

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN LIFE:

I think one of the main things I have achieved in my life, apart from my wonderful family, is to have reached out to as many poor and needy people as I can - not just poor in wealth but also in spirit. I began my work in East London when I formed 'The Christian Mission' which later became The Salvation Army. They were great days when the flag could be seen flying and when we introduced brass instruments. The War Cry, the Army magazine, was first issued in 1879 and, later, the Army's work extended overseas to America, Australia, India, Switzerland and Sweden. Meanwhile, back in England, the work was still continuing including the opening of a match factory. My book, 'In Darkest England and the Way Out', was published in 1890 and this was a social programme I had written to continue my work for the poor and needy in this country. Unfortunately, my wife died in the same year and I found that very difficult to cope with.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE:

I married my wife, Catherine Mumford, on June 16th 1855, in Stockwell New Chapel, South London. It was a very small wedding with Catherine's father present and one of my sisters. Rev. Dr. Thomas married us and there was no other congregation. We spent our honeymoon in the Isle of Wight. By this time, I had become a full time minister and Catherine gladly helped me as a preacher's wife. She was my 'guardian angel'. All in all we had eight children and what a joy they were - they all became preachers.

GETTING TO KNOW...



General Booth

IDENTIFICATION CARD



NAME: *William Booth*

AGE: *72*

ADDRESS: *Hadley Wood,
North London.*

ORIGIN: *Nottingham,
England.*

D.O.B: *10 April 1829*

OCCUPATION:

Founder and General of The Salvation Army.

HOBBIES:

Being the General of The Salvation Army takes up all my time but when I was young and had a few spare moments I used to like fishing in the River Trent, in Nottingham, where I grew up. I also used to like reading, particularly the novels of Kirke White, although that's going back a few years now. Nowadays, I like to take my dog, Gyp, for long walks.

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

My father, Samuel Booth, was born in Belper, in 1775. He started out as a nail manufacturer but also dabbled with building and architecture. By the time I was born he had made and lost a fortune. He was rather obsessed with money. My mother, Mary Moss,

came from Derbyshire and was of Jewish origin. She was the daughter of a well-to-do farmer. She was a silent and reserved woman. Both my parents were very proud people and struggled to keep up appearances when they lost a great deal of money. I also had three sisters.

CAREER HISTORY:

At 13 years of age I was advised by my father to take up a position in a pawnbroker's as this would earn me a good wage. When I first worked there I felt a real sense of freedom and I enjoyed earning a bit of my own money. However, I found it increasingly difficult as I came into contact with some of the poorest and lowest people in Nottingham. I found it hard to exploit these people - they would sell me some of their finest and most valued possessions even if they weren't worth that much to anyone else. The only way they could then get their possessions back was if I charged them a high rate of interest on their repayments. And so you can see that I wasn't very fulfilled in life. I found my true vocation in life when I started to preach as a Methodist Minister. I later found this restrictive and so I spread the good news about Jesus to the people living on the streets in the East End of London. This was the start to my life's career in building up the Salvation Army. I'm still trying to reach out to people now - my work will never leave me.