



The Training Ship Mars in Dundee: Family history, Care Experienced History and Imperial History

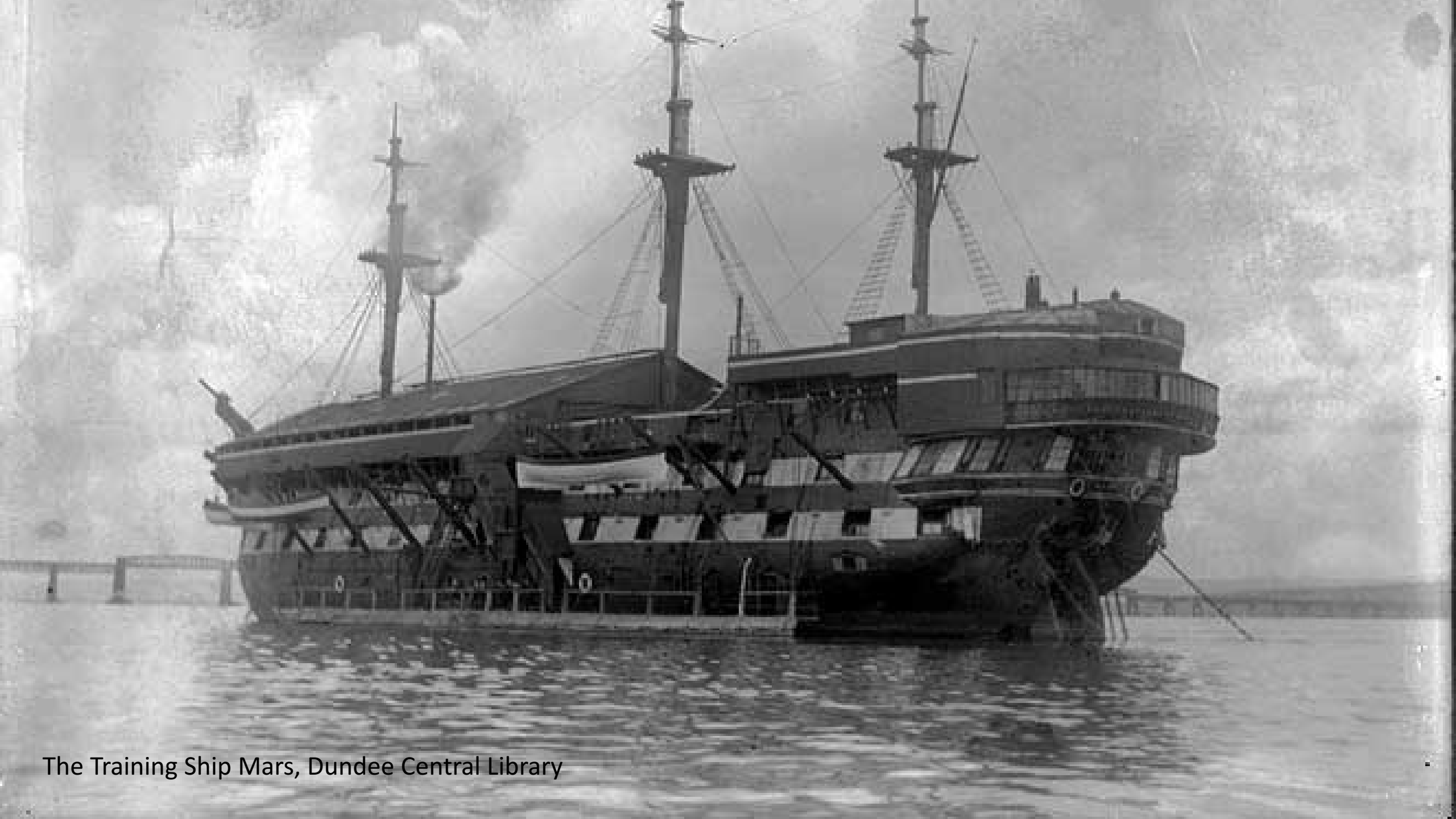
Charlotte Armitage, University of Glasgow

Graham Connelly, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Centre For Excellence For Children's Care And Protection and non-executive board member of Kibble Education and Care Centre

Christine Whyte, Lecturer in Global History

Location of the Mars





The Training Ship Mars, Dundee Central Library

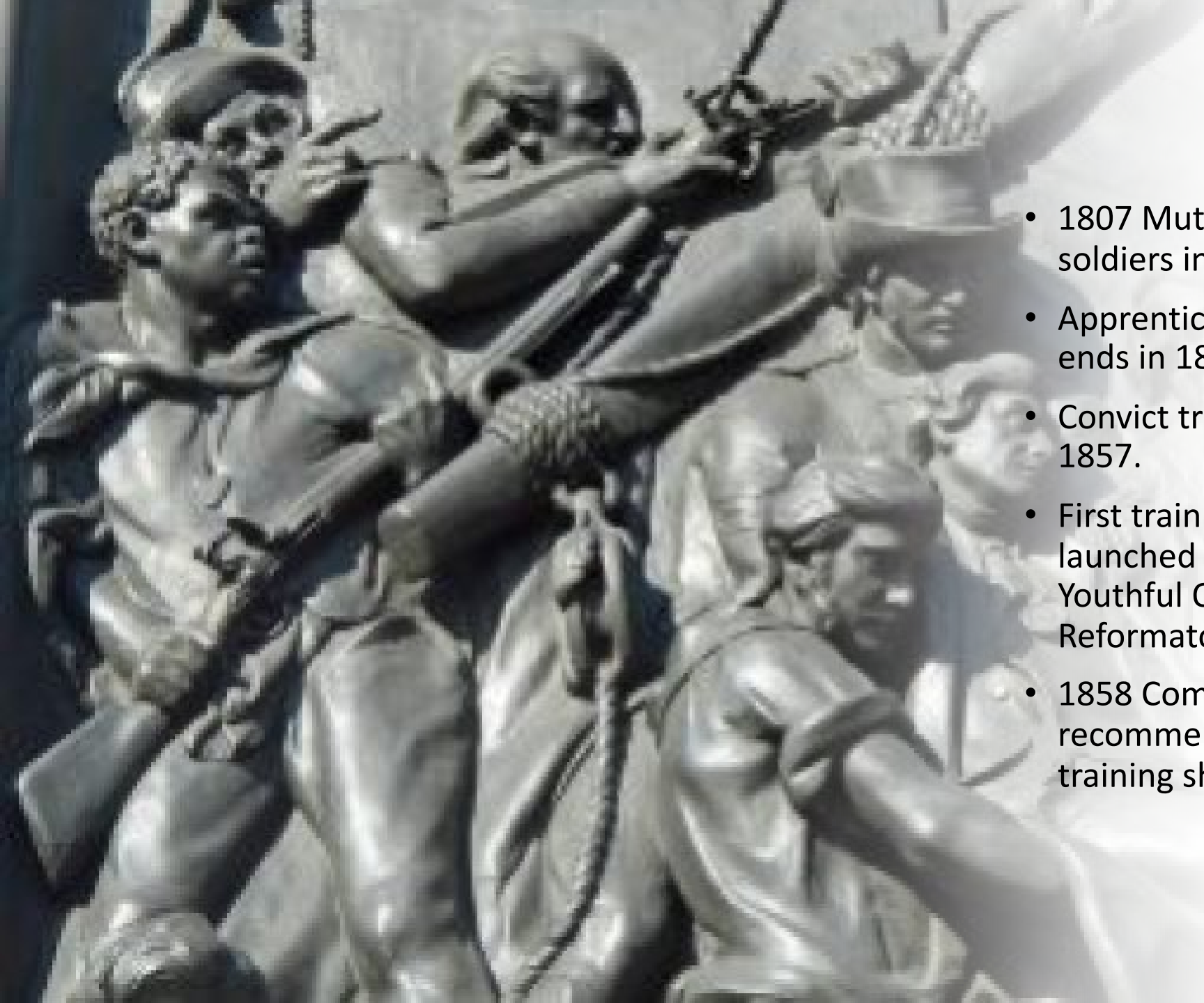
New perspectives

- Imperial History
- Family History
- Care Experienced History

The Training Ship System

- Reformatory school ships
- Industrial school ships
- Charity and voluntary ships
- Officer training schools

Boys of the training ship *Wellesley* from the *Illustrated London News* 2 December 1876



- 1807 Mutiny Act frees all serving enslaved soldiers in the West India Regiments.
- Apprenticeship of emancipated Africans ends in 1838.
- Convict transportation schemes ended in 1857.
- First training ship, the HMS Ganges, was launched in the same year that the 1854 Youthful Offenders Act and the Reformatory Schools (Scotland) Act 1854.
- 1858 Commission on Manning the Navy recommended the creation of a fleet of training ships.

ITY SPARRO

ITED BY LADY CLEMENTINE W

Price
Twopence



"ONE OF THEM
ON THE GROUND"

"SHALL NOT FALL
WITHOUT YOUR FATHER"

NEW

SERIES

ublished by the Scottish Children's League of
the Junior Branch of the
Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of
Cruelty to Children

The Mars boys

- Committed by a magistrate
- Referred by the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- Voluntary admittance



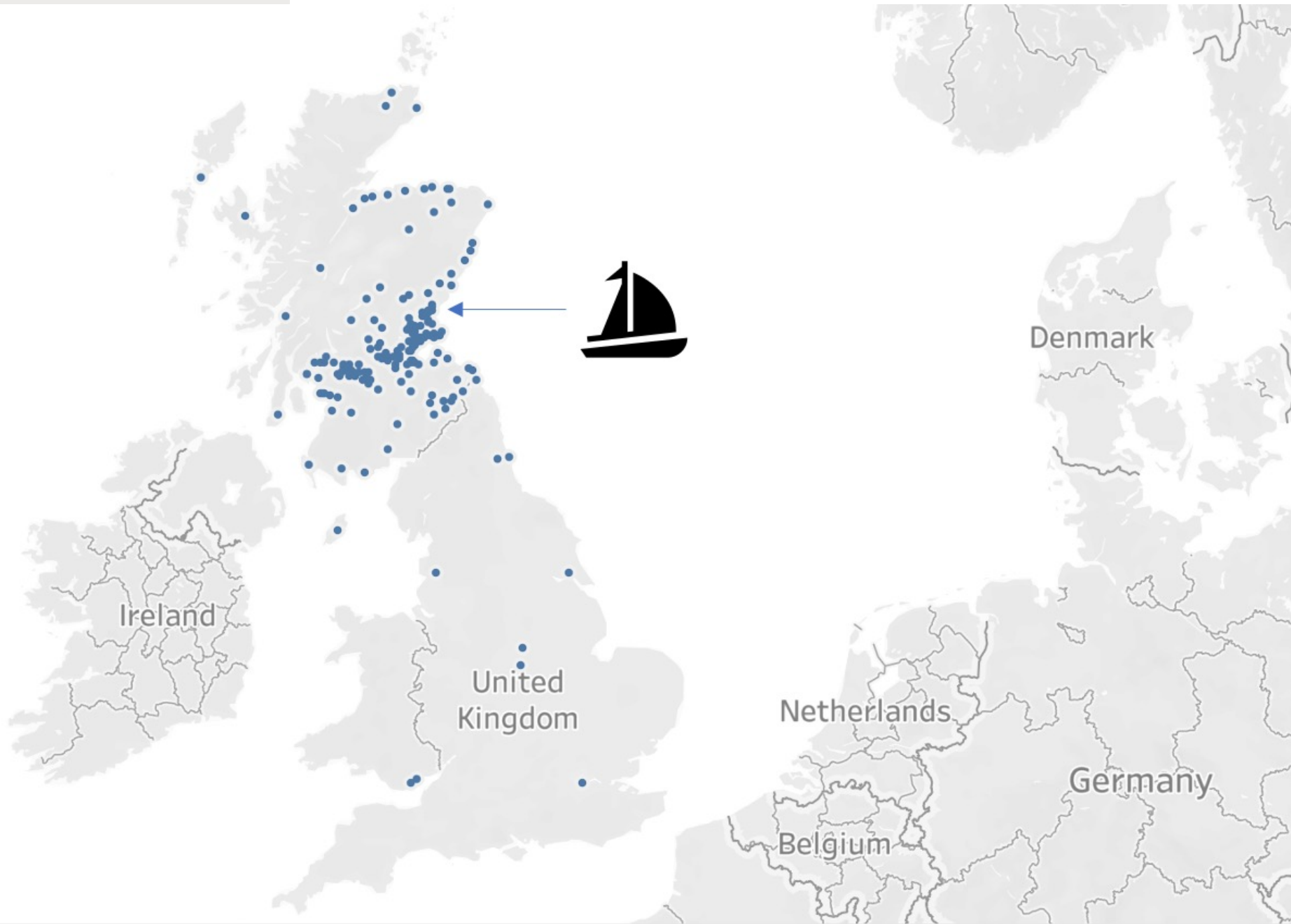
James Pollock

Dear Mrs. Seed,

I must apologize for not sending
to you before now, but as usual, the days
seem to fly by and I get nothing done.
However, here at last is my offering about
the 'Mass'. It is not a history of the ship
but mainly covers my 4 years on board.
It is factual from my memory but I only
wish that I were good at embellishing, but
unfortunately that is not my forte. It
is given in the sight



TRAINING SHIP "WELLESLEY" ON FIRE,
NO. SHIELDS, MAR. 11, 1914.



© 2023 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Map based on average of Longitude and average of Latitude. Details are shown for Number.

The Dundee Courier & Argus

12740 (11/10/1872)

DUNDEE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1872.

Price—Daily, 10s

A WAIF SENT TO THE MARS.—A boy named Thomas Connolly, thirteen years of age, was brought before the Magistrate as a candidate for a berth on board the Mars. Mr Dewar stated that the case was brought under his notice by Mr Jack, and the Parochial authorities had been communicated with, but they had no interest in the matter. The boy's father was a scavenger, and was very unsteady in his habits, and was at present a patient in the Dundee Infirmary. His mother had been dead for some time, and the lad lived with a man named Peter Foley in Seagate. He had been working full time in a mill and had earned 8s 6d a week, but was idle at present. The boy had no education, and was running about the streets associating with bad boys. The Magistrate sent him to the Mars for three years.

Boy 971



Admission Record: 7 Dec 1877

Report of Conduct and Character in School.

Date 1878
 11/11/78 6th Class. A scheming fellow
 11/11/78 6th " Owing to sore eyes excused from school. Character as above.

Thomas Conley
 13.
 7th Decr. 1877. Dundee. No proper guardianship or suitable means of subsistence
 R. C.

Having no proper guardianship or suitable means of subsistence

Habit the age of sixteen years.

Character *See.*

Partridge *See.*

Names of Parents, or *Thomas Conley.*

Occupation *Scavenger.*

Religious Persuasion *R. Catholic.*

Height
 Figure
 Complexion
 Hair
 Eyes
 Nose
 Marks on Person and other Peculiarities
 General Health
 Educational State
 Reads *knows his letters (hand)*
 Writes *none*
 Calculates *none*
 Previous Instruction and for how long
 Mental Capacity
 Particulars as to Leaving the School, by Licence or Discharge.

Date	Report of Conduct and Character in School	Date	Report of Conduct and Character in School	Date	Report of Conduct after Discharge
1878	11/11/78 6 th Class. A scheming fellow				
	11/11/78 6 th " Owing to sore eyes excused from school. Character as above.				



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Opening hours
 Accessibility Information
 Venue Map

The Mars Archive



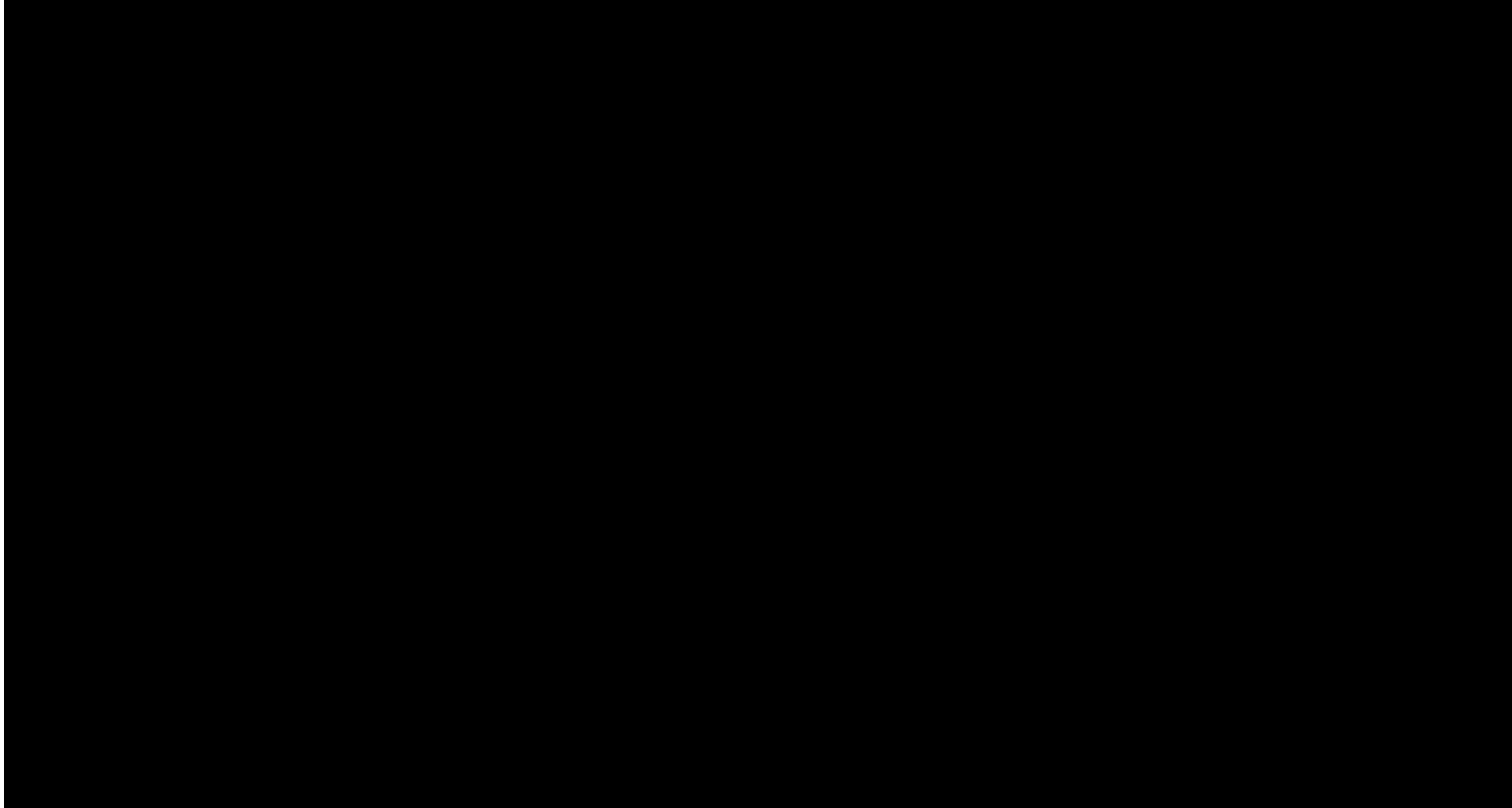
Discharge Record: 10 Dec 1879

Follow up: Jan 1881

386
 971. *Thomas Conley, 13. 7th Decr. 1877. Dundee. No proper guardianship or suitable means of subsistence R. C.*

Shore employ. Dundee

Mr Gladiff Aug 1881



References and links

- Gordon Douglas, *We'll Send Ye Tae the Mars: The Story of Dundee's Legendary Training Ship* (Edinburgh: Black & White Publishing, 2008) and *Sons of the Mars* (Wormit: Shakey Hands Publishing, 2013).
- Phil Carradice, *Nautical Training Ships: An Illustrated History* (Chalford: Amberley Publishing, 2009).
- “The Sons of the Mars”, HMS Unicorn Exhibition (www.frigateunicorn.org/on-board/exhibitions/the-sons-of-the-mars: accessed 8 June 2022).
- Children’s Homes: Training Ships (<http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/list/TS.shtml>)