

Home Children Canada

Fall 2024 Newsletter



Seeking - John Alexander By Thomas Moffatt

When searching for ancestors, one solid rule is start with a generation you absolutely know, then follow back seeking records, and definitely gathering any family tales.

Searching for the ancestors of my brother-in-law, John Alexander (1936-2018), an electronics engineer living in Kanata, it meant seeking records in Scotland for his father, James Alexander (1905-1962). The prime interest was in following the lineage back through the centuries, and capturing whatever facts could be found.

First, Scottish Civil Registration began in 1855, and is amazing for including both parents names, not just for births, but also for marriages and deaths. Alas, English & Welsh records, begun in Sept. 1837, are not as full of information. To search the civil records, along with census records from 1841, and Scotland's parish registers from the 1600s to 1855, go to <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> to search. It costs about £1.50 per record, but well worth the fee. These rich records can be downloaded digitally and added to your developing family tree files.

In Scotland's People be sure to click "Search Tools" and click on either "Phonetic Matching" or "Fuzzy Matching" to increase your chances of success. Both the parents' occupations and addresses are included.

To explore further, there is another stage to take with the record. With the address given in the record, visit the free massive map library of the National Library of Scotland at <https://maps.nls.uk/> and use "Map Finder with Outlines" to find the address. Choose the Victorian 6in. = 1mi. maps, and you can see the location as it was with 19th century street names.

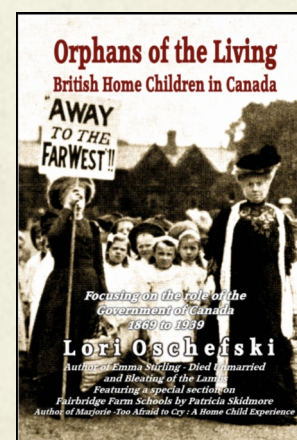
Yet another possibility arises if the address is rural. A semi-transparent segment from the 6in. map can be overlaid on a GoogleEarth view of the region, and matched up. Then Google Streetview can show what the farm looks like today.

With all this in mind, I was able to locate James Alexander's parents, John Alexander (1866-1905) and Mary Anderson (1867-1911). More about them below.

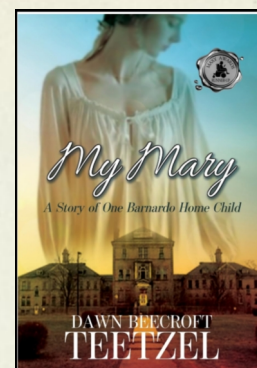


INSIDE

New book release!



Released for British Home Child Day 2024 as a #1 Best Seller on Amazon!



My Mary, A Story of One Barnardo Home Child
By Dawn Beecroft Teetzel

Andrew Simpson
The journey and the judgements

Following another generation back, I discovered that James Alexander's grandfather, a John Alexander (1829-1875) was in his 40's, when he died, listed as a Pensioner, at various times a Constable, and a Dye Worker. Pensioner usually means army which can be explored.

Using <https://www.ancestry.ca/>, with a UK-inclusive subscription, pension files are available. In this case John Alexander enlisted 1844 with the 78 th Regiment of Foot, and served in India until 1865. Located in various parts of the sub-continent, the regiment was famous for actions in the Indian Mutiny, with the relief of first Kanpur, then the first relief of Lucknow, when they became part of the besieged residency, and earned eight Victoria Crosses. After gleaning facts from a pension file, go to regimental histories, and in some cases the musters held at the UK National Archives at Kew.

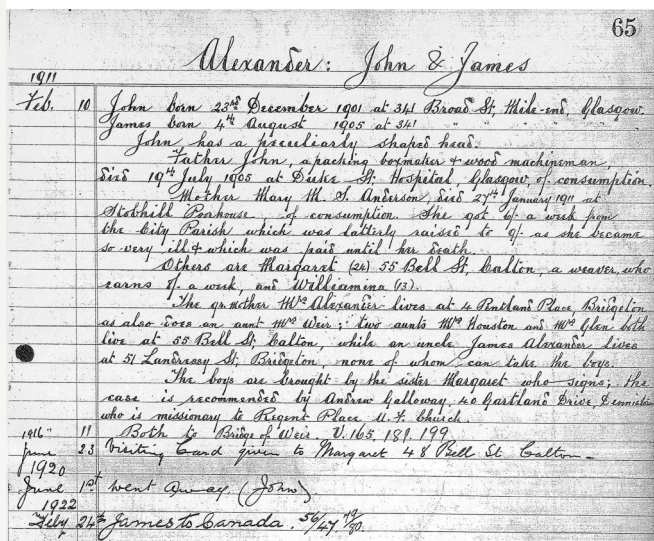
Only on returning from India did John Alexander (1829-1875) marry, and alas died when son John Alexander was young, living in Glasgow.

John Alexander (1866-1905) suffered all the miseries of living in Glasgow, gaining expertise as a woodworking machinist. Unventilated factory conditions and the sulphurous air of Glasgow created conditions for tuberculosis in the household. He died at age 38 of the lung disease.

With the help of the older daughters who worked as confectionary packers, his wife Mary Anderson Alexander struggled, and died of tuberculosis in Jan. 1911.

The younger children, John Alexander (1901-1958) and James Alexander (1905-1962) could not be supported by the older siblings, and here came the amazing story of Quarrier's.

**Quarrier's Homes, Glasgow & Quarrier's Village,
Bridge of Weir, Scotland
James Alexander to Fairknowe Home, Brockville, ON**



In researching James Alexander, I knew he was sent to Canada as an orphan, but was not aware of the organization. Research indicated it was most likely William Quarrier's organization. On discovering Quarrier's still existed, I contacted them with the name, birth date, and parents of James Alexander. Within a day an email came back with confirmation they had documents and reports on James.

Within the week a small payment to them sent copies of the reports and information on Quarrier's Orphan Village. The treasure trove soon arrived, complete with the original birth certificate for James Alexander.

He, together with older brother John Alexander, had lived in Cottage #26, named Ayr Home from 11 Feb. 1911. The amazing program saw them learn skills and trades from wood working to shoe repair to serving customers, all part of this orphan village at Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

James left the village for Canada in Feb. 1922, arriving in Halifax on the SS Cameronia 7 Mar. 1922. It was a train trip to

Brockville.

We have found nothing about his relatively short time in the Quarrier's program in Ontario, but he gravitated to Ottawa, by 1934, when he married Mary Calderwood, was employed at a service station on Elgin St.

By 1939 he had enlisted in the Canadian Army, and was in England the following year serving in the Canadian Army Service Corps. After WW2 he remained in the army, but was posted to Ottawa, where the family moved into the Veterans Housing located between Merivale Road and Fisher Ave. Two sons, James and John grew up, going to Fisher Park High School. Sponsored by the Canadian military he first attended Royal Roads in Victoria, then Royal Military College in Kingston, and the engineering through Queens University.

We have a request for his WW2 and Korean War records through a Freedom of Information request, but those are now taking years to deliver.

Of all the research, it has been the Quarrier's Village program that has proven to be the most surprising in its window on the lives in this family.

Scottish research is so rich it could easily provide the makings of a family book on the details of lives and adventures including the Home Child experience.

Is the research worth the cost? Perhaps not for all. But considering all subscription and record fees, the stories are an abundant treasure revealing an entire heritage, and well worth the cost.

Visit the next page to see more documents/photos pertaining to James.

It is brought to City Home Wed, or Friday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
BRIDGE-OF-WEIR, NATIONAL 7. GLASGOW: NATIONAL 382 Tram.
POST OFFICE. 80 Bell.

ORPHAN HOMES OF SCOTLAND,

BRIDGE-OF-WEIR.

FOUNDED BY WILLIAM QUARRIER.

ORPHAN HOMES OF SCOTLAND,
BRIDGE-OF-WEIR, RENFREWSHIRE
SHIP ON LAND TO TRAIN BOYS FOR SEA,
BRIDGE-OF-WEIR.

CANADIAN DISTRIBUTING HOME,
FAIRKNOVE, BROCKVILLE,
ONT., CANADA.



CITY ORPHAN HOME,
WORKING BOYS' HOME,
CHILDREN'S NIGHT REFUGE,
YOUNG WOMEN'S SHELTER
AND MISSION HALL,
19 JAMES MORRISON STREET, GLASGOW.

Executive Council—
Miss QUARRIER. PASTOR D. J. FENDLAY.
Mrs. A. QUARRIER BURGEL. Mr. J. P. MACLAY.

Address all Letters to
Miss QUARRIER,
Orphan Homes,
BRIDGE-OF-WEIR.

Min. Treasurer—
Dr. J. P. MACLAY,
21 BATHNELL STREET,
GLASGOW.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

N.B.—This FORM must be filled up by some person having an intimate knowledge of the circumstances of the case, and signed by the legal guardian of the child for whom application is made.

1.—CHILD'S registered name in full, James Alexander
(Registration Paper to be produced).
Born, 14th day, August month, 1905 year.
Is he Legitimate? Yes.
Birthplace, 341 Broad St. Mile-End, Glasgow
With whom is he at present residing? Margaret Alexander
Address, 55 Bell Street, Calton, Glasgow
x What Day School is he attending? Calton Public School, Glasgow
x On what Class? Infant 2nd
(Teacher's Certificate required).
x Has he any special tendency of character? A very well-balanced child
Has he any mental defect? No
Has he any physical defect? No
Has he been successfully vaccinated? Yes
Has he had Measles? No Whooping Cough? Yes or Scarlet Fever? No

PARENTS.
2.—FATHER'S name in full, John Alexander
If dead—
(a) Where did he die? Duke Street Hospital, Glasgow
(b) When? 19th July, 1905 From what cause, Consumption
(c) What was his Occupation? Packing Boxmaker, & Wood Machineman
If alive—
(a) Where does he reside?
(b) What is his Occupation? _____ Wage? _____ per week.



Ayr Home in the Quarrier's Village, Scotland



William Quarrier

EXTRACT ENTRY OF BIRTH, under the 37th Sect. of 17 and 18 Vict. Cap. 80.

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother, Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1342	James Alexander	1905, August, Fourth 9h. 30m. PM. 341 Broad Street Mile-end, Glasgow.	M	John Alexander, Wood Machine-man (deceased 19 th July 1905) Mary Alexander Mrs Anderson 1885 December 30 th Glasgow	(Signed) Mary Alexander mother	1905, AUGUST 14 th At GLASGOW (Signed) DAN. F. M ^o GHEE, Registrar.

Extracted from the Register Book of Births, for the DISTRICT of CAMLACHIE, in the BURGH of GLASGOW, this 14th day of AUGUST, 1905.

The original birth certificate for James Alexander.

Thanksgiving and the Legacy of British Home Children: A Tribute to Their Enduring Contributions



As we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many things we are thankful for—family, friends, and the prosperity we enjoy in our communities. Among the often unspoken contributors to the rich fabric of our society are the British Home Children, whose legacies of resilience and hard work are woven into the very foundation of Canada, the United States, England, and beyond.

From 1869 to 1948, over 100,000 children were sent from Britain to Canada, many others to the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, in

hopes of giving them a better life. These children—many of whom came from impoverished backgrounds, orphanages, or were separated from their families—were sent far from home, often alone and unaware of what their futures would hold. Yet, despite the challenges they faced, they became some of the most enduring contributors to the countries they called home.

In Canada, where the majority settled, these children worked on farms, in homes, and in communities, many with little support or recognition. Yet their contributions were immense. They helped develop the agricultural backbone of rural Canada, worked in industries that fueled the economy, and served with pride during both World Wars, often on the front lines. The sacrifices they made shaped the landscape of the country and built the communities we call home today.

But their impact didn't stop at Canada's borders. British Home Children who emigrated to the United States, England, and elsewhere also contributed to the growth and development of those societies. They brought with them a fierce determination to overcome adversity, to carve out a better life for themselves, and in doing so, they helped build vibrant communities in every corner of the world.

This Thanksgiving, we give thanks for the British Home Children, who despite facing hardship, uncertainty, and sometimes exploitation, rose to become proud and indispensable members of society. Their stories of courage, sacrifice, and contribution are a reminder that the human spirit is capable of overcoming incredible odds.

Their descendants continue to thrive, carrying forward the values of hard work, perseverance, and service to others. As we reflect on their legacy, let us honour their memory by acknowledging the tremendous contributions they made, not just in building nations, but in shaping our collective spirit.

This Thanksgiving, we are especially grateful for their indelible impact—a legacy that continues to inspire and enrich our lives, wherever we may live.



The journey and the judgements

By Andrew Simpson

By Andrew Simpson, Author of "The Ever Open Door"

British Home Children the story from Britain

Visit Andrew's Blog: <https://chorltonhistory.blogspot.com/>

The story of British Home Children will mean different things to different people.

For some it remains a very personal event fixed by the memory of a family member who was migrated thousands of miles to an unknown future which played out in many different ways.

For others it is now a serious area of historical study which acknowledges the private experiences of those who were sent but seeks to look at the story in a dispassionate and objective way, exploring the multiple reasons for the policy, weighing up the judgements of those at the time and since, and adding a context for what happened both here and in Canada.

And then there are those like me who stumbled by chance on an unknown great uncle who left for Canada in 1914, didn't settle on any of his farm placements before running away to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force and in the process changing his name and lying about his age.

The discovery of great uncle Roger was a complete surprise, more so because my mother, my grandparents and other great uncle never mentioned him, or my great grandmother Eliza who was a single parent at the beginning the 20th century.

There is evidence that even before 1913 her children had been taken into care, but

THE MIDDLEMORE HOME

FAIRVIEW STATION, HALIFAX, N. S.

IN CONNECTION WITH

THE CHILDREN'S EMIGRATION HOMES

ST. LUKE'S ROAD, BIRMINGHAM ENGLAND

Letter Report on Child

Name of Child *Roger J. Hall* Age *16* Year sent to Canada *1914-16*

Name of Union or Home from which child was emigrated *Derby*

Name of Employer *S. V. Griffith* Occupation *Farming*

Post Office *Sheffield* County *Derby* Province *N. B.*

How long with present Employer _____ No. of previous places _____ Date of Report *Mar 11/15-*

Reporter's Name *S. V. Griffith* Date *Mar 12/15-*

that year is significant because in 1913 she was deemed by the authorities "as unfit to have control of her surviving children".

That decision led to great uncle Roger and my grandfather being placed on TLS Exmouth which was a naval boot-

camp. But Roger opted for migration with Middenore.

My BHC discovery is not unique nor perhaps is the end story, which sees him vanishing sometime in the late 1920s after returning to Canada when the Great War finished.

Before that disappearance we have fragmentary evidence for his life, ranging from his birth certificate, the reports from social services, his journey to Canada, along with more reports from the Middlemore charity, a couple of letters and his army papers.

Not much to build a story. But we do have the memories of his sister, our "great aunt Dolly" who on his advice followed him out on an Empire Passage scheme in 1925.

In the mid-1970s she wrote us a series of letters recalling her early years in Derby in care and briefly with her mother which contained a references great Uncle Roger.

But back then I was pursuing a career, raising a family and only after retirement did, I turn

LIVERPOOL		HALIFAX										PH 21						
Name of Ship <i>Carthaginian</i>		Date of Departure <i>16 MAY 1914</i>										Whence Boarded <i>St. Johns, N.B.</i>		Port of Departure <i>LIVERPOOL</i>				
Steamship Line, <i>ALLAN LINE.</i>		NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS REEMBARKEED AT THE PORT OF LIVERPOOL																
Part of Subdivision	Passenger No.	NAMES OF PASSENGERS	Sex	Age	Part of which Passenger have contracted to land	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passenger	Age of Passengers (Under 16 years)				Children between 1 and 11	Country of last (Temporary) Residence?	Country of Usual or Permanent Residence?					
							Male	Female	Infants	Others								
	57794	<i>Charles Bond</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Halifax</i>	<i>Child</i>												
		<i>William Miller</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Edward</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>William Lewis</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Reginald</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Henry Chapman</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Herbert Leggett</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Albert Cook</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Francis Hall</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Thomas Hunt</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Lydia Bennett</i>	<i>F</i>															
		<i>Edwin Bramford</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Thomas Hutchinson</i>	<i>M</i>															
		<i>Albert Bennett</i>	<i>M</i>															

Extract from the passenger list of the SS Carthaginian, 1914, for Roger Hall



to the letters and the discovery of the “lost relative”.

All of which seems slim pickings for an article in this month’s newsletter which Lori tells me is reflecting on “the contributions of our home children”.

After all great Uncle Roger vanished and despite efforts to track him from this side of the Atlantic and by my Canadian cousins his life after 1925 enters the “Twilight Zone”.

But that is to ignore his sister, our great aunt Dolly who had been born in the Derby Workhouse in 1902, also grew up in care homes and in the early 1920s shared her home with another brother and her mother, who later was committed to the Derby Asylum.

Her journey to Canada while it was not at the hands of the Poor Law Union, or a charity did mean she also arrived in the new country and what’s more prospered. Her children and grandchildren and indeed great grandchildren have served in a variety of occupations with distinction including the emergency services with one rising to high civic office.

Leaving me just to reflect on those who left Britain, returned as members of the armed forces and went on to fight in both world wars seeing action across Europe and beyond.

And some of those are buried less than a mile away as I write, in the large municipal cemetery, close to what had been the infirmary for our Workhouse.

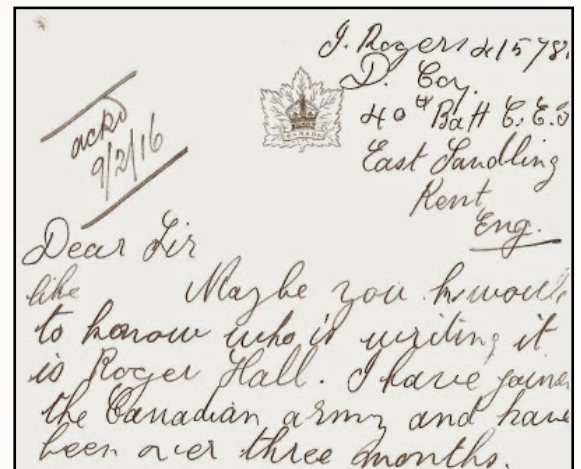
It was commandeered during the Great War and turned into a hospital to treat military personnel wounded on the Western Front and the Dardanelles.

Some of those young men never recovered and are interred in a special part of the cemetery.

Over the years I have written about them, including those who were former Home Children. Some are better documented than others but their contribution however short remains very important.



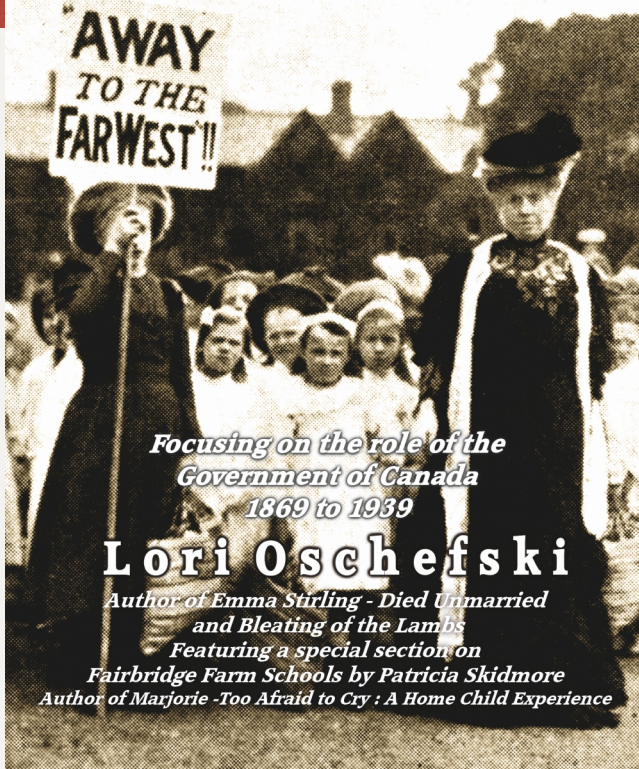
This is the gravestone of Arthur Wisdom Ervine and he is one of the thirty-one men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force buried in Southern Cemetery in the south of Manchester and a BHC.



One of the letters from Roger Hall to the staff of Middlemore February 2nd 1916

Orphans of the Living

British Home Children in Canada



Orphans of the Living British Home Children in Canada

Launched as a #1 Best Seller on Amazon!

Orphans of the Living - Canada's British Home Children is a groundbreaking, comprehensive account of the controversial child migration schemes that uprooted over 100,000 children from the UK and sent them to Canada between 1869 and 1948. Released in 2024 for British Home Child (BHC) Day, this #1 Best Seller on Amazon delves into the Canadian Government's complicity and shines a spotlight on the harsh realities faced by these children. Often labelled as "orphans," many were neither orphaned nor abandoned, and their stories have long been clouded by misconceptions.

Based on 17 years of meticulous research, the book draws from central registry files at Library and Archives Canada to reveal the truth behind the child migration movement. It debunks persistent myths, uncovers the profound systemic failures, and highlights the lifelong scars left on the children, most of whom suffered neglect,

exploitation, and isolation. Patricia Skidmore, President of Fairbridge Canada, contributes a vital section on the Fairbridge Farms, adding further depth to the narrative.

Orphans of the Living is a crucial, eye-opening work for anyone seeking to understand this dark chapter in Canada's history and its lasting impact on the children who were caught in the system.

AVAILABLE on Amazon in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, at the Pier 21 Museum in Nova Scotia, Canada and at our events.



The 20 Jun 1907 Immigration Party of Dr. Barnardo. The lady to the right is Dr. Barnardo's wife. This party included the Great Aunt of MS. Oschefski, Katie Sanderson



Sir George Beardshaw turns 101!!

Sir George Beardshaw, a distinguished WWII veteran, is one of the last two surviving British Home Children in Canada. He proudly served with the Queen's Own Rifles, and he is the last remaining WWII veteran from that storied regiment. Sir George has been a steadfast supporter of Home Children Canada, reflecting his deep commitment to preserving the legacy of the British Home Children. On his recent birthday, he held a successful fundraiser, raising about \$1,000 to contribute to the establishment of a future Home Child museum. In a memorable photo, Sir George is seen alongside Brian Budden, the retired president of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Association. Brian has worked with Home Children Canada for many years but only recently discovered his own British Home Child heritage. His

grandfather, Joseph Byatt, was brought to Canada through the Barnardo Homes in 1914 and went on to fight in WWII with the 48th Highlanders, continuing the legacy of service that connects both families.

Earlier this year, George participated in an event with Home Children Canada at the Backus-Page House Museum in Wallacetown, Ontario, where he met the Canadian Bomb Shell Beauties. George made quite an impression on them and is now featured on the cover of their 2025 calendar. For each calendar sold, \$5 will be donated to his favorite charity, Home Children Canada. We are truly grateful and blessed to have Sir George on our team.



Calendars are \$15 each with shipping in Canada included!
To order: CanadianBombshellBeauties@gmail.com



A Remarkable Year for Home Children Canada's Beacons of Light

This year's Beacons of Light celebration has been an extraordinary success, with nearly 200 illuminations and tributes shining across Canada and beyond. The annual event, initiated by Home Children Canada in 2019, continues to grow in participation and impact, as communities, landmarks, and individuals come together to honour the legacy of British Home Children. The Beacons of Light not only illuminate the past but also raise awareness about the remarkable contributions these children made to the countries they called home.

For the first time, several new Beacons of Light were lit in Liverpool, England, the very city from which many British Home Children embarked on their long journey to a new life. These tributes symbolize the international scope of the Home Child story, linking both the origins of their journey and their new homes. In addition, several Beacons were lit in Australia, marking a powerful and emotional international tribute. The global participation underscores the fact that the legacy of British Home Children resonates not just in Canada but across the world.

The success of this year's Beacons of Light is a testament to the dedication of communities, historians, descendants, and supporters who work tirelessly to ensure the stories of these children are never forgotten. From coast to coast in Canada, and stretching internationally, the event has united thousands in remembering the British Home Children who overcame adversity and left an indelible mark on our world. This growing recognition, through nearly 200 glowing tributes, reaffirms the strength, resilience, and contributions of the British Home Children to our shared history.



In England, the Liverpool City Council lit up their Civic Buildings photo submitted by Simon Roberts



Illumination of Niagara Falls, Ontario by Lori Oschefski who travelled on the boat, the Hornblower to get a close view.



The Bridge at Carleton Place, Ontario Photo by Michelle Adey-Rickard

Congratulations to our 2024 Winners



1st -Cheryl Toms



2nd -Chantelle Adair



Honorable Mention - Rachel Brown

Thank you to
all those that
entered the
Sunflower
Photo
Challenge!



Each year, Home Children Canada celebrates the sunflower, the chosen flower of the British Home Children, with a sunflower photo contest. This beautiful tradition invites participants to submit their best sunflower images, and the competition culminates in the announcement of the winner on BHC Day. Congratulations to this year's winners—once again, the photos were stunning, showcasing the beauty and symbolism of the sunflower in honor of the Home Children. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Home Children Canada's 2023 - 2024 Annual General Meeting!

Our 2023 - 2024 AGM meeting is coming up in November! Guest Speaker will be Malcolm Lindsay - from the Antique Road Show. He will be speaking on Researching Photo Archives. We purchased our Cossar Magic Lantern slides from Malcolm earlier this year. Lori Oschefski had the pleasure of meeting him during her trip to Scotland this past August.. Please register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMteeGqqD0pGtzwMMuxBfbfvDcXQPmE9Hoq>



Home Children Canada's
2023-2024



ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERS

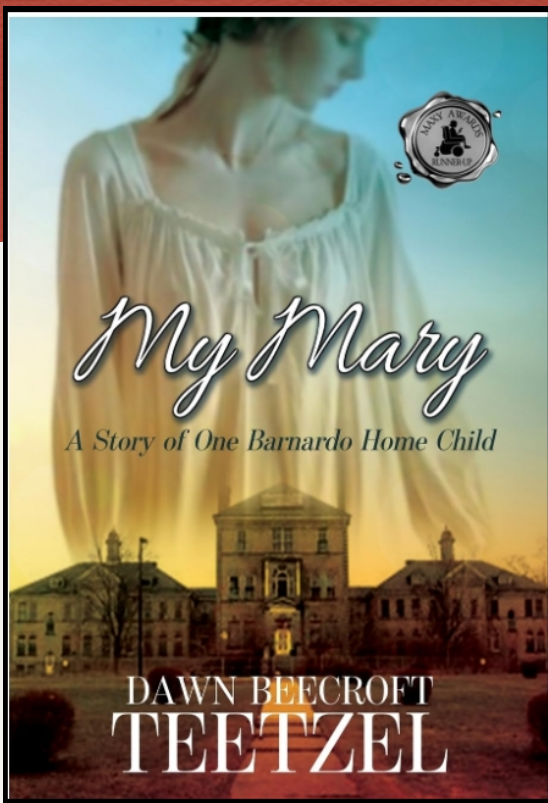
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Sunday, November 24, 2024
1 pm EST Canada

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Presidents Report
- Financials
- Guest Speaker - **Malcolm Lindsay** - The Antique Road Show will be speaking on 'Researching Photo Archives'

Open to all! Registration required!
Active paid members as of
24 November, 2024 will have voting privileges ONLY.

To the left: Malcolm Lindsay and Lori Oschefski in Glasgow, Scotland 2024



My Mary, A Story of One Barnardo Home Child By Dawn Beecroft Teetzel

Teetzel delivers a powerful historical narrative, loosely based on the life of her husband's grandmother, Mary. Brimming with idyllic scenes and beautiful imagery of life on a Canadian family farm, this epic tale and enduring love story spans some seventy years and shines light on one woman's life journey as a Barnardo Home Child.

January, 1945. Rural Ontario. It's another bleak winter for Mary. When she receives two successive pieces of bad news, she spirals into a deep melancholia, believing herself a burden to her family. After a failed suicide attempt, Charles, Mary's husband, the one she loves and trust

above all others, is left with no other choice but to commit her to a psychiatric hospital. With a timeline of three months looming, Mary rallies, determined to prove herself cured and return home.

However, confronting the memories of her past is difficult. At eleven years of age, ripped from a family she loved, forcibly transported to a new country, and treated like an indentured servant, Mary struggles to overcome the childhood trauma that robs her of her self-worth. And when therapy is paired with electroconvulsive treatments, she is left with an outcome she did not bargain for.

Ultimately, it is Mary's inner strength and the love of the one man who believes in her that enables her to live the life she had so long been denied. Beautifully written and psychologically astute, *My Mary* is a novel that will stay with you long after you've read the last page. - Natalie Zellat Dyen, author of *Locked in Silence*.

Rich and intriguing, *My Mary* is a compelling look into clinical depression, the trauma of being a Barnardo Home Child, and the heartbreaking story of enduring love. - Renee Cronley, author of *Burnout*

My Mary, A Story of One Barnardo Home Child is available on Amazon.

