

# Opeongo Lines

SEPTEMBER 1993

FLASH!!!!

GOVERNOR GENERAL TO SEND OPEN LETTER  
TO HOME CHILDREN AT 19 SEPT RENFREW REUNION

Prime Minister considers sending letters too

(Story page 3)



**BARNARDOS REVISITED:** Pictures taken in August 92 of Barnardos Girls' Village, Barkingside, Ilford, England. THOMAS BARNARDO sent 30,000 CHILDREN TO CANADA. His ashes are scattered here. The 'Cottages' will bring back memories to Barnardo girls. Each home had a name and a 'Mum' who looked after 'her children'. Today they are rented out to social agencies. Barnardo's high-walled boys homes were built elsewhere; they all have been destroyed.

16 SEPT MEETING....STEAM SHOW....HOME CHILDREN....FALL COLOURS TRIP

OPEONGO LINES: Heritage Renfrew's Newsletter: September 93

INFORMATION SESSIONS AND  
REUNION OF HOME CHILDREN, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS  
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SUNDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER, 1993  
(Some events on Saturday 18th)

Come on both days if you can but especially on Sunday when an OPEN LETTER FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL RAY HNATYSHYN to HOME CHILDREN and their descendants will be read. Individual letters, citations or certificates may also be available from the Prime Minister.  
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As an extra treat our Home Children activities are scheduled to coincide with Dr. BILL AND RUTH BURWELL's famous Fifth Annual IRON HORSE STEAM SHOW. (You may have seen them on National TV.)

We hope that you will step back in time and see the steam-operated machines with which most living Home Children were familiar. The locomotive, Stanley Steamer, tractors, sawmill, blacksmith shop, etc. - even the apple-corer - are all working and operated by steam-engineers who are also a delight to chat with. Snacks and entertainment also available on site.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

The STEAM SHOW is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. You must provide transportation to and from BURWELL's farm which is about 10 miles out of town. You are also responsible for your own admission: \$4.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child, \$10.00 maximum per family. There is ample parking at the site where the infirm especially can arrange for a free drive in the Stanley Steamer or wagon from the parking lot to the displays (and back later).

On Saturday, DAVE LORENTE will be available at the RENFREW ARCHIVES from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for informal consultation on any matters pertaining to Home Children and how to trace their records. RENFREW ARCHIVES is located in the NATIONAL ARCHIVES Building beside RENFREW INN on Highway 417. Enter via O'Brien Road. At 7.30 p.m. at the same place, Dave will present a slide show on the HISTORY OF HOME CHILDREN for those who might be interested.

On Sunday morning you are free to attend the church service of your choice or visit the STEAM SHOW.

**SUNDAY AGENDA:** REGISTRATION is from 12.00 to 1.30 at ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH HALL. A chance to meet one another, "liaise", and have a coffee. There's plenty of parking at SFX parking lot behind the building and church.

1.30 p.m. Words of Welcome  
1.45 AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

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| 2.50 | Report on the year's activities   |
| 2.00 | <b>HOME CHILDREN AS GUEST SPEAKERS</b>  |
| 3.00 | PANEL OF VOLUNTEERS: HOME CHILDREN AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS (Brief statements; questions from the floor) |
| 3.45 | Tentative plans and suggestions for next year.  |
| 4.00 | Coffee and farewell.  |

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This Invitation to the 1993 Reunion and Information Session on Home Children is longer than usual because it includes a report on the year's activities. We felt those who are not able to be with us would appreciate being informed. The 'news' is in random order except for item 1.

1. That the GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA wrote us an OPEN LETTER is of extreme importance to those who are interested in HOME CHILDREN. The action, as well as the words, give formal approval of our pride in the LITTLE IMMIGRANTS. It is proper and significant, too, that the Queen's representative in Canada should recognize by this gesture the tremendous, if hitherto unsung, contributions of Home Children to our country. The PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE is also considering issuing individual citations, certificates or letters for Home Children and their families. More on this at the Reunion.
2. Over 370 INDIVIDUALS have made requests for free assistance and advice since our first Reunion two years ago. The requests have come from all parts of Canada, the USA, UK, New Zealand, Australia, and even France. (They involve over 500 individuals and lots of letter writing. So don't be surprised if I look perplexed when you meet me and identify yourself. I'm trying to sort out cases in my mind.....Dave)
3. CIRCULATING VIDEO TAPES: Last year we circulated two video tapes showing parts of the 92 REUNION and also the full length film LOST CHILDREN OF THE EMPIRE. Only one returned but we hope to circulate another pair this year if there is interest.
4. CBC (Ottawa) did a TV featurette of KEN DONOVAN and BOB EVANS and me visiting what used to be the ST. GEORGE'S DISTRIBUTION HOME on Wellington Street in Ottawa. The supporting actor was demonstrably weak, but the two stars deserved an Academy Award. We are disappointed that they didn't even get a nomination.
5. Our HC COMMITTEE was mentioned in another national CBC interview about a month ago by MARGARET HUMPHRIES of the CHILD MIGRANT TRUST in England. She was being interviewed about her work in tracing family in the UK for Home Children, especially those sent to Australia. She mentioned that there were only two concerned groups in Canada...ours and the Belleville Museum staff that hosts annual Reunions of Barnardo Children who were distributed from that town. (God, the Devil and the CBC willing, we'll have a copy of that tape to show at our reunion and information session.)
6. I'm told that in that interview (which I did not see) MARGARET HUMPHRIES suggested that some type of restitution or apology should be made to Home Children taken from families without

- their knowledge or permission.
7. **The CBC has been in touch** with us for an opinion on that question and I have not answered beyond saying that the need for some form of restitution seems greater in the case of children sent to Australia and perhaps South Africa than those sent to Canada. (The child migration movement to those countries continued until the late 1960's and so some Home Children there are still in their 20's.)
  8. **BARNARDOS now require that a second special form be signed** before they will release information re Home Children. The Home Child or closest relative must sign a **waiver**. We have copies of the form for those who want them to cut down on turn-around time.
  9. We have been unable to locate information re **CHURCH OF ENGLAND RECORDS**. Westminster presumably sent them to the Bishop of the Quebec Diocese, but exactly when, no one knows. To complicate matters the Archives in Quebec are being moved to Waterville and so it may be some time before individual Bishop's papers are checked out. Both Ontario and Quebec Diocesan Archivists advise they have no separate file on Home Children, but there are files on individuals. You should know that the Ottawa Diocese embraces part of Quebec, so an inquiry to both places may be in order in some cases. Meanwhile, the archivists promise to advise us when they locate the records.
  10. My wife KAY and I spent a **WEEK IN LONDON** last summer researching and visiting organizations that sent over Home Children. We enjoyed a day with **BARNARDOS** and two days with **THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**. The longer time was required at the latter because Canadian RC case records were destroyed about 40 years ago and information is scattered all over. It takes longer to 'learn the ropes' in this case.
  11. On the advice of the **BARBARA MURRAY** of the **CATHOLIC FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY** we purchased a **DIRECTORY** for all of England and Wales. This has already helped us to advise **HOME CHILDREN** of specific addresses and if diocesan or parish boundaries changed over the years. Such changes have been a complicating factor in locating Roman Catholic records especially.
  12. We have **computerized** all information from the **WESTMINSTER LIST** of 2060 RC children sent from Westminster Diocese in London. The CFHS sent us this list; it is the only complete listing any organization has sent us. We are preparing a study of the information which now can be retrieved easily from data base.
  13. We have written federal and provincial MP's to urge them to take some action to **recognize the contribution of Home Children to our country**, if only with a citation that might be framed, or by striking and presenting medals.
  14. We have also **requested** the Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee of Canada Post to issue a **special stamp commemorating the Home Children**. This is a simple way to ensure that Canadians know the story of the 'Little Immigrants' and of the pride they and their descendants have in their contribution to Canadian history. We suggested a Home Child's photo be adapted for philatelic purposes. If you agree that such recognition would be suitable please write to The Chairman,

Stamp Advisory Committee, Canada Post Corporation, Sir  
Alexander Campbell Building, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0B1.

15. Our local member of Parliament, Mr **LEN HOPKINS**, has also petitioned Canada Post and the Honourable **LARRY SCHNEIDER**, Minister responsible for Canada Post, on our behalf. We thank him for his continuing support and for serving so successfully as our **mediator** with Government House and the P.M.O.
16. The **COBDEN SUN**, which did a beautiful coverage of our first Reunion in '91, printed another tasteful page on Home Children for their 1993 **CANADA DAY EDITION**. The editor thought to interview local Home Boy **ART MONK** about how proud and thankful he is to be Canadian. We'll have that page on display at the Reunion. We commend the **COBDEN SUN** for their stroke of 'artful' genius and **ART MONK** for his thoughtful comments and positive point of view.
17. Did you notice the emphasis this year on **REUNION AND INFORMATION SESSIONS**? We got some feedback last year that only Home Children were wanted at the Reunion. Of course that is not true. Naturally, we want Home Children. But we also want the families, descendants and friends of Home Children, members of Heritage Renfrew (THEY sponsor the gathering) - indeed - anyone interested in learning more about the Child Migrant Movement in general and individual cases in particular.
18. We continue to go into **schools** and address **church groups**, **women's institutes**, **service clubs** - anyone who'll listen - to the Home Children story.
19. We have also **written articles** for publications in places as far afield as Sarnia, California and the UK.
20. Several petitioners have joined **HERITAGE RENFREW** (Fee is \$5.00 per annum per individual or married couple) just to get our regular "OPEONGO LINES" newsletters. If you are interested, send your \$5 to Helen Clark, Treasurer of Heritage Renfrew, 135 Quarry St, Renfrew, ON, K7V 2W3. New memberships will be good through to Dec 1994.
21. As part of the 1994 Reunion in Renfrew we are contemplating dedicating a **HISTORIC PLAQUE** to commemorate THE CONTRIBUTION OF HOME CHILDREN TO THE OTTAWA VALLEY. Any suggestions as to a suitable location and text?
22. We are also considering spearheading a movement to have a plaque put up near, at, or in the old **ST. GEORGE'S HOME** in Ottawa and perhaps in **cemeteries** where groups of Home Children are buried in unmarked graves.
23. By the way, if you belong to a **Historical or Heritage Society** in some other locale, perhaps you could put a bug in their ear about such a project. Heritage Renfrew won't mind one bit: "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".
24. We are also contemplating **publication of a book** with emphasis on the stories of Home Children who live(d) in **Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa Valley (both shores)**. All proceeds would go to financing our continuing work assisting Home Children and their descendants to discover their past. Individual's names would be mentioned only with written permission after the person has seen final copy. Of course incidents could be mentioned without using names. We should like to include the experiences

- and concerns of descendants of Home Children; these have never been addressed to my knowledge.
25. Should we not be successful this year in having GOVERNMENT HOUSE, the PMO or the CANADIAN PARLIAMENT issue a CITATION, CERTIFICATE or INDIVIDUAL LETTER (suitable for framing) recognizing the contribution of Home Children to our Canadian society (because we were late in initiating action) we shall renew our request so that the awards might be ready for next year's Reunion.
  26. We are also trying to have a PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL sponsored in the next parliament that would recognize the contribution that HOME CHILDREN and their descendants (11% of our population) have made to this country.
  27. We thank the GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA for his OPEN LETTER commending the accomplishments of Home Children. A copy will be available at the Reunion for everyone present.
  28. Should you not be able to attend and want a copy, please send a large Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to DAVE LORENTE and write "Gov. Gen Letter" on it. (Address below)
  29. We should appreciate hearing your ideas, suggestions and thoughts on this Newsletter and its contents.
  30. We have already VIDEO-TAPED INFORMAL CHATS WITH SEVERAL HOME CHILDREN in their residences and have left them a tape that they can copy and pass on to their descendants. We see this as a tangible way of promoting the proud legacy of the HOME CHILD.
  31. There is NO CHARGE for the service mentioned in para 30, which, by the way, requires no special arrangements on your part at all....nothing to prepare; it's a trip down memory lane. Contact DAVE LORENTE to arrange a time and a place if you are interested in having your Home Child memories taped.

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 For any of the following services, tear off (or duplicate) this portion, check the appropriate box, and return to:  
 Dave Lorente, Chair, Heritage Renfrew Home Children Committee  
 107 Erindale Ave, RENFREW, ON K7V 4G3 (613) 432-2486  
 (A self-addressed and stamped large envelope would be appreciated.)

- Please send an INFORMATION KIT ON TRACING HOME CHILDREN.
- Please send BARNARDO INFORMATION AND WAIVER FORMS
- Please send a copy of the GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LETTER TO HOME CHILDREN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS. The Home Child (Children) in my family is (are):
- Please contact me at the address given below to arrange a VIDEO TAPING of HOME CHILD.....
- YES, I am coming to the 19 SEPTEMBER REUNION & INFORMATION SESSION. There will be a total of \_\_\_\_\_ in my party.

Name.....Address .....

City/Town/RR..... Postal Code..... Phone .....

Home Child's Name:..... (My suggestions for the 1994 Agenda on extra sheet)

**HERITAGE RENFREW ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT MONTH: BUSY TIMES**  
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- 16 SEPT. HERITAGE RENFREW & THE UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL GROUP are co-sponsoring an **OPEN MEETING** at the Renfrew Library Program Centre. Guest Speaker **RON TOZER** will give an illustrated lecture on **100 YEARS OF ALGONQUIN PARK** at 7 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\* Admission & Refreshments \*\*\*\*\*
- 18-19 SEPT. HERITAGE RENFREW'S HOME CHILD REUNION
- 18-19 SEPT. **5th IRON HORSE STEAM SHOW** at Burwell's Farm
- 19 SEPT The **REUNION** portion of our Home Child celebration. Admission free.
- 19 SEPT. Annual **TERRY FOX RUN-WALK-DRIVE**: You can make arrangements to walk **BEFORE** or **AFTER** the Official Terry Fox Marathon if you don't want to miss the **HOME CHILD REUNION** and/or **STEAM SHOW**. Just contact Bob or Marilyn Wallace at 432-5683.
- 2 OCTOBER: **HERITAGE RENFREW ANNUAL FALL COLOURS BUS TRIP**: Celebrate Renfrew County's **FLAMING LEAF**, the 100th ANNIVERSARY OF **ALGONQUIN PARK** and the Opening of the **NEW VISITORS" CENTRE**. \$20 does not include optional breakfast at the Olde Town Hall at 0745 am or lunch at the visitors' Centre in Algonquin Park. Departure: 08:30 a.m. Reserve your seats now with **JOE SHIRLEY** at the **MATTRESS FACTORY**. Information: 432-5815.

**FLASH!!!**

As we go to press we received an Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation grant for \$900 towards the purchase of a copier. If delivery is on time this bulletin will be printed, collated, and addressed in our **RENFREW ARCHIVES** headquarters. Another first for **HERITAGE RENFREW!** Many thanks to the Ministry!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Heritage Renfrew Member **KATHLEEN (WHITTON) RYAN** who was recently awarded the prestigious **LESCARBOT AWARD**, Regional Honours (Silver Medal) for "outstanding and sustained contribution to the cultural life of Ontario". A former Director on the Ontario Heritage Foundation Board, Mrs Ryan established a foundation in 1976 to aid both Queen's Archives and **CFRC AM-FM Radio**, Canada's oldest campus radio station.

**CONGRATULATIONS** too to those responsible for spending our tax dollars so well. The **OTTAWA CITIZEN** of 28 Aug 1993 carries a **CITYSCAPE** column by Rhys Phillips which praises the new **RENFREW COUNTY MUNICIPAL OFFICES AND HEALTH CLINIC** in Pembroke for their functional beauty, their integration into natural surroundings, their low construction cost and their "almost faultless" architectural detailing. Architect was Mychajloweyez Kleinfelt of Toronto.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to **NORM CROWDER** for his interesting book review on Henry Jones' latest tome. A tour de force, as usual, Norm!

*PSYCHIC ROOTS: SERENDIPITY & INTUITION IN GENEALOGY*, 1993. By Henry Z. Jones, Jr. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897 USA. Soft-cover, 6x9 inches, 236 pages, index, \$14.95 US plus \$3.00 postage and handling for first book ordered and \$1.00 for each additional copy.

From time to time I have toyed with the idea of a talk or article on the role of chance in genealogical research. I had even progressed to the point of selecting a title - "Give Lady Luck a Helping Hand." Some examples I had in mind were the following:

(1) Jim Slack of Smiths Falls, Ontario looked in vain for traces of Oliver Church in Lehigh Cemetery in Kitley Township; he was on the point of giving up when he noticed a fallen tombstone. Fortunately he decided to take the trouble to tip it up by using a tire iron and jack and he was rewarded for his efforts with an inscription showing the age and date of death of Margaret Pangborn, wife of Oliver Church.

(2) Aldene Church of Renfrew went to a cemetery in Mallorytown, Ontario searching for information on her Andrews/Andress ancestors. By coincidence while she was there she encountered Minerva Andress with whom she had been corresponding but whom she had never met. The two ladies were able to provide each other with a great deal of information.

(3) Ruth Crowder, my wife, went into the reading room of the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and asked if anyone knew of a house bisected by the Mason-Dixon Line where some of her ancestors had lived. To my amazement, a lady named Mrs. Ruth Kessel immediately answered that she was quite familiar with the house and arranged for us to visit the house and meet the present owners, Mary and Paul Waybright.

Hank Jones, recipient of the Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society, is an outstanding researcher who is noted for his extensive work on the Palatines who came to America. He also has been intrigued by the number of extraordinary coincidences which led to discoveries. Unlike me he did something about his interest in this phenomenon - he wrote to 300 reputable genealogists in Australia, Canada and the United States to ask whether they too had had similar experiences and the majority replied with accounts of amazing research outcomes. Among the respondents were eminent persons such as Nick Vine Hall of Australia, our own Brenda Merriman of Ontario, and P. William Filby of Maryland.

Mr. Jones' work contains scores of incidents illustrating the incredible discoveries made by fluke, chance, hunches, intuition and other means beyond the customary techniques of scientific research. He makes a credible case for his conclusion that "serendipitous and intuitive events do indeed influence our research." He plans to produce a sequel and invites readers to write to him about their experiences - his address is Henry Z. Jones, Jr., P.O. Box 261388, San Diego, CA 92196-1388, USA. I feel sure that many readers of this review have had experiences which would be of interest and I hope they will share them with Hank.

When Hank has received and analyzed the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of letters that will be forthcoming, I hope he will try to identify some recurring features that will help us to develop our abilities to make use of this "sixth sense." In the FOREWORD to the present book, Dr. Helen Hinchliff of British Columbia notes that "feeling about one's ancestors, as well as thinking about them, usually results in a more successful search." I would add that being in the right place is also important and being in the right place is often the result of solid research. In the three cases mentioned at the beginning of this review, Jim Slack, Aldene Church and Ruth Crowder were not in the right place by coincidence - they were there because they had done their homework and had reason to hope for results in those places - the element of luck was in making discoveries at that time. Put it another way, in the words of one of Canada's greatest humourists, Dr. Stephen Leacock: "I am a great believer in luck, and I find that the harder I work the more I have of it."

Finally, for those of you who are curious, Henry Z. Jones, Jr. is indeed Hank Jones the singer and entertainer - he gave up a Hollywood career in order to pursue his interest in genealogy!

Norman K. Crowder  
22 Canter Boulevard  
Nepean, Ontario, Canada  
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