

CROSS

No change unless date  
is inserted.

Miss [redacted], South Methven Street, Perth

A telephone interview, 29.11.1987

School Miss [redacted] insisted that anything she said must not be published under her name.

She came in 1926, when the school was still under the School Board, and when Mr. Rae was headmaster. The first thing that struck her, who came from Edinburgh, was the childrens' clogs - which she had never come across before. She had always thought clogs were found only in Lancashire. They made an awful noise in the classroom. She says that the uppers were made of horse hide.

Many of the homes lacked basic amenities. For example she would quite often get a note from a parent in wintertime excusing their child from coming to school unwashed because the water in the bucket was frozen. These were from houses without even a water pump. This put her in mind of a crippled child, Chrissie Kennedy from Merkland, who had to be put on and off the bus - all at her parents' expense. Also, a great many of the farming children, even quite young ones, had to milk the cows before coming to school.

There were no swings or any other 'extras' just the basic educational requirements. Nor was there a library in the school. But under Mr. Rae there was very little strapping. Mr. Hogg had a different attitude to this, as in other things. It was clear that Miss [redacted] held Mr. Rae in the higher regard. He was a very strict tee-totaller, and in his time there was no drinking, public or private, at local dances. With Mr. Hogg this, too, changed. The implication was that Mr. Hogg was a pretty heavy drinker.

At Kirkpatrick Fleming under the School Board they had neither a school visitor nor an official school chaplain. Later, for example at Middlebie and Applegarth, she always had both. Edward Johnson-Ferguson was the Middlebie visitor.

The school day always started with service and assembly. Miss [redacted] played the piano, being the only staff member who could. She played at all the school concerts, there being an annual one in Mr. Rae's time. The concerts were beneficial because they gave the less able children a chance to show off. She was also the school sewing teacher, for all ages. She was the only staff member with a degree, being qualified in English, Latin and French. She could have taught in secondary schools but always preferred county primaries.

She kept up with a number of her pupils such as Derek Graham, Solway Bank, the Raes of Kirkpatrick House and the Beatties of Wicketthorn. She had been very friendly with Mrs. Rae, and mentioned having tea with Mary Beattie in Aberdeen last Sunday. Her husband is rector of Bridge of Don Academy.

She also kept up with one of her colleagues till she died - Miss Brown. Her other colleagues were Miss Jardine from Johnstone Bridge and Miss Douglas from Carlisle.

When she was in Kirkpatrick Fleming Miss \_\_\_\_\_ lodged with the grocers, Graham Irving, having 2 rooms and a garden to herself.

All of the staff played badminton at the hall.

She taught from 1926 - 1931 at Kirkpatrick Fleming.

#### Church

Her first Sunday was Mr. Walker's last.

#### Sport and Entertainment

Badminton, Concerts and Whist Drives - see school.

The W.R.I. was really started by Miss Fyffe, who was very clever with her hands. Miss Graham of Mossknow acted as first president. She thought the W.R.I. was a wonderful thing which opened new horizons for many women of the community. Mary, for example, took up embroidery or cane work as a result. She herself was for two years in the winning country dancing team. The W.R.I. took advantage of all the available classes organised by the national body. Membership would be around 25-40.

She said the teachers used to attend all the local dances and whist drives. She played bridge too, but that was not in the hall. She added that a lot of wartime funds were raised by whist drives (although she would not then be in Kirkpatrick Fleming).

Miscellaneous She was 84 fourteen days ago.

There were very few cars but many ponies and traps when she went to Kirkpatrick Fleming.

Another thing that surprised her at Kirkpatrick Fleming was to discover that Dumfriesshire had a strong Liberal tradition. There were some very strong Liberals in Kirkpatrick Fleming - such as T. L. Beattie. There were a number of staunch Liberals around Merkland. She remembered going with them once to hear the result of the election at Dumfries, when Dr. Joseph Hunter was M.P.

She remarked that while it would be barely conceivable that Mrs. Graham would be anything other than Conservative, she was not really a political animal. Her style was more to follow the hounds.