

‘As the number of Children to be hereafter elected must necessarily depend upon the Annual Income of the Society, the Committee take this opportunity of inviting the assistance of the present Donors and Subscribers in urging the claims of the Institution upon the public generally’ (notice of elections, 1917)

THE SAILORS’ ORPHAN SOCIETY

Illustration of the Spring Bank orphanage, 1884 [C DSHO/1/162]



Fact: In 1853, a Sailors’ Orphan Society was established in connection with the Mariners’ Church Society

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The objective of the Society was to support the children of deceased seafarers, with the work funded by voluntary subscriptions.

A Sailors’ Orphans Institute was founded to clothe and educate fatherless children of seafarers. The children were accepted to the Society by application, which were voted on by the subscribers. Those who were accepted were provided with clothing annually. This clothing was made by a Ladies Committee.

Children aided by the Society were required to attend Sunday School and services at the Mariners’ Church, and were educated at the National Day Schools in the town. Some of the children participated in the Mariners’ Church choir and were trained as choristers.

Admission register entry for Henry Robinson Hunt, 1866 [C DSHO/4/14]		No. 26
NAME.	Hunt, Henry Richardson	
WHEN BORN.	16 April 1856	
RESIDENCE.	13 Lumley's Place, Myton St., Hull	
PARTICULARS OF CASE.	Father a Boiler Maker died on board the Mail Steamer "Solent" in the West Indies. Widow married Richard Winstanley a Fireman who was lost in the steamer "Excelsior" in February 1866. Five children - four dependent on the widow.	
WHEN ELECTED.	27 September 1866	
WHEN ADMITTED.		
DATE OF LEAVING.	May 1870	
CAUSE OF LEAVING, AND IF TO EMPLOYMENT, SITUATION TO BE STATED.	Expiration of term - went apprentice to Messrs C.W. Earle Engineers - Hull. 1 st June 1870	
DATE.	SUBSEQUENT HISTORY.	
Founders Day 1872	1 st Certificate 1 Year - Still with Messrs Earle - Machine Boy -	
do 1873	2 nd Certificate do Father's apprentice	
do 1874	3 rd do do do	

1907-1914.

Account written by a former resident, 1924 [C DSHO/4/165]

MY LIFE IN HULL SEAMEN'S & GENERAL ORPHANAGE.

I was admitted to the orphanage soon after the death of my father. It was not easy to get in there in those days as a parent or relative had to produce many signatures or votes as we called them.

Hull Seamen’s & General Orphanage, Hesslewood.

ADDITIONAL
BAND RULES.

The attention of all BAND BOYS is drawn to the following special Orders, strict obedience to which will be enforced—

BAND BOYS—(9). When about to enter a motor vehicle or railway train will “fall in” in two ranks, and when ordered by the Band Master—not before—will enter the vehicle or train SLOWLY and QUIETLY.

(10). On leaving a vehicle or train will do so SLOWLY and QUIETLY—“fall in” in two ranks, and await Orders.

(11). Will not play their Instruments whilst travelling.

(12). When proceeding to or returning from a Band Stand, Building, or other appointed place, will MARCH smartly (not straggle) in FOURS on a road, or in TWOS on a side-walk.

(13). Will not be permitted to “fall out” on the march, nor between items during a performance, but only during the prescribed Interval, except by permission of the Band Master, which will only be given under very special circumstances.

For the House Committee,

HESSELEWOOD, 1924.

Secretary.

Rules for the society’s boys band, 1924 [C DSHO/4/55]

Fact: In September 1866, Hull Seamen’s and General Orphanage was opened by the Society on Spring Bank

Acrostic produced by the Sailors Orphans Society, 1884 [C DSHO/1/162]



AN ACROSTIC,

SEAMAN’S ORPHAN ASYLUM.

Sunny and bright at early day
Each heart is bounding light and gay,
And the brave barque sails swift and free
Majestic on the mighty sea.
Alas! how changed within an hour,
Neptune puts forth malignant power.
Swift lightning on the sea is hur'l'd,
Outburst the thunders on the world;
Remorseless is the greedy wave,
Promptness and skill fall short to save;
Hope is in vain, the mountains leap,
All hands are lost within the deep.
Now turn we to the distant shore
And witness scenes that all deplore,
Sweet babes without a father's care,
Yielding to sadness and despair.
Lo! in this grief arise and see,
United are the sisters three,
Mercy, and Hope and Charity.

J. H.
Hull, Oct. 1st, 1884.

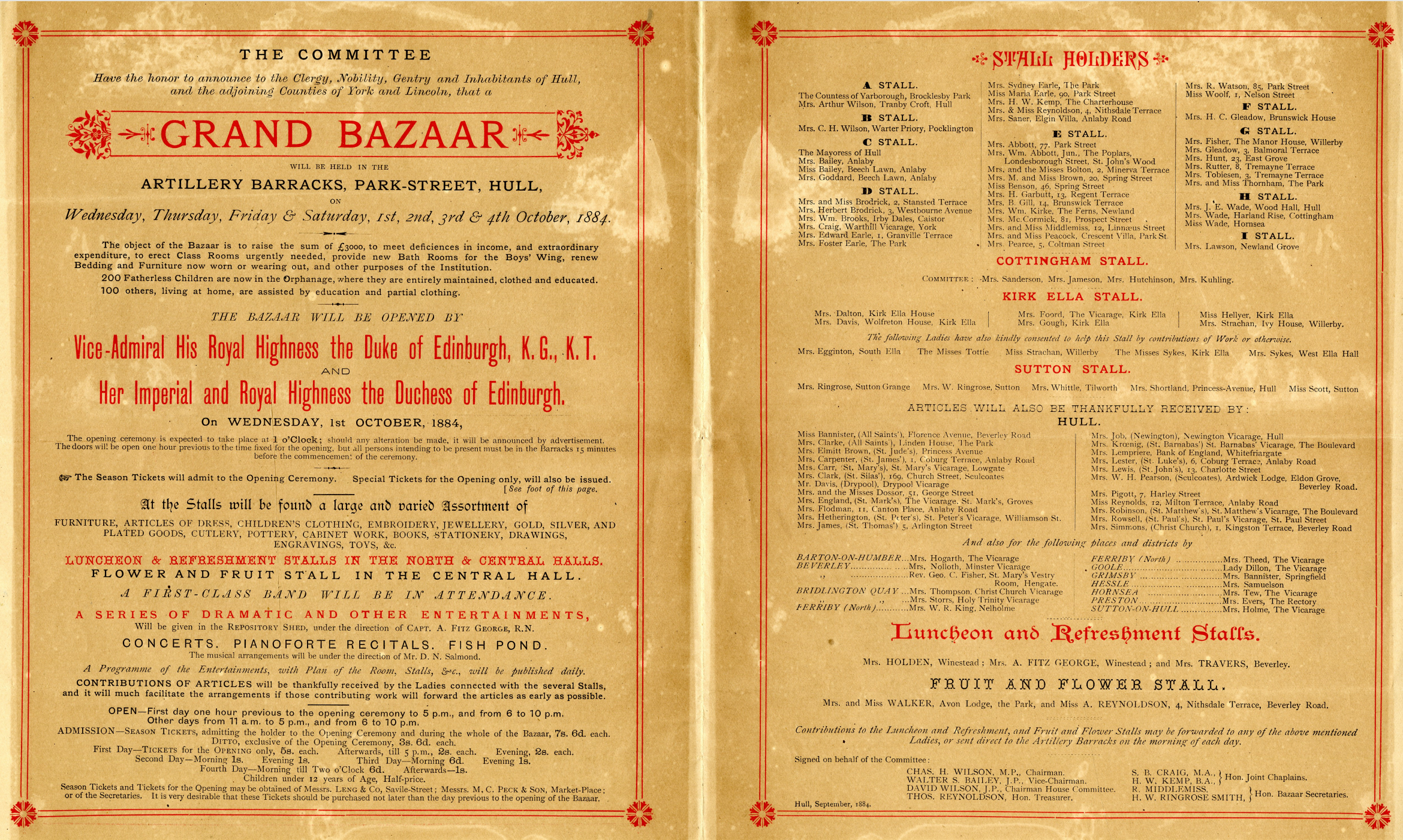
By 1862 the society was caring for 38 boys and 34 girls. This work, known as the Clothing and Education Branch (later the Outside Branch), continued until 1923 when the work had to be stopped for financial reasons.

At the time this work was stopped, 1086 boys and 1061 girls had been helped in their own homes since work began in 1853.

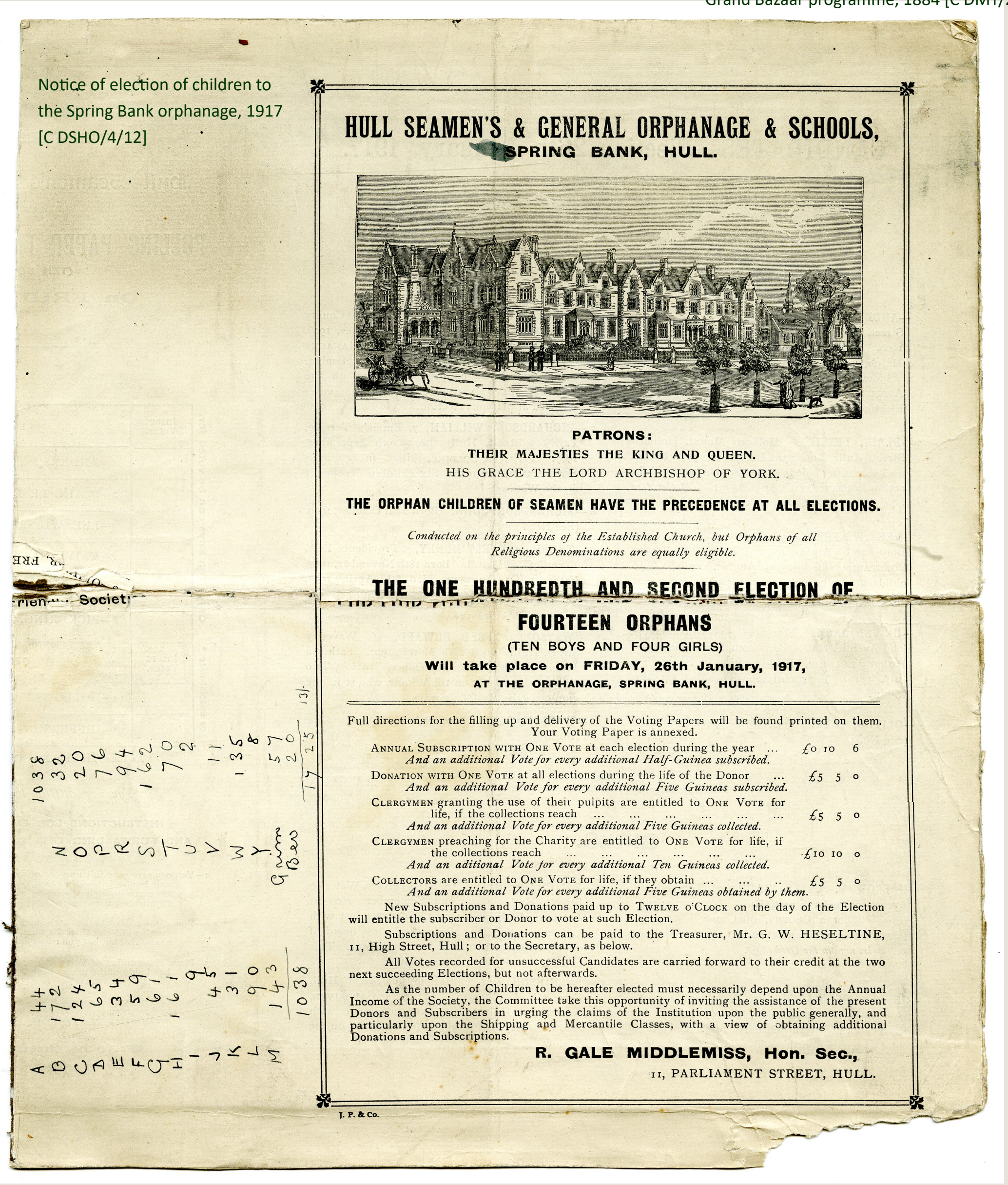
In 1864, money to build an orphanage was donated by John Torr, a shipping company owner and former Hull resident. Hull Trinity House granted use of land for the venture, and the society changed its name to the Hull Seamen’s and General Orphan Asylum and Schools.

In September 1866, a purpose-built orphanage was opened on Spring Bank, which included a school and accepted both boys and girls by application. New school rooms were built in 1871 and boys and girls were taught together for the first time.

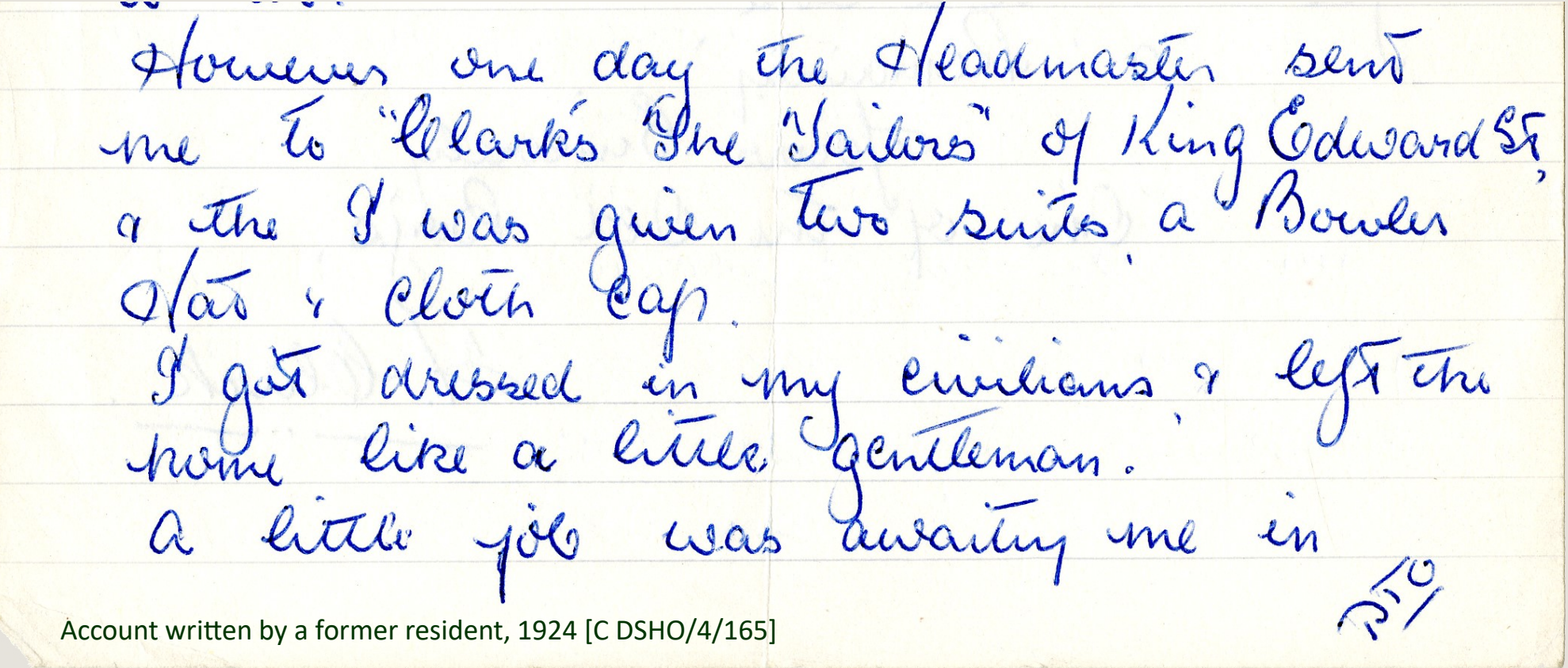
Grand bazaars were held annually to raise funds for the Society’s work and a pantomime was staged each winter. An orphanage band was begun in 1872 and continued until the 1950s. The band made many appearances at civic and society fundraising events, and was a valuable source of income.



Grand Bazaar programme, 1884 [C DMT/27/45]



Fact: In 1921, Hull Seamen’s and General Orphanage relocated to Hesslewood Hall



New, larger and more modern premises were required by the early 1900s. A Ministry of Labour scheme to convert the Spring Bank property into workshops for handicapped ex-forces personnel provided a catalyst to find a new home.

In 1920 the Society purchased Hesslewood Hall. The building was renovated and reopened as an orphanage in 1921. Whilst a new school at Hesslewood was considered, it was ultimately decided that the children were to be found places in local Hessele schools.

Sporting activities were encouraged at Hesslewood, units of St John’s Ambulance, Girl Guides, a boxing club and a rabbit club were all established. Boys were taught gardening and woodwork, whilst girls learnt home-making skills. Hesslewood was in operation for over 60 years before finally closing in 1985 due to declining admissions and financial problems.