2019 Beacons of Light for British Home Children and Child Migrants Tribute Edition

British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

September 2019 Newsletter

Written by Lori Oschefski, Andrew Simpson with guest contributors: Art Joyce and Andrea Harris

A special Happy Birthday to BHC George Beardshaw pg. 8

The Beacons of Light Tribute From Castles to Waterfalls

On November 8, 1869 the very first party of BHC arrived in Canada. A unanimous passage of MP Guy Lauzon's private member's motion M-133 in the House of Commons on February 7, 2018, made September 28 the official British Home Child Day in Canada. In 2019 this day marks a special sesquicentennial international tribute to the BHC, being 150 years since that first party arrived in 1869.

The BHCARA asked community leaders and representatives to participate in the "Beacons of Light for British Home Children and Child Migrants International Tribute" by illuminating memorials, monuments, buildings, City Halls or other public areas with the colours of the BHCARA; red, white and blue. Cities and towns are also participating by proclaiming this day as "British Home Child Day" in their community. To date, we have a growing list of over eighty-five venues.

The Beacons of Light tribute is a symbolic gesture to show that the BHC and the CM are not forgotten, especially in their sesquicentennial year. Many Canadian and UK cities have agreed to participate. Supporting venues include the iconic Niagara Falls, Toronto's CN Tower, the Northern Lights Display in Vancouver, and Bigod's Castle ruins, a Norman period structure Bungay, Suffolk, England. A full listing of the Beacons supporting venues can be found at: http://www.britishhomechildren.com The initiative for this tribute started when BHCARA member Kim Crowder approached CEO Lori Oschefski for support in the illumination of the High Level Bridge in her home town of Edmonton, Alberta. Since then, many members have become involved reaching out in their communities for support. BHCARA member Tracy Smithers contacted Her Majesty the Queen and received a prompt letter of support back from her Majesty! For Tracy's reaction to receiving this Royal letter see page 12.

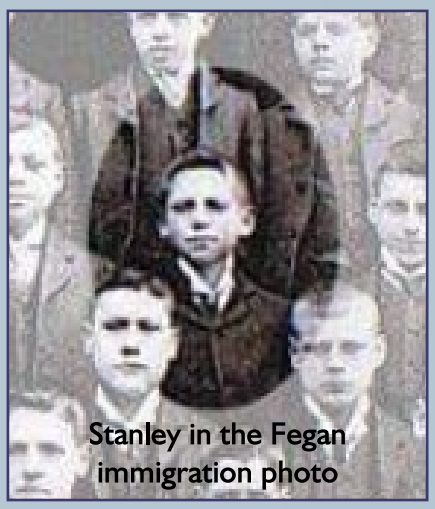
Stanley Maxted (1895-1963)

Written by Andrea Thomas Harris with research by Andrew Taylor, Debbie Lee Jiang and Andrea Thomas Harris

This month marks the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Arnhem, an Allied defeat fought in Holland from September 17-26, 1944. Stanley Maxted, a 49-year-old BBC radio journalist embedded with the British 1st Airborne Division, gained international renown as he reported on the desperate situation from the front and the ultimate failure of the mission.

Stanley Maxted was already a well-known voice on the airwaves in Canada and the U.S., as his rich tenor voice enabled him to rise in popularity first as a Canadian stage performer, and then on radio shows in Toronto and New York in the 1920s and 30s. But despite Stanley Maxted's fame, much of his story has remained untold until now.

Stanley Herbert Maxted was born on August 21, 1895 in Folkestone, Kent. His father was Herbert Hope Maxted, a tailor's cutter, and son of John Maxted, the noted "undenominational minister" and evangelist. Stanley's mother was Fanny Emma Sanderson, a one-time postal clerk and daughter of a middle-class London accountant. Herbert & Fanny Maxted had married in 1891, and their first child, Isabella Hope, was born in 1892. Sadly, Isabella died on


Stanley in the Fegan immigration photo

February 4, 1895, aged three years, due to shock from burns suffered in an accidental fall into the fire.

Unfortunately, the marriage of Herbert & Fanny Maxted was an unhappy and tumultuous one. On June 23, 1898, Fanny Maxted filed for divorce citing her husband's physical abuse, abandonment and adultery with a "music hall artiste." She petitioned for custody of Stanley and financial support from Herbert Maxted in the divorce document.

It seems that Herbert's father, John Maxted, might have intervened and persuaded his daughter-in-law Fanny to abandon her divorce petition of 1898. In the 1901 Census, Fanny was listed as a widow working as a monthly nurse for a clergyman's family in Folkestone, Kent, close to where her in-laws were living. Stanley, age 5, was residing with Fanny's brother and family in Hornsey, London.

Fanny re-initiated divorce proceedings two months after her father-in-law, John Maxted, died on November 13, 1907. In her new petition dated, January 18, 1908, it is stated that a previous petition was filed "but at an early stage, the proceedings owing to lack of means and family influences were allowed to lapse." This time, the divorce was granted on December 21, 1908. A curious aspect of Fanny's second petition was that she again requested custody of her son, Stanley, who was then 12 years old. However, by this time, Stanley had been admitted to Fegan's Homes, and had already been immigrated to Canada.

Stanley Maxted had departed Liverpool, England aboard the Empress of Britain as part of a travel party of 100 boys, landing at Quebec on May 13, 1906 aged 10. The boys arrived in Toronto by train the next day. A Toronto Star article entitled "Boys for the Farms" appeared on May 14, 1906 reporting about the group's arrival. George Greenway, Superintendent of Fegan's Homes, is quoted as saying: "They will be placed in carefully selected homes in the country--we never place a boy in the city--and will be visited regularly. They all get fair wages."

The 1911 Census records that Stanley Maxted, age 15, was lodging with the family of a prominent Parkdale dentist, Dr. Malcolm Sparrow, at 1437 Queen Street West, Toronto. Malcolm Sparrow was also a local tenor of note who performed at church and community events. It is unknown why Stanley was placed in a Toronto home contrary to the policy of Fegan Homes placing boys on farms. One possibility is that Stanley's evangelist grandfather may have exerted influence. Stanley's home with the Sparrows afforded the opportunity for him to attend Toronto's Parkdale Collegiate Institute, where he won two scholarships and excelled in sports. Stanley also reportedly studied singing with private voice instructors.

Following high school, Stanley began forestry studies at the University of Toronto, but war was mounting and he only completed one term before he enlisted at Toronto with Eaton's Machine Gun Battery on February 10, 1915. Stanley named his mother, Mrs. Maxted of Folkestone, Kent, England, as his next of kin.

Eaton's Machine Gun Battery arrived in England on June 14, 1915, and by a great coincidence was based in Stanley's hometown of Folkestone for training. It can only be surmised that Stanley was reunited with his mother Fanny while at Folkestone. The Folkestone Herald records that Stanley played left field for Eaton's baseball team at the Folkestone Cricket Ground during his summer of training in 1915. One can only hope his mother was able to watch him play

In December 1915, Stanley received a commission as a lieutenant in the British Royal Field Artillery. He had been promoted steadily since enlisting as a private at Toronto. He arrived in France on March 1, 1916, and was wounded three times throughout the war. In September 1916, he suffered injuries to his back when a heavy timber fell on him after a shell blast. On July 31, 1917 he received a bullet wound to his right thigh and suffered from the effects of gas. And then on October 4, 1917 at Passchendaele he was gassed a second time, causing lifelong respiratory problems and rendering him speechless for a time.

Stanley returned to Canada on February 14, 1918, and settled back in with the Sparrow family to continue his recuperation. As thousands of other young men soon discovered, finding jobs in post-war Canada was challenging, so Stanley headed south to Pittsburgh in 1919 where he worked as an oven builder for the booming steel town coke industry. It seems that Stanley kept an active connection with his adopted city of Toronto though, as later that year he married Olga E. Juhler, a clerk working at the Bank of Toronto. The two were wed on August 14, 1919 at Pittsburgh, and a marriage notice in Toronto's Globe newspaper stated that they were headed to Muskoka for their honeymoon where they would be guests of Dr. and Mrs. Sparrow.

Stanley and Olga spent three years living in Pittsburgh, where Stanley was eventually promoted to a shift foreman. However, Stanley found the work exacerbated his lingering respiratory problems caused by gas exposure, so he and Olga returned to Canada where he engaged in sales for the lumber industry. Stanley also began to actively explore singing once again, reportedly on the advice of a doctor to help

strengthen his lungs. By 1927, Stanley was performing regularly as a tenor with the Elgar Choir in Montreal. That same year, Stanley's mother Fanny Maxted travelled to Montreal from Folkestone, England, presumably to hear her son in concert.

By 1929, Stanley Maxted was rising in fame, especially as a performer of A.A. Milne's "When We Were Very Young" poetry collection, which had been set to music by Harold Fraser-Simon. Stanley received high praise from critics across the country for his humour and artistry in singing these works. Augustus Bridle, the arts critic for The Toronto Daily Star, who himself had been a British Home Child, wrote of Stanley: "He has a delightful voice, as ductile as spun glass in the making." In the fall of 1929, Stanley Maxted was a featured performer in the Canadian Pacific Railway Concert Series, which saw him performing the A.A. Milne works on tour in major cities across the country.

In 1930, Stanley signed a contract with the Columbia Broadcasting System in New York, performing on five different radio programs weekly. He still called Toronto his home, however, and his wife Olga and four children continued to live there. Stanley also continued to perform regularly for Canadian audiences. Ironically, one of his biggest concert events was performing for a broadcast on June 1, 1931 aboard the maiden voyage of the new CPR liner "Empress of Britain," billed as the largest and fastest ship travelling between England and Canada. It would be interesting to know if Stanley recalled that its namesake, the first "Empress of Britain," was the vessel that had brought him to Canada as a home child in 1906.

In 1933, Stanley's health forced him to return to Toronto, where he took a position as a regional program director with the Canadian Radio Commission (later the CBC). In an article published in the Ottawa Citizen in November 1933, Stanley gave advice to other radio singers: "Sing the good things whenever you can. Sing in concert as often as possible, for radio tends to give a man a small voice." Throughout the 1930s, Stanley continued to perform at concerts across North America, and even began composing his own songs as well.

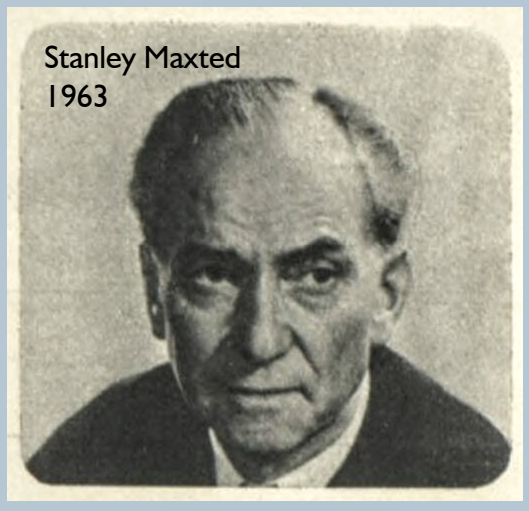
As WWII ramped up in 1940, Stanley Maxted, now a Major with the Canadian Field Artillery, was seconded by the BBC from the CBC to serve as a war correspondent. On September 16, 1944, Stanley was summoned to a briefing regarding Operation Market Garden, an Allied attempt to gain a foothold in German-held territory in the Netherlands to create an invasion route into northern Germany. Stanley was told that he would be accompanying approximately 9,000 British troops of the 1st Airborne Division as part of an invasion on the far side of the Rhine River. The objective was to secure the bridge at the Dutch town of Arnhem. Stanley was given a place aboard a glider plane that was loaded with equipment and supplies, while most of the division landed as paratroopers.

After initial success upon landing, the men at Arnhem bravely fought an increasingly desperate battle. The planned reinforcements never arrived by land, and Allied supply planes inadvertently dropped ammunition and food rations right into enemy hands. Stanley sent dispatches almost daily to report on the action at Arnhem. Eventually the remaining 1,900 soldiers of the 1st Airborne Division were completely surrounded at Arnhem, and were ordered to withdraw in a daring midnight escape. Stanley recounted crawling with the men through mud and rain to reach the Rhine River where Allied boats under machine gun fire carried them to safety on the other side.

Just weeks following his escape from Arnhem, Stanley returned to Canada on November 2, 1944, where he told his story widely. He also performed in the seventh Victory Loan Star Show that was broadcast coast to coast on November 4, 1944. Stanley returned to his work with the BBC shortly afterwards, where he continued to report on events such as the London Blitz, the crossing of the Rhine, an Atlantic convoy trip, and the surrender of the Japanese in Tokyo Bay.

Stanley Maxted returned to Toronto on December 29, 1945 after the close of the war, but his stay in Canada was short-lived. In 1946, he was back in Europe filming, "Theirs is the Glory," a documentary that recruited surviving veterans to re-enact the Battle of Arnhem using the actual devastated buildings at Arnhem as the set. Stanley both narrated and appeared in the movie.

After this film debut, Sir Laurence Olivier asked Stanley Maxted him to join the cast of "Born Yesterday" on stage at the Garrick Theatre in London in 1947. This was followed by his appearance in "The Way Back" at the Westminster Theatre in 1949, which also starred Richard Attenborough.


Stanley Maxted
1963

Until 1957, Stanley Maxted continued to broadcast on radio and television, and acted on the London stage. He had 13 film credits, and appeared in five episodes of BBC Sunday-Night Theatre, a series of television plays performed live.

Upon his return to Europe in 1946, Stanley had also remarried to Veronica Eliott, the daughter of an American-born Scottish Baronet. With the marriage, Stanley Maxted became recognized in Burke's Peerage. Yet despite his British birth and return to live in Britain, Stanley Maxted maintained his identity as a Canadian throughout his life.

In 1957, Stanley Maxted was advised by doctors to move to Nevada, USA, where the warm dry air was thought to be a benefit for his worsening lung problems. However, Stanley and his wife Veronica missed their friends in England, so they decided to return to London in the spring of 1963, even though Stanley needed to travel with oxygen tanks. Sadly, Stanley suffered a heart attack, just days after their return, and he passed away on May 10, 1963. In obituaries published across North America and the UK, Stanley Maxted was noted primarily for being the "Voice at Arnhem," a distinction that only began to scratch the surface of his notable and eventful life. *See sources for this article on page 9.*

Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future. —Lewis B. Smedes

Historical Amnesia:

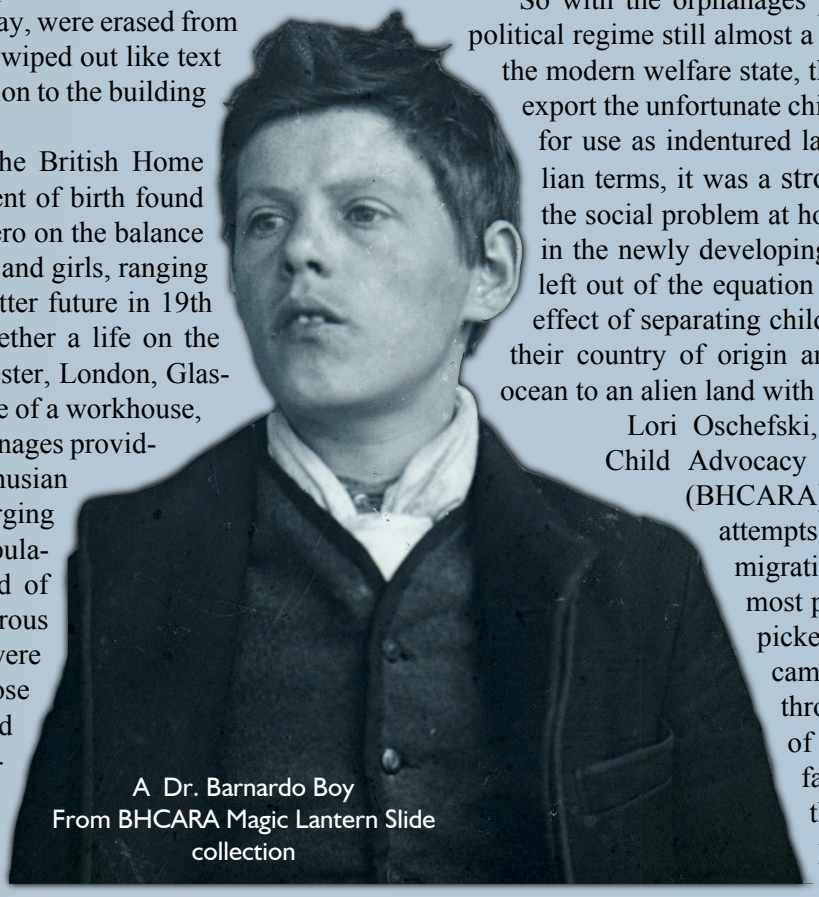
Remembering History's Overlooked Children

By Sean Arthur Joyce

In this year of the 150th anniversary of the first British Home Children to arrive in Canada, it's worth thinking for a moment: imagine if their stories had been lost forever. Now imagine that we lost other pivotal stories in our history: the Suffragettes' campaigns for women's vote, or the civil rights movement in the '60s. Imagine what Canadian history would be if we left out entirely the Riel Rebellion, the 'On to Ottawa' trek of unemployed men during the Great Depression, or the role of Tommy Douglas in universal health care.

Of course, political power interests rewrite history all the time. It happens daily in the corporate-owned media, which recasts events such as police shootings of black Americans in a light favourable to authority and ignores record-breaking global protests. Hence the old expression, "The victors write the history." Thankfully more honest historians such as Howard Zinn have helped provide balance to this skewed picture of history. Now imagine that 100,000 people, whose descendants number up to four million in Canada today, were erased from this revised history. Their lives wiped out like text on a whiteboard, their contribution to the building of our nation eliminated.

I speak of course of the British Home Children, who due to an accident of birth found that their lives amounted to a zero on the balance sheet of capitalism. These boys and girls, ranging in age from 5 to 16, faced a bitter future in 19th century Britain: scratching together a life on the streets of Birmingham, Manchester, London, Glasgow or Dublin, the brutal regime of a workhouse, or what few overcrowded orphanages provided food and shelter. In Malthusian terms they were viewed by emerging capitalist barons as "surplus population," an inferior stock in need of culling. "The 'mob,' the 'dangerous classes,' or the 'residuum' were terms variously applied to those who suffered the poverty and uncertainty of an economic order unable to provide them with permanent work," writes historian Roy Parker in *Uprooted: The Shipment of Poor Children to Canada*, 1867–1917.



A Dr. Barnardo Boy
From BHCARA Magic Lantern Slide collection

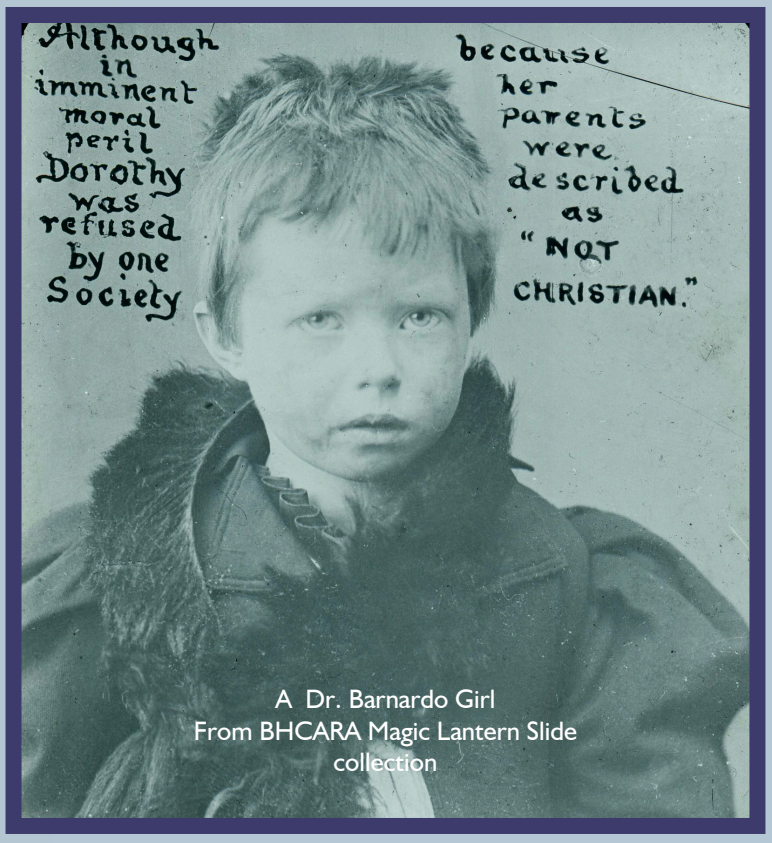
Obviously not all of the 19th century British elite shared this view. Many aristocrats such as Lord Shaftesbury, William Booth and the Rowntree family were themselves reformers. Some of them funded the building of day schools and orphanages operated by philanthropists such as Annie Macpherson and Dr. Barnardo. But with the industrial revolution displacing more workers than it could employ, even these relief efforts were soon overrun. Remember: this is the era before social programs and welfare. The law of the 19th century capitalist jungle was: You either do well or you die. And if you don't do well, it's your own fault—you deserve your fate. Sadly, we're hearing this antisocial litany in 21st century political rhetoric, whether it's regarding immigration or the growing poverty gap in Western nations.

So with the orphanages packed to the rafters and a political regime still almost a century away from creating the modern welfare state, there was only one recourse: export the unfortunate children to the British colonies for use as indentured labour. In purely Machiavellian terms, it was a stroke of genius, solving both the social problem at home and the labour problem in the newly developing colonies. The one thing it left out of the equation was the *human* factor—the effect of separating children from their families and their country of origin and sending them across an ocean to an alien land with almost no one to help them.

Lori Oschefski, founder of British Home Child Advocacy and Research Association (BHCARA), has been frank about past attempts to whitewash the child immigration movement. "For the most part, these children were not picked up from the streets but came from *intact families*, who, through sickness or even death of one of their parents, had fallen on hard times. Because there was no social system in place to help them get

through these difficult circumstances, the family had no other way than to surrender their offspring" to the various organizations offering assistance, such as Barnardo's, Quarriers, National Children's Homes, etc.

Once they arrived in Canada, the lives of these children offered them little security, uprooting them frequently from one farm to another. "Hardly any of the people had stayed in one place until they were 18," writes Parker. "Unhappiness, the end of a short-term engagement, being considered 'unsatisfactory', running away or being removed because of ill-treatment, all contributed to this history of unsettlement. Indeed, a pattern of 'moving around' and restlessness, particularly among the boys, was liable to continue into adult life... Eighteen percent… described harsh physical treatment (boys and girls in equal proportion) and a fifth of the women… said, or strongly implied, that they had been sexually abused by some man in the families to which they were sent." The descendants of these families are still dealing with this legacy a century later. It's arguable that the Home Child legacy of constant movement across the landscape has become a formative aspect of Canadian character.



A Dr. Barnardo Girl
From BHCARA Magic Lantern Slide collection

"Together with a minority of upbeat accounts," notes Parker in *Uprooted*, "there were those that were deeply sad and where that sadness and distress had persisted through to retirement and beyond. Those who wrote about such distress tended to do so in some detail. Typically, they emphasized their feelings of loneliness, of being unloved, of being stigmatized as a 'home child' and of feeling a deep sense of psychological damage. Here are some illustrative extracts: 'I was sure I would die of loneliness.' 'I was given to understand that an orphan was the lowest type of person on earth… and the insults I had to take… have always stayed with me.' 'My background of life has given me a restless nature. As I grew up there was always the question in my mind. Why, for what reason did our family have to be broken up?'

At a time when we are re-examining our public school curriculum to teach the terrible legacy of the Native residential schools, the story of Canada's British Home Children deserves equal consideration as a vital component of public history. In recent decades there have been many fine books and documentaries—and one feature film, *Oranges and Sunshine*—made to redress this gap. It's a reminder that capitalism's victims can be of *any* colour or ethnicity. An estimated 10 percent of Canadians are descended from these children.

We can be thankful that, due to the dedicated efforts of people like Dave and Kay Lorente, Ivy Sucee, Perry Snow, Judy Neville, Lori Oschefski, and many others over the years, awareness of Canada's British Home Child history is emerging from the shadows. We can be especially thankful to far-sighted people like Phyllis Harrison, who in the late 1970s placed ads in Canadian newspapers asking British Home Children to send her their stories. These firsthand accounts are now priceless historical documents, since so many of these people have passed on. In addition we can be grateful to authors who devoted considerable time to researching and writing about them during the 'wilderness period' in the early 1980s when few Canadians had even heard of British Home Children: Joy Parr, Kenneth Bagnell, and Gail Corbett. Thankfully that list of authors has since grown to encompass a whole new category of Canadian history.

And we can be thankful to those politicians who took up the cause of social justice in the face of the monumental indifference of various Canadian governments: NDP MP Alex Atamanenko, NDP MP Richard Cannings, Bloc Québécois MP Luc Thériault—all of whom championed Parliamentary motions for apology. Although the Canadian Government itself has yet to formally apologize, Thériault's motion for a House of Commons apology passed unanimously on February 15, 2017. I was proud to have co-authored Cannings' speech to the House Parliamentary motion for the National BHC Day. This was quickly followed on February 7, 2018 by the successful motion posed by Conservative MP Guy Lauzon for a national British Home Child day on September 28. These MPs and all those who supported them deserve our thanks.

Tom Isherwood, a child migrant brought to Canada at the age of 8 with Fairbridge Farm Schools, sums it up poignantly: "Never should defenseless, lonely, loveless children be treated in such a way anywhere in the world." Let's hope our leaders learn something from this sad chapter of history.

Sean Arthur Joyce, the descendant of British Home Child Cyril William Joyce, is the author of Laying the Children's Ghosts to Rest: Canada's Home Children in the West *(Radiant Press). He is the author of 7 books including poetry, Western Canadian history and a novel.*

Visit Joyce's blog:
chameleonfire1

By Andrew Simpson

Author, historian, researcher

I have been in a reflective mood this week, brought on, partly by our travels across Europe, which took us from Manchester to Italy and on to Greece and by the theme of the newsletter which is about the contributions made by the children who were migrated to Canada.

Migration Party, on the steps of Manchester Town Hall Hall, 1897

And the link between the two, is that simple observation that pretty much all of us have come from somewhere else, and bring with us traditions, outlooks and experiences which shape both ourselves and where we have chosen to call home.

It remains a very pertinent observation, as my country continues to be torn by the debate on Brexit while my continent faces the continuing tragedy of thousands of migrants choosing to risk the dangers of a sea voyage across the Mediterranean for the promise of a better life.

But those debates about nationalism and migration were also at the heart of the policy of relocating children from Britain to Canada and other parts of the old British Empire. They range from those who held the optimistic belief that the policy offered a fresh start in a new country, to those who saw the migration as a way of exporting a "problem" and were happy to see them go which was replicated by those in Canada who feared the impact of what some termed as "Street Arabs".

Of course, in the great sweep of the story many of those who were sent were not destitute, living off their wits on the streets, but children from families who had fallen off the wall, either because of unemployment and poverty, or the loss of one of their parents.

And the great proportion of children who made their way into the care of the charities, were not migrated, with some remaining in care, only as long as it took their families to overcome the temporary difficulties of unemployment or the loss of a breadwinner.

So, during both world wars, the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges offered specific help to families where the father had been called up or had been killed.

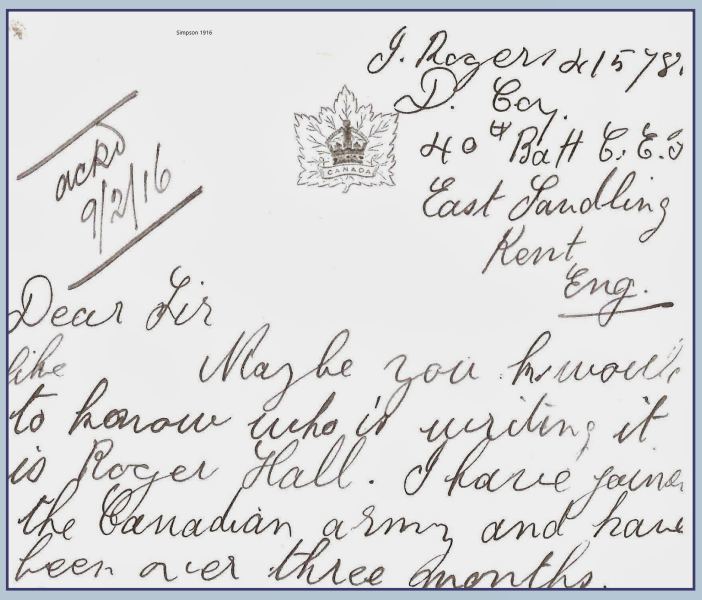
All which points to that simple truth that we are dealing with a cross section of people, most of whom were hard working, intelligent young people with a determination to make good what ever the circumstances. They would go on to do well in a wide range of occupations, from the professions, through to clerical and manual jobs, with many enlisting in the armies of Britain and the Commonwealth in both world wars.

Some were not so lucky. Their experiences before they were sent and in the years after their arrival, left them vulnerable and unable to settle to a job or make lasting relationships.

And here it is easy to fall into the numbers game. Netting off the successes against the perceived failures, applying crude economic measures to judge a person's happiness and draw broader conclusions about the BHC policy.

That said I doubt we will ever be able to come to a final balancing up of the numbers who we might say "succeeded" and those who didn't. My Canadian colleagues and friends will be better placed to seek out those who achieved "remarkable things" and will be better placed than I to trawl the newspapers for evidence of those who couldn't settle.

In the course of writing the book on the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges, I came across plenty of reports of children who were happy, found partners and did well, which are matched by some who couldn't settle and eventually were returned to Britain or left the charities' homes in Manchester.



But they are only a selection of the reports held by the charity and include few references to those who failed to maintain contact once they had left the charities' care.

Commonsense would suggest that the vast majority lived out lives little different from the rest of the population, with that mix of ups and downs which all of us cope with.

Which points up the huge amount of work still to be done on researching the lives of BHC into adulthood and their contribution to Canadian society.

And like so many others that leaves me falling back on my own family and our own BHC. He arrived in Canada in 1914, migrated by Middlemore on behalf of the Derby Union and appears a textbook example of an individual who was unable to settle on the placement farms, or subsequently in the Canadian army. Despite being liked by one of the three farmers he lived with, he found it difficult to conform, and was unable to accept the authoritarian nature of military service, and on his demob and return to Canada disappeared sometime after 1925.

Not that I am surprised, given that from an early age he, my grandfather and his other siblings grew up in care, and were sufficiently feral to have been placed in a naval boot camp, which he avoided only by going to Canada. His father had abandoned them when he was six, and his mother, my great grandmother had her own issues, which eventually led her to the Derby Asylum, where she lived for the remaining thirty years of her life.

On a happier note his sister, my great aunt made the journey across the Atlantic in 1925, not as a BHC, but on an "Empire Assisted Passage", married a Canadian, and had a large family who in turn had large families. Their lives were lived out, much as mine and my sisters here in the UK, working in the professions and in a range of occupations, including the army, nursing and fire service, as well as holding elective office.

All of us, on both sides of the Atlantic can not claim to have won "the glittering prizes" or have been "makers and shakers", instead ours were little lives, lived out in two stormy centuries, but in the way we lived, and in the way we conducted ourselves we have played our part in the history of our two countries.

And so I shall finish as I began with thoughts of migrations and families, and of my own which on one side stretches back into the Scottish Highlands and on the other to northern Germany with a suggestion of links to the sub-continent, is strengthened by my adopted Italian parents, and, of course courtesy of BHC has provided us with a large Canadian family.

Leaving me just to reflect that despite its iffy side, the events of BHC has enriched all of us, as much as we have Canada.

Andrew Simpson is from Chorlton, is a suburban area of Manchester, England and has done a lot of research on Chorlton and Manchester's history. Andrew developed a keen interest in the BHC after it was discovered his great uncle Roger Hall was emigrated to Canada as a BHC. He writes extensively about the BHC in his blog "www.chorltonhistory.blogspot.com" and in his books published. Soon to be released is his book "The history of the Together Trust". The Together Tust was formally the "Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges and Homes"; under which, many children were emigrated to Canada. Andrew runs the Facebook group "British Home Children ..... the story from Britain"

Visit Andrew's social media sites

BLOG

Andrew's books also include: *The Story of Chorlton-cum-Hardy; Chorlton-cum-Hardy Churches, Chapels, Temples; A Synagogue and a Mosque; Manchester Pubs; Hough End Hall; The Story Didsbury Through Time, The Pubs and Bars of Chorlton, The Quirks of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Didsbury Pubs and Bars, Great War Britain - Manchester Remembering 1914-1918*

Special Birthday wishes go out to BHC and Second World War Veteran George Beardshaw!!

The BHCARA and our members send George the warmest of birthday wishes on his 96th birthday, 14 Sept 2019! We are marking this day with members sending birthday cards to George. Many have already started arriving, most with personal notes inside for George. If you wish to send him a card, please contact us at info@britishhomechildren.com for his address. Article by Lori Oschefski

George Herbert Beardshaw came to Canada as a fourteen-year-old boy, mistakenly believing he was an orphan. “I was at school one day and they said "How many boys would like to go to Canada? So I stuck up my hand." George wanted to get out of the Barnardo Homes and looked forward to the excitement of an ocean voyage and becoming a cowboy.

George was born 14 September 1923 in Thorne, Yorkshire, England. He was the fourth child of five. Of his siblings, he only remembers two older brothers, Charles and John. George,an inmate of the Thorne Union since 9th June 1926 was admitted to the Dr. Barnardo Homes 26th June 1928 at the age of 4 years 9 months. where he remained until 1938 when just shy of his fifteenth birthday, he was sent to Canada. His older brother John also came under the BHC schemes in 1934. Nobody explained to George what going to Canada really meant. Believing his mother to be dead, and knowing John was already in Canada compelled him to stick up his hand that fateful day.

When he arrived in Canada, the boys in his party were giving a list of about two hundred farmers. George saw a Mr. Payne on the list, located in Little Britain. He though, since he came from Britain he would go to Little Britain, thus his placement was chosen. Mr. Payne was "ahhhh alright" in George's words. Mr. Payne told George he was too smart for his own good. George worked very hard and felt he could run rings around Payne. He earned three dollars a month, a pittance in comparison to the work he was required to do. Payne often told George he was not worth it.

George's life on the farm was very isolated and restrictive. Simple activities such as going to a movie was not allowed. Indentured to Payne for five years, George often tried to run away. One morning, weary of the harsh life, George rebelled. He'd be up before Payne working hard milking the cows. When Payne finally arrived, George remarked that the cow was not producing much milk this time, to which Payne responded "if you kept your mouth shut she'd likely give you more." George just stared at him thinking he'd had just about enough. Scaring the cats away, George took the milking pain, put it against the wall and told Payne he was leaving, he could not take his treatment anymore. Fed up, George went into the house where Mrs. Payne was making breakfast. She asked “George, did you get your chores done already?” “Yup”, he replied, “about all I’m going to to.” “You didn’t leave Will down there all alone to do the chores did you?” George told her that he didn’t care when she told him that they would be unable to obtain another hired man if he left them. “After all we have done for you?” She replied. “You’ve done nothing for me but work my ass off!” George responded. “One of these days this farm will be yours” she pleaded. “I don’t want your damn farm,” was George’s final words to the Paynes. He left, walking down the road and hitched a ride to Delhi.

Although his brother John was also in Canada, George did not see him for at least two years. John was placed in Delhi and that is where George headed. Once in Delhi, he was able to obtain a job working on a tobacco farm. Barnardo’s did try to get him to return to the Payne’s but George was determined he was not going back. In February of 1944 George went to Toronto to join the Air Forces. He was told that because he did not have enough education he would work as a grease monkey. George wanted to go overseas to see his family. He knew by this time that his brother Charlie had found their mother - alive. Although she never bothered with him all his life, George, now nineteen, still wanted to see

her and saw enlistment as a means to get back to England. Once overseas he obtained three days leave and arrived on her front door, unannounced. His grandparents were proud of him and though he looked sharp in his uniform - but it was like going into a stranger's home. His mother remained very quiet.

George was proud to be a Canadian Soldier. He served with the Queen's Own Rifles reaching Corporal status with the 8th platoon. While serving, he was taken Prisoner of War neat the end of the War in Deventer, Holland. He spend the final twenty-eight days of the war in capture. That was, George said, "another fine mess." After the war, George settled in London, Ontario with his pretty wife Emma. George is also proud to be one of Canada's last surviving British Home Children. Despite his struggles on the farm, he remains fiercely proud and grateful to be a Canadian.

At 96 years old, George is a well loved and respected citizen of London, Ontario. He will tell you himself what a lucky guy he is, so much love and many kisses his way. London, Ontario will honour George for the Beacons of Light for BHC and Child Migrants International Tribute by illuminating many landmarks there including: on the 25 Sept: London, Ontario City Hall, J. Allyn Taylor Building, The Walter J. Blackburn Memorial Fountain , The Canada Life building at 255 Dufferin St. On Sept 28th the ANAF Imperial Unit 229-30 Adelaide Street N will be decorated in red, white and blue. George will also be decorating his home in red, white and blue to honour the 150th anniversary of when the BHC started arriving in Canada.

Photo: George holding the BHCARA Memory Quilt, showing his square with his wife Emma.

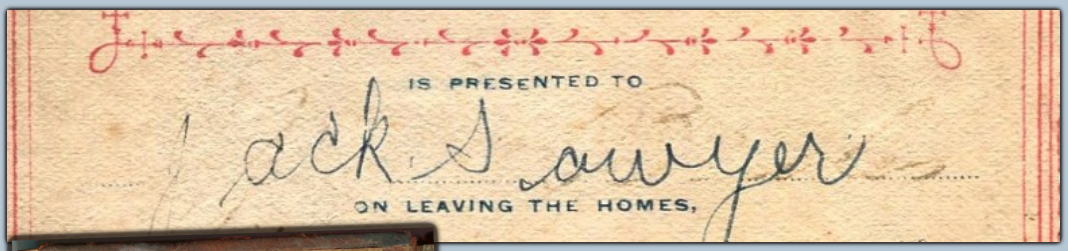
George arrived in Canada in 1938 along with another surviving BHC, Cyril Hewitt. Orphan Boy Films and BHCARA reunited the two men, who had not seen each other for years, in 2016.

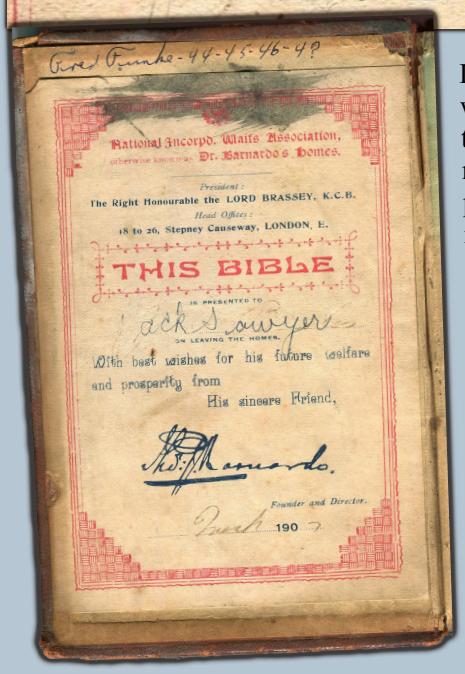
Sources for the Stanley Maxted article:

"Bright Students Who Won High School Scholarships." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 29 Sep 1911: 9.; "Stanley Maxted's Rise." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 11 Jan 1916: 7., "Lieut. Maxted Wounded." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 18 Oct 1916: 10."Back Badly Injured: Lt. S.H. Maxted, However, Progressing Well." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 21 Oct 1916: 10;"Lieut. Maxted Mentioned: Haig's Despatches Contain the Names of Several Canadians." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 17 May 1917: 5.;"Lietu. Maxted Wounded: He Had Been Previously Wounded and Mentioned in Despatches." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 13 Aug 1917: 2.,"Speechless From Hun Gas: Lieut. Stanley H. Maxted Reported Gassed a Second Time and Fighting for His Life." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 30 Oct 1917: 5.;"Lieut. Maxted is Home." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 16 Feb 1918: 9.;"Marriage Announcements: Maxted-Juhler" *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 19 Aug 1919: 4. ;"All-Canadian Concert." *The Gazette* [Montreal, Quebec] 22 Mar 1927: 7.;"Elgar Choir Gave Opening Concert: Interesting Programme Given Fine Interpretation by Local Artists." *The Gazette* [Montreal, Quebec] 24 Nov 1927: 8.;Bridle, Augustus. "Stanley Maxted Sings "Very Young" Lyrics: Vocal Panorama of Make Believe Made Vividly Interesting by Vocal Art." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 11 Mar 1929: 13.;"Frances James, Stanley Maxted Will Sing Here." *The Winnipeg Tribune* [Winnipeg, Manitoba] 10 Oct 1929: 11.;"Stanley Maxted and Mary Frances James Present High Class Vocal Recital at Royal York." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 4 Nov 1929: 15.;"Vocal Programme Most Enjoyable: Montreal Elgar Choir in Fine Recital--Stanley Maxted and G.H. Mallory Sing." *The Gazette* [Montreal, Quebec] 8 Apr 1930: 7.;"Toronto Tenor Sings for Columbia System." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 6 Sep 1930: 22.;"Stanley Maxted Heard in Recital: Canadian Tenor Offers Interesting Programme in Victoria Hall." *The Gazette* [Montreal, Quebec] 1 May 1931: 8.;"Sings From Ship." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 1 Jun 1931: 13.;"Popular Tenor." *The Winnipeg Tribune* [Winnipeg, Manitoba] 20 May 1933: 11.;"Stanley Maxted." *The Leader-Post* [Regina, Saskatchewan] 30 Oct 1933: 9.;"Radio Column." *The Ottawa Citizen* [Ottawa, Ontario] 4 Nov 1933: 13.;"Versatile Man Is Versatile Artist." *The Ottawa Citizen* [Ottawa, Ontario] 25 Nov 1933: 24.;"Ottawa Temple Choir Giving Notable Work with Leading Soloist." The Ottawa Citizen [Ottawa, Ontario] 27 Jan 1934: 14.;"Stanley Maxted Versatile Gent." *The Leader-Post* [Regina, Saskatchewan] 10 Oct 1934: 8.;"Rotogravure Section." *Maclean's Magazine* [Toronto, Ontario] 15 Feb 1935: 28.;"Ex-Torontonian Now Producer With the BBC: Well Known Singer, Stanley Maxted On Loan from CBC." *Calgary Herald* [Calgary, Alberta] 25 Apr 1942: 21.;Maxted, Stanley. "I Was At Arnhem." *Maclean's Magazine*. 15 Nov 1944.;"Newsman for BBC Describes Arnhem: Maj. Stanley Maxted Tells Rotary Operation in Holland Was Not Failure." *The Gazette* [Montreal, Quebec] 22 Nov 1944: 6.;"Queen Elizabeth Docks With 12,000 Repats." *The Globe and Mail* [Toronto, Ontario] 29 Dec 1945: 1.;"No Invitations Necessary: Canadians Abroad Toast Homeland's Birthday." *The Globe and Mail* [Toronto, Ontario] 2 Jul 1953: 13.;"Stanley Maxted: Former Singer Covered Plight Of Red Devils." *The Globe and Mail* [Toronto, Ontario] 11 May 1963: 2.;"Death Stills Maxted Voice." *Toronto Daily Star* [Toronto, Ontario] 11 May 1963: 3.;"Obituary: Mr Stanley Maxted." *The Guardian* [London, England] 11 May 1963: 4.;"Personalities of the Week: People and Events in the Public Eye." *The Illustrated London News* [London, England} 18 May 1963: 777.

New to our collections

The mystery behind the Barnardo Bible with the altered name



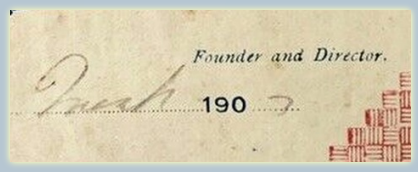


In August, Tracy Ruston, a BHCARA member, brought to our attention a Dr. Barnardo bible available in an on-line auction. We quickly secured the purchase and our BHCARA Facebook super sleuths went to work researching the Barnardo boy whom it once belonged to.

Initially it appeared that the name written inside the bible was "Jack Sawyer" and he arrived in what appeared to say 1907. A search of the indexes showed no child by that name coming through Barnardo's in any year. Looking closer at the name in the bible, it became clear that the name was altered by somebody writing over the original name. The quest was on to discover the proper owner and, who had written over the original name. Remnants of the original name remained. It appeared the immigration year was 1907 and that the bible was presented to a boy. The little that was still legible provided just enough clues. You can just make out the last name as B- -les, his first name appears to begin with a J (only "ack" is written in pen).

Andrea Harris searched the arrival lists, coming up with three people with the last name "Bowles" arriving in 1907 with a Dr. Barnardo party - Ellen Bowles, aged 53 and her two children Ellen A & Frederick. These were the only immigrants which fit the criteria, for the last name, arriving in 1907, however the bible had "J" as the first letter of the boy's name and not "F", which ruled out Frederick. What also was interesting, was that a mother was immigrated along with her children in this Barnardo party of children. Occasionally, Barnardo's did offer help with families remaining in England in emigration to Canada. This piqued our interest to know more about them, why she was there and if they had a connection to the bible.

Records for Ellen showed that her maiden name was "Davis", that she was widowed in early 1907 when her husband John Henry Bowles died. Records showed that Ellen A (Amelia) was born in 1894, and died, of a miscarriage, 31 Oct 1925 in Essex, Ontario. Records showed that Frederick was born 5 March 1895 and had died, tragically hit by a train, 2 Dec 1941 in Essex, Ontario. The family seemed to have settled in the Kingsville, Ontario area. The 1901 census for England revealed this family living together: John Bowles Age 52 , Ellen Bowles Age 48, William Bowles Age 26, Annie Bowles Age 14, John Bowles Age 12, Milly Bowles Age 8, Freddy Bowles. Their son Henry "Harry" Bowles was noted as an inmate at a Certified Industrial Truant School. Also absent from the family in 1901 census was their daughter Ada Florence Bowles. At this time, she was living on her own with two small children, Albert Bowles Age 5 and Evelyn Bowles Age 1. Ada married Arthur Harry Blackford in 1912 in England with whom she had further children.



As interesting as this was, it still did not solve the mystery of whom the bible belonged to. A closer inspection of the arrival date showed that the date could be 1903 and not 1907. A search of the BHC Registry showed John Bowles, #52798 arriving in March of 1903 - along with a brother Harry - #1789 ! The bible belonged to John! Further investigation showed that John and Harry were the sons of Ellen and John Bowles from the 1901 census noted above - siblings to Ellen and Frederick who were immigrated by Barnardo's with their mother in 1907! John Bowles married Mabel Edith Sawyer in 1915; this combined with Jack being a variation of the name John explains the new name on the bible. It's a mystery why he chose to overwrite his birth name with the maiden name of his wife. British Home Children often tried to cover up the fact they were BHC, but he had also kept the bible!

Of the children in the Bowles family, Ada Florence and Annie were the only siblings who never emigrated to Canada. BHCARA member, April Smith, after reading through the FB thread, posted "I *am pretty sure that Frederick Bowles is my BHC's (Dorothy Noel Blackford) Uncle! Her Grandmother was Ellen Davis who went to Kingsville Ontario!*"

Dorothy Blackford was born 25 Dec 1904 to Arthur Blackford, a rag and bone collector. Rag-and-bone man is a British phrase for a junk dealer. Historically, the phrase referred to an individual who would travel the streets of a city with a horse drawn cart, and would collect old rags (for converting into fabric


Dorothy Blackford's intake photo

and paper), bones for making glue, scrap iron and other items, often trading them for other items of limited value. Her mother, Ada Florence Blackford (Nee BOWLES) had died four months before Dorothy's April 1912 admission to Barnardo's. Ada was John's sister who remained in England.

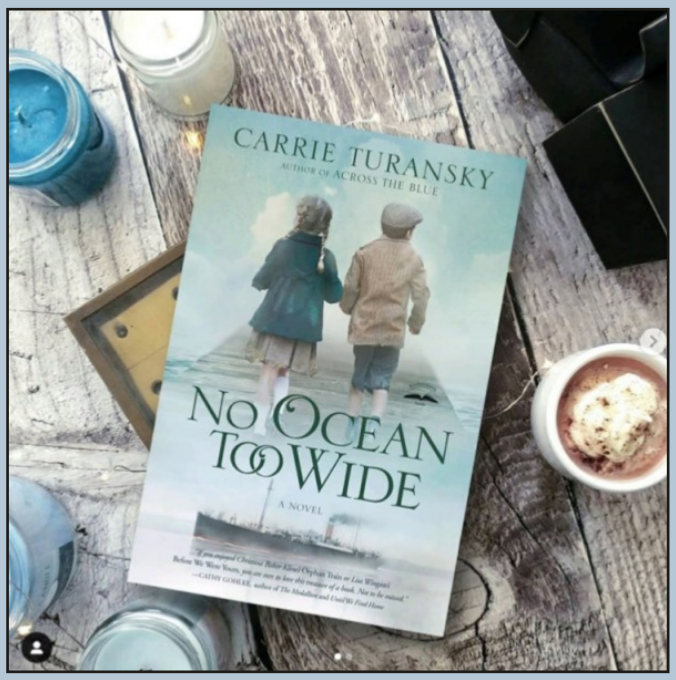
From Dorothy's Barnardo records it states that Emily (her Grandmother, mother to Ada and John) had relocated to Canada. Her address was c/o the P.O., Kingsville, Ontario. The records also state that Dorothy's two maternal uncles, John and Henry had been emigrated to Canada by the homes in March of 1903. *"Following her admission to Barnardo's on 23 April 1912,* the records read, *Dorothy spent the first night at the Receiving House in Stepney Causeway, East London, and the next day was transferred to the Girls Village Home at Barkingside in Ilford, Essex. One month later on 22 May 1912, Dorothy was placed with foster parents in the villge of Long Crendon in Buckinghamshire. She was moved from there two years later on 24 June 1914 to new foster parents in the village of Stowupland in Suffolk. Dorothy was brought back to the Receiving House in Stepney Causeway on 3 July 1919 and on 28 July 1919 was returned to the Girls Village Home at Barkingside where she was placed in 'Cannizaro Cottage' in the grounds of the Village Home. On 24 September 1920, Dorothy left the UK aboard the S S Scandinavian and sailed to her new life in Canada. She arrived in Quebec on 3 October 1920"*. Not only was the identity of the owner of the Bible found, what has emerged is a whole generation of this family was affected by the child migration programs.

John, Henry and Dorothy's pages can be found in our Registry. The have been updated to reflect this new information. You can visit their pages at:
John Bowles: http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com/Person/bhcInfo/52798
Henry/Harry Bowles: http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com/Person/bhcInfo/1789
Dorothy Blackford: http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com/Person/bhcInfo/48017

No Ocean Too Wide

Carrie Turansky's widely popular new historical fiction - based on the true events of the BHC migration programs

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".

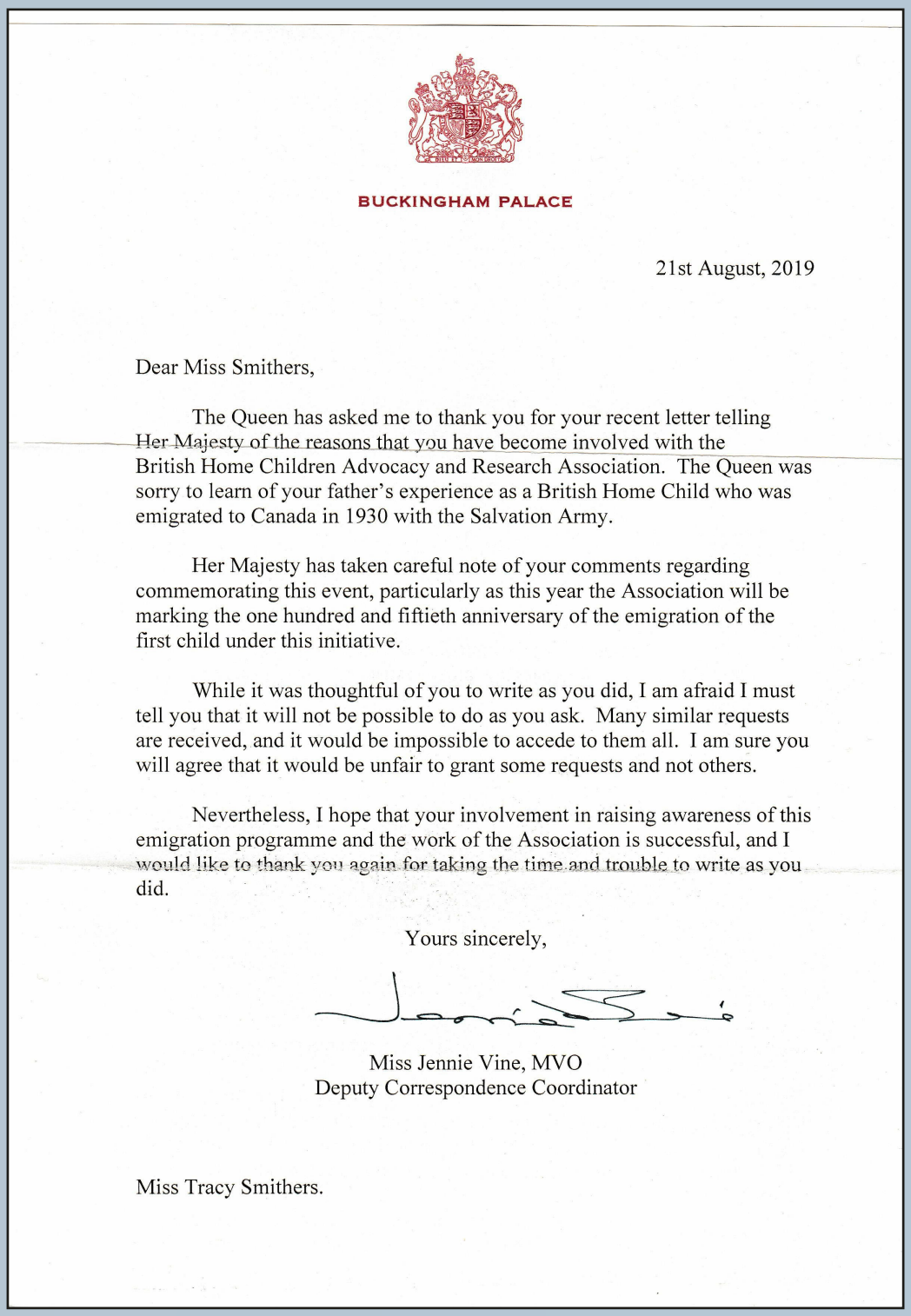
Available now!

Review for "No Ocean Too Wide"
"No Ocean Too Wide is definitely one of the best books I have ever read! This compelling story held my interest from beginning to end. I was not familiar with the British Home Children and the issues involved in their emigration from England to Canada; but through her well-developed characters and historical details, Carrie Turansky brings to life the fictional story of one family's struggles which educated me about the process. Her portrayal of the trials and joys of the British Home Children is heart-warming and at times heart-wrenching. It is a captivating story of hope, love, and perseverance made possible through faith in and reliance on God and stresses the importance of family bonds. I highly recommend this book especially to lovers of Historical Christian Fiction. I am looking forward to the sequel!" - Carolyn Bryant

READ MORE REIVEWS ON GOODREADS!

MY ROYAL REPLY

By Tracy Smithers



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

21st August, 2019

Dear Miss Smithers,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your recent letter telling Her Majesty of the reasons that you have become involved with the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association. The Queen was sorry to learn of your father's experience as a British Home Child who was emigrated to Canada in 1930 with the Salvation Army.

Her Majesty has taken careful note of your comments regarding commemorating this event, particularly as this year the Association will be marking the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the emigration of the first child under this initiative.

While it was thoughtful of you to write as you did, I am afraid I must tell you that it will not be possible to do as you ask. Many similar requests are received, and it would be impossible to accede to them all. I am sure you will agree that it would be unfair to grant some requests and not others.

Nevertheless, I hope that your involvement in raising awareness of this emigration programme and the work of the Association is successful, and I would like to thank you again for taking the time and trouble to write as you did.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jennie Vine, MVO
Deputy Correspondence Coordinator

Miss Tracy Smithers.

When I became involved with the Beacons Tribute, I was determined that it would raise awareness across the UK. And who better to approach than Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth! Being a Royalist, and having been lucky enough to receive a royal letter over 30 years ago, I was hopeful for a response but certainly never expected one. So imagine my surprise when just a week later, I received a letter from the Queen delivered by the post man to my front door. I live in a little village in rural Cumbria, so I couldn't help but smile when I imagined the journey my letter must have had from Buckingham Palace, to my house.

Whilst it was obviously exciting to get a letter from the Queen, my sense of pride and delight went so much deeper than you can imagine. My beautiful, and truly wonderful grandfather was a kind,loving, gentle, and assuming man, who gave so much to so many. He was also a very proud man. Despite all the challenges he faced in life, he never once complained about his lot in life. I approached the Queen in order to give my grandfather, and the many other BHC a voice. Whilst my grandfather, and many other BHC had their voices, and experiences go unheard, and wanted the Queen to hear about these children's plight, and hardship they had experienced. So whilst Her Majesty understandably was unable to illuminate Buckingham Palace for our BHC tribute, she knew about it! The Queen of England had heard about my grandfather, and the many other BHC children.

So as I write this the emotion I felt when I received my royal reply returns to me. My Queen heard about my wonderful grandpa! Originally from one of the poorest parts of Manchester, he gave so much to so many, and forever had a smile on his face, and good words to say. I also reminded me that anything is possible! We all have a voice, and the power to create ripples of change in memory of our loved ones.