

British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association Spring 2019 Newsletter

Written by Lori Oschefski & Andrew Simpson
Guest Authors Patricia Skidmore and Barry Lloyd

**UK Government offers compensation to surviving
BHC and Child Migrants.....for details and survivors
reactions visit pages 7 & 8**



Pin and Seed Special
page 11

Marjorie Reunited

**Marjorie Skidmore nee Arnison:
September 21, 1926 – January 18, 2017.**

It has been over two years since my mother Marjorie passed away and there has not been a day that I haven't thought about her, missed her, and longed to talk to her.

However, two conflicting emotions have followed me over these past two years:

1) Did I try hard enough to unearth my mother Marjorie's suppressed stories?

And,

2) Was I wrong to work so tirelessly during the last 17 or so years of her life to uncover her hidden stories. Should I have left the old wounds buried where she placed them as a young British child migrant? Should I have left my mother in peace? Or did locating her past, her roots, *my roots*, bring a greater sense of peace in the end to both of us? Did it bring us closer and heal the rift caused by my anger that she would not talk about her childhood *when I was a child*. I would get *no comment* when I asked about her family, and why she was here in Canada while her mother, father and her siblings were in England. And all along she was protecting me from her childhood trauma and I thought she was withholding different hidden horrors from me.



Marjorie Skidmore (nee Arnison) and Patricia Skidmore. Marjorie is happy to see the first draft of the manuscript for the second book on her life: "Marjorie Her War Years."

but her shame was very evident. My imagination as a child was not anywhere near large enough to understand why a country would deport its children? I thought she must have done something really bad for this to happen to her.

And in the end I discovered that she *was* hiding horrors from me – but not stemming from what she did – she was innocent, nor from a



family that failed her, but from her country that failed her and so many children like her.

Marjorie Arnison was removed from her mother's care in February of 1937 – she was just over 10 years old. A brother and two sisters were also taken.

The Fairbridge Society, a child migration organization, was recruiting for children in the Tyneside area of north-eastern Britain. Marjorie's father was working in the London area, trying to earn enough to bring his family south to him, as he had to leave them in the Whitley Bay Tyneside area to look for work. He was contacted by letter, postmarked January 14, 1937, to see if this family would give up any of their children for the newly opened Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island, BC.

Marjorie's father responded to this request: "...providing my wife and children are willing I am quite agreeable to what you propose, if my wife thinks that they will be better off away, any how you have my full permission..."

Written across the top of Marjorie's father's letter was "*This is a consent.*" They had the head of the household's *full permission*, they did not require the consent of his wife or children.

The arrangements were swiftly made to have Marjorie and 3 siblings removed from their mother's care and on February 15, 1937, they arrived at the Middlemore Emigration Home in Birmingham to await deportation to the colonies. ...Continued on page 2, 3 & 4

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It was to Marjorie's mother, Winifred's eternal distress that she lost three of her children to Canada.

The Prince of Wales (Edward who abdicated) spearheaded the fundraising campaign to open more Fairbridge Farm Schools such as the one opened by Kingsley Fairbridge near Pinjarra, Western Australia in 1912.

The Prince of Wales reiterated what Kingsley Fairbridge claimed when opening his farm school, *"This is not a charity, it is an Imperial investment."* (London Times, June 21, 1934, pages i-iv)

Marjorie unwittingly and unwillingly, became one of Britain's *Imperial Investments*. She was not alone. Britain sent over 120,000 children to Canada, mainly between 1869 and the late 1940s, but there were child migrants sent to the Upper Canada area by the Children's Friend Society, as early as 1833.

On January 15, 2017, with her children by her side, Marjorie knew that her end was near. This was the time to clarify her wishes. She told her children her three requests for where she wanted her ashes spread and gave us permission to what we wanted with the rest.

It was my decision to take some of our mother's ashes back to England.

I don't know if I did it for my mother, she did not request this, but I do know I felt strongly about returning at least some of her to her country of birth.

I felt defiant. I felt – her country turned their back on her, they deported her as a 10-year-old child, BUT THEY CANNOT STOP ME FROM BRINGING HER BACK.

I wanted a piece of her to be with her parents. Marjorie never forgave her parents, especially her mother, for not keeping her safe, and for letting her go... "She did not fight hard enough for us." My mother Marjorie once told me.

My sister Joan asked, "Would our mother want to be with her parents?"

I did not have the answer for her, but I replied, "I am doing this for her mother, our grandmother, who never got over the loss of her children."

I wanted a sense of 'full-circle,' for that circle of life to be complete. If it was my child that was *stolen*, I would want her back.

I also wanted to scattered some of our mother on the beautiful Whitley Bay sands, at the seaside village where she was born, and where she spent the first ten years of her life. Our mother had few memories that she could access from this time in her life, but she did share wonderful memories of playing on the Whitley Bay sands and of the St. Mary's Lighthouse at the north end of the sands.

Marjorie and some of her family visited Whitley Bay in 2007. It was Marjorie's first and only trip back since being removed in 1937.



Marjorie (waving) and her sister Joyce, on the sands at Whitley Bay, 2007 (Note, Marjorie's older sister Joyce was removed from her family, but kept at the Middlemore Emigration Home to work in the kitchen. She was returned to her family four years later, when she turned 16.)

Marjorie stood on the sands, her toes touching the North Sea, and looked at the lighthouse. "We weren't allowed to go past the lighthouse, but we went so much further. So far from Whitley Bay."



Marjorie and her sister Joyce, pointing to the winkles they used to collect as children, by St. Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay, 2007

August 28, 2018

As I packed for our trip to England, I stressed over taking our mother back. I wondered if we would have any problems at the border. I wasn't sure how to carry her. We quickly learned that we were to take her in our carry-on luggage – which was a relief. We didn't want her to be alone in the cargo area and we didn't want to lose her.

We packaged her up in a pink box held together by two blue elastics. It could be anything, but I knew that it was not. I didn't want to make



a fuss, but I was prepared to, if necessary. This box would be easy to take apart if we needed to show her to the border authorities.

But really, I was nervous and I was not sure why.

Was it because I had never done this before? I would fight for my mother's right to be taken 'home.' But I was nervous because I was not 100% certain that this is what my mother wanted. Who was I doing this for? Myself or my mother?

During the flight, I pulled my mother's ashes out of my carry on bag and took some photos – I lifted her up by the window and I talked to her as if she was with me. I told her that we were going to take her on a tour of Ireland, before visiting her favourite youngest brother's home in Dartford, Kent, England.



Marjorie on the flight back to England.

“Why would I want to go back?” My mother almost yelled when I first approached her about going back to England in 2000. “No one wanted me. My parents didn't want me, my country didn't want me. Why would I go back?”

But she did go back, I told myself. In 2001, 2007, 2010 and 2011. And they were good visits, healing visits, full of forgiveness.

Or so I believed.

We didn't need to worry at the border crossings, as the only response we received was a look of horror and a quick crossing by one young female border official in Dublin. Was this a sign that it was okay?

Tuesday September 11, 2018:

Greenwich – my sister Joan, my Aunt Marion and my Uncle David, Marjorie's youngest brother, visited the Greenwich graveyard where Winifred and Thomas Arnison are buried – they are my grandparents, Marjorie's parents... she has a right to be with them. Her big brother Fred's ashes are spread there too.



Patricia and her sister Joan, after scattering their mother Marjorie's ashes at her parent's grave outside of London.

My dear mother Marjorie – you are with your parents now and I can only hope you can find some forgiveness and peace.

There was a sense of closure for me after we reunited Marjorie with her parents.

Death often hurts the ones left behind. This ritual was for me - I felt the need to see this child back with her parents. And it was for my grandmother. I know she needed her baby girl back.

I was looking for signs, good and bad, that we were doing the right thing throughout Marjorie's journey back to England. We had carried her around Ireland, and then during our visit to London, Birmingham, Newcastle and York, all the while leading up to September 21, 2018: which would have been her 92nd birthday.

Whitley Bay September 20, 2018

It will be full circle tomorrow – scattered on the beach she loved so well.

Scattered where it all started – where she lived for the first 10 years of her life. The place where she felt the safest – because she was with her family.

I have to be right in bringing her all this way.

We will scatter our mother on what would have been her 92nd birthday.

The solstice.

I tried to ensure everything was in alignment and I don't even believe in that.

They took so much away from Marjorie. It was shameful– sending a 10-year child to the colonies. As of writing this (February 23, 2019) the Canadian government still doesn't have the guts to admit to their unwavering support of this very flawed program.

The British government allowed Marjorie to leave England – a frightened 10-year-old girl, carrying a heavy heart, believing her mother didn't love her. And the Canadian government accepted this child, but did little to welcome her or to protect her.

Marjorie held onto that fear for the rest of her life...

September 21, 2018

On September 21, my sister Joan and I walked the 3 kilometres up the beach to St. Mary's Lighthouse. At low tide, you can walk over, but the tide was high that day so we couldn't visit the island. We walked slowly back, marvelling at our luck with the weather. It was sunny and warm for late September. We had our mother in my backpack. I had been carrying her for three weeks by that time. She's not heavy, she's my mother.

I began to feel like we were stalling. I was aware that we couldn't take her back once we set her free.

I was used to having her with me. Was I ready to let her go?

On the way back from the lighthouse, we noticed a black storm coming our way - we thought we could outrun it - but we did not - soaked barely describes our condition... we wondered – is this a sign? Did our mother NOT want to be left on the Whitley Bay sands?

The storm quickly passed and when we saw the pink sky - we left our hotel room and went back down to the sands.

It turned out to be a perfect night to set our mother free - back in the land of her birth. It was full circle. As we stood looking down at the sands from the top promenade, my sister Joan said she could imagine a ten-year-old Marjorie waving up at us from the sands. What a beautiful place to spend the first ten years of her life.

Be at peace my dear mother, you can soar now - you are set free.

Saturday September 22, 2018

It seems a little strange to not have our mother with us.

We walked down to the sands in the morning, looking – for what I am not sure – for signs of her? For the heart we drew in the sand? For her name to still be on the beach?

But she was gone. We have done what we came to do.

The Whitley Bay sands are beautiful. I will hold onto to the hope that we have given this family some closure, some peace, and some togetherness and that the enormous chasm forced on this family by the policy of British child migration has closed just a little.



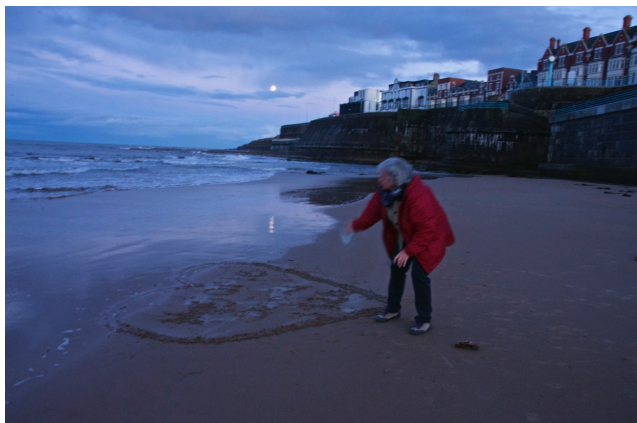
Patricia Skidmore

Daughter of a British Child Migrant

Author of “Marjorie Too Afraid To Cry” (Dundurn 2012/2013) and “Marjorie Her War Years.” (Dundurn 2018)



Pat and her sister Joan, scattering their mother Marjorie's ashes on the sands at Whitley Bay, 2018

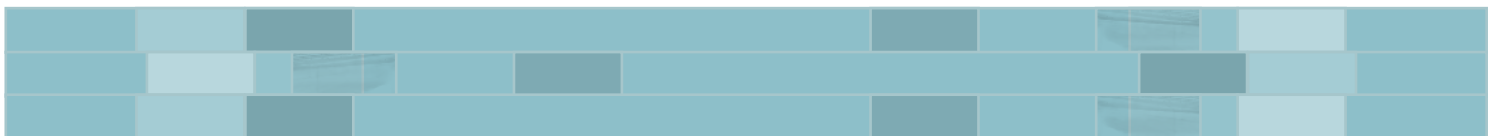


See the article: *Sunday Mercury, Birmingham, August 26, 2018*

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birmingham-orphans-ashes-back-belong-15069097>

and:

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/stories-6000-birmingham-children-forced-15086299>





Fairbridge Children October 1936



April 1908 Wallis Party



Former UK
Prime Minister
Gordon Brown

By Lori Oschefski - sources noted

THE UK GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES EX-GRATIA PAYMENT SCHEME FOR FORMER BRITISH CHILD MIGRANTS & BHC

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was established on 12 March 2015 *‘to consider the extent to which state and non-State institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation; to consider the extent to which those failings have since been addressed; to identify further action needed to address any failings identified; to consider the steps which it is necessary for State and non-State institutions to take in order to protect children from such abuse in future; and to publish a report with recommendations’.*

***“IN RECOGNITION OF THE
FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED
NATURE OF THE HISTORIC
CHILD MIGRATION
PROGRAMME”***

involved in the child migration programs, who have not apologised for their role, should give such apologies as soon as possible. Apologies should not only be made through public statements but specifically to those child migrants for whose migration they were responsible. Several organizations, including

Quarrier’s have offered their apology.

2. **Establish a financial redress scheme for former child migrants**

The Chair and Panel have recommended that the UK Government establish a financial redress scheme for surviving former child migrants, providing for an equal award to every applicant. This is on the basis that they were all were exposed to the risk of sexual abuse. Given the age of the surviving former child migrants, the UK Government was urged to establish the financial redress scheme without delay and expects that payments should start being made within 12 months (of the original report being published), and that no regard is given to any other payments of compensation that have been made in particular cases. This has now been offered.

3. **Better management of records that include information about former child migrants**

The Chair and Panel have recommended that all institutions which sent children abroad as part of the child migration programs should ensure that they have robust systems in place for retaining and preserving any remaining records that may contain information about individual child migrant’s, and should provide easy access to them. - **THIS recommendation should be of particular interest to descendants! The BHCARA is addressing this recommendation with the IICSA and the Child Migrants Trust.**

In 2017, former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown testified at the inquiry. Brown, who in 2010 humbly and respectfully apologized to Child Migrants and British Home Children, stated that this could be *“the worst national sex abuse scandal in numbers, length of time unchecked and geographical scope”*. Part of the investigations of the IICSA was of the lack of protection of children housed in UK institutions such as Barnardo’s, Quarriers, and Fairbridge - and the children emigrated from the UK to the colonies. Brown recommended that migrant children who suffered horrific attacks before and after being sent to the Commonwealth countries should be compensated before they die. He demanded to know why there had never been any follow-up after his apology on behalf of the UK Government and insisted that an apology was not enough. Brown said that his apology *“was for the gross inhumane violation of rights by forcibly removing children, depriving them of identity, family and any sense of belonging.”*

Brown claims new evidence on the abuses of the migrant children has come to light since his apology and that the UK Government failed in their duty of care, failed to act on this new evidence and that the surviving Child Migrants/BHC must now be compensated.

In April of 2018 IICSA handed down recommendations, these specifically deal with Child Migration:

1. **Apologies to former child migrants**

The Chair and Panel have recommended that institutions

On December 19, 2018 the UK Government published their response to the inquiry announcing they would establish an ex-gratia payment scheme for former British child migrants, in

recognition of the fundamentally flawed nature of the historic child migration policy. On February 20, 2019 they announced the compensation plan, offered to all surviving Child Migrants/BHC.

Eligible for this compensation is all British Home Children or Child Migrants brought to the colonies, including Canada **who were alive as of March 1, 2018. If the BHC/CM died on March 1, 2018 or following that date, their estate can claim.** The ex-gratia payment will be payable to all applicants regardless of their individual circumstances, including the receipt of payments received from other Governments or through private legal action. Each eligible British Home Child/Child Migrant will receive GBP £20,000.

PLEASE REVIEW DETAILS ON THE CHILD MIGRANTS TRUST PAGE **CAREFULLY** TO AVOID CONFUSION.

The Child Migrants Trust

<https://www.childmigrantstrust.com/news/2019/1/30/ex-gratia-payment-scheme-for-former-british-child-migrants>

Application are now open until March 1, 2021. For information or questions, please contact the Child Migrants Trust through their web site:

<https://www.childmigrantstrust.com/contact>

Canadian Reaction

The reaction to this compensation has been met with very mixed feelings in Canada, where 99% of our British Home Children/Child Migrants have already passed. BHCARA members have expressed feelings of insult, “too little too late”, failure to address the 99% of BHC/CM’s no longer here and frustration at the limited access and cost of records. The compensation is given in recognition of the fundamentally flawed nature of the Child Migration programs - flaws which were pointed out from the very beginning. In 1869 a cartoon drawn by George Cruikshank was published of Maria Rye whisking children off in her cart like street garbage. Flaws were pointed out in great detail in the 1875 Andrew Doyle Report. Flaws that were sloughed off by all involved in our eagerness to get rid of impoverished problem children in the UK by making them cheap laborers in Canada. As Author Pat Skidmore noted, after report after report was published, nobody listened then, and to many, nobody is listening now!

In collaboration with Bob Huggins of *Orphan Boy Films*, the BHCARA issued a press release which netted a fair amount of attention. Huggins was interviewed on thirteen CBC radio stations across Canada. Roberta Horrox of Winnipeg contacted the Winnipeg Free Press, resulting in three newspaper articles and a CBC Radio interview. Awareness of immigration schemes needs to be raised nationally in Canada. Our descendant’s voices need to be heard and the true story of the BHC/CM needs to be told! Orphan Boy Films is in production of a five-part documentary entitled “A Barnardo Boy”. Filmed across Canada and in the UK, this film is sorely needed to be shown on a wide scale in both countries.

We are attempting to reach out to all surviving BHC/CM so that they are aware of the compensation being offered. The other side of this, is the fact there are survivors for whom we are grateful for the monies offered. Most are in their late 80’s and 90’s and the funds offered will help provide some closure, some acknowledgement of the wrongs done to them and some financial comfort in their late years.

Ninety-five- year- old George Beardshaw, in a statement released to BHCARA, said he was surprised and shocked that it has come at this

stage of his life. He feels it has taken too long. He, like most, was left to make his own way in Canada once released from the indenture. He notes that Barnardo’s kept track of him but never once told him about his mother or helped him in his search for her. He enlisted in the Second World War in efforts to ease the heavy work load (“*they worked me like a slave*”) and to go back to England to find his mother. George is grateful for the money and for the recognition of the injustices done to all BHC/CM, but, expresses sorrow that his brothers did not live to see this come.

Ninety-five-year-old Cyril Hewitt feels they left this too long to do any good for most of the children. Being robbed of his youth and his family resulted in difficulties raising his own family. “*They were different than other families because of this*”, his son Larry said. Cyril said the only thing he had to give his family was his name; a name he felt was somewhat tarnished due to his past status as a BHC. They were called “*street rats*”, he said, and that he was told he was not wanted around when company came to the farm. “*You’re a NOBODY*” are words that still ring in his ears. The stigmatization was something he felt was hard to get over. The Hewitt name is one his children carry forward with pride; grateful to their father for overcoming the difficulties and doing his very best he could with his family. The compensation and the House of Commons apology are welcome recognition of the migrants suffering. The money will, at the very least, help him pay his health care bills.

George and Cyril’s stories are told in the book “*Bleating of the Lambs*” by Lori Oschefski. Both men appear in the TVO Film “Forgotten” and have been interviewed for the upcoming series documentary by Orphan Boy Films - “*A Barnardo Boy*”.

Fairbridge Farm School Canada survivor, Roddy McKay, notes that Canada provided almost no protection for these children, taking in more than any other country. Severe child abuse was inflicted upon far too many of these child migrants Roddy maintains. Many never saw their families again! He notes, “*the British and Australian governments apologized to their child migrants. Our Canadian government has apologized to the 1st Nations and the Second World War Japanese interns and rightfully so, yet no meaningful apology to those poor defenseless 100,000 children who they accepted to their care. Like thousands of other former child migrants, I served my country in time of war. It is time our Government accepted the responsibility of Canada’s past history of the child migrant’s scheme*”. Roddy, who vows to continue his quest for a Canadian Government apology, tells his heart wrenching story in his newly released book “Memoirs of a Guttersnipe”.

Australia's Government Apology

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=JWW3Vlj2z4E

Britain's Government Apology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MEXAdmEmIM>

Canada's 90 second House of Commons Apology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hprrCjBf57s&t=3s>

Article Sources:

[National Independent Safeguarding Board of Wales](#)
[The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#)
[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse Interim Report](#)
[The Andrew Doyle Report - 1875](#)
[BHCARA/Orphan Boy Films Press Release](#)

"When the legend becomes fact, print the legend"* reflections on fiction and the story of British Home Children

**By Author and Historian
Andrew Simpson**

Now, there is nothing wrong with historical fiction and by extension films which use a historical background.

I thoroughly enjoy Hilary Mantel's books on Thomas Cromwell and sink myself deep in to the work of C.J. Sansom, both of which are set in that edgy and very dangerous period during the reign of Henry V111.

And I can happily wallow in those spectacular "Sword and Sandal" movies, but here I know I am guided by Coleridge's comment about the suspension of disbelief which extends to many of John Ford's westerns and of course to Shakespeare, who would have us believe that a stage in south east London could be the "vasty fields of France" where monarchs strutted and battles were fought.

That aside Shakespeare's plays work on many levels and the human condition is there, even if it's hard to believe that a man in a white dressing gown is Hamlet's father.

At which point I must stress that I haven't gone off on one, but I am trying to get to grips with the mismatch between historical accuracy and poetic license.

And that brings me to British Home Children which does seem to have a growing number of fictional accounts with more set to be published this year.

They are in a long tradition of books designed to highlight the issues of destitute and abused children in Britain during the last quarter of the 19th century, ranging from pamphlets written by members of the Manchester & Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges to the novels of Silas K Hocking, author of Her Benny and others.

Where I become uneasy is the degree to which modern fictional accounts may depart from historical fact in the interests of telling a story and by so doing, begin to misrepresent the past.

In the film The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, even though the central character didn't shoot Liberty Valance who was a criminal and a thug, everyone continued to believe he did, leading to that much used line, "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend".*

So, I wonder how far fictional accounts can ever seek to chart a way through what is a messy subject? The motivations of those involved in the migrations were mixed, as were the experiences of those who were caught up in them. Added to which, not all children were destitute, not all came from homes with abusive and negligent parents and some were already damaged before they mounted a gangplank.



Amongst the authorities, there were those who questioned the policy, arguing that the fault lay in an economic system which accepted poverty and inequality and that the real challenge was the transformation of British society.

To be fair there are still plenty of people who peddle the old half-truths and call it historical fact, ignoring recent research which challenges some of the old assumptions.

Or they continue to ignore the historical context in which the programme operated, believing that it could all have been different because that is how it is today.

Now I have some sympathy with that line, partly because transferring the problem of poverty elsewhere is not sound, and because it was flawed, with some charities not maintaining sufficient checks.

But the State was not yet prepared for a major shift in its responsibility towards the poor, which only came with the establishment of the Welfare State in 1948. At which point I suspect it is legitimate to criticize those organizations which continued to see the solution to family poverty as one of migrating to Australia in post war Britain which was becoming more prosperous.

And here I acknowledge I have strayed from the fictional accounts of BHC, which I fully accept I have not read many and cannot create a league table of those that are historically accurate and those that aren't.

But my concern remains the simple one, which is at one point does the demands of the plot call for a fudging of the facts, and when does the author's wish to explore his or her bigger theme, distort and mislead?

All of which seems to be exemplified by the new film on Mary Queen of Scots, which features a scene where she meets her rival Queen Elizabeth, and the two women, who exist in what was still a male orientated world, explore what they have in common. It might make for an interesting comment on their shared experiences in that male dominated world and by extension on contemporary gender politics, but it just didn't happen.

Nor as the film shows did Mary speak with a Scottish accent.

So does it matter, if the broader story is brought to a new audience, and at the same time raises important issues?

Well I think it does, and that again brings me back to fictional accounts around BHC.

.....continued on next page



The study of British Home Children is still in its infancy, with much more research to be done, but already there are a heap of different interpretations about why it happened, and its impact on the children who were at the heart of it.

I would not like to see it derailed by misinformation. And here is the rub, serious factual histories carry foot notes, with detailed references to sources, and acknowledgements, while some fictional accounts do not, although I fully concede there are authors whose research is rigorous.

Do we need a Government Health warning on these novels? No, I don't think we do. Should we turn our backs on them? No, I don't think that either, they will always be a way for some people to discover BHC.

I just think we should be careful when reading them, ask questions of the history which underpins them and quickly move on to the factual accounts which can be equally exciting.



***"When the legend becomes fact, print the legend". from the film *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, John Ford, 1962

** Hilary Mantel, *Wolf Hall*, 2009, & *Bring Up the Bodies*, 2012, C.J. Sansom, *Dissolution*, 2003, *Dark Fire*, 2004, *Sovereign*, 2006 *Revelation*, 2008, *Hearthstone*, 2010, *Lamentation*, 2014, *Tombland*, 2018

*** Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, 1817, Chapter XIV

Read more from Andrew Simpson: <https://chorltonhistory.blogspot.com/>

Find Andrew on Facebook: [British Home Children the story from Britain](#)

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<https://goo.gl/zvA6BY>



Endorsed by the
BHCARA

After the tragic loss of their father, the McAlister family is living at the edge of the poorhouse in London in 1908, leaving their mother to scrape by for her three younger children, while oldest daughter, Laura, works on a large estate more than an hour away. When Edna McAlister falls gravely ill and is hospitalized, twins Katie and Garth and eight-year-old Grace are forced into an orphans' home before Laura is notified about her family's unfortunate turn of events in London. With hundreds of British children sent on ships to Canada, whether truly orphans or not, Laura knows she must act quickly. But finding her siblings and taking care of her family may cost her everything.

Andrew Fraser, a wealthy young British lawyer and heir to the estate where Laura is in service, discovers that this common practice of finding new homes for penniless children might not be all that it seems. Together Laura and Andrew form an unlikely partnership. Will they arrive in time? Will their friendship blossom into something more?

Inspired by true events, this moving novel follows Laura as she seeks to reunite her family and her siblings who, in their darkest hours, must cling to the words from Isaiah: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God".

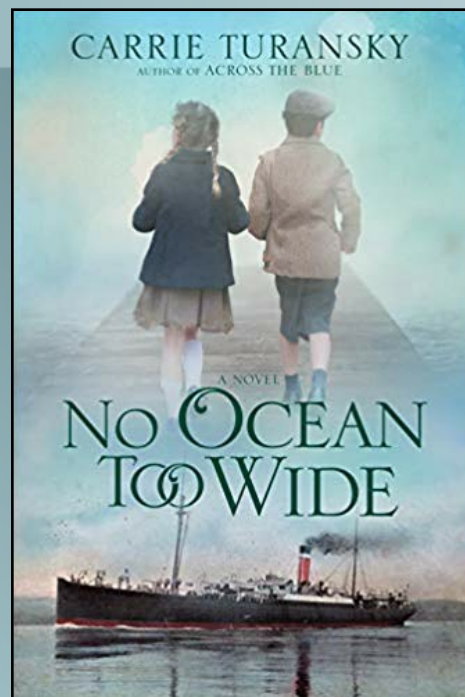
From Lori Oschefski:

It's been a pleasure and an honor to pre-read and review Carrie Turansky exciting new book "*No Ocean Too Wide*" I am really impressed with the quality of this book. This is my review:

"No Ocean too Wide" is a compelling story of the McAlister family, tragically caught up in the British Home Child immigration schemes. The author, with her impressive attention to the historical facts of these programs, woven together with the trials and tribulations of Laura, Grace, Katie and Garth, make this book not only one of the most enjoyable BHC books I have read to date, but also an important historical lesson for her readers. – Lori Oschefski – CEO British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

This exciting new book, which the BHCARA fully endorses can be pre-ordered at: Amazon.ca at <https://goo.gl/heKW2o>

New Book Release!



HISTORIES OF THE RECEIVING HOMES

MARGARET HOPKINS COX AND DR. BARNARDO'S HAZEL BRAE RECEIVING HOME

By Lori Oschejski

Throughout the years it was in operation, Dr. Barnardo's first receiving home in Peterborough, Ontario bore three names - originally name "Hazel Brae"; in 1889 it was renamed "Dr. Barnardo's Home for Girls" and in 1912, "The Margaret Cox Home for Girls". This leads us to the question, just who was Margaret Cox and why was Dr. Barnardo's receiving home named after her? Margaret was born 12 November 1844 in Peterborough, Ontario; to Irish immigrants Daniel Hopkins and his wife Jane Donnelly. Margaret was their third child born of six. In a biography by Nathanael Burwash, Chancellor of Victoria University, Margaret was described as a child of rare promise, beautiful in person, alert and strong in mind, deeply affectionate in disposition, winning in manners, and earnest and thoughtful; as well as cheerful in character.

Margaret received an outstanding education, of which she had scarcely completed when she met a tall and handsome man, George A. Cox. George, then working as an agent for the Montreal Telegraph Company and the Canadian Express Company, eventually became not only the Mayor of Peterborough, but also a very wealthy leader of this country. Eighteen-year old Margaret married George on 28 May 1862. She devoted her life to George, their children and their community of Peterborough. Margaret became a leader in their church and community with her unwavering compassion and care for others, especially the poor.

During a visit to England in 1882, Margaret was greatly moved by the extreme poverty and wretchedness found in the city of London. While there, she became acquainted with Dr. Barnardo and his work. Upon arriving back in Canada, she quickly dispatched a friend to England to observe Dr. Barnardo's work. At home in Peterborough she worked to secure a receiving home for the children. She found the perfect property, a large home known as "Hazel Brae", located on Conger's Hill, just off, what is now George Street. This three-story beauty was built by Thomas Belcher in 1872. The Cox's offered the home to Dr. Barnardo - rent free. Dr. Barnardo, after outfitting the home for the children, quickly moved his head office from Front Street in Toronto to Hazel Brae. The main floor of Hazel Brae consisted of a secretary's office, a staff dining hall for the children and a children's play room complete with a lavatory. On the second floor were sleeping rooms for the staff, plus a section used for a dormitory. A further dormitory, outfitted with little cots - sufficient to sleep 150 children - occupied the third floor. Each cot had a pillow, fresh linens and was covered with a gray blanket.

Dr. Barnardo, in his memoirs wrote: *"I cannot be too thankful to God for his goodness in touching the hearts of this gentleman and his wife, neither of whom I have ever seen, to offer such aid."* Hazel Brae received its first Home Children in November of 1883. Dr. Barnardo visited Hazel Brae for the first time in 1884, describing it as such: ...[a] charming house

situated a little outside of the town, upon a hillside, commanding a view of the country round about, and standing in its own grounds of some six acres". Dr. Barnardo's arrival to Canada was celebrated with a lavish reception, held at Hazel Brae. The reception was attended by Margaret and her husband, the then acting Mayor of Peterborough. All in all, over two hundred people attended; who were charged ten cents a head admission.

In 1889 Margaret and her husband moved to Toronto. Dr. Barnardo wrote during the continued residence of Mr. and Mrs. Cox at Peterborough, *"their personal interest in the Institution did much to promote its success; but of late years, to my great regret and to real loss of the work, Mr. and Mrs. Cox have removed their home to Toronto"*. Dr. Barnardo visited Canada once again in 1890 to make some much needed changes to Hazel Brae.

Margaret died 22 Jan 1905, in her sixty-second year, of a diabetic coma. Her husband George followed her in 1914. In 1912, the Haze Brae Home was renamed the "Margaret Cox Home for Girls" in her honor. In 1918 the home was signed over to Dr. Barnardo by their son, Herbert Cox. Four years later Hazel Brae was closed - all the children would be received in Toronto following this. The building was demolished in 1939 and in 1941 the property was sold to Morley Shaver of Peterborough.

Today the only hint of the children's receiving home is a black granite heritage plaque on its former site.



Don't ignore your Junk Mail

By BHCARA Member Barry Lloyd

As a child, growing up in Shepperton a small town south west of London, I was quite inquisitive and remember, I must have been an annoying 6 year old, I asked my grandfather who was watching his favorite program on TV, why my Dad didn't have any cousins, his off the cuff reply was "I did have brothers and sisters and apart from my brother Charlie, [who died from flu after the War], we all got separated as kids and I think a couple of them went to Canada".

I found out from my father that his Dad and his brother Charlie grew up in Islington and were raised by the parish and that he thought his aunts and uncles had been taken in by Barnardo Homes.

So still as an inquisitive guy in my 20s, with this still stuck in my mind, I wrote off to the Canadian Embassy to try and find out if this was true without much success. When my parents retired, they dedicated a lot of time to searching the family history but drew a blank with his father's side of the family. At that it was all paper and micro fiche records at the Kew Public Records Office, at one point I thought they had moved there!

Moving onto the creation of the WWW, far beyond anything my parents could cope with, this prompted me to search for Children sent to Canada before the First World War, again with not much success. Every now again thereafter I would do a couple of searches again to no avail.

Because of my search history in 2017 I happened to be clearing out my junk mail and happened to notice a site called British Home Children Canada, so thought 'brave boys get nowt' and sent them an email on 8 July 2017 at 10.35am, here is a copy of the chain of replies I received:

10.35 Hi, I am trying to locate any relatives of John Albert Lloyd b circa 1900 in Islington and was sent to Canada at a very early age. I believe he married Emma Kennedy in York County Toronto on the 4th Sept 1919, any help or info anyone has would be welcome. He was my grandfather's brother. His sisters Hetty Louisa Lloyd and Lillian Florence Lloyd may also have been sent with him. they were born 1892 and 1894.

11.16 Name: John Albert Lloyd

Age: 1Estimated birth year: abt 1900Relation to Head: Son Gender: MaleFather: Charles George LloydMother: Fanny LloydBirth Place: Islington, London, EnglandCivil Parish: IslingtonSearch Photos: Search for 'Islington' in the UK City, Town and Village Photos collectionEcclesiastical parish: St Michael IslingtonCounty/Island: LondonCountry: EnglandStreet address: Occupation:Condition as to marriage:Education:Employment status:View imageRegistration district: IslingtonSub-registration district: BarnsburyED, institution, or vessel: 34Neighbours: View others on pagePiece: 182Folio: 85Page Number: 20Household schedule number: 114Household Members: Name AgeCharles George Lloyd 46 occ engineers labourer Fanny Lloyd 40Charles Richard Lloyd 19Percy William Lloyd 15Herbert Henry Lloyd 13Hetty Louisa Lloyd 9Lillie Florence Lloyd 7Ethie Beatrice Lloyd 3John Albert Lloyd 1

11.26 <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/home-children-1869-1930/immigration-records/Pages/list.aspx?Surname=Lloyd&GivenName=john>

11.44 Gloria Gordon nee Lloyd
<http://yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/obituary.asp?oid=705401>

11.45 And there Barry Lloyd - you have family!

So, after 56 years of searching I found out what happened to my Gt Uncle John, sadly my father and his three cousins, in Toronto, had all passed away without ever knowing each other.

Following on from that my brother was intrigued to find out his DNA history so instead of buying one for himself, he bought me a test kit for Xmas and with a note 'let me know the results' he always was cheap! That meant joining Ancestry.co.uk and as a result of that have now found out what happened to the rest of my grandfather's siblings, it was only his brother John that went to Canada. My father ended up having 7 first cousins he never knew existed. I am now in touch with a couple of their children here in the UK.

Thanks to the wonder of Facebook I searched a few names from the obituary notice above in the Toronto area and have now connected with Gt Uncles, Gt Granddaughter, and as a result of which my wife and I are traveling to Canada, [via Boston] to meet up with her, her father and some of her relatives near Niagara next month.

Thanks to Lori Oschefski and Shirley Taylor for making this a reality, will be eternally grateful for piecing this all together and will keep you posted.

Barry Lloyd

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