

**ROPLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL'S
HISTORY DETECTIVES**

INVESTIGATE

**SCHOOL LIFE AT ROPLEY SCHOOL
100- 150 YEARS AGO**

This summer term the children wondered how their school life differed from those attending the school in the past. Here is what they investigated and with the help of the Ropley History Network and Archive volunteers - what they found. A combination of archives available from the school, on our website, books and the Web.

The School Day

In the classroom

Behaviour at school

Reasons for being absent from school

Playground games

School Buildings and teaching staff

School children and their uniform

School buildings and the teaching staff

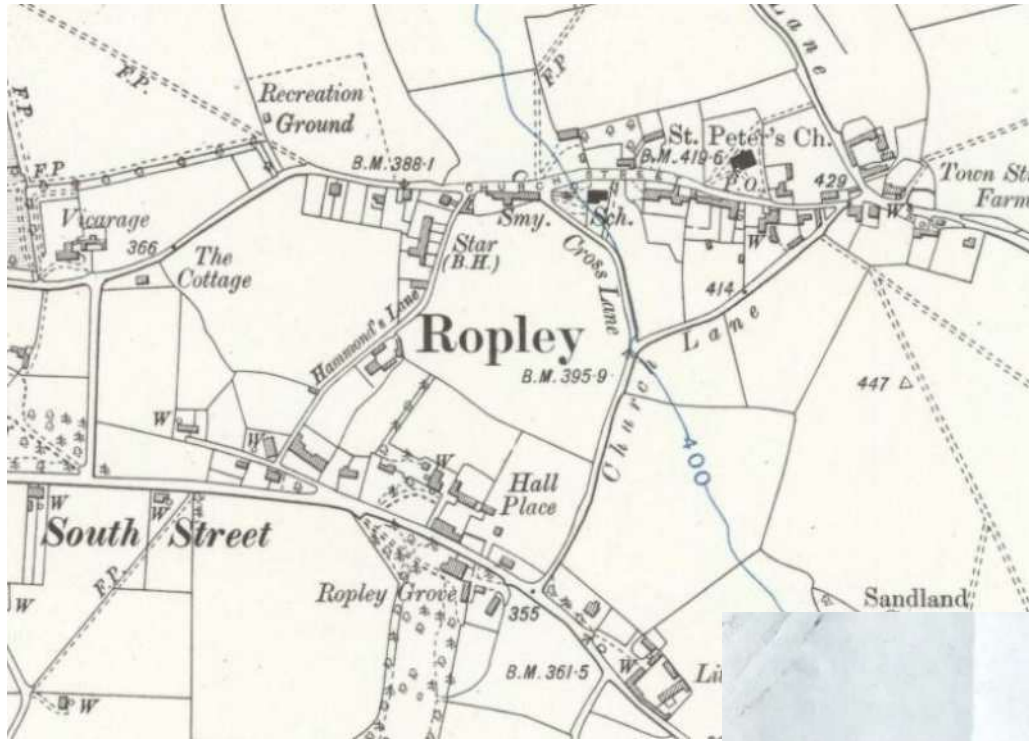
Important dates in the Ropley school's history

1826 - The local Vicar, Reverend Maddock taught many local children in his spare time in the belfry of St Nicholas church

But he wanted a proper day school. So in 1826 a schoolhouse was built on the Petersfield Road . Mr Faichen was the teacher



It does not exist today but this old faint 1839 Tithe Map shows where it was once sited. Can you find it?



1869 – A new bigger schoolhouse – the one that we use today , was built by the Maddock Family. Various headmasters and headmistresses ran the school introducing new teaching methods and developing the curriculum.

OS Map dated 1910

Dated around 1910, a lovely photo of a gentleman walking towards the school entrance where the school children are waiting for him. We wonder who he might have been and what was the significance of this event.



1892 – 1930 - About 100 years ago, Mr Turner was the Headmaster- who we see in some of the photographs in the display. His wife and a Miss Capp supported him as did many other members of staff over the years.



Dated approximately 1925

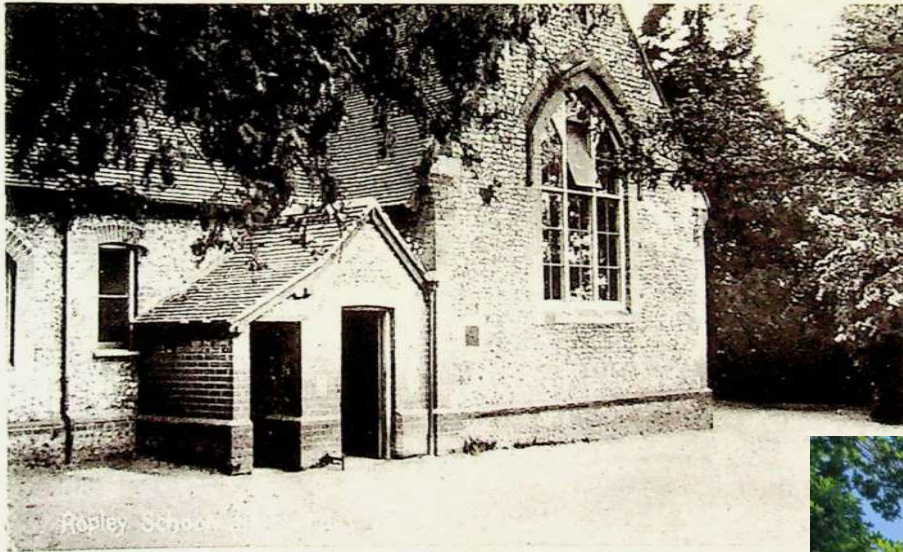


Dated approximately 1920

Mr Turner was a good man and was very important in many village activities and organisations including choirmaster, organist and chairman of the parish council

1930 – To the present day – Since then various headmasters and headmistresses have run the school introducing new teaching methods and developing the curriculum.

Also many extra buildings called 'extensions' have been added to the school building as the number of children attending the school has increased and more classrooms were needed. It is almost unrecognisable now compared to the original building!



1906

2023



1907



Approximately 2025



Later, a new roof that still exists today



Can you see the original little window just peeping out from the behind the leaves?

2023

The School Day

Ronald Childs grew up to be the village shoemaker and cobbler and lived opposite our village hall. He also featured in History Detective's last project where we had investigated his family and work.

Mr Turner, the Headmaster, with Ronald's Class in 1926. This is Ronald



Ronald recalling his days as a school child at Ropley School in 1926

In the morning –

‘Our day started with the ringing of the school bell at 8.45am.

Anyone arriving after 9am had to give our headmaster, Mr Turner, a very good reason for being late!

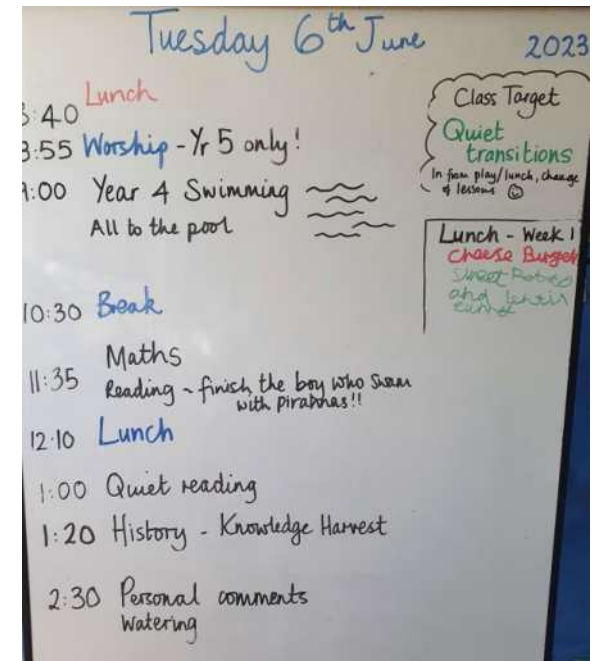
We then had the register called and had prayers and our scripture lesson. Then the classes each had their lessons such as arithmetic, reading and writing etc.

We came out to the playground at 11am for about 10minutes.’

In the afternoon –

‘At 12 O’clock the children living locally went home for their dinner. Others living further away brought sandwiches and a teacher made cocoa for which Mr Turner charged half a pence per cup.’

***How does this school day in
June 2023 compare to
Ronald’s?***



'The girls were taught needlework two afternoon's each week and on Friday afternoon came to the Parish/Village Hall for their cookery lesson.

The boys in the higher standards were taught gardening by Mr Turner. We came to his garden and kept it in A 1 condition!

Holidays consisted of a month in the summer, a week at Easter and Christmas. We were also give half day holiday to attend the Alresford Pleasure Fair

We started Ropley School at the age of 4 years and left at the age of 14'. Most children did not go onto further their education but a few went onto Perins Grammar School in Alresford

There was no transport in those days for the Ropley pupils. Many walked several miles each day to school and home again from Monkwood, Merrifield, Swelling Hill, Sutton Wood and other far away places

The School motto was 'Perseverance will certainly bring its reward in due time' '



A walk to school in 1910

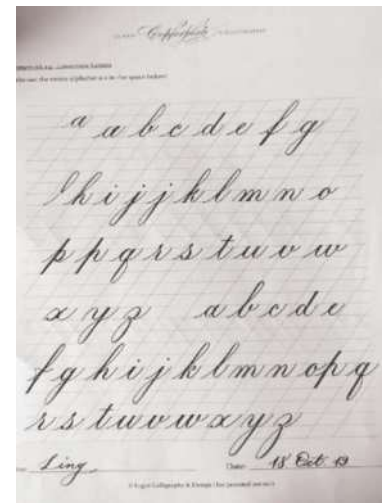
In the Classroom

100 years ago, basic subjects were the 'three R's' - reading, writing, arithmetic.

Reading and Writing – Children learnt to write on slate with a slate pencil and later pen and ink. They learnt to write neatly in a style called Copperplate with no crossings out!



Reading was repeating what they had written and then moved on to using books



Basic Maths was called Arithmetic and some of it was learning about money and the value of coins.

We now have 100 pennies to make a pound. It was more complicated then. There were pounds, shillings, pence and farthings. The children repeated these rules out loud over and over again to make sure they remembered!

**There were 4 farthings to a penny,
There were 12 pennies to a shilling,
There were 20 shillings in a pound,
There were 21 shillings in a guinea.**



Ronald also recalls ‘There was also nature study, singing and weekly country dancing lessons. Sewing, knitting, woodwork and cookery lessons were taught to the older pupils as well as a ‘personal hygiene’ class once a week’

Sewing - 1881 Sampler
sewn by Ropley schoolgirl
Kate Vincent





Exercising

was called 'Drill'.
Standing to
attention and
following certain
movements told by
the teacher



Playground games.

Toys and games were very simple for those growing in up 100 years ago.

WHIP AND TOP was very popular – although a little awkward to play if the ground was bumpy! Tops were often made from wood, but carrot tops and turnip tops worked just as well.



HOOP AND STICK OR HOOP ROLLING

You would get a hoop and stand it upright beside you. Then with a stick, you would give the hoop a push to set it rolling and then run along behind it striking it with the stick to keep it moving. Once you got the hang of it, you could race against another player.



CAT'S CRADLE An engaging game played with string. Variations of the game have been played for hundreds of years in many cultures. It's easy to learn and fun to see how long you and your partner can keep from dropping the string formations. The players learn how to change the string from one conformation to the next.

HOPSCOTCH was fun too!

DOUBLE DUTCH was a particular favourite. It is a game in which two long jump ropes turning in opposite directions are jumped by one or more players jumping simultaneously.



In summer, **CRICKET** was the street game of choice and of course, **FOOTBALL** was played all year round.

Ronald said ' At playtime the boys went down to the Recreation Ground to play football and cricket. We had no playing field at the school in those days'

MARBLES – there were many different games to play with marbles

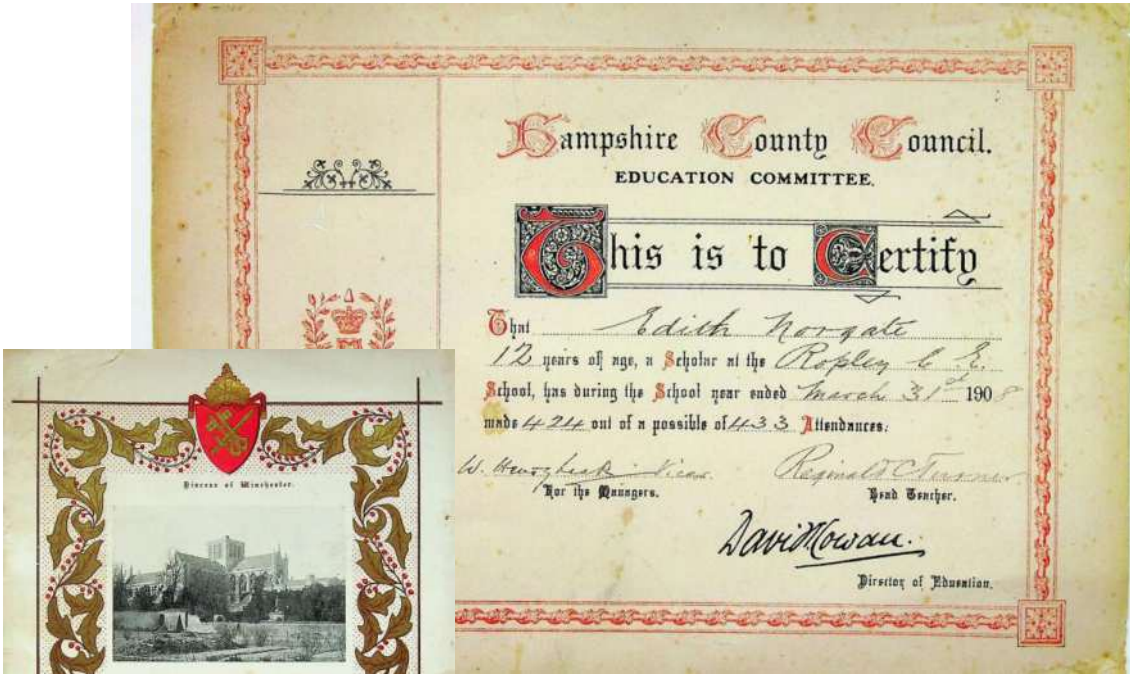


In autumn it would be **CONKERS!**



Good and bad behavior at school

Good work was rewarded by certificates as it is now.



1910



2023

But in the past, children were punished harshly for poor work or bad behavior. Discipline in school was strict. Children might have to write 100 lines repeating sentences starting with 'I must not....' Or forced to wear the dunce hat and be made to stand in the corner

If the student's misbehavior was more serious, they could expect the cane or the ruler on the hand!

**One Headmaster wrote in his log book about two naughty school boys?
This is a transcription of that piece of writing**

'1906 May 2 William Berry and Harold Stacy, two boys in the 2nd and 3rd class, have been away from school without the knowledge of their parents. I have spoken to the parents and they have asked me to punish them. I have given the boys two strokes with the cane on each hand'.

School children and their uniforms

We did not know the date of the photograph below, but we looked for further information on the [Ropley History Archive](#) website and found that there was an extra document attached to the photograph. It was a list of the names of the all the children in the photograph.

We then looked for and found some of the children in the census for the year 1901 on a family history research (genealogical) website called 'Ancestry'.



This is
Maud
Norgate

This is
Lily Goodall

What is a Census? - A census is the recording and collecting of information and observations, usually by the government, about a given population . It is generally used to help plan ahead for the future needs of that population . Our national census is taken every 10 years most recently in 2021. It include details of characteristics: age, employment, gender, place of birth.

Civil Parish of <i>Popple Post</i>		Ecclesiastical Parish of <i>St. Peter</i>		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District of <i>St. Peter</i>		Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban District of <i>St. Peter</i>		Rural District of <i>Alcester</i>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <i>Popple</i>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <i>Popple</i>	
Doors													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No. of HOUSES	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSES	Uninhabited	Number of Persons	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marital State	Age last Births, or	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
112	<i>St. Peter Lane</i>	1		<i>James L. Mansfield</i>	Head	M	29	<i>Plant Grower</i>	Worker	at home	<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Ada</i>	Wife	F	36				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Edward</i>	Son	M	7				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Thomas</i>	Son	M	6				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Mary</i>	Daughter	F	4 1/2				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Flora</i>	Daughter	F	1 1/2				<i>St. Peter</i>		
113	<i>St. Peter</i>	1		<i>Albert</i>	Head	M	47	<i>Handyman</i>	Worker	at home	<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Mary</i>	Wife	F	39				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Albert</i>	Son	M	2				<i>St. Peter</i>		
114	<i>St. Peter</i>	1		<i>Louisa C. King</i>	Head	F	46	<i>Living on Own Income</i>			<i>St. Peter</i>		
115	<i>St. Peter</i>	1		<i>Benny</i>	Head	M	61	<i>Engineer</i>	Worker		<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Susan</i>	Wife	F	58				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Robert</i>	Son	M	17				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Charles</i>	Son	M	30				<i>St. Peter</i>		
116	<i>St. Peter</i>	1		<i>Lillian</i>	Head	F	48	<i>Handmaid</i>	Worker		<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Anna</i>	Wife	F	50				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Robert</i>	Son	M	16				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Richard</i>	Son	M	37				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Elizabeth</i>	Daughter	F	20				<i>St. Peter</i>		
117	<i>St. Peter</i>	1		<i>John</i>	Head	M	49	<i>Coal Miner</i>	Worker		<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Mary</i>	Wife	F	49				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Albert</i>	Son	M	16				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Edith</i>	Son	F	16				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Rebecca</i>	Daughter	F	12				<i>St. Peter</i>		
				<i>Lily</i>	Daughter	F	10				<i>St. Peter</i>		

Can you find Lily Goodall with her family on this census return from 1901?

Administrative County <i>Southampton</i>			The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 8	
Civil Parish of <i>Poppley part of</i>		Ecclesiastical Parish of <i>St Peter part of</i>		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District of <i>Ulreaford</i>		Parliamentary Borough or Division of <i>Salisbury part of</i>		Town or Village or Hamlet of <i>Poppley</i>		
Door No.	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Uninhabited by owner	HOUSES Uninhabited not by owner	HOUSES Inhabited	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Inebriate, feeble- minded.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	<i>Poppley Lane</i>			1										
11	<i>Do Do</i>			1	<i>George Norgate</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>Exp. Bred on Farm</i>	<i>Worker</i>		<i>Bank</i>	<i>Poppley</i>	
					<i>Barth Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>32</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Undertaken</i>	
					<i>William Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Relief of the Poor</i>	<i>Do</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>Poppley</i>	
					<i>Lillian Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>16</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Devon</i>	
					<i>Edmund Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>13</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Poppley</i>	
					<i>Maud Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>11</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>George Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>2</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>Alfred Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>7</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>Laura Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>5</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>Jessie Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>1</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
12	<i>The Pond</i>			1	<i>George Kettle</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>Relief of the Poor</i>	<i>Owner of land</i>		<i>Bank</i>	<i>Undertaken</i>	
					<i>Ellen Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>56</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>William Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>26</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>Alfred Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Labourer Gardener</i>	<i>Worker</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>Ernie Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>15</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Devon</i>	
13	<i>Poppley Lane</i>			1	<i>William Kemp</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Deal</i>	<i>Owner of land</i>		<i>Bank</i>	<i>Devon</i>	
					<i>Ullie Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>29</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Devon</i>	
					<i>Mattie Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>6</i>				<i>Surrey</i>	<i>Guilford</i>	
					<i>Harry Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>2</i>				<i>Bank</i>	<i>Poppley</i>	
					<i>Alfred Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Walter boy Devon</i>			<i>Do</i>	<i>Devon</i>	
14	<i>Do Do</i>			1	<i>John Bould</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>Labourer Railway</i>	<i>Worker</i>		<i>Bank</i>	<i>Undertaken</i>	
					<i>Maud Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>14</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Poppley</i>	
					<i>Elyzabeth Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>13</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>John Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>11</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>James Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>9</i>				<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
					<i>Mary Poppley</i>	<i>Relief of the Poor</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Labourer Railway</i>		<i>at home</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	
4	<i>Total of Schedule of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms</i>	4	2		<i>Total of Males and of Females..</i>			14	12					

Notes—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE REFERENCE :-

RG 13/1096

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1	2	3	4	5	6
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Can you also find Maud Norgate with her family ?

We could then work out the approximate date of the photograph as the girls look about 10 years old and if the 1901 census states that they are about 10, it indicates that the date of the photograph much be about 1901.

Reasons for being absent from school

Why may have child been absent from school then? Would the reasons be different compared to today?

Weather and travel

Ronald wrote 'During a severe winter when our roads were blocked with snow and had to be dug out by men with shovels, only the children living near the school arrived for lessons – we were delighted when Mr Turner closed the school for a week until the roads were passable again!'

Family life and Harvest

Sometimes girls were had to stay at home to help domestic chores and caring for younger brothers and sisters. They might have to leave school early to work as servants.

Many children were needed at home at various times of the year to help with the harvest , pick nuts, fruit - such as apples and berries and even for bird scaring!



Illness


Common illnesses of that time were mumps, whooping cough, diphtheria and scarlet fever. We can treat these once illnesses, with vaccinations and better medicines but at that time they were very serious.


In 1918 the country and the rest of the world suffered with a pandemic similar in effect to COVID. It was called Spanish Flu. There was 'lockdown': Schools closed, buses and trains cancelled, people self-isolating and even the Prime Minister was also struck down with the dreaded virus... Great Britain's Spanish Flu crisis has many similarities with today's pandemic.

This photograph shows an outdoor class being held to prevent children catching Spanish Flu and still able to keep learning

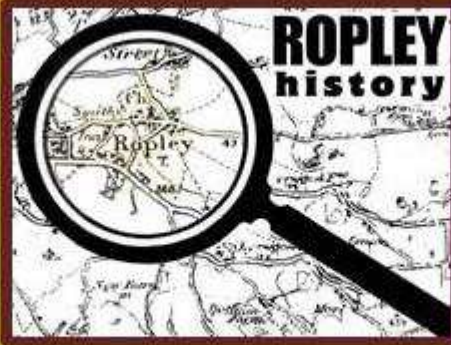


The History Detectives hope you enjoyed and found our project interesting. We will be back in the spring of 2024 for some new investigations into the history of Ropley and the surrounding areas.

Supported by  Heritage Fund

 HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES TRUST

Ropley Society
Ropley Parish Council

 **ROPLEY**
history

Exploring
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