

Child Migration

Incidences of child migration to Canada, Australia and the U.S. are documented in our records between 1864 and 1930. Although this option was offered to boys, it was on a much smaller scale than in other organisations, e.g. Quarrier's. Children were generally sent to meet farm labour shortages, particularly to Canada. With respect to Kibble boys, emigration was voluntary and parental consent was sought.

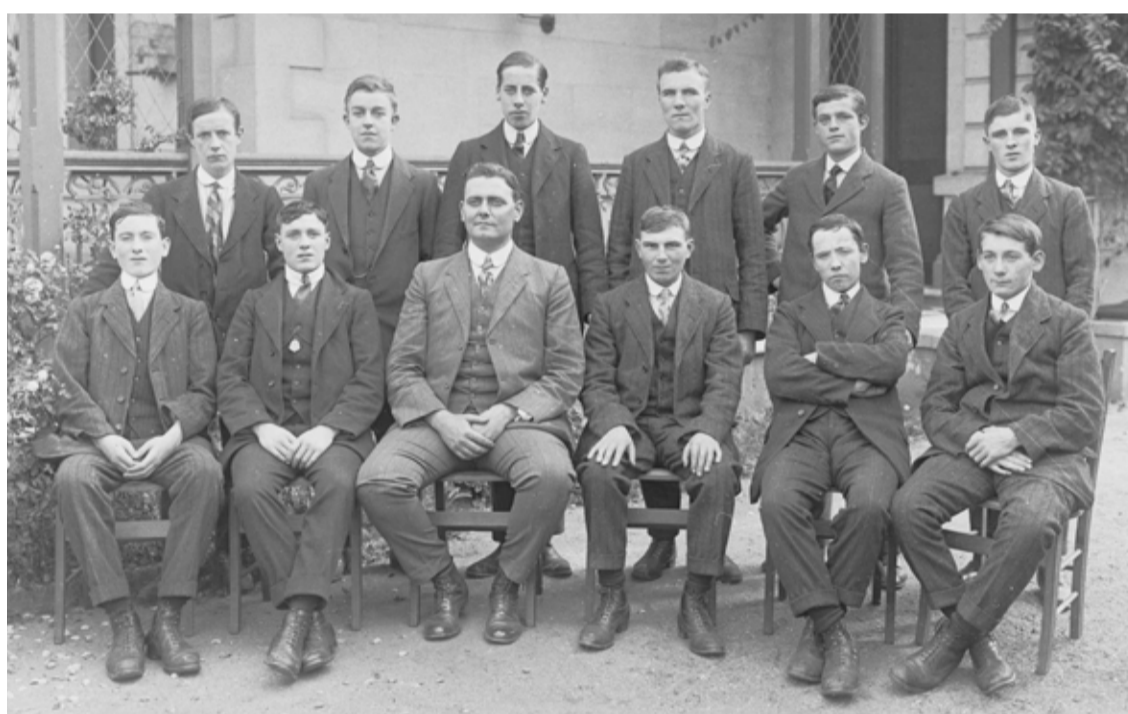
There are few migration cases in Kibble's earliest records. They include one who stowed away on a ship to the West Indies in 1860 and 'settled at the boilermaker trade'. Another boy, aged sixteen, was 'liberated by warrant' in 1864; first working as a blacksmith in Greenock, he subsequently went to sea and 'died in the West Indies'. (Miss Kibble's Reformatory Admissions Register 1859-1880)

Kibble's 1910-1914 records refer to emigrations to Australia. We have some follow-up reports on them but most of our information has come from Australian historian, Elspeth Grant – great granddaughter of Lewis Grant, one of the first to be sent to Australia from Kibble.



Lewis Grant
(Image courtesy of the Grant family personal collection)

Kibble supplied most of the ex-reformatory boys to the Australian scheme: seventeen boys between October 1913 and July 1914. Superintendent, Mr Love, tried to provide the most promising pupils to the scheme: George McPhail and James Pettigrew were



school captains; Alexander Simpson was Secretary to the School Council; the other boys also had good reports. It seems that he aimed to offer the best opportunities available when they left Kibble, as some had no homes to return to or, as ex-reformatory boys, could face prejudice. Emigration could potentially provide a fresh start.

The boys who arrived in South Australia on the Geelong on 11 October 1913 at the Domestic Helpers' Home, Charles Street, Norwood
(Image courtesy of the History Trust of South Australia Glass Negatives Collection, no. 1017)

Kibble's archive records a further twenty nine migration cases between 1920 and 1930, all to Canada. Some went to relatives; others had varying employment: farm service, shop assistant, lumber worker, and hotel steward. They were not permitted to return until they reached age nineteen. The youngest boy sent under this scheme was aged sixteen and the oldest was eighteen years and eleven months, so their legally required duration of stay varied considerably.

Manifest of passengers for the Geelong, with Kibble boys all listed as 'farmers'
(Courtesy of <http://findmypast.com>)

Name of Ship		Date of Departure		Where bound					
"GEELONG"		28 AUG 1913		P.M. 21					
Name of Line		To Australia via The Cape		Where bound					
P. & O. BRANCH SERVICE		To Australia via The Cape		Where bound					
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF LONDON.									
Cabin	NAME OF PASSENGER	Sex	Age	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger	AGE OF PASSENGERS			Country of last Residence	Country of Birth
					Under 16	16 to 21	21 and over		
✓ 342	Mrs. Elizabeth Cluff	Wife	34	Domestic			1		SOUTH AUSTRALIA
✓ 343	Edgar Bennett	Boys	16	Farmer			1		
✓ 344	Arthur Almond	Boys	16	Farmer			1		
✓ 345	Mrs. Annie G.	Wife	39	Wife			1		
✓ 346	Mrs. Alice Conley	Wife	25	Wife			1		
✓ 347	Jack Cook	Boys	16	Farmer			1		
✓ 348	Mrs. Elizabeth Benn	Wife	44	Wife			1		
✓ 349	Mrs. Frances A. Shaw	Wife	30	Wife			1		
✓ 350	Florence G.	Wife	7	Wife			1		
✓ 351	Wilfred G.	Boys	6	Boys			1		
✓ 352	Frank G.	Boys	5	Boys			1		
✓ 353	Margaret G.	Wife	1	Wife			1		
✓ 354	Leon Durling	Boys	30	Domestic			1		
✓ 355	Frederick J. Edwards	Boys	44	Farmer			1		
✓ 356	Frederick W. G.	Boys	15	Gardener			1		
✓ 357	Alexander Dyck	Boys	20	Farmer			1		
✓ 358	Reginald Dattley	Boys	18	Farmer			1		
✓ 359	Edgar Dutton	Boys	17	Shop Asst.			1		
✓ 360	Wilfred H. G. S. G.	Boys	18	Plasterer			1		
✓ 361	Hazel J. Lawrence	Wife	23	Domestic			1		
✓ 362	Elaine G. G.	Wife	24	Wife			1		
✓ 363	John D. Jackson	Boys	23	Bricklayer			1		
✓ 364	Winfred Couch	Boys	20	Domestic			1		
✓ 365	Henry Howarth	Boys	38	Bricklayer			1		
✓ 366	George McKail	Boys	18	Farmer			1		
✓ 367	John Scott	Boys	18	Boys			1		
✓ 368	Hugh Lawson	Boys	17	Boys			1		
✓ 369	Robert Taylor	Boys	18	Boys			1		
✓ 370	John McCulloch	Boys	18	Boys			1		
✓ 371	William Arjow	Boys	18	Boys			1		
✓ 372	Lawrence Sample	Boys	18	Boys			1		
✓ 373	John Hurst	Boys	17	Boys			1		
✓ 374	Mrs. Bessie G.	Wife	7	Wife			1		
✓ 375	Mrs. Bessie G.	Wife	18	Wife			1		
✓ 376	Cecil Brangan	Boys	18	Boys			1		
✓ 377	Thomas G. Smith	Boys	18	Boys			1		
✓ 378	Violet Hopley	Wife	20	Domestic			1		
✓ 379	Elizabeth Pettigrew	Wife	30	Wife			1		
✓ 380	Clara Murphy	Wife	21	Wife			1		