate on future visits. In May 1876 magnetism and electricity were introduced to the timetable. However, the Inspector’s Report of 1877 speaks of the 60 to 70 infants not being well taught and requiring a teacher to themselves. Such infants were often partly taught by the older pupils in the school and by monitors, young people who, aspiring to enter the teaching profession, had further education from the Headmaster and the elementary principles of teaching practice. In September 1878 Miss Sprott, a certificated teacher, commenced as an assistant teaching that large number of infants!

Entry follows entry with comments on the running of the school. Excuses for absences are often recorded as “keepin’ the bairn” or “rockin’ the cradle”. Flittin’ week again saw a drop in attendance when “term time” came round each May. Low attendance was also recorded each October at the annual Little Dunning Market. Official holidays were given for a variety of reasons. In June 1878 a half holiday marked the laying of the foundation stone of the Municipal Buildings at the foot of the High Street and on 1st December, 1879 a half holiday was given in honour of Mr. Gladstone, the Prime Minister passing through Perth. Pupils would doubtless enjoy the holidays given on the occasions of the Perth Hunt Races on the North Inch. The Watergate School was obviously becoming far too small for requirements and Mr. Barclay notes in one or two entries that he has had to turn away children. Also

on the May term several pupils were absent "removing to other parts of the town". The movement to the newer suburbs of Perth had begun and of course has continued to this present day to the suburbs which are now even farther outlying. Recently built schools are distant from the town centre. The Inspector remarked on the "defects of the building" in the Watergate in November 1882 and thus hastened the construction of a new school at Craigie. When that new school opened in 1884 an attendance of 100 pupils is recorded. Western District School was not, unfortunately, completely finished in August 1884 but by September the paintwork was done. The large classroom was able to be occupied by two classes. Mr. Barclay had trouble with the heating of the school, the grates being insufficient as winter approached. By November the school roll was 158 boys and 139 girls under the supervision of six members of staff. The Inspector's report describes the new premises as "handsome and commodious in an excellent situation and in all respects sufficient and satisfactory except that all the rooms but the principal one are not well warmed." Mr. Barclay applied for and was granted grates to give additional heat. Mr. Robertson, the architect, was consulted and advised that a slow combustion stove be placed in the large room and Kinnaird grates substituted for existing grates in the other rooms.



Decorated ventilator grille.

The number of pupils present at the Inspector's visit in 1885 was 387 and with this increasing roll Mr. Aitken was appointed as an extra assistant teacher at a salary of £70 per annum. The now established school was in a developing area with houses and tenements being erected nearby. Indeed when the new Cattle Mart in Glover Street was opened in May 1886 school attendance was low as some scholars had absented themselves to view the animal sales. In that year too the School Board approved an increase of salary to £200 per annum for the Headmaster. By contrast the new janitor, Mr. David Deas of Speygate was appointed

at a wage of 14/- per week. He resigned the following year and his successor, Mr. Purvis, giving every satisfaction, was entrusted with the drilling of the pupils for which he was paid an extra 2/- weekly. By 1888 the roll of the school was 478 with a staff of 12 teachers. Cookery classes began in that year and the senior girls were sent twice weekly from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. to premises in Princes Street where instruction was given. In the previous year Mrs. Black of the West End School of Cookery, Glasgow had written to the Perth School Board to enquire if they intended to go in for the teaching of Cookery in their schools. Members of Perth School Board made frequent and unannounced visits to Western District School on which occasions a suitable comment was written into the Log Book as for example in April 1889 "the work going on energetically, orderly and satisfactorily."

In that year too, changes were taking place in nearby parts of the city. The Seymour Munro School in Caledonian Road having been closed by the School Board pupils transferred to Western District raising the roll to 634 and instigating a request from Mr. Barclay for more desks. Forms, restrained and varnished, furniture and maps had already been allotted to Mr. Barclay from the closing school. Another teacher was appointed to his staff at a salary of £35 per annum. On the site of the Seymour Munro School a large new school was built, namely Caledonian Road School and when opened in 1892 some pupils transferred from Western District which nonetheless was left with a roll of 631 and a staff of fifteen teachers. Mr. Barclay being a keen naturalist made observation in his Log Book entries on the weather which was often severe—gales, heavy snows and floods—preventing children from attending. In November 1892 the new Cookery kitchen was installed. This allowed cookery lessons to be given within the school and two lady assistants were paid £5 each to qualify for teaching that subject. The new kitchen made it possible in the following month's severe weather to serve soup to the pupils at a charge of a halfpenny each.

Holidays provided a respite from study and pupils looked forward to the annual Victoria Day. In 1894 is the first mention of a Spring holiday of one week at the end of March. It was often in the early months of the year that epidemics of measles, whooping cough and scarlatina swept through the school—and indeed the town—decimating attendance. So severe were the cases of these diseases in 1899 that on the order of the Medical Officer of Perth School Board all city schools closed early for Christmas holidays on 15th December. Throughout the years royal events, joyous and sad, bring a holiday bonus to scholars. In 1892 a half holiday marked the funeral of the Duke of Clarence and in June 1897 a whole day was given for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Scholars were given a half holiday for the relief of Ladysmith in March 1900 and when the local volunteers returned to Perth from the South African Campaign a large number of pupils were absent. Yet another half holiday was given in 1902 when the famous Scot, Andrew Carnegie, received the freedom of the City

of Perth. Nor was the School Board unaware of the pleasures of childhood and all school children in Perth were given a holiday during the visit of Barnam and Bailey's Circus in September 1899, as also in 1904 during the visit of Buffalo Bill's Show on the South Inch.

In June 1909 the First Assistant, Mr. Kaye, who had been in poor health for some time died and Mr. McGregor succeeded him. In the history of the School many members of staff have had records of long service not least of these being Miss Sprott who had joined the staff in the Watergate School in 1878 and retired from Western District in 1921. In March 1911 Mr. Barclay retired having given a total service of forty years to Perth School Board, twenty-seven of them at Western District School. One can imagine his feelings on retiral when the Chairman, Clerk and four members attended a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Barclay. The School Log Book records that "the proceedings were marked by great cordiality and passed off most successfully." Mr. Masterson, Chairman of the Board, spoke of Mr. Barclay as "a most successful teacher and an enthusiast—a man whose whole soul and life were in his profession." It was felt that no more enthusiastic, industrious and conscientious teacher had ever been in the School Board's service. Mrs. Barclay received a gold brooch and to Mr. Barclay were given a revolving bookcase and Kodak camera. In his reply the retiring Headmaster explained that many of his pupils were grandfathers and grandmothers as when he began to teach in the Watergate School he was twenty-seven years of age. He had found pleasure in his work and maintained that work was a refuge for the cares, troubles and anxieties that every person met on the journey through life. His final entry in the Log Book has a poignant conclusion—"Vale, W. Barclay." On 20th March, 1911 Mr. John Henderson took up duty as Headmaster and going through the classes "found earnest work throughout." It was in June that year that the fortunate scholars had a week's holiday for the Coronation Celebrations of King George V and Queen Mary. In spite of the high risks of infectious diseases—diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid, whooping cough and measles—not all children succumbed, notably Sarah Mackenzie who in 1912 was presented with a silver watch for eight years' perfect attendance. For others school was not so attractive and particularly at the beginning of term the attendance officer was informed of defaulters who were swiftly brought back to the scholastic fold.

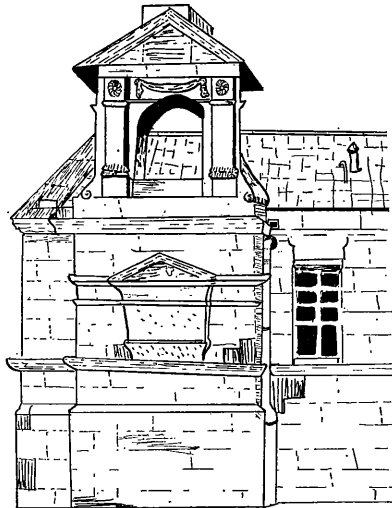
The dark and tragic days of the First World War have little mention in the School Log Book until March 1915 when the school closed for the afternoon to collect funds for the Perthshire Motor Ambulance Car. Throughout the years the pupils have been quick to give generous help to a multitude of good causes. In December 1915 there was a request by the military authorities for the occupation of the school building by a garrison of Artillery who had stabling for their horses in the grounds of the nearby Mart. At that time arrangements were made whereby Southern District scholars and Western District scholars met forenoons and afternoons alternately every fortnight using Southern District School.

The roll being then 523 it was agreed that the younger infants went to St. Stephen's Church Hall in Paradise Place. The pupils were able to return to their own school the following April with a marked improvement in attendance! In March 1916 Mr. Fairweather was called up for military duty and three months later, Mr. Wills, which created staffing problems. Sir Francis Norie Miller, Chairman of the General Accident Company was at this period Chairman of Perth School Board. He was a frequent visitor to the school and indeed a generous benefactor, donating the School Bible which was to be kept as a "Family Bible". Sir Francis lived at Cleeve House and throughout the War the children helped by tending allotments there. Peace came in 1918 and in the following year the extended summer holiday of nine weeks was part of the victory celebration. Empire Day in 1921 was specially significant after the fearful battles of the Great War. The senior pupils took part in an imposing pageant in the City Hall of Perth when Britannia received the homage of Commonwealth and Dominion countries. The pupils of Western District represented the West Indies. On the retirement of Mr. Henderson in June 1922 Mr. James Goldie from Comrie was appointed Headmaster. In that year the school roll was 441 and in the following year a new secondary promotion scheme began when pupils not proceeding to Perth Academy were provided with a three year secondary course, the boys attending Balhousie Boys' School and the girls Caledonian Road School. School displays, shows of work and concerts were part of the pupils' activities then as now. The total proceeds of £30 from a school concert in 1924 were used to erect a Public Clock on the triangle of ground at Priory Place. It is of interest that a former pupil recalls that piece of ground being referred to as the "farl". No doubt the scholars found the clock extremely useful as they hurried up the brae in time for the school bell! Mr. Charles A. Lunan of Birnam School succeeded Mr. Goldie as Headmaster in 1930 and two years later the school roll is recorded as 548, the cookery room then being utilised as a classroom. In that year too Sir Francis Norie Miller made a gift of the area of ground north of the school which provided a playing field and weekly games periods of 45 minutes proved popular with pupils. A Cake and Candy Sale provided funds for equipment for the playing field which was formally opened by Sir Francis Norie Miller. For thirsty athletes a drinking fountain was installed in Young Street.

Contagious diseases are noted throughout the School Log Book—typhoid, scarlet fever, ringworm, impetigo and diphtheria. A particularly virulent epidemic of diphtheria struck the school in 1933 and the entry for October that year tells of general alarm among parents and children. The Inspector's Report speaks of "antiquated toilets". The school doctor and nurse visited daily to take swabs from the children. At the Prize-giving in 1934 the Headmaster spoke with sadness of the death of three pupils. Later that year new toilets were installed. The children's health and well-being are of prime consideration. In April 1920 there is the first mention of the visit of the school dentist. Regular visits were made by the school nurse. A milk scheme was instituted in 1934 whereby

pupils received $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk for $\frac{1}{2}$ d. daily, necessitous children receiving theirs free. The safety of the pupils was also an ever-present thought and when toward the end of 1934 a new bus route in Abbot Street began barriers were erected at the exit gates. The school's accommodation had been insufficient for some time and with a roll well over 500 the Education Authority hired Craigie Public Hall in Priory Place for two forenoons a week for physical education classes. The rental was 10/- per week! This Hall was later used for serving school dinners and for school parties and prize-givings. Use of it ceased in 1972 when the General Purpose Room was formed at the east end of the school.

Western District School has had many generous friends not least among these being Sir Francis and Lady Norie Miller and Mr. Andrew Rutherford who was for some years the school's representative on the Perth School Management Committee. They made frequent and welcome visits and were among the platform party at Annual Prize-givings, the dux medals being gifted by Sir Francis and presented to the winners by Lady Norie Miller. Mr. Rutherford was an author of historical novels with local settings, his works including "The Glover's Apprentice" and "Tillyheave". Copies of these were given by him to prizewinners of the school. In 1936 there is an interesting note on text book and stationery charges—for seniors 5/-, juniors 3/6 and infants 6d. Certain pupils received these items free or qualified for free boots, free milk or free dinners according to home circumstances. Already there was unease in Europe and in December 1936 Mr. Wilson of the British League of Nations gave a talk to pupils in relation to the political situation in Europe and the World generally! Yet early in the



Feature on east wall of School.

following year there occurred the tragic death of a much respected member of staff, Mr. McDowall, his death being due sadly to the after-effects of the Great War when he lost an eye and since when he had suffered recurrent malarial troubles. The transference of senior and junior pupils from Cherrybank School to Western District School in 1937 increased the roll. Cherrybank was then an Infant School only.

One joyful event before the clouds of war cast their shadows once again over the country was the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in May 1937. Sir Francis Norie Miller gave each child, teacher, janitor and cleaner in the school a copy of the programme of the official Coronation Ceremony on 12th May. Each child received a box of chocolates. Schools were on holiday and the Westminster Abbey service was broadcast in the cinemas of the town.

Educational excursions are an integral part of school curriculum now but visits to places of interest in Edinburgh in 1936 and 1939 and in 1938 a sail down the River Clyde with a sighting of the new Cunarder "Queen Elizabeth" were innovations prior to the Second World War, which caused the suspension of such activities. In the last three decades pupils have travelled to historic sites and beauty spots in the west of Scotland, in Angus, Perthshire and Fife and even farther to York and London. Miss Margaret Hunter retired in December 1938 having taught for twenty-eight years in the school. At that period the Inspectors' reports speak of the adverse effect on teaching due to partitions in rooms and defective lighting. They suggested tarmacadam surfaces for the playground which had been partially concreted in 1937.

Headmasters of Perth schools attending a meeting held in Fechny School by the Inspector of Police in charge of Air Raid Precautions in May 1939 gives the first hint of approaching hostilities. In June of that year there was a conference with city officials on problems arising from the reception of children from Glasgow in the eventuality of war when schools were to be the receiving centres and headmasters the chief reception officers. They also acted as billeting officers. The School Log Book makes fleeting mention of the First World War but the entries from 1939 onwards give a full and interesting record of events affecting the school and its pupils during the Second World War. Due to technological advance that war was closer and more threatening to life in our island than the Great War had been. On the declaration of War 8000 evacuees were expected at the City Hall of Perth. Due to the number of medical inspections to be done the schools which had closed on Friday, 1st September did not re-open until Monday, 25th September when the Headmaster of Western District School enrolled 65 evacuees. The Glasgow children were billeted in Viewlands House. School practices changed and gas mask drill became a regular feature. Major Cox, the senior Air Raid Warden suggested the scattering of children into neighbouring houses, basements and pends and into Craigie Church in the event of an Air Raid. It was not until the end of November that three sites for Air Raid Shelters were fixed in the playground and visits

made to the basement of the Co-operative Buildings at the corner of Abbot Street and Raeburn Place where 150 children could be placed for safety! Since the First World War pupils had made their annual collection for the Earl Haig Poppy Fund and not surprisingly the total collected in November 1939 was a record £5.1.0. By January 1940 the three shelters had been erected to hold 50 pupils each and in March the wide pend in the Co-operative Building was fitted out as a fourth shelter. It was permissible for the older children living near the school to go home in an emergency!

In spite of the outbreak of war the telephone was installed in the school in October 1940 and the suggested tarmacadam was laid in the playground. It was at this time that "the boys' gate with its dangerous steps and pit was put out of commission." There was also consideration of the girls' gate and the replacing of it by a gate in Young Street or on the corner of Young Street and Abbot Street, the latter plan being put into effect. War was not the only catastrophe to be faced. In January 1940 severe frost burst thirty-three of the school radiators causing closure and when school reopened a week later the "sodden floors" created a "hot house" atmosphere necessitating further closure. This was followed by an influenza epidemic!

During the early months of the War Perth Lady Teachers contributed to the Forces Wool Fund while the children's fingers worked busily and eagerly knitting squares to form blankets. One hundred and eight squares of six inches formed one blanket and seven of these blankets had been sent to the collection Depot by April 1940. Owing to the serious war situation—the invasion by Germany of Holland and Belgium—the school staff at the Whitsun Holiday remained in the city in case of re-evacuation. Indeed the parents of 18 pupils had expressed a wish that their children be sent to safety to Commonwealth countries under the Government Overseas Evacuation Scheme. Members of staff gave voluntary service in A.R.P. duty, First Aid duty and Canteen duty. The Log Book gives a very vivid picture of those black days of War with weekly A.R.P. drill to practise the working of stirrup pumps for treating incendiary bombs. Anti-Splinter net covered school windows and the school was equipped as a rest centre for emergency use. In January 1941 pupils filled the shelters in one minute when there was an Air Raid Warning. Schools received warning by phone of the approach of enemy planes and in March 1941 five "yellow warnings" were received in one week. Raids on Glasgow brought more evacuee pupils to the school.

The Junior Academy was opened in 1942 and this caused a fall in the roll. In May of that year the Rev. Neil Moir was inducted to St. Leonards-in-the-Field Church and appointed the Presbytery visitor to the school. This began a long association with one of Perth's much loved ministers who continued to participate in the religious life of the school until 1963. The price of school dinners being raised from 2d. to 4d. in September 1942 is recorded in the Log Book with feelings of exasperation and despair—inflation indeed! Miss Anne B. Nicoll having

spent the whole of her teaching career in Western District School since joining the staff in 1918 retired in 1942. However, the War caused staffing difficulties and she returned for one year. The effects, direct or indirect, of the War are logged. Lecturers from the Ministry of Information spoke on "Spies and Rumours" and "Education of Nazi Youth". Possibly the way in which pupils were best able to help the War Effort was by collecting money. Warship Week and Wings for Victory benefited as did Perthshire's destroyer "The Highlander". Following the exhortation to "Dig for Victory" the pupils dug up the east slope of the playground for vegetable planting. This helped to supplement the food rations. Clothes too were rationed by the issue of clothing coupons. As recorded in the Log Book it was the Headmaster's duty to issue to "outsize children" their forty additional coupons. By 1944 the tide had turned and the Allies were pushing on to Victory. All Glasgow evacuees had returned home by December of that year and in May 1945 the VE celebrations are noted with pride. The flag was hoisted and bunting adorned the front of the school. Another era in the school's history was closing. The Log Book notes that during the War Years 221 evacuees had been enrolled, 121 from Glasgow, 31 from other areas, 66 from England, mostly from London and the South East, and 3 from Poland.

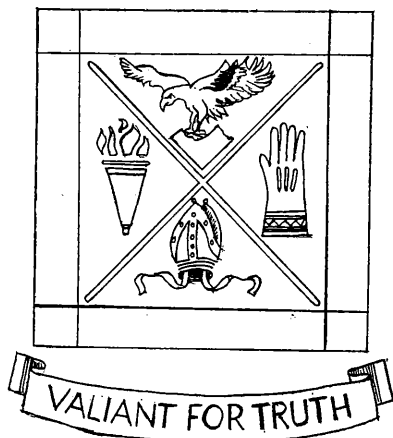
The exigencies of war over, educational progress and change continued. The Glover Street Social Committee gave £10 as the first instalment towards a wireless set and speakers for radio lessons in the school. These partially offset the withdrawal of specialist teachers from primary schools in 1947 when the school leaving age was raised and those teachers were required in secondary schools.

Incidences of scarlet fever and diphtheria were less frequent but in the years following the War the scourge of infantile paralysis struck. Over the years the pupils of the school have given generously to many good causes, among them the Arbroath Lifeboat Disaster Fund, the Hungarian Relief Fund, Save the Children Fund and Dr. Barnardos. In the post-war years many new houses were built in the Craigie District causing a large increase in the school roll so that Craigie Church Hall was rented to accommodate the needlework class.

In July 1947 the school lost a good friend and generous benefactor on the death of Sir Francis Norie Miller of Cleeve at the age of 88 years. For many years he was Chairman of Perth School Board and, after 1919, of the County Education Authority. He was a respected guest at the Annual Prizegiving Ceremonies at the school. The year 1950 brought many changes. Miss Macleod, the Infant Mistress and Miss Buchan both retired, the latter having taught for 42 years in the school. On the retirement of Mr. Lunan, Mr. Daniel Cameron of Glendelvine School was appointed Headmaster. The successful formation of a Parent-Teacher Association took place in November 1951, the Headmaster himself becoming the first President. The Association was formed to forge a closer link between school and parents and since its foundation

has supported, encouraged and financially aided school activities and projects to the greater benefit of the children, helping in the purchase of much equipment and providing funds for Sports Day ice creams and prizes and dux medals for the Prize-Giving.

Royal events from the Wedding of the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth to the more recent Silver Jubilee Celebrations in 1978 have usually brought holiday bonuses to the pupils. In Coronation Year 1953 there were planted in the ground facing Raeburn Place thirty-two trees and shrubs to commemorate that occasion. In that year too the name of the school was changed from Western District to Craigie School and a school badge was designed by the Headmaster to incorporate the historical associations of the area. The eagle on the crag is representative of the name Craigie while the torch represents learning. The glove denotes the Glovers' Incorporation on whose land the school was built and the archbishop's mitre adds the connection with St. Leonard's Priory which stood on land near to the school. Below is the school motto "Valiant for Truth" and the badge is in the school colours of amber and blue. Since May 1955 the School Sports have been run on a House Competition basis, the names chosen being St. Leonard's, Abbot and Friar with St. Magdalene's, Priory and Glover.



Badge of Craigie Primary School.

During the past three decades new primary schools have been built at Letham, Tulloch, Oakbank and North Muirton, but these had virtually no effect on the roll of Craigie School although the closing of Cherrybank Infant School in 1950 did cause a small increase. Mr. Cameron was appointed Headmaster of the newly opened Letham School in 1963 and in June 1964 Mr. Ian McKinnie became Headmaster of Craigie School, a post he held until 1969 when he was appointed Headmaster of the newly-built Oakbank Primary School. The present Headmaster, Mr.

Samuel Wallace was then appointed. Conservation Year in 1970 was marked by the planting of six trees at the edge of the playing field. A further six were planted six months later. Craigie Hall one of the "out-posts" of the school ceased to be used in 1972 but many pupils will recall class parties held at Christmas in the Hall.

The scholars of Craigie School have distinguished themselves in various competitive fields. School football teams have won the League Cup and in 1958 the League Shield. The cricket team of 1926 won the P.A. Silver Cup in the first year of the Competition. More recently the Chess Championship Trophy was won in 1977 and four years later the Perth and Kinross Primary Schools League Championship was won by the Badminton Team.

The school in its existence of nearly one hundred years has had many feet treading the paths of learning within its walls and many of those former pupils will have happy memories of their time there. This has been clearly seen from the correspondence from some of those former scholars. Not least is the memory of marching in from playground lines to the stirring piano music aimed to quicken up even the tardiest steps. The William Tell Overture is remembered as a favourite. The school janitors were always popular with the pupils, one of the longest serving being Mr. Bremner who retired in 1939 after 22 years of service. Indeed one kindly janitor indulged the children in winter by putting water down in the playground so that good slides were formed for playtime enjoyment!

Participation in the Musical Festival brought pleasure and success for the school and participants recall being spurred on to constant endeavour by Mr. Goldie, the Headmaster.

Headmasters of Western District School, Perth, latterly Craigie Primary School—

Mr. W. Barclay	1884-1911
Mr. J. Henderson	1911-1922
Mr. J. Goldie	1922-1930
Mr. C. A. Lunan	1930-1950
Mr. D. Cameron	1950-1963
Mr. J. M. McKinnie	1964-1969
Mr. S. Wallace	1969

As the school approaches its centenary it is of value to recall something of its past history and traditions and as it steps forward into its second century to wish it success in continuing the high educational standards and achievements of its first one hundred years.

In conclusion I should like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who helped in the compilation of this booklet—to Mr. Samuel Wallace, Headmaster, for allowing me to undertake this project and making available the School Log Books and plans; to the pupils of the school for their illustrative sketches; to Mr. Steve Connolly, archivist, and staff of the Sandeman Library, and finally to the staff of Perth Museum for their assistance.