

53<sup>rd</sup> London International Antiquarian Book Fair at Olympia  
3 – 5 June 2010

# Media Alert

## A Lost Boy - Found

The Story of Joyce Harrison's search for John Murphy

25 May 2010



'For many people so little remains of their ancestors that every tiny snippet of information is treasured.'

**OFFER, Henry Alfred.** Castle Street Working Boys' Home, 15, Hanover Street, Long Acre, W.C. Manuscript, Manager's Private Journal. 1867-1872. Folio. 301pp + index leaves; some dusting & lacking original clasp or lock, red roan title label on front board.  
**Price: £15,000**

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### A lost boy – Found

The story of the hidden history of John Murphy, discovered in the Original Manuscript Ledger of the Castle Street Boys Home, 15 Hanover Street, Long Acre.

The Ledger of the Castle Street Boys' Home will be displayed by **Jarndyce Antiquarian Booksellers** at the **53rd London International Antiquarian Book Fair** between June 3-5, stand 18, held at the Olympia Exhibition Centre.

TV programmes such as *Who Do You Think You Are?* have encouraged many to research their family history. For those with an 'ordinary' background it can prove to be a difficult task. As Joyce Harrison of Scunthorpe writes on her search for her great grandfather John Murphy: '*...Whilst the celebrities on TV can often find a fair bit about their ancestors, mine were all working class and have left no trace beyond the census entries, their military service records and their birth, marriage and death certificates. Many did not even have gravestones.*'

The only information Ms Harrison could find from census records was that, aged 16, John Murphy was an 'inmate' at the Castle Street Working Boys' Home, in London. The remarkable ledger of Quintin Hogg and Henry Kinnaid (who founded the home) that Jarndyce will be exhibiting at the Olympia Book Fair came up for

Joyce on a Google search. It records the day-to-day history of the Castle Street Boys' home at the time John Murphy was a resident.

It is because of documents such as these that Ms Harrison can now form a picture of her great grandfather's life: *'My great grandfather arrived at the home on Saturday 13th November 1869, aged 14. The band was playing in the schoolroom, conducted by Mr. Hutchinson. Things didn't always go quite so well. A later entry has John and three of his fellows going to bed 'very drunk' and he was soon being 'caned severely' by Mr. Hutchinson.'*

John was later apprenticed to an ecclesiastical carver and there is even a photo that indicates some family resemblance to Ms Harrison's uncle, when he was young; it may well be of the young John Murphy.

The Ledger's importance is in its detail of the everyday: *'...For many people' Ms Harrison writes, 'so little remains of their ancestors that every tiny snippet of information is treasured, particularly those that relate to their day to day lives. This ledger is a tremendous resource, documenting individual boys and young men who benefitted from the charitable work of Quintin Hogg and Lord Kinnaird. It gives genealogical researchers their families back, and their research in turn details what happened to those who were assisted in the Boys' Homes'.*

## Visitor Information

**Olympia Exhibition Centre, Olympia Two**  
Hammersmith Road, London W14 8 UX

[www.olympiabookfair.com](http://www.olympiabookfair.com)

**Advance Tickets free of charge for download from the website**  
On the door: £10 single

### Opening Hours:

Thursday 3 June 4pm – 9pm  
Friday 4 June 11am – 7pm  
Saturday 5 June 11am – 5.30pm

## Press Information and Images

Go to [www.olympiabookfair.com](http://www.olympiabookfair.com) under **PRESS** for all press releases, news and high resolution images.  
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