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MELBOURNE.

Golden Square
State School

COPY ONLY.

26th March, 1963.

Dear Mr. Barry,

In reply to your letter of the 20th March requesting information on the early years of State School No. 1189, I have pleasure in forwarding the enclosed List of Events together with the following explanatory remarks. I trust that they will be of use in your radio session.

Golden Square No. 1189 was entered on the Roll of State Schools on 29th January, 1873 and was the successor to Wesleyan Common School No. 279. However, although No. 1189 was nominally in existence, the staff and accommodation continued to be that of the former No. 279 for about another two years. Therefore I conclude that the origins of your school must be sought in the origins of the Golden Square Wesleyan School. This was one of the day-schools assisted by the Denominational School Board. Unfortunately, the precise date of its establishment is uncertain as the earliest Wesleyan schools on the Bendigo goldfield were recorded simply as "Bendigo" or "Sandhurst". For that reason the List commences from the first record which bears the name "Golden Square".

Another difficulty in tracing these early goldfields schools is due to the temporary nature of their premises and the mobility of the mining population they served. I can quote from the report of Inspector John J. Thomas who visited the school in mid-1854:

"The esteemed Pastor of the Wesleyan Church at Sandhurst is indefatigable either by himself or his accredited agents in following the nomadic movement, pitching his or their frail tenement and getting up schools and appointing creditable masters."

All the documents referred to can be made available for your perusal should you desire to use them.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. FEELY (signed)
Chief Librarian.

Mr. J. W. Barry,
Golden Square Training School,
No. 1189,
GOLDEN SQUARE. VICTORIA.

To be put back in School No 5

GOLDEN SQUARE STATE SCHOOL NO. 1189.

LIST OF EVENTS.

- 31st MAY, 1854. Inspector Thomas reported that at Sandhurst Golden Square Wesleyan School there was a nominal enrolment of 101; an effective enrolment of 80 and an average attendance of 40.
- 1st July, 1854. Statistics gave enrolment as 43 boys and 51 girls with average attendances of 27 and 33. Teachers were William and Jane McClure.
- 1st April, 1855. William and Matilda Kenny took charge of the school.
- 1st January, 1857. Andrew and Sarah Inglis took charge.
- 18th February, 1857. Rev. Joseph Dare forwarded to the Board the plans of the newly-erected school with a list of local subscriptions for £356 in order to claim Government Aid of £150. The building was wooden with an iron roof and was situated, together with a detached teachers' residence, on the Wesleyan Chapel Reserve, corner Laurel Street, and the Main Sandhurst - Melbourne road.
- 1st January, 1860. Mr. F. H. Richards and his wife Caroline took charge. They were assisted by Elizabeth Grace.
- September, 1862. The Denominational School Board was abolished and the school became Common School No. 279 in the Common School System of the Board of Education. Throughout the ten years of this Board's administration, Mr. and Mrs. Richards saw their school increase from an average attendance of 30 in 1862 to more than 200 in 1872. One of those appointed to the staff in this period was a pupil teacher, Henry B. Richards, in 1864.
- 8th January, 1873. The State Schools Act having come into operation, Rev. J. Harcourt offered to lease the school building to the Education Department for £52. per annum providing that it was available for church purposes outside school hours.
- 30th May, 1873. Gazette notice reserving a new site for a State School in Laurel Street.
- 7th June, 1873. Robert Wilkinson was awarded the contract, (£250.10s.) for building a school on the new site.
- 5th August, 1873. School attendance (two sections) was 500.
- 30th September, 1873. Residents petitioned the Department to provide adequate accommodation.
- 26th November, 1873. John Cowper was awarded the contract (£3472.10s.) for the erection of a brick school.
- 17th August, 1874. North wing of the new building was used for school purposes.
- 12th December, 1874. F.H. Richards died after a short illness. His successor was W. Palliser.