



# Anglo-Celtic Roots

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Quarterly Chronicle

Volume 14, Number 3

Fall 2008

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### The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally-incorporated society, and a Registered Charity (Reg. No. 89227 4044 RR0001). The purpose of BIFHSGO is to encourage, carry on and facilitate research into and publication of family histories by people who have ancestors in the British Isles.

The objectives of the Society are: to preserve, research and disseminate Canadian and British Isles family and social history for the benefit of current and future generations; and to promote genealogical research through a program of public education that teaches people how to do research and how to preserve their findings in a readily accessible form.

The activities of the Society are to: publish and disseminate genealogical research findings, as well as information on research resources and techniques; hold public meetings on family history; maintain readily accessible reference facilities; encourage volunteer participation in family history and genealogical research activities; and participate in the activities of related organizations.

Membership in the Society shall be available to persons interested in furthering the objects of the Society and shall consist of anyone who submits an application for admission as a member accompanied by payment of the applicable fees or dues. The 2008 calendar year fees for Membership are: \$35 Individual; \$45 Family; \$30 Institutional. Membership benefits include: the year's four Issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*; ten family history programs, each of two hours' duration; up to six free queries a year; friendly advice from other members; participation in a special interest group that may be formed.

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We invite readers to share family history articles, illustrations, letters, queries and similar items of interest by submitting them to *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Manuscripts should be written in the style of story-telling or letter-writing, leaving it to the editor to adjust. Preferably, articles should be submitted on both paper and MS-Windows compatible diskette, and addressed to: The Editor, BIFHSGO, PO Box 38026, OTTAWA ON K2C 3Y7.

Contributors of articles are asked to include a brief biographical sketch of up to 10 lines, and a passport type and size photograph. They will be invited to certify that permission to reproduce any previously copyrighted material has been acquired. Authors are encouraged to provide permission for non-profit reproduction of their articles.

The Editor reserves the right to select material to meet the interest of readers, and to edit for length and content. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish a reply or return of material or, for out-of-country contributors, equivalent International Reply Coupons if you wish a reply or return of material.

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Cover Photograph

British Children from Dr. Barnardo's Homes at landing stage,  
Saint John, N.B. (undated) Isaac Erb/ Library and Archives  
Canada PA-041785.

### ***Message from the President, Mary Anne Sharpe***

This will be the first of these messages I will be writing to you, the BIFHSGO membership, in my new role as President. In reflecting on what I would write in this first message, I thought of my own experiences. I have been doing family history research for the last 15 or more years; early on, I joined several organizations and mailing lists, so that I could benefit from the regular lectures, local knowledge and other resources they offered.

One of the things that has struck me about this community of people, all over the world, who call themselves family historians and genealogists, is that they are committed volunteers. They comprise a group that is strongly dedicated to the detective work that many of us do as either vocation or avocation. They are dedicated to sharing the information they unearth with others, and to making sure that it can be available to others who may wish to use it.

In some ways, I think it is appropriate that the two most popular pastimes today are said to be gardening and genealogy, not necessarily in that order. For it seems to me that genealogists are like gardeners—they often do a lot of rather tedious work, faithfully; they learn a lot of ancillary, but necessary, facts; they are fascinated by their subject; and they are excited when they are able to achieve success, whether it relates to breaking down a brick wall, or to encouraging blossoms from a recalcitrant plant.

The Home Children successes described in this edition of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* exemplify this volunteer ethic of the family history/genealogy community. A significant number of BIFHSGO's members have devoted their time to the transcription of the various documents relating to Home Children, including passenger lists and the files of sponsoring agencies. They have done this freely and faithfully over a long period, often motivated by personal interest, but as often as not, motivated simply by the fascinating subject matter.

Someone once said: *Volunteers are not paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.* I would like to take this opportunity to thank our BIFHSGO volunteers for their generosity of spirit in unlocking and sharing the wide variety of information that we use in doing our family history and genealogical research. You are indeed priceless. Thank you.

### ***Notes from the Editor, Chris MacPhail***

I, like many of you, was drawn to BIFHSGO to learn more about genealogy and family history in general, and Home Children in particular—because my grandfather was a Home Child. I am pleased, in this my last issue as Editor, to feature some happy stories of Home Children and their contributions to Canadian society. There are reports from John Sayers and Patricia Roberts-Pichette on the outstanding efforts of volunteers in researching and recording the names of thousands of Home Children, and how they are being compiled and made accessible in collaboration with Library and Archives Canada.

In his series on the Beechwood Cemetery, Glenn Wright has discovered an interesting link between a poet and a princess through his diligent searching of the records of the cemetery and national and provincial archives.

There have been many rewards from having served as Editor, high among which are the friendships that have developed through collaboration in pursuit of common goals. BIFHSGO sets a high standard; I hope that I have helped to maintain it. Ridge Williams will assume the role with the next issue, and I offer my full support and wish him every success in the future.

## BIFHSGO NEWS

## Report of the 2008 Annual General Meeting

BY ROY THOMAS

This report complements those of Directors contained in the yellow insert of the Summer *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. Prior to our 2009 AGM, a draft of the official minutes of the 2008 AGM will appear in a 2009 issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots*.

Alison Hare was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of her contributions to family history through outstanding service to genealogists. A certified genealogist, recognized as a consultant by Library and Archives Canada, Alison has inspired and entertained with her frequent presentations at BIFHSGO meetings. Her long-time commitment to genealogy is shown not only in her own research and writing but also in her participation in the BIFHSGO/OGS Ottawa Branch beginner courses, her five years as editor of the OGS Ottawa Branch Newsletter, her advocacy for release of the 1911

census and her service to the Ontario Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Doug Hoddinott was named to the BIFHSGO Hall of Fame in appreciation of his contributions to family history through outstanding service to the Society during the past thirteen years, including five years as Membership Director and Vice-President and as an active member of the Conference Planning Committee. He has assisted the Society and many of its members with his expertise in both computer hardware and software. At meetings, conferences and workshops he has provided leadership to ensure the availability of audio-visual facilities. He has made several presentations at Society meetings. His organizational skills and attention to detail have been major factors contributing to the success of the Society.



Alison Hare



Doug Hoddinott



Mary Anne Sharpe



Robert Brown



Chris MacPhail



Andy Coates

Mary Anne Sharpe received the award for Best Presentation at the monthly BIFHSGO meetings, September 2007- June 2008, for her talk, "*In My*

*Father's Footsteps to the Western Front*" delivered at the 10 November 2007 BIFHSGO meeting.

Robert J. Brown won the award for Best *Anglo-Celtic Roots* article in 2007 for “*Baa Baa, Black Sheep: Thinking Outside the Fold*” which appeared in the Winter 2007 issue.

Chris MacPhail received a Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding contributions to the work of the Society as Editor of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* from 2006 to 2008, during which time our journal placed second in the prestigious National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition in 2007 and, as reported at last year’s AGM, first in this same competition in 2006.

Andy Coates was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding contributions to the work of BIFHSO as the Webmaster of our website from 2006 to 2008, during which time it received honourable mention from the Federation of Family History Societies (UK) for best website in 2007, and for his work on the development of the online registration system for the 2008 fall conference.

### New Board

*President.* Willis Burwell did not stand again. The nomination committee, as noted in the yellow insert, nominated Mary Anne Sharpe for this position, and she was declared elected by acclamation. John Reid,

outgoing immediate Past President, thanked Willis for his service to BIFHSGO not only as President but as Chair of the 2007 Fall Conference. Willis is also chair of the 2008 Fall Conference and now becomes the immediate Past President on the current BIFHSGO Board.

*Directors.* Similarly those Directors up for re-election in 2008, Cliff Adams, Treasurer, Betty Burrows, Communications, John Hay, Programs, and Sharon Moor, Membership were all declared elected by acclamation. Roy Thomas, Recording Secretary, Margaret Gervais, Publicity, Brian Glenn, Education were elected at the 2007 AGM. Remaining vacant is the Director of Research board position.

*Associate Directors.* Willis Burwell thanked the Associate Directors for their work. The Associate Directors are listed in the *Anglo-Celtic Roots* as are the Board members.

*Auditor.* The auditor, Darrel E. Kennedy, reported that he found the BIFHSGO financial records, as summarized by the statements found in the yellow insert, to be a good representation of the Society’s fiscal situation at the end of 2007. Darrel was approved as auditor for 2008.

## The BIFHSGO-LAC Home Children Program

BY JOHN SAYERS

At one of BIFHSGO's earliest conferences, David Lorente expressed the need for a searchable Home Children Database. BIFHSGO had no major project at that time, so decided to make this its project. In 1996 an agreement was made with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) that if they hosted the Home Children Database, BIFHSGO would provide volunteers to extract the children's names from ships passenger lists held at LAC. The understanding was formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement signed by both parties in September 2006.



Over time, it has become necessary to expand the extraction process from passenger lists to include various other records, in order to find as many children as possible. The plan was to extract names from 64

years of records with the expectation of recording between 110,000 and 120,000 names.

To date 30 volunteers have been involved in the extraction with some doing one, or a portion of one, year while others have done several years. Of particular note has been the 22 years extracted by Len Grummett, who has worked for at least 10 years on the project. Once extracted, the names have to be typed into a format acceptable to LAC for uploading onto the LAC website. The latest update to the Home Children Database was done in September 2007, with the result that it now contains approximately 110,000 names. The years that are searchable at this time are 1869 to 1924 inclusive, while 1925 to 1928, 1930, 1932 and 1935 have been extracted but have not yet been added to the database at the request of LAC. The year 1929 is being extracted; it was the year that some 5,000 children were sent over to Canada (the most of any year but at a most unfortunate time), while 1931, 1933 and 1934 have yet to be started.

The Home Children portion of the LAC website will eventually include several smaller databases that are, or will be, completed by BIFHSGO volunteers. At present, the Children Sent to Canada by Boards of Guardians has been added; it was extracted from Film T-537 by Len Grummett and Kay Latulippe and consists of some 11,000 names. We hope to add a database of some 53,000 names compiled from the Barnardo's *Ups and Downs* Magazine by Dennis Kelly. We also have 10 volunteers extracting information from the RG17, Department of Agriculture records, covering the period 1869 to early 1892 and expect to have some 10,000 names in this database. Also, when a pagination problem has been solved, we will extract the names from the various RG76 General Correspondence records from several sending agencies. We also hope, eventually, to add the names from our hard copy records of children sent by the National Children's Home, Fegan's, The Waifs and Strays, Roman Catholic agencies, Fairbridge and Charlotte Alexander. Last to be added will be a database developed from the Inspection Reports covering primarily children sent to Canada from 1920 to 1939. We hope eventually to have a very comprehensive group of databases under the heading Home Children available on the LAC website and accessible by the public everywhere.

A spinoff from the Home Children Program is the queries generated by the databases. At present one of the databases has over 1,000 names for which queries have been received, with over 200 to be added to this list. Some of the queries can be answered by 2 e-mails, but most require from 5 to 20 before the volunteers run out of steam! Some have a very happy resolution while others remain unresolved, particularly when the child's name was changed very soon after arriving in Canada. Unfortunately, the Barnardo records held by LAC are restricted and unavailable to us.

Included in the BIFHSGO-LAC agreement is the preparation of an index of the children contained in the records of J.T. Middlemore's Children's Emigration Homes that are deposited at LAC. Since 2002, nearly 40 volunteers have been involved in the extraction of about 7,000 names from approximately 90 microfilm reels containing eight different types of files. Over 5,000 children were brought to Canada for settlement and their names were posted on the BIFHSGO website in December 2007, together with the process for obtaining copies of the records.



Patricia Roberts-Pichette and the volunteers are now preparing the information in the form required for the LAC website. In addition, they are preparing two additional indexes: one of those children taken into the Middlemore Homes in Birmingham between 1872 and 1932 who were not brought to Canada (many were siblings of those settled in Canada), and the other of the Middlemore records in the RG76 files.

To help spread the story of Middlemore and the children settled in Canada, Patricia has written 12 articles in *Anglo-Celtic Roots*. With Caroline Herbert, she has given presentations to BIFHSGO meetings, and to groups in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. On each occasion, they visited museums, archives, libraries, churches and cemeteries and sought out people who might have information. Their main objective was to gather information about the lives of Middlemore children, the people responsible for their welfare in Canada and those who assisted Middlemore with advice and encouragement, as well as the stories of the two Canadian Middlemore homes, Guthrie Home in London and Fairview in Halifax.

In February 2008, Patricia visited the Birmingham Archives and was able to see documents not deposited at LAC and to meet researchers specializing in the history of the Birmingham working poor. She met several people who were either Middlemore children themselves or descendants. They took her to visit places associated with the Middlemore family, examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century working class Birmingham and surrounds, and the Children's Emigration Homes localities on St Luke's Road and Selly Oak. A highlight of the visit was an hour-long live interview on the BBC by Carl Chinn, a University of Birmingham professor and popular radio host. She has also lectured in New Zealand.

None of the information that has been amassed so far on Home Children would have been possible without the help of all the volunteers. They have not only extracted information from LAC files, but have also assisted in filing, transcribing documents, preparing spreadsheets, searching the Internet, contacting people, writing reports and answering queries about the children. BIFHSGO salutes their efforts and thanks them for their work.

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

## Remembering Brockville's Scottish Orphans

BY CAROL ANNETT

*Carol Annett first learned about Home Children through her godmother, the late Helen Kilpatrick, whose mother Elizabeth Duncan was a Quarriers orphan. A 2006 BIFHSGO presentation on Home Children prompted Carol to join the society, and ever since then she has been working on the story of the Duncan children in the BIFHSGO writing group.*

I knew the Brockville Museum had files on Home Children, but when I arrived, the volunteer at the front desk looked puzzled. "You mean home schooling?" she asked, trying to understand my request to access the museum's resources. Most Canadians are familiar with Anne Shirley, L.M. Montgomery's beloved fictional orphan. Many are unaware of the real-life orphans and destitute children who were brought into Canada from the late 1860s to the 1930s. The town of Brockville alone received hundreds of children from William Quarrier's Orphan Homes of Scotland. They stayed briefly in Brockville at the Fairknowe Home, Quarrier's Canadian headquarters, before being placed with families. For that reason, Brockville seemed a logical place to continue my research on three siblings, Elizabeth, Thomas and Josephine Duncan, who were brought to Canada between 1889 and 1890 from Quarrier's "Village," near Glasgow, Scotland.

Despite the initial reception, my trip to the museum proved fruitful. A researcher, summoned by the puzzled receptionist, led me past the second floor Home Child display to a back room, where I was able to examine two thick files of clippings and articles about Fairknowe Home, William Quarrier and Home Children. The documents provided a wealth of information to add to my already large files on the Duncan children.

*Disce pati*, the Duncan family motto, means "Learn to suffer." Living amid disease and poverty in nineteenth-century Glasgow made suffering a daily possibility for the three Duncan children, their parents, Joseph Donachie Duncan and Elizabeth Shearer, and their older brother, James.

Known in the family as Jim, Lizzie, Tom and Ina, the Duncan children lost both parents in the winter of 1886. Joseph died at the age of 40 after a two-year struggle with "phthisis" (tuberculosis). His poor wife, who was terminally ill with cancer, survived only a few weeks more. Her son James, 12, cared for his



mother until her death, according to the records of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, where the children were taken. "Mother died after much suffering. James tenderly nursed her during her last moments and is now brought, according to his own wish and his mother's by Mr. Agnew [missionary]." [endnote 1] Their uncles were willing to adopt two of the siblings, but Elizabeth wanted her four children to be kept together. Her dying request was that William Quarrier would send her children to Canada, where she hoped they would find a better life than the one she had known in Scotland.

Although the Duncan children were all born in Glasgow, their parents were not. A few miles south of the drab city tenements they would later inhabit, down the Pollokshaws Road, past Butterbiggins Road and Strathbungo, lies Crossmyloof where their mother, Elizabeth Shearer, was born.

Crossmyloof supported a number of industries in the mid-nineteenth century, including an industrial bakery for supplying affordable bread to the workers at Neale Thomson's textile factory, and a Cart Forge, which produced wheel axles for railway wagons. It was also a weaving village, one of many communities in the countryside around Glasgow in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries that sprang up near the textile mills. Here Elizabeth Shearer's grandfather and father, both named David Shearer, worked as weavers. In both 1861 and 1871 Censuses, Elizabeth Shearer herself was listed as a weaver, a trade that held little future for her. Mechanization was making the craft of hand-loom weaving increasingly obsolete.

In 1873, Elizabeth married Joseph Donachie Duncan and left her weaving life in Crossmyloof for good. The couple headed up the road to Glasgow, where there were more jobs for a journeyman housepainter, such as Joseph.

Joseph had been born about 1845 in Greenock, a seaport and shipbuilding centre. Situated on the south bank of the River Clyde near its mouth, Greenock is justly proud to be known as the birthplace of the inventor James Watt, who improved the modern steam engine.

Twenty-two miles upriver, straddling the Clyde, lies Glasgow, which means “dear green place” in some accounts. Indeed, this is how Daniel Defoe described the city early in the eighteenth century, when he was impressed by the natural beauty of the river, the cleanliness of the town and the quality of its buildings.

In the nineteenth century, by which time James Watt’s improved steam engines had helped power the expansion of heavy industry, Glasgow was coated with greasy black soot from factory smokestacks. The “dear green place” was now better characterized by an alternate derivation of the name as a “dark glen.” The *Ordnance Gazetteer for Scotland* published in 1882 and 1885 recorded the following dismal inventory of the sights of Glasgow:

dark and smoky tunnels...dingy suburbs...murky mineral fields amid the blaze of iron-works...houses of inferior description...a river...not at all pure or sweet...amid a motley array of shipbuilding yards and engineering establishments resounding to the rattling of many hammers.

The wealthier areas in the west end, north of the river, were more appealing because they were upwind of the smoke, the noise and the smells. However, there was nothing upscale about the Glasgow neighbourhoods inhabited by two Greenock natives, William Quarrier, founder of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, and Joseph Donachie Duncan, father of the Duncan children.

When William Quarrier was five years old, his father, a ship’s carpenter, died in a cholera epidemic while working in Quebec City. Drawn to the so-called “second city of the Empire” by better prospects for employment, the remaining members of the Quarrier family joined the tide of people who had been streaming into Glasgow since the onset of the Industrial Revolution. Glasgow’s population doubled, tripled and quadrupled without a significant increase in area. Demand for jobs and shelter far exceeded supply, resulting in a social crisis of rampant disease, poverty and grossly overcrowded housing.

It was into this dark, congested, unsavoury ghetto off the High Street that Annie Quarrier came to live with her son William and two daughters in 1834. While his mother and older sister worked at home doing fine sewing on manufactured articles, young William helped carry the finished bundles to the warehouse. By age seven, he was working long hours in a factory, fixing the heads on decorative pins. At age eight he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. William Quarrier was driven to work hard to escape this life of poverty and he succeeded brilliantly.

When Joseph Donachie Duncan and his wife Elizabeth Shearer Duncan joined Glasgow’s burgeoning working class, almost 40 years after Quarrier’s arrival, William Quarrier was already a prominent businessman with a successful chain of boot-making and shoemaking shops. He was also an evangelical Christian and a tireless crusader for child welfare. Since Elizabeth was a devout Christian, it is likely that she had heard through her church of his efforts to employ poor boys in his Shoe-Black, Parcel and Newspaper brigades. Elizabeth was likely also aware that Quarrier’s Orphan Homes sent children to Canada.

Each child in the Duncan family was born at a different address in working-class neighbourhoods, north and south of the river, not far from where Quarrier operated at the time. In the year 1874, when Jim Duncan was born, Quarrier was managing the Industrial Brigades, two orphan homes in Govan Road and a night refuge for children at Dovehill.

In 1876, he opened the City Home, which housed the entire Dovehill operation in a huge five-storey building. However, Quarrier believed that a large institution was far from the ideal environment for children. With a view to creating a more home-like setting for his young charges, he purchased Nittingshill Farm, near Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, 18 miles west of Glasgow. This became the site of his children’s village.

In 1878, the year of Tom Duncan’s birth, Quarrier sailed to Canada with his seventh group of children.

By the time Ina Duncan was born in 1879, Quarrier had fulfilled his dream of creating an “[o]rphanage established near Glasgow on the cottage principle, to which children from any part of the country could be sent.”[endnote 2] On 17 September 1878, hundreds of people attended the official opening of Orphan Homes of Scotland, including Dr. Barnardo and the Provost of Greenock. By 1882, Quarrier had given up his shoemaking business altogether and moved to the new orphanage near Bridge of Weir.

Elizabeth Shearer Duncan must have heard of the facility—a miniature village with cottages nestled on forty acres of lush green fields and woodlands. No wonder her dying wish in 1886 was that her orphaned children be cared for there. For the next several years, the Duncan siblings lived in these cottages, each of which housed 20 to 30 children, supervised by a set of “house parents.” For the younger Duncans, the weekly routine included attending school and church, as well as completing their assigned domestic chores. However, their older brother Jim spent his days

differently. Living aboard Quarrier's dry-land training ship, *James Arthur*, he learned the skills he would need in the merchant navy.

Between 1872 and 1938, some seven thousand children were sent from Quarrier's Orphan Homes of Scotland to Canada. Though there were other worthy individuals and organizations involved in child emigration from Scotland, Quarrier's was the major Scottish agency. Initially, William Quarrier sent his children under the care of two other child emigrant organizers, Annie Macpherson and Ellen Billborough. By 1888, he purchased his own distributing home in Brockville, Ontario—the Fairknowe Home where newly arrived children were paired with suitable pre-screened families who applied to receive a hard-working boy or girl.

In 1889 the Duncan children began to leave the sheltered world of The Village. For the first time in their lives they were separated from each other. Tom, Lizzie and Ina sailed on three different crossings to Canada aboard the *S.S. Siberian*, one of the many fine Allan Line ships that transported child immigrants. Built in 1884, this vessel carried over 2600 Home Children to Canada.

Tom, who was 10 at the time, was the first Duncan sibling to board the *S.S. Siberian*, sailing to Canada in March 1889. Lizzie, age 13, sailed in May the same year. Twelve months later, ten-year-old Ina, previously held back because of an ear infection, made her voyage to Canada.

Following a different path, Jim, 15, went to sea as an apprentice aboard the ship *Brodict Bay* in April 1889. He was old enough to make up his own mind about his future. With his training in seamanship, he chose to pursue that career rather than emigrate to Canada as his mother had suggested. It was over 40 years before Jim saw his siblings again.

Once they had arrived in Brockville, Tom, Lizzie and Ina stayed briefly at Fairknowe Home. Built in 1847, Fairknowe was originally the private residence of George Crawford, who came from Ireland to Upper Canada as a contractor to work on the Rideau, Cornwall and Beauharnois canals. Crawford became a member of the first Senate of Canada in 1867, a post he held until his death in 1870. His large, square, stuccoed former home was purchased in 1888 by William Quarrier from a group of local businessmen.

Quarrier's daughter Agnes and her husband, James Burgess, were in charge of administering the home and placing the children. James' brother, Alexander, had

the job of visiting the children once a year and reporting on their progress.

The Fairknowe Home placed the Duncan children with families in the same vicinity, enabling Tom, Lizzie and Ina to keep in contact with each other. Tom was placed with James Laidlaw, who had a farm near Westport. James, age 44, was the Canadian-born son of a farmer and stonemason who had immigrated to Canada from Scotland about 1845. With no children of their own, James and his wife Elvira decided to take in a Home Child. Like other children on Canadian farms, Tom would have had daily chores. He attended a nearby one-room school, the Blair Settlement School, where he excelled in his studies.

Very little is known about Lizzie Duncan's placement during her Home Child years in Westport. As Lizzie was nearly 14, schooling for her was limited, but she regularly attended the local Presbyterian Church where she loved to sing in the choir. She recalled working as a domestic for the Fredenburghs, a prosperous Westport family. In 1900 she was employed by the Presbyterian minister in Westport before finding better-paying work in Brockville.



Figure 1: Josephine "Ina" Duncan ca. 1899  
Courtesy Tom Love, Ina's grandson

Ina was settled in the village of Newboro, not far from her siblings. There she lived with an older couple, Robert Bell, a shoemaker, and his wife Lucille, a milliner. Ina was the only child living with the family at the time. She likely assisted Mrs. Bell, learning millinery and dressmaking from her. After several years, Ina apparently left the Bells to live with the Love family in Belleville. When the Loves decided to homestead in Manitoba, they took Ina with them. (Figure 1).

“Forget the past.” Well-meaning adults at Quarrier’s Orphan Homes of Scotland gave this advice to Lizzie Duncan before she left for Canada. As an adult, Lizzie spoke little of her childhood in Scotland or of her years as a Home Child. She later told her daughter that the families with whom Tom and Ina stayed “... didn’t treat them well.” Of her own experience, she would only say, “It was hard.” Her terse answers hint at underlying painful memories and a shameful stigma attached to being a Home Child. Losing both parents and adjusting to life in a new country must have been difficult. But the Duncan children were not inclined to wallow in misery. To the Duncan motto “Learn to suffer” they seem to have added “Onward and upward.”

Whatever hardships they endured, the Duncans’ story is ultimately one of success. Living conditions in Canada were better and the future held more promise than in the ghettos of Glasgow. Lizzie, Tom and Ina persevered and fulfilled their mother’s dream—that their lives would be better than hers. Indeed, she could not have imagined the varied directions her children’s lives would take.



Figure 2: Thomas Shearer Duncan and Elizabeth “Lizzie” Duncan ca. 1899

Courtesy Helen Kilpatrick, Lizzie’s daughter

For Tom, higher education was the way to a brighter future. He had the ability, but how was he able to afford it? His sister Lizzie “...continually supported Thomas in his schooling. She used her small wages to buy the books and clothes he need for High School, and even gave him the money she had been saving up to buy a sewing machine for herself” (Figure 2).(15) Tom graduated from the prestigious Athens High School and went on to pursue postsecondary studies, earning scholarships throughout his undergraduate and postgraduate years. While Tom was attending Queens College, Kingston, Dr. C.K. Clarke gave an impassioned lecture there on the physical and mental

inferiority of child immigrants. The Duncans and other child immigrants proved Clarke wrong.

Tom went on to a distinguished career as a classics professor at an American university. Lizzie and Ina fulfilled traditional women’s roles as wives and mothers. While in Manitoba, Ina married and had children. She and her husband, a railroad conductor, later settled in Saskatchewan. Lizzie spent some enjoyable years employed as a cook for the wealthy Comstock family in Brockville, before marrying a blacksmith and returning to Westport to raise her family. The Duncans moved ahead, became productive members of society and left their Home Child origins buried in the past.

Except for a hiatus from 1897 to 1903, Fairknowe Home continued its work finding families for Quarrier’s children into the early 1930s. Since then, Fairknowe has changed hands and function several times. In 1933, the building was purchased by George T. Fulford’s daughter, Dorothy Hardy, to be used as a Children’s Aid Society shelter. In recent years, it was converted to apartments. Stripped of the covered veranda and steps, where newly arrived children once posed for group photographs, the building now looks worn and shabby. The street, Fairknowe Drive, bears the name of the former receiving home, but no commemorative plaque identifies the dwelling that later became the first Canadian home for several thousand Scottish children.

Some evidence of the town’s involvement with Home Children exists today in Brockville, if you know where to look. As I discovered, a small Quarriers exhibit is on permanent display on the second floor of the Brockville Museum and files of information on the subject are available in the research room upon request.

In the Brockville Cemeteries on King Street, a monument bears the names of 35 children who died in the care of Quarriers between 1888 and 1918. Nearby lie the graves of several others associated with Fairknowe Home: young Ernest Burgess (d. 1895), William Quarrier’s grandson; and Claude Winters (d. 1961) and his wife Emily Marshall (d. 1965), the last superintendents of Fairknowe.

Until very recently, local history books made no mention of Fairknowe Home and the Quarriers children. Efforts are now being made to address these omissions. Tucked into the chapter entitled “The Magnificent Fulfords,” Glenn Lockwood’s 2006 book *The History of Brockville* includes a page-and-a-half section entitled “Child Immigrants.”



Figure 3: Detail from mural "Brockville Portraits of the Past... and Present circa 1760-2000" showing a Quarrier boy. Painted by students of Thousand Islands Secondary School, 1998, for the VIA Rail station, Brockville. Source: Author photo.

On a mural located at the local railway station, depicting individuals of significance in Brockville's history from 1760 to 2000, just to the right of the image of Mayor Ben TeKamp, is the figure of a small boy—a Quarrier child (Figure 3). It could be Tom Duncan, standing next to his little steamer trunk, newly arrived from Scotland, more than a century before the mural was painted. Now the whereabouts of Tom's trunk, and of his sisters' Quarrier belongings—including a Bible and a copy of *Pilgrim's Progress*—are lost and long-forgotten.

"Forget the past," Lizzie was told. She and Tom and Ina did their best to forget. And so for a very long time, did everyone else. In 1996 the first Canadian reunion was held for Quarrier children and their descendants in Kingston, Ontario. Among the proud attendees was Lizzie Duncan's daughter. Continuing to remember Brockville's Scottish orphans is part of restoring all Canadian Home Children to a place of honour in our history.

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#### Endnotes:

1. J. Mortimer, Deputy Director/Superintendent, Bridge of Weir, Scotland, Letter to Miss H. E. Kilpatrick, 8 July 1971.
2. Magnusson, Anna. *The Village: A History of Quarrier's, Bridge of Weir, Scotland*. Quarrier's Homes 1984, page 25.

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## Henry Gilchrist: A Quarriers Home Child

BY BRYAN D. COOK

*Bryan found an old portrait in an antique store in Deep River, Ontario, with an inscription on the back that led him to research the history of the Beaton family, pioneer Scots of Lanark County. Henry Gilchrist was the Beaton's adopted son.*

**H**enry Gilchrist was born at 5.30 am on Wednesday, 15 May 1878 at 3 Taylor's Close in Greenock, Scotland. He was the illegitimate son of Mary Gilchrist, whose pregnancy probably resulted in dismissal from her job as a domestic servant. Mary boarded Henry for a short while with her long-widowed mother at nearby Baillieston, but by age 27 she had already been living a life of "ill-repute" for five years, lodging with Henry at the "establishment" of a Mrs.



Fullarton at 6 Dalrymple Street, Greenock. She repeatedly sought shelter in the Greenock (1881) and Dalbeth (1882, 1891, and 1914) Houses of Refuge. It was while she was sheltering as a battered woman at Dalbeth in 1882 that Inspector John Berry, Turnkey at Greenock Police Office, recommended Henry for care at Quarriers to prevent a recurrence of the "poor little fellow [being] dragged through all this life of infamy and shame."

William Quarrier's Narrative of Facts for 30 January 1882 states at page 8:

January 30—A great many cases were dealt with at the City Home today. We took in a little boy of four, sent from a neighbouring town by a police officer.

The poor miserable mother begged that the little fellow might be taken from such surroundings as she had brought herself into. She is anxious to lead a different life, and, as she stood before us, with her eye swollen by a blow from the woman who she says first led her to do wrong, we could but pray that she might be plucked as a brand from the burning. We trust that the little fellow may soon forget his past experience, and never know the depth of misery he has been taken from.

So Henry was taken into the shelter of Quarriers on 30 January 1882, a date confirmed from his later application for life insurance.

In 1872, with Renfrew Lane bursting at the seams, Quarrier leased the old country home of Cessnock at Govan in Lanark, about three miles from the Cross of Glasgow. It became his "Training Home for Canada" for about 50 boys from the Glasgow slums, and that is where toddler Henry was sheltered. Since the main part of the Quarrier organization at Bridge of Weir was operational by 1882, it must have been intended from the start that Henry be sent to Canada. His mother must have agreed to this and perhaps saw it as a chance for her son to have a better life than she could ever provide for him. His standard Quarrier-issue Bible, which accompanied him to Canada, states "from a friend, Cessnock House Glasgow 22 March 1882." All attempts were made at Cessnock to maintain the atmosphere of a family household; the children played together, worked around the house and worshipped morning and evening.

On Tuesday, 21 March 1882, the "Eleventh Annual Band of Children to Canada" of 73 "Quarrier Children" was assembled in the Hall of the City Home and Mission, Glasgow. They came from the Cessnock House Institution Orphan Boys Home, from the Glasgow Catholic Orphanage at 72 Abercromby Street and from the St George Midlothian Orphan Hospital. With the exception of Mary Quinn, who at 19 years was the oldest child, all were boys and at least 49 of them were over 10 years of age, considered to be suitable for the often hard and uncompromising life they would be facing on Canadian farms and homesteads. Dignitaries, friends and sympathisers were there to "commend them to the care of our Heavenly Father" and, concomitantly, to publicize the good work of Quarriers. The children were traditionally seen off from the Orphan Homes by all the other children singing "*Don't Forget the Orphan Homes of Scotland.*" The Reverend John Salmon, his wife and William Quarrier's second daughter, Agnes, led the party to Canada, with Quarrier himself accompanying them as far as Mowille/Londonderry,

Co. Donegal to see that things were ship-shape. Four-year-old Henry was exceptionally young; perhaps it was Mary Quinn or even Agnes Quarrier who cared for him on the voyage.

Henry sailed from Glasgow bound for Halifax via Londonderry and Galway on the steam-sail hybrid ship *Waldensian* (the refitted *St. Andrew*) of the Allen Line. It must have been a very overwhelming time for the young lad as he sat with his small wooden hope trunk filled with clothes sown by the "Ladies Sewing Meeting" for the OHS, standard Quarriers issue, which his daughter Ethel still cherishes.

She also treasures his little "Birthday Date Book" issue, which has a moving dedication on the inside cover:

*Hendrey Ghilchrist, from his mother  
God is Love March 21 1882*

And it includes a number of birth or christening dates with an inscription from the donor:

*Mrs Ghilchrist December 25<sup>th</sup>*

Henry's birthday book was not standard Quarriers issue. Although there may be confusion with his natural mother, we believe the donor was Mrs Gilchrist, a Quarriers helper who chaperoned the Twelfth Party of Children to Canada, leaving 26 March 1882 on the *S.S. Hanoverian*. Mrs Gilchrist had just returned from a mission to the soldiers at Gibraltar, and probably comforted Henry while he was in Cessnock. Henry's natural mother probably wrote the dedication, as families were always notified of the child's emigration and were invited to say their farewells in the week before departure.

Upon landing in Halifax on 7 April 1882, and passing through medical detention, the children travelled by train to the Marchmont Receiving Home at 193 West Moira St., Belleville, Ontario, an uncomfortable journey of nearly 1,000 miles that took three days on slatted wooden seats in carriages warmed by wood stoves.

Marchmont Home had been established in 1870 by Annie Macpherson, and was being run very diligently and compassionately by Ellen Agnes Bilbrough (1841-1900).

Fragments of a documentary trail remain, establishing Henry's subsequent adoption. His future guardian, John Beaton of Concession 5, Darling Township, Tatlock (Lanark County, Ontario) signed Indenture No.80 with Charles William Watch for Marchmont Home on 2 March 1883. It affirmed that Henry was to

be clothed, educated, and treated as one of the family; he was also to be sent to Church, Sunday School and day school regularly (note the capitalized priority of Church before State). Interestingly, the handwritten footnote to the Indenture incorrectly gives his age at date of signing as 2 years 10 months.

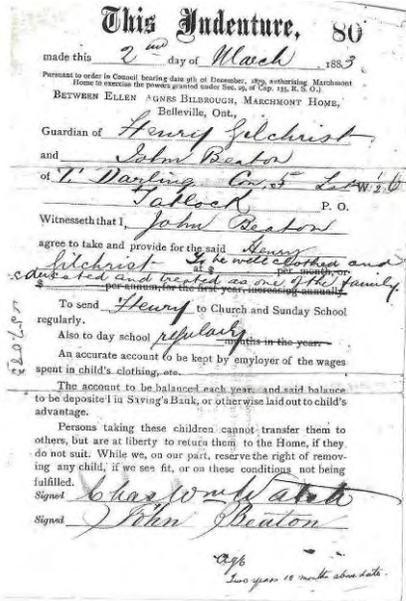


Figure 1: Marchmont Indenture #80

A faded “Agreement with Belleville....Belleville Marchmont...Miss Bilbrough” reads:

Marchmont Home, Belleville, Ontario March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1883

Mr. J. Beaton - Sir

I am sending for the little fellow I wrote about and in doing so I sincerely hope he may be a blessing and comfort to you. I think him a nice little boy and I am satisfied with your good training blessed by our loving Heavenly Father much good will come of his going to you.

Please sign the enclosed indenture returning it to us you keeping the duplicate.

Little Henry likely made the train journey from Belleville alone with his Quarriers-issued possessions and, as was customary, his name tag pinned to his coat lapel. A handwritten note by John Beaton, likely torn from a lost diary, reads:

Henry Gilchrist our adopted son arrived here his future home on Sunday 4th March 1883 from Marchmont Home, Belleville County Hastings Ontario. When he arrived we found him to be well provided with every necessary article of clothing, his Bible etc.

John Beaton Darling T. Ontario.

He is now 39 and one quarter inches in height, 23 and one half in brea.....

And Charles Watch concluded his business by sending John Beaton the accounting for Henry’s rail fare:

Yourself: The railway fare 1/2 ticket is \$2.25 and I return boy on the balance of the \$5.00 you sent me. I am Yours truly Chas W. Watch

Please write us of the safe arrival & welfare of Harry

So Henry had arrived by boat and train from Scotland at his new Ontario home in Canada and his name had evolved from Hendrey Gilchrist through Henry Gilchrist to Henry (aka Harry) Gilchrist Beaton....all in four tender years.

I expect that readers can already sense from John’s commitment that Henry had been placed in a loving family. The telling of the incredible pioneering stories of John Beaton (b. Cape Town, South Africa, ca 1810, d.1892) and particularly his second wife Janet Paton (ca 1820–1903) are for another time. Suffice it to say that they had both weathered tragedies and travelled by sail, steamer, oxen-towed barge and foot to homestead in Clayton and from 1858 in Darling, both in Lanark County, Ontario. There they farmed and John taught school, although a tailor by trade. They raised a total of 10 children, including Henry, to adulthood in a modest log cabin. Henry was always regarded as one of the family and is referred to fondly as “brother” and “Uncle Harry” in intimate correspondence. Indeed, it may well have been while grieving the untimely deaths in 1882 of their son Thomas and his infant son and their grandson that the Beatons decided to adopt.



Figure 2: Beaton Homestead, Darling, Ontario, ca 1875

Henry would have been inculcated by John with a strong Scottish Presbyterian faith. John, a Church Elder, writes in a diary scrap:

There are truths that underlie all obligation. The teachers of this day owe it to themselves and to their work to strive to get out of this din and conflict of

Sectarian strife into a higher atmosphere of Faith. It is not sectarian for the children of a Christian State to read the (secular?) revelation of God's Will.

The Beatons were regularly visited by a Marchmont Home Inspector, Robert Wallace, who in November 1883 reported back to Quarriers that Henry is:

A very nice little fellow, too small to go to School so Mr. B who is an old teacher is training him at home. He was at his lessons when I called and he read out of the Testament which Mr. B uses as a text book very well. They speak in the highest terms of praise of him.

Although he would have been expected to do farm and household chores, Henry's schooling was taken very seriously. Another diary scrap attests to his abilities as a six year old:

August 18<sup>th</sup> 1884. Helen [sister Ellen] took Henry this morning [Monday] to school, he can read First book but cannot spell the words, can read a chapter by rote after a week's practice. He can work easy sums in the ground rules but cannot say the tables. May God be with the orphan and make him wise unto Salvation. John Beaton. Miss Waters, T [teacher?]



Figure 3: Harry Gilchrist Beaton, Almonte, Ontario, 1904

By 1904, Harry was the strapping, handsome 26-year-old shown in the photograph taken by Townend's Photo Studio of Almonte. Judging from photos, young Harry was a popular fellow, often hamming it up with friends before the camera (Figure 3).

Harry and his sister Elizabeth (Lizzie), who seems to have been particularly close, nursed their mother Janet

through her last illness. When she died in 1903 they became joint beneficiaries of her estate, with \$300 going to Elizabeth Lindsay and the remainder, after expenses, to Harry.

So Harry, released from family obligations and with some minor inheritance, heeded the call to "Go West, Young Man."

Pioneering Scots, who had originally colonized Ontario in places like Lanark where the fields can be stony and the soils are often thin, led the movement westward beginning in the 1870s. It was driven by the availability of far better land and the positive promotion given to the Prairies by both the British and provincial governments. The lure for rich prairie sod must have been strong. Harry was part of the movement, along with the Ballantines, the family of his bride-to-be.

Harry's daughter, Ethel, recalls that Harry left for Manitoba on 24 August 1904 after the sale of items on the Beaton farm in Darling. He worked in Manitoba at harvesting (perhaps for the Ballantines), then in bush camps on Lake Winnipeg; he moved on to Edmonton in 1905. The *Edmonton Bulletin* for Tuesday 6 March 1906 reports: "Staying at the Queen's Hotel, Edmonton, H.G. Beaton of Lanark Ontario." Finally, he moved to Kitscoty, Alberta in 1906 and took a homestead in 1907. He obtained his land grant of the South-East Quarter of Section 30, Township 50, Range 2, West of the Fourth Meridian in the Province of Alberta on Thursday, 14 April 1910.

He must have come back to Winnipeg later, looking for Hannah Ballantine, as they married there on 12 March 1915. Hannah was a lass from "back home" in Lanark, Ontario, born 20 July 1882, the daughter of Robert Ballantine and Margaret White Stewart of the same Darling Township. So she was born of hardy pioneering Scottish Congregational stock in the year Henry made his journey to Canada. Harry would without a doubt have played with this very large family of at least eight Ballantine children in Darling and could well have attended Church, Sunday School and school with them. It is quite possible that Hannah was a childhood sweetheart.

Harry and Hannah Beaton homesteaded and farmed at the freshly pioneered village of Kitscoty located in the wheat belt of Alberta's Vermilion Valley, 22 miles west of Lloydminster, and named after the four stone relic entrance to a Neolithic chambered long barrow at Kit's Coty House in Kent, England.



Figure 4: Hannah and Harry Beaton, Kitscoty, Alberta ca. 1931

The first settlers had arrived at Kitscoty in 1905 and established a tent village. Harry might well have shopped in the tent of T.H Currie's General Store when he arrived as a bachelor in 1906. By 1911, Kitscoty had, without the assistance of the railway, become a well-established village serving its agricultural hinterland. Harry had chosen and timed his land grant well for, in 1913, the Canadian Northern Railway laid tracks through Kitscoty, allowing the

village greater accessibility. Its commerce, farms, grain elevators and dairies boomed throughout this period, during which the Beatons had two children: Allan Gilchrist Beaton, b. 23 January 1916, and Ethel Phyllis Beaton, b. 5 July 1922.

Unfortunately, the 1930s brought much hardship. Not only was Kitscoty hit by the Depression, but in 1936 the community suffered a harsh hail storm that demolished the windows of local homes and businesses, and in 1938 large snowstorms blanketed the countryside. It must have been tough for the Beatons to maintain their farm. The stress may have contributed to Hannah's early death from pancreatic cancer on 14 January 1935 in Edmonton.

But Harry's luck and determination pulled him through. He died at four score years of age on 7 February 1958 in Lloydminster and is buried in the Kitscoty cemetery with his beloved Hannah.

Neither of his children married. They lived together on the family farm until two years ago. Allan now suffers from Alzheimer's disease and is in a home in Lloydminster. Ethel is living in a seniors care home in Lloydminster.

#### **Acknowledgements and Dedication**

This paper is an abstract of a more detailed biography researched by the author. Special thanks to Darlene Jones (Beaton), John Sayers, Ethel Beaton and my fellow RootsChatters. Henry's story is dedicated to those Victorian philanthropists and their Home Children charges that played such a crucial but little-understood role in the founding of Canada.

#### **The National Archives Podcast Series**

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## John Harold Russell: A Home Child Success

BY JOYCE C. FINGLAND

*Joyce became heavily involved in genealogy when she committed to producing a book for her husband's family as a way of sharing the clippings, photos and family records of which there was only a single copy. She retired in 2007 from Information Technology Services (ITS) at the Limestone District School Board in order to devote more time to her growing genealogy obsession and to her gardens.*

**J**ohn Harold Russell, known to many as Jack, was born John Harold Smelt in Yarm on Tees, Yorkshire, on 15 January 1888. He came to Canada as a Home Child in July of 1900 and went to live with the family of Adam and Mary Fingland, my husband's grandparents, near Enterprise, Ontario. His younger brother, Richard, came at the same time and went to the home of Thomas and Marinda Hyland who lived nearby and were cousins of the Finglands. The Finglands considered John their son and he regarded them as his parents, so we have him listed as a member of our family tree. I believe that John did indeed find a good and satisfying life in Canada, but I was curious as to why a bright and capable fellow had come to Canada as a Home Child.



When I set out to trace his story, I started with the 1901 Census of Canada, Ontario, Addington Co. District 43, Camden Twp. Subdistrict D6, page 5, where he is listed with Adam and Mary Fingland and their children, Maria, 2, and Hugh, 8 months, (my future father-in-law). It shows him as Smelt, John H., age 13, born 15 January 1888 in England, immigrating in 1900, able to read and write but not attending school, working as a farm labourer with no income stated.

Thomas Fingland, Adam's 69-year-old father, who was living with the family, lost his own dad when he was 13, leaving him to run the farm and care for his younger siblings. Thomas's grandfather had died when his father was 10, so the family had a history of knowing what it was like to be left without a father and having to depend on others. That may have influenced how the family looked at John. In later years, Hugh in his turn took in more than one relative who had fallen on hard times and provided them with food, shelter and employment; it appears to be a family tradition to take in those less fortunate.

Next I located references to John and Richard's arrival. From Collections Canada Archivianet, microfilm reel T-479, we know that John and his brother Richard arrived in 1900 on the *S.S. Tunisian*, departing Liverpool on 19 July 1900 and arriving in Quebec on 28 July 1900 with a Dr. Barnardo's party bound for Toronto.

A Public Archives-Immigration Branch document (RG 76, Volume 65, File 3115, Part 3, page 37) lists the names, addresses and employers of the 100 boys who came from England with the second and third Emigration Parties of 1900. John and his brother Richard appear on the list as follows:

Name of Boy	Employer	Postal Address
SMELT, Richard	Mr Thomas Hyland	Enterprise, On Henderson
SMELT, John	Mr Adam Fingland	Enterprise, On Harold

John or Jack Smelt was always referred to by the Finglands as Johnny Russell. I enquired of my brothers and sister-in-law but, while they were aware of the name change, they did not know of a specific reason other than to speculate that perhaps the boys had been teased about their name. According to Don, Hugh's eldest son, apparently one time when John was home for a visit they all went to the nearby church, Knox Presbyterian at Reidville, for a special service. Don was surprised to hear one of the older neighbours address him as John Smelt.

Robert, Hugh's second son, also offered that Johnny had been in an orphanage in England prior to coming to Canada and that he had always called Mary Fingland "Mom." Mary always treasured any gift that came from Johnny, as I was often told as we went through things in the old farm kitchen prior to the sale of the farm in 2002. One of John's daughters was still living in 2007 and my brothers and sister-in-law were still in regular contact with her.

So why had John and his brother Richard been sent to an orphanage? What had happened to their parents? Between the pages of the family Bible, which is now in my keeping, were two items pertaining to John: a

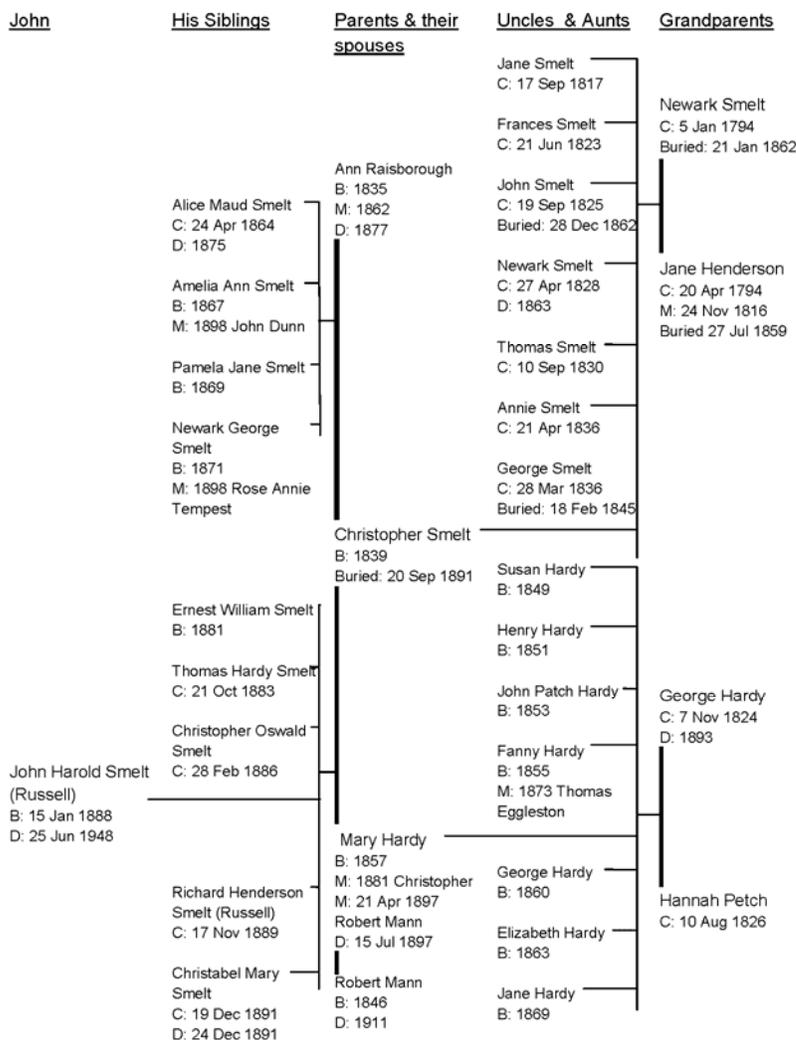


Figure 1: John Harold Smelt Family Tree

postcard that he sent home to Mary in 1908, and his obituary. The obituary clipping is not labelled, but it is likely from the *Times and Waskada News*, which was originally called the *Deloraine Weekly Times & Turtle Mountain and Souris River Gazette*. The obituary gives his place of birth as Yarm-on-Tees, England and his date of birth as it was given on the 1901 Census. I found him easily on the 1891 Census of England, Yorkshire, Yarm Pg 6 R.G. 12/4023, with his parents Christopher and Mary (Hardy) and his siblings. From there it was relatively easy to trace the family back to his great-grandparents using a combination of the census records, the Free BMD index, and the LDS records of baptisms, marriages and burials. I sent for certified copies of John's birth and marriage registrations and his mother Mary's second marriage and death registrations. I ordered the two LDS films for the parish records for Yarm and photographed the relevant entries. I also obtained from Library and

Archives Canada photocopies of John's military records from World War I.

John's father Christopher was a grocer in the small town of Yarm, which is located on the very northern border of North Yorkshire. Born in 1839, Christopher was the youngest son of Newark Smelt and Jane Henderson. Newark began as a blacksmith but in the 1851 Census he was listed as a grocer. The Smelts appear to have been a stable and respectable family, living for several generations in the same small town and with a consistent business enterprise providing a living for them.

On his mother's side, the Hardys moved around from town to town in Yorkshire with the father, George Hardy, pursuing his trade as a blacksmith. Mary Hardy was 13 in 1871, when the Census shows that she was working as a servant with a family in Ganton, Yorkshire, while her parents and siblings were living in Foxholes, 4 miles away.

When John was only three, his father died and was buried 20 September 1891 at 52 years of age. With John's youngest sister Christabel's baptism it is noted that she is a posthumous child. Unfortunately, Christabel Mary was buried only five days after her baptism on 24 December 1891, at the age of one month. The family would have had a difficult autumn with two deaths in the space of two months. Mary had five living children to care for, the eldest not quite 10.

Within six years Mary remarried, to Robert Mann on 21 April 1897. However, tragedy struck yet again as she died less than three months later on 15 July 1897, leaving her five children Ernest William age 15, Thomas Hardy, 13, Christopher Oswald, 11, John Harold, 9, and Richard Henderson, 7.

By 1901 John and Richard were in Canada, but the 1901 Census of England gives us information about what happened to their siblings. Their half-brother Newark is married with two small children and working as a bricklayer labourer; presumably the grocery business has been lost. Ernest is working as a groom in Preston-on-Tees. Thomas is living with his stepfather, Robert Mann, and working as a gardener. Christopher is living with his Aunt Fanny and working as a driver in the ironstone mines. The fortunes of the family have certainly changed since the father Christopher's death 10 years earlier.

It seemed strange to me that the family had taken in the older boys but sent the youngest two to an orphanage; perhaps the feeling was that the older boys could already earn their way and thus would be less of a burden. Children were expected to be industrious and hard working, unlike our current ideas about childhood, and both the law and Victorian attitudes to orphans were somewhat different to our current understanding. The English *Guardianship of Infants Act* of 1886 and the *Custody of Children Act* of 1891 set out who had legal guardianship of children when their parents died. Financial responsibility was a key element and previous Poor Law Union acts were largely concerned with that as well. Victorian ideas of respectability and compassion did not include our current sense of social responsibility. Children were not doted on and catered to. The life of an orphan could be brutal indeed and the benevolent societies, that we in retrospect are very critical of, came into being because of horrendous conditions some orphans and abandoned children lived under. [Endnote1]

Around the turn of the century, accepting Home Children was very common in Eastern Ontario. Adam's brother, William George Fingland, had a boy by the name of Albert Smith living with him and his

family. Albert had arrived in 1896 as an 11-year-old. Albert remained in the Enterprise area all of his life and appears in photographs of the groups of young people at Knox Presbyterian Church.

According to Don Fingland, Hugh's eldest son, a representative of the Bernardo Homes came to visit them at least once. Adam paid John a small amount for his labours and the representative seemed to think that he was going to collect the money to help repay his passage over. Apparently Adam told him "He earned. He'll be keeping it."

John graduated from Business College in Kingston, where he reportedly did well. Don still has the textbook John used, dated 1906. When John was 20, he left to find his way in the world and in 1908 the Prairie Provinces were the place to go. He sent the postcard that was kept in the family bible back to Mary to let her know that he was well.



Figure 2: Johnny Russell

John enlisted for service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 21 March 1916 at Souris, Manitoba. His attestation papers show his brother, Richard Russell, as his next of kin living in Acton, Ontario. His date of birth is given as 15 January 1888 and his trade as Fireman. The back of the form shows him with an apparent age of 28 years 2 months, a height of 5 ft. 8 in., chest girth of 37 in. with a range of expansion of 4 in., complexion dark, eyes brown and hair dark. He has a scar on the end of his left thumb. He declares himself to be a Methodist. John hoped to visit with his family in England when he was sent over but, unless he was able to do so right after he arrived in England, that may not have happened since John was wounded soon after going overseas.

His military records indicate that he was given Reg't. Number 150565 when he joined the 79th Battalion at Brandon, Manitoba, on 6 April 1916. He sailed for England on 4 May 1916 on the *R.M.S. Lapland*, arriving May 15th, and was transferred to the 27th Battalion June 28th at Sandling. John was sent to the field July 7th for service in Flanders. On 15 September 1916 during fighting at the Somme, he received shrapnel wounds to his left eye, left hand and right thigh and was taken to the First Australian General Hospital at Boscombe, Bournemouth. Two days later he was anaesthetized, the left eye excised and the bits of shrapnel removed from his right thigh. On

September 22nd his left ring was amputated finger at the base where it was “torn almost out right away” and there are notes as to the damage to the other fingers as well. On November 8th he was transferred to the Canadian Hospital Bearwood and then on November 20th to West Cliff Canadian Eye and Ear Hospital at Folkstone, where they supplied him with a glass eye.

He sailed for Canada on 24 December 1916 on the *S.S. Scotian*, arriving 4 January 1917. John was admitted to the Winnipeg General Hospital, then moved on 15 February 1917 to the Grange Convalescent Hospital, and on February 20th to the Deer Lodge Convalescent Hospital. On a report filed 17 April 1917, they describe his present condition as:

Has artificial left eye fairly well fitted. Complains of a fair amount of discharge from socket, otherwise good result. Amputation of ring finger left hand at first phalangeal level about middle of bone. Has apparently had a fracture of middle metacarpal bone, limitation of flexion of remaining 3 fingers about 25%. Whole grip is weak, diminished about 50%. Forearm and arm in good condition. Small flesh wound rt thigh no disability.

John was discharged 31 May 1917 at Winnipeg, Manitoba, as being no longer physically fit for war service. He was assessed at 3/5 disabled—based 40% on the missing eye, 15% on the loss of power in his left hand and 5% on the loss of left ring finger—and was given a pension. At some point during his recovery, the family story is that he returned to Adam and Mary at Enterprise while he recovered and Mary nursed him back to health with eggnog and the like. Perhaps John felt that Mary could care for him as well as the staff could at the convalescent hospital. If one looks closely at the photo of John standing alone, one can see the missing ring finger on the upper hand.

John married Martha Monson on 27 September 1917 in Souris, Manitoba. According to their Official Notice of Marriage, John was now a station agent, 29 years old, born in Yarm-on-Tees, England. He gave his mother’s name as Mary Hardy and his father’s occupation as storekeeper, but listed his father’s name as Thomas Russell. Martha was born in Boyle, Ireland, and was the 27-year-old daughter of Thomas Monson and Mary Frazer. Both she and John gave their religion as Church of England.

John and Martha had six children: Evelyn, Kathleen, Dick, Grace, Joyce and Denny. John brought his growing family home to Enterprise several times to visit Adam and Mary, and Mary went to Souris to visit John and his family there. When one looks at the photo of him and Martha from one of their trips “home” with

their five eldest children, one sees a happy family. John’s elder son, Dick, continued the tradition and stayed with Hugh’s family near Deseronto, Ontario, for a visit at least once while he was serving in the Armed Forces during the Second World War.

John Harold Russell served as the fifth postmaster in Souris from 1 October 1944 until 25 June 1947, with the cause of vacancy given as “deceased.” His birth date of 15 January 1888 matches what I found on his birth registration, his attestation papers and on the 1901 Census. Hugh and Maria went out to Souris to see him when he was ill (the recollection of Robert, Hugh’s second son, was that it was cancer). Hugh and John were both members of the Odd Fellows and Hugh spoke to the local chapter to make sure of their support for his family and to make arrangements for his funeral.



Figure 3: John Harold Russell and family

His obituary reads:

#### Deep Regret Felt Over Passing of Souris Postmaster

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of J. H. Russell, Souris postmaster, and popular resident of the town, whose death occurred in the Souris and Glenwood Memorial Hospital on Wednesday last, June 25th, after a long illness. He was in his 60th year.

John Harold Russell, known to his many friends as Jack, had lived in Souris for almost forty years. He was born at Yarm-on -Tees, England. He came to this country in 1900 to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Fingland of Enterprise, Ontario, and to Souris in 1908 where he started to work for the C.P.R. as a fireman. When the First World War broke out, he enlisted with the 79th Battalion and went overseas with the expeditionary forces and was discharged following wounds in 1917.

Resuming his duties with the railway upon his return home from overseas, Mr. Russell worked in the Souris ticket office until 1930, when he joined the staff of the post office. He was made postmaster in 1944 and occupied that position until his death.

Mr. Russell was a good community citizen. He was particularly active in lodge affairs, being a member of the I.O.O.F. and Rebekah [sic] lodges. He served on the school board and town council. He was fond of curling and was a member of the local club.

In 1917 he was married to Martha Monson at Souris. She survives with a family of six, Evelyn, Kathleen

and Denny, all of Souris; Mrs. C. J. Foley (Grace) of Perth, Ont.; Joyce of Winnipeg; and Dick of Bissett, Man.

The funeral was held on Saturday afternoon from St. Luke' church. As a mark of respect, all business places were closed during the hour of the funeral. Rev. E. A. Syms conducted the services. Pallbearers were Elvin Wright, C. E. Lewis, Geo. Gilchrist, A. Williamson, W. Collinson and C. Cherrey.

Interment was made in Glenwood Cemetery.

I am confident that John worked hard on the farm of Adam and Mary Fingland—their own children and later grandchildren certainly did—but the bonds of affection lasted all of his life and beyond. John succeeded in building for himself a life that included a happy family, a stable career and the respect of his neighbours. The emigration societies may not have had motives beyond solving the immediate problem in England of what to do with orphaned children, but surely this is an example of the best of outcomes.

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### Endnote

1. Himmelfarb, Gertrude. *Poverty and Compassion, the Moral Imagination of the Late Victorians*. 1992. First Vintage Books, New York. An interesting reading for a perspective on the attitudes of the time and the involvement of the benevolent societies at work.

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## Edith Millwood Jeavons

BY RON AND DIANE JEAVONS

*Ron and Diane Jeavons, who are residents of England, submitted this account of their search for Edith Millwood Jeavons, a Home Child, and the role that Patricia Roberts-Pichette played in uncovering the key that would help them over their "brick wall."*

I began my research into the Jeavons family when I retired, with the help of my wife Diane, who has done most of the research and has written this story for me. I had very little knowledge about any of my ancestors other than about my parents and grandparents. I was born in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire in 1934, where my family originated. As I progressed with my research I discovered that the Jeavons family was quite large, and before moving to Wolverhampton in the early 1800s they had lived in Gornal and Sedgley, the heart of the industrial "Black Country" as it was known, due to the numerous factories operating there. In the early to mid 1800s my g g g grandfather Timothy Jeavons was a "whitesmith" who worked with tin and pewter and employed a workforce of several men; some of his



sons were butchers and beer-house keepers. There were also farmers in the family, employing men and boys to work on the farms.

I was lucky in finding information on most of my ancestors, apart from my elusive g g grandfather, but that's another story. However there was one child who was the proverbial "brick wall." This was my second cousin twice removed, Edith Millwood Jeavons. The Millwood part of the name came from Edith's paternal grandmother Sarah, who was born about 1809.

I obtained Edith's birth certificate from Wolverhampton Register Office; she was born 9 June 1875 to parents Jonah and Emma Jeavons (nee Picken, formerly Phillips). The family lived in Tettenhall Wood, a suburb of Wolverhampton, about one mile from the town centre. Most of the Jeavons family lived in or around this area and in nearby Compton and Finchfield at that time. Emma (Edith's mother) had been married previously in 1860 to James Phillips, who died a year later, leaving her with a young

daughter, Rachel Ann Phillips. On 1 July 1869 Emma married Jonah Jeavons at Tettenhall Wood Church; according to his marriage certificate, he was also a whitesmith.

In 1871 Jonah was recorded as a carter and was living in Tettenhall with his stepmother at the “Shoulder of Mutton” public house, which was the family home of his deceased father Timothy. Emma was recorded away from home that census night, working as a nurse to a family nearby. Emma’s daughter Rachel Ann was living with Emma’s father Thomas Picken. I searched for Jonah and Emma on the 1881 Census to find more information regarding Emma as a child and this was the first stumbling block: there was no sign of them. Did they move from Staffordshire? Did they emigrate? I explored all of these avenues, searching the various censuses and looking at numerous ships lists, but all to no avail. Then I had another thought—did they die? After searching the General Register Office Index, I finally found two possible death records and duly set about sending for these certificates.

Sadly, my theory was correct. Edith lost both her parents within eight months of each other. She was not even four years of age when her mother died on 20 February 1879 of serotum of the breast and four years four months when her father died on 28 October 1879 of catarrhal pneumonia. How must she have felt to lose both her parents within a short space of time and at such a young age? Her parents were buried in Tettenhall Wood Churchyard and Jonah was recorded as a wine merchant’s porter.

I searched again for Edith on the 1881 Census but was unable to find any trace of her. I searched the GRO register again and could not find any death record for Edith Millwood Jeavons. Then, a few weeks ago, a friend in Nova Scotia whose grandmother was a Home Child sent me the BIFHSGO webpage so that I could look at her grandmother’s name. Out of curiosity I decided to look at the index of children sent out to Canada, and suddenly a name stood out...EDITH JEAVONS. This prompted me to try to discover if this was my missing Edith; finally I have discovered at least a little of what happened to her.

First of all I contacted Dr. Patricia Roberts-Pichette who has done so much work for BIFHSGO, and she told me that records were kept at Birmingham Archives, about an hour’s train journey from where I live. My wife Diane and I decided to make this trip and we were so very pleased to meet Dr Roberts-Pichette at the library, as she was in the U.K. doing

some research. I must thank Patricia for all her helpful tips on how to find these records.

Little is known about what happened to Edith after her parents died, but at some point she was sent to Wolverhampton Union Workhouse, although the year is unknown. Her maternal grandfather was an elderly widower when Edith’s parents died, as was her paternal grandmother. Her paternal grandfather was deceased, so I imagine the rest of the family—aunts, uncles or cousins—could not provide a home for her. There are no records regarding the workhouse that would give me any clues to dates or reasons why she was sent there.

By 1888 Edith was living at the Children’s Emigration Home in Spring Road, Birmingham, having been sent there from the Wolverhampton Union Workhouse. On 27 April 1888, Edith left Birmingham New Street Station to travel to Liverpool Docks. Many of the children had families and friends who came to the station to wave them goodbye. I wonder if there was anyone there to say goodbye to Edith. This was the first of three groups to be sent out from the Birmingham Emigration Home in 1888. How must all of those children have been feeling? Were they excited to be leaving poor conditions in England to go to a “land of milk and honey,” as Canada was portrayed to them?

In charge of the group were Rev. Blomfield and Mr. Longford, master of the Montgomery Street Board School, accompanied by the two matrons of the homes, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Hawkins. The *S.S. Lake Ontario* left Liverpool Docks at 8 p.m. and according to Rev. Blomfield, the crossing was trying for the first few days, as the weather was so rough. Everyone on board was ill but the children soon recovered. Mr. Longford reported that the voyage was very pleasant, though rough.

The ship reached Quebec on May 8th where Rev. Blomfield left the ship with 12 boys and 10 girls to head to Fredericton. The rest of the group arrived in Montreal at 11 a.m. on May 9th and were well fed before boarding the Canadian Pacific Railway at 5:30 p.m. The children settled down to sleep at 9 p.m. and arrived at London, Ontario the following day, May 10th at 5 p.m. They were met at the railway station by Mr. Gibbens, the head of the Guthrie Home, which was the Middlemore reception and distributing home in Canada. From the station, they were driven in open brakes to the home and the inhabitants of the town turned out to give the children a welcome. After food and a warm bath the children were settled down for the

night. Next morning, the farmers who were looking for children to work on their farms arrived at 8 a.m., and the children were placed with different families throughout the day.

Edith was placed with the Archibald McGugan family in the township of Lobo, Middlesex County, Ontario, and her first settlement report on 11 May 1888 (Ref MS 517/259) states that she was to be paid \$0.75 per month, which was \$9 per year. She would be provided with board and clothing and would attend day school and Sunday school. Edith would be allowed to write home to her family in England if she wished to do so. I wonder if any communication ever took place between them.

Archibald and his wife Christina (nee Campbell) were farming in Lobo and were both in their 30s when Edith went to live with them. They had 5 children: Archy, aged 13, John (6), Flora Bell (5), Oliver (3) and Lillie (1). A year after Edith arrived they had a son Dugald, and it would be part of Edith's job to take care of these children as well as to help on the farm.

Did Edith have a good and happy life with this family? No doubt she learned many skills that would stand her in good stead later in life. In Edith's second settlement report on 11 May 1889 she was still receiving the same wages. By 11 May 1890 her wages had risen to \$1.25 per month, or \$15.00 per year.

Edith stayed with this same family until May 1891; a report dated 27 May 1891 indicates that she had moved to 559 Jarvis Street, Toronto. Written on her report was "Edith writes of her safe arrival. She feels very homesick but will try to get on." This homesickness meant she was missing her foster family back in Lobo, which must have meant they treated Edith well.

On 22 October 1891 another report on Edith shows her living at 23 Buchanan Street, Toronto, and written on the report was: "Edith is very desirous of becoming a nurse in the children's hospital, Toronto. Mrs Howland has promised to try and place her there when the hospital building is complete. She is being baptised today."

I have not as yet been able to find out if Edith achieved her ambition of becoming a nurse. As to the baptism, Edith was baptised Church of England at Tettenhall Wood Church on 27 June 1875 when she was three weeks old, so did she change her religion?

The next report was 27 August 1893 and Edith was living at 101 Mutual Street, Toronto. The report reads "Edith says she is getting along pretty well now, she

was sick in the winter for over 2 months and unable to work, but found the Lord was ever faithful. She has joined the order of 'Kings Daughters'."

As yet, nothing more is known of Edith between 1893 and 1898, but during this period of time she met a farmer from Innisfil, Simcoe County, named Benjamin James Meredith. They married in York Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on 14 September 1898. The witnesses were Addie Wellwood of Dundalk and William Meredith of Stroud, a brother of Benjamin.

The World Wide Web is a wonderful thing! I put Edith's name in a search engine and from this, I was able to make contact with Barbara Wedderburn in Canada, who was also researching the Benjamin family. She is the grand-niece of Benjamin, Edith's husband, and she was able to give me some information about Edith and Benjamin's life after they married.

Edith and Benjamin had three children, Minnie, Arnold and Keith. Arnold was a farmer and Keith worked as a butcher. Minnie became a schoolteacher in Cobalt, Ontario and married Claude O'Shaughnessy, whose family had moved to Cobalt from Nova Scotia in 1913. Claude was a manager in one of the large silver mines in Cobalt.

Barbara told us that her Aunt Jean in Toronto knew Edith and Benjamin. I was able to telephone Jean and she told us all she remembered about Edith and Benjamin. I was also able to telephone a granddaughter of Edith (daughter of Minnie and Claude O'Shaughnessy), who also lives in Toronto. How wonderful it was to be able to talk to people who still remembered them with much love and affection. They did not know of Edith's childhood and so they were very pleased to receive all the information I could give them of her life before she came out to Canada. Sadly they did not know if Edith ever fulfilled her ambition to become a children's nurse.

When Edith and Benjamin first married, they lived in rural Muskoka in a log house of hand-hewn logs, built by Benjamin and an older brother. It had one large room downstairs and a sleeping room upstairs with two beds. They had plenty of wood and Benjamin sold cordwood and Edith sold butter. They left Muskoka around 1908 for Allendale and then to Innisfill. Eventually they had a larger house with three bedrooms.

From stories I have been told, Edith was a kindly lady, and a wonderful housekeeper who kept her house spotlessly clean. She was also an excellent cook and a fine needlewoman. Benjamin worked on the railroad,

loved to listen to the hockey on the radio and for many years looked after the Bowling Green in Allendale. They loved to grow fruit and vegetables and Edith made many preserves.

At last I am able to add my story of Edith to the family tree; this research has made her come to life for me. It would seem that her life in Canada was happy and fulfilled. It is wonderful to have found out so much about a little girl who was born in Tettenhall Wood, Wolverhampton, U.K., and who, after such a sad start, made a good life for herself in Ontario. Benjamin came from a large family and they had many relatives nearby who loved them, so Edith would not have been lonely. They had at least six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews to cherish. One of Edith's

grandchildren, a daughter of Minnie, was also given the second name of Millwood, so this name was carried on through the family.

Both Edith and Benjamin lived long and happy lives until they were 85 years of age. They are buried together in St. James Cemetery in Stroud, Ontario.

My search for Edith has taken me to Wolverhampton and Birmingham Archives and I have "met" many wonderful people through this research, both in person and online. They have become "family" as well as being friends. My thanks to everyone who has helped me piece together Edith's life.

## The Poet and the Princess

BY GLENN WRIGHT

*Glenn Wright contributes another delightful but little-known story involving Brits and the Beechwood Cemetery.*

**T**hey never met – the poet, British diplomat Sir Cecil Spring Rice, and the "People's Princess", Lady Diana Spencer. She is buried on the family estate at Althorp, Northhamptonshire, England; he is buried in Beechwood Cemetery. The differences are obvious, but their lives, lived decades apart, are intertwined with words and music.



Sir Cecil Spring Rice was born 27 February 1859, the son of the Hon. Charles William Thomas Spring Rice and his wife, Elizabeth M. Marshall, a family that traced its ancestry to Welsh, Irish and English roots. Educated at Eton and at Oxford, Spring Rice entered the Foreign Office in 1882 and during a career that would span thirty-five years, he represented the interests of Britain in many parts of the world. First posted to the United States in the late 1880s, Spring Rice returned to Washington in 1913 as British Ambassador, a position he held throughout the frightful years of the Great War. Prior to this critical appointment, he had served in Brussels, Tokyo, Berlin, Constantinople, Tehran, Cairo, St. Petersburg and Stockholm. By the fall of 1917, however, his position and authority were being undermined by events at

home and in Washington where Democratic President Woodrow Wilson regarded him as too close to the Republican elite (Spring Rice was a close and long-time confidante of Teddy Roosevelt and other Republicans). On 2 January 1918, Sir Cecil Spring Rice relinquished his post as Ambassador.<sup>1</sup> He was stunned, his long and noteworthy career was at an end. "It is for me," he would later admit, "an immense and irreparable loss."<sup>2</sup>

Instead of returning directly to England, Spring Rice decided that he and his family would spend several weeks in Ottawa as guests of the Governor General. Spring Rice was no stranger to Canada and Ottawa. In the late 1880s, during his first posting to Washington, he toured western Canada; as Ambassador, he had visited Ottawa on several occasions and was on especially friendly terms with Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden and senior cabinet ministers.

Family connections were another consideration. In Berlin, on 1 June 1904, Spring Rice married Florence Caroline Lascelles (1876–9 December 1961), daughter of Sir Frank Lascelles, long-time British Ambassador to Germany; the Spring Rices would have two children: Mary Elizabeth (b. 1 May 1906) and Antony Theodore (b. 15 September 1908).<sup>3</sup> Lady Spring Rice was a first cousin to Victor Christian William Cavendish, the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire, who was appointed Canada's Governor General in June 1916.<sup>4</sup>

Spring Rice was clearly among friends in Ottawa. In what would be his last public appearance, he spoke to the Canadian Club on January 19, enjoyed some private socializing at Rideau Hall and took a much needed rest from the limelight. On February 13, Spring Rice joined the Governor General, members of his staff, and his two children for a day of skiing followed by a hearty meal at Rideau Hall.<sup>5</sup> But shortly after midnight, Spring Rice fell ill and died of heart failure.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 1: Cecil Spring Rice Chirrol, Valentine. *Cecil Spring Rice: In Memoriam*. London,: John Murray, 1919

It was devastating for the family, but in spite of the heart-break, Lady Spring Rice decided that her husband would be buried in Ottawa. The Governor General purchased a plot at Beechwood Cemetery (section 22, range 15, plot 1) and Sir Cecil Spring Rice, Britain's former Ambassador to the United States, a career diplomat and a poet, was buried from St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church on February 16.<sup>7</sup>

Representatives from the Canadian, British and American governments were in attendance and, at the same hour, a memorial service was held at St. Alban's Episcopal Cathedral in Washington for the diplomatic corps. A few days later, a memorial service was held at Holy Trinity Church in London, England. *The Times* described him as a "high-minded diplomatist and

patriotic man", while the *Ottawa Journal* concluded that he was a "true diplomat".<sup>8</sup>

Spring Rice, however, was more than a diplomat. Like many well-educated gentlemen of his generation, Cecil Spring Rice wrote poetry, some of which was published from time to time, but most was written for his own personal pleasure or for friends. In 1908, while posted to Stockholm, Spring Rice penned a patriotic poem, "Urbis Dei". In early January, 1918, he received from William Jennings Bryan, an American politician and pacifist, a small book of poetry, *Heart to Heart Appeals*. Something in Bryan's poetry appealed to Spring Rice. Your writings, he wrote to Bryan, "have inspired me some lines which I venture to enclose – as a sort of spontaneous outpouring." Spring Rice had rewritten the first verse of "Urbis Dei" and renamed it, "The Two Fatherlands", a task he completed on 12 January 1918, the day before his final departure from Washington.<sup>9</sup> His short poem is now commonly known by its first line, "I vow to thee, my country." He had been deeply affected by the war, and as the calendar turned on a new year, the prospect of peace and an end to human destruction, so dear to Spring Rice, seemed more remote than ever.

In 1921, Gustav Holst (21 September 1874–25 May 1934), the English-born composer of "The Planets" was convinced, against his better judgement, to set the poem to the music of his "Jupiter Suite."<sup>10</sup> Although not publicly performed until 1923, "I vow to thee, my country" quickly gained national popularity as one of the most recognizable pieces of classical music in Britain. Its appeal to patriotism, in the aftermath of the Great War, soon made it a favourite at Remembrance Day ceremonies, and in a very short time, it was added to the canon of hymns of the Church of England. King George V, for instance, included the music in his Jubilee celebrations in 1935.

Although never out of vogue, the music was accorded world-wide attention when Diana Spencer (1 July 1961–31 August 1997) chose "I vow to thee, my country" as part of her wedding music when she married Prince Charles in July 1981. The hymn was played again at her state funeral in September 1997 and once more at a memorial service for her in 2007. In spite of the fact that in certain quarters of the Church of England, the hymn is regarded as heretical for placing country before God, it is now associated with Princess Diana, her life and her death. While the beautiful music of the "Jupiter Suite" belongs to Gustav Holst, the words, and the inspiration for the hymn, were those of Sir Cecil Spring Rice.

On their first visit to Ottawa, the Prince and Princess of Wales were guests at Rideau Hall. Did she know that the poet, her poet, had died within those very walls? Did she know that she was related, through her Spencer line, to the Cavendish family and to Lady Florence Spring Rice? Unlikely, but Sir Cecil Spring Rice, a quiet and unassuming diplomat, penned a poem that will forever be associated with one of the most iconic and memorable of Royals while he lies, almost forgotten, in Beechwood Cemetery.

"I vow to thee, my country—all earthly things  
above—  
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my  
love—  
The love that asks no question; the love that stands  
the test,  
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
The love that never falters, the love that pays the  
price,  
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

"And there's another country, I've heard of long ago—  
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them  
that know.  
We may not count her armies; we may not see her  
King;  
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
And soul by soul and silently, her shining bounds  
increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her  
paths are Peace."

C. A. S. R.

WASHINGTON,  
Jan. 12, 1918.

Original Poem Chirol, Valentine. *Cecil Spring Rice: In Memoriam*. London,: John Murray, 1919

## Endnotes

1. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (hereafter cited as *ODNB*), volume 46, pp. 644-645 and Stephen Gwynn (ed), *The Letters and Friendships of Sir Cecil Spring Rice* Cambridge, Mass.: Riverside Press, 1929, 2 volumes.
2. Chirol, Valentine. *Cecil Spring Rice: In Memoriam* London: John Murray, 1919, p. 41.
3. Gwynn (ed), *Letters and Friendships*, vol. 1, p. 410. On the Lascelles family, see Sir Frank Lascelles, *ODNB*, vol. 32, and [www.thepeerage.com](http://www.thepeerage.com) (access July 13, 2008).
4. On the 9th Duke of Devonshire, see Victor William Christian Cavendish, *ODNB*, vol. 10, pp. 649-651 and [www.thepeerage.com](http://www.thepeerage.com) (accessed July 13, 2008).
5. *Ottawa Evening Journal*. February 14, 1918, p. 1; Gwynn (ed) *Letters and Friendships*, vol. 2, p. 435.
6. Ontario Death Registration 12515/1918.
7. *Ottawa Evening Journal*. February 16, 1918, p. 4.
8. *The Times* (London), February 15, 1918, p. 5; *Ottawa Evening Journal*. February 15, 1918, p. 4.
9. Gwynn (ed), *Letters and Friendships*, vol. 2, pp. 432-433.
10. *ODNB*, vol. 27, pp. 816-820; Stanley Sadie (ed), *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (1980 edition), vol. 8, pp. 659-666; Imogen Holst, *The Music of Gustav Holst and Holst's Music Reconsidered* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986) and Michael Short, *Gustav Holst: The Man and His Music* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990).

## In Memoriam

**John Duncan McDougall**, Lt.Col.(Retired), Friday, 25 July 2008. BIFHSGO Member #602, Duncan contributed research and management skills to the production of the *Ottawa Sharpshooters* publication and was responsible for audiovisual arrangements for Saturday meetings and Fall Conferences.

**Darell Lovell Small**, Tuesday 12 August 2008. Darell, husband of Hall of Fame and founding member Fern Small, shared Family Membership #1.

## FAMILY HISTORY—TECHNIQUES AND RESOURCES

## The Bookworm

BY BETTY WARBURTON

Since this issue of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* deals mainly with the Home Children, it was decided that this column should present an up-to-date and expanded list of the books and articles about these juvenile immigrants to Canada and Australia that members can find at the BIFHSGO library. Most titles are self-explanatory; where they are not, I have added a brief note.



### General

Bean, Phillip and Joy Melville. *Lost Children of the Empire*. Unwin Hyman, 1989.

This history of child emigration from the British Isles covers Australia, Canada and Rhodesia.

Kershaw, Roger and Janet Sacks. *New Lives for Old: the Story of Britain's Child Migrants*. The National

Archives, 2008.

A well-written, comprehensive overview of child migrants from the United Kingdom to various parts of the British Empire and Commonwealth from 1869 to after World War II. It also includes the story of World War II child evacuees.

### General–Australia

Humphreys, Margaret. *Empty Cradles*. Doubleday, 1994.

Australia. Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee. *Lost Innocents: Righting the Record. Report on Child Immigration*. Senate Printing Unit, 2001.

### General–Canada

Bagnell, Kenneth. *The Little Immigrants: the Orphans Who Came to Canada*. Dundurn Press, 2001.

Kohli, Marjorie. *The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada 1833–1939*. Natural Heritage Books, 2003.

Lorente, David, comp. *Bibliography re Home Children*. The Author, 2001.

Lorente, David. “Home Children: Digging Up Their Roots.” *Anglo-Celtic Annals* 1995, pp. 38–42.

Lorente, Kay and David. “An Update on Home Children.” *Anglo-Celtic Annals* 1996, pp. 22–25.

Lorente, Kay and David, assisted by John Sayers. “Update on Home Children.” *Anglo-Celtic Annals* 1997, pp. 44–48.

Lorente, David. “Home Children Canada—Update 2000. Whence and...Oh Heavens!... Whither”. *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (Vol. 7, no. 2) pp. 29–35.

Parr, Joy. *Labouring Children: British Immigrant Apprentices to Canada 1869–1924*. University of Toronto Press, 1994.

Reid, John D. *Researching Canada's Home Children....* Heritage Productions in association with the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, 2005.

Sayers, John. “Home Children.” *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (Vol. 8, no. 2) pp. 29–32.

### Dr. Thomas Barnardo and His Homes

Corbett, Gail H. *Nation Builders: Barnardo Children in Canada*. Dundurn Press, 2002.

Wagner, Gillian. *Barnardo*. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1979.

A biography of Dr. Barnardo.

### Annie Macpherson

Gilchrist, James S. *Marchmont: Distributing Home, Belleville, Ontario 1870–1925*. Epic Press, 2003.

Marchmont was one of the distributing homes run by Annie Macpherson.

### William Quarrier and His Homes

Magnussen, Anna. *Quarrier's Story: One Man's Vision That Gave 7,000 Children a New Life in Canada*. Dundurn Press, 2006.

### The Orphan Homes of Scotland: Consumption Sanatoria and Colony of Mercy for Epileptics, Glasgow and Bridge of Weir. *The Orphan Homes of Scotland, 1938*.

Pictures of the homes operated by the Orphan Homes of Scotland.

### John Middlemore and His Homes

Herbert, Caroline and Patricia Roberts-Pichette. "A Great Middlemore Moment." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (Vol. 9, no. 1) pp.8–9.

The discovery, in Orleans Ontario, of the descendants of Geoffrey Mealing, who with his brother and sister were brought to Canada in 1907 by Middlemore Homes.

Rimmer, Anne L. "Researching the Middlemore Home Children." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 10, no. 2) pp. 35–36.

Roberts-Pichette, Patricia. "John Throgmorton Middlemore and the Children's Emigration Homes." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 8, no. 3) pp. 57–62.

Roberts-Pichette, Patricia. "The Middlemore Project:

Part I. Birmingham at the End of the Nineteenth Century." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 10, no. 4) pp. 103–110.

"Part II. The Middlemore Family and Its Origins." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 11, no. 1) pp. 7–12.

"Part III. John Throgmorton Middlemore (1844–1924)." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 11, no. 2) pp. 37–42.

"Part IV. The Children's Emigration Homes in England." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 11, no. 3) pp. 70–76.

"Part V. Voyage to Canada." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 11, no. 4) pp. 119–123.

"Part VI. Guthrie Home, London, Ontario." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 12, no. 1) pp. 11–17.

"Part VII. Guthrie Home, London, Ontario." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 12, no. 2) pp. 34–42.

"Part VIII. The Switch to the Maritimes." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 12, no. 3) pp. 76–83.

"Part IX. Middlemore Home, Fairview Station, Nova Scotia." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 12, no. 4) pp. 106–114.

"Part X. The War Years and Their Aftermath." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 13, no. 1) pp. 5–13.

"Part XI. The End of Middlemore Activity in the Maritimes." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (vol. 13, no. 2) pp. 41–48.

### Biographies of Home Children

Several of the above books and articles also contain brief accounts of individual children.

Harrison, Phyllis. *The Home Children: Their Personal Stories*. Watson and Dwyer, 1979.

McClure, Dulcie I. "Florence Field: Home Child." *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (Vol. 12, no. 2) pp. 49–51.

Pettit, Mary. *Mary Janeway: the Legacy of a Home Child..* Natural Heritage Books, 2000.

Price, William R., as told to Eileen Sheila Hill. *Celtic Odyssey*. Dorrance, 1970.

Staples, Michael Anthony. *Middlemore Memories: Tales of the British Home Children*. Unipress, 2003.

### Lists of Home Children

*Alphabetical List of Boy Emigrants to Canada 1886 to 1915*. Heritage Renfrew Home Children Committee, n.d.

A list of boys sent to the Gibb Home in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

McEvoy, Patricia and Joyce Carrol, comp. *A List of Roman Catholic Home Children (Child*

*Immigrants) Whose Records are at the Father Hudson Archives, Coleshill, Birmingham, U.K.*. Father Hudson Society, 1999.

For readers who would like to know more about the background of these children and their families and the condition of poor people in the British Isles, the following books are recommended.

### Workhouses

Higginbotham, Peter. *Workhouses of the Midlands*. Tempus.

Based on the author's massive website [www.workhouses.org.uk/poorlaws](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/poorlaws), this is a handy book about the workhouses of the nine Midland counties.

Longmate, Norman. *The Workhouse: a Social History*. Pimlico, 2003.

May, Trevor. *The Victorian Workhouse*. Shire Publications, 1997.

O'Connor, John. *The Workhouses of Ireland: the Fate of Ireland's Poor*. Anvil Books, 1995.

### The Poor

Chinn, Carl. *They Worked All Their Lives: Women of the Urban Poor 1880–1939*. Carnegie House, 1989.

Describes the lives of working-class women of central Birmingham, most of whom were physically strong, fiercely protective of family and

community and worked all their lives from when they were toddlers until they died.

Mayhew, Henry. *London Labour and the London Poor: Volume I, the London Street-folk*. Dover Publications, 1968.

Reprint of a 4-volume study of the subculture of poverty in England during the mid-nineteenth century.

McLaughlin, Eve. *The Poor are Always With Us: the Victorian Poor and After*. Varney's Press, 1994.

Orwell, George. *The Road to Wigan*. Penguin, 1989.

In 1936, the author was commissioned by the publisher Victor Gollancz to visit and write about areas of mass unemployment in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

Upton, Chris. *Living Back-to-Back*. Phillimore, 2005.

Back-to-back housing was once the most common type of housing in England for poor urban workers, especially during Victorian times.

## The Printed Page

BY GORDON D. TAYLOR

A few quick thoughts on some incoming information that that I am sure will require research and further analysis in the future.

The March 2008 issue of *Generations*, the journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc., featured an article entitled "Charlotte Whitton to the Rescue." The name of Charlotte Whitton is well known in Ottawa so I paused to read the item. The topic was a report of a study done in 1928 of child immigration to Manitoba and the role of the Department of Health and Welfare. She prepared a report that was very critical of the conditions in Manitoba, especially as they concerned immigrant children.



I have two questions on this topic.

- (a) Can a copy of her report be found for our library? Her preliminary report covered 900 typewritten pages.
- (b) Were similar studies done at a later date in Manitoba, and did other provinces and the federal government undertake similar studies?

Their findings should provide a vast quantity of useful material for genealogists who are concerned with the immigration of children.

The second item is from the Family Tree Magazine E-Mail Update of 24 July 2008 and a follow-up headed "Genealogy Insider" by Diane Haddad. The e-mail address for the newsletter is [familytree-newsletter@fwpubs.com](mailto:familytree-newsletter@fwpubs.com). The story here is that Ancestry.com and FamilySearch are to make U.S. censuses free. The two organizations are embarking on an exchange program that will put more records online, starting with the U.S. Census. The agreement calls for enhanced census indices that will be free for a limited time on Ancestry.com and permanently on FamilySearch.

Volunteers at FamilySearch have completed a 1900 Census index that is accessible at FamilySearch Record Search. I have used the new service to check on some American family members and found the response to an enquiry is quick and the information is easily downloadable.

The joint effort of Statistics Canada and the Irish Census might well study what Ancestry.com and FamilySearch have accomplished to date, in order to understand what the future potential of this service will be. Genealogists should follow the development at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch closely. Offer them encouragement and comment. We will all benefit from improved data bases and better accessibility.

## BIFHSGO LISTINGS

## Members' Surname Search

BY ELIZABETH KIPP

ERRATA (ACR Research Interests – 2008)				
Name Searched	Location (Chapman Code)	Year	Mbr No.	Member's Name and Address
DAVIS	WAR UK	Pre 1909	1190	H Gillis, 140 Buckingham Dr. Sydney, NS B1S 1X3 davishomechildren@ns.sympatico.ca

### *Coming in the next issues ...*

- John Henry Kennedy—*by Caroline Herbert*
- Lunghua Papers—*by Valerie Monkhouse*
- Historica Fair—*by Ilana Reimer*



Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh  
Chris MacPhail photo, May 2006

**LOCAL RESEARCH FACILITIES****BIFHSGO Library**

The Brian O'Regan Memorial Library includes genealogical research guidance material, political, social and local history, selected census indexes, British, Canadian, Australian and U.S. family history society journals—and more.

**Location:** The City Archives, Bytown Pavilion, 1st floor, 111 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON

**Tel:** (613) 580-2424 ext. 13333

**Website:** <http://www.bifhsgo.ca/library.htm>

**Library and Archives Canada**

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) collects and preserves Canada's documentary heritage, making it accessible to the public. LAC has a large collection of books on genealogy and microfilms of many Canadian newspapers, census records, ship passenger lists, and other sources of original material. Reference specialists are available to assist with research, using the collections, and answering questions.

**Location:** 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON

**Tel:** (613) 996-5115

**Website:** <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>

**Family History Centre (LDS)**

The Family History Center provides access to most of the microfilms and microfiche amassed in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to assist in genealogical research.

**Location:** 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, ON

**Tel:** (613) 224-2231

**Website:** <http://www.ottawastakefhc.on.ca>

**Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec**

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) acquires, preserves, and provides public access to Quebec's published, archival, and film heritage.

**Location:** 855, boulevard de la Gappe, Gatineau, QC

**Tel:** (819) 568-8798

**Website:** <http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal>

**Parking**

Parking is available at each of the research facilities. Phone or check the website for parking locations and costs, if applicable.

**Hours**

Readers are advised to contact the resource centres directly to confirm the hours of operation.

**BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
OF GREATER OTTAWA  
Calendar of Events**

Saturday Morning Meetings  
at  
Library and Archives Canada  
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa  
Contact: 613-234-2520

**Free parking on the east side of the building only**

<b>11 October 2008</b>	<b>Why History is Important</b> — <i>George Laidlaw, President of the Ottawa Independent Writers Group. By making history dynamic, he encourages us to see our ancestors and gives us a feeling of who we are.</i>  <i>Workshop:      Searching online with Ancestry.com                          Lesley Anderson, BIFHSGO Associate Education Director</i>
<b>15 November 2008</b>	<b>Jennie's Journey: Reconstructing a Life from Letters and Diaries</b> — <i>Margaret Burwell interprets recently discovered letters and diaries.</i>  <i>Workshop:      Searching the Library and Archives Canada Collection online                          Lesley Anderson, BIFHSGO Associate Education Director</i>
<b>13 December 2008</b>	<b>Great Moments in Genealogy</b> — <i>BIFHSGO members</i>

**Schedule:**

9:00 a.m.	Workshops Check our website— <a href="http://www.bifhsgo.ca">www.bifhsgo.ca</a> —for up-to-date information.
9:30 a.m.	Discovery Tables
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Meeting and Presentation
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Writing Group

**Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots***

Articles, illustrations, etc., for publication in *Anglo-Celtic Roots* are welcome. Please contact: The Editor, [acreditor@bifhsgo.ca](mailto:acreditor@bifhsgo.ca). The deadline for publication in the next issue is Saturday, 18 October 2008.