



HOME CHILDREN CANADA

September 2021 Newsletter

*Compiled by Lori Oschefski. Featuring articles by:
Andrew Simpson, Ralph Jackson and guest authors David Lake,
Paul Lake and Sharon Fraser - Richards*



Agnes Roberts (Wardlaw) date unknown



*Margaret Wardlaw -
likely a 1904 wedding photo*



Orphaned girls head to Canada

The story of Agnes Wardlaw and her younger sister Margaret Wardlaw coming to Nova Scotia as orphaned Scottish girls in 1886 through Emma Stirling.

By cousins and co-authors
David Lake, Saint John, NB & Paul Lake, Halifax, NS

Agnes Irvine Wardlaw was born in December 1875 in Edinburgh, Scotland - the first child of coachman James Wardlaw and his wife, Margaret Graham. A second child, Margaret Graham Wardlaw (named after her mother) was born in March 1878. James had lived and worked in the manor house of a wealthy Edinburgh family as a coachman and domestic servant, but by the time of his 1875 marriage, both he and his bride, Margaret, lived on Rose Street in the central part of the city. But disease stalked the crowded inner cities of Europe, "consumption" (now known as tuberculosis) was a highly contagious disease that caused upwards of 25% of all deaths - especially among the urban poor. In August 1885, 31 year-old Margaret succumbed to the disease - husband James died of consumption five months later. The girls were on their own, almost penniless and probably very afraid of what their now totally uncertain future might hold for them.



Agnes Wardlaw's birth location, 93 Rose Street in Edinburgh. 93 Rose is above the "Brunch" storefront in this contemporary photo

A sympathetic neighbor of the Wardlaw family probably told Emma Stirling about the young girl's dilemma and Emma took the girls under her wing and brought them to one of her shelters in Edinburgh. Emma ran several shelters in the crowded city that took in children who were orphaned or had been placed there by poverty-stricken parents who were unable to care for them. Here, at least, they were safe and secure with other young children their own age.

It was proposed that Agnes and Margaret should become part of the first group of orphaned children under Emma's care to accompany her to Nova Scotia, Canada to start a new future in a new land. It must have been both very exciting but slightly terrifying for the girls to think what this huge change in their lives might bring.

Friends of Emma Stirling invited the group to breakfast the morning they started for their port of departure in Liverpool. After breakfast they sang an inspirational short song and read aloud the ninety-first psalm, the Traveller's Psalm, as it is known. The next morning saw the group away to the Alexandra Dock in Liverpool where they boarded the Allen Line steamship Caspian. Emma related that "our children attracted a good deal of attention with their Scotch tongues, neat cloaks, and bright fisherman's caps" which she had devised as a means of keeping them in sight. Emma Stirling recorded that many of the children were seasick after a few days on the ocean, but all recovered.....continued pg 2

A trip across the North Atlantic Ocean this time of the year was more comfortable than in the winter months and the children were probably thrilled to see towering icebergs off the Newfoundland and Canadian coastlines. Agnes and Margaret and the first group of "home children" arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 5, 1886 led by Emma Stirling and her caring assistants.

After getting her group of children temporarily accommodated in Halifax, Emma set out to find a suitable future home for her charges. She was assisted by a Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture official and took the advice of well-known farmers. It took her only a few days before she saw "what I thought extremely suitable for the purpose."

Emma also describes in her book *Our Children in Old Scotland and Nova Scotia* how "before we could move to the farm, however, we had a time of waiting and trial in Halifax, owing to the severe illness of one of my boys, who was seized with enteric fever, and had to be nursed in a house separate from the other children."

The girls arrived at Emma Stirling's 210 acre Hillfoot Farm in Aylesford, Kings County, N.S. and quickly fell into the routine shared by their youthful companions. The children's schooling was important as was growing their own food crops. This was probably quite foreign to most of the children who grew up in the poorer parts of cities like Edinburgh. After a few months the children would be commissioned out to families where the girls could work as domestic help and the boys would toil away at farm chores. Agnes was assigned to work, under contract, as a domestic on a farm in Grand Pre, N.S. and is recorded there in the Canada Census of 1891. Margaret was similarly assigned to a household in a nearby community.

The length of time the Wardlaw sisters spent as domestics is unknown but by 1896 Agnes was living in St. John, New Brunswick. It was here that Agnes met her future husband, Arthur B. Lake. Arthur worked in St. John as a teamster in the thriving seaport city. The couple were married when Agnes was 20 on June 17, 1896 in St. John and their first child, Ernest Judson Lake, was born about a year later. Twin boys, Arthur Roy Lake and Ralph Wardlaw Lake, were delivered on January 14, 1899. Their only daughter, Sara

Ruth Lake was born about a year and a half after the twin boys.

Life must have seemed worthwhile and promising for Agnes - she was healthy, happily married with four youngsters to raise. However, her husband tragically died suddenly of pneumonia in February 1902 and Agnes was left with her young children. Her husband's family stepped in to directly help Agnes and her now struggling young family, but Agnes decided to move to Maine, USA and join her younger sister Margaret there. She left her oldest son in St. John with his Lake grandparents and took her only daughter and twin sons to Maine. Within four years, Margaret similarly married and soon afterwards lost her husband. The two sisters were now both young widows and their futures again were cloudy and uncertain in another new country.

Margaret had been assigned to work on a farm in Port Williams, Kings County, N.S. when Agnes was at Grand Pre. Later she moved to Lewiston, Maine, USA, met and married Francis E. Hall in June 1904. Francis died suddenly in January 1906 - only 19 months after his marriage at the age of 32. She lived in her late husband's parent's household in Waterville, Maine in 1910 and pursued a nursing career. Margaret joined the US Naval Reserve Forces just after the United States entered World War One and continued her nursing career.

Agnes must have struggled to maintain her young family on her own, but her life continued to unravel. In October 1907, an unmarried Agnes gave birth to a baby girl in Lewiston, Maine. Perhaps Agnes' pregnancy gave rise to the upheaval that happened in May 1907. She gave up her twin sons that she had brought with her from New Brunswick to an institution for boys to lighten her burden. It is suspected that she was pressured to do this by her sister Margaret and Margaret's influential mother-in-law. The boy's application to the Goodwill-Hinckley Home (written by Margaret) clearly stated that Agnes was "in poor circumstances, no support whatsoever." A later piece of correspondence from Margaret's mother-in-law states that Margaret "... took the boys from their mother because she was convinced that [Agnes] was not a proper person to take care of them." Margaret was willing to pay \$2.00 a month to Goodwill-Hinckley to



S.S. Caspian - colorized photo from norwayheritage.com



The Big House, Miss Stirling Homes, Aylesford, Nova Scotia c1889

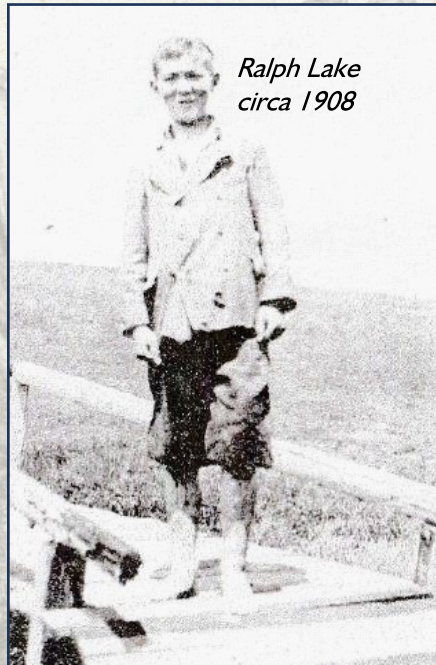
support the boys. GWH acknowledged that "... it was a great sacrifice for her to do this" - considering she was a nurse in training at the Maine General Hospital in Portland, Maine. These events must have led to a schism between the sisters.

Two years later, Agnes married William T. Roberts, a Lewiston railway worker, who was at least 18 years her senior. Agnes had four children with William between 1910 and 1922 and their large family included Sara Lake and the daughter that Agnes bore in October 1907, who became known as Margaret Roberts.

The twin boys were delivered to the Good Will Home in Fairfield, Maine in 1907. The boys were well recommended to the institution and evidently adjusted reasonably well. School records record that Ralph ran away once with another boy from the school in March 1913 over a disputed sum of money he supposedly received. He was arrested and was taken by his step-father. The school recorded that "Roy was unhappy for a time because the matron punished him, but I think is happy again."

Roy Lake managed to win a prize in bible study at the school's commencement exercise held in 1909. He was reported working in a shoe shop in Auburn, Maine by the Evening Journal, Lewiston, Maine after he left the school. His twin brother Ralph found a position working on a potato farm in Mars Hill, Maine but was accidentally killed when he "fell through an open scuttle to a concrete floor on September 14, 1915. He was picked up in an unconscious condition where it was found that his skull was fractured and his neck broken." He was 16 years old.

His twin brother Arthur Roy Lake must have felt somewhat desolate and lonely after the loss of his brother and separation from his mother. He perhaps yearned for a more stable



Ralph Lake
circa 1908

Both photos are from attachments to descriptions of Ralph and Roy Lake at the Goodwill-Hinckley Home in Maine.



Arthur Roy Lake
circa 1908

family life situation and returned to St. John, N.B. shortly after his brother's death. He again moved in with his grandparents and older brother. The war was still raging in Europe and perhaps he felt the pangs of patriotism and took his oath to God and King on August 11, 1916.

A week earlier he wrote to his sister that "... I have got the war fever now ... I can't go on the street unless someone taps me on the shoulder and ask me to [do] my bit." He must have lied about his age since 17 year-olds were too young to join up. He was processed through the enlistment system very quickly and sailed for England on the S.S. Olympic on September 18. He arrived in England on September 25, was transferred to the Royal Canadian Regiment as a much needed replacement and taken on strength in the field in France on October 22. He was reported "KILLED IN ACTION" on April 9, 1917 at Vimy Ridge, France.

Agnes now faced the realization of having lost two of her sons while holding things together in a marriage with an older husband and five children, including a two month old baby. Agnes had little education from her time working as a domestic and a very tough future ahead of her. Five years later she was pregnant again with her ninth child and, within a year of the birth, her second husband, William Roberts died in an industrial accident at the age of 64. Agnes was 47 and again found herself having to somehow support and raise several young children on her own.

Sisters Agnes and Margaret faced serious adversity together as young girls back in Scotland. Both faced widowhood at an early age, and the sharp divide over the placement of Agnes' twins likely severed their relation-



Margaret Taylor (Wardlaw) (left) and sister Agnes Roberts (Wardlaw) in 1939

ship for some time. Margaret had joined the US Naval Reserve Forces as a nursing sister in 1917 and was stationed at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital in New York by 1920. The following year, 43 year-old Margaret married the much younger Hazikiah R. Taylor in Norfolk, Virginia. He was a navy veteran of World War One and, by 1924, had obtained a law degree and began his law practice in Newport News, Virginia. The couple lived in Newport News for many years, where Margaret was active in the local Methodist church and with several service clubs. She also volunteered with the Red Cross. Margaret's days of adversity seem to have come to an end with her second marriage.

By 1940 Agnes was living in Auburn, Maine with her two elder daughters, the former Sara Lake and Margaret Roberts, who were both divorced and holding down office jobs in the local clothing and shoe making industry. Although

Agnes' sister Margaret lived in Virginia, family photographs show that the siblings got together in 1939 and, perhaps, at various other times.

Margaret died in Newport News in January 1951 at the age of 72 years. Agnes survived her by nine years; she passed away at the age of 86 in Auburn, Maine in late May 1962. She was buried near her son Ralph Wardlaw Lake in Riverside Cemetery, Lewiston. Agnes faced far more than her share of tragedy in her 86 years, with the loss of her parents, two husbands and her twin boys. She left six children and ten grandchildren .



2019 - Judy with Fegan boy , the late Patrick Maloney

Judy Neville 1959 - 2021

It is with heavy hearts that we say good bye to one of our strongest voices for the Home Children, Judy Neville. Judy, first and foremost, was a loving wife and mother. She enjoyed her family and the simple things in life. Her compassionate heart made room to embrace many organizations and causes with tireless energy throughout her life. In 2010, after discovering her own BHC background, Judy took on the cause of the Home Children. Her brother Jim Brownell, in his heart felt eulogy for Judy sated:

"As for legacy, Judy's legacy on earth will always shine in the outstanding work she did on behalf of British Home Children and

their descendants. Having discovered the amazing story of her own British Home Child grandmother, Mary Scott (Pearson) Brownell in 2010, Judy went on to become a champion for countless British Home Child descendants who wanted to know more about their ancestors. Those British Home Children were given a voice through the tireless efforts of Judy. As well, she picked up the torch and accomplished what no one else had done in the past, when a national British Home Child Day was announced in 2018 and celebrated on September 28th of that year."

This year, our British Home Child Day celebrations will be held in honour of Judy and all that she accomplished for our Home Children.



The Ships That Brought Them - A Series by Ralph Jackson

The S.S. Carthaginian

The building of the S.S. Carthaginian was not without its setbacks. Allan Line originally commissioned Glasgow shipbuilder Dobie & Co. to construct the liner but before they could complete the project, the company fell into bankruptcy. As a result of the business failure, three ships, including the Carthaginian, were left unfinished in the abandoned Govan shipyard. It wasn't until The Govan Shipbuilding Company revived the yard that the ship could be completed.

The ship was finally launched on October 9, 1884 and delivered to Allan Line for its maiden voyage. The Carthaginian's first Atlantic crossing between Glasgow and Boston took place on December 6, 1884. For the next several years the Carthaginian made regular transatlantic voyages to either Canada or various U.S. ports. The most commonly visited American ports were Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Portland, Maine. The favoured Canadian destinations for the Carthaginian were Halifax, St. John's and Quebec.

After leaving either Liverpool or Glasgow, Carthaginian would make a stop at the Irish ports of Queenstown or Londonderry, presumably to pick up Irish emigrants bound for North America. The 1890s were particularly active years for the migration of Irish nationals looking to start a better life..

In 1891 while heading through the Baltimore shipping channel, she collided with the York River Line's steamer Charlotte. While both ships suffered significant damage, neither sank and could be repaired to their previous condition.

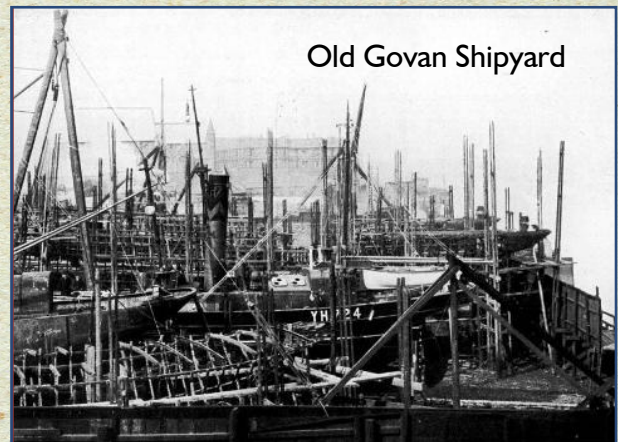
On January 12, 1913 the Carthaginian was off the coast of Halifax when fire broke out in the cargo hold. The captain ordered water pumped into the hold to extinguish the blaze. By the time the crisis had passed the lower deck had several feet of water washing throughout. The Carthaginian was able to return to shore but the nearby S.S. Uranium fared somewhat worse. There was a heavy fog and while rushing to the aid of the burning Carthaginian, the Uranium ran aground near Halifax. The Uranium was eventually salvaged and refitted. The Carthaginian was also restored to seaworthiness.

At the onset of the First World War, the Carthaginian was outfitted with defensive armaments. Although not fully converted to a troopship, she transported members of the Old Govan Shipyard Canadian Expeditionary Force to England. One such undertaking was on November 18, 1914 when she carried 149 Naval Reservists to Britain.

Despite the war, the Carthaginian continued to transport British Home Children to Canada. In the years 1914 to 1916 she brought 220 children to New Brunswick. Those arriving from Glasgow were sent to Cossar Farm in Lower Gagetown, New Brunswick. The children sailing from Liverpool were sent to Middlemore Home.

On June 14, 1917 the Carthaginian's lengthy service came to an end. While on route from Glasgow to Montreal she was 2½ nautical miles northwest of the Inishtrahull Lighthouse, County Donegal when she struck a mine laid by the German submarine U79. The ship was fatally damaged. Although the Carthaginian sank, miraculously there were no lives lost. A Royal Navy destroyer rescued the passengers and crew.

During its thirty-three years of transatlantic service, the S.S. Carthaginian brought 2,087 British Home Children to Canada, a large number of who were delivered to Middlemore Homes in Atlantic Canada. This report was prepared at the request of Sandra Quartermain Nofteff whose grandfather, Henry William (Harry) Horne and great-uncle, John Frederick (Fred) Horne arrived aboard the Carthaginian on May 28, 1908. Landing in Halifax, they were sent to Middlemore Home. Separated upon arrival, they reunited on the battlefields of France during WW1.



Old Govan Shipyard



Charlie Richards

Information supplied by Sharon Fraser - Richards

Charles (known as Charlie) Richards was born in 1895 in Gorey, Wexford, Ireland. He was the second child born to Margaret and Richard Richards. There appeared to have been some domestic problems as, in 1906, all 4 children were admitted to the Birds Nest, Dublin - a Smyly Home.

When Charlie's mother admitted him, she signed documents agreeing not to remove him without written notice; she would be required to apply in person for him. However, she also signed a document allowing Charlie to be emigrated to the Coombe Home, Hespeler, Ontario, and that he should remain there for such time as the manager of the homes sees fit. She agreed to be content with their decisions made on behalf of her son. One wonders if she truly understood what she was signing!

Charlie was sent to Canada in July of 1909. While still in residence at the Coombe Home, he wrote Miss Smyly to say he was very happy in Canada. Charlie was placed out for work, initially with William Frazer in Sheffield. By 1914 he was working for Mr. Moffatt in Galt. By all reports, Charlie was content with his life in Canada. He was able to keep in touch and visit his sister Emily - who arrived in Canada as a BHC in 1911. Charlie was a hard and dependable worker, trusted to run the farm when his farmer was away.

In December of 1917 Charlie was conscripted to serve in the First World War. Service number [#3311214](#). His NOK given was his mother Margaret, still living in Ireland.

When Charlie came home from the War he did very well for himself. He returned to the Fraser farm in Sheffield and attended the Sheffield Presbyterian Church there. Charlie also stayed in touch with the Moffatt family in Galt. Charlie became a milkman for the Galt Dairy, where he worked for many years. He became very involved in the community in Galt, attending their local church, becoming involved with their Scout Troop and the Hornet Hockey Team.

Charlie found love with Margaret Lawson. They married and in 1941 welcomed their only child, Douglas. In early 1957 the family purchased a new home in Galt which they were to take possession of on the 2nd of April. Tragically Charlie, then 61 years old, suffered a fatal heart attack the day before. He was buried in the Mount View Cemetery Masoleum in Galt, Ontario. His wife Margaret was later buried along side him.

In early 2021, his son Douglas, and his family donated Charlie's service uniform collection to Home Children Canada. This collection will be used in our exhibits to showcase the service of our Home Children in our Wars. Eventually we hope to have our own BHC museum, where the uniform will then be on display.



THE COOMBE, HESPELER, ONT



Two Barnardo Boys Reunite



Photos take by Dan Oatman



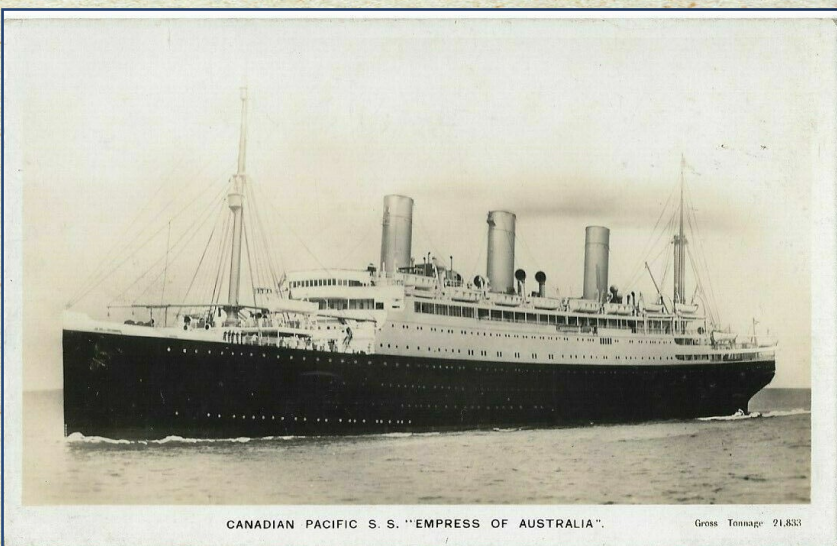
George is the lad in the top row, Cyril is in the middle row

Home Children Canada were thrilled to host a reunion between Barnardo Boys, George Beardshaw (in red) and Cyril Hewitt - believed to be our last two surviving Home Children in Canada. Both men arrived in Canada in August of 1938 aboard the Empress Of Australia - in the same party of children. Both men were 14 years old when they arrived in Canada and now are both 97. We are delighted to find both in good health.

Attending the reunion, which was held in Sarnia, Ontario, was Lori Oschefske, Dan Oatman and Judi Helle. The men spent a delightful afternoon catching up and sharing stories. Following the reunion, George was treated to a lunch out.

You can read about George in our [November 2020 Newsletter](#), Cyril's story can be found on our [British Home Children in Canada](#) website.

Cyril shared his story of being a BHC with CBC Radio recently. You can listen to him speak at: <https://bit.ly/3h2rB23>.



George served in the Second World War with the Queen's Own Rifles



Home Children Canada Updates

We wish to thank everyone for your outpouring of support for our recent changes to the structure of our organization and our new name. We are now incorporated as a Canadian not-for-profit and have now submitted our application to become a Canadian charity. Our move forward will help Home Children Canada to become sustainable and protect our legacy for generations to come. This could not be happening without your generous support. Visit our website to read about the changes, learn about our Board of Directors and discover how you can help. www.britishhomechildren.com

September 28th British Home Child Day in Canada

It is unfortunate that, again this year, covid prevents us from having a public event to celebrate. However we do have some creative ideas how we all can celebrate the day. This year our celebrations will be dedicated to Judy Neville who was the driving force behind our National BHC Day in Canada. We sadly lost Judy a few weeks ago. This year also marks the 10th Anniversary of British Home Child Day in Ontario - spearheaded by Judy's brother Jim Brownell.

Beacons of Light

This year we have several illumination of public landmarks scheduled to illuminate in red, white, and blue - the colours of our organization. To date, these are our scheduled illuminations:

- The High Level Bridge in Edmonton, Alberta
- The Calgary Tower, Calgary, Alberta
- The Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls, Ontario
- City Hall, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
- The Toronto CN Tower
- Riverwalk Commons and the falls at Fairy Lake in Newmarket, Ontario
- City of Cambridge pedestrian bridge

Leave a light on

Leave your porch light on or a light in your window for the Home Children.

Grave commemoration

Our Burial index now has the burial locations of almost 5,000 Home Children from across the world. Those who wish to participate can [visit our index](#), place your location in the search bar to see if you have a BHC buried close to you. Visit the grave, leave sunflowers or a token if you can. Take a photo to post in our BHCARA Facebook group.

Special BHC Day Zoom Presentation

Lori Oschefski & Dan Oatman are planning a special BHC Day Zoom presentation to take place on September 28th at 7pm. Details TBA in our [BHCARA Group](#). Admission to the presentation will be free for our paid members.

We encourage you to take a photo of how you are marking this special day and upload them to our BHCARA Group



*Photo by Judy Neville of her 2019 Beacons commemoration
use this photo as your Facebook profile shot on Sept 28 to honour Judy

BHC Pins and Crests



A pin and crest combo is available to our paid members at a discounted price.



Our British Home Children pins are now back in stock. We have added new crests for ironing on or sewing on. Canadian orders can be taken online at: www.britishhomechildren.com - outside of Canada, contact us at info@britishhomechildren.com for ordering and information. Ordering and pricing details are available on our [website](#).

1882

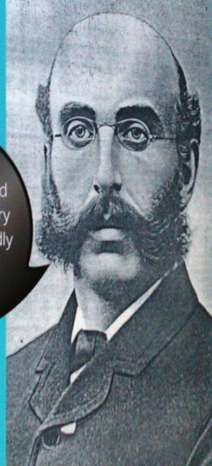
Victorian philanthropist and evangelist Gilbert Kirlew takes over the charity The Band of Kindness.

The Band of Kindness is a children's 'kindness to animals' and bird protection club started by the Stockport Advertiser. It is part of a growing Victorian animal welfare movement.

Gilbert linked kindness to animals to kindness to children.

The organisation is driven by religious motives, aiming to do good works and bring relief from suffering.

"treat kindly every kind of animal, and try to act more kindly to all children"
Gilbert Kirlew



1883

The animal welfare side of the Band of Kindness is looked after by Marianne, Gilbert's sister.

In 1883, concerned by the treatment of working animals, Marianne organises Manchester's first annual donkey parade.

Cash prizes are won based on how well the donkeys are treated. The top prize is £1 and 5 shillings or around £500 in today's money.

"the man who is good to his mule invariably keeps his family in comparative comfort"
Manchester newspaper



The Band of Kindness by Andrew Simpson

Historian & Author of "The Ever Open Door
- 150 Years of the Together Trust"



www.chorltonhistory.blogspot.com

British Home Children.....The Story From Britian

The Band of Kindness
another story of childcare from the
19th century

Now I doubt that many will know of the Band of Kindness & Children's Help Society, which was established in 1882, reorganised in 1897 and went through a number of changes to its name which reflected the changes to the focus of its activities.

It is still active today under the title of Disabled Living with its headquarters at Redbank House in Strangeways in Manchester.*

As such it perfectly reflects the way many children's charities have changed, adapting to the changing needs of society, and the way some have disappeared almost without trace.

I came across it in a box of archive material in Central Ref belonging to the Together Trust while writing a book on the history this children's charity which from the late 19th century operated as the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges.**

The presence of the Band of Kindness material in the archive owes much to the fact that one of its leading supporters and chairman was a Mr Gilbert R. Kirlew who was also involved in the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges, and because the two charities worked together.

What is interesting is the way that the Band of Kindness developed.

It was set up in 1882 with a view to involving children in the welfare of animals amongst young people in the care of the charity and by extension to those young people who were engaged with working animals and in particular the "boys who sell salt , &c in our poor districts and keep

donkeys" as well as looking after destitute children.***

Back in 1897 it worked for "the happiness and blessing of those in our homes and of all we meet.

The rescue and help of poor City Children and the savour of God's little ones everywhere [which] includes the support of destitute children in public and private homes, their emigration to the Colonies, or their temporary stay in the country or at the at the sea side."

And "the promotion of kindness to dumb animals, as for instance, - our Annual Parade of Working Donkeys, when we off prizes for the animals best cared for."****

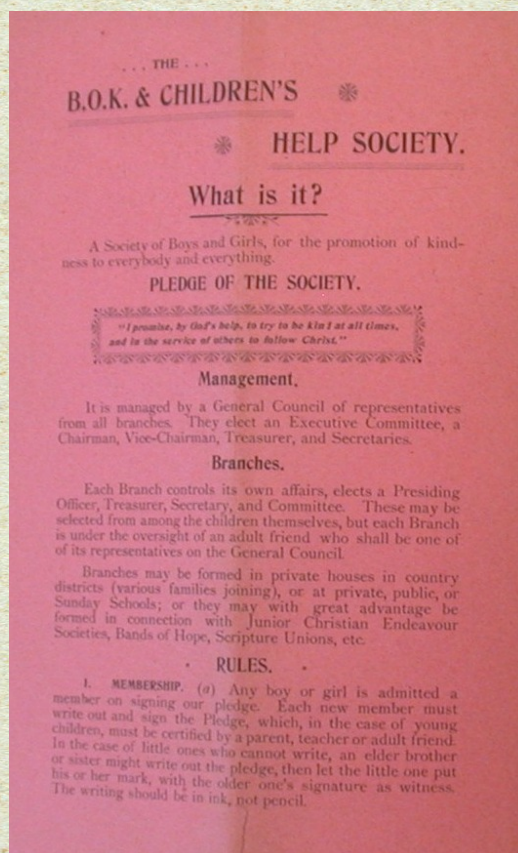
By 1903 the Band of Kindness had become The Crippled Children's Help Society, distributing Christmas hampers to disabled children, and in the following year rented a property in Marple with seven rooms offering respite facilities.

Through the rest of the 20th century with minor name changes it continued working with disabled children and families.

And if like me you are of a certain age you will remember those saving boxes which were placed outside shops and had an almost life size figure of two disabled children holding the collecting box.

It also ran a hospital, a holiday home in north Wales, expanded its work to include adults and broadened its services to include training, occupational therapy and craft classes.

In 1985 it became the Disabled Living Services "as the previous name became offensive and was no longer politically correct" and finally adopted the title Disabled Living



because the "charity was being confused with health and social care services."*****

Its present offices suffered a fire in 2009 and all its older archive material was lost. Happily some of it has been retrieved after a chance find of a number of photographs and memorabilia relating to Disabled Living which had been saved by a former employer.

But there are references in the media to work of the organization which is a start.

And in time more will come forth.

So, what was lost is found and along the way yet another bit of the story of childcare in the 19th and 20th centuries has been revealed.

And in turn it is a reminder to what extent the care of the sick, unemployed, and destitute remained the preserve of charitable institutions well into the 20th century.

A cursory glance of any of the street directories reveals page upon page of organizations devoted to the care of those who needed it but couldn't afford it. They ranged from the great hospital institutions, through to small societies dedicated to looking after newly released prisoners, the provision of free schools and libraries through to orphanages, and homes for the destitute.

It is easy to forget that in a century which takes for granted the role of the State in the welfare, education and health of citizens that this was not always so, and much of that help came from individuals and charities.

Pictures; Disabled Living Exhibition, Manchester, 2018, from the collection of Andrew Simpson, and documents from The Band of Kindness & Children's Help Society, courtesy of the Together Trust.

*Disabled Living, <http://www.disabledliving.co.uk/>

**The Ever Open Door: 150 years of the Together Trust, Andrew Simpson, The Together Trust, 2020, 140p, £14-99. ISBN 978-1-5272-5671-2. Available from, The Together Trust, <https://shop.togethertrust.org.uk/>

***Children's Humane Society, Uncle Gilbert, Manchester Guardian, October 15th 1883

**** The Band of Kindness & Children's Help Society, 1897, Together Trust Archive, M189/1/6/5, Archives and Local History Library, Manchester City Council Libraries, https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/448/archives_and_local_history

***** History of Disabled Living,

<http://www.disabledliving.co.uk/about-us/history/>

The Band of Kindness & Children's Help Society.

PLEDGE.

I Promise, by God's help, to try to be kind at all times, and in the service of others to follow Christ.

Name	Age	Address
"	"	"
"	"	"
Witness:—		Address
Name		

Every new member must sign this pledge. Those too young to write can make their mark, and get an older one to sign as witness. Write in ink, not pencil.

Give this paper, when signed, to the Presiding Officer of your Branch, who will sign it and send to General Secretaries. If there is no Branch, send it straight to B.O.K. Head Quarters, 100 Corporation Street, Manchester.

New to our collections



Home Children Canada is pleased to accept the donation of a Church of England, Waifs and Strays trunk. This trunk belonged to BHC Sidney Johnson who arrived in Canada, to the Gibbs Home in Sherbrooke Quebec in July of 1911.

Sidney was the son of

William Johnson and his wife Emma Baxter of Hartlepool, Durham, England.

Sidney attested in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1915. His sister, Lydia - still living in England, was listed as NOK. He was killed in action somewhere between September 25 (when he went missing) and September 28 (when he was found). Sidney was 19 years old when he died.

[BHC Registry ID #: 70274](#)

