

I have recently see and copied extracts from two maths exercise books from Stanton Ford School. This was an endowed school, later a charity school, at Stanton Ford, founded in the early 1600s and eventually closed in 1889. It was situated at Stanton Ford House, the only house on the left as you approach Cliff College from Baslow. The actual school building still stands as the garage of the house: perhaps rebuilt more than once I expect that some of the original fabric is still in place.

The headmaster in the latter 1800s was Mr Edward Moore. . Known (out of his hearing) as 'Old Neddy Moore', he was renowned for his teaching of an excellent copperplate handwriting, and his stubborn violent temper. In 1835, after some conflict with the trustees, he tended his resignation, only to be reappointed at a later date. He was often in arrears with his rent: In 1858 he was taken to court and ordered to repay at 5/- a month. Mr Moore died in 1883. Mrs Harriet Moore continued as the school mistress until she died in 1880

The two exercise books belonged to Harry Taylor and are dated 28th September 1874 and 20th June 1875 . He was born in 1863 so he was 11 then 12 years old when he wrote them. The Census shows that he was the son of a shoemaker who lived in Briar Cottage at Over End in Baslow. In the 1871 census he was described as a Scholar. Ten years later aged 19 he was a Pupil Teacher probably at St Anne's School in School Lane. The next Census entry is in 1911 when he was a Boot and Shoe Factor living in Over End. An intelligent lad! I don't know how the books survived but they were found in the attic of Nurse Hancox who was the district nurse here in the 1980s. She must have accepted them as a gift from a patient and "filed" them upstairs. They are now in the Records Office at Matlock.

The books contain a range of subjects designed to equip the student for "modern" life, including Long Division, Compound Interest, Barter, Partnership, Permutation, Square root etc. only some of which I could have coped with many years ago. It surprised me that the techniques were being taught in a small village school to ordinary children in the latter 1800s. The skills learned would certainly been of use in any business or profession, even small ones such as existed in Baslow at the time.

I would have thought that each problem was taught and practised thoroughly before being copied out carefully in the exercise book. They would then be a reminder of how to cope with the issues in years to come.

I have photocopied about half of each book and kept as "Harry Taylor Arith books.pdf". The subjects covered in it are listed below

Note the quality of the handwriting in the sample page below

David Dalrymple-Smith

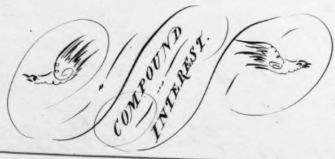
Sep 2021

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1 Book 1 cover
2 Title page 28 Sept 1874
3 Interest
6 Discount
10 Commission
17 Compound Interest
23 Barter
24 Profit & Loss

27 Partnership
31 Cover 2nd Book
33 Title page 20 June 1875
34 Geomet Progression rical
40 Permutation
48 Rule of Three
52 Square Root

Page from Exercise Book



Compound interest, is interest, not only for the use of the sum borrowed, but also for the use of the interest, if it be not paid at the end of a year. Thus if I borrow £100 at 5 per cent, I owe at the end of the year £105. If I wish to pay off the debt, I pay £105. If I wish merely to pay the interest I pay £5 and still owe £100. If however I do neither it is obvious that at the end of the second year I must pay interest not upon £100 but upon £105.

Required the interest on £420 for 3 years at 5 per cent

£	s	d	
5	20		420. 0. 0 1st years Principal
			21. 0. 0 1st years Interest
5	20		441. 0. 0 2nd years Principal
			22. 1. 0 2nd years Interest
5	20		463. 1. 0 3rd years Principal
			23. 3 0 3rd years Interest
			486. 4. 0 3 years amount in three years
			420. 0. 0 Principal
			£ 66. 4. 0 3 years Compound Interest for

Required the amount of £640 for 4 years at 3 per cent

£	s	d	
3			640
3			1920
			19. 4. 0 1 years Interest
			20 640. 0. 0 Principal
			540 0 59. 4. 0 2 years Principal