

# THE OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW ISSUE 11, MAY 2002



## Message from the President

The New Year 2002 has been filled with many activities at Heritage Renfrew. In January we had our Annual Meeting at the Atrium of the National Archives building. Our guest speaker was Jim Ferguson. His talk on wild birds in this area and the type of feeders and food to use was very interesting. The Nominating Committee introduced a new slate of officers. Refreshments were served and door prizes won.

A recent acquisition on display at the annual meeting was a collection of unidentified photo-

graphs taken by an early Renfrew photographer, Joseph McNeil, between 1892 and 1899. As a result of this publicity several of the photographs were identified.

The next event on our 2002 calendar was the celebration of Heritage Week, February 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. With the help of Her Worship the Mayor, Sandi Heins, and members of the board of directors, the Heritage Renfrew flag was raised at the Renfrew Town Hall. Our Heritage Luncheon on February 18<sup>th</sup> was very successful with the number attending somewhat higher than last year. I would like to thank all our members and volunteers who assisted in making this event run smoothly.

The job of keeping our Archives organized and our material in good condition is very demanding. Our volunteers do a lot of this work, but somehow we never get caught up. Fortunately in March we hired the services of a Co-op Education student, Jodie Yantha. She has computer skills and is doing a variety of jobs organizing and entering information into our computer.

The first week of April was Archives Awareness Week. This year, for the first time, we held an Open House on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and were very pleased

with the attendance. A number of people came to look at the place for the first time and stayed to do some research. Volunteers were on hand to assist those who visited.

We have a number of events in the planning stages for the remainder of the coming year. These include a fall bus trip probably in September.

Our facilities will remain open all summer, weekdays from 9am to 5pm. Usually you will find a volunteer present but if you wish help in your research our phone numbers are listed in the Newsletter and on our website. Someone will be available to help you.

Have a wonderful summer!

## HELP WANTED!

Would you like to spend some of your spare time working in the Renfrew Archives?

Contact: [renarch@renc.igs.net](mailto:renarch@renc.igs.net)

## Heritage Meeting

Join us every first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., in the Heritage Room at the Renfrew Archives, Gibbons

## Renfrew Archives Central

### Executive

#### President

Jim MacGregor .....613-432-9566

#### Past-President

Martin Munhall .....613-432-2225

#### Vice-President

Mary Hass .....613-432-5104

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Darlene Mask.....613-432-6242

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#### Home Children

Dave Lorente.....613-432-2486

#### Research

Darlene Mask.....613-432-6242

#### Directors

Vaughn/ Grace Simmons613-432-2376

Brian/Doris Long .....613-432-0887

Stella Laviolette .....613-432-7722

Helen Clarke .....613-432-4523

Irene Rekowski .....613-432-3423

Margaret McLaren .....613-432-9626

Audrey Green.....613-432-4354

Mary McCann .....613-432-2135

#### Past Presidents

#### Advisory Committee

Kaye Golinger Lorente

Les Church

Marge Lindsay

Dorothy Skinner

John Steele

Doris Humphries

#### Honorary Directors

Carol McCuaig

Hank LeGris

#### Wonderful Antidote. . .

Overheard: "My great-grandfather came to the United States seeking freedom. It didn't work. My great-grandmother came over on the very next boat."

*Wisconsin Chronicle*

## Heritage Highlights

### Heritage Luncheon

Over 100 people attended our annual luncheon in February. Stella Laviolette, Grace and Vaughan Simmons put together another interesting display on the theme of "Industry".

Dave Lorente, representing "Home Children" had a display board with all the Co-op Student photographs in an attempt to identify persons. His efforts were rewarded.

### Co-op Student

Jodi Yantha is with us until the end of the school year. She has converted the Admaston 1861 Census information from microfilm to hard copy. Her next project is to transcribe the Renfrew and Area Census making this information more accessible to the public.

### Bromley Historical Society

Ten residents were recently elected as directors of the newly formed Bromley Historical Society. They were appointed at a public meeting held at the Barr Line office. The committee's objective is to preserve the Osceola Twp. Hall which had served

as the township's only municipal building from about 1864. The building had been refurbished with a centennial grant in 1967. The committee will also try to gather and preserve the history, pictures and artifacts of the township. Contacts are:

#### President

Terry O'Gorman..... 646-7755

#### Treasurer

Mrs. Ross McDonald.. 646-7467

### Did You Know . . .

*... how Grandmother's Day started?*

President of Beachburg Institute Mrs. A. M. Mclean, of Beachburg, came up with an idea of honoring grandmothers who knitted hundreds of pairs of socks and together with other comfort articles, and sent to our men on the battlefields during WWI. Mrs. McLean honored all grandmothers as guests, to a special meeting held on May 24th 1919, the day of one of the world's most honored grandmothers, the late Queen Victoria. Other Institutes caught on quickly, thus the day.

*(Renfrew Advance, June 22-1950)*

## Annual Fall Bus Trip

**Who:**..... YOU and your guide

**What:** .....Guided tour of Laurier House & Kingsmere

**Where:** .....Ottawa and Gatineau Park

**When:**..... September 19th, 10:00am

**How much:** ..... \$15-\$20/person

**Departing from the National Archives, Gibbons Rd., Renfrew (Watch for more information in The Renfrew Mercury!)**

## Research

### **Kohnke (Khunke)**

Fran Grunewald writes that she is searching her great-grandparents homestead near Douglas, Ontario. They immigrated from Germany in the 1800's. Anyone may contact her by writing to Box 374, Ke-  
eqatin, Ontario, POX ICO.

### **Marple Hill**

Thomas Marple came from Scotland in 1904-05. He came to Renfrew area around 1911 with his wife Poly Hill in Renfrew, Ontario. Anyone with information can contact [ddmask@aol.com](mailto:ddmask@aol.com)

### **Grych (Gregg) - Kunopaski (Konapacki)**

Is anyone searching these families? In particular around Round Lake, Killaloe, Wilno area. Any information will gladly be received and exchanged. Please contact [ddmask@aol.com](mailto:ddmask@aol.com)

### **Hudson-Brandy**

Grandfather John Brandy first married to a Hudson. Daughter Mary Gladys Brandy born June 25, 1909. Her mother died in childbirth about 1914. John Brandy married the 2nd time to Bertha Spinks of Almonte.

## Electronic Newsletter!!

Please send us your e-mail address if you would like to receive *Opeongo Lines* electronically via e-mail. Send us your request to [Renarch@renc.igs.net](mailto:Renarch@renc.igs.net)

Anyone with information can contact [lyttlegroup.msn@attcanada.net](mailto:lyttlegroup.msn@attcanada.net)

### **Behan**

Looking for any information on Mary Alice Cameron and a James Behan. They were married September the 5th, 1860 in a Catholic church in Lapasse. Who were their parents? When and where were they born? If you can help, please contact Sheila at [behan@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:behan@mb.sympatico.ca)

### **Killaloe's O'Connor's**

Looking for the history of my family in the Ottawa Valley. You say, which one?

My great grandfather died when the children were very young and grandmother Annie O'Brien sent the kids off to various family farms in the area. If you can help with any facts about this family, please let me know. Please contact Timothy Andrews at [erbisgod@hotmail.com](mailto:erbisgod@hotmail.com)

### **Curran**

Looking for Michael Curran who died in 1875 and Lawrence Hickey who died after 1875. If anyone can help, contact [Ddermc@aol.com](mailto:Ddermc@aol.com)

### **Clem**

Wanting connection with persons in Renfrew to hear news from home. Interested in the home hockey teams and misses the Renfrew paper and radio stations. Has background in Renfrew. If you want to connect. [clemosh@aol.com](mailto:clemosh@aol.com)

## Sites to check

**Renfrew County Website**  
[www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca](http://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca)

**Arnprior and District Archives**  
[p.hessel@arnprior.com](mailto:p.hessel@arnprior.com)

**Upper Ottawa Valley Group (Pembroke)**  
[uovgg@valleynet.on.ca](mailto:uovgg@valleynet.on.ca)

**Leeds and Grenville Branch**  
[www.cybertap.com/genealogy/](http://www.cybertap.com/genealogy/)

## Bygone Days

### **We Thought the Summer of 1992 Was Bad!**

The year 1816 is legendary. It has been called the year without a summer. Between May and September, a series of cold waves chilled the St. Lawrence Valley. From June 6 to 10, southern Quebec was covered by nearly a foot of snow. Drifts reaching "to the axle trees of carriages". Frost in June blackened crops and produced thick ice on ponds, trapping waterfowl. Chilly mornings in July and August slowed growth, and hard frosts on September 11, 12 and the 27th put an abrupt end to the growing season.

People have thought the abnormal weather resulted from an increase in sunspot activity, changes in the phase of the moon or earthquakes. Actually, climatologists believe the eruption of the Tamboro volcano east of Java, ejected 150 million tonnes of dust, ash and cinders into the atmosphere. The resulting veil reflected solar radiation back to space and indirectly chilled the earth.

*The Climates of Canada  
Supply and Services Canada.*

## Don't Forget!

Sebastopol Heritage and Historic Society are having an "Old Fashioned Picnic", Saturday afternoon, August 17, 2002 at Whispering Pines Campsite.

### Getting Started

The first step in genealogy is to talk to family members and learn as much as possible about your family's history. Assemble names, dates and places from old family documents such as bibles, wills, marriage certificates, etc. Record each generation, starting with yourself and working backwards from the present.

Next, visit your local library and consult genealogy handbooks. Learn what sources exist for genealogical research and where to find the records.

Besides regular meetings and publications, genealogical societies offer seminars and workshops, which are helpful for both beginners and experienced researchers. Many societies also sell family group sheets and pedigree charts on which family information can be recorded.

*Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada*  
National Archives of Canada

## New Membership & Renewal Form

*Annual membership fees are now due! For the year 2002 they remain at \$10.00*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

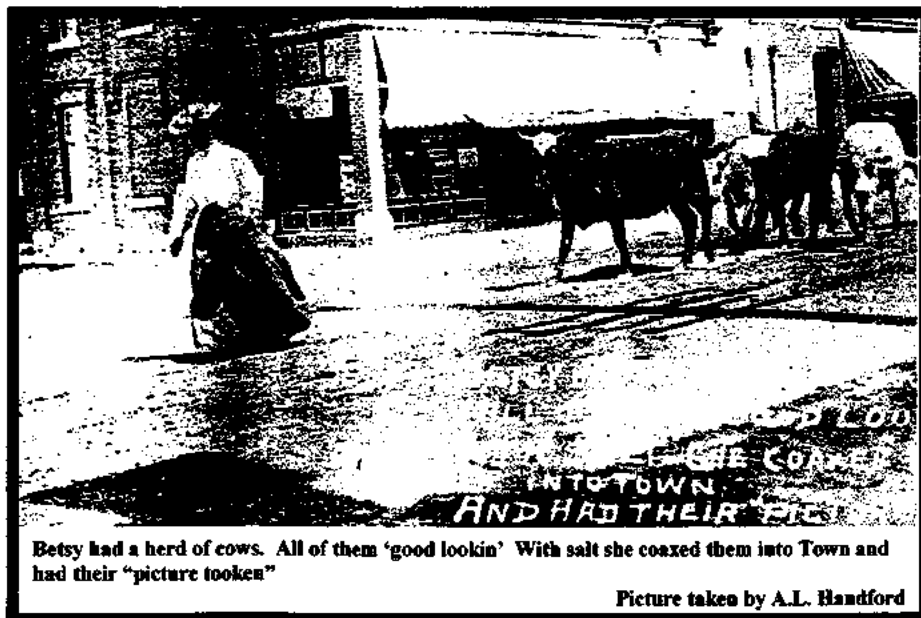
For Year \_\_\_\_\_

New

Renew

Home Children

Mail to: Heritage Renfrew Archives  
Membership Chairperson  
Box 1009  
Renfrew Ontario  
CA K7V 4H4



Betsy had a herd of cows. All of them 'good lookin' With salt she coaxed them into Town and had their "picture taken"

Picture taken by A.L. Handford

### Handford's Corner, 1907

by Harry Hinchley

This view of the corner of Raglan and Renfrew Streets is from a picture post card mailed in 1907. Except for alterations at the Bowlodrome and Donaldson's drug store, the scene is still much the same.

In 1907, the Millinery Opening with the appearance of the new ladies' hats was a sure sign of spring. Mackay Brothers ran a two column ad in the Mercury

telling of the event which ran for three days in the last week of March.

The ad pictures "Milan hats in mushroom and sailor shapes". It stated that "poke hats were exceedingly becoming." It also stated that "flop shapes are still the most popular with the young idea."

The hat worn by the lady in the photograph has been described as a "leghorn". And with it, she was said to have been wearing an alpaca (or was it bombazine?) balloon skirt.

With this, along with her white blouse, she was considered to have been attired in the height of fashion.

Now, the above is submitted without prejudice because on the matter of ladies' fashions, our usual informants on Renfrew's past are understandingly uncommunicative. But of one thing we can be sure — in 1907 a post card went for 1¢

*Renfrew Mercury, 1906*

# HOME CHILDREN CANADA

*The Voice of Child Migrants in Canada  
Helping You help yourself*

by Dave and Kay Lorente, Founders  
<lorente@sympatico.ca>



## UPDATE 2002 - Issue #2

Heritage Renfrew's OPEONGO LINES - April 2002

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### 1. A Reminder about Requests re accessing Records

As of last January 1, John Sayers and the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa have taken over the task of responding to queries re accessing records. John and his volunteers compiled the Canadian Index of Home Children for the National Archives. Contact John at 2157 Fillmore Crescent, Gloucester (Ottawa) ON, K1J 6A1 or <sayersji@sympatico.ca>. For more on BIFHSGO and John and his group's work, read **YOU TELL US**, (article 17b).

### 2. Barnardos Are Coming!....Barnardos Are Coming!....

Barnardos After Care Team will again be in Canada this year to make a concentrated effort to visit surviving Home Children. If you know of a Home Boy or Girl who has not been visited you should contact Anne Newill as soon as possible. Anne heads the Child Migrant Team at Barnardos After Care Centre, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Essex, UK, IG6 1QG, Tel 011-44-208-498-7370, Fax 011-44 or e-mail: [annenewill@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:annenewill@barnardos.org.uk). Web: [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk). If you want a poster for your local post office, library or archives ask Anne to send some.

### 3. About the Importance of Precedents:

We have always 'preached' that Child Migration to Canada (1869-1948) should be seen in historical context and that it was not simply a phenomenon that blossomed when Maria Rye brought the "first children" in the late 1860's. It actually started in 1618 when the Virginia Tobacco Company requested that destitute children be scooped up from London Streets and sent to work on plantations in what is now the USA. They were paid in tobacco, by the way. Children could also be ordered with supplies from England by 'planters' in remote Atlantic coastal areas. And there were other instances. We recently received from Barb Young, an ad which **The Children's Friend Society** placed in the **Missiskoui Standard** in Frelighsburg, Que in April 1836 more than a century and a half ago. (We probably filed it with everything else under "M" for Miscellaneous. When it 'surfaces' we'll run it.)

And did you ever wonder about the conditions in England that prompted good people like the Children's Friends Society to send children abroad? Well, consider that in the UK "in 1839 the average age of death was 26.6 in rural areas and 19 in cities....that it was common to farm out unwanted babies to foster mothers who might keep dozens at a time, half-starved and doped up on 'syrup of poppy'....If they survived to six or seven they were often sold into trades....That middle class people were three to four inches taller than the poor." (Globe & Mail, May 1994.)

**4. The Golden Bridge - Mari Kohli's New Book - Watch for it soon:**

Marj is known to all of you with computers for her excellent website on juvenile migration. You may not know that she is one of our loose confederation of more than 20 Home Children Canada branch chairs across Canada, and even more important, that she has just finished compiling a compendium of child migrant lore that is absolutely invaluable. This is a book that you will pick up over and over again. So watch for The Golden Bridge at a bookstore near you. The Foreword is by someone called Lorente but do not let that dissuade you from investing in the book.

**5. International Congress on Child Migration, New Orleans, October 27-31, 2002**

We have submitted a 300-word Draft Proposal titled *A Canadian Perspective*. If it is accepted we have asked that we deliver a presentation at a plenary session of the Congress, because the theme "Return, Reunite & Reconcile" and other factors seems to suggest the organizers have a myopic and tunnel vision of the history of child migration. Canada received 100,000 of the 150,000 children Britain exported, yet no Canadian is on either of the two boards. The Steering Committee is represented by 6 Britons, 1 Australian and 1 American (a Producer for 60 Minutes). The 'Scientific Committee' has 8 Britons, 3 Americans, 3 Australians, 1 Frenchman, and 1 Norwegian with 2 members to be appointed later. Readers will perhaps remember reading in a past issue of *Opeongo Lines* "Update" our concerns about the timing and place of this congress. More on this in a future issue of UPDATE.

**6. On a Related Matter - 60 Minutes II on the Australian Child Migrants**

Sixty Minutes recently ran another exposee on this topic in early February and mentioned the probability of a lawsuit against the British Government which you read about for the first time in one of our past newsletters.

**7. "Going Home: -a Great North TV Production on The Life Channel in May**

Follow Home Boy Ken DONOVAN's three adult children to Wales in search of their father's past, then meet Ken, who was not up to travel abroad, when he takes them to a farm he was placed at outside Ottawa and meets, for the first time in over 50 years, the farmer's two daughters whom Ken remembers as two very young girls. The program airs in the Life Network at 7pm on Friday May 10 and on Sunday May 12 at 12:30 and 4:30 pm. EST.

**8. Were you born in the province of Quebec? If so, you may not be able to get a passport**

....unless you get a brand new birth registration certificate. Because of the fraudulent ease with which those outside the law accessed real Canadian Passports for terrorists and others, Quebec baptismal certificates and some birth registration certificates will no longer suffice to get passports for those who were born in the Province of Quebec and wish to travel/research abroad. So contact 418-643-3900 (Quebec City) or 514-864-3900 (Montreal) now. It is an inconvenience to be sure, but it is best to get in line now instead of at the last minute. I'll be right there with you!

**9. The British Government's Offer of a First Free Trip Back to the UK is now over.**

In excess of 300 former child migrants from the Antipodes which received about 10,000 children were able to make the trip back but fewer than 10 home children from Canada were accepted. Canada received 100,000 of the 150,000 children Britain exported. Home Children Canada was involved in some way in each of our cases including a last minute application. (cf paras 10 & 17a)

**10. Three Home Boys will be making their first trip back in May:** Art MONK of Beachburg in the Ottawa Valley, Ernest TODD of Chilliwack BC, and John FOX of Elora, ON. We wish them and their escorts a *Tres Bon Voyage*. We hope to print their impressions in the future.

**11. Pictures of Roman Catholic Home Children sent through St George's Home, Ottawa**  
In 1998 Pat McEvoy (Liverpool, Nugent Care Society) and Joyce Carroll (Birmingham, Fr Hudson Society Archives) gave us copies of over 150 photos of Home Children which they found in Father Hudson's personal photo albums. Father George was obviously a favourite of the boys and girls he brought over. Many couples waited until he came on one of his regular trips to have him marry them at the Ottawa 'Home' or to have their children baptized. They kept in touch and sent him studio pictures or snaps of themselves as they grew older. It is interesting to note that, at a time today when we hear so much of abuse by clergy, that the album contained a clipping from a Liverpool newspaper (The Universe) reporting that after making seventeen trips to Canada with home children Fr Hudson could report that fourteen of his boys had entered the priesthood, that some were already pastors, that fifty girls had become nuns and that on his arrival in Ottawa he was already booked to perform four marriages. Such positives are worth noting.

The pictures often depict the child migrants with their families or with the nuns and/or Fr Hudson at St George's, or show the boys in uniform before going off to war. Some are poignant indeed. A few are not identified by full names or any names at all. An alphabetical list follows: (Note that: a) some individuals named are shown only in groups; b) many group photos are not listed because individuals are not identified; c) the MONTCLARE, METAGAMA and MONTCALM are ships; d) three girls are known only by first names and another is called Tall Girl. When time and funds are available we shall present duplicates to the National Archives, National Library and BIFHSGO so that copies of individual photos will be available to relatives.

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## **FR. HUDSON'S PHOTOS: HOME CHILDREN sent to ST GEORGE'S HOME**

*Note: This list is copyrighted and is not to be copied in any way without permission of Home Children Canada founders.*

ALLEN Bernard, BANNON Maureen, BARRY Edward, BELL Katie, BLAKEMORE John, BREEN Frances, BREEN Mary, BRISCOE William, BROMLEY Mary, BROPHEY Jos, BRUETON Horace, BURKE Winnie, BURREL Amos, BUSBY Thomas, CAINE Mary, CAINE Edith, CANNING George, CARVER Nellie, CHILDS William, CHILDS Billy, CHILDS Denis, CLARKE Nancy, COINER/CORNER Edith, COLES John, COLESHILL BOYS 13, COLLINGWOOD Mary, COLLINS James, CONCANNON ?, CORNER Edith, COUGHLAN ?, COURTNEY Kathleen, COWKEY see GOWKY, COWKEY/GOWLEY Grace, CRADDOCK Edith, CROTTY John, CURTIS Kath, DAVITT Nellie, DELANEY ?, DELUCA Florence, DELUCA Alfred, DEVANEY Michael George, DUDDIE Elizabeth, DUDDIN, Elizabeth, DUGGAN Georgina, DUNNE Josephine, DUNNE J, ECKERSLEY Lilly, EMERITIA/EMERINTIA Sister, EVANGELIST Mother/Sister, FAGA Margaret, FARNDON Robert, FARRELL Norah, FINN Mabel, FISHER Phil, FOY see RYDER Mary Mr & Mrs, FRANCIS Sister/Mother, GARRET Arthur W.A., GARVEY nee McCANN family, GASKELL

Mary, GIBBON Christine & husband HARRISON George GILMARTIN M, GLANON Gwen, GOWKY/COWKEY Grace, GRAHAM Nora, GRAHAM Dolly, GROUP on St George Veranda, GROUP aboard ship 27 June 1928, GROUP of 3 girls, GROUP aboard ship 1926, GROUP of Nuns and others, GROUP aboard ship at Montreal, 1921, GWYMAR L/C 50 (Killed Mar 1915), HANKOW Helen, HARRIS Norah, HARRISON Christie see GIBBON, HIGGINS Annie, HILDA Agnes, HILL Ellen, HODGETTS George, HOYLE Agnes, HUDSON Fr at PHIPPS-MENARD wedding, HUDSON Fr George, HUGHES Jos, HULME Thomas, HUSSEY Joey, JARED Kathleen, JARED Elizabeth, JENNINGS Teresa, JONES Henry Joseph, KANE Williams, KEANE Mary, KEARN Thomas, KELLY Winnie, KELLY John, KELLY see LEMOINE, KENNEDY Winnifred, KING May, LAST Ethel, LAST Pretoria, LEMOILIE see LEMOINE, LEMOINE Winnie (nee KELLY), LEMOINE Marg, LEMOINE Teddy, LOFTUS Charles, LUCA Martha, LUCAS Eileen, MADDEN Mgt, MAGDALEN Sister, MAGEE see McGEE, MAGEE Mrs Albert's baby, MAGUIRE Paddy, MAGUIRE Mary, McCANN Katie & husband McCANN James, McCANN see GARVEY, McCANN Jamie, McCOY Francis, McFARLANE Lizzie, McGEE baby, McGUIRE Winnie - see KELLY, McKENZIE Doug, McMAHON Edward, MEEHAN Mary, MENARD see PHIPPS, METAGAMA Group 10 May 1929, MIDDLE T, MILLER Evelyn, MONTCLARE Group, 1925, MONTCLARE Group, 1925 MONTCLARE Group, 13 Sep 1927, MONTREAL Group, 1931, MOORE Wm, MORLEY Cecil, MULLINS Frank, MURRAY Nellie, NEWTON Bernard, NICHOLLS Mary, O'KEEFE Evangelist - Mother Superior, O'LOUGHLIN Alice, O'LOUGHLIN Mary, ONIONS Mary, OSWALD M. Sister PARKES Margaret, PHIPPS Lizzie, PICNIC GROUP w Fr Hudson & Nuns, PICNIC at St Georges 29 Jun 1930, POWER Ellen, PRITCHARD Sarah, PRITCHARD Elizabeth, PROUDMAN Elizabeth, QUEALEY James, REEVES Thomas, RIDER see RYDER, ROLLO Reg, ROLLO Norman, RYDER see FOY, SAEB May, SCOTT William, SHORT Winnifred, SIMMOND William, SMITH S, St Paul (wedding of Menard & Phipps) STANLEY George, STYLAS see STYLES, STYLES/STYLAS Bridget, Tall Girl, TANNER Emily (see WEEDON), TAYLOR George, THOMAS Rowena, TOTTEN F, TUCK Winnifred, VINCENT Sister, WATKINS Edward, WEDDING - PHIPPS/MENARD, WEDDING - LUCAS/KELLY, WEEDON Emily nee TANNER, XAVIER Sister, YATES Winnie, ? Sadie, ? Emily, ? Kitty.

**11. Liverpool Cemeteries** - A listing of the headstones in Anfield and St Mary's Walton on the Hill cemeteries, Liverpool, UK is <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~liverpoolcem>. (RootsWeb Review, 03 April 2002)

**12. Determining Citizenship for Home Children** - Was your home child parent or grandparent a Canadian citizen? I am not sure that mine was. Dad's papers were burned by mistake after the farmer's wife died and some of her belongings - and Dad's - were incinerated. I have seen no record of his ever having had the 'magic' piece of paper that said he was Canadian. He died in 1965 thinking he was, and proud of it. If one was British and place of domicile was Canada for 20 years prior to 1947, one was Canadian automatically. But what if one worked out of the country as my father did playing soccer in the USA...or was in the army overseas for part of that time? You should know that there is provision for anyone living in Canada for 7 years before 1947 to apply if s/he has proof of permanent residence here. An application for search of records costs \$75 and is sent to Sydney, Nova Scotia. For more details contact Ann Heathcote, Citizenship & Immigration, 613-957-3307. Ann will send you the appropriate application form.



### **13. THREE BOOKS ABOUT HOME CHILDREN - A Critique by Patricia (Pat) Bolger**

A curtain of forgetfulness seems to have been drawn about the hundred thousand children sent from Britain to Canada to work for their living. Most - but not all - survived homesickness, loneliness, and even neglect and cruelty.

Although intended for young readers, these novels provide a stark picture of survival that will keep adults reading with keen interest.

**ORPHAN AT MY DOOR**, by Jean Little. Scholastic Canada, 2001.

The fictional diary of Victoria Cope, daughter of a Guelph doctor, tells of the arrival of the family's Home Girl, Marianna, in 1897. A deep friendship develops between the girls as Victoria learns of Marianna's despair at being separated from her younger brother, Jasper. Soon the whole family is involved in finding Jasper and rescuing him from the brutal man to whom he had been sent.

Jean Little's books have won many awards and great popularity with young readers, who will find a wealth of photographs at the back of the book, along with a history of the Barnardo Home Children project, and a fair-minded look at Thomas Barnardo himself.

**A BUSHEL OF LIGHT**, by Troon Harrison. Stoddart Kids, 2000.

At the age of eight, Maggie was separated from her twin sister Thomasina in England and sent to the Howard family on a farm in Peterborough County in Ontario. By the time she is fourteen she is obliged to work in the fields, in addition to doing all the housework and looking after little Lizzie Howard.

When Maggie learns that Thomasina has been sent out to Canada, she runs away from the Howards to find her. Her journey alone on foot from Bridgenorth down through Peterborough and onto Keene is recounted in such vivid detail, it would be easy to trace her route with the aid of a road map of the area and a Peterborough street map.

Maggie and Thomasina are finally reunited with the help of the staff of Hazelbrae Home in Peterborough, where the girls stayed before being placed in Canadian homes. As the story ends we learn that they will be together in the home of a kind lady who has befriended Maggie.

**HOME CHILD**, by Barnbara Haworth-Attard. Roussan Publications, 1996.

Thirteen-year old Arthur comes to the Wilson farm near London, Ontario in 1914. Mrs Wilson refuses to let him eat at the family table, and only young Sadie and her grandmother reach out a helping hand to him - until the day of the fire, when Arthur saves the baby and Grandma Wilson.

Haworth-Attard's research has provided her with interesting quotations from British and American newspaper of the period, recollections of surviving Home Children, and a foreword by J.A. David Lorente.

**ORPHAN AT MY DOOR** and **A BUSHEL OF LIGHT** with their young heroines will appeal mostly to girls, while boys will be more comfortable with **HOME CHILD** and its male central character.

*(Editor's Note: We are grateful to Pat for volunteering to take time from her regular involvement with book world matters to do this special article for us.)*

**14. Cuddle up with a Reprint or two or three:** The following standby's have been re-issued since the late '70's and early '80's with a new Preface. All are invaluable in their own way.

- a. **Labouring Children, British Immigrant Apprentices to Canada, 1869-1924** by Joy G Parr, Reprints in Canadian History, Univ of Toronto Press, Toronto, Buffalo, London, 1994, ISBN 0-8020-0549-7 (cloth), ISBN 0-8020-7443-X (paper)
- b. **Home Children Tell their Story** by Phyllis Harrison,
- c. **The Little Immigrants, The Orphans Who Came to Canada**, new edition, by Kenneth Bagnell, Dundurn Group, Toronto, Oxford, 2002, ISBN 1-55022-370-5.

**15. Harry Collins invites you to contact him** in the UK re help in locating records and family abroad. Harry, as was mentioned in our last UPDATE, is a Canadian-born British child evacuee. He is at [manhunter@prevail.freemove.co.uk](mailto:manhunter@prevail.freemove.co.uk)

**16. Sites to Remember:**

- a. **French Records on the Internet.....Questions? Informations? Renseignements?** Try/Essayez <http://www.wstart.com> qui trouve les reponses au coeur des meilleurs sites. Wstart m'est PAS un moteur de recherche. Il n'affiche pas une interminable liste de sites en rapport avec la question posee, mais selectionne ceux qui peuvent y repondre exactement.
- b. **British Ancestor's NO FIND, NO FEE Policy** for researching the years 1800-1950 includes a search of Birth, Marriages, Deaths, Census, Church records, free e-mail consultation and a new certificate ordering service. This tip from RootsWeb.

**17. YOU TELL US -** Our cup runneth over this month. We have room only for articles by Marian Troup and John Sayers of Ottawa. Special thanks to others who sent us copy. (para 18)

**a. What a day! by Marian Troup**

*(Editor's Note: Just a few weeks before the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline Marian was in touch with Home Children Canada to ask if it was possible for her Dad to qualify for a first free trip back to Britain at UK Government expense. We explained that the requirements including one that necessitated that he find a 'close' family member who would 'invite' him over. This is what Marian wrote shortly after her Home Boy father John F FOX and his sister Betty in the UK talked for the first time in over half a century. They were the sole survivors of eight siblings.)*

Greetings to all! I just wanted everyone involved in this reunion, to know that my Dad spoke on Saturday morning to his sister Betty, for the first time in 50 - 60 years!! The conversation was short due to the emotion of it all, but it was truly a wonderful moment!! Not a dry eye in the place!! It seemed after the usual "how are you doing?" they picked up as if it was just last week when they last spoke. My Dad is so keen to fly to England now that I have never seen him so excited. And for any 89 year old man, that is really fun to see!! My 2 brothers and my Mom were also with Dad for this precious moment, and we will never forget it! We are now very busy trying to plan the next wonderful step and ultimate conclusion...a physical face to face meeting. We are planning for the first week in May. My thanks to all of you for making an old Home Child and his family happier than we have ever been; it is impossible to describe the feelings that were going through that little house in Elora, Ontario!!!! They (the folks in Britain) seem to be all very

excited to meet us in person; they had received my letter and photos of us on Friday so knew a bit about us before telephone call, and are sending us the same. We are all like a bunch of school kids going on our first day of school, scared, yet full of anticipation. Hard to describe. My Dad wants to go NOW!! .....Dave, I received your letter today with the ship photo and pins. They are beautiful! Take care all, we are so grateful. (Signed)

Marian, proud daughter of "tickled-pink" Home Child: John F FOX and Niece of his sister Betty.

*(Another Editor's Note: Just minutes after we typed up the above and four days before the deadline for applications, Agnes Casselman, the Director of International Social Service Canada, phoned to say that John FOX and his wife have been OK'd for a free trip to the UK. Maid Marian and her brothers and spouses will complete their parents' entourage - at their own expense, of course - but what a memorable family trip it will be.) And when I asked Marian if I had permission to run her letter in this newsletter her reply in part was...*

"By all means, I'd like to broadcast it to the world. It seems to me that this is such a wonderful, encouraging story that everyone who is searching and getting discouraged should hear it..."



**b. An Introduction to the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa and its Home Children (Canada) Committee.**

By John Sayers

The BIFHSGO was founded in 1994 by a dedicated group of genealogists headed by Brian O'Regan. One of the speakers, at the first annual conference in September of that year, was Dave Lorente, and he spoke about home children. I was one of those listening to Dave that day and it occurred to me that Home Children would be an excellent project for BIFHSGO because we had no major project that complemented the goals of the organization. Dave mentioned several times that the National Archives and the National Library - especially the unindexed files - were difficult for him to access, but for other BIFHSGO members who lived mostly in Ottawa or the immediate area, they were readily accessible.

The BIFHSGO executive agreed to back an indexing project and the National Archives agreed to display the database that we would produce. We originally decided that we would extract all of the names from the ship's manifests coming into the ports of Quebec, Halifax, Saint John and Portland, Maine from 1869 to 1935. That was overly optimistic. Some of the manifests are incredibly difficult to read and some impossible so we have had to look for other sources. In this we have been reasonably successful and now know a great deal more about what is available at the National Archives than we did in 1994. The Home Children database can be viewed at [www.archives.ca](http://www.archives.ca); it is far from complete but is a very useful tool in home children research. It was decided to concentrate on the period 1869 to 1916 first. That is now 'complete' except for the years 1872, 1895 and 1915 that have been compiled but are not yet displayed on the NAC database. 1911 is still being extracted. Several of the years have had major updates, particularly 1887, and most of these are not yet on the NAC site.

We have used about 40 volunteers so far so it is obviously not a one-man project. It has been, and is, a team effort. Mary Munk is our contact at the National Archives, while Donna Sheaves,

who no longer works at the NAC but continues to volunteer her time, is the database keeper. Denny Lowe, who now lives in British Columbia, takes the mess I give him and puts it into an acceptable format for the NAC to handle and forward each year to the NAC. Denny is very methodical and tries to keep me on the straight and narrow - not an easy task. A major contributor to the database is Len Grummett who has done 18 years and is still beavering away.

Dave and Kay Lorente have been answering queries for eleven years and it is now time for someone else to pick up the ball and run with it for a while. That 'someone' is BIFHSGO, who will endeavor to answer queries as best we can. Because we have so much material available to us we will probably answer a little differently than Dave, and it will probably take longer. A great deal of time researching is sometimes required. For instance, I am at the moment working on 55 cases. On some, I have done about all I can; others I haven't even looked at yet! I keep getting these brown envelopes from Dave with about five new queries in each envelope!

One question that I have difficulty answering is 'Where did my home child work when he/she came to Canada?' Such information is often difficult to find. And so, from the main project of putting names on a database we have spun some smaller ones off, one being a more detailed listing of Middlemore children. I would like to add one for extracting names from the census records of 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901. The children are fairly easy to spot in a census record and we could pick up probably 20,000 names in those four censuses. For instance, I checked Stephenson Township, in Muskoka, and identified 100 children there in 1901. Suffice to say we are still learning but we hope to be of some help to all those out there seeking information about their loved ones.

Good Luck!

*Editor's Note: When we started HCC in Jan 1991 we offered to give free advice to home children on how to find their records. It was as simple as that. We never expected that we would be also answering tens of thousands of questions from descendants and former child migrants on a whole host of topics relating to child migration...workhouses, industrial schools, reformatories, Poor Law Unions, the homes over there and over there, inspector's reports, church and census records, ship names and movements and the migration of home children within Canada, to name a few. In some cases we offered more. We re-united families and made videotapes of some former child migrants, got home children involved in radio and tv productions, and worked with the agencies abroad and in Canada. Manifest records were not indexed when we started and it was difficult for us, living a 100 kilometers from the Archives to access census records etc to trace a home child's movement within this country. From the paucity of information we were generally given we made "guesstimates" as to what steps to follow to get data and we were lucky to get it right most of the time. John and his group built on this base. They started the index project, accessed a wealth of information on movements in Canada and abroad, and, as you can see from John's message, have set distant and immediate aims, goals and objectives to achieve in the future, e.g integrating census return info into their manifest database. Inquirers will be better served now that we have passed that torch on to our fellow members of BIFHSGO.*

**18. In the next UPDATE:** Watch for **A Look Back on 2001** (which should have been in this issue) and **YOU TELL US** will feature messages from Bob HUGGARD and Mary McGregor, a poem by Al HAYWARD, and goodness knows what else. We invite your suggestions and comments. What do you want to see in Home Children Canada's UPDATE?

*Kay & Dave*