

# Bamford School Log Book

## A New Century (1897-1906)

These log book entries mark the end of the nineteenth century and the start of the twentieth. In 1897 Frederick E R Peers was the recently appointed master and Betsy West was the Sewing Mistress. The syllabus was now broader than that in the 1860s. In 1900 the subjects taught were:

- Recitation
- Composition
- Grammar
- Arithmetic
- Drawing (boys)
- Needlework (girls)
- Singing
- Geography
- History
- Object lessons

Also, a school library was opened in 1906. The school premises, however, were both cramped and bitterly cold in winter.

In October 1897 there were 47 children on the Register. However, by 1906 there were 130 children! This increase caused a strain on school budgets, accommodation and staffing.

Work on the Howden and Derwent Dams took place between 1901 and 1916, greatly increasing the local population. Whilst Birchilee (Tintown) housed many workers, some also lived in Bamford.

For example, huts at Wood Lane are mentioned in the log: this lane is now lost under the Ladybower Reservoir. The 1911 Census Summary Book listed 12 huts on Wood Lane, one of which was a shop. Each household had a resident working for Derwent Valley Water Board.

Attendance was a constant battle for the Master! Sickness often affected attendance: the log book noted outbreaks of measles, mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever and influenza. In addition, children were kept at home for local wakes or to help out. The School Attendance officer was a frequent visitor!

*"Very poor attendance owing to the extremely bad weather. Mrs Ward brought a penny each to the 26 children present ... caned several boys for disobedience."*  
(25 Jan 1897)

*"Mrs Ward brought a shuttlecock and battledore for every girl and a top for every boy this afternoon."*  
(29 Jan 1897)

*"Schoolroom required for Ploughing match dinner, therefore holiday all day."*  
(13 Jan 1898)

*"Caned Isaac Wood this morning for disobedience and rudeness. His mother has kept him from school this afternoon."* (28 Jan 1898)

*"Thermometer stood at 43° at 9 this morning, have not been able to raise it higher than 48° all day."*  
(24 Feb 1898) Note 43° = 6° Celsius.

*"Several afternoons have been so dark that the ordinary routine had to be suspended and singing or drill taken."* (16 Dec 1898)

*"Dr Lander reported another case of scarlet fever, namely William Holt. There are now about a dozen children away from school through their own or their brothers' or sisters' illness. Only 22 in attendance."*  
(29 March 1899)

*"Attendance keeps very low as so many boys are away helping in the harvest."*  
(22 Aug 1899)

*"Mrs Ward has invited all scholars to the Christmas Tree on Wed. 27<sup>th</sup>."*  
(22 Dec 1899)

*"Caned several lads for throwing their own and smaller boys' hats upon the roof of the lobby."*  
(23 Nov 1899)

*"Mrs Ward has sent up some chocolate for teachers and scholars in honour of the relief of Ladysmith (Boer War)."*  
(1 March 1900)

*"School closed by order of Sanitary Authority for a fortnight on account of measles."* (16 Sept 1901)

*"Closed school today until the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. For the annual Wakes holiday."*  
(5 Oct 1900)

*"Thermometer stood at 35° when bell was rung this morning."* (12 Feb 1900)

*H. M. Inspector's Report. "the children, on the whole, have made very fair progress but there is a want of smartness and precision in their movements".* (29 June 1903)

*"Very wet day, which has kept most of the Wood Lane children away from school."*  
(27 Feb 1905)

*"Very poor school this morning, many children having gone to Buxton for the annual Wesleyan Sunday Scholars trip."*  
(13 July 1904)

*"Upon leaving school each child was presented with chocolate and oranges etc."* (21 Dec 1905)

*"Have admitted several more children from the Wood Lane huts."*  
(18 April 1904)

*"This week's average – 110.6 constitutes a record for the school as does the number of scholars on the books – 130. The school staff has found great difficulty in properly carrying on the work of the school in such confined accommodation and with the present staff, and on the recommendation of the Head Teacher, the Managers have decided to apply to the Education Committee for additional help."* (2 Nov 2 1906)