

ABSTRACT

The diploma thesis is of a historical character. It deals with the development of primary education in Polná in the years 1873–1952. The thesis consists of two parts. The theoretical part describes the historical development of the primary school in Polná in the chosen historical period and how it was influenced by the historical development of the town Polná and the region. Included in this part are the historical specifics of the school based on the school chronicles and other archival materials. The methodology of the theoretical part is based on the historical method, the historical-comparative method, work with documents, analysis, and synthesis. In the theoretical part of the thesis, the materials that are preserved in the library and collection of the Museum Polná were used, as well as the materials preserved in the State District Archive Jihlava. The diploma thesis is also based on the expert literature which was written about the history of the town over time. The theoretical part is supported by the practical part, which is composed of interviews with contemporary witnesses, pupils who attended school in Polná in the final phase of the observed period and a teacher who taught at this school in the chosen period. These narrators provide us with insight into the history of the school based on their experiences and memories. The practical part is based on qualitative research. The oral history method was used to obtain the memories of the contemporary witnesses, generally by using structured interviews. The living witnesses are only able to attest to the final phase of the history of the Polná school in the chosen period.

KEYWORDS

historical development, primary education, education acts, archival materials (school chronicles, memorial books), Polná, dialogues with contemporary witnesses