

The History of St Michael's National School

**Speaker: Barbara
Bingham**

Reverend Benjamin Jacob

Founder of St
Michael's
Parochial
School in 1873



First location of school: 5 Catherine Place from 1873-1882



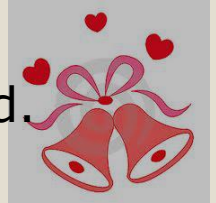
1878 report:

- "With one male and two female teachers"
- Supported by subscription, proceeds of a charity sermon & an annuity sum of 12 guineas, a bequest of Anne Banks.
- 85 pupils, all Protestant.

First schoolmaster and schoolmistress were Mr Francis Walker and his wife
Mr Walker died in 1874.

Second schoolmaster was Mr William Boyd.

1878: Marriage of widow Mrs Sarah Walker to Mr William Boyd.



SCHEDULE G.] Registrar's District of <i>Tipperary</i>								
1878. Marriage solemnized at <i>The Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish</i> of <i>Tipperary</i> in the <i>County of Tipperary</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
<i>94</i>	<i>June 8 1878</i>	<i>William Boyd</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Tipperary</i>	<i>James Boyd</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
		<i>Sarah Walker</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Limerick</i>	<i>Thomas Latham</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Church of Ireland</i> by Licence <i>by me,</i>								
<i>A. W. F. Cooper, R. B.</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ <i>William Boyd</i> <i>Sarah Walker</i>		{ in the Presence of us,		{ <i>Pat W. Butler</i> <i>Matilda Butler</i>		

Mr William Boyd



Mrs Sarah Boyd with her family outside her home under the church.



Mrs Sarah Boyd was listed as the senior partner. It was her name shown on all street directories of the day. However her salary was £30 and Mr William Boyd's was £50.

Original school building was built in 1882



Archdeacon Benjamin Jacob saw his new school opened before he died the following year - in 1883.

Protestant Orphan Society Hall, Reeves' Path now Upper Mallow Street



The children from
the Protestant
Orphan Society
walked to St
Michael's
Parochial school
every day.



Postcard (dated 1988) showing the Protestant Orphan Society Hall opposite the Tate Clock and St Saviour's Church.

Earliest known photograph of some pupils and Mr William Boyd



In 1885 40% of pupils had parents who were either widows, pensioners, orphans or unemployed.

REGISTER OF St. Michael's NATIONAL SCHOOL.

3

Date of Entrance.	Register Number.	PUPIL'S NAME IN FULL.	Date of Pupil's Birth.	Religious Denomination as stated by Parent or Guardian.	RESIDENCE.	Position or Occupation of Parent or Guardian.	State the Name and County of the last National School at which the Pupil attended; and the Class in which there enrolled.		
							School.	County.	Class.
13-9-20	674	1 Hughes Robert	9.5.09	Rb.	50 William Street	Corn Merchant	Model	Limerick	III
20-9-20	675	2 Smyth Joseph	8.2.10	Rb.	57 " "	Upham	-	-	-
20-9-20	676	3 Smyth Charles	8.10.13	Rb.	" "	"	-	-	-
20-9-20	677	4 Smyth Walter	23.4.11	Rb.	" "	"	-	-	-
21-9-20	678	5 Welsh George	18.10.10	Rb.	Mill House	clerk.	-	-	-

Name of Pupil.	School Year Ending	Attendances the Year.	which called.	Date of to that ss.	which named	RESULT OF EXAMINATION HELD BY TEACHER. (Maximum mark in each subject is 10.)										Total	If Pupil's
						etc.	d	on.									

National School from 1885

**Mr Jim Boyd in 1904 (second from left)
with his schoolchildren**



Trades and professions of parents that are probably not in today's school register

Horse manager
Stableboy
Coachman
Coach builder
Drayman
Carman
Blacksmith
Traveller
Labourer

Butler
Servant
Clerk
Sailor

Ship carpenter

Bookbinder Dancing master



Shoemaker
Moulder
Tinsmith
Cooper
Pumpmaker
Cork cutter
Gunmaker
Watchmaker
Meat preserver



Royal Irish Constabulary

Brother and sister are the teachers at the school.



1911. Annie Boyd is appointed the second teacher.

Robert Morley,
until his death in 1946 from TB



Pupil John Murrell remembered "the constant laughing in class"

Shannon Airport opened in 1945



**New names began to a
register.**

**They were the children of aeronautical engineers,
air crew and aircraft dispatchers.**

June 1954. New school buildings opened.



Many desks and chairs were laid out on the croquet lawn for the large crowd who came to see the unveiling of the plaque by the Minister for Education, Sean Moylan.

Mr William Blennerhassett and Mrs Olive Walker in the 1950s



**The routine of the day included
filling the ink wells in the desks
and restocking the fuel pile for
the stoves.**

Janice Gale
remembers

*"School was
much stricter
then and the
teachers were
often cross....it*

“We have a very cosmopolitan school and the children integrate well together” said Mr Blennherhasset in 1965



Those who came to the school with no knowledge of English were taught to speak fluently in a matter of months by extra teacher, Frau Becker.

1964: The school stretches again with more classrooms.



Free transport for children living more than 5kms from school meant St Michael's saw a dramatic increase.

Staff of St Michael's in 1966



**(Board of
management), Mrs
Annie Walker, Mr
William
Blennerhassett, Miss
Yvonne Eades.**

- 1978: Mrs Sadie Williams appointed Principal of school

A new understanding of Education



Soccer

1981: Learning no longer had to come from within the confines of a book.



Art




Outings

Rebuilt and extended in 1984



1981 census showed children under ten years of age rose by nearly four per cent.

Two schools of excellence



Like his father William, Alexander Shaw always promoted excellence. He showed this with the continuing success of their business in Limerick. In 1873, he showed this again by agreeing to be a major patron of the newly opened St. Michael's Parochial School. Shaws and St. Michael's - two proud and excellent Limerick traditions. Now, 132 years later, we at Shaws are delighted to continue our sponsorship of this great school.

SHAWS
Traditional Quality First Legitimacy

Inspired by tradition

90

**Alexander Shaw
subscribed to the
cost of building
the original
school in 1873
and his company
also paid for the
publication of its
history in 2005.**

Down Memory Lane



Tea-Party for Past Pupils

Hand prints – High Five for success of school!

Family loyalty to the school



The Cowpar family –
Four generations of pupils

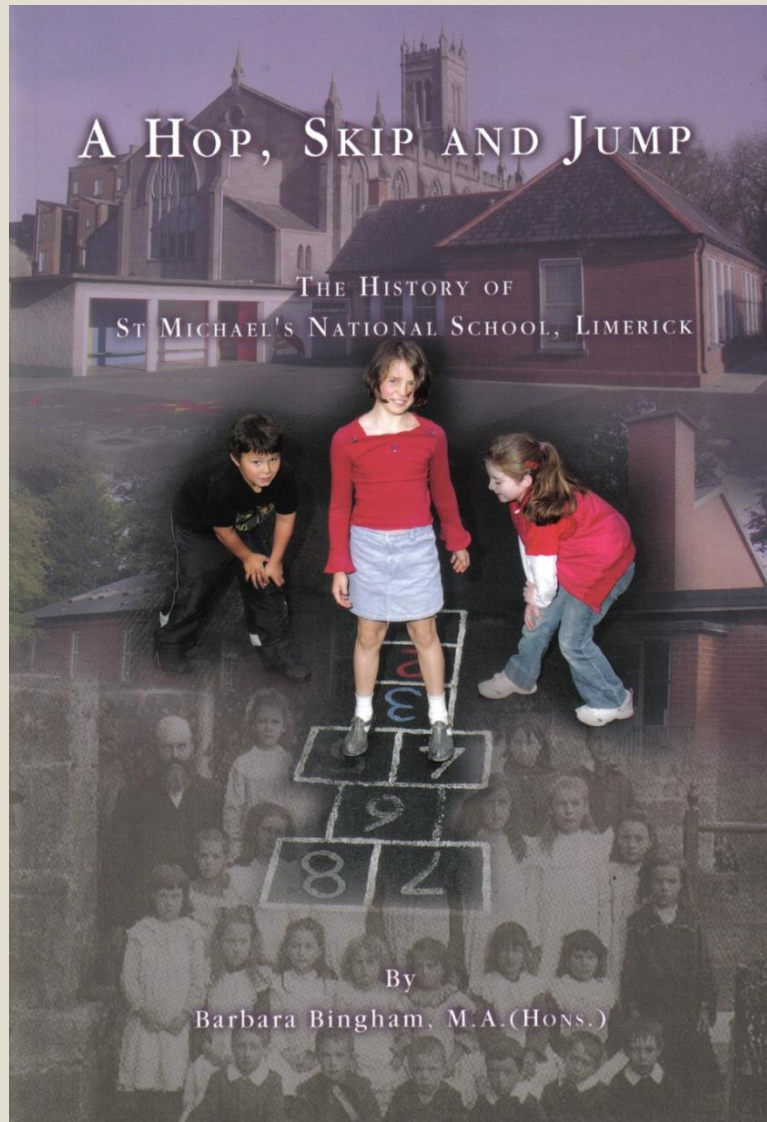


The Marsden family – Three
generations of pupils

Apple trees grafted from original Palatine orchard in Rathkeale, Co Limerick

To celebrate the common
genealogy shared by many





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by Barbara Bingham

**€15 each
All proceeds to
the school**