

1. viz. Marg. Smith spouse to W. Carter Schoolm' Heriot died 7th Feb. 1805 aged 55.
Also Will Carter his son died 7th May 1809 aged 24.
And the above William Carter late schoolmaster at Heriot who died 10th July 1823 aged 60 years.

We read of the slow striving towards a more suitable building for the scholars. Mr. Carter was also the scribe at the church Heritors meetings, faithfully recording their business for many years and making his own requests:- slating for the roof, lime washing for the walls, weatherproofing, a new earth and lime floor, an outside door to shelter them from winter winds, repairs to the school seats! This last inspires thoughts about possible vandalism or graffiti of yesteryear taking its toll of an already dilapidated building.

2. viz. In memory of George Simpson for 48 years schoolmaster of Heriot died in Edinburgh 23rd May 1881 aged 77 years and of Jessie P.E. Simpson his wife who died at Heriot Schoolhouse 20th May 1861. Aged 53 years.

At least Jessie had the luxury of a private laying-out, away from curious eyes.

Mr. Simpson's copper-plate hand is first seen in the Heritors records of 1831 right through to 1878 in those fascinating documents of state schools, the log books, the subtle chronicles of slow or even no progress; of plodding obedience to daily timetables; to hours of chanted drills; of brave battles against snow storms, high winds and floods; of fearful epidemics; of the strict observance of the annual but gradually changing cycle of Christian and patriotic feasts; of whole seasons of wet clothes and numb fingers.

Simpson's appointment was a happy choice in 1831, the result of the Heritors quest for a paragon among men, one who should be qualified to teach Latin, English writing, arithmetic and book-keeping and who should also act as beadle. To these skills the Galashiels man added the ability to teach Greek and geography and he acted as Registrar as well as officially administering the paupers fund. All this he performed for £60-4s-4¹/₂d and two Chalders of oatmeal upon transferring to his new Victorian residence in 1853.

In 1852 a new school was discussed, situated on Mr. Lawson's land on the south side of the road below Heriot Mill. The estimate accepted from Mr. Doughty of Chirnside was for £379. Upon completion of the building the Heritors refused to make any extra allowance to the builder although he had suffered quite a loss.

A meeting on the 30th March 1854 heard a letter from the architect stating

that the work was complete and satisfactory, and making a record of expenses.

Total Expense	£ 432 - 15 -	4 ¹ / ₂ d
Architect Inspection	£ 21 - 0 -	0 d
Pump	£ 3 - 4 -	7 d
Grates and furnishings	£ 13 - 13 -	4 d
	£ 470 - 13 -	3 ¹ / ₂ d

This was for a one room school and residence. The second room for an infants class was added between this date and 1911, but as early as 1855 the Heritors applied for a grant to assist in the employment of an Apprentice Pupil Teacher who would care for 53 children. The single room 40' by 15' with two classes of about 50 each must have solidly packed!