

OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW



Heritage Renfrew

Issue 16, October, 2004

Heritage Renfrew Receives 35mm Film Collection

Early this year Heritage Renfrew received an unexpected donation from Mr. Fred Runge, President of Runge Publishing Inc. and owner of the Renfrew Mercury. This donation came in the form of a transfer of Renfrew Mercury's collection of 35 mm negatives which number in the hundreds of thousand. The negative collection is in excellent condition and completely records the years from the early 60's on to November of 1999.

Cataloging the collection required many hours of sorting and thanks to the efforts of our Members and even visitors, the Collection was completely sorted into a chronological order by June.

This collection now provides a companion tool for our micro-filmed collection of the Renfrew Mercury newspaper. Previously, Visitors researching articles written in the Mercury had to content themselves with a poor quality photo static reproduction of photographs accompanying the article. However, thanks to Mr. Runge's donation, researchers can now, thru a digital reformatting process of these negatives, procure an original-like photo of the photo which originally accompanied the printed story or by-line.

As an example of the significance of this acquisition, there was a call prior to the Renfrew 150th anniversary Fair asking for the use of particular negatives so that pictures involving past Agricultural events could be reproduced for the Renfrew Holstein Dairy Club's Fair Display. This was the first instance of a public awareness of our Negative Collection and we were pleased to be able to accommodate the Club's request and look forward to future requests.

Display

Home Children

Ken Stafford-Brown

Message from the President

Well at last we are getting our newsletter off the ground again...They say that it never rains but it pours and that has certainly been the case with us at Heritage Renfrew. Most all of the Board members have had some personal issues to deal with which has resulted an inability to function at full capacity with activities being either delayed or reduced. That has changed and now things are on the move once again.

On a note of sadness, our sincere sympathy goes out to all of Earl Lyndsay's family. Earl had always shown a supportive interest in Heritage Renfrew from its beginning. He had also participated in the business and political interests of Renfrew, placing it first in all his activities. His absence will be felt in all the areas and projects intended for the purposes of promoting Renfrew.

As already mentioned, I would also like to add on behalf of Heritage Renfrew, our thanks and gratitude to the Renfrew Mercury for its kind donation of their 35mm negative collection..

There are many things which are happening or have already happened...They will be detailed later in this edition of the newsletter.

Please come out to the Archives and see what we have to offer you as a Member. We have lots of interesting things to do and will certainly welcome each and every new member.

Take care for now.

Audrey

Green

On September 22nd a van pulled into the Renfrew Records Centre. In the van were crates containing components of a Parks Canada Mobile interactive display.

The display components, when assembled, comprised of a panoramic screen frame and a tower with magnetically attached graphic panels, an interactive listening post and an artifact showcase containing the possessions of a Bernardo Home child named Shorty Hall. Noteworthy is the fact that the principle item of the Display is a trunk which was made by Shorty himself back in England before coming to Canada and which he used continuously after his arrival in Canada.

Later in this newsletter, Mr. Dave Lorente will be devoting his Home Children Report on this acquisition and what it means in terms of public awareness of the hardships endured by these helpless children and the many examples of how these children overcame their humble beginnings to become decorated Soldiers, respected Statesmen and contributing Citizens of their adopted homeland.

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HERITAGE MEETING



Join us every first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., in the Heritage Room at the Renfrew Archives, Gibbons Road. (off O'Brien Road)

IN MEMORIUM

**John Earl Lindsay, September 10, 2004 in his 81st year
Beloved husband of Marjorie Lindsay [nee Vincent]**

Earl will be remembered for the enthusiastic support he gave to Heritage Renfrew during its fledgling years. As the husband of one of Heritage Renfrew's founders, he was instrumental in using his Civic and Political connections to secure a long term home for Heritage Renfrew. A grateful Heritage Renfrew extends its sincerest condolences to his wife Marjorie and family.

RESEARCH

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL NEWSPRINT

One of the many tools for genealogical research is the newspapers of by-gone years. Unlike today, not many of them had obituaries or weddings as a regular feature, but they did have some which were very graphic in detail and full of anecdotal information of the subject and persons written on.. Most of the time the items were placed in the paper by family members or friends and even sometimes by an organization of whom the person or persons were valued members of.

Also found in old newsprint are informative articles written by relatives of family members who were departing for other Countries such as the United States or other Provinces which were offering opportunities for a better life and a fresh start. Included in the details of those submissions could be found information on which train they departed on, their destination and the names of the family members who were going to the new place of settlement.

In other instances, particularly where a story took on an editorial appearance because it may have involved a prominent citizen of the community with a political, religious or a professional significance, the source of the information could usually traced back to relatives and close friends. The positive side of this editorial format was that it gave credible insight as to how this individual may have impacted the community or was viewed by his or her contemporaries.


When researching, it is very important not to overlook the possibilities that local newspapers can provide for you to temporarily travel back in time to an era where the truth in print can bring back to life a Great-Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt or some Cousin you may have heard your grandfather speak fondly of and who through time, their whereabouts has been lost to memory...To once again re-unite that individual and his or her descendants with your Family Tree may be as simple as taking a little time to research the local paper to discover where they may have re-located to once they left the town in which they were born, raised and educated in.

Olga Lewis



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



Heritage Renfrew
Bake Sale
At The Farmer's Market
Saturday Oct. 9 2004
7:00 AM---11:00 AM

The Bake Sale which was earlier advertised in the local newspaper before it could serve as an advertisement in this issue of the Newsletter was a resounding success. The purpose of the sale was to help generate funds to purchase reference genealogy material for Heritage Renfrew. Our thanks go out to Olga Lewis and her committee members, Pat Patterson and Delores Agnel for organizing this event.

DONATED FAMILY TREES

- 1. Burchat Family Tree Volumes I & II By: Esther Yantha Representing the Burchat Family
- 2. The Opeongo— Sabastopal Founding Families By: Lorn Foran; and
- 3. The Duncan [Horton Twp.] McLaren Family Tree;
- Descendants of John Mottat Ross & Sarah Edmond;
- Descendants of James Smith & Abigail Putman:
- The Reid Family Genealogy.
- **Note:** All the above 3rd donation was made by : Margaret McLaren

DONATED BOOKS

- Through a “Deed of Gift”, A complete set of fifteen (15) Tweedmuir History books which were compiled during the time in which the Rosebank Branch of the Women’s Institute of Eastern Ontario were active.

Heritage Renfrew gratefully acknowledges the generosity of these donations.

Information Please

Bond, Joseph M.

Born Circa 1806 in Dublin Ireland and died in Cardinal, Ontario on 29 January, 1902. Have a detailed account of my Gr—Gr, Grandfather’s life in Canada but unable to determine from which Port he may have departed , the date of departure or the Vessel he birthed on. Would appreciate any information or references to Ships and their passenger lists departing from Ireland in the years between 1825 and 1830.

Joseph M. Bond is listed in the Bond Family web site: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin.cgi?op=GET&db=rbond007&id=16773#s2>

Thank you and looking forward to a reply

Robert T. Bond - e-mail: rbond007@tnni.net

Brown, Walter, M.D.

I wonder if you would be kind enough to direct me to where I can find information on Dr. Walter Brown’s Family. He was married to Eulalia Kaye, R.N., a distant cousin of mine. I am working on our Family history.

The Browns lived in Douglas Ontario and then Renfrew, Ontario. They had at least seven (7) children, Joseph, Bliss, Teresa, Louis, Kaye James and one other. I have been told that one or more of their sons died in WW II...Perhaps their names are on your Cenotaph. Does your local Branch of the Legion have an e-mail address? Many Thanks for any assistance or guidance you can give me.

Best Regards,

Allan J. Gillis — e-mail: agillis@sprint.ca

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER!!

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

kenstafford@sympatico.ca





MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION NOTIFICATION

Subscribe to *Opeongo Lines* for the new year!

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2005 are **\$10.00 (\$15.00 outside of Canada)**.

Membership gives You:

- News updates in *Opeongo Lines*
- Microfilm & Micro fiche of Census Records
- Local newspapers
- Land records
- Birth, marriage & Death information
- Cemetery & reference books

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



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

Heritage Renfrew 2004 Board of Directors



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Grace Simmons; Joyce McBride; Audrey Green; Mary Hass; and Darlene Mask

Second Row:

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Back Row:

Vaughn Simmons; Ken Stafford-Brown; Martin Munhall; and Brian Long

Missing from Photograph:

Pat Patterson; Delores Agnel; Olga Lewis; Clarence McBride; Laurie Skerkowski; and Dean Black

HOME CHILDREN CANADA

Update 2003
Issue No. 2



Welcome to another UPDATE on the British child migrants Canadians call *home children*. Since our last issue we have been actively engaged in negotiating with BIFHSGO the handing over of more responsibilities to John Sayers, his Cdn Index committee and the British Isles Family History Society in Ottawa. More on this and its ramifications in the fall issue. And in spite of the fact that we also spent a month and a half abroad on Home Child business, pleasure and personal research we managed to locate, in a very short time frame, thanks to our readers, a wealth of informative items for this issue. Thanks to all who contributed.

Enjoy,

Dave Lorente

PRESENTATIONS & MEETINGS 2003

(Upcoming presentations are bolded)

- Feb 15: The Bromley Township Historical Society at the Barr Line School
- Mar 19: UK, Methodist International Centre, London, w Barnardos After Care & PR
- Mar 20: UK, Glamorgan Archivist, Cardiff, Wales & Dr Tony Newman, Cardiff U
- Mar 21: UK, Department of Health & Sending Agencies in am. Barnardos staff in p.m.
- Mar 22: UK, Herne Bay, UK, re family home child contacts in UK & Europe
- Mar 23: UK, Hastings, meet with Peter Silk re HC statue project
- Mar 24: UK, Woking, meet w Gerald/Dot Gill-Valentine re Renfrew area Home Boy
- Mar 25: UK, Church of England, London, Margery St HQ and Tower Bridge Archives
- Mar 26: UK, Methodist Internat. Centre, Guild Magazine, Barnardo lawyers, directors
- Mar 19, 20, 25, 26 - UK, Supper Meetings with reps from sending agencies.
- May 06: Ross Township Historical Society, Foresters Falls
- **Sep17: The Grey County Hist. Soc. & Bruce-Grey Counties OGC Branch in Owen Sound, ON. Details from Paula Niall, 2650 3rd Ave W, Owen Sound, N4K 4S8.**

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sending agencies in the UK was cancelled for reasons only James Bond could fathom. Instead, yours truly was invited over - passage and board paid - to address the group in the British Ministry of Health and to meet with interested parties and repeat on occasion the speech we made in New Orleans. That explains the cluster of meetings and presentations in the UK in just a few days. A special vote of thanks to the organizers, especially the Church of England The Children's Society and Barnardos.

The March Conference on child migration sponsored by former

MEDIA

- a) **THE CHILD MIGRANTS, a major 4-part BBC Radio series** by Whistledown Productions, of London, UK, airs 14, 21, 28 July and 4 Aug. We have had the pleasure of working with Asst Producer Joanne Coombs on this series from Canada and in New Orleans. The programs can be picked up at 92-95 FM and 198 LW from the UK at 900, 21.00 Greenwich Mean Time and live on the internet at www.bbc.co.uk/radio4. For more info contact producer davidprest@hotmail.com.
- b) **GROWING UP IN CANADA**, a six-hour six-part TV series, features Home Boy **Arthur MONK** and HCC co-founder Kay Gollinger-Lorente among others. To be broadcast soon..
- c) **GOING HOME**, a Great North Edmonton production featuring Home Boy **Ken DONOVAN** and his family has been shown several times recently on the History Channel.
- d) **SORCERY FILMS** is putting finishing touches on an hour-long program which will feature among others, Home Girl **Susan CHAPUT** of Pembroke, ON. To be aired this summer or fall.
- e) **Ordinary Miracles** by Diana Aspin is a newly released book of short stories on home children inspired in part by Home Boy **Art MONK**. Published by Red Deer Press, 813 MacKimmie Library Tower, 2500 University Dr N.W. Calgary T2N 1N4. ISBN 0-88995-277-9

RESEARCH AIDS

A POT POURRI OF BOOKS AND WEBSITES

- a) **THE NATIONAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES OF CANADA WEBSITE is at www.archives.ca**. If you haven't surfed all of it you are missing something special. Most with home children connections know of the home children index, immigrants from 1925 to 1935, and list of WW I soldiers, but how many have looked into those pages dealing with vital statistics, (birth, marriage and death registrations), census records, land records, photos, information on long forgotten post offices in localities home children were once placed etc?. Do give it a go!
- b) **TRACING IRISH ANCESTORS** is a problem for many descendants of home children because a disproportionate number of destitute Irish were shipped out by Britain. (cf Parr, Joy, **Labouring Children**). The task was made easier for your editor recently when he chanced on the **Irish Times** website and found free resources on counties, censuses, and fragments of the **1766 Religious Census of Ireland** which had survived the 1922 fire in the Four Courts in Dublin. They cover N Cork, Limerick, Londonderry, Lough and Wicklow. The Census was conducted by the state (Anglican) Church of Ireland and includes Roman Catholics who were required by law to pay tithes to the Anglican Church. This in turn suggests another source of information on Catholics: **The Tithe Defaulters** lists maintained by the Church of Ireland and available now on microfiche.
- c) **THE KERRY CHAIN - THE LIMERICK LINK** is a recently published study of special interest to researchers with North Kerry and west Co Limerick roots. Some of the Irish came before, during, and after The Famine and even had emigration links with the Monteagle emigrants who went *down under* to Australia. This is the first study, as far as we know, of chain migration to Renfrew County from Kerry, often via Lanark and Carleton Counties. For more info on Carol Bennett McCuaig's masterpiece, its cost and how to order it, visit <http://3.sympatico.ca/juniper2/> ISBN is 0-919137-36-9. Juniper Press is at RR #2, Renfrew ON, K7V 3Z5
- d) **ON-LINE BOOKS, MAGAZINES and NEWSPAPERS** may be of help in researching families and localities. Try www.fetchbook.info/ and www.ipl.org.
- e) **NATIONAL REGISTRATION** was required of everyone 16 and over starting in 1940. Those records are available from Paul Johnson, Census Pension Searchers Unit, Canada Operations Division, Statistics Canada, B1E-34, Jean Talon Building, Tunneys's Pasture, Ottawa ON, K1A 0T6. They include name, address, age, living conditions, country of birth for self and parents, nationality or allegiances, racial origin, languages spoken, education, health, occupation, unemployment record, if raised on a farm, defence service, proof of death and residency. A cheque for

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

\$48.15 is necessary but is refunded if nothing is found. This may be a useful source of information re your home children and even family members. National Registration Records helped this person but beware of bad spelling and occasional stretched truths.

- f) **ROMAN CATHOLIC HOME CHILDREN** were not all sent through Mrs Brennan's early receiving/distribution home in Montreal or the later St George's (formerly Orpington) in Ottawa, as is commonly supposed. Some, at times, went directly to Kingston and elsewhere. Four years ago we surmised this had happened, thanks to the information inquirers had given us about their child migrants. We went to Kingston and visited the archivists of two religious orders there. They gladly showed us their registers and, yes, the sisters had received home children and placed them. They had also taken them in later if they were sick or if family members they had been placed with were diseased or imprisoned locally. Both archivists were delighted to be of help and have continued to do so. We have since referred many cases to them. We have also introduced Pat McEvoy of Liverpool's Nugent Care Society to them. The information available is usually minimal - just IN-OUT data - but it is useful. Sister Gayle Desarmia, archivist for the Sisters of Providence seized the opportunity to make a database to facilitate retrieval of information and to advertise it at <http://providence.ca/heritage/homechildren.html>. To get details about any of the 570 children sent over by Mrs Lacy of the Catholic Protection Society of Liverpool between 1888 and 1891 contact Sister Gayle at archives@providence.ca or write her at Archives, Providence Motherhouse, Box 427, Kingston ON, Canada, K7L 4W4.
- g) **FIND BRITISH ANCESTORS OR PAY NOTHING** at www.britishancestors.com. We have received favourable feedback about this website where searches are done of census, church and vital statistic records from 1813 to 1950.
- h) **THE MANITOBA VITAL STATISTICS FREE DATABASE** will prove useful in locating some home children - and others - who were placed in the province or moved west on harvest trains and stayed to homestead. The site gives Births before 1903 (100 years ago), Marriages before 1923 (80 years ago) and Deaths before 1933 (70 years ago). One can order certified copies(complete details) for \$25 online, by fax at (204) 948-3128, or by mail at 254 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 0B6. Do try their website at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/ccca/vital/Query.php>.
- i) **THE ENGLAND AND WALES 1901 CENSUS** is online at www.census.pro.gov.uk and proving very useful in locating home children (born before 1901) and their families. Payment can be by credit card, or, if like me, you choose not to use yours in cyberspace, you can purchase a CENSUS ONLINE VOUCHER or two for 5 Pounds Sterling each. Vouchers are available in

(Continued on page 10)

SIX TIPS ON USING MICROFILM

This article appeared recently in, I think, a **Family Tree** newsletter. I wrote them down because I deemed them simple and worthwhile. They are:

1. Scan the entire contents;
2. Take adequate notes;
3. Make photocopies if at all possible;
4. Check each copy as it is made to ensure legibility;
5. Keep track as you search of what you are searching;
6. Do NOT focus on just one family member.

Shortly after reading them, I happened to prove to myself the wisdom they imparted. I devoted a rare few hours to looking over some old notes I had made while researching the family name years ago and lo and behold!, information on names I did not then recognize as family suddenly became significant. I had details on siblings of my father I did not know about who had died before he was born, simply because I had made a note about then unknown persons. I can think of another case. When scanning ship manifests years ago I found it useful to read, not just the lists, but the data at the front of the manifest for details on the ship and voyage. Here one finds details of why a ship headed for Halifax might change port of destination and dock instead at a New England port perhaps because of icebergs encountered enroute, or why, because of an outbreak of disease aboard ship it would put in at a quarantine island (every major port had one) such as Grosse Ile (which did receive home children). Then

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

too there were sometimes accidents during a crossing, someone fell overboard, or there were other deaths and burials at sea. Such details do not appear in the passenger lists proper; but can be found at the beginning of the manifest. They lend colour to your home child's story.

WEARING THE HCC PIN

The Home Children Canada pin was designed to serve several very special purposes. It was seeing a photo of the one that the Waifs and Strays organization gave to boys sent to Gibbs Home in Sherbrooke QC that inspired us to have one. We wanted to show that we too were proud to either be a home child or have one in the family or as a friend. The Church of England boys used pins to identify others sent before or after they came. We use them for the same purpose so that a person can introduce himself or herself and exchange stories. The pin also arouses other's curiosity. "What's that? I never saw that pin before?" And before you know it, you are spreading the word about home children and fulfilling the second aim of our mandate. This was brought home to us 'in spades' on our recent 18-day crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. As on a other similar cruise, where most of the passengers were not Canadian, we shared dining tables with others

(Continued on page 11)

equivalent Cdn funds from the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. See the BIFHSGO website.

- j) **THE GOLDEN BRIDGE - YOUNG IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA 1833-1939**, by Marj Kohli is a must-have volume for the serious home child researcher. It will be launched in September. The publisher is Natural Heritage.Natural History Inc., PO Box 95, Station 0, Toronto ON, M4A 2MB, Tel 1-800-725-9982. E-mail info@naturalheritagebooks.com. Price is \$34.95 Cdn or \$26.95 US. Web site: www.naturalheritagebooks.com. ISBN is 1-896219-90-X.
- k) **MARCHMONT, Distribution Home, Belleville, Ontario, 1870-1925**, by James S. Gilchrist is hot off the press (Epic Press, Belleville ON). It will be of special interest to those whose home children came through Anne Macpherson or her sisters. ISBN is 1-55306-571-9. Order directly from Jim Gilchrist, 886 Heber St, Trenton ON, K8V 1N3, jim.marchmont@sympatico.ca. Tel (613) 392-5978. Price is \$20.95 Cdn, \$13.95 US.
- l) **FEGAN HOME NEWSLETTERS, Vol 10, THE RED LAMP, 1913-1920** compiled by Doug Fry and Fawne Stratford-Devai, Global Heritage Press / GlobalGenealogy.com Inc, Milton ON, ISBN1-894378-99-7. Hard bound, Cost \$34.95.. And **J.W.C. FEGAN, A TRIBUTE**, by W.Y. D. Fullerton, a Global Historical Reprint, ISBN 1-894378-89-X, Cost \$32.00 All royalties from this latter to Mr Fegan's Home in England

THE IAFCM&F LAWSUIT AGAINST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN THE COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN STRASBOURG

was lost on the grounds that the British Government had already addressed the problem. At the New Orleans Conference on Child Migration an Australian legal expert advised against such class action lawsuits because only 3% are successful. Amen!

IN MEMORIAM

Maud **NOBLE**, 92, Florence **HOLTBY**, Charlie **REAPER**, 103, last living Cdn to survive Vimy Ridge, Leslie **COOMBES**. God bless them.

BAD FOOD SERVED ABOARD SHIP TO HOME CHILDREN?

We have read recently of a former home child who complained about the poor quality of food aboard ship as he crossed the Atlantic. Perhaps he had been spoiled terribly in the UK orphanage home that was shipping him over, but that is hard to believe. In over four decades of research and in meeting for the last 12 years with literally thousands of child migrants, we have never heard that complaint before. It is true some children were seasick and that was to be expected of anyone especially on smaller ships of yesteryear and in rough seas. But the 'children' we have talked to were normally enthralled to have had so much variety, to be allowed to eat as much as they wanted, and to actually be waited upon. While researching in London a decade or more ago we came across a letter by Home Boy S. BATT of Ottawa, in 1910 to the sending agency. It evoked a chuckle or two. This is how Master BATT remembered his trip to Canada.

"I will tell you how I got on with the journey when I was on the ship. I thought I was at a tea-party. The things we used to have for breakfast were eggs, liver, bacon, porridge, jam, marmalade, potatoes, sausages, small buns, bread and roast mutton etc &c. For dinner, pea soup, roast beef, masted (sic) potatoes, stewed liver, fish, fried tripe, pudding, sea pie, apples and oranges & c.; for tea bread jam, butter, sugar and tea. On ship I was sick once or twice, but not very much. From St Peter's Net, 1910, p 182

One wonders if the lad was sick because of rough seas or over-indulgence...or both.

NB We should like to hear from anyone who has ever heard of bad food being served on ocean liners to home children or anyone else.

'GOING BACK ' AND 'GUT HISTORY':

Over two thousand years ago Greek philosophers told us that we 'can't step into the same river twice'. It was a memorable way of saying that we simply can't go back in time or place and find conditions or ourselves and ancestors as we or they were. That lesson is driven home to me every time I travel, particularly to ancestral haunts, even though I have been there several times before. I was again reminded of it everyday for a month on recent trips to the UK, where my home child father and his siblings were born, and to Italy, where my grandparents were born, where my name evolved over two-thousand years ago and where my earliest traceable ancestors lived over 300 years ago. Dad and his siblings 'made their debut' in Cardiff, Wales, hard by the dock area which was subjected to heavy bombing during the wars. The streets where they were born and played remain. The homes are all gone. The area is now inhabited by a different racial group. A pub and a gas lantern street-post are all that survived.

(Continued on page 12)

THE GUILD MAGAZINE

is Barnardo's way of keeping in touch with and informing former child migrants sent by that organization. It is not available to others but comes our way because some years ago your founder was made an Honourary Old Boy (No 41) by Dr David Barnardo himself at a reunion at Barkingside's Girls Village of over 3,000 who came from all over the world to celebrate that they had been taken into care by that organization. The next issue of The Guild will feature a cover story on Home Children Canada, and 'our man in London'.

AT SIX'S AND SEVEN'S

We hear that Liverpool Record Office imposed in 2002, a 100 year closure on documents, including those that began earlier. For example, a home child document starting in 1880 and ending in 1930 will now not be available to the public until 2031. How does one reconcile this action with the recommendations of the British DoH Committee and Government Reports of 1998 on The Welfare of Former Child Migrants, that access to child migrant records be facilitated and Privacy Acts relaxed? Does the left hand know what the right is doing?

(Continued from page 10)

and met Americans, Brits and Australians who had home children in their family. We are now helping them to trace their roots and they are spreading the word...with the help of the pin Lizzie Smith designed for us.

(Continued from page 11)

Dad's parents came from the Liri Valley near Cassino, in Italy, where the first monastery in western Europe was founded by Benedict of Nursia in 529 AD. To visit the monastery and surrounding area with historical hindsight is emotionally numbing. Nothing that exists today is really as it was even when my grandparents lived in the area. The war cemeteries remind us that casualties here during WW II were higher than in Western Europe and that its oldest monastery, many of its irreplaceable masterpieces and 69 surrounding cities, towns and villages were utterly levelled - all because American military "intelligence" was certain the Nazis, who were defending Italy, were in the monastery. And so it - and the surrounding area - had to be wiped off the face of the map.. There were no Nazi's in the monastery; in fact they, the enemy, had treated it with greater respect and understanding than did American "intelligence". I was in the Cassino area researching my ancestry during the invasion of Iraq, the looting of its museums and hospitals, and destruction of its infrastructure. I could not then, and cannot now, help wondering if Yogi Berra had it right when he talked about "*deja vu, all over again*". Because as long as no WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) are found in Iraq, American military "intelligence" will again have egg on its face.

It is sobering to think that Benedict and his monks, who escaped the destruction of everything Graeco-Roman by the barbarian invaders, preserved in their monastery at Monte Cassino the arts of writing and trappings of civilization, including ancient

(Continued on page 13)

BARNARDO'S MUSEUM WILL TELL 'LOST' CHILDREN'S STORY

This headline and the accompanying article in the *London Times*, dated 26 April 03, have created a bit of a flap "over there" and even ruffled a few feathers "over here" for still other reasons. The article said the "*museum would be a showcase for the Barnardo archives*". And because someone obviously had shown the reporter his or her personal file, extracts of which were printed in the article, some in the UK leaped to the preposterous conclusion that all 350,000 personal files would also be on public display in the new museum. This, of course, is nonsense.

We, on the other hand, were upset to see the reputable *Times* use the same old term '*lost*' children (even though they put the first word in single quotation marks) which those abroad who preach litigation or want to sell newspapers are so wont to use. We have nothing against the use of the term *per se*, if the other half of the historical equation is used to give balance. Children who were 'lost' over there, were 'found' over here. And those who complain of 'empty cradles' over there should be made aware that cradles were 'filled' over here and elsewhere in the former colonies. The other statement that rankles is the disregard for historical fact. The article says:

"...the centre will provide a unique record of the controversial social experiment that began in 1867 when a young doctor from Ireland set up a 'ragged school' for poor children in the East End of London, and the subsequent development of the child welfare movement in Britain."

What follows is not meant to detract in any way from the great good Thomas Barnardo did. But it must be said that in 1867 Barnardo was not then - nor ever was - a certified '*doctor*'. Furthermore the first '*ragged school*' was started 59 years before by John Pounds. Two Scots, Thos Guthrie and S Watson later started similar schools in Edinburgh and Aberdeen and Lord Shaftesbury formed the Ragged School Union in 1844. By the early 1850's there were over 200 such schools in operation. As for British child migration being "the controversial social experiment", Britain began sending children abroad in 1618 and continued to do so in some form or other until 1967. And if we think only of the movement to Canada and the other colonies as it is known today, then there were predecessors at work - female and male - alive in Barnardo's time, people whom he knew and who inspired and helped him join their venture. The best authority for that is Mrs Barnardo herself. Her biography on her late husband states unequivocally that "*Miss Macpherson... (and) ...Miss Rye were principally the pioneers of child migration*" (p. 155)

(Barnardo used Macpherson facilities to emigrate children for a decade and a half before he opened his own receiving-distribution home in Toronto in 1882.) Historians might also have mentioned the influence of Lord Shaftesbury who was shipping children out decades before or the precedents in 1833. (See section 4 j) And as for "children's villages" why they got their start in Europe.

The Barnardo Museum will be located in three of the cottages at the

(Continued on page 13)

Greek, Roman and biblical documents which when ‘discovered’ centuries later, helped precipitate the Renaissance, Age of Discovery and the beginnings of the ‘Modern World’. This was their legacy. And ironically, it was the Nazis who saved what artifacts they could by shipping them to the Vatican before the first American bombs fell and destroyed the building and those masterpieces, like frescoes, that could not be moved. The monks had preached peace “*for over fourteen hundred years their score-board for participating in wars, other than as innocent victims, shows an impressive zero*”. (Quote from page 26 of **The Bombing of Monte Cassino** by Bradford A. Evans, the American who led the bombing and has written of the errors that led to his unfortunate role in history and the resilience of the local inhabitants who returned to replicate as best they could what was taken from them.}

Still, to visit ancestral villages, however changed, and to delve into their past is to experience what I call “gut history”. I confess that I was most impressed by the fields in which *contadini* - peasants - like my grand- parents and their ancestors used to toil in feudal conditions before they realized that life simply had to be better elsewhere. And so they emigrated. And when I walk the streets of the coastal city of Gaeta, founded in Laurentum (where the Laurenti/Lorente hailed from long before the founding of Rome in 756 BC), I see a vibrant, touristy, colourful port where Lorenzo Lorente and his son Francesco lived in the 1600's between the two churches below the fortress. But that's *oggi* ('today' in Italian). *Hieri* ('yesterday') when my ancestors lived there the roads were not paved - they were not even paved before World War II. There were far fewer tourists. And there were no cars. Transportation was by donkey. Even the crops have changed because when the donkey gave way to the automobile there was no need to grow turnips - their staple diet. Some things, however, remain more or less the same in that part of the country called the *cocciaria* , - church and civic architecture harken back centuries, the passion for pasta, close knit families, local dialects, close community life and vestiges of ancestral dress among the oldest inhabitants. Yes, it is possible to “go back” especially if one bones up on local history to get the right perspective.

(Continued from page 12)

Girls' Village at Barkingside, Ilford. One will be restored to its original 1905 state as a children's home. (Thomas B died in 1905.) The other two will house, not personal records, but Barnardo and child migrant artifacts which, I suspect and hope, will include the wax figure by Tussaud (which we have seen) of Thomas B. himself at work at his desk. The Museum will serve a useful purpose in showing the other side of the child migrant coin - the attempts that were made by Barnardo and others to do something for destitute and unwanted children when the system failed and no one else would.