

Dear Peter,

Thank you for email. I have completed some research using the case files of the two boys you have mentioned below, Matthew Richardson Bell and Frank Gordon Ensor. I have provided the details below, with both of the boys sharing quite a common cause for children coming in to the care of the Waifs and Strays Society in this period:

Matthew Richardson Bell

Dates at St Boniface: 21st August 1907 – 22nd April 1909

Reason for entering the care of the Waifs and Strays Society: Matthew's mother was in debt and in increasingly ill health. Due to this she was unable to work and had no relatives able to help (due to having children of their own). As a result of these circumstances, an application was made for Matthew to be looked after by the Waifs and Strays Society.

Frank Gordon Ensor

Dates at St Boniface: 21st August 1907 – 19th November 1909

Reason for entering the care of the Waifs and Strays Society: Frank's mother had been left a widow since 1902. She had been in bad health for some years and almost completely dependent on what her elder son and daughter were able to earn. There were no relations able to help Mrs Ensor and as a result of this, an application was made for Matthew to be looked after by the Waifs and Strays Society.

You may notice that the two boys share the same date for entering the St Boniface Home. This is due to the fact that on this date boys were transferred to this home from the Bersted Home for Boys in Bognor when it closed down:

<http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/homes/BOGNO01.html>

Could you let us know how you are to use the information provided above so that we are aware of where it is to be available?

With regards to the full Roll of Honour, we have currently been unable to locate a complete updated version of this, if one does in fact still exist. The version I sent in my previous email to you is the most up to date we have found. If a full Roll of Honour is found at some point, I will be sure to let you know.

I hope this information is useful and please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any queries.

Best wishes,

Rachel Stevenson
Records Systems Supervisor
The Children's Society

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From: Peter Bowers [mailto:peterbowers88@btinternet.com]
Sent: 10 November 2014 09:37
To: Rachel Stevenson
Subject: Re: Enquiry Ref: ENQ_2014/287

Dear Rachel,

The information that you provided has been very useful for our project, and we have now researched (as far as possible from publicly available records) the two ex-St Boniface Home boys who died during World War 1. From our research, their full names are **Matthew Richardson Bell** (born 1 December 1895 in South Shields) and **Frank Gordon Ensor** (baptised 13 October 1895 at Kingswood, Bristol). The former actually seems to have died from Tuberculosis, rather from injuries inflicted in war, but we will be including him nonetheless.

What would be particularly useful to complete the write-ups about them would be to know when they were at St Boniface Home, and, if possible, the circumstances that brought them there. Are you able to provide this information?

The Waifs and Strays magazine also mentions that a full Roll of Honour was maintained for some period after it ceased to be published in Waifs and Strays magazine, and we are wondering whether a later version than the one that you sent us has survived.

Thank you again for your help,

Best wishes,
Peter Bowers

----- Original Message -----

From: [Rachel Stevenson](#)
To: peterbowers88@btinternet.com
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 11:06 AM
Subject: Enquiry Ref: ENQ_2014/287

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your interesting letter about the Sampford Peverell War Memorial and the boys of the St Boniface Home. After a search through our archive, we have found a record created in December 1916 that may be useful in identifying which boys had a connection to St Boniface. This is 'The Church of England Waifs and Strays Society's Roll of Honour of 1,128 Old Boys who have laid down their lives or are still serving their King and Country in His Majesty's Navy and Army.' This list is arranged by home and lists the boys names and regiments. Those who gave their lives are highlighted in bold. I have scanned and attached the section for the St Boniface Home and attached it to this email. This list is not fully updated as it only lists boys from the start of the war to December 1916 although as far as we can see, it is the most comprehensive list held in the archive.

You may also be interested in taking a look at our Hidden Lives Revealed website which contains information about each of the Society homes and has digitised copies of our supporter magazines from the First World War period:

<http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/>

I hope this information is useful and please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any other queries.

Best wishes,

Rachel Stevenson
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