

**1885 – The story of Chinese
Gordon and Wang the Chow**

CHINESE GORDON'S DOG.

Wang, an Interesting Canine Brought to England
Fourteen Years Ago by the Martyr of Khar-
tum, Is Now an Inmate of the Gordon
Boys' Orphanage at Dover,
England.



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Circa 1899
Chicago Tribune

WANG AND HIS KEEPER, ROBERT ROBINSON.

In 1885 General "Chinese" Gordon brought this Chow he named "Wang" from China to England

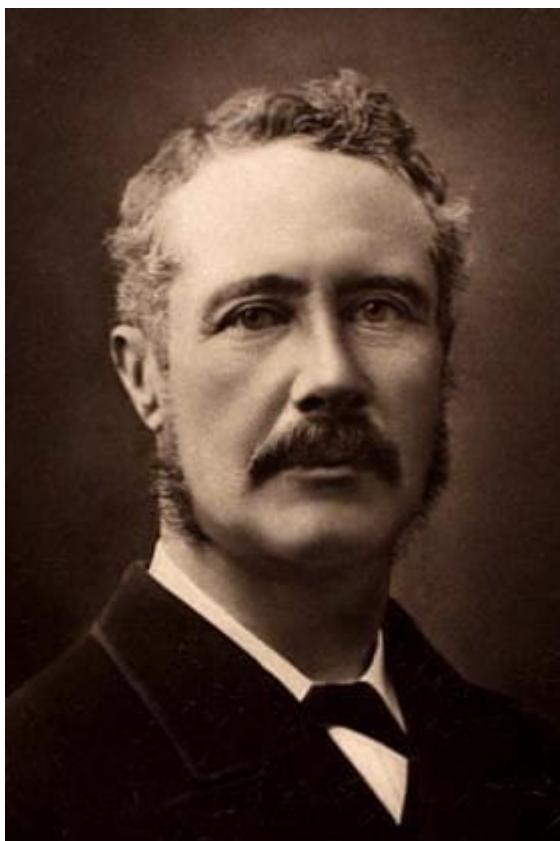
I get so excited when one archive post leads to another...then another, and yet another...but by the time I get all the photos, text, newspapers etc in front of me, my mind is spinning and I forget what I was searching for in the first place. Granted, this is a GOOD problem and one that keeps me on my toes, this is for certain!! I hope you enjoy this article which is one of the earliest accounts in both photos and text of a very special chow who gave himself, heart and soul, to homeless children.

This story branches out from one I posted a couple of days ago ([see HERE](#)) That tells of how the chow fad started in London. It seems the appearance of General Gordon's Chinese chow "Wang" in England, was as key to the breed's popularity as was Admiral Dewey's famous chow mascot "Bob" in America ([Read more about Bob HERE](#)) Both well publicized in the newspapers. The photo above is an absolute gem as it depicts both Wang and his keeper in the orphanage , Robert Robinson. Wang was elderly , deaf, lame and very well loved.



1. WANG, CHOW DOG FROM CHINA, owned by the Gordon Boys' Orphanage, Dover, England. — 2. "CHUMS," DON AND TIT-WILLOW, owned by Mr. A. W. Palmer, Natick, Mass. (p. 330).

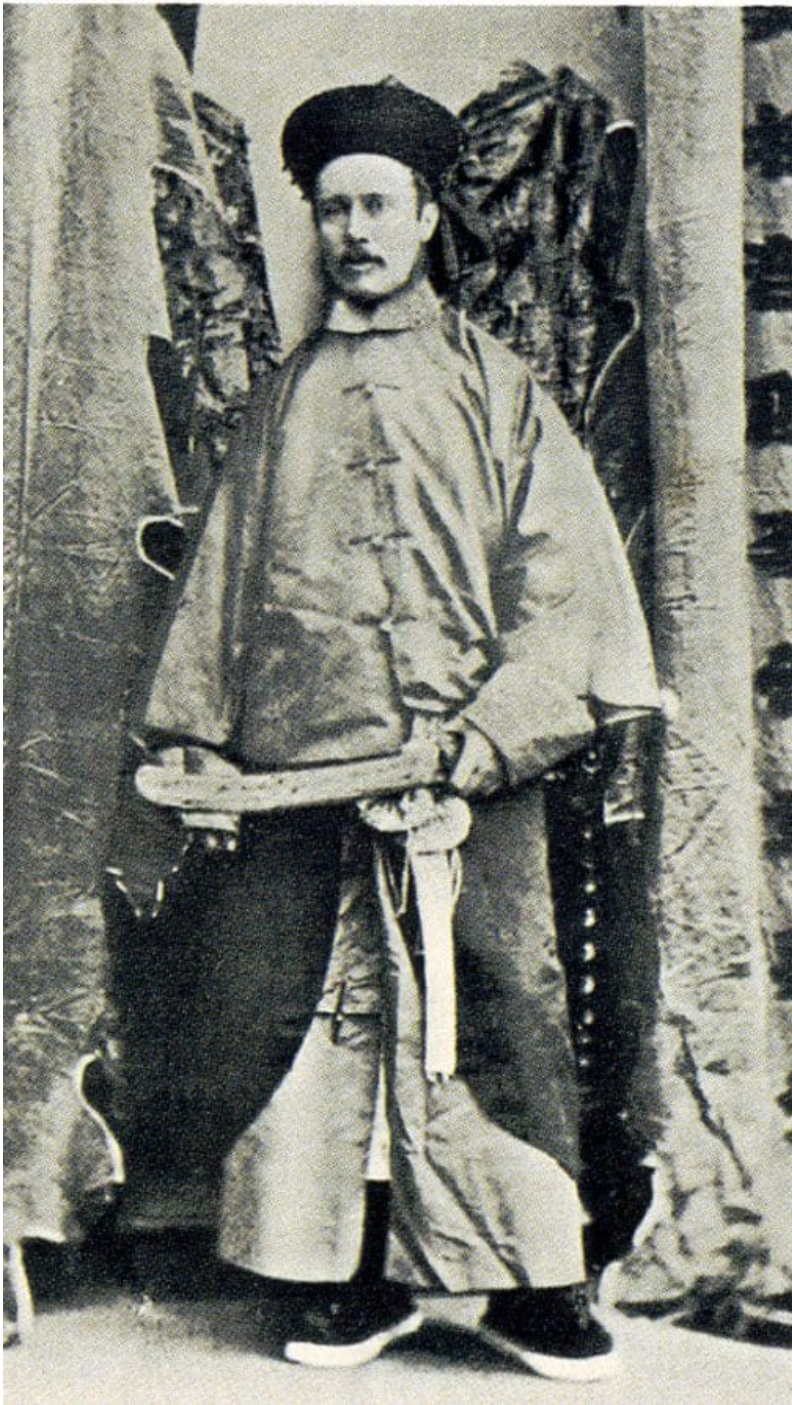
There is a dog, Wang, at the Gordon Boys' Orphanage at Dover, England, that once belonged to General Gordon of the English army, which money could not buy. General Gordon on leaving China for Khartoum, brought three rare Chow puppies with him, and gave one of them, Wang, to the daughter of Sir John Adies, then commanding at Gibraltar. Wang stayed with this lady until her husband, in the Royal Artillery, went to London. Wang was then given to Major Seel of the King's regiment, and later, to the orphanage. He is over fourteen years of age, deaf and lame, but greatly loved by all, and tenderly cared for by his little keeper, Robert Robinson. Robert was turned out of doors by a bad father in Crewe, when he tramped from place to



GENERAL GORDON

place, and was finally found in London, a mere bundle of rags and bones, asleep at the foot of the Gordon statue in Trafalgar Square, whence he was taken to the orphanage and became the keeper of Wang. “Wang died recently, and Robert is a soldier in the army now.” Mr. Thomas Blackman, the founder, at Gordon’s death in 1885, and treasurer of the orphanage, writes me, “The institution has over one hundred homeless, orphan boys, and the founder wisely allows them many pets, dogs, cats, pigeons, etc.”

ARTICLE SOURCE: Our Devoted Friend 1902 Sarah Knowles Bolton



GENERAL GORDON, NICKNAMED
"CHINESE GORDON"

British general Charles "Chinese" Gordon became a national hero for his exploits in China and his ill-fated defense of Khartoum against Sudanese rebels. [READ MORE](#)

This little anecdote comes from my friend Dennis Tang in Hong Kong which he found online

According to the tale, General Charles George Gordon presented a pedigreed dog to Li Hung-Chang, a visiting Chinese statesman who, after returning home, sent a note to the general thanking him for his delicious gift. (Oh my)



LI HUNG CHANG IN HIS OWN HOUSE AT TIEN-TSIN, 1872.
From a copyrighted photograph by John Thomson, F.R.G.S., London.

Li Hung Chang Chinese
Statesman Circa 1872

It is always such a treat to be able to add more information to such an old story. This article below is from THE GRAPHIC Circa 1895

THE GRAPHIC

General Gordon's Dog "Wang"

GENERAL GORDON'S old dog "Wang," which was brought by him from China just before he proceeded to Khartoum, is at present at the Gordon Boys' Orphanage at Dover, having been placed there by Major Seel, of the King's Regiment, to whom it was given by Gordon's relatives. When General Gordon was recalled from

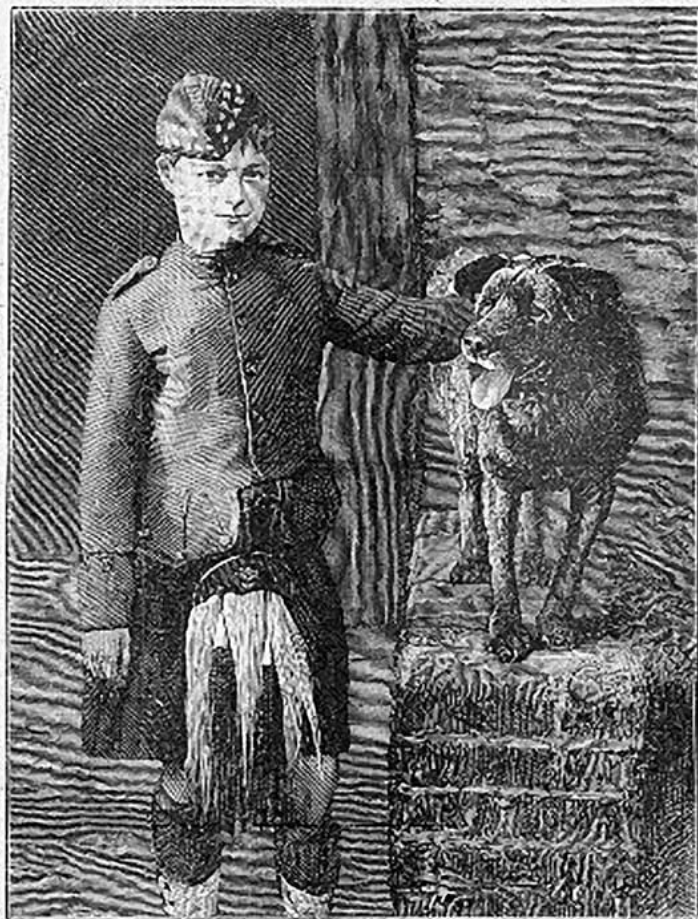


Photo by G. Spicer, Dover

China to go to Khartoum, about fourteen years ago, he brought three of the rare black Chow puppies back with him, of which "Wang" is one. "Wang" is the only one of the three dogs still alive, and is very deaf and lame. A very interesting history attaches to the lad who is shown alongside the dog in the picture. His name is Robert Robinson, and he is fourteen years of age. He is the wail who, on the night of November 5, 1897, was found at the foot of Gordon's statue in Trafalgar Square, almost dead from starvation and exposure. Two years ago a harsh father turned him out of doors at Crewe, and the little fellow tramped from place to place, living as he could, and eventually got to London. Here

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he was found by a policeman, who described the boy as starving and a mere bag of bones when he took him into custody for pity's sake. At Bow Street Mr. Lushington remanded him for a week, and eventually permission was obtained to place him in the Gordon home at Dover, where he still remains.

The Chow dog fad had its origin in the fact that General "Chinese" Gordon's Chow dog has been recently placed in an orphanage in London, where he has a special keeper. The publication of the fact aroused interest in Chow dogs, and the British dog faddists were quick to seize the opportunity for making a new fashion.

Circa 1898 Article from a New York Newspaper mentions General Gordon's orphanage and the start of the chow fad