

WOOD'S CHRISTIAN HOME TIMELINE SELECTED STAFF & OTHERS

06/10/1870

- Annie Jarvie born in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Annie would later become Mother Wood at the W.C.H.

25/04/1877

- George Wood born at Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland.
- George at age 25 was a provision merchant, also volunteering at a famed Scottish children's home before entering mission work. First Canadian mention, as the new Presbyterian minister, Melfort (*Sakatchewan village*) Moon (*newspaper*) 13/01/1909

10/01/1890

- Thomas Porter born in England.
- Thomas, in 1915, was then a newly enlisted Canadian soldier shipping out to the WW 1 front. *Thomas's wife had died a short while earlier. He was the father of the first two children to come into care at the orphan home that George Wood founded.*

06/10/1911

- Willy Porter, who was to become the first boy in the Innisfail orphan home, born at Longton, Stoke upon Trent, England.

06/03/1914/

- Mary Evelyn Porter, to become the first girl in care at Innisfail, born, presumably, at or near Innisfail, Alberta.

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01/06/1914

- Elizabeth Gilchrist Wood, George's first wife, dies after a house fire in Aneroid, Sask. (Her birthdate was 15/10/1873).
- A passerby rescues their five-year-old daughter Annie.

17/05/1919

- Thomas Porter returns from the war. He has a new wife.
- Porter spends time working on improvements and then returns to England with his two children. (*These discoveries contradict published accounts that Thomas had perished and that Rev. Wood became guardian of the two children*).

27/09/1935

- Thomas Porter dies at Stoke on Trent, England.

1945

- Ethel McArthur arrives as supervisor for little boys and girls.
- *Included here, because she was a significant player in conflicts that ensued in the sixties over changing childcare approaches. (Aside: and as she was this author's caregiver during his formative years).*

1948

- Mother Blackadar dies at the W.C.H. (*She had been Annie Wood's right hand worker and then Matron after Annie's passing*).

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1951

- Boy's supervisor Albert Temple arrives. (*Included here because he was the very model of employing returned servicemen as boy's wardens*).
- As with McArthur (above), Temple also figured in later conflicts.
- (*Aside: Brutality and controversial discipline methods overlooked, It needs saying that both had some fine qualities.*)

1955

- Long-time business manager W.B. Robertson retires.
- Art and Jean Jeal arrive. Art becomes manager while Jean serves first as nurse (*a first*) and then, for a time, as matron.

1955

- Miss McArthur leaves *under strained circumstances*.
- As documented in the semi-official history of the W.C.H. "Children of the Storm" (Elsaesser, undated, copyright Wood's Homes) she disagreed with changes in child care brought in by the Jeals.

1956

- Albert (Bert) Temple, boys' supervisor, departs *under strained circumstances*.

1961

- Mrs Birch (acting matron) retires.

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1962

- William Engelke is convicted in criminal court of abuses against older boys ranging in age from about twelve to fourteen years.
- *At the time, Engelke was no longer employed at the Woods other than in a volunteer capacity as scout master.*
- *Evidence in trial reveals that Engelke committed offences against youths while employed as boys' supervisor a year or two earlier.*

1964

- Linton Gaetz, long-time, school principal retires.
- He is succeeded by Mr. Bruce King.

1966

- Staff additions include: treatment director - Miss J. Hagerman, Therapists - K. Lernere and Mrs. C. Jacobson, nurse Miss V. Bromley,
- consultant psychiatrist Dr. J. Fair and consultant treatment director B.N.Sharpe.

1968

- Art Jeal, manger, and long-time secretary (and at the time acting matron) Alice Thompson both retire.

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End Note: This is a selected list, and, as such, is not all-inclusive. Many others worked at the Wood's Christian Home over the many decades. Some of them made outstanding contributions. Only a very few could be regarded as infamous or cruel. Many of the ex boys and girls regard some of the 'overlooked' staff both in the semi-official history "Children of the Storm." and in this listing, as warm hearted and kind. This is especially true of the various laundry staff, cooks and other helpers or volunteers. The teachers over the many decades, but especially in my time - Miss Edmondson and Miss Farrell, were wonderful and entirely good to us 'orphan' kids. offered by Frank Dwyer