

October, 2016



British Home Child Group International

Not Wanted by Sandra Joyce

Design and Layout by Karen Mahoney



Many British Home Children struggled their whole lives wanting to belong somewhere. Uprooted from their home country, perhaps abandoned by their parents and then sent to strangers in a foreign country, they sought to find their roots or at least, establish some.

Mary Kinsley, although she lived with and was 'adopted' – there was no legal adoption at that time – by two kind yet elderly parents, was constantly reminded that she was not desired in her homeland by the huge sticker on her trunk that said NOT WANTED in red letters.

Although the label actually meant that the trunk was not required by the girl on her voyage to Canada and was to be stowed in the hold, the four-year-old girl took it personally and

the message followed her throughout her life.

Mary was sent to Canada, along with her sister Janet, arriving in Brockville in 1894, in a group of 117 girls and accompanied by Mr and Mrs. Burges – daughter and son-in-law of William Quarrier. Six days later, the two girls were handed over to the Holiday family of Rawdon, Quebec. Four days after that, Mary was settled with the Hamilton family, also of Rawdon.

According to Daniel Parkinson, Mary's grandson and author of an extensive historical account of Rawdon's history, both girls were indentured to the Haliday (sic) family and the contract was changed to read 'them' instead of 'her'. The Hamilton name is not mentioned and the terms of the indenture strictly stated that the children must not be transferred to any other person without knowledge of Quarrier's. However, there is no documentation of such a transfer in Mary's Quarrier file.

There is only speculation as to why Mary ended up with the Hamiltons. Perhaps the Holiday family didn't want the responsibility of two young girls or the Hamiltons were considered to be too old, being more the age of grandparents. Janet was seven.



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Not Wanted.... *continued*

According to Parkinson, a letter from William Quarrier published in the Brockville Recorder in 1896 outlines the determining factors of a successful application for a child in their care:

“Anyone wishing to get a young child should write... enclosing a minister’s reference and railway fare to Fairknowe Home, Brockville Ontario...we shall have our lists made up before the children arrive. Parties intending to come for children will be notified in good time when to call, as we shall be too busy for the first few days to attend to them.”

The terms of indenture agreed to by the person where the child was being placed was to ensure that the children have good clothing, treat them as one of the family and that they were to be able to earn wages. The terms also stated that they were to go to Church and Sunday School regularly and Day school for the full session yearly. The child was required to write to Fairknowe at least once a year and also notify them of changes in address and sickness. If the child was to be returned, the terms for such were outlined.



Mary had a good life and was baptized by the Hamiltons at the Anglican Christ Church in Rawdon in 1895 and was given the names Mary Margaret Kinsey Hamilton in recognition of her ‘adoptive’ mother, Margaret Kirkland Hamilton.

She was given music lessons and a Thomas organ was bought for her to play. Occasionally, when she was older, she would play for services at the Church of the Advent in Wexford.

After Mrs. Hamilton died in 1916, the house was inherited by Mary and was frequently used as a summer home. It has been since demolished.

In 1927, Mary requested personal information from Quarrier’s and received her birth certificate. Mary Quarrier replied that, “your father was said to be careless and indifferent and unable to care for you. The fact that he never enquired about you shows that this statement must have been true.” Although she mentioned his remarriage, she discouraged Mary from advertising for her father as “there have been so many changes...that I fear that

you will not get any particulars.” She did either not know that Mary’s father had been dead for almost a quarter of a century or did not want to give Mary this information.

Mary had seven children with her husband Edwin Parkinson, although the youngest died a month short of her second birthday. Her second child, Llewella Daisy and mother of Daniel Parkinson remained with her grandparents in Rawdon when Mary and Edwin moved to Montreal.

She died in Montreal in 1958 but her body was returned to Rawdon and is interred in the Hamilton family plot.

The Dominions by Sandra Joyce



There were two ships named The Dominion that brought over British Home Children to Canada between 1874 and 1912.

The first ship named Dominion (1) was built in 1873 at Dumbarton by A. McMillan & Son and made her maiden voyage from Liverpool to Quebec with a quick stopover in Belfast in May, 1874. The voyage lasted 20 days. Over the next 15 years, she carried 204 children to Canada.

In 1895, she was sold to E. Thirkell in Liverpool and in 1896 was wrecked at Castletown, Berehaven, Ireland.

The ship that came to be known as the Dominion (2) was launched in Belfast in 1893 as the Prussia and sailed for the German Hamburg-American line. In 1898, the Prussia was sold to the British Dominion Line and was renamed the SS Dominion (2). At this time she was refitted and reconfigured to provide accommodation for 200 First Class, 170 Second Class and 750 Third Class passengers. This rebuild took only a few months before she was ready to go on the Liverpool – Quebec – Montreal route on the Dominion's Line's principle service in May 1898. Other ports of entry included Halifax and Portland, Maine.

The Dominion (2) carried 6,876 British Home Children to Canada from various organizations including Barnardo's, Dr. Stephenson's National Children Homes, the Fegan Homes, Miss Bilbrough and Rev. Wallace of Marchmont Homes and Mrs. Louisa Birt. There was a steady stream in the numbers of children sailing on board the Dominion with the busiest years being 1903 (786 children), 1905 (562), 1906 (1121), 1907 (905) and 1908 (1130).



When the White Star/Dominion joint service to Canada was instituted in 1908, the Dominion (2) was largely unneeded, so from then until 1915, she was periodically chartered to the American Line for service on American's Liverpool-Philadelphia route. Originally a British company, the White Star Line was absorbed into the International Mercantile Marine Co. (IMM), a large American shipping conglomerate in 1902. The American Line was also part of the IMM.



During World War I, the SS Dominion (2) served mainly as a supply vessel although she did carry some troops. She returned to commercial service in 1918 but was converted to a cargo carrier in 1919. Her final sailing was from Liverpool to Portland, Maine in 1921 before being scrapped in Germany in 1922.

Cawthra Mulock and the Jarvis Street Property by Sandra Joyce



Once an area that entertained the elite of Toronto society, the demise of the mansion-lined area bounded by St. George and Sherbourne Streets, started just after the First World War. The character of the neighbourhood was changed forever after several former stately homes were sold to be used as institutions.

538 Jarvis, which became a Dr. Barnardo's Receiving Home and their Canadian Headquarters from 1922 to 1948 was formerly the home of Cawthra Mulock, the son of Sir William Mulock who was Post Master General, Chief Justice of Ontario and Canada's first Labour Minister.

Known as the 'boy millionaire' Cawthra inherited the property called 'Northworld' and eight million dollars from his great-aunt, Mrs. William Cawthra Murray at the age of 21. Before his untimely death at the age of 36 during the Spanish Influenza epidemic, Cawthra entertained the likes of the Sir John A. MacDonal, the Masseys, the Gooderhams and the Mowats at his three-storey home which boasted two drawing rooms, a ballroom, a marble conservatory and a Pierce Arrow motor car in his garage adjacent to the stables.

Cawthra also held numerous influential positions as a financier and businessman but is most famous for building the Royal Alexandra Theatre, still one of Toronto's premier attractions, in 1907. One of the most colourful of a new generation of Toronto capitalists, he was a canny investor in the city's rising stock and real estate markets.

In 1948, 'Northworld' was sold to the Salvation Army for less than its 1922 purchase price.

From a Toronto Star article dated April 25, 1957 as the building was being torn down to make way for 'stream-lined ultra modern apartments':

"...the Jarvis home was turned over to the Dr. Barnardo's boys organization and hundreds of English youngsters tried to carve their initials into the 24 inch stone walls in the wine cellar... in 1948 it passed into the hands of the Salvation army and more than 70,000 immigrants passed through the rear quarters while officials directed the Canada-wide organization from the main floor."

Wrecking foreman Lewis Green had this to say in the same Toronto Star article:

"It was one of the finest houses in Toronto. It should have never been torn down. You never get craftsmanship like this today: it would have lasted another 1,000 years...it would have made a wonderful museum."

Barnardo's moved its headquarters to 20 Spadina Avenue in 1948.



The PEI History of Medicine Society 2016

12 October at 7 pm - UPEI Main Building, Faculty Lounge
A Presentation by Sara Underwood

"British Home Children of Prince Edward Island"



More than 200 children were settled in Prince Edward Island between 1893 and the early 1920s, as part of the child emigration movement by Middlemore Home in Birmingham, England.

This presentation will consider the reports and correspondence related specifically to the children's physical and mental conditions.

→ Arthur Taylor, one of the children sent to PEI by Middlemore Home, Birmingham from the 1890s to the 1930s

(All are welcome to listen and discuss over coffee, tea and snacks)



Désautels le dimanche

Some exciting news to share: Michel Désautels, of Radio-Canada Montréal, will be interviewing Carolyn Perkes on his radio program "[Désautels le dimanche](#)," in French, this Sunday October 2 at 11:06 a.m. about British Home Children. This is a follow-up on Sandra Joyce's presentation on the BHC, her CTV interview and her meeting with Gilles Duceppe at Theatre Jean-Duceppe, Place-des-Arts this past April in Montréal. Carolyn says "I am so pleased to help with reaching out to Quebecers!"

UPCOMING EVENTS - October and November 2016

British Home Child Day

October 1-2nd

Fanahawe Pioneer Village - London, Ontario

Hastings County Historical Society

October 18th - 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Belleville, Ontario

Brant County OGS Workshop

October 22nd

Brantford, Ontario

Brampton Library - Chinguacousy Branch

October 25th 1pm - 3pm

Brampton, Ontario

Huntsville Public Library

October 29th 12pm - 3pm

Huntsville, Ontario

5th Annual Kitchener Public Library

Genealogy Fair

November 5th - 8am - 9pm

Kitchener, Ontario

CFUW Hamilton

November 15th 7pm-9pm

Hamilton, Ontario

Ganaraska Valley Probus Club

November 24th 9am - 12pm

Port Hope, Ontario



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Our website: www.britishhomechild.com

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