

William George
Newitt
Home Child

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM
PIER 21



William George Newitt -
Home Boy

Born: January 23rd 1900 at Rugby.
Admitted at Bernado's: October 18th 1911.

Information recorded about William and his family at the time of his admission to care.

William's father, also William Newitt, was described as a smart, steady man. At the age of 38, he died of consumption in rugby, on January 15th 1900, eight days before William's birthday. When William was a few months old, his mother took him to live with his great aunt, where he stayed until he was nine. William's mother did not have any contact with him during this period.

Elizabeth Newitt had become a waiting room attendant at Walsall Station, had problems with drink, and eventually lost her job. In 1903, she married George Loake, having lived with him prior to her marriage, according to relatives. He continued to have problems with drink, and as a result pawned belongings and got into debt. In 1909, she asked Mary Skinner to return William to her care. William told Bernado's that his mother and stepfather were frequently having violent quarrels during this time. In May 1911, George Loake lost his job after fifty years service with L&N.W. Railway after assaulting another railway worker. After dismissal, he made Elizabeth's life unbearable, and she left him after their home had been sold.

She sent William back to Mrs. Skinner without any warning, and he was dirty and poorly clothed when he arrived.

William's mother then went to live with a Mrs. Dolloway in Walsall and tried to earn a living doing laundry work. She had been there for seven weeks when George Loake visited her and stabbed her with his pocket knife. She died from ten wounds, aged 46. George Loake was tried at Stafford Assizes, and on November 20th 1911 was found guilty of willful murder, and was sentenced to death.

Mrs. Skinner as old, in poor health, and dependent on parish relief. She was unable to provide for William permanently, nor, did she fell capable

of training him. William had a number of relatives living locally who were described as respectable, but they could not offer him a home. William's sister, Doris, had left home some years before.

William has described as thin and small, but apparently healthy. He had brown hair and eyes a pale complexion, and was sharp and intelligent.

Sarah Ottewell
After Care Social Worker

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Details of William's relatives at the time of his admission.

Great Aunt and Guardian:

Mary Skinner, living in Rugby.

Father:

William Newitt, died of consumption on January 15th 1900, aged 38.

Mother:

Elizabeth Loake (64) living in Stafford Gaol, sentenced to death.

Step-Father:

George Loake (64) living in Stafford Gaol, sentenced to death.

Sister:

Doris Newitt (15) a domestic servant at a Boarding House in Llandudno.

Paternal relatives:

Grandfather:

George Newitt (70) retired engine driver, living in Rugby.

Uncles:

Edward Newitt , a labourer, married with no children, living in Rugby.

Aunts:

Priscilla Hatfield, married to an engine driver, with five children, living in Colwick, Notts.

Ellen Hinks, married to an engine driver, with seven children, living in Rugby.

Kate Waine, married to an engine driver, with six children, living in Leicester.

Maternal relatives:

Uncles:

William Patterson

George Patterson addresses not given

Robert Patterson

Aunt: J. Robbins, married, address not given.

Sarah Ottewell

After Care Social Worker