

July, 2018



British Home Child Group International

Kassidy Allard by Sandra Joyce

Design and Layout by Karen Mahoney



Eleven-year-old Kassidy Allard, currently in grade six has a passion for history. She is especially inspired by history involving children. In May of this year, Kassidy chose the British Home Children as her subject for the Regional Heritage Fair located in North Bay. There were 92 entries and Kassidy's project received the Award of Merit. Kassidy was to advance to the Provincial Heritage Fair to be held at York University in Toronto, but because of the ongoing strike, the Fair was cancelled.

Kassidy feels that this subject is important to Canadians of all ages as the British Home Children helped build our country by providing cheap agricultural labour in the midst of a labour shortage. Her research made her aware of how children were treated at the time and that one of the people, John Joseph Kelso, who was involved in the child migrant scheme formed the Children's Aid Society.

She says, "The Home Children had a direct impact in developing the country and were responsible for a large increase in population. I especially believe that young Canadians should learn about this because it happened to children their age. It

just shows how we should appreciate what we have now because we could have just as easily been one of them and have had the bare minimum, if anything (at all). "

Kassidy's project will be on display at the Mattawa Ontario Museum during the summer. The president of the Mattawa Museum, Elmer Rose, is pleased to bring awareness of this historical event to the community and tourists. The Museum also presented Kassidy with a Certificate of Achievement signed by all the committee members. along with a letter of congratulations.

In 2016/ 2017 Kassidy campaigned to save the Dionne Quintuplets Home Museum in North Bay Ontario. Kassidy gathered 600 signatures on a petition including those of 38 children. Kassidy instantly was considered a youth advocate for the "Friends of The Dionne Quintuplet Committee". She fundraised, made all the Rally signs, brought awareness to the community



and also spoke in front of the North Bay City Council.

Thank you, Kassidy on behalf of the British Home Child Group International and Families and Descendants of British Home Children. We are proud of your achievement.



Unveiling of Maria Rye Plaque at the Rye Heritage Park Niagara-on-the-Lake

Maria Rye's contribution to the Home Child movement has been previously gone unnoticed at the Rye Heritage Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake. That will soon be rectified with the unveiling of a monument, explaining the name and significance of the park, on the first National British Home Child Day on September 28, 2018. There will be a reception at the Niagara Museum following the unveiling, co-hosted by the British Home Child Group International and the Niagara Historical Society (NHS).

During a presentation given last year by BHCGL's Sandra Joyce, a very generous local couple were moved to sponsor the beautiful monument.

David Murray, along with partner Liz Surtees, believe that the Maria Rye story deserves more exposure and recognition. Maria was the first to bring children to Canada in 1869 and to open a Home Child Receiving House called 'Our Western Home'. The park is situated on the site of the former Home.

David and Liz joined the NHS 17 years ago when they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Both were born in the UK although David is of Irish origin. They were curious about the area they were moving to and wanted to share the knowledge and experience they have. They also remember the Barnardo collection boxes. Dr. Barnardo, born in Dublin, but operating his organization out of the UK, sent upwards of 30,000 children to Canada.

David also had an uncle named Eddie who was a 'housemaster' at a boy's house in the Barnardo's village in Barkingside. He was called 'Uncle' by his charges and his wife, Mabel, was called 'Aunty'.

David recalls, "Sometimes in my own pre-teen years, when my parents had business in Ireland, I was sent to Barkingside to be with Eddie and Mabel for a week or so. One of my vivid memories (at age about 11) is Eddie at the lunch table counselling a 16 year-old called Billy on how to conduct himself in his interview the next day for "Australia". All I knew at the time was that "Australia" was sunny and exported wool, fruit and handsome cricket players. But I knew nothing about how and under what circumstances it imported scared British teenagers."

In his reasoning for being a sponsor for the monument, David says: "Canadians tend to be incredibly un-knowledgeable about their history – sometimes even ignorantly embarrassed about it. Immigration played a very significant part in Canada's development during the 'Home Child' period. In that period, government policy aggressively promoted immigration – just as UK government policy aggressively promoted emigration, especially for those less able (e.g. orphan children) to support themselves. All this deserves to be better known."

Home Child descendants are grateful for David and Liz's contribution to this very important part of Canadian History. Join us for the unveiling. Time and exact location will be announced.

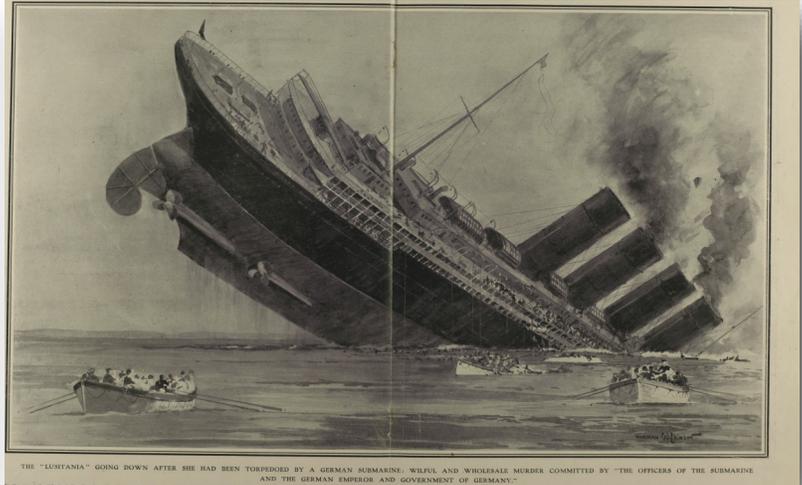


Liz Surtees and David Murray

SS Lusitania

The Ocean Liner Lusitania, built by John Laird Son & Co. in Liverpool in 1871, was propelled by sails and steam. She had accommodations for 84 First class, 200 second class passengers and room for 270 in steerage.

Originally owned by Pacific Steam Navigation Co. in Liverpool from 1871 to 1878, she was then bought by the Orient Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. – Thompson & Anderson of London till 1900 and then was run by Elder Dempster Lines Ltd of the African Steamship Co. out of Liverpool. In her early years, she sailed to Australia and South Africa.



THE "LUSITANIA" GOING DOWN AFTER SHE HAD BEEN TORPEDOED BY A GERMAN SUBMARINE. WIFE AND WHOLESALE MURDER COMMITTED BY "THE OFFICERS OF THE SUBMARINE AND THE GERMAN EMPEROR AND GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY."

During her last fateful voyage in June 1901, she was on a transatlantic charter with the Allan Line on route from Liverpool to Montreal with passengers and general cargo. A party of 17 British Home Children from the Bristol Emigration Society, Miss Foster in charge, were to be dropped off in Saint John, New Brunswick.

The ship left Liverpool on June 18, 1901 and ran aground on June 26, eight days later.

A *New York Times* article, published on June 27, 1901 reported, "The Lusitania mistook her course in a dense fog and went ashore near Renew's, twenty miles north of Cape Race, Newfoundland, before day break. The ship ran over a reef and hung against a cliff...The women and children were first landed, and the men followed. The crew stood by the ship. A heavy sea was running but the Lusitania was holding her own. It was thought likely she would prove a total wreck."

LUSITANIA WRECKED OFF NEWFOUNDLAND COAST

Passengers Numbering More than
350 Escape in Lifeboats.

CREW STAND BY THE SHIP

Fear-Maddened Men, Armed with
Knives, Refuse to Give Women
and Children First Chance
to Get Away.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., June 26.—The Orient Steam Navigation Company's steamer Lusitania, Capt. McNay, from Liverpool, June 18, for Montreal, having more than 350 passengers on board, was wrecked last night off Capt Ballard. All the passengers were saved by taking to the lifeboats.

Cape Ballard is situated on the coast of Newfoundland, about sixty miles south of St. John's.

According to the same article, the passengers' experience was terrible. They were woken by the sound of ship's bottom hitting the rocks and the collision threw them from their beds. Bruised and battered, passengers were hurrying to the deck when panic struck. Five hundred people clamoured to reach the lifeboats even while the crew was trying to launch them. Some of the men trampled women in their attempts to board the boats first, wielding knives and threatening the crew. Some of the more cool-headed passengers were able to help the crew and get the lifeboats launched.

Lifeboats were wrecked while attempting to land and their occupants, frightened and shivering with cold, held on to rocks until they were rescued. Women and children, in soaking wet night clothes, were pulled up the cliffs by local people.

The BHC on board were brought to Sydney, Nova Scotia by another smaller craft.

Astonishingly, there was no loss of life.

Doug Ford - A Home Child Descendant by Sandra Joyce



Premiere Doug Ford - photo courtesy Toronto Star

This article is not meant to endorse any alliances with a political party. However, it is interesting to note that our incoming Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford is a descendant of a Home Child. Doug Ford's and the late mayor of Toronto, Rob Ford's, paternal grandfather, Ernest Ford, came to Canada as an 11-year-old in 1902. Ford came to Canada on the ship *Siberia* with 32 other British Home Children in steerage class as part of a Middlemore party.

Ernest Ford was born in 3 May 1891 in Birmingham, England to Sidney and Letitia Ford. Ernest Ford's mother died in 1900 and he is listed as living with his widowed father and grandmother in Aston, Warwickshire, England on the 1901 census.

According to files on Ancestry.ca, however, Ford later claimed he was born in Portage Vale, New Brunswick and his military records and marriage certificate both reflect

this claim. Children sent to Canada by the Middlemore organization were placed in New Brunswick and Hamilton, Ontario and often settled where they were sent.

Ernest Ford fought in the First World War, as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was awarded the Good Conduct Badge in 1917 for military service, a 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

Ernest married Celia McNicol in 1924 in Toronto and died in 1933 in Toronto. It was the same year Doug Ford Sr. (Doug and Rob's father) was born. Ernest is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

In an article in the Toronto Sun, dated July 31, 2012, Rob Ford expressed surprise at the information that his grandfather was a Home Child: "No one was more surprised to hear about Ernest Ford's history Tuesday than Mayor Ford himself. He said his own father, Doug Ford Sr., rarely talked about his dad and didn't have many details about him. "It blows my mind," Ford said. "I wish my dad was here to see this."



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