

### Childhood Memories: Margaret Mackinnon

I was born at Burg, the youngest of a family of four. They had all left school by the time I was ready to go, so I had to make it on my own to Fanmore School, about three miles down the road, but during the first month or more, one of my sisters or my mother accompanied me part of the way. There were no school cars at that time. It must have been pretty hard going many a morning with wind and rain driving on to my face and arriving at the school very wet.

At that time there was no electricity, but there was always a good coal fire on in the school room, and it had a big heavy metal guard round it, and the teacher would spread the pupils' wet clothes on it to dry. There were no school meals – these just started three or four years before I left. My father died when I was ten years old, which came as quite a shock to me.

Life at home was very interesting, as we had cows and sheep, had two working horses – one a Clydesdale mare and the other a Cross Highland gelding. I began helping at a very early age, taking part in all that would be happening on the farm.