



Balsall Heath Local History Society

THE GAZETTE

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One of the Lost Children -

Herbert Morand 1895



The Middlemore Annual Reports include photographs of some children from 1896 onwards. One of the earliest children to feature in this way was Herbert Morand. His father, Eugene, was French and his step-mother English. They lived at 134A Belgrave Road and there were six children in

the family.

Herbert, aged either 11 or 13, was described in some detail:

“Undersized. Very morbidly shy, turns his face to the wall when spoken to and hangs his head to one side. Stand sideways. Pale lustreless eyes.

The problem was that Herbert “will not go to school. Stops out a fortnight at a time. Picks up food from the gutter. Very obstinate and peculiar.” The cause of his difficulties was apparently the mother who drank heavily during his pregnancy. Evidence was also supplied by a neighbour who knew the family 10 years previously when they were living in Yardley and the children were starving and neglected. The mother used to go out and lock the children up. The boy lay too weak to move with limbs like sticks. The assessment was “possibly a frightful check from mother’s cruelty.”

So Herbert was admitted to the Homes in September 1895, but he was not emigrated. Instead he was “given up to his father.”

(Val Hart)

Reginald Ryott

Mineral Water Manufacturer, 123 Balsall Heath Rd
Mr Ryott started this business in 1887 at the age of 30 but apparently his business did not last long as he

was declared bankrupt in 1891. At this time he owed over £76 to 17 firms in respect of wines and spirits supplied. It is interesting to note, however, that the premises continued to be used for ginger beer manufacture under the name of Saxon.



Extract from 26 Oct 1889 Bham Daily Post

Reginald Ryott, mineral water manufacturer, Balsall Heath Road, was summoned for being drunk while in charge a horse and carriage, in Edwardes Street. Witness considered defendant was drunk from the way in which he staggered, and his speech, but it then emerged that Mr Ryott had a sprained ankle.

He was also charged with assaulting Henry Bowerman, an engine-driver in the employ of the Birmingham Central Tramway Company.

It was stated that on the night in question defendant nearly collided with the engine that Bowerman was driving from King Street into Mary Street, and that Ryott struck Bowerman with his whip. For the defence it was stated that

Bowerman used disgusting language to the defendant, who in his excitement struck out with his whip, but with intention of inflicting injury. After hearing a large number of witnesses, the Bench imposed a fine on Mr. Ryott of 10s and costs for the assault, and 5s and costs for being drunk in charge of the trap. (Val Hart)



Free Offer

In prospect of a personal change of address I am getting rid of a lot of stuff. Most likely to be of interest to members of the society is a partwork history of the British Empire 1450 – 20th century bound in 7 folders – 1700+ A4 pages. If you want it, contact William.mccabe@balsallheathhistory.co.uk or pass the message on through Val or Jim and we'll arrange something. No payment required.

At Brandwood End

Sergeant-Major Charles Dawes of the Kings Royal Irish Hussars



Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veteran - Chelsea Pensioner. Died 1st August 1932 aged 97 - 270 Clifton Road Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

The Hampshire Telegraph dated Friday August 12th 1932 Reads: - "The last Birmingham survivor of the Crimean War was buried with full military honours on

Saturday (6th August 1932) at Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham. Hundreds of people lined the route of three miles from his home and there were several hundreds more at the cemetery" Charles was born in Wolverhampton in 1835. Two of his sons had Indian middle names – Albert Edward Shinwarrie Whyatt Dawes and Charles William Gwalior Whyatt Dawes.

Sergeant-Major Dawes was awarded the INDIAN MUTINY CAMPAIGN MEDAL



Next meeting.

Thursday January 30th

Julia Griffin - Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery - 2005 - 2020

The Friends maintain this historic cemetery opened in 1899 for the respectful enjoyment of the community.

They have worked very hard restoring and conserving the grounds, buildings, monuments, and records.

7 p.m for a 7.30 start.

St Paul's Venture, Malvern St.

Visitors are welcome. There is a fee of £3 for the evening for non-members or £1 for members.

Membership of the Society costs £10 a year.

Tea and coffee are provided at the beginning of the evening at no extra charge.