

The 1987 Historical Writing Competition

The Hastings County Historical Society

Category

THE HERITAGE RESEARCH ESSAY



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A BRIEF HISTORY  
of the  
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY  
OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE  
THE COUNTY OF HASTINGS &  
THE CITY OF TRENTON

Prepared for the Time Capsule to be sealed  
on April 14, 1987, at the Official Opening of the  
Children's Aid Society Building  
363 Dundas Street West, Belleville, Ont.

By:  
Jean Cunningham



The following is a list of past Agents, Superintendents and Local Directors from 1907 to present:

- 1907 - 1909: Mr. Checker, Agent of the C.A.S.
- 1909 - 1916: Mr. Wrightmeyer, Agent of the C.A.S.
- 1916 - 1948: Mr. Ruston, Agent of the C.A.S.
- 1948 - 1952: Mr. Lockyer, Superintendent
- 1953: Ward Melanbacher
- 1954 - 1979: Mr. Bruce Kerr, Local Director
- 1979 - 1980: Mr. Andre Bergeron, Executive Director
- 1981 - Present: Mr. R. Larry MacDonald, Executive Director

The following is a list of the Presidents of the Board:

- 1907 - Mr. Chas. H. Emerson
- 1908 - Mr. J. Williams/C. Scantlebury
- 1909 - Mr. C. Scantlebury
- 1910 - Mr. Thos. Ritchie
- 1911 - Mr. Thos. Ritchie
- 1912 - Dr. J. J. Farley
- 1913 - Dr. J. J. Farley
- 1914 - Rev. A.M. Hubly
- 1915 - Mr. A. E. Bailey, 33 Holloway Street
- 1916 - Mr. A. E. Bailey, 33 Holloway Street
- 1917 - Mr. A. E. Bailey, 33 Holloway Street - adopted children from  
the Shelter
- 1918 - Mr. A. E. Bailey
- 1919 - Mr. W. H. Ackerman
- 1920 - Rev. Doug Ramsay
- 1921 - Rev. Doug Ramsay
- 1922 - Rev. W. H. Wallace
- 1923 - Rev. A. S. Kerr
- 1924 - Mrs. J. A. McFee
- 1925 - Mrs. J. A. McFee
- 1926 - Mr. W. H. Merry
- 1927 - Mr. W. H. Merry
- 1928 - Mr. W. H. Merry - deceased during office
- 1929 - Mr. C. E. Hanna
- 1930 - Mr. C. E. Hanna
- 1931 - Mr. John Elliott
- 1932 - Mr. John Elliott
- 1933 - Mr. E. R. McBride
- 1934 - Mr. E. R. McBride
- 1935 - Mr. E. R. McBride
- 1936 - Mr. E. R. McBride

1937 - 1947 - Mr. H. G. Fetterly - deceased during office  
1948 - 1951 - Mr. C. Hyde  
1952 - Mr. J. F. Wilson  
1955 - Mr. C. Morgan  
1961 - Mrs. J. H. Forrester  
1963 - Mr. Geo. Wishart  
1964 - Dr. Sydney Rose  
1966 - Mr. Ben Hurley  
1967 - Mr. Thomas Colden  
1968 - Mr. Thomas Burnside  
1969 - Mr. Thomas Burnside  
1970 - Mr. Thomas Burnside  
1971 - Mr. Douglas Kinney  
1972 - Mr. Gerald Boyce  
1973 - Mr. Charles Bronson  
1974 - Mr. Charles Bronson  
1975 - 1977 - Mr. Jack Bush  
1977 - 1978 - Mr. J. Norman Rickaby  
1979 - 1980 - Mr. J. Lester Stevens  
1981 - 1984 - Mr. Ernie Parsons  
1984 - 1987 - Mr. Ted Belyea  
1987 - Mr. Les Jewell

## PREFACE

My intention, initially, was to submit the history of the Children's Aid Society to the Historical Society Research Essay Contest in September of 1987. I have been requested by Mr. R. Larry MacDonald, Executive Director, to prepare the history to be placed in the "Time Capsule" and sealed on April 14, 1987.

I have put together letters and reports from the year 1894. The paper is now very fragile and in the event it does not last for another 100 years, at least you will be able to read exactly as written. I have read the minutes of the meetings up until 1950. And interesting reading it has been. Copies of the annual meetings in various forms have been retained in the office. Again, I have noted the major events reported at the annual meetings.

In October of 1983, the Children's Aid Society of the City of Belleville, the County of Hastings and the City of Trenton, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Letters Patent.

I feel that a grave injustice was done to the citizens of this community, who struggled through the early years of the Society. People who gave of their time, their energy and their money. For that reason, I have concentrated my efforts on the first 50 years.

Descendants of many leading citizens in the early part of the century are leading citizens of Belleville today and hopefully some of their descendants will be in this community, a hundred years from now. Many of our city streets bear their names.

We are now on the eve of the move to 363 Dundas Street West. We are leaving 311 Front Street, home of the Children's Aid Society since March, 1968. We leave with many mixed emotions. For newer workers on staff it is a joyous time (although working conditions are difficult). They have not had time to build memories of the building as it was when we moved - memories of workers who have come and gone, of dear friends who died while on staff, of crisis within the Agency and good times shared with co-workers.

We will miss the convenience of the downtown area, the pigeons and bats that have shared our accommodation. We will remember February 16, 1987, when there was no heat and a few days later, no electricity.

The general history of the Children's Aid Society is presented from the beginning to the present.

*Jean Cunningham*

Jean Cunningham, Reg. N.  
Social Worker on Staff from 1966

Now I would like to take you back to the beginning of the Children's Aid Society in the City of Belleville. In order to accomplish this I must introduce you to Mr. J.J. Kelso.

John Joseph Kelso was born in Ireland on March 31, 1864. He was the youngest of ten children. The family immigrated to Canada when John was ten years old. The family suffered hunger and cold when father was unable to support the family on his earnings. His mother's tears spurred John to find odd jobs to pick up what bits of firewood he would find. His devotion to his mother and her firm Christian principles stayed with him all of his life.

### **The Fiftieth Anniversary - 1975**

The Association of the Children's Aid Societies of the Province of Ontario celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the work and the passing of the Children's Protection Act. We pay tribute to the memory of the late Mr. J.J. Kelso for his foresight and great love for the neglected children of the Province, and herewith give some of the outstanding events in his life and efforts put forth for bettering the lives of the unfortunate little ones.

- 1864 - Born March 31 at Dundalk, Ireland.
- 1874 - The family arrived in Toronto, Canada.
- 1875 - Messenger, Dominion Telegraph Co.
- 1880 - Heard the call to Social Service.
- 1884 - Pupil Jarvis Street College.
- 1885 - Reporter - Toronto World.
- 1887 Promoted legislation re street children and Ontario Act re juvenile offenders. Organized Toronto Humane Society.
- 1888 Organized Children's Fresh Air Fund and Santa Claus Fund for poor children. Advocated more playgrounds and free skating rinks for children. Brought American Humane Convention to Toronto.

- 1889 - Member of Toronto Globe staff, official stenographer Legislature, president of Press Gallery.
- 1892 - Invited by Ontario Government to organize and direct child welfare work. Called conference to organize Royal Canadian Humane Association.
- 1893 - Appointed superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario.
- 1894 - 97 - Organized the Children's Aid Society of the City of Belleville, Ont. In reports to Ontario Legislature advocated many social reforms, especially public and for widows with young children. Induced American Social Welfare Convention to meet in Toronto. Elected vice-president Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction.
- 1898 - Addressed Manitoba Legislature, drafted Children's Act, assisted in organization of Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg. Addressed British Columbia Legislature on Child Welfare, organized Children's Aid Societies in Vancouver and Victoria.
- 1903 - Emptied Ontario Reformatory for Boys, Penetanguishene.
- 1904 - Secured homes for inmates and closed Ontario Refuge for Girls.
- 1905 - Visited Nova Scotia to organize Children's Aid work. Children's Aid Society started in Halifax and New Glasgow.
- 1908 - Called meeting City Hall to organize Toronto Playgrounds Association.
- 1909 - Visited Saskatchewan to assist Government in Child Welfare Legislation. Organized Children's Aid Societies in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Moosejaw.

- 1911 - Called meeting City Hall, Toronto, to organize Neighbourhood House.
- 1912 - Promoted University Settlement for student activities.
- 1913 - Organized Children's Aid Society of St. John, N.B.
- 1921 - Appointed by Ontario Government Administrator Adoption Act and Children of Unmarried Parents' Act.
- 1934 - March 31, retired from public service.
- 1935 - His Heavenly Father called him to higher service. Truly it can be said "his works do follow him".



With correspondence that has been compiled for the early years of the Society, you will note that the Society has rarely been without problems. I would like to document a few items of interest discovered in the minutes of the meetings.

Mr. Albert Checker, the first agent for the Society, had been employed at the Marchmont Home. ~~The Marchmont Home was operated by the Bernardo Homes. Dr. Bernardo brought thousands of street children from England.~~ Some of them were boarded at the Marchmont Home, Moira Street West, Belleville, before being placed in foster homes or adopted by families in this area. Mr. Checker on advise of the Board engaged Mr. and Mrs. Johnson on Moira Street to take charge of any children taken by the Society. This arrangement was not satisfactory. In 1909, the City donated the old Isolation Hospital on Moira Street West to the Agency to be used for a shelter. The old Isolation Hospital was at one time the Yeoman farm house. The opening of the shelter was held on July 1, 1909. The guests of honour were entertained at a luncheon at the Quinte Hotel prior to the opening ceremonies. The guests included The Lieutenant Governor, J. M. Gibson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Mr. J. Kelso, Mayor Marsh and J.W. Johnson, MPP.

In October 1909, Mr. Checker resigned as agent. Later in the month, two applications for the position of agent were discussed at an emergent meeting. A ballot was taken and the president declared Mr. Wrightmeyer elected.

Mr. 1910, Mr. Ritchie, Chairman of the Board, purchased a cow, the thought prevailing that pure milk was necessary in order to give the greatest protection to the children. Mr. Wrightmeyer, Agent of the Society, was to find suitable pasture for the cow.

Mr. Canniff, a member of the Board, reported that he would be able to secure a first rate typewriter for \$45.00. The matter was about to be laid over for future consideration when Miss Yeoman offered to pay the first \$10.00. Before the end of the meeting, \$30.00 had been raised. At the following meeting, Mr. Ritchie contributed \$15.00. (The last typewriter purchased in 1986, cost \$1,500.00.)





Marchmont Home, Moira Street West,  
as it appears today (1987).



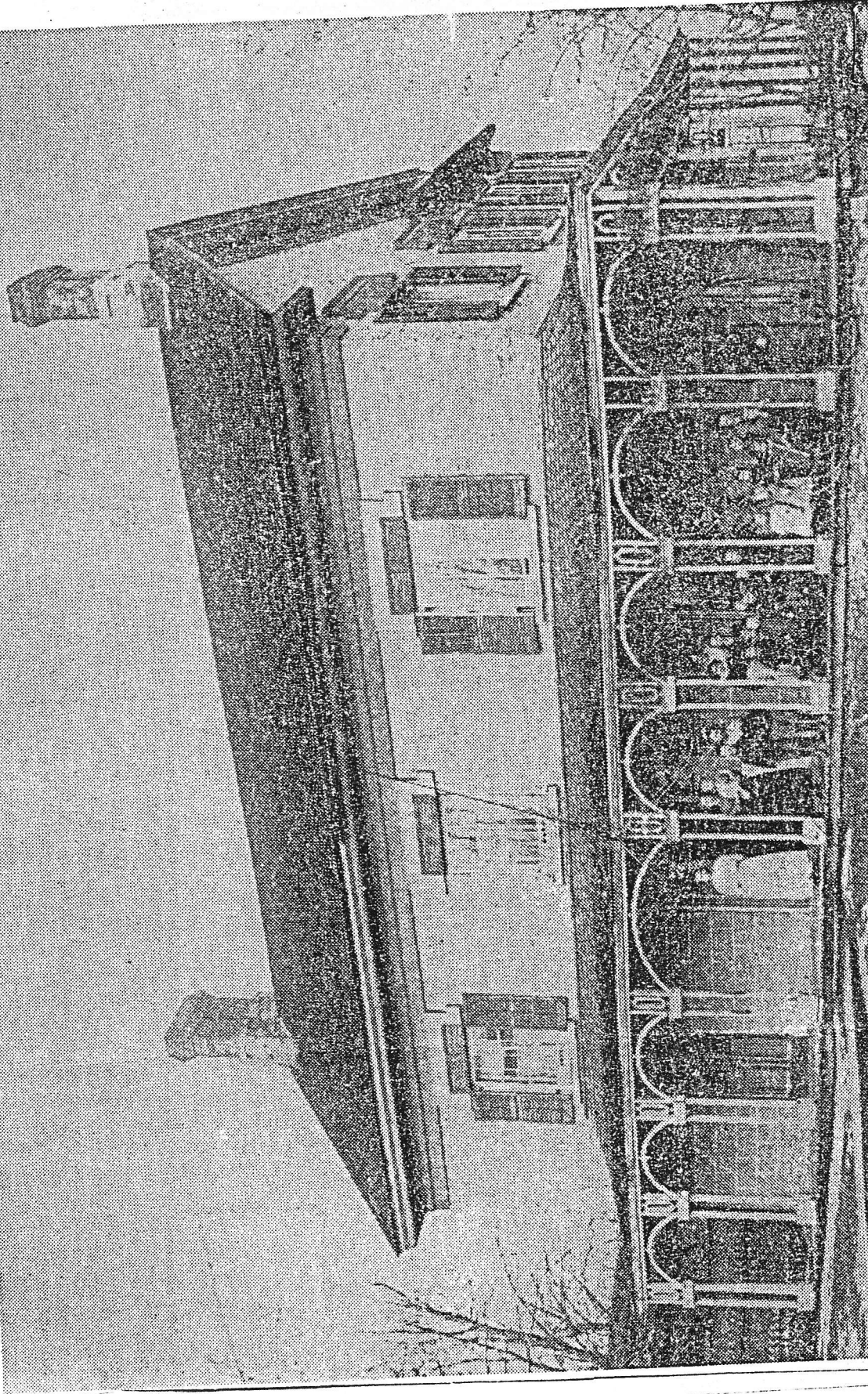
The Shelter, formerly the old  
Isolation Hospital, Moira Street  
West, as seen today.



"We have found considerable indifference the welfare of children...  
So many there are ignorant how little children should be cared for"

(Thomas Ruston, Belleville CAS inspector, 1917)

Belleville Intelligencer,  
AUGUST 13, 1917



One of the first necessary projects after local children's aid organization was founded in the early years of century was location of a shelter

This home was actually located on

for those in care of the agency. The first facility was in this house--believed to be on Cedar Street--which went into operation in 1909. This contem-

porary photograph likely includes the first youngsters taken in care by the new organization. It was used as a shelter until 1916.

The newspaper was incorrect.

Moiira Street West,

Mr. Wrightmeyer's salary was increased to \$35.00 per month. Mr. Wrightmeyer requested a telephone for his office in his home and in 1911 he introduced the subject of some filing device for his home office.

The most important items on the agenda at each meeting were from the Shelter Committee, the Clothing Committee and the Agent's Report. From 1912, Mr. Wrightmeyer reported on conditions at the Shelter. In 1914, the Shelter was condemned by a government inspector. At the monthly meetings, held in the Y.M.C.A. Parlors, Mr. Wrightmeyer pleaded with the Board for action regarding the conditions at the Shelter. A Shelter Committee was formed. Several options were discussed. Mr. Wrightmeyer was also requesting office space and a stenographer.

The Board agreed to purchase the Dunnett property in October 1914. In November, a group of ratepayers, denounced a Shelter in their area. A special meeting of the Board was called and the plan was abandoned. Mr. John Elliott reported, at the monthly meeting in February 1915 that the Board could purchase the property lot immediately adjoining west of the Belleville General Hospital for \$1800.00. Moved by Mr. John Elliott and seconded by Mr. Ritchie that said property be purchased for said figure of \$1800.00 March 1, 1915, the Shelter Location Committee reported it had purchased the property from the Hospital Board at \$1800.00 and as well, had purchased another lot west to that transferred to the Hospital Board for a like amount. The Treasurer was authorized to negotiate a loan to pay for the New Shelter location purchase. See Correspondence: Appendix I - Typed Report. Page 241 - Minutes. See Correspondence: Appendix II - Typed Report regarding Deed. Page 243 - Minutes.

Mr. Wrightmeyer's report at the May meeting in 1915 mentions the death of an infant at the Shelter. It is interesting to note that the Children's Aid Society first purchased Plot N, Section 27, Lot 29, Consecutive No. 317, on December 28, 1909. In November 1915, Plot N, Section 17, Lot 28, Consecutive No. 314 was purchased. December 21, 1936, Plot C, Section 2, Lot 17 & 18, Consecutive No. 23 & 24 was purchased. There are presently 44 children, Wards of the Children's Aid Society buried in the Belleville Cemetery. In 1983, the second tombstone was dedicated at an emotional service on a bright beautiful fall day.







In August 1915, a new typewriter was purchased for \$80.00. The cow was sold for \$31.00 and Mr. Wrightmeyer was granted a three week holiday.

See Correspondence: Appendix III - Typed Report.

See Correspondence: Appendix IV - Typed Report.

On February 7, 1916, a matter of much importance to the Society has been delayed for sometime. This was discussed and finally disposed of in the following manner:

1. Moved by Dr. Farley and seconded by Rev. Hubley that we reorganize the Children's Aid Society of Hastings County.

Carried.

2. Moved by Rev. Hubley and seconded by Mrs. Vermilyea that the officers of the Belleville Children's Aid Society be the officers of the Children's Aid Society of Hastings County.

Carried.

3. Moved by Mr. Wrightmeyer and seconded by Captain Rustin that the Children's Aid Society of Belleville and the Children's Aid Society of the County of Hastings be united for working purposes.

Carried.

On March 6, 1916, communication from Mr. Ritchie regarding a donation for erection of a New Shelter was read by the Secretary. Moved by Rev. Hubley and seconded by Dr. Farley that the offer be accepted and that the Secretary communicate with Mr. Ritchie thanking him for such a generous donation - \$15,000.00. (An equal amount of money later came from the County.)

Mr. Wrightmeyer stated it would be necessary to resign his position as Inspector on account of his services being required with Battalion. Resignation effective April 1, 1916. Inspector instructed to place in the hands of President, all forms, communication, etc. regarding Children's Aid Society work. The same to be placed in vault in Treasurer's office. An "Ad" to be placed in local paper asking for applications for position of Inspector.

On April 3, 1916, it was moved by Major Ketcheson and seconded by Mrs. Scantlebury that we hereby express our regret at losing the services of such a valued Inspector as Mr. Wrightmeyer has proven himself to be during the past six years.

Proceed to elect new agent by ballot. Captain Ruston to be appointed as the new agent as a result of vote taken; his salary to be \$1,000.00 per year. Captain Ruston was called and in a few words, thanked the Executive for having chosen him and said that he hoped they would have no reason to regret the choice they had made. Apparently, they never did. Mr. Ruston continued in this capacity until 1948 when ill health forced him to resign.

On December 4, 1916, a committee was appointed to arrange for the opening of a new building. Mr. and Mrs. Hart, new janitor and matron, were to live at the Shelter.

On December 18, 1916, a special meeting was held. The opening was to be postponed to January 15, 1917. The Executive was to assemble at the YMCA on January 2 and adjourn to the new building for the purpose of inspecting same.

County and City Council to be invited to inspect the New Shelter in the near future and lunch was to be served. All accounts for the old building were to be paid before moving. Arrangements were to be made by the Committee regarding the sale of the old furnishings and the old building. Ladies should meet at the New Shelter to welcome the children on arrival on Thursday, January 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Problems continued following the opening of the New Shelter. There were conflicts between the Matron, the Janitor and the Nursemaid. Board members appeared frequently at the Shelter. The Matron and her assistant could not and would not work together agreeably and the Matron was asked to resign.

In July 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Ruston moved into the Shelter. The old problem of insufficient staff forced them to resign in October 1918. However, Mr. Ruston continued in the capacity of Agent and his salary was increased to \$85.00 per month.

Problems at the Shelter continued to plague the Society over the next few years.

Mr. Ritchie died in December 1921. Monies received from the Ritchie estate were invested in bonds.

In 1927, a permanent summer camp was organized on the bay shore at Rednersville. The camp was established not only for Wards but for needy children between the ages of six to twelve years. There were dormitories, staff quarters and a cook house. Mr. Ruston now operated from an office in his home at 28 Cedar Street.

The average number of children at the Shelter was 30. The number of children in care and living in the Shelter increased to 57 in 1933.

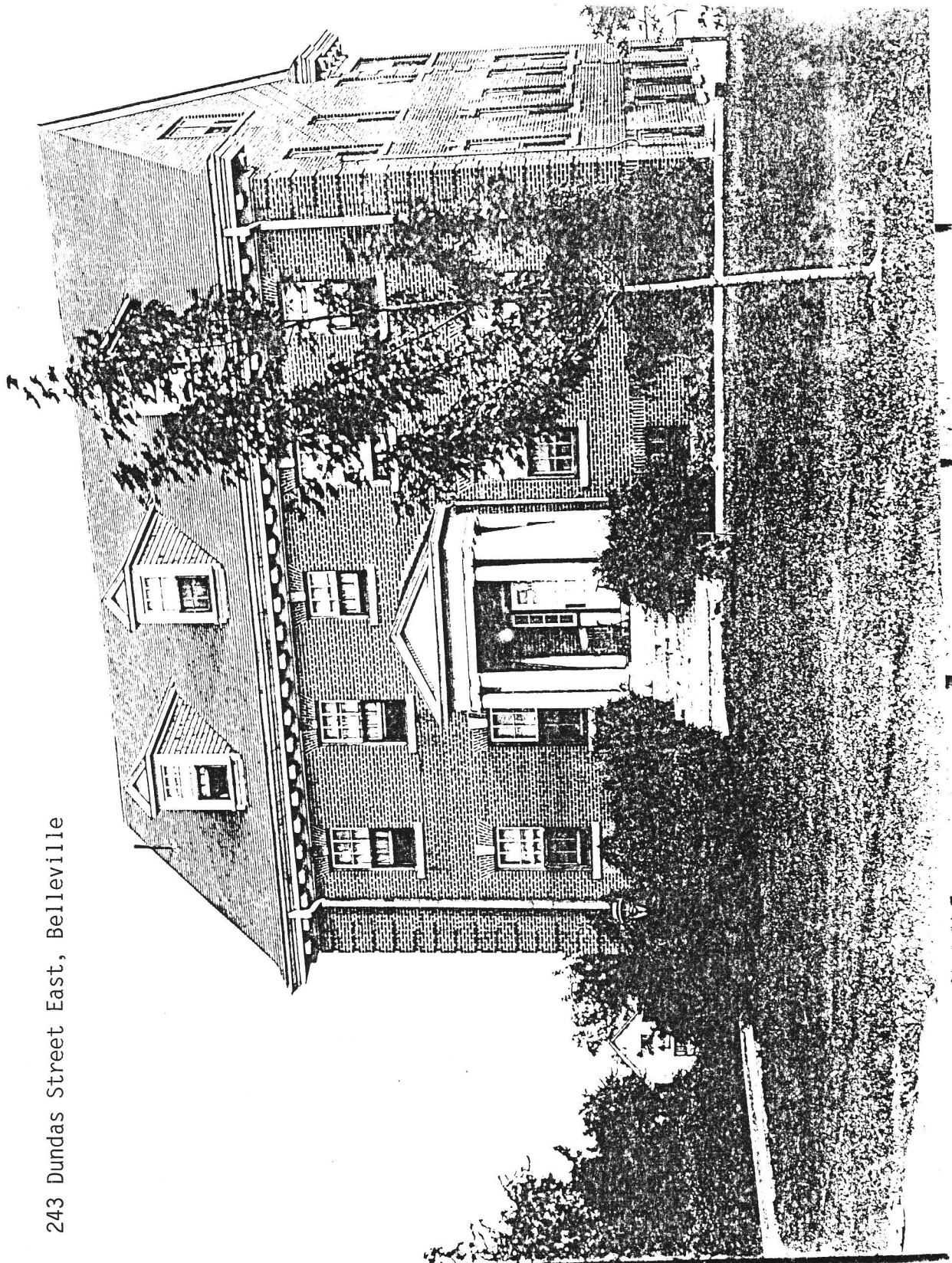
In November 1933, at the 25th Annual Meeting, a revised Constitution having been adopted, reincorporation by Letters Patent under the Companies' Information Act of Ontario, was necessary.

On February 12, 1934, the matter of "boarding wards out" was discussed. The matter was put over until "the Superintendent returned from a meeting with the Minister of Child Welfare when we would have more information on the matter". There are presently 52 in the shelter ranging from two months to ten years.



*CHILDREN'S SPERLEN BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO*

243 Dundas Street East, Belleville



On April 9, 1934, the Secretary brought to the Notice of the Meeting the new form of Constitution and By-Laws for the Children's Aid Societies.

On May 8, 1934, Dr. Semple moved that the Constitution and By-Laws be accepted. Seconded by Rev. Neal.

February 11, 1935, the Secretary read her report on information received from Toronto with regard to the New Regulations governing minimum requirements for Local Children's Aid Societies. On March 27, 1935, a special committee appointed to consider the new Regulations met with Mr. Heise, Provincial Superintendent. In order to bring the grade higher than a "D", Mr. Heise dealt with each clause on improvements submitted by the Department.

On March 12, 1935, it was moved by Mrs. McFee and seconded by Mrs. Lent that part-time stenographic help, in view of the increased work, be given to Superintendent, Mr. Ruston.

Children are now being boarded out. Three staff only are to be kept at the Shelter when 30 children are in residence.

The following is a copy of a Special Committee Report signed by Mrs. McFee:

BELLEVILLE, Ont., April 8, 1935

The special Committee appointed to consider the new regulations to us by the Department met on Wednesday evening, March 27th at the Y.M.C.A.

At our invitation Mr. Heise, Provincial Superintendent, was present and in a very concise manner presented the Department's view with its desire to build up a better way of dealing with the children that from time to time come under the care of the different Societies.

Mr. Heise said that in the Province there are 58 Societies, and that only 7 have been graded in the grade higher than "D" and that not one Branch was graded "A". Eleven were graded "E" and 40 graded "D", we being one of this group. Mr. Heise dealt with each clause, on improvements submitted by the Department which are as follows:-

1. Drastically reduce its institutional programme by more active policy of child placement.
2. Improve its system of recording details relative to cases dealt with and children care.
3. Add personnel to staff -- Stenographic and field.
4. Remove office from Superintendent's home.
5. Realign finances in order to provide a proper per diem rate based on that portion of service properly chargeable to the Municipality.
6. Improve detailed preventive work service.
7. Improve system of home finding and supervision.

Mr. Heise announced that it was the intention of the Department to inaugurate the monthly inspection and from reports received at the end of six months' period a revaluation of the Societies will be made and when improvements are noted a higher grading will be given.

It will be part of the duty of the Inspector to make suggestions to and aid the local superintendent. It was pointed out to him that the great difficulty which we have to face was our Shelter and heavy expenses of operating it, especially with only a few children in residence. He suggested that we close part of it up and thus cut down some of the overhead expenses, for it would not be necessary to have such a large building entirely in use, and we should go slowly in this matter, feeling our way, for he fully appreciated the situation we were in and the heavy load we had to carry in maintaining such a large Shelter.

Before leaving the Chairman assured him that we would endeavour to fall in line with the new deal and give it a fair trial. We adjourned at 10:30 p.m. at the call of the Chairman.

The Special Committee met again on Friday, April 5th, at the YMCA at 5 p.m. and discussed how and in what way we would at the present time take steps to conform with the Department's wishes, in view of the explanation given to us at the previous meeting, by Mr. Heise.

We felt that proper office accommodation and stenographic help should be provided for the Local Superintendent, hence it was moved by Mrs. Lent and seconded by Mrs. McFee.

That Miss E. Bird who has been assisting the superintendent part time be employed full time as Stenographer and assistant to the Superintendent at \$10.00 per week from May 1st, 1935.

It was further moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Lent

That a Sub-Committee of three, namely Mr. E. R. McBride, Mr. J. B. Findlay, and the Superintendent, be appointed to select power to act and rent suitable officespace and see that the same is properly equipped to carry on the work of the Society. And we further recommend that as far as possible we comply with the said rules and regulations of the Department and we further ask that this committee continue to work out the policy and to bring before the Board its recommendations and findings from time to time and ask further that Mr. J. B. Findlay and Mrs. F.S. Anderson, who have met with us at the invitation of the Chairman at the last two meetings, be added to the Committee.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Mrs. J. A. McFee,  
Secretary

On December 9, 1935, Mr. Heise, Provincial Superintendent, issued us a letter of commendation to our Society of the efforts put forth to raise our grading to a Grade "C". The finance committee recommends that as the Children's Aid Society of Belleville, Hastings and Trenton has been raised to the grade C, which raising the grade entitles the superintendent to an extra grant of \$500.00 per annum from the Government, that the Superintendent's salary including this grant be \$200.00 per month.

In January of 1936, Rev. Payne gave notice of motion to be brought before the next meeting of the following change to be made in the constitution:

1. that day of meeting to be changed to accommodate members of the finance meeting
2. that membership of Society officers be amended to include two representatives from City Council Belleville, two representatives from County Council, two representatives from the Town of Trenton
3. that end of fiscal year be changed to March 31

At the 35th annual meeting held on April 20, 1937, it was noted, "Files are being rearranged to come up to the requirements of the new regulations in respect to how records must be kept, and you can visualize what this means when we have gone back to the first record in the year 1908. Here I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the service rendered by Miss Bird, my assistant, who has co-operated with me to the fullest and efficiently carried out the duties allotted to her. There were approximately 935 office interviews and 1450 telephone calls during the year; also approximately 1460 letters received and 1500 letters sent out. Your superintendent covered approximately 15,000 miles in the dispatch of his duties".

Thos. D. Ruston, Superintendent

At the 36th annual meeting, year ending March 31, 1938, the following is from the report of H. B. Fetterly, President. "I feel however that the extent of the work and vast territory covered make it necessary to have the assistance of a trained social worker, preferably a lady who could go into the homes and give counsel and practical assistance that might tend to ameliorate the conditions and prevent homes being broken up. This matter should receive serious consideration at an early date".

The Shelter..."In December your Executive decided to close the Shelter entirely and since the end of January it has been closed and all children are now in homes, all of which are under the supervision of the superintendent and your committee."

At year ending March 31, 1939 it was reported..."This has been a year of advance and accomplishment. The Shelter property was sold to the hospital in July 1938, the proceeds invested in trust funds. "Because of the great and increasing amount of work, your officers urged on by the Department of Public Welfare decided to add a Social Service Worker. Miss M.M. Robins, B.A., a graduate of Toronto University (Social Services Dept.) has been selected and is to start work on April 1, 1939." "We have also secured very bright commodious offices over the Walker Hardware Store." (250½ Front Street)

At year ending March 31, 1942, we now have a staff of five; a superintendent, two assistants and two clerical workers.

1943 showed four field workers and three clerical workers.

Year ending March 31, 1944, Mr. Fetterly, M.A., President of the Board stated, "Fifty years! - that seems a long time and yet this is our 50th birthday."

On July 1, 1945, the Baby Bonus was first introduced (later to be known as Family Allowance.)

In 1946, there was an increase in staff; now a total of four workers. During the war years, investigations for Dependant's Allowance, an arrangement between the Federal and Provincial Governments, added to the work.

It is now 1948 and the present office space is too small with insufficient light. Mr. Charles Hyde, President of the Board, with the consent of the Executive Committee purchased a good brick building on the southwest corner of West Moira and Everett Streets.

In 1949, Mr. Ruston, on the advice of his physician, resigned from full time work. The board felt duty bound to provide a suitable retirement allowance. Mr. Lockyer was requested by the Board to accept the position of Superintendent. Mr. Lockyer's first concern was to procure the services of more qualified social workers to properly take care of ever increasing demands in all parts of the constituency. Tag Days were held to increase funding and the Children's Aid Society was a member of the Community Chest. According to Government Standards we are understaffed and require four more workers.

January 12, 1951, Mr. Ruston died.

January 1953, Mr. Lockyer died.

April 1 - November 30, 1953 Ward Melenbacher became the temporary Superintendent.

On February 15, 1954, Mr. Bruce M. Kerr was appointed Local Director.



In 1955, the staff was increased to nine social workers, three clerical and one bookkeeper. Money was allocated for a worker in the County. The Agency continued to grow.

In 1965, the question of new headquarters for the Society was discussed in detail. There was general agreement that the existing facilities were not only inadequate but left much to be desired.

Mr. Kerr was asked to explore further the possibility of securing land from the Ontario Government, recently declared surplus by the Ontario School for the Deaf. (This piece of land was north of the school.)

In 1968, the Society moved to 311 Front Street, leasing the second and third floors of the property for a period of five years for the sum of \$20,000.00 per year.

The next few years brought various problems - more emotionally disturbed children, government cutbacks and growing dissatisfaction amongst staff.

Mr. Kerr resigned in 1979 following his 25th annual report.

Mr. Andre Bergeron became the Executive Director in the fall of 1979.

The staff went on strike in August of 1980. Mr. Bergeron was asked to resign in August 1980.

Staff returned to work in October 1980. Mr. R. Larry MacDonald was Acting Director until May 1981, when he was hired by the Board of Directors as Executive Director.

The Agency entered 1987 with a new building to think about and a large deficit. Shortly after moving into the new building, the deficit was finally covered by the Government.



I will be submitting the History of the Children's Aid Society to the Historical Research Essay contest in the fall of this year. I trust it will find its way to the Archives.

The dedication of the citizens of Belleville to the Children's Aid Society is commendable.

Mr. and Mrs. Scantlebury were active members of the Board from 1907. Mrs. Scantlebury held a position on every committee and in 1937 was an Honourary President. Mr. Scantlebury died approximately 1929.

And about me...I graduated from the Belleville General Hospital School of Nursing in 1949. I entered training in 1946 and spent my first year in the March Ritchie Memorial Residence formerly the Shelter. By this time the Ritchie Memorial Residence had been built between the hospital and the Mary Ritchie Memorial Residence; built, no doubt, with money from the estate of Thomas Ritchie. Second and third year students lived in this residence. (These buildings were later demolished and the Edith Cavell Building was built on the property.)

The names of many members on the Board during the early years of the Agency are familiar to me. The first solicitor for the Agency was W.C. Mikel. I did private duty nursing, following graduation in 1949, and nursed Mr. Mikel in his home. At that time, Mr. Mikel was in his late 80's.

In 1954, I applied to foster infants and at one time, I had four newborn infants in my home. From 1958 - 1960, my husband and I provided accommodation for nine unmarried mothers. We adopted two daughters, one in 1962 and one in 1964. And in 1966, I came on staff at the Children's Aid Society. My caseload consisted of infants and children with physical and mental handicaps.

I have now been with the Agency for the past twenty years, the last ten of those in the Adoption Department. I have had the honour of being the only member on staff to have worked in the three offices.

In closing, I sincerely hope that the Children's Aid Society of the City of Belleville, the County of Hastings and the City of Trenton is flourishing when the Time Capsule is opened!

PROPERTIES OWNED/LEASED BY THE AGENCY:

- The Shelter, West Moira Street
- 1915 - 1939: The Shelter, 243 Dundas Street East, Belleville
- 1939 - 1948: 1st office, 150½ Front Street, Belleville
- 1948 - 1968: Office (owned), 63 West Moira Street, Belleville
- 1968 - 1987: Office (leased), 311 Front Street, Belleville
- 
- 1956 - 1979: Receiving Home (owned), 73 Highland Avenue, Belleville
- 
- 1966 - 1973: Girl's Group Home (owned), 123 Victoria Avenue, Belleville
- 
- 1969 - 1974: Group Home (leased), 179 Ann Street, Belleville





The first office, 250½ Front Street,  
over Walker's Hardware.



Doorway, on the right, lead up to  
the office.





The office at 63 Moira Street West



The office at 311 Front Street.





73 Highland Avenue



123 Victoria Avenue



179 Ann Street



### RULES FOR THE SHELTER:

(No date. Probably 1909 when the City donated the Old Isolation Hospital to the Society for a Shelter (West Moira Street).

1. The Inspector is responsible for the following rules being carried out and must report any breach of same to the Board.
2. Any employer or inmate having any complaint must report it to the Inspector who must lay the same before the Board if unable to settle same or remedy the matter satisfactory.
3. The Matron is the head of the house. All inside employees and inmates are to regard her as such and treat her with proper respect.
4. She must in return treat them the employees and the inmates with the utmost kindness and consideration as members of the family.
5. She shall take entire charge of the children and pay strict attention to their appearance and conduct.
6. She must be willing to give all her time and attention to the duties of her position and only for the most urgent reasons must she absent herself from the Shelter and never without leaving a competent person in charge. She must be gentle but firm with children insisting on strict obedience to her commands.
7. If light punishment is needed let it be administered justly and without temper on her part. If there is reason for severe cause for punishment she must consult the Inspector or in his absence with the President or the Secretary.

8. Giving special attention to any girl placed in the Detention Room as directed by the Supervisor.
9. When children are brought in her first duty shall be to greet them kindly remembering that they feel keenly leaving mother and are lonely among strangers. Then give each one a good bath; look well to the state of the head. Proper clothing must then be put on with shoes and stockings that fit, then according to the age some diversion or employment engaged in with other children who must be instructed to make the newcomer feel at home, unless by the instructions of the Inspector they be isolated.
10. The Matron must give employment to those who are old enough to help and to insist on it being done well and at stated times. The older ones must also assist in the care of the little ones who ought never to be left without a supervisor. She should keep the children in the place assigned to them and not allow them to roam at will over the whole house or flock to the front door when visitors approach.
11. She must insist on having meals served nicely and punctually at the hours she shall determine upon and must oversee the children while being served. A blessing must be asked at every meal. The staff dining together before or after the children's meal.
12. Some brief form of family worship should be observed either morning or evening. She must teach reverence for the Lord's Day and make it as happy as she can.
13. She must insist on the other employees and older girls keeping the dormitories clean and in such condition that visitors may be admitted at any time after ten o'clock a.m. without shame to the Board of Management.



14. She shall keep strict record of all gifts and the names of donors in the book provided and give a list of names to the Inspector at the end of each month.
15. Any goods or work required to be got or done which does not come under the jurisdiction of the Clothing or Maintenance Committees must be reported to the Inspector.
16. The Matron must not order anything herself but if emergency occurs she must phone the lady on duty for the month or convenor of the Clothing or Maintenance Committees.
17. The Matron must see that invoices accompany all goods ordered and at the end of each month must certify to and present all bills to the lady on duty.
18. The Matron or any employee is not expected to entertain their friends at the expense of the Shelter and on no account to have any one stay overnight.
19. When parcels of clothing, etc. are sent in the Matron is requested to leave them unopened until the Clothing Committee meets or they appoint some one to do so.
20. When any inmate is ill, she must notify the doctor on duty at once and follow his instructions strictly doing all in her power to soothe the sufferer.
21. It is well to always keep in the cupboard provided for that purpose the simple remedies used in most families.
22. When a child is going out she must see that it is clean in every respect and properly clothed. If possible, let it be provided with a parcel of extra clothing.

23. The Matron must see they say their prayers before returning to bed.
24. The Matron is expected to treat visitors with the utmost courtesy and to answer their questions intelligently without taking up their time or her own by too much talking.
25. The Matron must as far as possible look after the mending with the help of the other employees or larger girls.

**RULES FOR THE JANITOR:**

1. Do the chores and in every way possible assist the Matron in supervising the larger boys and finding them work as far as possible around the grounds.
2. Attend the furnace. See that there is plenty of hot water whenever required and the building kept properly heated.
3. Keep the grounds in good shape, the lawns properly cut, walks kept clean and snow removed in winter time off them and windows clean.
4. Look after any cattle or hens that might be kept.
5. Fetch any parcels of clothing, etc. Take or fetch any ward to or from the Shelter as directed by the Inspector.
6. Doing any repairs that might be required to be done inside or outside the building as far as lay in your power to do so.
7. Giving special attention to any boy placed in the Detention Home as directed by the Inspector.

RULES REGARDING THE CHILDREN OF THE SHELTER:

1. No child shall be admitted to the Shelter or permitted to leave without the authority of the Inspector.
2. The Matron shall fill in the "Application" blanks for those applying for children but must always refer the applicant to the Inspector for particulars.
3. The Applicant must not see the children until first having made application to the Inspector, the Matron will then be notified by the Inspector which child, if any, should be brought in for inspection of the applicant.
4. NO information regarding the children be given those inquiring especially to the applicants. Close secrecy to be served.
5. No child's hair shall be cut without the authority of the Inspector.





Children at the Shelter. Photo dated  
January 1913.



Children at the Shelter. Photo dated  
July 1913.





Employees and children at the Shelter.  
Photo dated 1917.



Pictured are Mr + Mrs. Newton  
(at left) and Shelter Employees  
Misses Insley and Robinson

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Original Picturer returned to  
CAS on Feb-16, 2007. Names of  
young people are on the original  
picture

Children at the Shelter. Photo dated  
1923.



CORRESPONDENCE:

1894:

October 29: Letter to J.J. Kelso from John J.B. Flint  
November 8: Letter to J.J. Kelso from John J.B. Flint  
November 3: Letter to J.J. Kelso from Thomas Ritchie  
November 12: Letter to J.J. Kelso from Thomas Ritchie  
November 19: Letter from J.J. Kelso to Thomas Ritchie

1895:

April 4: Letter from J.J. Kelso to W.S.B. Armstrong, Esq.  
April 5: Letter to J.J. Kelso from W.S.B. Armstrong, Esq.  
April 8: Letter from J.J. Kelso to W.S.B. Armstrong, Esq.  
May 1: Letter to J.J. Kelso from W.S.B. Armstrong  
May 9: Letter from J.J. Kelso from W.S.B. Armstrong  
July 4: Letter from J.J. Kelso to Mr. Armstrong

1907:

June 3: Letter to J.J. Kelso from Chas. A. Emerson & W.C. Mikel  
June 4: Letter to Hon. W.J. Hanna, Prov. Secretary

1908:

January 27: Letter to John Williams Esq. from J.J. Kelso  
October 30: Letter to J.J. Kelso from Albert Checker

1909:

October 29: Letter to Mr. J.J. Kelso from W. Herbert Wrightmeyer

MINUTES:

Appendix I - page 241 from minutes

Appendix II - page 243 from minutes

Appendix III - page 260 from minutes

Appendix IV - page 263 from minutes

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING:

Copy of newspaper clipping from the North Hastings Review, Madoc, June 13, 1907: **"Children's Aid Society Formed in Madoc"**.

IN MEMORIAM:

Thomas D. Ruston, Superintendent

Flint & McCammon,

Barristers, Solicitors,

Notaries Public, &c.

Solicitors for the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Office, City Hall.

John J. B. Flint.

W. J. McCammon.

Belleville, Ont., Can., Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1894

My dear Sir.

I have placed your communication in the hands of the Mayor of the City. The papers have all called attention to your approaching visit, and I think we shall have a representative number at the meeting. Of course you are aware that the public know a very little about the Act, and do not feel much interest at present, and require educating.

I am yours sincerely  
A. H. H. H. H.



Nov 12  
Answered in  
informal way



Belleville No 8/9/14

My dear Sir.

At a meeting of the Committee called to consider the advisability of forming a Childrens Aid Society for the City, it was decided that the W.C. Assn of the City be asked to form such a Society to be associated with the W.C. Assn. I have been asked to meet the Assn and explain the objects and working of the Society. The principal difficulty seems to be in understanding what the duties of the visiting Committee to be chosen for the electoral district of which this City forms a portion are. Is it expected

What the Comtee shall visit  
all portions of the district?  
Supposing they find a child  
of vicious parents in the  
town of Trenton (part of the  
electoral district) distant  
twelve miles from this  
city, what shall the Comtee  
do in taking steps for the  
removal of the child?

Would you kindly explain  
what the steps are to be  
taken. Any information  
will be gladly received by me.  
I am to meet the Apr next  
Friday. I am yours

Sincerely  
J. J. Keller & John J. B. Fluck  
Superintendent.



Belleville, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 1894

J. I. Kelso Esq  
Supt. neglected Children

Toronto

Sent Nov. 5. 94

Dear Sir

At a meeting you addressed last evening a Committee, as you was invited, was appointed to consider the matter of establishing here a Children's Aid Society. You would much oblige by mailing me a few copies of the Act relating thereto, for the guidance of the members of the Committee.

Yours Truly  
Wm. B. B. B.



Belleville, 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1894

J. J. Kelso Esq  
Toronto

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the Committee appointed at the close of your address here last Friday week to consider the matter of a Childrens Aid Society - under the Childrens Protection Act of Ontario, it was recommended by unanimous resolution that one be established and that the Womens Christian Assn of Belleville constitute the Society for the purposes of the Act.

I mail to you a copy of the Annual report of the W. C. Assn. by which you will see that one of the objects of this Assn is the care of neglected children and that it is already incorporated and organized society, and therefore presumably needs not the approval of the Lieut Gov. in Council for the purposes of this act to bestow

Vote papers

This Society is composed wholly of women and as it does not share in the act that some of the members shall be men, (though it does share that of the Visiting Com. for each electoral division at least three shall be women.) therefore I suppose we may presume that the composition of the N.C. being all women cannot be objected to as to granting the powers to it of a Childrens Aid Society?

As to executive officers with power to appoint children under the terms of the act. Can the Society appoint these outside its members?

There is to be a special meeting of the N.C. on Friday afternoon next. to consider the matter whether it is eligible as a Childrens Aid Society in the meaning of the act. and if so whether or not it will undertake the work and apply for the necessary powers.

Kindly oblige by writing me your opinion in time to submit it to the ladies at this meeting on Friday afternoon the 16<sup>th</sup> Inst

Yours sincerely  
Thos. Ritchie  
Chairman of Com.

Private

Nov 19.

4

Dear Mr Ritchie:

I regret that my absence on a Western Missionary tour prevented my replying earlier to your letter. I do not think the plan you mention would be just the thing. I fully recognize the value of the splendid organization of the W. C. A. and the desirability of having its aid and sympathy in carrying on work for children. But the Childrens Aid Society should be composed of all the various organizations in your city, including the Catholic Church. If the W. C. A. did the whole work the R. C. E. would then regard the Childrens Aid as a purely Protestant organization, whereas the desire and intention is that it should be of a general and municipal character. If a Society could not be formed from representatives of the various organizations then I should think the Humane Society would be the next best. Before any recognition would be granted, it would be necessary to send me a copy of proposed constitution. etc. I earnestly hope for the sake of the cause - we will be able to arrange this matter satisfactorily & concerned and in the meantime please do not think I am in a great hurry. Sincerely,  
Yours friend J. D. S.

April 4th

'95

W. S. B. Armstrong, Esq.,

• Daily Ontario Office •

Belleville.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Is there nothing being done at all towards taking up the children's work in Belleville? If you could interest the members of your Society again in this matter, I would arrange to stop over at Belleville on my next trip East and finally arrange matters so that your Society could enter upon this branch.

I sent my Annual Report to a number of those interested in Belleville, and I hope you received it all right.

Yours sincerely,

Superintendent.



Belleville Apr 5<sup>th</sup> 1895

J. J. Kelso Esq  
Superintendent of Nightingale Children  
Parliament Building  
Toronto

My dear Mr Kelso

I received your letter of  
yesterday this morning and am pleased  
to be able to answer you in reply the  
tangible evidence of the enclosed letters  
of incorporation ~~papers~~. I trust that  
you will find them satisfactory & on the  
trust of them will appoint the Home  
Society a Children Aid Society with  
the powers of the Gibson's act. I should  
have answered your former letter had I not  
expected to have got these papers away  
long ago, but I received them complete  
only this afternoon.

The members of the Executive were a  
little shy of the responsibilities of the



Given Act but I doubt the ground  
if the responsibilities were more moral  
than legal since the Society could  
not be compelled to assume the  
guardianship of any child. Am I right?

I am sure the Executive will appreciate  
your offer to stop off at Billerica  
the next time you are east & I  
shall bring the matter before them  
at the earliest opportunity, in fact  
I'll make the opportunity early in the  
week. You might let me know by  
post card when you expect to  
be down this way.

I expect that the work here will  
progress at a very staid pace, perhaps be  
invitations at times until by degrees  
we work out those who will take  
a continuous & active interest in it.

I have not yet received the copy of your  
report.

Yours faithfully,

C. S. O. Armstrong

April 8th.

6

W. S. B. Armstrong, Esq.,

Belleville, Ont.,

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

The Revised Constitutions of your Society, which you so kindly sent me, is all right except in one essential part and that is, the "Objects" of the Society. No reference is made there to the work for children, the clause that it will be necessary to adopt is as follows,- (already adopted in Guelph and Windsor).

~~Its objects shall be to promote and develop a humane public sentiment; to secure the enactment and enforcement of suitable laws for the prevention of cruelty\*. The care and protection of neglected, abandoned or orphaned children. The providing of such children as are lawfully committed or entrusted to the Society with suitable homes in private families, and to guard their interests and promote their happiness and well being.\*~~

If you would just insert the three or four lines additional it would not be necessary to draw up a new application. When this is done, the constitution is submitted to the County Judge for approval as provided for in Chapter 172 of the Revised Statutes. The changes being made and approved of, County Judge secured, you would then drop me a line to that effect and the Government Recognition would then be secured. You need anticipate

April 8th.

5

W. S. B. A. No. 2-

no difficulty in carrying on the Children's work, as I would assist the Society in every possible way and as the work begins to be understood, you would find it to be a most popular and desirable one.

Yours sincerely,



And send  
Admin. Comm.

K

Billerica May 26 1895

048

J J Kelso Esq.  
Supt. Neglected & Dependent Children  
Parliament Building  
Boston

My dear Mr Kelso

I enclose you the amended

~~copy of our constitution which~~  
It will prove satisfactory. I am  
afraid that not much work will be  
accomplished before next fall when  
we shall benefit by an election of new  
officers but so soon as I  
hear from you I shall endeavor  
to infuse a little of the verdant energy  
of the season into our present  
activity. I remain

I am faithfully  
W. S. O. Brewster  
Sec.

May 26th,

5

W. S. B. Armstrong, Esq.,

Belleville, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I have pleasure in sending you a copy of the Government Order-in-Council recognizing your Society as entitled to exercise the powers conferred by the Ontario Children's Act. It will be the duty of the Society now to see that every orphan or deserted child is provided with a place in some Christian family and that no child is allowed to be ill-treated or neglected in any way. I would advise that you send an official letter to the County Judge, the Police Magistrate and other ~~official~~ judicial officers, stating that the Society is the legally organized body for receiving and caring for dependent children, and also juvenile offenders who show a reasonable likelihood of speedy reclamation. A circular should be issued setting forth the objects of this Society and also stating that parties knowing of neglected and dependent children should send information to the Society. Warning notices should be sent to parents and venereal offenders, and in this way much good could be accomplished without the necessity of actual legal proceedings. I enclose you a package containing various forms that may be useful, and in your case I think it would be better to get a "Warning Notice" printed with the words "Belleville Humane Society" instead of Children's Aid Society. Once the work is taken up, experience will be gained, and I have strong hopes that your Society will in time be a powerful organization in Hastings County.

Yours sincerely,

Supt.

July 4th,

Dear Mr. Armstrong:-

I have some business bringing me down to Cobourg and Colborne next week and if you could arrange a small conference of those interested in the work, I would be glad to visit Belleville on Wednesday the 10th. It need not necessarily be a large meeting but even if we could get eight or ten together for a half hour in the afternoon about four o'clock we could have an informal discussion on the work.

Yours sincerely,

Supt.

W. S. Armstrong, Esq.,

Belleville, Ont.



Belleville, Ont. June 3rd, 1907

J. J. Kelso, Esq.,  
Parliament Bldgs.,  
Toronto, Ont.,

Dear Sir.-

At a meeting held at the City Hall in the City of Belleville on May 28th last, the following resolution was passed.

"Moved by Wm. Deacon  
Seconded by Hugh Walker.-

That having heard an explanation of the working of the Child's Protection Act of Ontario BE IT RESOLVED that we form a branch of the Society for the City of Belleville and County of Hastings. Carried"

and a Motion was also passed directing that a copy of the aforesaid be sent you with the request that you have such steps taken as will duly recognize or incorporate the Belleville and Hastings Association so that they will have the full powers under the Act.

The Officers elected thus far are as follows:-

Hon. President	Sir Mackenzie Bowell.
President	His Honour G. E. Deroche
Secretary	Rev. Chas. H. Emerson
Treasurer	Wm. McIntosh
Solicitor	W. C. Mikel.

The Executive Committee has not yet been elected except the Officers and the Acting Ministers of the Gospel in the City.

Yours truly,

Chas. H. Emerson Sec.  
W. C. Mikel

J. J. Kelso,  
Superintendent

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES  
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS  
JUVENILE IMMIGRATION



Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto.

June 4th, 1907.

Hon. W. J. Hanna,  
Provincial Secretary.

Sir:-

A Children's Aid Society has recently been organized for Belleville and the County of Hastings and as the Board of Directors is composed of prominent citizens who are willing and anxious to assist in every way possible in carrying on the work as a branch of this office, I would recommend that an Order-in-Council be passed giving them the usual powers conferred by the Children's Act.

Yours respectfully,

Approved by  
W. J. Hanna.  
Ord. in Council passed for.  
June 7-07.

77

January 27th, 1908.

John Williams, Esq.,

President Children's Aid Society.

Belleville, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I was greatly pleased to hear from you as I had just written to Mr. Checker, asking what was doing in the Children's Aid line. I have always felt exceedingly anxious to see a good live organisation in Belleville, as there are many neglected children in Hastings County who ought to be looked after and parents and others warned that they must take proper care of these future citizens. It is a good plan to have frequent meetings of the Society so that the work can be discussed and kept before the public. Of course you know the chief work is not taking children from parents but so improving social conditions as to see that every child receives a fair chance in life. The members of the Society ought to study up such questions as playgrounds, truancy, child-labor, decent homes for the poor and other matters affecting child life. I hope you will be successful in getting the County Council to give the Society a grant, and if they appreciated the work at its true value they would give you at least \$200, especially if you explained that your agent would look after any neglected child throughout the County.



(John Williams, 2)

27/1/08.

Would advise that you bring the matter privately before some of the members in advance of the meeting so that you may have their sympathy and co-operation. Consult with the different members and get them interested so that the subject will not come up before them as a surprise. With regard to a Government grant, I think that probably Mr. Thomson was misunderstood. There is no Government grant but what I said to Mr. Thomson when he was going down was that if the Society would take up work throughout the County in an energetic manner I would try to help to the extent of \$100 or so provided the amount could not be raised locally. What we want to bring about is the support of this work by Christian people, as it is one that appeals very strongly to the sympathy of all classes. I wish you would write me frequently about what the Society is doing so that I can keep in touch with the movement. I expect to be taking a trip to Brookville before very long and if you could get up a good meeting in Belleville would stop off and give an address on the work.

Yours sincerely,

Dellenille. Ont.  
Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 08.

Dear Mr. Kelso:-

Last night's meeting was very lengthy & after a steady fight the matter was decided in favour of the Society continuing the good work & the Agent to be retained.

I hope in a few days to send you a full report of the meeting as before.

I regret that the papers here have not given more of the report. They seem to think the most important part of the work is the prosecution of children according to the report they give.

I am glad to tell you C. B. Scantlebury Esq. has been elected President, Mr. Williams having resigned. Mr. Scantlebury is one of the most successful merchants in the city & is in perfect sympathy with the work, as you will judge by his speech in the report at the Annual Meeting. He is a Stationer & <sup>an</sup> Decorator. Mr. Scantlebury intends writing to you.

Mr. William McIntosh is still Treasurer.  
Mr. W. H. Knight has come to the front most nobly & has really kept the ball rolling.

I was so surprised at the attitude of some of those present at the meeting, but no doubt it will bring out all the more good & has at least opened my eyes.

At one point of the discussion everything looked so black that I thought the whole thing was going to be given up, & then suddenly like a flame bursting forth the scene changed & at about 10.45 p.m. the meeting adjourned, & the Bellville Branch of the C.A.S. lives.

I will write again in a few days.

Yours sincerely  
Alburt E. Checker



October 29th, 1909

Mr. J. J. Kelso  
Superintendent Children's Department  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto

Dear Sir:

Having been appointed Agent of the Children's Aid Society of Belleville, in the place of Mr. Checker who has resigned, I respectfully await any communication you may be pleased to honour me with and am Dear Sir Yours to Command

W. Herbert Wrightmeyer  
per A.E.W.

P. 241

APPENDIX I

Special Meeting of the Board of Management of the  
Children's Aid Society held in the Y.M.C.A. March 10th. 1915

Present Mrs. A.G. Vermilyea, Miss C. Yeomans, Mrs. Robt.  
McMullen, Mrs. J.J. Haines, Mrs. Geo. Stewart, Mrs. R. Powell, Mrs. W.R.  
Luscombe, Mrs. W.H. Wrightmyer, Rev. A.M. Hubly, Mr. T. Ritchie, Mr. A.E.  
Bailey, Mr. Walter Alford, Mr. Wm. Thompson, Mr. John Elliott, Mr. W.B.  
Deacon, Leader of the Salvation Army, Mr. P.C. McLaurin, Rev. C.G.  
Smith, Mr. M.W. Mott, Mr. T. Blackburn, Mr. Coulter, Stirling, Mr. John  
Newton, Tweed, Mr. A.M. Chapman, Mr. Chas. Ketcheson, Inspector,  
Wrightmyer.

Plans of different Shelters were shown and after  
some discussion Mr. John Elliott moved that this meeting adopt  
the Medicine Hat plans. Seconded by Rev. C.G. Smith. Carried.

Moved by Mr. John Elliott that Mr. A.M. Chapman, Dr. Platt,  
Mr. T. Ritchie, Mr. A.E. Bailey, Mr. T. Blackburn, Mrs. A.G. Vermilyea, &  
Miss C. Yeomans comprise the building committee and that the  
said committee have power to add to their number a member from  
the Town of Trenton and that said committee have also the  
power to change the said Medicine Hat plans as they consider  
wise and best. Seconded by Mr. T. Blackburn, Carried.

Moved by Mr. W.B. Deacon Seconded by Rev. C.G. Smith that  
Mr. H.F. Ketcheson be appointed Treasurer of the building committee  
Carried.

Moved by Mr. A.E. Bailey that Mr. J. Elliott, Mr. A.M.  
Chapman, Mr. W.B. Deacon, & Mr. H.F. Ketcheson be a committee to  
wait on the Trenton Council with regard to a grant toward the  
erection of a new Children's Shelter. Seconded by Mr. T. Blackburn  
Carried.

Moved by Mr.A.E.Bailey that Mr.J.Elliott be empowered to deed over to the Hospital the 120 feet of land adjoining the present Hospital property (and that right of way <sup>over</sup> ~~of~~ 20 feet <sub>allowed</sub> be given said hospital. Seconded by Mr.T.Ritchie, Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5.30 P.M.

*Received  
No. 10  
Mr. Palatine*

*A. M. Kelly  
Present -*



APPENDIX II

Belleville April 19th.1915

At A special Meeting of the Children's Aid Society of the City of Belleville held in the Y.M.C.A. on the above date for the purpose of deciding to whom the deed of the Children's Aid Society property on Dundas St. should be made out, the following Ladies and Gentlemen were present. Rev. A.M. Hubly, Pres. Mr. A.E. Bailey, Vice President, Dr. J.J. Farley, Mr. Walter Alford, Mr. T. Ritchie, Mr. P.J.M. Anderson, Hon. Sol., Mr. M.W. Mott, Mr. P.C. McLaurin, Capt'n' Salvation Army, W.H. Wrightmayer.

Ladies; Mrs. A.G. Vermilyea, Mrs. J. Lewis, Mrs. (Dr.) Dolan

*When* ~~after~~ the matter had been thoroughly discussed Mr. P.J.M. Anderson addressed the meeting after which the following resolution was moved by Mr. A.E. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Thomas Ritchie. That the property purchased by the Children's Aid Society on Dundas St, for the purpose of erecting a Shelter thereon, be deeded to the Children's Aid Society of the City of Belleville. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned.

*A.M. Hubly Pres.*

Resolution

*and notice sent to members of Board and County Councils and Mayor and City Aldermen*

P. 260

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Management of the Children's Aid Society held on September 16th, 1915, at Belleville, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

THE RESOLUTION

Mover, Mr. John Elliott

Seconder, Mr. Walter Alford

That the Secretary of this Society call by mailed notice, to meet at 8 o'clock on Friday Evening, September 24th, at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Belleville, as follows:

The Members of the Board of Management of this Society

County Representatives

Warden, Mr. Chas. Ketcheson

Chairman of Finance, Mr. R. P. Coulter

Clerk, Mr. A. M. Chapman

City Representatives, Mayor Panter and each and every Alderman

The object of meeting is that the Children's Aid Society may have the advise of the interested municipalities regarding urgent matters pertaining to better shelter accommodation.

I am, as secretary of the society, instructed to urge your attendance at the meeting hereby called.

C. B. SCANTLEBURY,

Secretary

*C. B. Scantlebury Secy.*

P. 265

Belleville, Ont. Oct. 4th, 1915.

APPENDIX IV

Rev. Mr. Hubly,

President, Children's Aid Society.

Your Committee appointed at the last meeting to inquire into what should be done with the present Shelter, and whether an addition should be added to the present Building, or an entire new building should be built on the property already purchased for that purpose, beg leave to report the following:

Your Committee met on Thursday afternoon Sept. 30th at 4 o'clock, those present being, Rev. Mr. Hubly President, Mr. A.E. Bailey Vice-President, Messrs. Walter Alford, John Elliott and W.B. Deacon. We examined the premises very minutely and found them not at all suitable for the work required. We would recommend that in order for the Shelter to be made comfortable for the children, this coming winter, that new stoves will require to be installed, double doors and windows, and a laundry in the basement made ready, the same to be connected up with the sewer now being completed on Moira St. That other work will be required and that the sum not exceeding \$700.00 be expended on the Building before cold weather sets in.

It was also resolved that the Children's Aid Society apply to the City Council at an early date for a grant of \$3000.00, and the present Building, the proceeds to go towards the erection of a new Building, to be erected on the property secured for that purpose by the Society.

It was also resolved, that in the event of the City Council declining the request for the above grant that the proper steps be



taken to submit a By-law to the people asking them to authorize the Council of 1916 to make such a grant.

All of which we respectfully submit.

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

*A. M. Hubbs*  
President.

*W. B. ...*  
per H.

Sec'y. of Committee.

L.S.S.  
O.H.S.

# The North Hastings Review.

MADOC, JUNE 13, 1907.

B. J. McKERRACHER, PUBLISHER.

## Children's Aid Society Formed in Madoc.

Admirable Address by Mr. S. M. Thomson, the Society's Agent.

At a fairly large meeting held in the lecture hall of the Methodist Church here on Wednesday night last, the aims, objects and mission of the Children's Aid Society were set forth by anecdotes from fourteen years' experience by Mr. S. M. Thomson, agent of the society. Rev. H. S. Graham acted as chairman and after conducting devotional exercises asked Mr. Thomson to address the meeting. He related many touching incidents that had come in his path during the carrying out of his chosen work—aiding the children. The address he gave impressed his audience very forcibly with the need of such organizations and the good work which might be accomplished by it. The society was formed here with the following officers:

President—Rev. H. S. Graham.  
Secretary—Mr. B. J. McKerracher.  
Committee—Mrs. A. Milne, Mrs. W. W. Hudgins, Mrs. N. Dingman and Mr. J. E. Brown.

Now that the society has been fully organized and are ready for work, any person knowing of young children who are neglected in their homes and are not getting a proper living but left to work out their own existence as best they may, or knowing of any family who would like to adopt a nice bright Canadian boy or girl will confer a favor on this organization by addressing the secretary. A letter or card or personal call for information, the same will be appreciated by the same society, and you will aid them to carry out the good work they have undertaken.

For the benefit of those who may not be acquainted with this work we give the following points:

The children's Aid Society is incorporated under the "Children's Protection Act of Ontario."

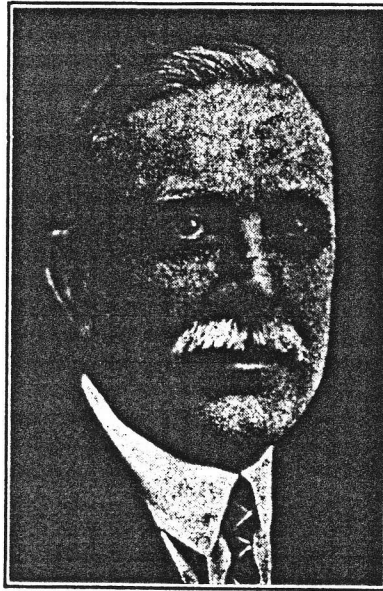
It assumes the guardianship of all dependent and neglected children.

Its officers inquire into all cases of juvenile delinquency and endeavor to find a remedy.

Its officers have statutory authority to remove all children from surroundings likely to lead them to follow idle, vicious or dissolute lives.

The society endeavors to find eligible foster homes for all children taken into its care.

## In Memoriam



THOMAS D. RUSTON

Passed Away Jan. 12, 1951 — Supt. from 1914 - 1948

He achieved success and lived well, laughed often and loved much; he gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children. He filled his niche and accomplished his task. He left the world better than he found it; he always looked for the best in others and gave the best he had. His life was an inspiration; his memory a benediction.

*Passed Away  
Thomas D. Ruston*

*Mr. Hyde*

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

As we approach another Annual Meeting it is our desire to make this occasion somewhat of a memorial to our late past Superintendent, Mr. Thos. D. Ruston.

Mr. Ruston was born in England about 75 years ago and came to Canada when a young man, later was Captain in the Salvation Army. A few years after the Children's Aid Society was organized here Mr. Ruston was persuaded to accept the position of Superintendent in which capacity he acted for nearly 34 years. His only assistant at that time and for some years later was his devoted wife, who survives to mourn the loss of a loving and faithful life partner.

As the work increased he attracted by his personality many loyal supporters, one bearing special mention being the late Thos. Ritchie who at his own expense built and presented to the Children's Aid Society the building known then as the Children's Shelter. The work still increased until this home became inadequate to accommodate the requirements. It was then that the Society decided to inaugurate a new policy of placing children in Foster Homes so they could be raised in Family Life. This is now general practice all over the Province. The Shelter building was sold to the Belleville General Hospital as a Nurses' Residence.

When I became president four years ago, we were faced with the problem of procuring larger and more suitable, better ventilated office accommodation to provide for the ever expanding work and necessity of increased staff of Social Workers. Mr. Ruston and I examined several places and finally procured an option on the property we now occupy and for general information the money for this purchase was procured from the sale of the former Shelter Home. The members of our Executive Committee very readily accepted our proposal to close the deal, which has proven to be very satisfactory in every respect and also provides for future expansion if and when required. Mr. Ruston's last active duty was to supervise the necessary alterations and renovation of the premises, which he was very happy to do.

Very soon after this was completed it became quite apparent that he would not be physically able to carry the heavy responsibility much longer and only on the emphatic advice of his physician did he at last rather reluctantly tender his resignation. Even then he retained his connection with the Society by acting as Officer in Charge of the male section of the Unmarried Parents' Act. He was most highly regarded by the Crown Attorney and the Magistrate, who quite willingly accepted his recommendations.

We were all pleased that he and Mrs. Ruston were able during the Spring of 1950 to visit his native England and walk through the paths of his boyhood days and visit with old friends and relatives.

A few days before last Christmas Day the members of our Staff staged a little Christmas party at our office building to which Mrs. Hyde and myself were invited. It was a very lovely affair with exchange of gifts and Season's Greetings and I shall never forget how on that occasion Mr. Ruston did with tears in his eyes express what we believe he felt and we all agreed would be his final blessing on the work of our local Children's Aid Society. He also expressed great pleasure at having received so many Christmas greetings from his former "children". About three weeks later he passed to his reward. We feel it can truthfully be said, "He fought a good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith and received the crown."