



Balsall Heath Local History Society

THE GAZETTE

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Letters from the Lost Children

The archives in Birmingham Library contain quite a number of letters sent back to England by children emigrated to Canada. Some are positive. One girl wrote, "I have got fat and red cheeked now and I go to school every day. I am learning the times tables and doing sums on a slate". A boy finished his letter, "I like Canada pretty well but I feel a little lonesome".

The following letter from Albert Seymour dates from the First World War. He was 12 years old at the time. It is very striking that he is sad for the children in Belgium.

Annidale, N.B.,

Oct 18th, 1914,

Dear Mother and father.

Hope you are all well as it leavs me at presant. sorry I did not write to you before this date. I suppose you think we burn coal but we dont we have to go into the woods and cut it then we have to saw it and then split it we are surrounded with woods we have done all haying and have got our havest in except ore turnips we grow our own flour which is called buckwheat we send it to the mill to have it ground in to flour we buy our wheat flour to make bread. I and the others of the house feel sorry for the little belgian children but we in canada are doing our share by sending the food cloths and socks appes potatoes we do not hear much about war as we only get 2 papers a week the days gets short and long nights. I am not going to school yet we have lots of apples here I wish you lived near here to tase the nice apples we have here farther is doing work please in your next tell me about lizz and May bill 2 babys it dont send me any mony because I dont need it. I picked berries and sold them for 5 dollars. I had some given to me on my birthday so if you have any to spare help the little belgians. I have got good shirts stocking good new boots long draws to my heels. grandmar here in this home nitted me a good pair of mitts for winter. They are all good to me so dont trouble aboute and write soon I will try to write soon. I have not had a sick day since I arrived we will soon be killing some nice pork for our own use and we are falling a beef cow so I have to help to do all this work love to all. From your loving son

Albert S.

eco-house, and especially the two sisters from the school photo."

The Trail leaflet is now on our website together with additional information which can also be accessed by the QR codes on the trail leaflet. Copies of the leaflet are available free at Balsall Heath Library.

Christopher Rawlings

We were able to supply this picture to Christopher Rawlings, it shows his great grand uncle, John Mead, outside his shoe shop at 7 Edward Road. His great grandfather George Adolf Alexander Mead is on the right of the picture. Christopher's ancestors were caught up in the Germanophobia that preceded

Dramatic Street Trail.

This was a lovely event. Many thanks to all our supporters who braved the threatening rain-although in fact the rain just held off. We tried a new variant this time because we included visits to both the Mary Street Gurdwara and St John's Church. This is a sample of the feedback we have received: "The Trail was fascinating, with the historical characters, and it was wonderful to meet the modern-day people like the Sikhs, the church warden, the architect of the

