

BASHALL EAVES SCHOOL OUTINGS

Early in 1901, entries in the School Log Book recorded that the children were to be allowed several outdoor lessons during the summer months. Mrs Ireland the headmistress recorded the early walks and visits in detail.

NATURE WALK

Many outdoor lessons are written in the Log Book as nature walks, 'for observation', and there are several lists of the flowers seen. These include unusual species such as sweeps brush, white heather, hart's tongue fern, lamb's tongue, devil's bit scabious and red bartsia. One of the smaller lists is included here with an interesting reference to the willow plant.---

12th September 1901. 'The children in Group 2 were taken for an instructive walk when the following wild flowers were gathered and noticed. The tansy, heather, wild rose, pink campion, ragged robin, snow-ball, pink and white clover, also the willow plant which grows plentifully was especially pointed out and stems were gathered and the boys and girls shown how to make coarse hampers, and were told this was the occupation of several inhabitants at one time'.

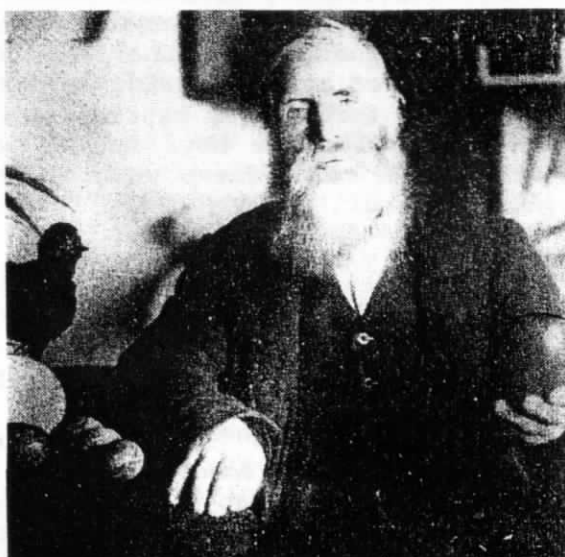
A VISIT TO A LOCAL NATURALIST

The mistress and the pupils also visited the home of a local naturalist, Mr Thomas Altham, a wheelwright by trade, who lived in a cottage at Bashall Hall. There they viewed his extensive collection of birds' eggs, and the visit was duly recorded in the Log Book:-

3rd October 1901. 'Thursday at 2pm the scholars in Group 1 were taken to Bashall Hall, the house of a naturalist, where they were shown many things of interest amongst which were the following birds' eggs. Ostrich, Emu, Great Northern Diver, Crane or Heron, Sea-gull, Cormorant, Razor-bill, Raven, Crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Glossy Ibis (Sacred bird), Corn Crake, Moor Hen, Purple Sandpiper, Blue-backs, Skua, Eider-duck and Sea-swallow, also numerous eggs of the more familiar birds such as Pheasant, Partridge, Woodcock, Robin, Swallow, Water-hen etc.

On a former visit we had seen the nest of a sand-piper in which a Dipper was hatching its eggs. Today we were shown the same nest which is to be sent to the British Museum as a great rarity. The moss and feathers of the dipper and the straw and wool of the sand-martin is all to be seen in the nest still.

Several species of the stuffed owl were noted. The snowy owl being especially interesting. It lives in the north and preys on the lemming but as its prey migrates it follows it but never returns to its old haunts and is often known to die of hunger rather than come back. It seems to lose its reason and instinct. A live specimen of the long-eared owl is kept in a cage and we were also much interested in this'.



Thomas Altham,
wheelwright and naturalist.