

OPEONGO LINES

The Voice of Heritage Renfrew - *Saving Yesterday for the Future*

October 1995

THE NEWS IN BRIEF:

MARY COOK TO READ IN RENFREW'S O'BRIEN
THEATRE

RENFREW PREPARES FOR YET ANOTHER
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

ROYALTY SENDS GREETINGS TO OUR HOME
CHILDREN REUNION

NORM CROWDER UNEARTHS A VINTAGE PAGE OF
RENFREW HISTORY

THE IRISH MAKE IT EASIER

NOVEMBER IS INFORMATION MONTH

MARY COOK READS...

2 p.m. Sunday 22 Oct 1995

at the O'Brien Theatre

Admission: Adults \$10, Students \$3, children under 6 accompanied by an adult FREE

She has regaled you on CBC radio for over thirty-five years. You have read her books, including *One for Sorrow, Two for Joy, View from the Hill*, and, most recently, *Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire*. Now come and meet her in person at the O'Brien Theatre.

Mary Cook, the Admaston girl, has delighted Canadian audiences everywhere with her nostalgic trips down memory lanes in and around Renfrew. Now, thanks to Heritage Renfrew and courtesy of Murry Adolf she will be walking the boards of the movie house she will no doubt recall in her own inimitable way.

There'll be a sing-song with Ron Lavigne at the key-board. Valley carver Dub Jube will present a miniature of his Shantyman to Garret Dowd who won the Name-the-Shantyman Contest sponsored by Heritage Renfrew.

Mary's publisher will be there and she will be glad to meet you and autograph a copy of her latest book.

All proceeds to the Shantyman Statue Fund.

RENFREW 100 CELEBRATIONS

Friday Oct 20, 1995

Q. Quick now, what do 1923, 1958 and 1995 have in common for Renfrewites?

A. They are all years in which we celebrate Renfrew centennials:

- 1923 was the 100th anniversary of our founding.
- 1958 marked the centennial of our becoming a village.
- 1995 marks the centenary of our becoming a town.

The Day Program (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) starts with a bang at the Armouries.

- Town Crier Jack Lockwood and his cannon get things moving.
- Schools and local groups show their active and passive displays.

The Evening Program (6 p.m. to) is also at the Armouries:

- Renfrew Highland Pipe and Drums Band in concert with Clark Smith, Pipe Major
- The Renfrew Pipe Band escorts the welcoming party.
- The RCI Jazz Band entertains during the social hour.
- Jack, his cannon and Heritage Renfrew's Don Campbell start the dinner at 7 p.m.
- Buffet supper
- Salute to the Cultural Mosaic of Renfrew

Admission is by ticket only; Get yours from Aikenhead's, Sidney's or Pharma Plus.

PRINCESS DIANA SENDS GREETINGS TO HERITAGE RENFREW'S HOME CHILDREN REUNION IN BELLEVILLE

Another first for Heritage Renfrew! Home Children and their descendants gathering in Belleville to celebrate Heritage Renfrew's 5th Annual Reunion on 16 September were

THE IRISH MAKE IT EASY...OR EASIER!

In 1922, during still another chapter of 'the troubles' in Ireland, the Dublin Public Records Office was damaged and irreplaceable census records were lost. To make the genealogist's task even harder, many church records could - until recently - only be accessed with a letter of permission from the local pastor. Some other documents did exist, however, that provided useful substitute data but they were scattered all over the country. Enter the Irish government.

About a decade ago, in an effort to make work for university history students with computer expertise, a Genealogical Project was started. Each county was commissioned to start a centre at which local information could be gathered and put on a database. Griffith's Valuation, the Applotment of Tithes, wills, military and prison lists, and virtually all the church records from every denomination were entered. Even those lists which were previously so hard to access have since been made available. So, is this the end of the project? No!

Inquirers bring even more information when they make requests for family searches. So the database continues to grow. Inquirers also pay a fee - about 30 to 35 Irish punts - for a search (1 Irish Punt = \$2.20 Cdn). Policy has not been standardized throughout the country as yet, but Co Limerick will not accept your money until they know a search is feasible.

Your editor knew the names of his Irish predecessor's parents when he visited the Limerick Archives in July. In micro-seconds he had the names and birthdates of the children who remained behind when their two brothers came to Canada during the Famine. With that information he was able to contact a family historian who turned out to be a remote cousin. Paddy had records that showed my Irish ancestors settled in the Shannon area in the late 1600's. All this in a few hours. But I am still waiting for the results of my 'computer search'. Turn-around time is 3 months or more.

For more information and the proper address to write to in each county in Ireland, contact the editor.

NOVEMBER IS INFORMATION MONTH AT RENFREW ARCHIVES

Watch your newspapers and TV bulletin boards for the dates of two information nights for would-be directors of Heritage Renfrew. These will be followed over the winter months by a series of sessions open to all members on how to use our facilities. There will be a strong genealogical and historical slant to these free sessions.

ACQUISITIONS:

Besides the two Barnardo trunks, we have also acquired the list of almost 4,000 Home Children sent to Gibbs Home in Sherbrooke by the Anglican Church Waifs and Strays organization.

We also now have 1871 Census Indices to Renfrew and the North and Ottawa-Carleton. We shall have those for Perth and Lanark in a few weeks. Each Index is a roadmap - an invaluable finding aid - in locating heads of families and 'strays' so that no time is lost when perusing the actual census.

Mr C.R.L. Farr has donated a set of complete documents for the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Scotch Bush starting in 1887. These include births, marriages and deaths, deed of land, and minutes. Mr Farr did not want to change the nature of the photocopies he has provided. He has, however, more information, especially on the McMaster and Livingstone families and he invites your inquiries. Address is Charles Robert Clinton Farr, 106 Laurentian Dr, Petawawa ON, K8H 2M- (Tel 687-5648)

MEMBERSHIP:

Gordon Cross, our membership chairman, is anxious to sell you your 1996 membership as soon as possible. The \$5 per married couple fee is probably the best buy in town. Gordon can be reached at (613) 432-4837. Send your cheques to Gordon at 35 Barnet Blvd, Renfrew ON, K7V 2M5.

We appreciate your input, recommendations and suggestions about this and other Newsletters.

Dave Lorente, Editor
107 Erindale Ave, Renfrew ON
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1ST BATT.—RENFREW.

Lieut. Colonel:
Alex. MacdonellDec. 2, 1846
Major:
John MartinJune 23, 1847
Captains:
John McDougall do do
William Morris do do
Andrew Russell do do
John McNab do do
Henry Airth do do
Gerard McCrae do do
William Forbes do do
Lieutenants:
William McAdam...Mar. 17, 1817
George Ross do do
James Scott June 23, 1847
Robert McIntyre do do
Thomas O'Neil do do
Hugh Dickson do do
Ensigns:
Donald McNaughton. Mar. 17, 1847
Michael Roddy June 23, 1847
Thomas Ellis do do
Thomas Costello do do
William Halliday do do
John Paris do do
Adjutant:
Ensg. Thos. Ellis.... do do
Surgeon:
Donald McGillis do do

Major: Date of Com.
Louis M. CoutlieMay 26, 1847
Captains:
Caleb S. Bellows do do
John Sipple do do
Alexander Moffatt ... do do
John Passar do do
Hugh Carmichael ... do do
Archibald Patterson.. do do
Peter White June 8, 1849
Lieutenants:
Rony Dunlop May 26, 1847
Ehpraim Olmsted .. do do
John McLaren do do
D. Campbell Dunlop. May 5, 1848
Hiram Chambertin .. do do
Ensigns:
Elias Moore do do
Edward Burke do do
Elliot Johnston do do
Ira Mason do do
John King do do
Walter Macdonald... June 8, 1849
William Moffatt do do
Edward Brown do do
Robert Smith do do
Adjutant:
Ensg. W. Macdonald. do do
Surgeon:
John Judge May 5, 1848

2ND BATT.—RENFREW.

Lieut. Colonel:
Andrew DicksonJan. 6, 1847

delighted to have as guest speaker Collette Bradford, Head of After Care at Barnardos. Collette surprised everyone (well, almost everyone) by bringing special greetings from Princess Diana. Diana, who has had a long involvement with children and the underprivileged, is President of Barnardos, the largest child welfare organization in the British Isles.

At a Gala in England this past summer, 3,000 Home Children celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas John Barnardo whose organization sent 30,000 children to Canada. At the end of festivities the Chairperson of Heritage Renfrew's Home Children Committee was made an Honourary Barnardo Old Boy - only the 40th to receive that honour in the long history of Barnardos. He used the occasion to inquire if Princess Diana might be asked to send greetings to the September Reunion because, in the past, we had already received letters from two Governors General and Prime Minister Chretien. We did not know until the day before the Reunion that our prayers had been answered.

OTHER HOME CHILDREN NEWS:

2,000 INQUIRIES AND COUNTING

The Home Children Committee is now corresponding with almost 1400 inquirers. Another 700 have received our research kits. It is getting too costly to print newsletters and mail them to everyone, so this year we targeted the Reunion area and sent letters to all Home Children and descendants who had become members of Heritage Renfrew.

1996 REUNION TO BE IN TORONTO

In keeping with our policy of bringing the Reunion to where the Home Children are we shall hold the 1996 Reunion in Toronto where two major agencies had their headquarters. More on dates and location later.

RENFREW HOME CHILD'S TRUNK DONATED TO HERITAGE RENFREW

Ed Hall has donated to Heritage Renfrew the Barnardo trunks that held all the earthly possessions of his father and aunt when they came to Canada. We will keep them in trust and donate them to the National Museum of Civilization when they arrange for a permanent display of Home Children memorabilia.

Oldtimers will remember feisty little George "Shorty" Hall. (Nobody called him "Shorty" to his face except, perhaps his fellow 'old sweats' who honoured him with a special night at the Renfrew Legion years ago.) As a child, George probably had to make the box himself. It is a doubly interesting artifact because he had at one time kept track of his finances on the inside cover. His sister's trunk - of later vintage - was made of metal. In later years home boys often referred to their trunk as their "tool box".

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? THE BARNARDO MUSEUM IN ENGLAND HAS NO HOME CHILD'S TRUNKS TO DISPLAY

...that's wooden trunks or metal trunks, of course...the containers that carried the Home Child's every possession of the new land. Barnardos was so busy having them made, filled, and shipped out with their 30,000 children to Canada that they forgot to keep a memento for their museum.

Heritage Renfrew hopes that someone, somewhere, will donate a wooden trunk and a metal one to Heritage Renfrew who will make it available to Barnardos in England for their new museum.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES...A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF

BARNARDOS HOMES is now available from Barnardos in Barkingside. If you want a copy send a money order for 10 Pounds Sterling to Collette Bradford, Head of After Care, Barnardos, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG England. There are about 25 pages of text and the rest features photos of 300 homes scattered about the UK and British Empire of the day.

NORM CROWDER UNEARTH'S A PAGE OF VINTAGE RENFREW MILITARY HISTORY

When Renfrew's Norman Crowder moved to Ottawa and took up genealogy his wife Ruth sometimes allowed that he spent so much time at the National Archives that they both might have given the NAC address inadvertently when they were asked where he lived. Norm's car licence plates even have the letters NAC on them, but he says that's coincidence.

It is not coincidence that while delving deep into the dark recesses of the NAC in arduous pursuit of tidbits of information on Chelsea Pensioners, Norm chanced on pages from a drill book that included the 1851 Militia List of officers of the 1st and 2nd Renfrew Battalions. (See last page of this newsletter)

We congratulate Norm on his find and thank him for sharing it with us. Renfrew natives with deep pioneer roots will be especially grateful.

ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION TO ERECT FIRST PROVINCIAL HOME CHILD PLAQUE AT ST GEORGE'S HOME IN OTTAWA IN 1996

The OHF has accepted Heritage Renfrew's suggestion that a provincial plaque be erected at what used to be St George's Distribution Home in Ottawa. This will be the first such provincial plaque in Canada.