



2742		2742	
NETHERTON TRAINING SCHOOL.		ADMISSION BOOK.	
REGISTER No. <i>2742</i>	WHEN ADMITTED <i>8th Feb 1911</i>	FROM <i>Newcastle</i>	
NAME <i>Isaac Wilson</i>	Where Born <i>Newcastle</i>	Date of Birth <i>Belley 1886</i>	
DESCRIPTION	Age <i>15 3/4</i>	Height <i>4' 10 1/2"</i>	Figure <i>Plump</i>
	Face <i>Round</i>	Complexion <i>Fair</i>	Hair <i>Light Brown</i>
	Eyes <i>Brown</i>	Nose <i>Good</i>	Earlight <i>Good</i>
	PARTICULAR MARKS— <i>Left arm scar on left elbow</i>		
CONVICTED	Where <i>Newcastle</i>	When <i>8th Feb 1911</i>	At what Court <i>Magistrate's Court</i>
	Before whom <i>J. Booth</i>	Offence <i>feloniously did steal take & carry away 6 pieces of boots.</i>	
SENTENCE	Prison <i>14 days</i>	Reformatory <i>14 days</i>	Time expires <i>22 May 1911</i>
CHARACTER	Previous Convictions <i>9 Apr 1910. Stealing a pair. Bankers & discharged 30 May 1910. A party of 4 boys & one on 11th Feb 1911. 2 tickets streets. Disturbance. Also 9 times gambling obstruction etc. Number of Times before Magistrate 3.</i>		
EDUCATIONAL STATE	Length of Time Idle or Criminal <i>Selling papers once</i>	Reads <i>Good</i>	Writes <i>Good</i>
RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION	Church of England		
PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT	<i>Selling papers</i>		
COMPANIONS AND THEIR CHARACTERS	<i>In 2741.</i>		
FAMILY CONNECTIONS.			
Father <i>Isaac Wilson</i>	Occupation <i>Labourer</i>	<i>Donnelly doing for 6 & Lambton boats</i>	
Mother <i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Newcastle</i>		
Brothers (with Addresses)	<i>Isabel Wilson at home</i>		
Sisters (with Addresses)	<i>Elizabeth Wilson (8) at school</i> <i>Mary 6</i> <i>Sarah 3</i>		
Other Relatives	<i>Polly Wilson (labourer) Barrack Sq. Npl.</i> <i>John (carpenter) 36 Pitt St</i> <i>Elizabeth (wife) 111 Kendal St. Npl.</i> <i>Father (7 days) Drunkenness.</i>		
GENERAL REMARKS	<i>The father & mother of the boy are living apart & the mother is co-habiting with another man.</i>		
SENTENCE HOW COMPLETED—		Years. Days.	
In Reformatory from <i>8th Feb</i>	<i>1911</i>	to	1
On License from	1	to	1
At Large from	1	to	1
In Prison from	1	to	1
DISCHARGED—		TOTAL	

ADMISSION REGISTER ENTRY FOR ISAAC WILSON, 1910

REFERENCE: NRO 00820/B/10 P. 2742(A, B) | SUGGESTED AGE GROUPS: KS2, KS3, KS4, LIFELONG LEARNERS | TOPIC
AREAS: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, HISTORY OF CHILDHOOD

NETHERTON REFORMATORY

At the beginning of the nineteenth century a child who committed a crime was tried in the same court as an adult. If the judge or magistrate sentenced them to prison, they would be sent to the same prison as adult criminals.

Some campaigners, such as Mary Carpenter, argued that children should be kept away from adult criminals so that they did not learn bad habits from them. She also said that children should be given training and be allowed to play.

Pressure from campaigners led to Parliament passing the Reformatory Schools Act in 1854. The Act allowed reformatory schools to be set up and for them to be officially inspected. Magistrates could send children under the age of 16 to these schools, instead of to prison.

A reformatory school was set up in Newcastle in 1853, just before the Act passed through Parliament. The school was moved to Netherton, near Morpeth, in 1857. In 1933 Netherton became an "Approved School", which replaced reformatories and industrial schools. Netherton continued to be a residential school for boys well into the 1980s.

ADMISSION REGISTER – ISAAC WILSON

A page like this was filled out by the staff at Netherton when a new boy arrived at the school. It includes a lot of information about him, his family and why he had been sent to Netherton.

The top of the first page (A) includes personal information, such as name, age (15 years 9 months) and physical appearance.

The middle of the first page (“OFFENCE”) includes the details of his crime: stealing six pairs of boots.

At the top of the second page (B) is a list of Isaacs’s family members. Isaac’s father is recorded as living in Gateshead and his mother in Newcastle. Further down the page (GENERAL REMARKS) includes the information that “...the mother is co-habiting [living] with another man”. At this date divorce was still rare; it was an expensive process that most ordinary people could not afford.

It is also noted on this page (Criminality of Family Connections) that Isaac’s father had served seven days in prison for “drunkenness”.

RELATED DOCUMENT

NRO 00820/B/25 p. 621 Discharge register entry for Isaac Wilson.

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

The National Archives website, page on “Victorian Children in Trouble”: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/victorian-children-in-trouble/>

Infed.org website, page about Mary Carpenter and her ideas about education: <https://infed.org/mobi/mary-carpenter-reformatory-schools-and-education/>

Northumberland Archives blog, page about Netherton Reformatory:

<https://www.northumberlandarchives.com/2015/03/30/netherton-reformatory-one-mans-first-world-war-story-david-eckstein/>

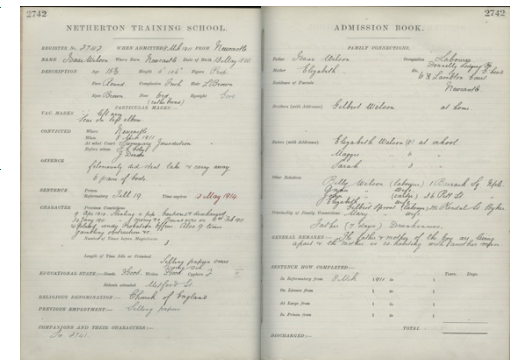
Children’s Homes website, page with history of Netherton Reformatory: <http://childrenshomes.org.uk/NethertonRfy/>

Children's Homes website, page with general information about reformatories: <http://childrenshomes.org.uk/Rfy/>

Children's Homes website, page with model rules and regulations (1890): <http://childrenshomes.org.uk/rules/Rfy.shtml>

LEARNING ACTIVITIES – ADMISSION REGISTER ENTRY FOR ISAAC WILSON, 1910

TOPIC: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, HISTORY OF CHILDHOOD, WW1
SUBJECT AREAS: HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, LITERACY



Background	Activity	Resources
<p>Isaac Wilson arrived at Netherton in 1910, aged 15 and 9 months. He was sentenced to stay there until he was 19 for the crime of stealing boots.</p>	<p>See: How old was Isaac Wilson when he arrived at Netherton?</p> <p>See: How long was Isaac's sentence at Netherton?</p> <p>See: What crime did Isaac commit?</p> <p>See: What crimes had Isaac committed previously?</p> <p>See: Where did Isaac live before he was sent to Netherton?</p>	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-social-studies-ks2-ks3-gcse-victorian-reformatory-schools-jane-angus/zn4pbdm</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zmgxsbk/revision/2</p> <p>http://childrenshomes.org.uk/NethertonRfy/</p>
	<p>Think: What can you learn about Isaac's family life from the register?</p> <p>Think: Think about how Isaac is described in the register entry. Using what you have learned about reform school, do you think he would have returned to crime after he completed his sentence?</p>	
	<p>Do: Use Google Maps to find Isaac's family home. Do you think the street has changed a lot since Isaac lived there? What can you learn about Isaac's circumstances by looking at where he lived?</p>	



	<p>Do: Research some of the main reasons crimes were committed during this time period. How does Isaac's crime fit with the crime trend of the time?</p> <p>Do: How might Isaac have felt about going to Netherton? Write a list of the positive and negative points of being sent to reform school. Consider what the boys have access to at Netherton, what the living conditions were like there, and how this differs from their home life and personal circumstances.</p> <p>Do: Write a monologue as though you are Isaac and have just arrived at Netherton. Describe what you are feeling and thinking about spending the next few years at Netherton away from your family home. You could use your list of positive and negative points to help you write the monologue.</p>	
<p>At the beginning of the nineteenth century a child who committed a crime was tried in the same court as an adult. If the judge or magistrate sentenced them to prison, they would be sent to the same prison as adult criminals. Pressure from campaigners led to Parliament passing the Reformatory Schools Act in 1854. The Act allowed reformatory schools to be set up and for them to be officially</p>	<p>See: How were child criminals tried and sentenced in the early nineteenth century?</p> <p>See: Why did campaigners want to keep child criminals separate from adult criminals?</p> <p>See: What did Mary Carpenter say children should be given, rather than being sent to prison with adults?</p> <p>See: When was the Reformatory Schools Act passed?</p> <p>See: Who could be sent to reformatory school?</p> <p>Think: What were Mary Carpenter's education principles and methods?</p>	<p>https://infed.org/mobi/mary-carpenter-reformatory-schools-and-education/</p> <p>https://www.northumberlandarchives.com/2015/03/30/netherton-reformatory-one-mans-first-world-war-story-david-eckstein/</p> <p>http://childrenshomes.org.uk/NethertonRfy/</p> <p>http://childrenshomes.org.uk/rules/Rfy.shtml</p>



<p>inspected. Magistrates could send children under the age of 16 to these schools, instead of to prison.</p>	<p>Think: How were Mary Carpenter's education principles and methods different to the general principles of the time?</p> <p>Think: What was the purpose of reformatory school?</p> <p>Think: What were the conditions like in reformatory school?</p> <p>Think: What were the rules and regulations of reformatory school?</p> <p>Think: What would the children have spent their time doing at reformatory school?</p>	
	<p>Do: In small groups, debate whether or not introducing reformatory schools was the right way to punish child criminals.</p> <p>Do: Using the information provided by the Children's Homes website, draw up a plan of Netherton.</p>	