

School Log Books were a legal requirement in all state schools and headteachers were required to maintain these records until quite recently.

Records of significant events were noted in these including staff changes, building works, visits, inspections and days off. Log books were hand written, often in beautiful copperplate.

At the front of the first Log Book there were instructions as to its use including "No reflections or opinions of a general character are to be entered in the log book". Fortunately, particularly in the early years, the teachers felt obliged to unburden themselves of their frustration at trying to teach in such difficult conditions: e.g. March 26th 1877, Miss Ellen Woodward wrote "Sent in my resignation.....though I should be sorry to change if I had any hope in my work".

The desperate loneliness of the rural school teacher is acknowledged by Lowndes 1937 "The Silent Social Revolution" and the difficulties of teaching in rural schools noted in the Plowden report (1967)