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K7V 1R2
1999

NO 2 MAY 1999

HERITAGE-RENFREW PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

HERITAGE TRIVIA: THE ORIGIN OF "CALABOGIE" AND "MADAWASKA":

Editor Arnprior Chronicle:

Dear Sir—I observed in your last issue an extract from the Eganville Leader stating that Calabogie Lake owed its name to the Indian word "Calabogie" meaning sturgeon, and that the name Madawaska meant "the hidden river."

In this The Leader is partly right and partly wrong. Many years ago when crossing the lake with an Indian who had been born and brought up upon its shores, I asked him what "Calabogie" meant. He said he didn't know as there was no such word in the Indian language. He then told me that the original name of the lake was Nahma Lake; "Nahma" is the Indian name for sturgeon.

Calabogie is evidently a corruption of some Gaelic words. I once asked a gentleman familiar with Gaelic what it meant but he couldn't translate it; since then I was told by a man who came originally from that section of the country, that the lake owed its name to the first man who kept a "stopping place" at its foot. The legend goes that he was a Highlander who had invented some kind of a pre-historic cocktail, the principal ingredients of which were rum and molasses, and this decoction, or concoction, he christened "Calabogie". It seems that this "stopping-place" became a regular place of call for the river pioneers of that day—local option wasn't in favor then—and that the word "Calabogie" became a byword amongst them until at last it was applied to the lake itself. My informant didn't vouch for the truth of this story, but gave it to me as it came down to him and this is the nearest I have ever been able to get to the origin of Calabogie. Madawaska is derived from "Mata" or "Meta", the fork or mouth of a river, and "Aushka", the sound of a rippling current at its mouth. If the river had been called "the hidden river it would have been "Kadgigadawa" or Kassarippi". The same form is used in Metabecouan; "Meta" the mouth of a river and B'ouichouan, a rapid, meaning "the river with a rapid at its mouth."
ARMON BURWASH, Arnprior, 14 March, 1914.

This article was taken from the Renfrew Mercury of March 27 1914 and it sounds like an interesting bit of trivia, so I thought I'd share it with others. Olga Lewis

MAY 1999

COMING EVENTS:

LUMBER BARON FESTIVAL:

July 1999: The annual Lumber Baron Festival will feature several of the shantymen of yesteryear this year.

Heritage Renfrew will be having an open house on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 1—4 pm, July 12-13. Plan to attend and view our facilities for doing research of family history and our collections of historical value.

MEMBERSHIP:

Joyce Laird membership chairman brought forth a motion that the dues be raised by \$4 per year, to \$10 per person or family, from the current \$6 per person or family.

Rising costs of producing and mailing the newsletter were the reasons behind the move to raise the dues. The motion was duly seconded and carried and the dues will be \$10 per person or family starting January 1 2000.

Members are being asked to pay their 1999 dues as they will not be receiving any more newsletters until their dues are paid.

Membership in Heritage Renfrew is currently 307 members.

TREASURER:

The Treasurer reports that the bank balance at the end of March was \$3329.76

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE 1999

President: Martin Munhall
Past President: Kay Gollinger-Lorente
Vice President: Jim MacGregor
Secretary: Frank McMahon
Treasurer: Olga Lewis
Membership: Joyce Laird

**ARCHIVES MANAGER
FRANK MCMAHON**

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:

Chair : Frank McMahon

Members: Olga Lewis

Joyce Laird, Advisor:

Marjorie Lindsay

The Archives committee is planning to re-inventory all of our collections. Several starts have been made in the past few years, and what is planned for this year is that we will be photocopying our present inventory lists, then each box will be checked for contents, and any missing or unknown additions will be catalogued. This work will be done under the supervision of Marjorie Lindsay who has volunteered to advise us on the correct way this is done. After which the first phase being completed all information will be put on computer disk for easy access to the collections. I wish to thank Marjorie Lindsay for offering her expertise in this major undertaking. A final note, as inventory is being done we will arrange the boxes so that they are easier to access for everyone.

NEW BOOK BY CAROL MCCUAIG:

INVISIBLE WOMEN:

Carol Bennett McCuaig's new book, Invisible Women, was launched April 24 at the Region V111 meeting in Cobden, which was hosted by the Ottawa Branch of OGS with the Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group. The book details the experiences of women throughout the history of Eastern Ontario, with chapters on such subjects as the journey to the area in the early days of settlement, women's work, marriage and widowhood, health and mortality, education, recreation and more. It is illustrated with a number of old photographs and highlighted with stories of real women. Women have played a major role in the settlement and history of the area, yet until recently they have been virtually invisible. Often conspicuous by their absence from local histories, they were the backbone of our society.

Because there is no book store in Renfrew at present, Invisible Women, priced at \$20.00, will be sold for a limited time at the Heritage Renfrew Archives. The group will receive \$8 for each copy sold there—a good opportunity to raise funds.

Invisible Women is available from a number of book shops in the Ottawa Valley, and can also be obtained from the publisher at "Juniper Books Ltd." R.R.2, Renfrew, K7V 3Z5, for \$20 plus \$5 shipping and handling, no GST.

You can visit the Juniper Books web site at <http://renc.igs.net/~juniper> or email the author at juniper@renc.igs.net. Please do not use the link from Heritage Renfrew web

site until the old Juniper address is updated there or you will be unable to access the whole site, http://renc.igs.net/juniper_picturelist.html

Carol McCuaig has requested that if you are replying to a genealogy query from out of town researchers you do not send "lookups" from her copyrighted books, but refer them to her. If they do not wish to buy a book she will offer them the opportunity of buying short extracts at \$5 a time. Her company has about \$200,000 tied up in inventory and she cannot afford to give freebies, although she often helps people by sharing unpublished material. Anyone visiting the Archives may, of course, extract information from the books there as they would in any library.

Please Note: The above came about as a result of the indiscriminate use of material being sent all over the internet. While researchers were only trying to be helpful to others they were in essence breaking copyright laws by doing this.

Editor

PAST EVENTS:

January 27 1999: Heritage Renfrew annual meeting, with guest speakers, Councillor Lois Leclaire speaking on the Millenium Trail project for year 2000 for the town of Renfrew, which when completed will used by all ages for walking, biking, cross country skiing and numerous other activities. Dave and Kay Lorente spoke on Home Children.

February 15 1999: The annual Heritage Luncheon was held at St Andrew's United Church and was again a huge success.

<p>Genealogy on the Web: Heritage Renfrew & Archives: http://renarch@renc.igs.net</p> <p>National Archives of Canada: http://www.archives.ca</p> <p>Quebec Government Archives: http://www.cgocable.ca/archives</p> <p>Olive Tree(Germans, Loyalists,) http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote</p> <p>Bob's Your Uncle, Eh? indexes.mrtl.toronto.on.ca/genealogy/index.htm</p>

USERS OF THE ARCHIVES TO DATE IS 352 PERSONS FROM JANUARY TO THE END OF APRIL.

INTERNET HITS SO FAR THIS YEAR NUMBER 6500.

AQUISITIONS

Marriages of Renfrew County 1881—1882 1883 and 1884 .

Holy Trinity Cemetery Pembroke

Calvin United Church Cemetery Pembroke

Leslie United Church Cemetery St Columba's R C Cemetery Pembroke

Britannia United Church History, Mason & Blackwell Family History

Coming Soon

Lanark Census 1842—1901

NEW GRANTS:

Martin Munhall, President of Heritage Renfrew applied for grants from the town of Renfrew, Townships of Admaston, McNab and Horton. Heritage Renfrew received grants from the Townships of Admaston, McNab, and Horton, which will be used to purchase more material for our Archives for use in Genealogical Research. Heritage Renfrew is very appreciative of the support shown by these townships.

Please check your mailing label on this newsletter for the date of your subscription. If you have not paid for 1999, please fill out the Membership Renewal form below and enclose it with your cheque.

Membership Renewal For 1999
Name of Member(s) _____
Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (\$6.00 for individual or couple) Please make cheque payable to Heritage Renfrew, and send , along with this form, to: Membership, Heritage Renfrew , 770 Gibbons Road, Renfrew Ontario, K7V 4H4

heritage renfrew's
home children canada
dave and kay lorente, chair and founders
107 erindale ave, renfrew, ontario, k7v 4g3, canada
phone and fax (613) 432-2486; e-mail <lorente@renc.igs.net>

Your May 1999 Report:

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS ON
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE
WELFARE OF FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS
THE UK GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE - Dec 1998
AND CANADA'S REACTION - Apr 1999

A Misnomer

The title of the report, "*The Welfare of Former Child Migrants*", is misleading. It is, in fact, a complete misnomer.

It suggests that the British Government concerned itself with the interests of child migrants generally, i.e. **all** of the 150,000 children exported from the "Mother Country". **It did not!**

As we feared in 1997 when we faxed Prime Minister Blair to ask that he ensure that Canada was on the agenda, the British were really only concerned with the 7,000 to 10,000 children sent to Australia and New Zealand from 1945 to 1967. The 100,000 sent to Canada before 1939 got token one-hour attention. The 40,000 to 43,000 sent to Jamaica, Valparaiso, Natal, the former Rhodesia, and perhaps elsewhere, got no attention at all.

The British House of Commons invited Home Children Canada to address their investigative Committee in London last May at our own expense. Some think we really received a "dis-invitation". And though two-thirds of the child migrants came to our country, no Home Child from Canada was interviewed by the Committee, but five were flown in from Down Under. The Committee also visited child migrants in Australia and New Zealand for a week, but rejected Home Children Canada's invitation to stop over and meet our "Home Children".

And contrary to some press reports (e.g. **Associated Press**, London, 23 March and the **Toronto Star**, 24 March), the British Government **did not offer an apology** - only "sincere regrets" for a policy they now admit was "misguided" and which caused "irrevocable and irreversible harm" to the child migrants and their descendants. So what did the British Government propose?

The Central Index

The UK has ordered all sending agencies to submit essential data about the children they exported, so that a central UK internet database can serve as a guide to direct inquirers to the sending agency that has the children's files. The sending agencies must do so at their own expense. There is no provision for a defunct agency's data to be submitted. Nor did the Government accept the proposal that special officials (social workers) should be involved to lend

compassionate ears and advice. The Government rather seems to assume that this can all be done on the internet, that all child migrants have computers or access to them, are computer literate and "plugged in". And while it is true that some have family members or friends who are on the internet, the point seems to have been lost on officialdom that Home Children have not talked of their past and even now some will not divulge it to just anybody, even if s/he has a computer. The service the British Government intends to provide will be of some use, but it will be antiseptic and clinically cold - completely lacking the human element we believe is critical in an undertaking that is at once cathartic and therapeutic - i.e. chancing on personal records which are the link to lost family members. Then too, the database information will start with those children born around 1920 so the vast majority of entries of interest to Canadians has been put on the back burner. (We can understand the urgency of doing this, but wish to point out the problem Canadians will have accessing information.)

The Travel Fund

Nor did the UK Government, as the aforementioned media reported, offer "a compensation package". They did offer one million pounds sterling (about \$2.5 million Cdn) to be spent over three years to allow former child migrants who could not otherwise afford to do so, to make a first trip to the UK, to meet close family which is defined as parents, uncles, aunts, and siblings. As far as Canadians are concerned this sounds better than it actually is.

Note: there is no provision for spouses or children or grandchildren to go along to assist our elderly child migrants (average age ca 90). A means test is included in the four page application-to-travel form. Dare we assume that if a child migrant was too poor to travel that his wife or child could afford to pay her way to lend support? There is an assumption too that family has already been located or will be. There is also an assumption that siblings are all in the UK; no consideration is spelled out for child migrants who have no siblings in the UK because they were sent to the other colonies. And how many of our Home Children (average age 90) did the British Government think would be able to take advantage of their kind offer to go back to see their parents, their aunts and uncles?

What is galling about the British proposals is that they so completely ignore Canadians and others. But then their Committee in London gave us very clearly too understand that, as Margaret Humphreys of the Child Migrant Trust said in her book Empty Cradles, and as a Committee implied to us, Canadians are too old to help.

Well, by golly! We don't think that anyone is too old to help. Britain did not bother to explore other avenues of helping. We do think that the UK Government never intended to address our concerns because of numbers, anticipated cost, time and effort - the same reasons they had for not helping their poor and keeping them at home when all this started in 1869. The same reason they had for shipping children out of "the old country" in the first place. It is said that *tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis* - that times change and we change with them - but some things seem to stay the same.

We do want to say that we see some positive things in all this. A completely suppressed episode in British and colonial history has come to the fore for a while. Something is being done, if only

for those who threatened lawsuits. And there are also indications the British Government may have shamed itself into proposing other measures to help Canadians.

The British High Commission has requested from us a list of names and addresses of living Home Children and is even now contacting them and telling them of the British offer. Most will not be able to go - for whatever reason. But they may feel, as one spouse told us, very happy that, though her husband could not go (he had died), others - however few - "could have the joy of seeing the old country again". And we are glad to see that the British High Commission is approaching each individual personally. That human gesture might take some sting out of the Canadian disappointment.

ACCESSING CHILD MIGRANT TRAVEL FUNDS

Because our own records are filed alphabetically by inquirer's name we could not provide the British High Commission with the names and addresses of **all** living Home Children who have been in touch with us. We did send over 130 names and addresses. So we urge you, if you care for a living Home Child or made an inquiry on his or her behalf, to contact Yvonne Rideout at the British High Commission, 80 Elgin Street, Ottawa ON, K1P 5K7 or phone (613) 237-1530 or fax (613) 237-7980. And please send us the Home Child's address too.

It is imperative that you also inform **International Social Service Canada (ISS Canada) at 151 Slater St, Suite 714, Ottawa ON, K1P 5H3; Tel (613) 236-6161; Fax (613) 233-7306.** Director Agnes Casselman and her staff will be receiving all applications and making the decisions on behalf of ISS-UK which has been charged by the British Government with looking after the Child Migrant Travel Fund. They will consider "special cases".

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

Mr Jean-Marc Duval of Foreign Affairs and International Trade chaired the inter-departmental committee that drafted Canada's official response to the British proposals. (This should not be interpreted to mean that Canada still considers its Home Children "foreigners" or trade "commodities".) It must be remembered that Canada is now no longer a British colony and the UK can only "show" the document to Canada and hope that our civil servants and politicians will do something constructive.

Mr Duval has advised us that, among other things, Canada's official response urges the British to spend money to send children of our Child Migrants to the UK too, but that Canada **"will not inject itself into the process"**. Zilch!

But there is a small glimmer of hope! Our government has not yet told us what independent process it **might** set in motion to address Canadian concerns.

We have proposed that in the year 2,000 there be Levee in Ottawa and in the provincial capitals for Home Children and their descendants, that sending agencies be asked to send representatives and that the Government subsidize trips to the UK for Home Children, spouses and children, and waive the rule that relatives have to be alive. We also hoped airlines and sending agencies abroad would be encouraged to cooperate in offering reduced fare for cathartic group trips to the UK or

Australia or wherever siblings were sent. We also asked that a central office be set up in the Ottawa area to do what Home Children Canada is now doing. We are the only pro-active group we know of in the British Commonwealth that dares deal directly with sending agencies.

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

DISPLAYS:

With the permission of the donors we have arranged to loan or donate the following items which we have received in trust to the following exhibits:

1. The **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES DISPLAY and TRAVELLING EXHIBIT** will receive Home Boy George Hall's wooden Barnardo trunk, bible and photos which have been donated by George's son Ed. The items will be on display at Green Gables in PEI this summer and then tour the nation for 5 years. Up their return they will be offered to the Canadian Museum of Civilization. George's bible will also be with display as will a Barnardo Good Service Medal donated by Lyle Lyons.
2. The **PIER 21 PROJECT** in Halifax will receive Harriett Hall's metal Barnardo trunk for its permanent display. Ed Hall also donated this treasured memento of his aunt.
3. **THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION** has also asked for mementos to display and will receive Ed Dash's sturdy Church of England Waifs and Strays trunk, donated by Sarge and Pauline Bampton, and 102-year old Nellie Owen McMaster's Macpherson trunk. These too will be returned and later offered to the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

UP-COMING REUNIONS, GATHERINGS, GET-TOGETHERS, PRESENTATIONS

- May 12: **North York:** Presentation to OGS Branch. cf. Brenda Glendenning (905) 895-4155
13: **Stoney Stratford, England,** Reunion of Fegan Boys. cf. Dick Wright (905) 935-0317
18: **Kanata:** Talk to PROBUS (Pro & Business Club) cf. David Pope (613) 224-0911.

In June we join the Barnardo After Care team of Collette Bradford and Brian Partridge at the following series of events for Barnardo Children and those whose records are held by Barnardos.

- June 05: **Peterborough:** Little Lake Cemetery Chapel all day to meet with those who have already received records from Barnardos.
- 06: **Peterborough:** Little Lake Cemetery: 1 pm: Grave marker rededication
Unveiling of Plaque on site of Hazelbrae Home adjacent Peter Robinson College;
Dedication service at George St United, where Barnardo children once prayed and may still do so w/ Rev Gai Burns, daughter of a Barnardo Girl. cf. Ivy (705) 742-7523
- 07: **Cannington:** Get-together at the Baptist Church, 10 to 1. cf. Dorothy (705) 437-1358
- 07: **Sharon or Newmarket,** evening get-together. cf. Philip Long (905) 478-2360
- 08: **Tillsonburg:** Open House only for those who have received records: 1 to 4
- 09: **Tillsonburg:** Open House for Home Children only 10 to 1:
for all comers from 1 to 4. cf. Bessie (519) 688-0268
- 10: **Vancouver:** Simon Fraser U, Harbour Centre, 1 to 4, for all comers cf. Syd
- 11: **Victoria:** University Halpern Centre, 1 to 4, for all comers cf. Syd (250) 655-1471

June 30: **Ottawa:** Presentation to Kiwanas of Sage
Sept 25: **Ottawa:** presentation to British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa
Sept ? : **Eastern Townships:** Informal drop-in, cf Sarge and Pauline (819) 826-3478
Oct 16: **Mt Sequoia, Fayetteville, Arkansas:** Presentation to Orphan Train Riders Conference

SPECIAL THANKS to our Branch Chairs for hosting the aforementioned events: Ivy Sucee, Dorothy Shier, Bessie Herman, Syd Baker, Pauline and Sarge Bampton, Syd Baker and Lee McAnally. And to Barnardo boy Philip Long.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS..

We close with a letter from the Prime Minister of Great Britain which we received a week too late to be read at last June's Reunion.

FROM PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR of the UK - 1998

It is a great pleasure for me to send my warmest greetings to all those attending the Reunion for Home Children in Canada.

Britain is proud of the achievements of the numerous British children who were emigrated to Canada, who overcame great odds with courage and perseverance. They made a valuable contribution to creating a successful society in a great new country. History will remember the pioneering work of those who went to Canada alone as children or as young people - far from their loved ones, into the unknown, and making the best of the opportunities that arose.

The UK government is glad that our Parliamentary Select Committee is looking at the issue of Home Children, and looks forward to its report to the House of Commons which will be carefully studied.

My best wishes for a rewarding and successful reunion.

* * * * *

In the next newsletter we shall print a letter from the Archbishop of Liverpool, the port whence most child migrants sailed., and another received just last week from our Governor General.

Governor General Le Blanc's letter will be read this summer at all reunions. We also hope to have letters from the Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage.

APOLOGIES..

We have a growing backlog of mail to answer and for this we apologize. There just do not seem to be enough hours in the day to cope with 200+ requests for help each month.