

**Research Notes on the Early History of the Wood's  
Christian Home in Olds and Innisfail, Alberta  
1914 – 1926**

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## **PREAMBLE**

The story of the early days of Wood's Christian Home deserves a more accurate telling and wider appreciation than it has received. In this age, when political correctness and the ironic view are so oppressive, it is important to recognize that the religious and personal convictions of Reverend George, Janet Wood (George's sister) and Annie, his wife, drove their unceasing dedication to child welfare. What they did is an inspiration for others and a part of Alberta's history that should be better known.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents the results of the research into the early history of the Wood's Christian Home that was carried out by J. Richard Nickel and Francis Dwyer, both of whom spent some or much of their childhood at the Wood's Christian Home in Bowness.

Their work was motivated by a respect for the ideals and work of Reverend George and Annie Wood in creating the institution. The collaborators see this as a way to help celebrate the centennial of this storied Alberta institution. We began in January of this year, with the bulk of the research activities done through February and March with the editing and follow up work in the following months.

Our research has uncovered significant new information that modifies the account as it is presently known of the origin and early days of the Home. The received accounts variously claim that the soldier Reverend George met in Innisfail was drafted, that he had three children, that he begged George to take them under his care and that this encounter caused Wood to create the orphan home at Innisfail. These statements are quite inaccurate. The facts uncovered are that the soldier Tom enlisted voluntarily since he could not find work, there were only two children, and Reverend Wood encountered Tom on an Innisfail Street quite by happenstance. He did not beg George to take his children and the Innisfail orphan home had already been established at the time this encounter took place. It has also come to our attention that Janet Wood played an extensive – if overlooked – role in getting the Innisfail Home started.

It is most likely that the authors of these earlier stories of the Home were simply relying on existing historical accounts and did not have any reason to challenge them. We hope these errors and omissions will be corrected and that a more accurate account of the early history will be expanded on using the results of our research. Following is a list of thirty things we have learned in the course of our research – some of them startling, others deeply moving or illustrative of the times.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Some knowledge of the accepted history of the Wood's Christian Home is necessary to provide the context for these notes. The following account is excerpted from "Our Story" on the current (April 2014) website of the Wood's Homes in Calgary

[http://www.woodshomes.ca/site/PageNavigator/about/about\\_our\\_story.html](http://www.woodshomes.ca/site/PageNavigator/about/about_our_story.html).

“Wood's Christian Homes was founded in the Innisfail/Olds area by Reverend George Wood, a Scot and a Presbyterian minister who moved to Canada with his wife Elizabeth in 1907. They settled in Saskatchewan.

In 1914, tragedy struck when his wife perished in a house fire. The couple's three-year-old daughter, Anne, was saved by a passerby. Now alone with a daughter, George Wood requested a transfer from his ministry to a place with less painful memories. His mother accompanied him to help raise Anne when they moved to Innisfail, Alberta. While still grieving, George Wood was approached by a young soldier whose wife had also died. The soldier begged the minister to care for his children because he had been called to war. Reverend Wood agreed and some years later became these children's guardian when their father was killed.

More children were eventually brought to him, and Wood's reputation grew as a caregiver for children whose parents were either deceased or financially unable to care for their children in struggling times. His family became too large for the Innisfail house so they moved to acreage near Olds.

Annie, a Scot, a social worker, and good friend married George and assisted him in his work becoming Mother Wood to many.

By 1925, the Olds structure also became overcrowded and the Hextall Estate in Bowness (west Calgary), was purchased for \$18,000 using Reverend Wood's insurance policy as security. In November, 1926, 32 children accompanied their benefactors to the new home in Bowness.”

## **FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS – THIRTY THINGS THAT WE HAVE LEARNED**

**(See also numbered citations Appendix A and related end notes in Appendix B.)**

***The names of the first children in the Home at Innisfail.*** *There were resident, named as inmates: James Scott (10 years), Vern Wood (10), Perry Wood (8), Rex Wood (6), Clarence Bailey (9), John Bailey (7), Gordon Bolton (7), Willie Porter (4) and Mary Porter (2). \**

*Citation 1*

***The names of the adult workers at the first orphanage.*** *Rev. George Wood (Superintendent –38 years), Miss Mary Logan (Matron –23) Miss Helen Gilmore (Assistant – 28), Miss Margaret Kirkham (Assistant –38) and in an adjacent or nearby household: Margate (Margaret) Wood (mother of George and Janet – widowed 67), Annie G (Gilchrist) Wood (George Wood's daughter age 6) and Janet M Wood, (George Wood's sister) (Assistant – orphan Home – 32). \* Citation 2*

**The orphanage at Innisfail was well underway before Rev. George met the soldier whose children were by most accounts the first taken into care. This is contrary to other published accounts of the Innisfail origins. \* Citation 3**

**Janet Wood (Reverend George Wood's sister) played a significant part in founding the orphanage. \* Citation 4**

Technically, the first child was not one of Porter's two children. In fact that child was a young boy that Janet Wood handed to George Wood when he arrived at the Innisfail train station. \* *Citation 5*

Porter's children were named Willie and Mary. They are acknowledged as the first inmate children in the Innisfail Orphan Home. \* *Citation 6*

Two young Innisfail doctors were early members of the Orphan Home committee. They persuaded George to allow for the first hospital in Innisfail to be created within the Home. This resulted in a treatment room and two bedrooms serving as wards. A secondary benefit was to provide crucial income for the Home while it got established. \* *Citation 7*

The Innisfail orphanage had its inception in 1914. In 1914, Reverend Wood had accepted a mission assignment from the Missions Board to answer a calling at Innisfail, Alberta and there establish an orphan home. He had been employed in Calgary helping to organize the Temperance Movement, while no doubt recovering from grief at the loss of his first wife. \* *Citation 8*

The Innisfail Home did not officially open until Jan. 1, 1916. \* *Citation 9*

Porter was the soldier Rev. George met in Innisfail. \* *Citation 10*

Rev. Wood met Private Porter in December of 1915. \* *Citation 11*

Porter joined the army because he needed income. \* *Citation 12*

**Porter's first name was Tom.** (In at least one other source it was given as "Bob"). \* *Citation 13*

Porter's age in 1915 was 32 years. \* *Citation 14*

His occupation was shown as "miner" in 1915, though he was not so employed. \* *Citation 15*

**Porter's wife was named Mary Elizabeth.** \* *Citation 16*

Mary Porter died after a short illness in November of 1915. \* *Citation 17*

**Mary Elizabeth Porter is buried in Innisfail.** \* *Citation 18*

**Porter returned from the war.** \* *Citation 19*

**Porter returned to the orphanage in Olds.** \* *Citation 20*

**Porter remarried and was happily reunited with his two children.** \* *Citation 21*

The Home moved three times in Innisfail and the children even lived in a tent for the one summer. \* *Citation 22*

Reverend Wood was once Mayor of Olds, but for less than a full term. \* *Citation 23*

**The orphan Home at Olds was likely located within block 106 just north of Nanton Street, in the far North-west corner of the town.** \* *Citation 24*

The Olds orphanage was not enumerated in the Census of 1921. \* *Citation 25*

George Wood, Annie Wood and Annie Gilchrist Wood were resident at Olds in 1921. \* *Citation 26*

Reverend George Wood was an enthusiastic curler. \* *Citation 27*

George Wood had monumental plans to create a large orphanage complex at Olds. \* *Citation 28*

The decision to move near a city (Calgary) was made whilst George Wood, suffering a broken back, lay in a body cast for many weeks. *Citation 29*

**Reverend George Wood and Annie Wood are buried in the Burnsland Cemetery, Calgary.** \* *Citation 30*

## **CONCLUSIONS**

As these notes show our research presents a somewhat different portrayal of the facts around the origin of the Home at Innisfail than those now on record. This is true of the official website of the current Wood's Homes. The recently published story collection edited by *Clem Martini, 2014, "One Hundred Stories for One Hundred Years," Calgary, Brush Education Ltd*, (described as a "History of Wood's Homes as told by the people who lived and worked there."), and a recent Calgary newspaper story (Calgary Herald, April 7, 2014) perpetuate inaccuracies about the founding of the Wood's Home's.

These might be regarded as inadvertent or perhaps represent artistic license. They do not, in the writers' view, harm the overall story of the Wood's Homes and are of small consequence.

There is in the Glenbow archives a small treasure of research material in the Wood's Homes collection including papers donated by the Wood family. There is much more that can be learned through careful review by a trained historian. The photography collection is a marvelous asset. Alas, some of the earliest photographs, and some of those truly magnificent, are fragile, perished and in danger of being lost in not too many years. While the Glenbow does a fine job as its resources permit, some additional expertise seems called for to assist in assessing and preserving this extraordinary collection.

Most of all, our work in correcting and broadening this history has revealed how rich a tale the founding of the Home is. This is a rather epic story that deserves a more accurate telling and wider appreciation. In this age, when political correctness and the ironic view are so oppressive, it is we think important to recognize that the religious convictions of Reverend George, Janet Wood (George's sister) and Annie drove their dedication to child welfare. Their achievements represent a story that should make all of us proud. We should not, it must be said, obscure the past because we are discomfited by it. This is true of both the early life of the Home and all that occurred in later years. History is all of the past: the good, the joyful, the wondrous, the awful and yes even the shameful. The Wood's Home's has had all of those aspects in its one

hundred year history. The early years now seem remarkable for purity of purpose, devotion and upright conduct. The work and dedication of these founders was extraordinary. Their achievement deserves wider recognition. Such a storied past, and indeed the entire hundred years, deserves nothing less than an accurate and compelling portrayal.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the history in 'Our Story' on the Wood's Homes website be corrected and expanded.
2. That a graduate student in History be employed to produce a fuller and more rigorous history of the early Wood's Home.
3. That a pamphlet or booklet on the early history of the Home be readied for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Innisfail, on January 1, 2016.
4. That an expert in photographic preservation/restoration be hired to assess the state of the earliest photographs held in the Glenbow Archive, and collaborate with the Archives to ensure preservation. This may include high level scans for digital preservation.
5. That a bronze memorial marker be erected in the Town of Innisfail on or near to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, in order to commemorate the anniversary of the first home. Similar recognition might be considered for Olds.
6. That a suitable headstone, if one does not exist, be put in place at the resting place of Mary Elizabeth Porter, the mother of Willie and Mary, who were not only among the first wards but likely the most poignant of them all. This should be done in the spring of 2016 at the Innisfail Cemetery as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The current administration of the Wood's Home should take the lead in implementing or oversee the implementation of these recommendations. Recommendations 3, 5 and 6 could be done in partnership with historical societies or museums in Innisfail and Olds. The Provincial Government should also be approached for support in helping to realize these recommendations.

### **AUTHOR'S PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS**

This research has been a fascinating and rewarding task. I especially want to salute the tireless research done by J. Richard Nickel, based in Australia, and for his patient/invaluable assistance in editing my many drafts. The story of the founding of the Wood's Christian Homes (I use the C word deliberately as regards the first twenty-five years) has epic qualities. Reverend George Wood, his sister Janet and Annie Wood had a dedication, and capacity to love that astonishes me. This history effort affected me deeply, likely because I spent ten years of my boyhood in the home. The place by then, no longer under the direct influence of the founders, was in my experience a very different, even dark place both in spirit and practice.

"To deny one's own experiences is to put a lie into the lips of one's own life. It is no less than a denial of the soul." – Oscar Wilde, *De Profundis*

Francis Dwyer, Kamloops, British Columbia, April 16, 2014

### **Acknowledgements**

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Doug Cass of the Glenbow Archives; to J. Kearney, Archivist, Mountain View Museum at Olds; to Ms. Carmela Erickson, Executive Assistant, Town of Innisfail, a few angels in the genealogical community and to the services and individuals who do the little noticed but immensely important task of preserving our history. The interest shown by the Bowness Historical Society has given us much encouragement. In particular we want to acknowledge and salute the role of the Glenbow Archives in preserving the Wood's Home collection and in their constant willingness to be of assistance. And finally, we want to give a small shout out to the Homers in the background, especially to Perry Davis who also understands the value in history and who does a great deal for our small community of former Wood's Homes girls and boys.

## **APPENDIX A – CITATIONS**

1 – Government of Canada, Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1916, Alberta, Alberta, District 4, Township 41, sub-district 11, Town of Innisfail, page 5, held in the Library & Archives of Canada. Archived at: < [http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/006003/t-21953/pdf/31228\\_4363982-01011.pdf](http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/006003/t-21953/pdf/31228_4363982-01011.pdf) > February, 2014.

2 – Ibid.

3 – Janet McIntyre Crocket (nee Wood – Reverend George Wood's sister), "A Sketch of the Founder." Archived at: the Wood's Homes collection, Glenbow Archives, Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Wood's Christian Home fonds, Series 16, Wood's Family Papers, M-2151-725, Page 10. (\*\* NOTE: Hereafter referred to as JMC Memoir) See also *End note* \* 3.

4 – Ibid. Page 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. See also *End note* \* 4.

5 – Ibid. Page 11, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph from the bottom.

6 – Government of Canada, Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1916, Alberta, Alberta, District 4, Township 41, Town of Innisfail, page 5, held in the Library & Archives of Canada. Web site: < [http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/006003/t-21953/pdf/31228\\_4363982-01011.pdf](http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/006003/t-21953/pdf/31228_4363982-01011.pdf) >

7 – JMC Memoir, page 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. See also *End note* \* 7

8 – Ibid. Page 10. See also *End note* \* 8.

9 – Ibid. Page 13, paragraph 1. See also *End Note* 9.

10 – The Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War, Library and Archives Canada, "Soldiers of the First World War," Attestation Paper # A47174 for one Tom Porter, no. A47174, of Innisfail, Alberta enlisted at Calgary on June 8, 1915. Archived at: < <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=580824> > March, 2014. Reference RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 7914 – 36. Item no. 580824. See also *End note* \* 10.

11 – JMC Memoir page 12, paragraph 1. See also *End note* \* 11.

12 – Ibid. Page 12. See also *End note* \* 12.

- 13 – The Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War, Library and Archives Canada, “Soldiers of the First World War,” Attestation Paper # A47174 for one Tom Porter, no. A47174, of Innisfail, Alberta enlisted at Calgary on June 8, 1915. Archived at: < <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=580824> > March, 2014. Reference RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 7914 – 36. Item no. 580824. See also *End note* \* 13.
- 14 – Ibid. The date of Porter’s birth is given as January 17, 1883, which made him 32 years of age when he joined up. See also *End note* \* 14.
- 15 – Ibid.
- 16 – Ibid.
- 17 – JMC Memoir, page 12. *End note* \* 17.
- 18 – Carmela Erickson, Executive Assistant, Town of Innisfail, by email on March 24, 2014, following our request to search the town cemetery records. See also *End note* \* 18.
- 19 – JMC Memoir, page 18. See also *End note* \* 19.
- 20 – Ibid. Page 18. See also *End note* \* 20.
- 21 – Ibid. See also *End note* \* 21.
- 22 – The Olds Gazette, Friday March 18, 1921. Archived: < > See also *End note* \* 22.
- 23 – Ibid. April 8, 1921. See also *End note* \* 23.
- 24 – J. Kearney – Archivist, Mountain View Museum and Archives, Olds, Alberta. See also *End note* \* 24.
- 25 – Government of Canada, 1921 Census of Canada, Dominion Bureau of Vital Statistics, Ancestry.com, Alberta, District of Red Deer, Sub-District 57, town of Olds, page 19, lines 39,40 and 41. Web site: date 3 March 2014 < [http://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=CanCen1921&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=1&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=George&gsln=Wood&msrpn ftp=Olds%2c+Mountain+View%2c+Alberta%2c+Canada&msrpn=1647208&msrpn\\_PInfo=8-|0|1652393|0|3243|0|5001|0|1652459|1647208|0|&dbOnly= F0007989| F0007989 x%2c F00079D5| F00079D5 x%2c 83004005| 83004005 x%2c 83004006| 83004006 x%2c F000798B| F000798B x%2c F000798C| F000798C x%2c F000798D| F000798D x&uid h=2wa&pcat=35&fh=6&h=6255177&recoff=&ml rpos=7](http://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=CanCen1921&rank=1&new=1&MSAV=1&msT=1&gss=angs-d&gsfn=George&gsln=Wood&msrpn ftp=Olds%2c+Mountain+View%2c+Alberta%2c+Canada&msrpn=1647208&msrpn_PInfo=8-|0|1652393|0|3243|0|5001|0|1652459|1647208|0|&dbOnly= F0007989| F0007989 x%2c F00079D5| F00079D5 x%2c 83004005| 83004005 x%2c 83004006| 83004006 x%2c F000798B| F000798B x%2c F000798C| F000798C x%2c F000798D| F000798D x&uid h=2wa&pcat=35&fh=6&h=6255177&recoff=&ml rpos=7) > See also *End note* \* 25.
- 26 – Ibid.
- 27 – The Olds Gazette, January 21 1919, Archived: < <http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/place.asp?place=Olds&Submit2=Look+up> > See also *End note* \* 27.



28 – Ibid. March 25, 1921. Archived: < [http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/np\\_page2.asp?code=nlspo768.jpg](http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/np_page2.asp?code=nlspo768.jpg) > See also *End note* \* 28.

29 – JMC Memoir, page 18, (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph from the last) See also *End note* \* 29.

30 – Alberta Family Histories Society website/Cemetery Search/Calgary/Burnsland/Wood. Archived: < <http://www.afhs.ab.ca/data/cemeteries/search.php> > See also *End note* \* 30.

## **APPENDIX B – END NOTES**

**End note \* 3** A memoir, written by Janet in 1948/49, authenticated as to being in her handwriting by her son Alex Crocket (Sept 2004, Havelock North, New Zealand). Janet, by her own account, had a role in helping to found the Innisfail Orphan Home and was in fact resident with the Innisfail family in 1915 and is shown as living next door in the 1916 Census of the Prairie Provinces. Janet describes, on page 10 of the memoir, how her brother George accepted an offer from the Missions Committee (by inference late in 1914 or early in 1915) to develop an orphanage in the town of Innisfail. Protracted efforts were made, during 1915, to find a suitable house. Janet then describes how, later in 1915, she met George at the Innisfail train station and there introduced him to the first hired worker, Miss Gilmore. She (Janet) also provided George the first ward – a young boy – and the first donation (her own offering) of ten dollars. These events are clearly described in Janet’s memoir, as is her testimony that she was present and participated in the subsequent events as described. (Note: Gilmore is spelled Gilmour in other sources. In Janet Wood’s record the name is Gilmore.)

**End note \* 4** Janet Wood personally hired Helen Gilmore as the first worker. She had, on the train journey from Calgary, encountered a lady who was going into hospital and who had no one to care for her boy of 4 years. Janet made the case to George that this lad should become the first ward of the new orphanage. This occurred in the fall of 1915, and is described in Janet’s memoir on page 10, last two paragraphs.

**End note \* 7** A full account concluding with, “The Doctors got busy and fitted up the rooms very nicely and arranged for a nurse. The first patient was the Methodist Minister’s wife, and I forgot now whether it was a boy or a girl.”

**End note \* 8** At the top of page 10, and on the preceding page (which page the author does not have to hand). Janet, who was in 1914 resident in Calgary and close to her brother, described how George was near to finishing a month’s training at the Baptist Mission College. He had been offered an assignment from the Mission Committee to establish an orphanage at Innisfail. In the next paragraph, she muses on her brother’s reasons for acceptance and goes on to write, paragraph 3, “The only place vacant was a two-storied house on the outskirts of Innisfail Township.”

**End note \* 9** “We made a fresh start at 6 and at 1 o’clock (afternoon) the official opening took place, that was 1st January, 1916.”

**End note \* 10** An exhaustive search through enlistment data for some 470 Porter names. The date of Porter's birth is given as January 17, 1883. His wife is named as Mary Elizabeth Porter. She (poignantly) signed page 3. "I here give my consent to my husband joining the C.O.E.F. 56 Batt." He was taken on strength with 56 Battalion 2nd Reinforcing Draft. From the records of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Web source (Archived: < [http://www.albertagenealogy-research.ca/LER/Nominal\\_Roles/56BnCEF.pdf](http://www.albertagenealogy-research.ca/LER/Nominal_Roles/56BnCEF.pdf) > March, 2014. See, 2nd Reinforcing Draft. Page 31, service no. 447174, (10<sup>th</sup> line down on the left) note: Hometown of Innisfail and next-of-kin Mary Elizabeth Porter. No other Porter was found who enlisted from the Innisfail District.

**End note \* 11** On page 12, top paragraph, here is Janet Wood's account of how George Wood met Porter: Janet writes, "While these negotiations were taking place, a woman belonging to the district passed away after a few days' illness, leaving a very dazed husband and two small children, a boy age 4 and a girl age two. My brother met this man on an Innisfail street and stopped to sympathize with him. He knew nothing of the project on hand but poured forth all his troubles, saying that he was "completely up against it and didn't know what to do for the best". He was due to leave for the front and confided that he "only joined up because he was out of work. Now what would he do with his children?" Janet describes how an agreement was drawn up and how the children were brought to the cottage. She writes decisively: "All this took place in December, 1915."

**End note \* 12** He was due to leave for the front and confided that he "only joined up because he was out of work. Now what would he do with his children." Janet McIntyre Crocket.

**End note \* 13** In one source, the soldier is named as "Bob". The apparently flawed source is: < [http://www.woodshomes.ca/site/PageNavigator/100/100th\\_anniversary.html](http://www.woodshomes.ca/site/PageNavigator/100/100th_anniversary.html) > paragraph 4 in main body of text. Note also that this account asserts, incorrectly, that Porter did not return from the war. (Refer to End note 19 on this matter) See *End note 10* to learn how we identified the Innisfail soldier as Tom.

**End note \* 14** Page 1 of this 3 page document, Porter's birth date. An especially poignant touch is Mary Elisabeth's signature on the last page granting her permission to join the Battalion and go to the front. Mary would be dead herself in just a few months.

**End note \* 17** On page 12, Janet Crocket describes how, "A woman of the district passed away after a few days illness", and in the following paragraph (last sentence) she asserts that all of this took place in the month of December, 1915. Since her account describes a train of events in December, it is likely that Wood met Tom Porter early in that same month. Correlate this with the information in the next End note.

**End note \* 18** Quote Ms. Erickson, by email correspondence, "I have found a Mary E. Porter with a date of November 30, 1915 but I'm not sure if that was the Date of Death or the Interment Date. That is the only Porter that comes up." In a subsequent email, Ms Erickson identifies Mary E. Porter's resting place as Block E, Plot 8, in the Innisfail cemetery, Lakewood Drive. On the PDF plot sheet she is identified only as Mary Porter.

**End note \* 19** Janet Wood states, (Page 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph) "It was to the Home at Olds that Mr. Porter returned after the war and for some time worked on the place helping to get the

grounds in order.” And, this vital, sourced from the Calgary Daily Herald of Thursday March 15, Private Tom Porter is listed as returned on the steamer Cassandra and expected to arrive in Calgary on about May 17, 1919. Web site <<  
[http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/np\\_page2.asp?code=n53p0291.jpg](http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/np_page2.asp?code=n53p0291.jpg) >

**End note \* 20** Janet affirms, “It was to the Home at Olds that Mr. Porter returned after the war and for some time worked on the place helping to...”

**End note \* 21** Again page 18, second paragraph. “It was to the Home that the (Porter’s) bride came” (also 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, second to last sentence) “... and from there a quiet wedding was arranged.”

**End note \* 22** The headline in the Gazette states, “Campaign Started to Raise \$500,000 ...” the text reading, “Mr. Woods (sic) gave a brief outline of the start made in Innisfail...” where he described how the first house was too small within three months, how the children “were moved into a tent for the summer,” and how they rented another house at Innisfail in the fall but it soon became too small as well. This last crisis precipitated the move to Olds.

**End note \* 23** Report of the meeting of the council, presiding Mayor Wood. Sept. 23, 1921 Directory of Important Officials of Olds, Mayor the Reverend George Wood. Nov. 11, 1921 Mayor George Wood has resigned owing to pressing business at the Orphan’s Home.

**End note \* 24** Quoting Mr. Kearney, by email April 24, 2014, “The following is a portion of a timeline reference that has been growing in one of the archive vertical file SUBJECT folders, labeled as “Wood Christian Home” The timeline material was sourced as follows: [1] Wood's home website online [2] Glenbow Historical Biography online [3] History of Olds and Area history book [4] Olds Gazette newspaper 1918[2] "...30 acres of land..."[2] "...acreage on the north side of Olds..."[3] page 82 "... building moved on to the Olds property (about where the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Company's yard is now)..."[3] page 83 (note: this is possibly within the area labeled as block 106 on the 1905 and 1919 fire plan) (note: appearing to have been labeled as block 14 on the 1960 fire plan, showing an office "Rangeland Pipelines Co. Ltd.") "Rangeland is a division of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company Limited" [3] page 469 (image of office page 470).” Our original suppositions were gleaned from the statement about the Orphan Home property in Olds being, “30 acres on the North side” from a published history of Olds, archived: < <http://www.ourroots.ca/e/page.aspx?id=875400> >. See bottom right of page, headed Woods Christian Home. From the book, “Olds, A History of Olds and Area” Friesen Printers, Calgary, 1980, Helen Smith, Everett Birdsall and Jack Bussard.

**End note \* 25** None of the nine original occupants, or the workers, (from the 1916 census of the Prairie Provinces) are to be found in the 1921 census for Olds, Alberta. Neither do any of those names come up (with applicable ages) in repeated searches of the 1921 Census as found on Ancestry.com. Although the orphan home was well documented to be within the boundaries of Olds in 1921, no group of children can be found within the relevant pages, neither on the 1921 census, nor in the six adjacent townships and neither there any description of any child, within Olds, given as an inmate, lodger or other such revealing enumeration.

**End note \* 27** Rev. George Wood is named with the rest of an Olds team competing at a Calgary Bonspiel. Also he is mentioned with Olds curlers in the Gazettes of Jan 21 1919, Jan 25 1921 and March 5 of 1921.

**End note \* 28** The headline reads, “Campaign Started to Raise \$ 500,000 for Children’s Home and Epileptics’ Colony.” The story describes plans and the immediate need to build three new cottages for girls and three for boys. The larger plan was to create a dedicated school on the Orphan Home site as well as to establish a hospital on the property. More unlikely, but revealing of attitudes in that time, was a proposal to establish a house to be called the “Colony of Mercy” for epileptics. Quote: “These unfortunate people are outcasts in a sense... These will be employed in truck garden work and in this way help to raise the food for the homes.”

**End note \* 29** Janet Crocket relates, referring to 1926, “My brother was in the act of moving a small building [on the Olds Home land] and while in a precarious position the horses took fright. ... The result was a double fracture of the spine, incased in a plaster cast, he spent as he said, “13 solid weeks in bed.” Quoting from the letter again, he said “While lying I bed, I did a lot of thinking, and decided that we would either have to get some improvements in the way of water, sewer, hospital and things like that (editor’s note; this after some five years of hard scrabble existence on the Olds 30 acres) or else move to the city where we could get them more easily.” He had booked their (Annie and his) passage to Scotland in the hope that after his long spell in bed he would be completely recovered.” Janet describes in the next paragraph how he and Annie, as their trip began, spent a day in Calgary where they went out to Bowness Park. While gazing about, he exclaimed, “There’s the spot for a Children’s Home.” ... This was the beginning of several pilgrimages to Bowness which led eventually to the purchase of the old Hextall manor house then known as the Bethel Sanatorium.

**End note \* 30** The result of this search reveals: Wood Geo. (Rev.) 1928 and resting alongside Wood Annie 1930. The two named are found about item 116 and 117 down the page listing. (Further details as to obituaries and news articles have been obtained from the Burnsland Cemetery including a lovely photo of the headstone.