



Devon Family History Society
Joint Project Publication with
Devon Record Office



DEVON RECORD OFFICE

MARY TAVY SCHOOL – CENSUS REGISTER OF CHILDREN

AUGUST 1890

DRO Reference – 1471C/EAA/2

DFHS Book Reference – D169

This school was built in 1836-1837 as a National School (a Church of England school), and the date of 1836 was incised on the stone forming the threshold of the gateway to the playground. The school was supported by the Rector of St. Mary Tavy parish, the owners of Wheal Friendship Mine and the payments made by parents. In 1845 the parish vestry minutes recorded a resolution to add an extra room to the existing schoolroom.

In 1885, a School Board was formed at St. Mary Tavy, and the Managers conveyed the school to the School Board in the same year. From that date, the school was under the management of the School Board and was known as a Board School. The records relating to the school which are found in collection 1471C in the Devon Record Office date from then. In 1902, the school became a Council School under the control of the Local Education Authority, and after 1944 it was known as a County Primary School.

This school register is one of the two earliest known original records of pupils attending Mary Tavy School, which now exist in the record office collections. However, it is not an admission register, but a “Census Register” of children attending the school in the parish of St. Mary Tavy in August 1890. It was compiled under the Elementary Education Act of 1876, for the School Attendance Committee, to record the number of school-age children in the parish who were in school.

The volume gives the name of the pupil, the name of one parent (generally the father), the place of residence, date of birth, previous schools (if any), and standard (grade) currently reached in school. The pupils’ names are listed in alphabetical order, with an alphabetical index at the front of the volume.

An earlier deposit from Mary Tavy School (reference: DRO 64C/EFA/1) comprised a register of admission and withdrawal covering the dates 1867-1943. This is the only other record of pupils admitted to/attending the school. The earliest log book covers the years 1898-1952 (reference: DRO 4868C/EFL/1). Other surviving records in collection 1471C relate to the management of the school from 1885 to 1903, and the collection also includes Inspectors’ Annual Reports on the school for some years between 1886 and 1944.