



Blue Coat Hospital School Report

The Bluecoat silhouette book is a collection of 31 miniature silhouette portraits of boys who attended the school in 1822, with drawings by a local artist, E Gerard. The book also contains reports of the boys' behaviour and ability, written by teachers. The portraits and reports give a real sense of the children who were at Bluecoat almost 200 years ago, and provides an opportunity to consider the differences between the lives of children now and then.

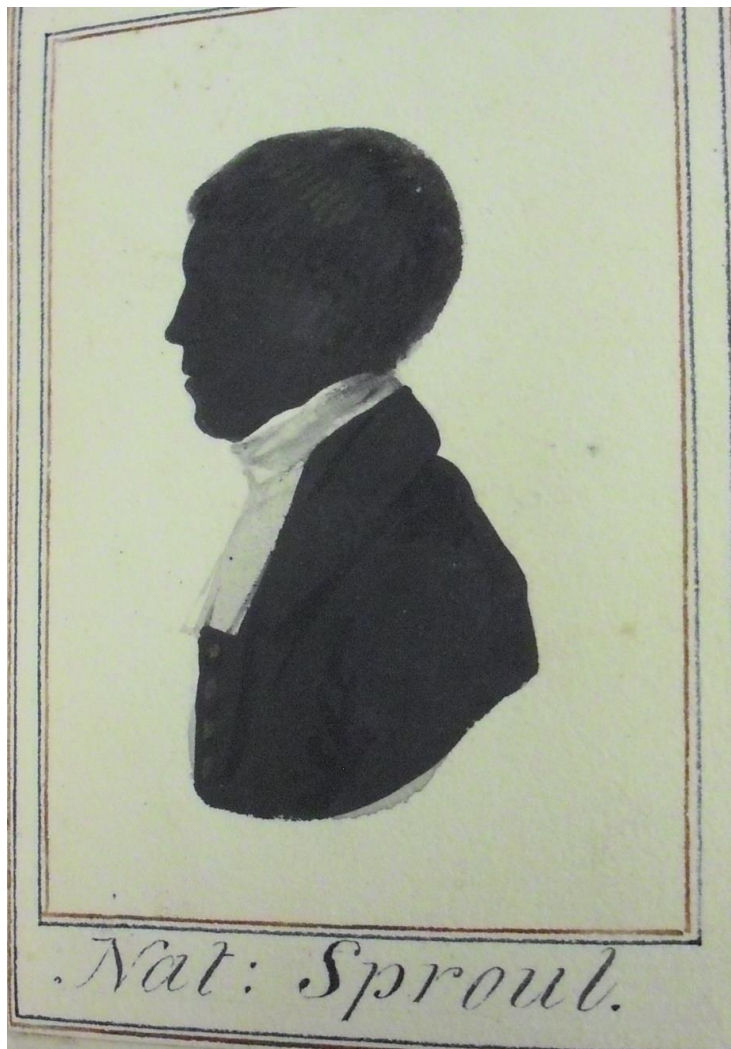
The reports tell us about the lessons that the pupils at the school took and what was expected of their behaviour. Interestingly, they also give information about what the children's life might be like when they left the school, with some details about the jobs that they were expected to go in to.



John Tyson

A boy of pleasing, gentle manners, of an honest upright mind, he was selected for a teacher, and at all times did his duty satisfactorily. It is a fact generally admitted that there is a principle in the nature of human beings, independent of education, which generally points out their future fortune.

It is my opinion that this boy's sense of right and wrong and his abhorrence and contempt of mean or ungenerous actions, notwithstanding the force of example, would have kept him above committing any flagrant breach of theft or immorality – he was able in arithmetic, wrote well, had a good knowledge of the scriptures, but there was an unpleasantness in his voice that prevented him from excelling much in reading which he otherwise would have done, as he always seemed to understand so well what he read. He was bound for 7 years to Bushbys merchants of the islands of St Thomas and St Croix in the West Indies, on the 29th November 1822.



Nathan Sprout

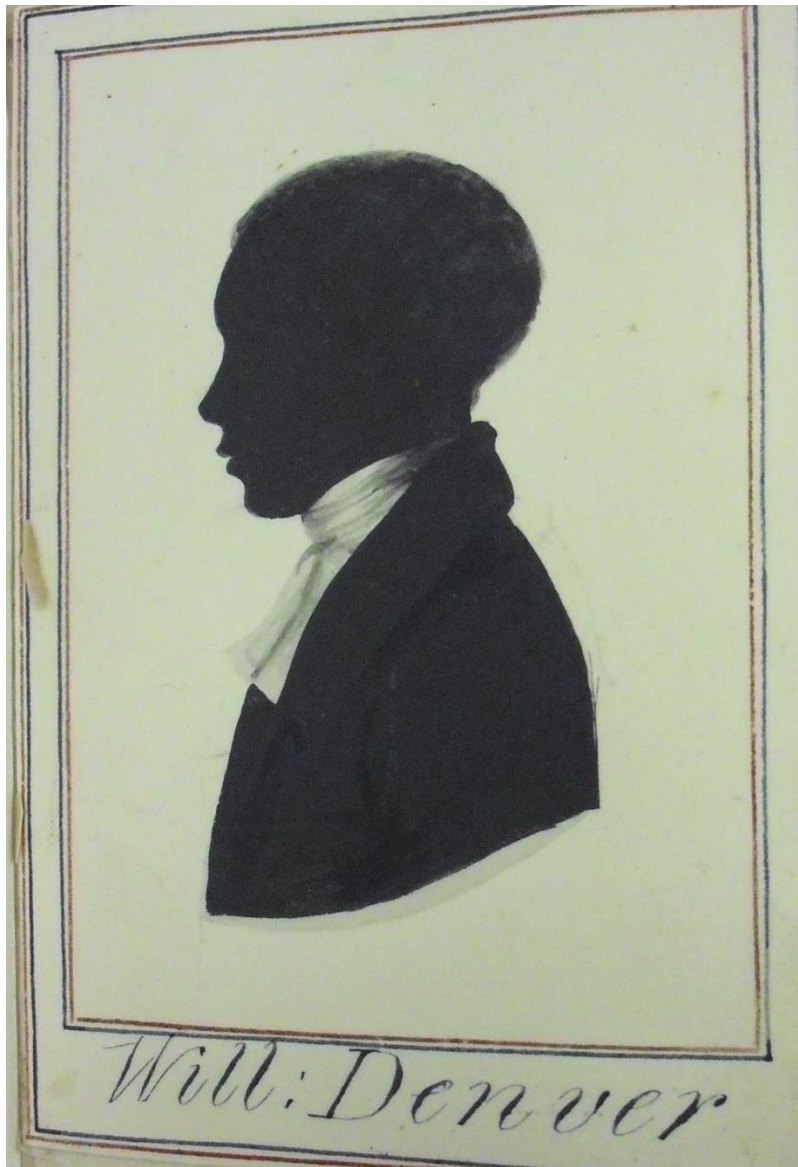
A boy of tolerate ability but shows generally a good deal of indifference in using it to advantage. I do not mean to say he was indifferent about obtaining the good opinion of his teachers or visitors; on the contrary he was pleased when he saw them pleased; but there was a diffidence about him, which always kept him from showing off or endeavouring much to excel his class fellows.

The outlines shown in the profile are remarkably striking – he was of diminutive stature, his voice was very powerful, but not pleasant – he had make considerable proficiency in accounts – read tolerably well – was perfect in the religious instruction the class had been taught which he was in, was a boy of general good conscience and left the school with good character – he was bound to John Killey, Tailor, Mount Pleasant, for 7 years, and was taken to reside in the house with his master.



Richard Fowler

A boy of rather a stubborn disposition with tolerable abilities, yet not extremely quick. He had a fine powerful voice and could modulate it with great judgment, for which reason he was frequently selected as a reader in Chapel when he generally gave satisfaction to the audience who not unfrequently were lavish both of praise and pence, which contributed in a great degree to give him an air of confidence and self-importance which eventually raised his ideas above his rank and made him despise a mechanical trade, preferring a clerk's situation and through his misbehaviour leave the school before he otherwise would have done, un-provided for any situation.



William Denver

A boy of some ability, but of not much integrity – he had been brought up among very low company, had seen much of that cunning and deceit too frequently and successfully practiced amongst them, and I believe it had become habitual to him, though his good sense kept him (generally) above practicing it – his abilities rendered him useful in the school as a teacher, but never to be depended upon – though his voice was thick and unpleasant, yet his delivery was good and distinct – he was stout and clumsy and has nothing prepossessing or striking in his appearance – he was a good scholar, equal perhaps to any in the school.

He was bound to Mr Ashworth of Prescot, Linen Drafter, and went to reside in the house with him. August 1822. He was bound for 7 years.

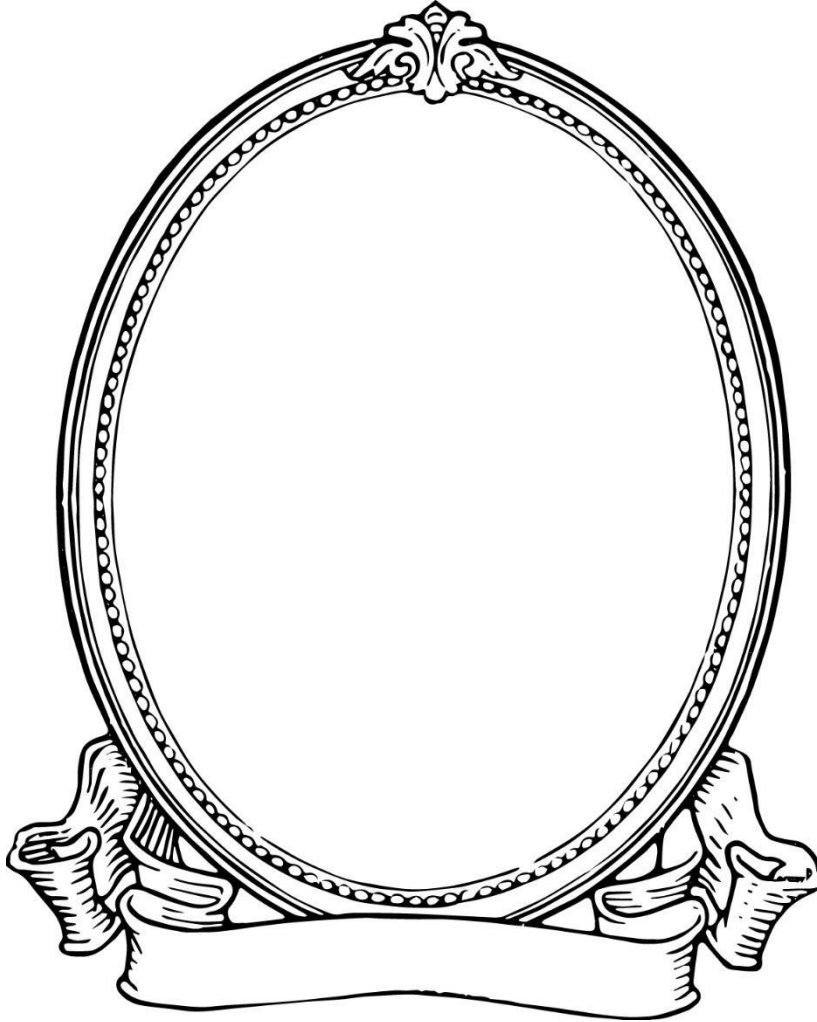
Blue Coat Hospital School Report

Once you have finished making your silhouette portrait, write a report to go with it, like the ones for pupils in the Blue Coat School miniature book.

In the report, you should write about two things you are really good at, two facts about yourself (e.g. if you have any pets, favourite lesson etc.), two things that you would like to improve or learn more about (for example, your times tables), and what you might want to do when you're older.

You can use the template on the worksheet to write your report, which should be written in the third person.

Words you should use when writing in third person: He, Him, His, She, Her, Hers, It, Its, They, Them, Theirs



This report is about the behaviour and successes of
.....

who attendsschool in the year
.....

.....is excellent at.....
.....
.....
.....

And it should be known thatwould like to work more on
.....
.....
.....

In the future, we can expect

.....
.....
.....
.....



Bluecoat, Liverpool

19th Century Slang

To make your report feel more like it was written by a Blue Coat Hospital School teacher, you could try using some 19th century slang.

Benar – Better

Bug – To give

Chaunt – A song

Clanger – A lie

Eagle – A winner

Glib – Talkative

Grub street news – Not true

His nabs – Him

Lark – Fun of any kind

Nicnakatory – Toy shop

Nut – To please someone

Old Dog at it – An expert

Rock'd - Forgetful

Rum Bite - Cheating

Skrip - Paper

Tib – A girl

Troll about - Wander

Wit – To understand