

OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

Heritage Renfrew

JANUARY
December 2005 Edition



Heritage Renfrew

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW



770 Gibbons Road
P.O. Box 1009
Renfrew, Ontario
K7V 4H4

Internet & Phone Access

E-Mail: renfrewarchives@sympatico.ca

Web-Page :
www3.sympatico.ca/renfrewarchives

Phone : 613-432-7534

Message from the President

Dear member of Heritage Renfrew

The Board of Heritage Renfrew wishes to take this opportunity to wish each of you Happiness and Good Health in 2006. Heritage Renfrew is going strong and doing many new and exciting things. We have our new Micro Film reader and copier in place now. Many thanks to Ontario Trillium Foundation who gave us \$12,000 toward the purchase of this machine. We would never have been able to purchase such a wonderful assistance to all our members as the Micro reader without this machine. We will be indebted to Ontario Trillium Foundation for a long time to come.

Dave Lorente, who is Chair of Home Children Canada has arranged to have two grave stones for the unmarked graves of 23 Home Children buried in Ottawa's N.D. Cemetery. This has been a long time dream of Dave's whose father was a Home Child.

Our Annual General Meeting is taking place January 26, and our new member to the Board, Dean Black, has arranged to have Doug Janney, speak on one of his descendants, Ernest Lloyd Janney, who accomplished many great things in his day. One of the most outstanding adventures where he was instrumental in creating the first Canadian Air Corps. But you have to come out to hear one of the most interesting stories involving Canadians.

Heritage Renfrew offers you the use of our data on Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment on other days. We are proud and happy to do this and continue to add to our collections. But we need your help too. If you know of someone who is interested in joining our group please assure them that we would welcome them and any assistance that they could give us. We are a very hard working group, but our members are decreasing and we need new ideas and new members. Our membership for one year is still only \$10.00. Won't you help our group. See you at the Annual General Meeting.

Sincerely, Audrey Green, President

HERITAGE MEETING

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



MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION NOTIFICATION

Subscribe to *Opeongo Lines* for the new year!

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2006 are \$10.00 (\$15.00 outside of Canada).

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NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Heritage Renfrew will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 7 P.M. on 27 January 2006. It will take place at the National Library & Archives Building, located at 770 Gibbons Road, Renfrew, Ontario. Speaker is not confirmed at this time but once confirmed, it will be announced in the Local Newspaper. All are welcome, bring along a friend. Refreshments will be served following the meeting

RESEARCH:

NOTICE

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APPOINTMENT ONLY

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646-2375 — JOYCE MCBRIDE 432-2225—MARTIN MUNHALL

INFORMATION PLEASE:

QUERIES MAY BE SENT IN TO BE PUBLISHED IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS. MAIL THEM TO THE EDITOR, HERITAGE RENFREW, P.O. BOX 1009, RENFREW, ONTARIO K7V 4H4.

DAVE LORENTE THE HOME CHILDREN CHAIR IS AWAY AT THIS POINT IN TIME. HOWEVER THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ITEMS FROM HIS REPORT TO HERITAGE RENFREW.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MESSAGES SENT IN 2005, TO THE END OF DEC.. IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS 2,406.

CEMETERY PROJECT: TWO GRAVE STONES HAVE BEEN ORDERED FOR THE UNMARKED GRAVES OF 23 HOME CHILDREN BURIED IN OTTAWA'S NOTRE DAME CEMETERY. COST OF STONES WAS \$6,027.55.

IN MEMORIUM: JOSEPH PATRICK FLANNIGAN, A FEGAN BOY WHO CAME TO CANADA IN 1939 AND DAVE MASTERS A BARNADO BOY BORN IN 1910.

Help Wanted

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

Contact:

Any Member listed in the Directory [page 2] or e-mail: renfrewarchives@sympatico.ca

visit our Web Site @:

www3.sympatico.ca/renfrewarchives

DONATED FAMILY TREES

- Peter Dick Family Lois Dick
- Ferguson Clan Glenda Tippins

DONATED BOOKS

Heritage Renfrew gratefully acknowledges the generosity of these donations.

Canadian Railways Wayne Tasse
Grattan Twp. Elaine Hanniman
Collection of 11 Books Pat Patterson
(most on Prince Edward County)
Tweedsmuir History Books
Rosebank Women's Institute 1979—
2004
Renfrew District University Women's
Club 1995—1999
Township of Brougham minutes 1893-
1919

The following books were all donated
by Shirley Mask Connelly
Polish Pioneer Families (Brudenell)
Brudenell Revisited
Kashubia to Canada
History of Wilno Heritage Society
Renfrew's First Polish Families
Across the Grain (Toys) Jim Smith
Collection of Interviews DVDs Jim
Austin

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE: CEMETERIES:

.CASTLEFORD UNION	\$9.00
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MT ST PATRICK CEMETERIES	\$12.00

PLUS MAILING COST OF 3.50 FOR FIRST PUBLICATION AND 1.50 SHIPPING AND HANDLING COST. PLUS MAILING COST OF 1.50 EACH FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS PURCHASED.

COMING EVENTS;

HERITAGE LUNCHEON FEB. 20/06

UPPER CANADA VILLAGE BUS TOUR

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER!!

Please send us your e-mail address if you would like to receive *Opeongo Lines* electronically via e-mail. Send your request olewis@sympatico.ca



SITES TO CHECK

Renfrew County Website
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

Leeds and Grenville Branch
www.cybertap.com/genealogy/

Arnprior & District Archives
www.adarchives.org

Upper Ottawa Valley Group
uovgg@valleynet.on.ca

Ancestry.co.uk

Great Britain records for people

Gencircles.com

Canadian records for people

Www.polishroots.org

Polish genealogical site

Www.rootsweb.com

For sharing research

Www.familysearch.org

Family History Centre free search



Olga: From The Renfrew Mercury.

January 14 1881: Death of an old Resident:

Mr. Sampson Coumbes, an old resident of this village, died suddenly on Sunday afternoon, the 9th inst. At the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Robert Drysdale. Mr. Coumbes settled here about the year 1840, and was elected one of the members of the Municipal Council when the village was first erected into a separate municipality. He was nominated at the succeeding election, but was not re-elected, and never held office as a Councillor afterwards. He purchased the first saw-mill in the village, which he some years afterwards sold to Mr. John Smith, who has run it ever since. Besides attending to his saw-mill and tavern, he was busily engaged in clearing his farm, on which he resided for many years, and which he recently sold to Mr. Wm. Airth. Mr. Coumbes was twice married, but had been a widower for some time before his death. He leaves several sons and daughters. His funeral took place yesterday, his remains being interred in the Martin cemetery, in the township of Horton.

April 15 1881 The Ottawa Valley Exodus:

The departure from this section by the "excursion" train on Wednesday, the 13th inst., were again chiefly of persons bound for the United States instead of the Canadian North West, and show, therefore, that as far as the Ottawa Valley is concerned, the movement is not one of mere migration from one part of the Dominion to another, but is really an exodus from their country to another which the emigrants believe to offer greater advantages. Mr. J.E. Gorman GTR ticket agent ticketed passengers named for the following destinations. For Dakota; Peter Ferguson, wife, and ten children, from the township of Ross, Thomas Whelan, wife and ten children, from Admaston, Thomas Porter, wife and two children, from Ross, Thomas Smith, wife and two children, from Allumette Island, R.C. Mills Jr., from Renfrew, Michael Conway from Admaston, and ? Childerhose from Stafford. For Dennison Iowa, Patrick Lane and Patrick Quinn from the Opeongo Line. For Cleveland Ohio one passenger. For Manitoba two German ladies, from Pembroke, Duncan McCallum, from Renfrew, and Alex Tait of Winnipeg with a carload of horses. Another carload of horses, belonging to others of the emigrants, was also dispatched in advance of the express train. Mr. Tait took along, besides his cargo of horses, several sets of single harness, a set of double harness, and a quantity of halters, manufactured at Mr. Smith's harness shop. This is a style of exportations which might be increased very advantageously to all concerned.

May 13 1881 A Big Slide:

About a quarter of a mile below this village there existed, until yesterday, on the shore of the Ottawa river, what is known as a "sand bar" or large heap of sand, which the action of the current has been accumulating for years. It was apparently quite solid, and the boys of this village have for long used it as an excellent bathing ground. The "bar" stretched out into the river in the form of a peninsula for a distance of about 100 feet, and was about 50 feet wide, in low water the top of the heap was about 15 feet above the river level. On Wednesday last the whole of this immense pile of sand disappeared completely, being cut away almost perpendicularly from the mainland. Six feet from the shore no bottom can be seen where, just a day or so before, the boys of this village had undressed themselves while preparing for a dive off what to all appeared genuine terra firma. Note: This took place at Bryson, Quebec and was in the Pontiac News.

NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM

Annual membership fees are now due! For the year 2003 they remain at \$10.00, outside Canada is now \$15.00.

Name _____

Address _____

City/town _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

For Year _____

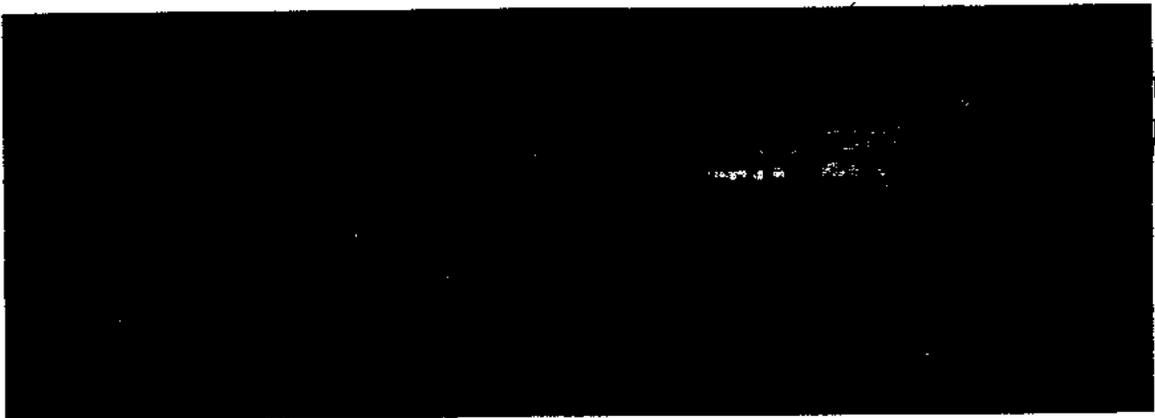
New Renew Home Children

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

Email address: _____

Heritage Renfrew welcomes new members, and if the members of Heritage Renfrew know of anyone who would like to research their ancestors, or to research various industries of bygone days or organizations, this is the place to come.

We have people who are members of Heritage Renfrew who are willing to help those who are not familiar with using machines for research as well as looking up census records, church records. Etc.



UP-
PER

Clark
no 1

UPDATE

Home Children Canada's NEWSLETTER

January 2006 No. 1



Dave Lorente, founder/editor, 107 Erindale Ave, Renfrew ON, K7V 4G3. <lorente@sympatico.ca>
(Home Children Canada is a committee of Heritage Renfrew, a registered charitable organization)

NB. INQUIRIES re Home Children Records should now be sent to John Sayers, Chair of BIFHSGO
Home Children Committee, 2157 Fillmore Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1J 6A1. Ph (613) 747-5547
E-mail <sayersji@sympatico.ca>

WELCOME TO 2006

*May the New Year bring you peace, health, happiness
and acceptance of what must be.*

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Editorial

For the first time since HCC was founded in 1991 regrettable breakdowns in communication occurred this year resulting in Heritage Renfrew OPEONGO LINES Newsletter being mailed out without the available Home Children UPDATES. And so, to use a fast foods outlet analogy, this 'fatter' UPDATE is like a BIG MAC or a COMBO plate. You get as much as before and even more. Still, as our cartoon suggests, you should have been 'plugged in' sooner and it's HR's and HCC's fault you were not.

This newsletter has a Potpourri Section A of odds'n'ends that accumulate day by day. In Sections B and C, this being January - the month called after the Roman household god *Janus* - he of the two faces on the threshold of every Roman home that saw the traveller safely away and back from his journey - we look back on 2005, the year of the Veteran, and ahead in Section C to what we foresee for 2006.

You will note that our far flung friends have been busy. We asked a few of them to report on their activities. We also received Bev's Kearn's submission for our **You Tell Us** column and urge others to write a page or two for the next issues of UPDATE. We want your feedback, opinions...even your songs!

We had hoped to start the year off with an Open Letter from our Governor General, but her office told us that a special event we have planned for this summer or fall in Ottawa when we hope to have visitors from overseas participate was a more suitable occasion. So, her Excellency Michaëlle Jean's letter to our Home Children across Canada this year will be read on the occasion of the erection of two grave markers in an Ottawa cemetery to commemorate the home children from St George's Home who died between 1907 and 1932 and still lie in unmarked graves. The markers have been ordered and paid for with the donations you, our readers, have made since 1991. We thank you sincerely for contributing so meaningfully to the cause.

And we thank our far flung contacts who have kept us *au courant* with the reports you will find in this section.

Dave

"The play's the thing..."

Homechild: On 05 January 2006 we were pleased to be guests at the premiere of "Homechild", a play by Joan MacLeod, winner of several awards, including one from the Governor General. Her poignant masterpiece deals essentially with the loss of identity that some home children suffered. The play runs at the Bluma Appel Theatre, 27 Front Street, Toronto until 28 January. For tickets phone (416) 368-3110 or contact www.canstage.com.

Doctor Barnardo's Children, by the 4th Line Theatre of Millbrook (SW of Peterborough), premiered last summer in a memorable outdoor setting. It as so successful it will be staged again this summer of 2006 from 04 July to 30 July. Contact www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca for details and tickets or phone 1-800-814-0055. And for a real treat visit the bookstore on the Main street and learn about the local filming of Hollywood's *The Music Man* - of "Seventy-Six Trombones" fame.

* * * * *

A Song for Grandpa

(A Song for Grandpa was written by Bill Murray of - where else but - Nova Scotia. Bill has long been pre-occupied with the story of his home boy grandfather and the effects child migration has had on successive generations. His e-mail gave us permission us to print it here. A pity you can't hear the music.)

A SONG FOR GRANDPA

Home Children they called them
from England they sailed
By the shipload you sent them
to lands far away

To some not even a name
So many stories that have to be told
By the children that they sent away

Australia, New Zealand and Canada too
Little innocent children, we are searching for you
Although they are all grown they've left behind

Oh! how do I know these stories are true
My grandpa was a home child too.
The spirits have called for such a long time
Home Children, we're bringing you home.

Generations of family that we need to find
Their spirits are restless. They want to be known
By family and parents, it's where they belong
No family, no country, no home

You've walked a lonely lonely road
Most of your life you've been on your own
Home Children, we're bringing you home
Home Children, we're bringing you home.

In memory of my Grampa Austin Murray, sent from Liverpool, England to Quebec, Canada 1903, ship the Bavarian...with his two sisters Cecilia and Anna Eliz

With great Love and Honour to Our Home Children ... Bill Murray

(Editor's Note: Bill has just made his first trip aboard to meet family he has only recently located.)

* * * * *

You tell us...**A Trip Back**

by Bev Kearns

(This letter was received from Bev Kearns after she returned a while ago from visiting 'the old country' and the Quarrier's 'home' that sent her mother to Canada.)

Hi Dave!

Received your Newsletter and thought I would bring you up to date on my research. We went to Scotland in Aug for a month and what a wonderful trip! Spent 3 nights at Quarriers and I don't know if you met Helen Porteous or not, but she was raised there and is a fountain of knowledge of the actual workings of the home as she and her husband eventually were house parents for some years. When I said I seemed to recall that my mother was in cottage 12, she immediately said 'that was the cottage where the children who were emigrating were housed.' I had a long conv. with Bill Dunbar; he is so knowledgeable on the whole story of William Quarrier and the orphanage. I had a wonderful feeling walking the streets, and seeing the school and the church where my mom sang in the choir. Bill took me into the big bldg. that houses what records they have; unfortunately they really only started keeping records around 1911 and that is the year my mother came to Canada, so nothing new there. I had absolutely no info on my mother's background and there was a female prof from Western, I think, who was doing research and she told me about the Poor (Law) Rolls kept at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. Sure enough my grandmother was listed there from 1862; it told of her being orphaned at the age of 14 and, in the 1901 entry, of being a widow asking for help. From there I was able to trace the places mother had lived prior to being orphaned at age 11. I also traced my ancestors on that side all the way back to gr. gr. gr. grandparents and learned they came from Dairy and Kilmarnock, so off we trekked to walk the streets of my ancestors. Found out we were of the Douglas Clan (rogues and robbers) and visited the Douglas stronghold (Castle Threaves). The Mitchell Library has all sorts of records dating back years and years, school records, census records, poor lists, however no births, marriages or deaths. We actually read the original entries in the case books of 1812; their working papers were really neat. We also spent some time in Maple Grove Garden and it definitely is a special place. Of course we heard of the controversy with regard to abuse and law suits. I can't help but wonder where all those children would have been were in not for men like William Quarrier.

I was told that there was a time when there were 1,500 children housed at Quarriers at one time. The fact that all 43 cottages (you've seen them) have different entrances and different interiors took a lot of foresight into the minds of children. As an aunt (also a home child) once told me, the children of that time were considered 'someone else's dirt'. I for one have never agreed with lawsuits and I know the few home children I spoke to felt that way also.

Glad to hear the statue is going ahead. I would love to see a statue depicting home children on Parliament Hill honouring their contribution to the agricultural economy of the country at the turn of the century. Also any news on the stamp?

As ever,
Bev

(Editor's Note: The female prof from London is Margaret McNay, whom we have met on three occasions and even connected with her kith and kin in Renfrew.)

* * * * *

BIFHSGO Updates

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa is busy with Home Children on several fronts. We are continuing to extract names from passenger lists and update lists that have already been delivered to the Library and Archives Canada (LAC). The LAC now holds all of the years from 1869 to 1922 inclusive and should have them displayed on ArchiviaNet in the not too distant future. We have several other years completed but, for now, they are only available through John Sayers at saversji@sympatico.ca

The Middlemore Project is continuing and more years are continually being added. See www.bifhsgo.ca/home_children.htm for the most recent update. At present all Middlemore children from 1872 to 1892 are listed.

BIFHSGO is also extracting all of the children's names from Film #T-537, Children sent to Canada by Boards of Guardians. It covers the approximate period 1886 to early 1916 and will probably have about 10,000 names. This list will also appear on the LAC's ArchiviaNet. This is a very useful film because it often gives the Union that sent the child and the sending agency, plus it has a comments field with notes such as 'On Active Service', 'Returned to England' etc.

Our most recent 'find' is in RG25, Canada House Records, that include a large number of pages pertaining to the suicides of three boys in 1923/24.

We are still answering a large number of queries, a few of which turn out to be for children who were not Home Children at all. The Ottawa Valley took a large number of Home Children, most of them coming from Roman Catholic organizations or from Quarriers in Scotland. A few were also sent to the Valley from Mrs. Birt's Liverpool Sheltering Homes and the Rev. Robert Wallace's Marchmont Home in Belleville. In the 1920's the British Immigration and Colonization Association (BICA) became the agency sending most of the children, all boys, and they being based in Montreal, did send most of the boys to Western Quebec and Eastern Ontario. Between 1924 and 1931 they brought out about 4,500 boys.

We are also testing the practical use of a fully searchable database of all of the names mentioned in the Ups and Downs Magazine, published by Barnardo's in Toronto from 1895 to 1950. We do not have available to us all of the copies ever published by Barnardos so if anyone has a copy, or knows of a copy, please contact John Sayers at saversji@sympatico.ca or phone (613)747-5547. He will pay to have it copied, or even better it would be great to have the magazine deposited with Library and Archives Canada. There are some copies held in libraries and archives all across Canada and some in private collections, but no depository seems to have a full collection, and there are no known copies of some issues.

John Sayers

1905 Centenaries in the UK

Thomas J Barnardo died in 1905 a few months after Monsignor James Nugent, better known as Father Nugent. Both were involved in child migration at a time when it was considered the good Christian thing to do to give desperately poor children a better chance abroad. The centenary of their deaths and life works was commemorated in separate ceremonies in Liverpool and in Barkingside, England, this past year. Both were pioneers in their own way; one was very well known; the other deserves to be better known.

We asked Pat McEvoy, retired but still archivist of The Nugent Care Society in Liverpool and HCC's Ivy Sucee, founder of Peterborough Ontario's Hazelbrae Committee, to write of the ceremonies they attended.

Father James Nugent

The 100 YEAR celebration of the death of James Nugent began on his birthday, 3 March 2005, with a service held by his statue in St John's Garden in the City Centre. (The statue had been erected within a year of his death with funds donated by all denominations in recognition of his work with the destitute and with *orphan* children at a time when they were called *orphans* even if one parent was deceased or missing.)

From May to July an exhibition of Nugent's life and work was held in the Museum of Liverpool Life. On the anniversary of his death, 27 June, a service at his grave was held in Ford Cemetery. That same evening saw the launch of a new book about his life and work, written by Mgr John Furnival and entitled CHILDREN OF THE NEW SPRING.

Many other events occurred in the archdiocese including MUSIC DRAMA, a play performed by school children, a golf tournament, a balloon race etc - events that got much publicity in the press and on local radio and television. The Nugent Care Society - the largest charitable R.C. child care agency in the UK - used the occasion to launch its new NUGENT CARE logo. Celebrations were brought to a close in the Cathedral with music, selections by a brass band, readings and a dramatic presentation led by Archbishop Patrick Kelly on 5 November.

Father Nugent, son of John Nugent, originally of Ireland and his convert wife Mary (Rice), was born in Liverpool in 1822, the eldest of nine children. His schooling included 5 years in Rome before ordination in 1846. He was witness to the deaths of thousands of Irish fugitives in Black '47 when Liverpool was called 'The Black Spot on the Mersey River' and more than 40% of the Catholic priests working with the poor also died of fever. Nugent was chaplain of Walton Jail and visiting priest in Brownlow Hill workhouse. He knew the poor and destitute. He was also concerned with the estimated 23,000 children running wild on Liverpool's dockside. He was among the first to open some of the 32 ragged schools for them that existed in Liverpool by 1853. He became the leader in organizing public meetings to "save the children" and coined the phrase "Nobody's Children". He championed emigration and so believed in it that he made many speeches about its merits at home, in Canada and in the US and even emigrated his own siblings. His charity was all-embracing; he took in non-Catholic children and turned them over to his fellow concerned Protestant cleric friends of whom he had many. He solicited the support of everyone, irrespective of party, creed or race. He brought his first party of children to Canada in 1870 - the same year as Annie Macpherson brought hers.

- Pat McEvoy

Barnardos Host a Centenary Thanksgiving Service

On 17 September, 2005 Barnardos hosted at Barkingside, Ilford, a Centenary gala to celebrate the life of Dr. Thomas Barnardo and the continuation of his work 100 years after his death. Dignitaries included Dr. David Barnardo, Chair of the Trustee Council and great, great nephew of Dr. Barnardo, Mr. Roger Singleton, Chief Executive Officer, Mark Gill from the National Council of Old Boys and Girls, Rev. David Gamble, Rev. Fred Cowan, and Rt. Rev. Stephen Olive, Bishop of Stepney. After Care offices featured a display of former homes, photos of former galas, and other pieces of memorabilia. It is estimated that five hundred people were in attendance. Most would have come to reunite with friends they had while in Barnardos' care.

The program began with welcoming speeches from Roger Singleton, Kate Roach of After Care and old girl Margaret Roberts. Their kind words set the tone for the whole day. Honourary old Boy and Girl awards were presented to Chris and Shirley Werrell, Dave Ryall, Margaret Bennett and May Chicken. Boys from Ilford County High School presented a play entitled *Carrots* in the village church. 'Carrots' was a boy Dr. Barnardo had refused admission to the little room he had because it was full only to find in the morning that the lad had died of exposure and malnutrition. Because of that Dr. Barnardo had a sign made that read "No Destitute Child Refused"; this was to become the motto of the homes and is still their motto to this day. The play included the story of the young servant girl who gave her life saving of twenty-seven farthings to Dr. Barnardo. He was at first reluctant to accept her gift but came to realize that all peoples should be able to donate if they so wished.

Just before lunch a ceremonial planting of centenary rose bushes took place during which Dr. David Barnardo of Barnardos, Jeff Edwards of the National Council and Ivy Sucee from Canada each planted one of the rose bushes with the hope they will thrive as a special symbol and remembrance of the occasion. Several programs were going on at the same time and one could not take in all of them. For me the highlight of the gala was the church service. The church was built on the grounds at Barkingside to accommodate the children who lived in the cottages there. *Come Down oh Love Divine* was sung after the processional, then we were welcomed again by Roger Singleton. Psalms, verses of scripture and more hymns followed. The London Community Choir sang several songs and encouraged us to join in. A former Barnardo girl read *Thank You Dr. Barnardo* which she had composed for the occasion as an expression of her deep feeling for what it meant to be have been in care and for all the help she had been given. Dr. David Barnardo read from Syrie Barnardo's *Memoirs* recounting his great, great uncle's hopes for helping the children who needed it so desperately. The Bishop of Stepney gave the blessing and grace.

We then proceeded to the monument where Dr. and Mrs. Barnardos ashes are buried. A boy and girl of approximately ten years laid wreaths in their memory. The village church, a lovely gray brick building with white stone corners was built with private funds from a woman who asked to always remain anonymous. That has been done to this day. At the front entrance is inscribed "*This church is dedicated to the glory of God In loving memory of her father and mother by their daughter.*" After Care personnel rang the tower's eight bells. Beautiful silk panels adorned the inside walls between the stained glass windows from the 1800's. The monument to Dr. Barnardo is on the spot which he chose. Atop the monument sits 'Charity' and two young children; below is a portrait of Dr. Barnardo. At the base are three little children modeled from girls who were at the home. On the long granite seats that flanks either side of the figures are inscribed: *Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, ye did it unto me* and "*Suffer little children to come unto me, for such is the kingdom of heaven*". Across the bottom it reads "*I hope to die as I have lived, humble but assured of the faith of Jesus Christ my Savior, My Master and King*".

Ivy Sucee

Cecil Verge Reports

BRITISH HOME CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS ASSOCIATION

NOVA SCOTIA

Submitted by Cecil Verge, Chair

During 2005 our Halifax, NS Area and Truro NS Area chapters each met three times. The emphasis of the gatherings was to educate people about the Home Children Movement and to assist descendants in making contact with various sending agencies to obtain records of their BHC's.

The other prime focus of our gatherings was to lay plans for our 3rd Annual Reunion and the unveiling of a Middlemore Memorial Panel.

Our Cape Breton group, led by Dawn Hopkins, Charlene Ellis and Heather Gillis, put together a PowerPoint slide show on Home Children and gave a number of presentations to organizations in the Sydney area.

On November 12th the girls gave a presentation to the Sydney Historical Society at the LDS Church. Cecil Verge, chair of the Nova Scotia group attended and spoke to the gathering.

During this same trip Cecil gave twelve 20-minute presentations on Home Children at the Port Hood, Cape Breton School, as part of the Cultural and Heritage Awareness Week.

In the summer of 1994 the New Brunswick Middlemore group [placed a Memorial Plaque in the lobby of the Wandlyn Inn in Bedford, NS. This facility was the former "The Middlemore Fairview Home" established in 1898 by John T Middlemore founder of the Middlemore Children's Emigration Homes of Birmingham, England.

Following a Home Children gathering at Pier 21 in August 2000 organized by David and Kay Lorente of Home Children Canada of Renfrew, ON, Cecil Verge learned that the Middlemore plaque at the Wandlyn Inn was missing. The hotel had gone bankrupt in 1000/2000 and was taken over by the new owners who renamed it the Bayview Motor Home.

After an extensive search, including meetings with the new owners, bankruptcy trustees and newspaper ads the Plaque was not found. The Nova Scotia BHC group began the process of having the Plaque replaced. This included becoming registered under the Society Act of NS in order to qualify for possible grant funding.

We made a presentation to the new owners of the motel to erect a permanent monument on the site that would not walk away. After 18 months of negotiations and delays they finally advised us that we were not permitted to proceed with our project and could not erect anything that the facility had been the former "Middlemore Fairview Home."

On September 23, 2003 application was made to the Halifax Regional Municipality for grant funding to erect a memorial in one of their parks near the former "Fairview Home" site. Our application was shuffled from department to department and finally the Culture and Heritage Unit felt it would qualify under their wing. Funding was finally approved on February 17th, 2005.

Our 3rd Annual Reunion on August 27th, 2005, with Dr Patrica Robert-Pichette of BIFHSGO, Ottawa, as special speaker was followed by the unveiling of an Interpretative Panel, in the Rockingham Centennial Park, to honour John T Middlemore, to preserve the history of the Fairview Home and to act as a memorial to all Middlemore Children who came to Canada.

During the Christmas season a decorated tree was placed in the park, next to the Panel, in memory of the Home Children and was part of the Rockingham Community Light-Up Program.

Plans are presently underway to hold our 4th Annual Reunion in Truro, NS. in 2006.

The Vancouver Island Fairbridge Prince of Wales Farm School

The Fairbridge Canada Association and Societies are going strong.

1) Reunions are held every 2 years. We had one this past September 2005 in part at the former Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School grounds. The school grounds is now a subdivision, with many of the old cottage turned into single family dwellings. Several of the buildings have plaques with their former names and date built. The school, hospital and dining hall are no longer there, but the Fairbridge Chapel still stands and is now being looked after by a separate society. The building is in need of a new roof.

2) The Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society - (1990) - has been turned over to new directors -- I am the President and Theresa Shelley - whose father was a Fairbridge boy, is the treasurer. We have two directors who have come on board with us last fall. We were able to give out 11 bursaries this past year. We are constantly looking for ideas to keep this society going and to increase our capital - so we can continue to help students.

3) I have taken over as Editor of the Fairbridge Gazette --which was first published at the school in 1939 - I am working on the history of the Gazette - I know it has been published for the past 20 years or so - but I am unsure about the years between 1950 and 1980. The Gazette has a mail out of about 200 and we reach former Fairbridgians, their families, former staff members of the school and friends from across Canada, the US, Australia and England. I see the Gazette becoming more and more important as a tool in keeping the Former Fairbridgians together and informed.

4) I am in the final stages of writing a book on my mother's experience as a Child Emigrant. It is a historical novel, and documents her journey from her home in Whitley Bay, just east of Newcastle, to the Middlemore Emigration Home in Birmingham, where she and a brother and two sisters were prepped to pass their stringent tests to qualify them entry into Canada. My book has become a journey of healing between mothers and daughters--as my mother always blamed her mother for not keeping her safe at home, and I always blamed my mother for our difficult childhood, as she had few resources she could turn to when our father died in 1957 leaving her with 5 small children under the age of 8. The baby was just 3 weeks old.

4) I am gathering stories of the Former Fairbridgians, and I feel a definite urgency as these stories will soon be lost - and I have started writing a book on the history of the Fairbridge School - the system, and the conditions of the time that made it appear to be a good idea to send children to the colonies. When I began my research, the one major find for me was learning that child emigration has over a 350 year history -- from the groups of children sent over to the new colonies of Virginia in the early 1600s to the last group going to Australia in 1967.

Child Emigration - and for me -- especially the story of the Vancouver Island Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School - is fascinating - rich in stories of lives lost and found, of great successes and sorrows. I am determined to find a way for more people to hear these stories - as I am constantly amazed at how few people really know about the farm school that housed 329 children during the 30s and 40s, and I think their voices need to be heard....and that is what I am trying to do. I think I need to find a way to get a grant, as I simply don't have the time to collect the stories and work full time too. It is such important work - surely I should be able to convince someone to front me!

A POTPOURRI of ODDS 'N' ENDS

1. **Canadian Citizenship.** Did your home child have "classification", i.e. citizenship? My first late wife from Scotland died a proud Canadian - or so she thought. Home Children and others who came after 1 January 1936, must apply - or have applied themselves - for their landing records and then, using those documents as proof of legal entry, in turn apply for proper citizenship papers. And yes, there is a cost involved. Records for landed immigrants are in the custody of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). To obtain a copy request a 'Verification of Entry' application form by calling toll free at 1-888-242-2100 or download the form from the IC website at www.cic.gc.ca under Applications and Forms. The fee is \$30.00. (Thanks for this to Mary Munk of Library and Archives Canada.)
2. **Canadian Naturalization Papers** even exist for the periods before 1854. That said do not be surprised if your home child or ancestor or British immigrant after WW II did not apply on the false assumption that British citizens did not have to, especially if they had been voting here or served in our Cdn Armed Forces and were pensioned off in Canada. Check out the website at <http://naturalizationrecords.com/canada/>.
3. **The inGeneas Database** at <http://www.ingeneas.com/ingeneas/index.html> is a welcome source of info on such matters as Port of Quebec Passenger Lists for specific periods, the 1901 census Records for Kingston City and Toronto Emigrant records, e.g. for people moving west, etc. Enter the site and search the surname you are interested in. You might just hit gold. Do give it a go! (NB: All new material is flagged.)
4. **The UOVGG Library** has moved. If you are searching Home Children and/or the families they were placed with in the Upper Ottawa Valley then you should know that the UOV Genealogical Group's Library is now located at 222 Dickson St, (PO Box 972) Pembroke, ON, 8KA 7M5. Hours are Tuesday and Thursday and the 3rd Saturday from 1 to 4. If visitors are from out of town phone Diane Burnett at 735-6664. E-mail: uovgg@valleynct.on.ca. Homepage: <http://uovgg.ca>
5. **The Canadian Century Research Infrastructure**, according to the CCRI Newsletter, Vol 1, No. 1, has begun work to construct databases on censuses from 1911 to 1951 which will be added to those from 1852 to 1901. There will be some USA involvement and so HCC has written to ask that the child migration of more than a third of a million children to and within North America be a consideration since some of the 250,000 USA's Orphan Train Riders were shipped north across the border and some home children drifted south. We'll let you know if we get a reply.
6. **Researching Canada's Home Children** by John D Reid, PhD is a slim no-nonsense 105-pages of practical advice on sources and techniques for researching young immigrants in Canada and the UK. It is Book H23 in the Heritage Book Series. Cost is \$9.00. The book is available from Heritage Productions, c/o Louise St Denis, 30 Wellington St East, Suite 2002, Toronto, ON, Canada M5E 1S3; Telephone is (416) 861-0165; Fax (416) 861-1894; E-mail: info@genealogystore.com. Highly recommended.
7. **The Canadian Genealogical Centre** is the latest genealogical electronic resource proudly presented by the Library and Archives Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage and others. Try it at http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/index_e.html.

8.....And finally, **A Toast to those doing Home Children Research**

"May you live a 100 years - and a 100 more just to finish your Home Children research."

(Editor's Note: Now, sure as shooting someone will say we stole this...and we did...We heard it about the Irish to begin with but modified it and made it our own.)

**HOME CHILDREN CANADA's *YEAR OF THE VETERAN*
UPDATE's 2005 - IN REVIEW**

B1

1. NUMBER OF Home Children MESSAGES sent in 2005 = 2,406 Total

2. PRESENTATIONS = 10 Total

- i) Montreal - McGill University Faculty of Education (Sam Allison's Historical Pedagogy)
- ii) Montreal - Quebec Family Historical Society
- iii) Montreal - Bleu-Blanc-Rouge TV Production taping for *Past Lives* series
- iv) The Ottawa Valley - Tour for UK's National Children's Home (NCH) visitors
- v) Ottawa - NCH Reunion
- vi) Montreal - Historica National Conference, Cdn Middle School Teachers Institute at McGill
- vii) Millbank - Premiere of *Barnardo's Children*
- viii) Millbank - HCC Barnardo Team Reunion
- ix) Springtown - The Protestant Cemetery Group on Home Children
- x) Opeongo Line - Whitewater Historical Group Tour - by last minute proxy

3. 2005 YEAR OF THE VETERAN



Home Children Canada Involvement

- a) **Arthur MONK**, 93 year old veteran and Home Boy, from Beachburg ON who served in the Canadian Army as a rifle instructor during WW II, was guest speaker at Heritage Renfrew's AGM in January.
- b) **NUNNEY - The Statue:** A \$5,000 bronze casting was ordered (at private expense) of the plasticene maquette (miniature model) which we had commissioned a year ago of home boy **Claude NUNNEY, VC, DCM, MM** - Canada's most decorated soldier in the ranks - in action in WW I. Delivery will be sometime in April 2006. The bronze can serve as a model from which to make life-size statues of the ones we hope to have erected in Hastings, England, and in Ottawa at the Canadian War Museum or as one of the NCC's proposed 60 statues of Canadian heroes.
- c) **NUNNEY - Research** has for the last five years involved a trio - British forensic accountant and author **Peter Silk**, **Howard Stutt**, editor of the 'Friends of the War Museum' and me. I had visited Peter in Hastings, UK, a few years ago. This summer (2005) Peter came to Canada for the first time. He met Howard, researched at Library and Archives Canada, the War Museum and with HCC in Renfrew. We drove him to the NUNNEY siblings' former haunts in Renfrew Country (Micksburg), Jockdale (greater Ottawa) and the former Glengarry County and

to Cornwall Armouries (to see Nunney's medals), significant local, museums, libraries and to meet local historians, and take video and photos. On four other trips to Glengarry HCC confirmed the location of two the three houses Claude lived in, visited them, and made contact with 1) **Eleanor Macdonnell** (who located a Canadian grave with Nunney's name on it tho' NUNNEY was buried in France), 2) **Doris Beard** (who knew of the only known artifact to have belonged to Claude, 3) **Pat McRae** (whose Mom knew Claude, 4) **Tammy Pilon** who provided land records for her home - the log cabin that was Claude's first home in Canada. Howard and Dave also met over lunch with the CO of the Cameron Highlanders, NUNNEY's old regiment.

d) **Canadian War Museum:** Howard Stutt arranged a private tour of the newly opened Museum and its 2 miles of displays.

e) **The Royal Canadian Legion Magazine** was warned that its upcoming Nov-Dec 2005 issue on *Canada's Magnificent Seven* would likely contain factual errors arising from Claude NUNNEY's own testimony. As a result we worked for two weeks with the editor to ensure the lead paragraphs about the Home Boy were historically correct.

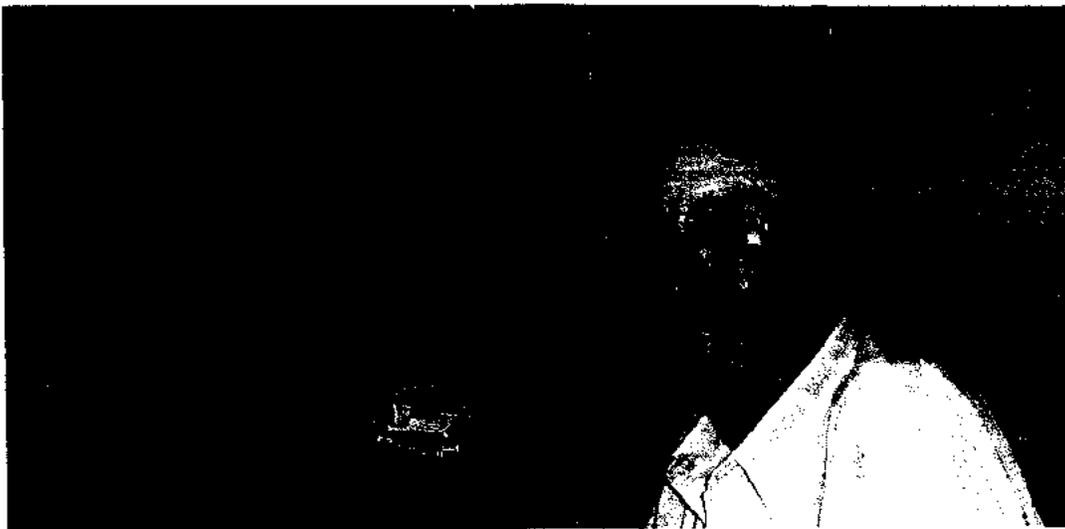
f) **The Renfrew Mercury Remembrance Day** section included a full page which HCC submitted gratis on two Home Boys - **Claude NUNNEY** and Renfrew's **George "Shorty" HALL** who had both won medals for bravery at Vimy and who were both child migrants.

g) **Submissions to the British and Canadian Governments** to have statues of NUNNEY and of Home Children erected overseas and in Canada were prepared to be submitted post-election in 2006.

h) **We assisted a War II Veteran and Home Child** to get his Quebec Medical Card which had been denied him after he visited a son in Alberta because he 'lacked citizenship'.

i) **Canadian Extracts from Guild Messengers, 1920 - 1955:** We came into possession of this most useful tome which contains a wealth of data about home children, especially those who visited Barnardos during their service overseas in both world wars.

Peter Silk visits Home Boy Art MONK in Beachburg. They first met in their home town of Hastings a few years back when Peter located Art's mother's grave which Art visited on Mother's Day on his first trip back' courtesy of Tony Blair.

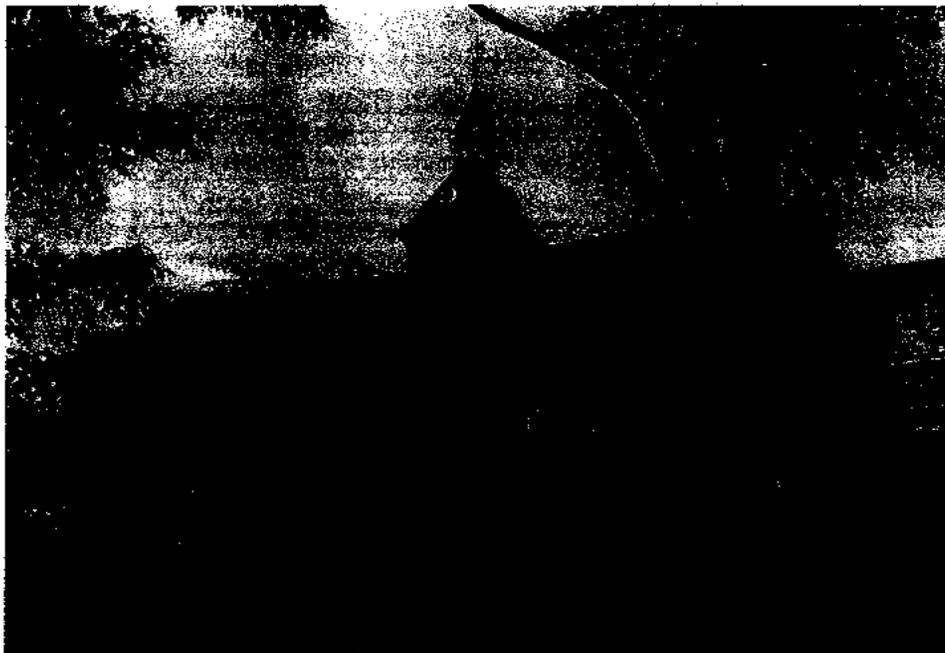


4. HOME CHILDREN BURIAL PLACES

a) **Twenty-three St George's Home children buried in unmarked Ottawa graves** were identified by HCC more than a decade ago. They were buried in 3 plots, only one of which has a marker commemorating Sister Evangelist O'Keefe but not the children buried with her. By 2005 we had learned of 154 from that home in Ottawa who had died at or near their placements (outside the city) and were probably buried in the nearby countryside. We asked the assistance of **John Sayers** and his **BIFHSGO** group in locating coroner's reports on as many as possible and compiled part of entry data on all concerned. We also approached the Notre Dame Cemetery officials in Ottawa and negotiated the erecting in 2006 of two monuments with the names of the 23 home children and their ages.

b) **Visits to Home Children graves in Protestant Cemeteries** became a matter of related importance, if only to understand if large numbers were also buried in such small areas elsewhere. And so a 12-day summer holiday trip was planned to involve visits to home children graves in Niagara-on-the-Lake (Maria Rye's), Peterborough (Barnardo's), Brockville (Quarrier's) and Athens (monuments erected by a home boy). Talking to cemetery officials and morticians confirmed that things were indeed different vis-a-vis burial practices before legislation was enacted in the last days of child migration.

5. **THE WORKHOUSE in the UK - and Canada** - has long been a preoccupation because so many home children had been in the **Workhouse** (also called **Poor House** or **House of Industry**.) We visited the one between Elora and Fergus during our cemetery peregrinations. It is a very fine designated Historical Site well worth visiting.



The Wellington Co. 'House of Industry' is the earliest remaining example in Ontario of a Workhouse or Poor House. What is now the front lawn was once a huge apple orchard with a long driveway leading to the front door.

6. POWER POINT has been added (at personal expense) at our presentations.

7. CANADA'S HOME CHILDREN TRAVELLING DISPLAY features artifacts from Renfrew and area Home Children. It was due to be dismantled in Oct 2004 but we asked for it as is and it has found a temporary home at Renfrew's Library and Archives Canada Building.

8. INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND SCHOLARS

a) The National Children's Home (NCH) was a former sending agency founded by the unassuming Dr Bowman Stephenson who had a home in Hamilton ON from the early 1870's and assisted Barnardo to place his children out of it when the latter brought his first group over in 1882. In 2005, NCH officials Shaun Kelly and Joan Kerry paid their first week-long visit to Canada and hosted a small reunion in Ottawa which John Sayers and I attended. (Rev Kenneth Mankin formerly of NCH, had visited us a few years ago on a research project and will return again in 2006.)

b) Barnardos Head of After Care, Sara Roberts, attended the Barnardo Children Play at Millbank, a special meeting of the Home Children Canada Barnardo support group, and other Peterborough 100th Anniversary festivities in July. Kudos to Ivy Sucee, our branch chair in Peterborough and founder of her local Hazelbrae Home group. Ivy has served as a research facilitator for both the above play and for the one to be staged in Jan 2006 in Toronto.

c) Scholars: Andrew Morrison, UK PhD candidate working out of Queen's University spent several days with us. We arranged for him to contact others across Canada and hosted a Renfrew all comers-meeting. We advised Laura Rollison and assisted with her MA thesis for Dartmouth, USA, and aided Anne Marie Auber of McGill and Jackie Sharkey of Carleton's Journalism Department..

d) Peter Silk of Hastings, England, spent a fortnight in Canada researching Home Boy Claude NUNNEY, Canada's most decorated soldier in the ranks. He and Howard Stutt, editor of the *Friends of the War Museum Newsletter*, and I have worked together on this project for five years. We toured Nunney's haunts in Cornwall and old Glengarry County and the Ottawa and Upper Ottawa Valley places his brothers were sent to in Jockvale (Ottawa) and Micksburg (Renfrew County). We also met distant relatives of the people the Nunneys lived with, located the only artifact known to have belonged to Claude and located a grave with his name on it in St Raphael's cemetery in Charlottenburg Township, Ontario. (Claude is actually buried in France where he died of his wounds in Sept 1918) (Peter hopes to return in 2006.)



This humble log cabin was the first of three that Claude NUNNEY lived in when he arrived in Glengarry County in 1905. The families he lived with obviously inculcated good precepts in him.

e) **Documentaries: Nobody's Child** - the TV documentary , premiered 31 May 2005 on several TV Channels. The documentary featured several friends of old. It accompanied the Home Child exhibit at London Museum which closed in July and it was also be used in conjunction with the Barnardo portion of Peterborough's 100th celebrations. When we were on camera being photographed for the film we warned that it would be a great injustice were only the negative aspects of child migration emphasized. Sad to say, as happens too often, that happened to be the case. Virtually all positive comments wound up on the cutting room floor.

Lost Lives - Quebec based producers of the series did a program on our HCC involvement in the helping **Barb Young**, author of *Chasing Grandma*, to find her Scottish ancestor's Home Child roots. The series was tastefully photographed in Montreal and Scotland.

9. THE WRITTEN WORD in 2005

- a) **Prime Minister Martin** and **Ms Frulla**, Minister of Canadian Heritage, sent Open Letters
- b) We were asked to review for possible publication a UK author's book.
- c) **Anna Magnussan**, BBC Scotland, was in touch re updating **The Village** re Quarriers.
- d) **Dr John Dickenson of Liverpool University** remains in touch re his research into former home boys from the Liverpool Sheltering Home who were KIA (killed in action).
- e) **The UK's Centenary Celebrations** of the deaths and works of **Barnardo** and **Nugent** were covered for us by **Ivy Sucee** and **Pat McEvoy** respectively. (see section A)
- f) **Library and Archives Canada** asked for all copies of **UPDATES**
- g) **Jerry Hind** of **Chatham** opened a local HCC Branch
- h) **Liverpool's Catholic PIC** magazine chose not to run our Home Children article.
- i) **RESEARCHING Home CHILDREN** by **John D Reid**, PhD was published. A great buy for \$9.00. #HC23, Heritage Productions, Toronto ISBN 1-1894018-62-1; www.genealogy store

IN MEMORIAN 2005:

Susan (KELLY) CHAPUT
Ada PAMMETT
Patrick FLANNIGAN

Violet WARD
Toms RUMSEY
Dave MASTERS

Alice AYLER;
Bill POWELL-BELL

UPDATE - HCC - OF THINGS TO COME

OUR 2006 AGENDA

HCC has been working on the following projects for years in some cases. We hope to see them near completion, if at all possible, this year so that we can find more time to pen our own family history and tell the Home Children Canada story. The projects are in no particular order.

1. Home Children Statue(s)

In 1998 the British Government invited us to go to the British Parliament (at our own expense) to address their Health Select Committee on *The Welfare of Former Child Migrants*. The Government report of December that year promised that Britain would work with the former receiving countries to erect statues to the little immigrants. Home Children Canada envisages a life size statue of a young boy and girl with all their earthly belongings - similar to the statue erected at Fremantle in Australia - standing on the dock in the port of Quebec where the vast majority of Canadian Home Children disembarked. We should also like to see another at Liverpool's Maritime Museum and a correction to the display there which states that all the children were 'orphans', when in fact 70,000 of those sent to Canada had one or more parents.



The photo at top-right shows our friend Australia's Senator Andrew Murray and Dr Marilyn A Rock, his chief researcher, flanking the Fremantle statue. Commemorative plaques on the base at the children's feet explain the significance of child migration and its effects on the children. Senator Murray has been in the forefront of three Australian Senate committees studying abuse of children. He knows first-hand whereof he speaks. He himself was a home child sent to the African continent.

2. Statue(s) to Home Children Who Served

We also believe that similar twin statues could be erected to commemorate the many children who served and died for Canada - and Britain - in our wars. We feel that a statue depicting Canada's most decorated soldier in the ranks, **Claude NUNNEY, VC, DCM and MM** would best personify their valour. Claude NUNNEY and his brother Alfred were both Home Boys who were KIA (Killed in Action) weeks apart in WW I just months before hostilities ended. There is interest in the UK in having one statue in Hastings, England, Claude's birthplace. The other might be erected in or near the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa or one of the 60 plinths the National Capital Commission hopes to erect in the Capital Region to Canadian heroes.

What have we already done about the Nunney statue?

To kick start this project, a few years ago, we commissioned a foot high miniature model by well known Sculptor Susan Murar of Stratford. Cost \$1,000. In the late fall of 2005 we paid \$5,000 more, this time out of our own pocket, to have a bronze casting of the plasticene maquette made. It should be ready in late April. The life size statues could be made from the bronze miniature and be in place by the end of 2006 in the unlikely case that the governments concerned got their acts together and declared the project a 'GO'. Meanwhile the metal prototype can be used in promotional material to raise funds for the unveiling ceremonies, etc. It could then be sold, raffled off, or donated to a Canadian Museum, Nunney's old Regiment, or.....(?).



The photo shows the miniature scale model from three angles. It depicts Claude NUNNEY atop his own trenches with his back to the enemy, seemingly oblivious of the Bosch barrage as he urges his comrades to follow him the next morning in September 1918 when they 'go over the top' to attack and repel the enemy. It is for this act of valour and leadership and for similar bravery the next day that he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the British and Commonwealth's highest award for bravery.

Records show that most home children joined up - if they were big enough - were sent overseas to fight, often visited the agency that shipped them to Canada and then returned to their "homes" in..... Canada.

So what now?

When the Canadian election is over we will approach all party leaders and the provincial premiers concerned in Canada to urge their cooperation in approaching the British government to have statues erected. And we'll write Prime Minister Blair to remind him of his promise.

3. Kicking the fog at Canada Post

For well nigh a decade and a half we have petitioned Canada Post's Stamp Advisory Committee in Ottawa to strike commemorative stamps of home children and war heroes like Claude Nunney. Why don't you give it a try? They're at 2701 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0B1. And we'll have another go too.

4. The Notre Dame Cemetery Project - Home Children buried in unmarked graves

A decade and a half ago it came to our attention that some children who had come through St George's Home in Ottawa died and were buried in unmarked graves in three plots in an Ottawa Cemetery. Actually there is a marker on one plot; it is for Sister Evangelist O'Keefe, who died while she was Superior of St George's Home. Some of the 23 children are buried with her but there is no mention of them.

We decided to find out how many children were buried there, who they were, and what we could do to honour them. Starting in 1998 we took Catholic visitors from home children agencies in Liverpool and Birmingham Dioceses to the graves and pointed out the fact that Sr. O'Keefe's monument needed to be replaced because it was eaten by acid rain and the inscription was illegible.

We also started visiting home children graves elsewhere in Ontario in Niagara-on-the-Lake (Rye's), in Peterborough (Barnardo's), in Brockville (Quarrier's), taking pictures and recording names and trying to put things in some sort of perspective. We had help from Ivy Sucee in Peterborough and Mel and Don King in Brockville in confirming names and causes of death of local cases. We also made a trip to Athens ON where a home boy erected a memorial of sorts and we had help from Andy Morrison of Scotland, no less, who chanced on it before we did.

Reading and especially chatting with morticians and local cemetery officials has given us a much better understanding of burial practices before legislation was introduced and our visits to the various cemeteries have confirmed that as many as 23 people could have been buried in the three small plots in Ottawa between 1907 when the plots were purchased and the early 1930's when the last children were buried there. (St George's Home received its last child in 1932 and finally closed its doors in 1934.)

Over the years people we have helped have sometimes sent unsolicited donations for services rendered. This money we gave to Heritage Renfrew's Treasurer who put it in a special account. (Because HCC is a committee of HR this enabled the donors to have a receipt for income tax purposes.) In Dec 2005 the donations received since January 1991 and Home Boy Ken Donovan's In Memoriam fund totalled just over \$6,000 - almost exactly the sum required to purchase two monuments for the unmarked graves, to have the names, dates of death and ages of the children inscribed and to have the monuments erected and cleaned. A \$20 donation put us over the top and we now await the stonemason's acceptance of our proposed design. In late summer or early fall 2006 we propose to have a ceremony of some sort in Notre Dame Cemetery in that part of Ottawa once known as Eastview or Vanier City. We expect we might even have some overseas visitors on hand.

N.B.

We urge possible descendants or relatives of the following home children buried in Notre Dame Cemetery to contact us if they wish to participate in our graveside ceremony:

BAKER Stella Winnifred Goldie	BERRY John	DELUKA Florence
DOWSE Robert	EVERETT Doris	FLANNAGAN William
GARDENER Richard	HEALY , Margaret	HUNTER Mary
HYDE Percy	KELLEHER Mary	KING Mary
LAMBERT Nellie	MURPHY Ellen	NEALE Charles
NOON-CRUISE Elizabeth	ONIONS Elizabeth	REILLY Johanna
SPARKS Margaret	STONE Ethel	WELLINGTON Dorothy
WOOD Honora	WOODHALL Mary.	

5. The Federal Plaque at Stratford will be changed...1939 becomes 1948!

It is sometimes difficult to convince officialdom that they are making a serious error, e.g. in the date the last home child came to Canada. We have spent over a dozen years assuring our Government officials that Child Migration did not end with the advent of WW II in 1939 because records show that 76 Fairbridge and Middlemore children came to Canada between 1945 and 1948. We had even helped a few of these very people locate personal records or get a free trip 'back home'. Furthermore we gave federal ministry historians some names and told them of a 77th youth, Dave Green, a Barnardo boy who now lives in Brockville, who was the last to arrive - in a plane no less - in 1948. We know this because Dave is one of our official HCC representatives. .

And yet the Stratford Plaque, which home children unveiled in Stratford before some 1,200+ descendants, referred to child migration to Canada ending in 1939. We protested to Dr Monette, then head of Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. He promised to do something about it after we explained that the unveiling was a painful experience and would open old wounds for those who came after 1939 because, they had already told us that plaques and books which said the last child arrived before WW II was proof positive that Canada was letting them 'fall through the cracks' to be overlooked once again.

Well, they're not forgotten any more!
Alleluia! Some of the very people who challenged us years ago have seen the light and have helped effect changes. A letter received a few weeks ago contains extracts of minutes of meetings over the last few years and a promise that the plaque would be taken down this winter and re-cast. We have even been asked to vet the texts of both official languages.

Kicking the fog for a while sometimes pays off!

The photo at right shows the federal plaque outside the former Annie Macpherson Home in Stratford, Ontario. The plaque is unique in that it is the federal government's only tangible public proof that child migration to this country is now recognized to be of national historical significance.

