



Samuel Usher & Mary Taylor Part 2

By Lori Oschefski - related through marriage [Read Part 1, Mary's story](#)

Samuel and Frederick Usher were born two of five children to Thomas Usher and his wife Emma White. On the 1891 census for West Ham, Essex, England the family is found living intact with both parents and siblings Louisa, Emma, May and Thomas Usher. Seven years later, their mother Emma died from cancer in the Brompton Cancer Hospital on October 21, 1898.

Thomas's health was also bad; he suffered from pleurisy and found it difficult to work and care for the children. They were found to be poorly clothed and had scarcely any furniture. The elder sister, Louisa, at sixteen looked after her brothers and sisters as best she could. Samuel and Frederick, however, were getting wayward and beyond her control. They had been charged with stealing two shillings from a younger boy, however the charges were dropped due to the extreme poverty of the family. The boys were hungry when they stole the money. Samuel had been to the Walthamstow Truant School twice before and it was

the Police-Court Missionary who applied to Barnardo's as he thought it best if the boys went into care.

Industrial schools were intended to help those children who were destitute but who had not yet committed any serious crime. The children needed to be removed from the environment and bad influences in which they had been living, giving them an education and teaching trades.

Their father agreed to the Barnardo admission and on February 23, 1899 Samuel, Frederick and their sister Emma were admitted. Thomas had lost his home, his relatives too poor to help and there were no other options available, except the Workhouse. Barnardo's for the children was a much better choice. There they would be cared for at least.

Samuel and Frederick were first taken to the Stepney Barnardo Home but were quickly removed to the Leopold Barnardo Home where they stayed until March 23, 1899, when they were then removed to Canada. The boys were taken to the Barnardo's Winnipeg receiving home before being placed out as farm labourers. Emma was not sent to Canada until 1902.

Samuel was initially placed with Gerald Dudley Buchanan at Rouleau. Frederick was placed in the same area. Samuel, missing his brother "ran away" a few times to visit Frederick. In September of that year, Mr. Buchanan writes to Barnardos "*Boy thinks he can run over to his brothers whenever he likes*". In November he writes that Samuel has run off again. In 1900 both boys were moved to new placements, both in Moose Jay, Samuel with Mr. George Cline. Emma



Samuel (left) and Frederick Usher



British Home Child Day Celebration
Tickets now available!
Join us on Sunday October 2nd
At the BCPV in Toronto, Ontario

Event Highlights

- * Enjoy a special afternoon tea
- * Visit the exhibit Breaking the Silence
- * Folk music, open mic and exhibits!
- * Listen to special talks from author Marjorie Kohli and R.J. Huggins
- * RJ Huggins will be interviewing for his film "[A Barnardo Boy](#)"

[Click here for tickets
and more information](#)

1000 Murray Ross Parkway, Toronto, Ontario M3J 2P3

WITH VISITS TO ENGLAND, NOVA SCOTIA, WINNIPEG
AND MANY CITIES INBETWEEN, OUR 2016 BHC
MEMORY QUILT HAS COVERED AN ASTOUNDING
18,498 KM SINCE ITS RELEASE IN MARCH 2016!



The quilt at the Russell, Manitoba Barnardo's Training Farm site

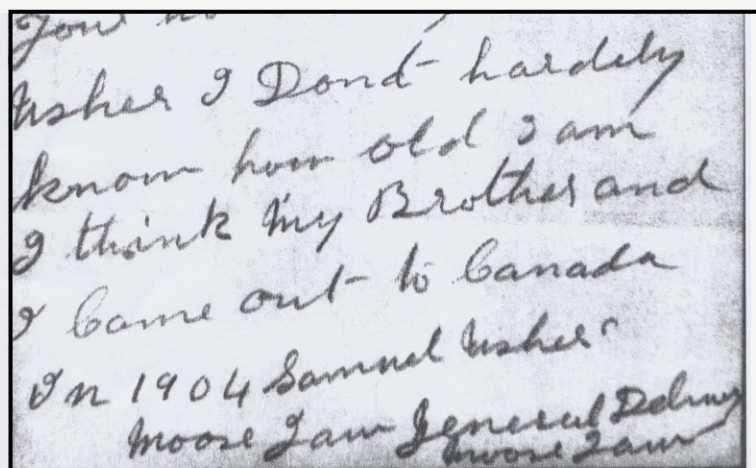
had been placed in Hastings Ontario. Samuel and Frederick were moved to several placements over the years. In May of 1907, Mr. Carey from River View, Saskatchewan wrote to Barnardo's saying Samuel and Frederick were very anxious to start farming on their own account. Mr. Carey stated that he would provide the boys with the land, horses and machinery, but they would need their pay from Barnardo's before seeding time, if they were to plant their potatoes and oats. Mr. Carey also said that he found the boys trustworthy and faithful. Barnardo's paid out the accounts.

With a bit of faith and trust in these two boys, Mr. Carey gave them what a lot of other British Home Children in Canada were lacking, a good start in their lives after the indentures were done. Many children did not receive their pay and it is quite possible that the same would have happened to Samuel and Frederick without Mr. Carey's assistance. By November of 1908 Samuel was the owner of a Homestead three miles from the town of Elbow. Settling into his new life, Samuel's thoughts once again turn to his family and concerns for his sister Emma. In January 1909, Barnardo's forwarded her address. Samuel desperately wanted his siblings to join him in Manitoba. He often communicated with Barnardo's regarding bringing his remaining siblings from England to Canada and bringing Emma from Ontario, out west. He communicated with Barnardo's in 1911 and it was clear there was no help forthcoming to bring his siblings to Manitoba. Circumstances never seemed to fall into place for Samuel to make this possible. Thomas, Louisa and May remained in England and Emma in Ontario.

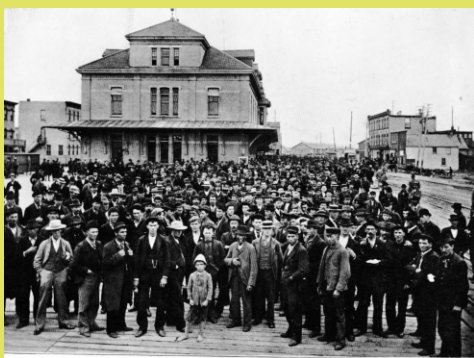
Some time before March of 1913 Samuel made his way to Ontario, presumably to visit his sister Emma who had arrived at Hazel Brae in 1902, a year before Mary and Sarah Taylor arrived. In March of 1913 Mary Taylor's rain of abuse and suffering she had endured all her life, abruptly came to an end. If there was ever truly a Knight in Shining Armour, this is who Samuel was to Mary. Although we don't know the exact details of how they met, we can allow what we know, to tell the story. Samuel had already proven to be a kind, compassionate and caring individual. It is likely he met Mary through his sister Emma and seeing her suffering, scooped her up, married her and whisked her away. On March the 13th, 1913, in the city of Peterborough, Ontario, Mary became Mrs. Samuel Usher, following which he took her back home to Manitoba. Sarah also relocated to Manitoba and soon became Mrs. Frederick Usher!

It cannot be overstated the kindness, compassion and love that Samuel showed Mary. He worshipped the ground she walked on and through his love, she flourished. All the horrible things that were said about Mary in the past, were proven untrue. Mary and Samuel started their family in 1915 with the birth of their daughter Rita. In 1927 their fifth child and the one who connects the author of this article to this family, Mary Ellen Usher was born. Mary Ellen married Raymond Thomas Rule, Lori Oschefski's Uncle. Unknown to them, the British Home Children migration schemes had touched both their lives. Mary Ellen, the daughter of two Home Children, and Raymond the son of Annie Prince, Lori Oschefski's Grandmother, who not only married a BHC, but who eventually would lose their six children to these schemes.

Mary's Grandchildren remember her as a very warm and loving woman. Mary worked as an accountant for her husband and kept a meticulously clean home. Through the support and kinship that only two Home Children could have, Mary was able to open up about some of her abuse to her family. The scars on her back from the whippings remained the rest of her life. Samuel's love and the love of her family helped soothe the scars in her soul.



Part of a letter written to Barnardo's by Samuel in 1931, thirty two years after his arrival in Canada. He's says "I don't hardly know how old I am" and "I think my brother and I came out to Canada in 1904"



Winnipeg's CPR Station

Barnardo's extensively used the CPR Railway to move children across Canada to Winnipeg. It is likely that this is the station which the Usher boys passed through on their way to the Winnipeg receiving home. Boys traveling to the Russell Training farm also passed through this station from 1888 onwards. The Winnipeg Home was established in 1897. The original station burned down in 1886 and was replaced with a smaller building (upper left). This building was considered an eyesore. By the time the Ushers arrived in 1899, plans were already in hand for a grand train station and an elaborate hotel. These new facilities were built in 1904-05 (lower left) This old station was



demolished in 1905. Our quilt is seen on display by the elaborate brass doors where the passengers disembarked from the trains in the new station (lower right).



On first day into our trip to Winnipeg last month, we discovered a vintage CPR Steam Train in perfect working order! (Upper right) Run now by Prairie Dog Central lines, this train operated throughout the West of Canada from 1882 until 1917.



Of Naples, British Home Children and missing home

By Author and Historian Andrew Simpson

Visit Andrew's blog at:
chorltonhistory.blogspot.ca

Naples may seem an odd place to reflect on the story of British Home Children, but listening to the stories of my mother in law who left the city in 1960 for a life as an economic migrant there are strong parallels.

Naples and the south of Italy have never been one of the more prosperous parts of the country and from the 19th century many left for a better life in places as far away as Britain and the USA.

In the mid 20th century that migration continued as Italy's "economic miracle" offered jobs and the promise of an improved standard of living in the northern cities of Milan, Turin and Florence.

And today my continent is again facing a huge movement of peoples escaping political uncertainty and wanting to better themselves and their families.

The reactions of us Europeans has been mixed from those in Greece and Italy who have gone out of their way to rescue and then help the refugees to those who have succumbed to deep feelings of intolerance bordering on racism.

All of which will be familiar to those who have studied the story of British Home Children.

Last month's newsletter highlighted the reaction of the "good, the educated and the powerful" exploring the pseudo scientific arguments advanced against accepting migrant young people *

So nothing new then in the attitudes of both the establishment and certain sections of the population to the challenges of migrants.

But in all of this it is easy to forget the very real economic pressures which fuel that tide of migration.

Back in the 1830s and 40's the Parliamentary Commissioners charged with overseeing the Poor Law looked into schemes to assist the movement of the rural poor away from the agriculturally depressed south to the new industrial areas of the North and when these failed they looked to migrating those families across the Atlantic to Canada.

Which occasioned some concerns from the Commissioners who pointed to the growing practice of families being left in the workhouse while the breadwinner travelled to Canada and the USA.

Of course in the case of most BHC they had little say in the matter. Their parents, the authorities or the charities made the decision on their behalf.

But a few like my great uncle seemed to have had a say. He was migrated by Middlemore in 1914 acting for the Derby Board of Guardians and there was an alternative. Having run feral for years he and my grandfather were marked down for a naval boot camp. Grandfather went, great uncle Roger chose Canada.

Like so many of the stories of BHC the details are vague, lost in time and whatever records existed has long since vanished.

So I have no idea how his choice was made. Was he offered an alternative given that he was 16? Was it just that that he seemed the more difficult of the two and it was judged that even a naval training ship wouldn't work? Certainly his three placements in NB and NS were unhappy, resulting in home being returned from the first two as unsuitable and running away from the third to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915.

It would be say to write him off as the exception to the rule. But I wonder, and if he was not an exception what new avenues of research does this open up for British Home Child Studies?

And in the process offers up another area of study which is to what extent the presence of a BHC in Canada led to other family members coming over later.

In our case there was a direct second migration on the part of my great aunt who acting on his letters finally crossed over in 1925 under an Empire scheme.

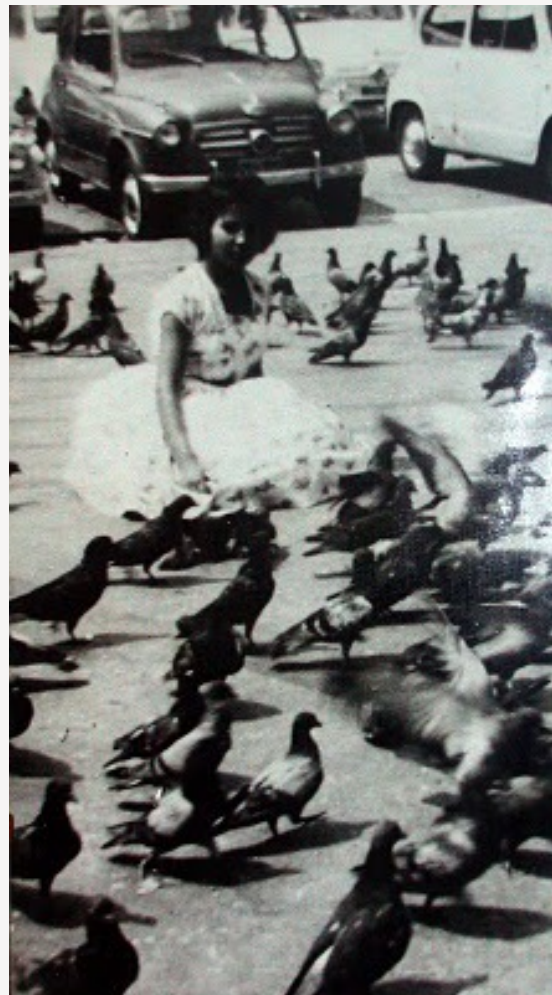
She like my mother in law was an economic migrant and like so many immigrants before and after she made a success of her life, raising a large family and living a productive life. Like her brother, some of her sons served in the military and others made a huge contribution to public life.

All of which brings me back to my mother in law who after a decade and a bit in Cambridge returned to Italy settling in the north outside Milan.

Her story like that of my great uncle and aunt are testimony to the achievements of those who were forced by circumstance to start a new life.

*A Reason for Silence

In the case of Rosa this involved a sea journey from Naples via Southampton and then by train to Cambridge





British Home Child Albert W Morton

Once a Barnardo's Orphan Bell Ringer
involved in a horrific train accident September 1893

Dr. Barnardo's Musical Boys

Dr. Barnardo was delighted with music. His singing soared above others at Evangelistic meetings. Music was a large part of his work with the children. Dr. Barnardo found music calming to the children, especially the traumatized. *"It opens the gates of intelligence, of ideality, of emotion. It not only floods their lives with colour and beauty, but we find that it elevates their minds to a higher plane of thinking and feeling alike."*

Dr. Barnardo formed two touring bands, numbering twelve to fourteen boys. Two reserve bands were formed so younger boys would be trained to take the place of older boys moving on to work situations. In 1891, under the supervision of Rev R. J. Mayers, the first group of Musical Boys to travel internationally, toured Australia and New Zealand. In the fall of 1892 Mr. James Benjamin Wookey, an evangelist appointed along with Rev Mayers as "deputation secretaries", supervised a nine boy musical band on a tour of Canada and the United States. The



boys sailed to Canada aboard the SS Mongolian on September 1, 1892. Aboard this ship was a

larger party of Barnardo children who were to be settled in Canada. Sidney Fleming, William J Haskins, William Evans, Edward Rush, James Lane, Harry French and Albert Morton, in 1891, were all inmates of Dr. Barnardo's East End Juvenile Mission, Leopold House.

On the evening of Friday September 22nd, 1893, now in the United States, the boys were scheduled for a concert at the headquarters of the Epworth League, a Methodist young adult's association, just outside the Chicago's World's Fair grounds. In the wee early morning of that day, the tour was brought to an abrupt and tragic end. At 5:30 am, the Toronto and Montreal express train, on which the Barnardo party was traveling, passed by on the main track of the Wabash railroad station in Kingsbury, Indiana at about 55 miles per hour. West of the station it was involved in a collision with a freight train due to a line switching error. The brakeman had failed to open the switch causing the collision. The trains were completely wrecked, eleven persons killed immediately.

Harry French, a bell ringer in the band, lost his life. Severely injured, and not expected to live, were William (Willie) Adams and William J Haskins, both fourteen years old. Willie, lay unconscious in the station, both legs broken and severely scalded. James Wookey was also seriously injured. Less seriously injured were thirteen year old Edward Rush, twelve year old Albert Morton, and James Lane. Against the odds, Willie survived and along with James Lane, remained in the United States with a family from Canton, Ohio. On October 9, 1893 Edward Rush and Albert Morton returned to England.

Almost two years to the day, Albert Morton once again arrived in Canada, sent by Barnardo's as a British Home Child.

Barnardo Music Trivia

- Dr. Barnardo's Great Great Grandson is Derek Paravicini, a blind English autistic savant and a musical prodigy. Derek is also the nephew of Camilla Parker Bowles, the Duchess of Cornwall. [The Evening Standard](#)
- David Bowie's father Haywood Jones, worked as a promotions officer for Barnardo's.
- Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice who created the world's most recognizable music, from Cats to Evita to The Phantom of the Opera. Their first musical was called "The Likes of Us" and was based on the work of Dr. Barnardo. Written in 1965, it did not reach the stage until 2005.



British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.—MR. A. B. OWEN (SUPERINTENDENT) AND THE CANADIAN HEADQUARTERS' STAFF AT PETER STREET, TORONTO, WITH REV. W. J. MAYERS AND THE MUSICAL BOYS WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM ON HIS RECENT SEVEN MONTHS' TOUR.

c1913

Our on-line petition calling on the Canadian Government to formally apologize to the British Home Children is open for signatures until November 25, 2016. Consider lending your support.

Click here to sign the petition

Signature _____



BHCARA News

Our trip to Winnipeg was an amazing success. Many thanks to all who participated, organized, attended and supported this trip. A huge shout out to Sue Pearson-Mozdzen who facilitated our participation in the 2016 Folklorama UK Pavilion. The table there was visited by hundreds of people! Our Millennium Library event was well attended, a capacity crowd of 120 people!

While in Manitoba, we were able to visit many BHC related area's including the [Russell Manitoba Training Farm](#) property, the train stations which many BHC traveled through and the sites of the Barnardo receiving homes. Sue, Roberta Horrax, Ralph Jackson and I also met with Jodi Giesbrecht, (Manager, Research and Curation) of the Human Rights Museum, to discuss the inclusion of the BHC in a special exhibit to open next July, marking [Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation](#) . This trip was ground breaking and inspired a lot of interest and talk about the BHC. Our events this year have crossed Canada and the Atlantic Ocean to England. Our aim is to keep the momentum going and to continue to share the story our our British Home Children!



Sunflowers brightened up our exhibit at Winnipeg's 2016 Folklorama Table in the UK Pavilion

IN 2013 "THE ONTARIO EAST BRITISH HOME CHILD FAMILY" ORGANIZATION WANTED TO ADOPT A FLOWER WHICH WOULD BE SYMBOLIC OF THE BRITISH HOME CHILDREN. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THE SUNFLOWER WAS CHOSEN.

WHY THE SUNFLOWER

Sunflowers are bright and inspire hope.

British Home Children came to Canada hoping for a brighter future.

As the sunflower grows, the flowers and leaves grow and face the sun in order to maximize photosynthesis. On sunny days, the stems elongate on the side of the stem away from the sun. The immature (young) flowers and leaves follow the light of the sun throughout the day. By the end of the day, the immature flowers are facing the west. When there is no light, the other side of the stem grows and pushes the flower and leaves back to face the east at sunrise. This is otherwise known as heliotropism. Mature flowers, leaves and plant do not turn to follow the light of the sun.

British Home Children disembarked their ships in the east and most travelled west into all parts of Canada.

Sunflowers are very strong and can endure various environments

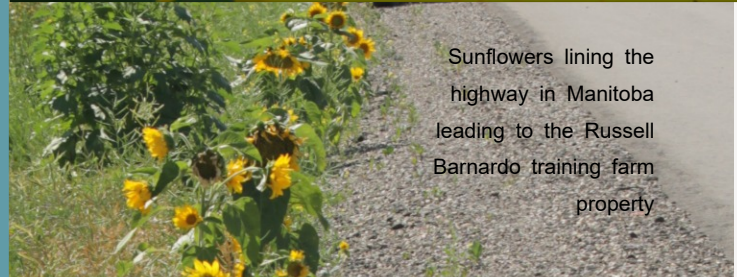
British Home Children had to be strong mentally, physically and emotionally and endured various living situations.

Sunflower seeds are encased in shells.

British Home Children in the most part kept the stories of their lives to themselves, encasing them within their hearts, minds & souls.

Sunflower seeds can be cracked open to reveal themselves for others to share and appreciate.

British Home Children stories need to be cracked open, shared and appreciated.



Sunflowers lining the highway in Manitoba leading to the Russell Barnardo training farm property

From our vintage book collections

THE "SARDINIAN."
(See previous page.)

SARDINIAN! Does this word at all attract your attention, or do you look listlessly at it and then turn the leaf? Yes? Then let me try to give you another interest in life, another illustration of the working of Christian sympathy in connection with it.

Let me tell you that *Sardinian* to-day is to thousands a symbol of all that is of value to them in the world. Eyes brighten, pulses quicken, prayers ascend whenever it is seen or heard.

Listen. A little girl was found, friendless, in the wickedest place in London—a low, common lodging-house. She was a "lending-out" child, and the woman who owned her was in prison. Poor little lass, she did not know what love and kisses meant!

She made one more in Dr. Barnardo's large family, and she regained her childhood in his happy village.

As she grew in years and in wisdom Canada became a word of mystery and of hope amongst the little circle of her friends. Thither they all wished to go. Oh! what fluttering of spirit there was in that eager group of would-be emigrants! Sleeping or waking, their hearts were in Canada.

Just think of it! They were to go in a ship, the *Sardinian*. But when they saw her on the Mersey! Look at the picture on the previous page, and try to realise their feelings.

It was only a dream to Mary that once she was a lost child. Now, under careful guardianship, she was to cross an unknown ocean to a new world, a new life.

Night and day the *Sardinian* sped on. She seemed to know her own way in the trackless waters. Her great engines rested not once till she reached the St. Lawrence.

To-day Mary is the adopted daughter of a physician in North-West Canada. The heart of his English wife warmed to her so soon as she heard her voice. She is the light of their home. They think of the *Sardinian* as God's messenger.

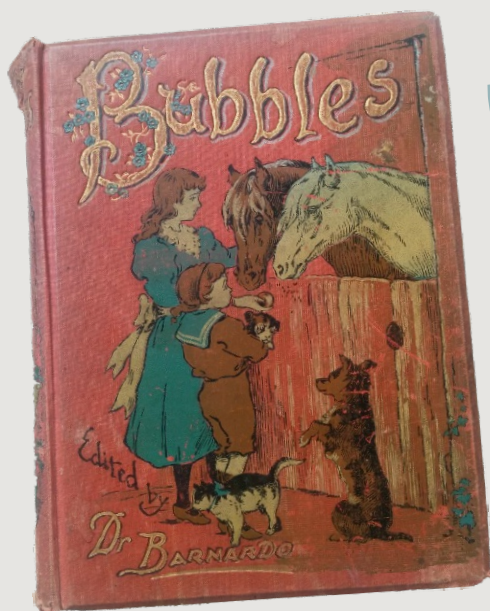
Up to last December Dr. Barnardo's little emigrants numbered 8,043, and now there are 8,251 of them! No fewer than 733 went out during 1895, and—just think of it!—every county in England contributed one or more little lad or lass to that hopeful company.

God speed the *Sardinian*!
JIM CROWQUILL.



S. S. SARDINIAN, ALLAN LINE, BEARING A PARTY OF THE EDITOR'S BOYS TO CANADA.

(see next page)



New to our collection, this month, is a vintage 1896 Bubbles book. Bubbles, edited by Dr. Barnardo, superseded the "Our Darling" magazines which were published from 1881 to 1894. For information on the Barnardo's publications visit ["The History of the Barnardo Publications"](#)