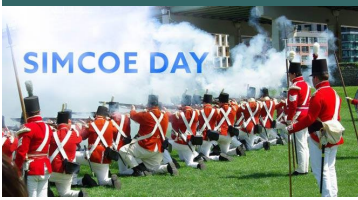


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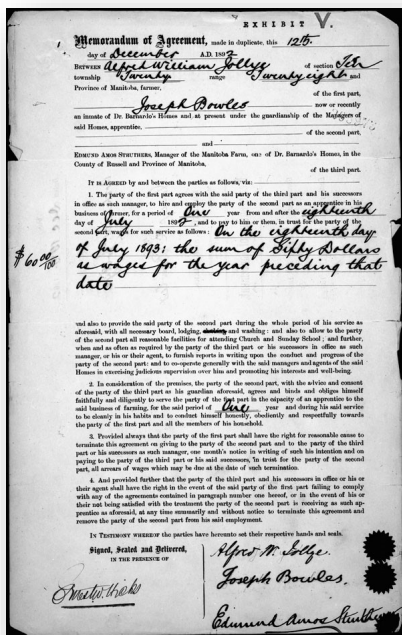
British Home Child Group International

Design and Layout by Karen Mahoney

Barnardo's Hazelbrae Home in Peterborough and George Cox by Sandra Joyce

Dr. Barnardo started sending children to Canada in the early 1870s, mainly using the receiving homes set up in Belleville by Annie MacPherson and then Dr. Stephenson in Hamilton. By the 1880s, the numbers of children eligible to emigrate had increased so dramatically, that a Home in Canada was searched for

In 1883, Barnardo was offered, rent-free, a number of facilities in Peterborough by the then mayor of Peterborough, George Cox.. From these, a three story mansion named Hazelbrae was chosen. Cox's interest had been sparked in Barnardo's cause while on business in Toronto when he was invited by Barnardo's Canadian Committee (amongst whom were prominent businessmen S.H. Blake, Q.C. and Sir William Mulock). They met with Alfred Owen, Barnardo's Canadian superintendant and Frederick Fielder, the Governor of Barnardo's London headquarters.



Hazelbrae was located at the top of 'Conger's Hill' on five acres of fertile land. The laneway into Hazelbrae ran from George Street and crossed the tracks of the Midland Railway. Young children could be dropped off at the laneway and had an easy hike up the hill. George Cox eventually took over the Midland Railway in 1878 and then leased it to the Grand Trunk Railway. Later it became the Canadian National Railway when the last group of children was received in 1922.

Cox was one of Canada's most prestigious men. First an insurance agent for Canada Life, he rose quickly in the ranks with the idea of becoming president of the company. He was Mayor of Peterborough for seven consecutive one year terms and though he failed to break through in provincial or federal politics, Cox became a Senator in 1896. In the first decade of the 20th century, his list of directorships expanded to include 46 firms, great and small. Cox was one of the most powerful financiers in Edwardian Canada, a mobilizer and investor of capital. He was involved in insurance, real-estate, banks, railways, books, bicycles and the advancement of electricity at home and abroad (for example, the Brazilian, São Paulo Tramway, Light and Power Company).

A temperance man, Cox was a great supporter of church organizations and the Toronto General Hospital. For many years, he was president of the Ontario Ladies' College in Whitby, Ont., and bursar of Victoria College, and the Methodist component of the University of Toronto. He also held other philanthropic titles. *Continued on page 6....*

Dr. Barnardo and a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words by Sandra Joyce

Many of the descendants of Barnardo British Home Children are wary of spending the hundred-pound fee to obtain their relative's files, but on receiving them – the all-important photograph that is included is worth every penny. Sometimes, they even get a 'before' and 'after' picture. The rest of us descendants would give our eye-teeth for a glimpse into our BHC fathers, mothers, grandfathers, or grandmothers' young lives.

However, there was controversy over the exact reason for the photos being taken. In 1876, it was alleged that Barnardo artificially staged the photographs. It was also alleged that he enriched himself with charity money, that children were physically abused in his homes and that he had used the term doctor before he had actually received his degree. The allegations were spearheaded by a rival East End Baptist Minister in London, the Reverend George Reynolds, many of whose parishioners had left his parish and were attending Barnardo's Church Mission.

In 1868, Dr Barnardo set up his first East End Juvenile Mission. Within two years, he had hired a photographer. In 1870, records show that almost 273 pounds were spent on the photographic tools and salaries of a photographer and assistant. Photographs were taken, as Barnardo put it, "to obtain and retain an exact likeness, which being attached to a faithful record in our History Book of each individual case, shall enable us in future to trace every child's career, and bring to remembrance minute circumstances, which, without a photograph, would be impossible". On their formal admission, official Barnardo photographer Thomas Barnes would pose the children in his studio, or, more usually, in the yard outside the Stepney Boys' Home.



Stanley George Hart - courtesy of Elizabeth Hart - First Photo Admission 1890 age 8, top right 3 weeks after boarded out, bottom right age 12 before being sent to Canada



Fred Dayes - courtesy of Lorraine Dayes

Dr. Barnardo was not alone in maintaining photographic evidence. At the same time, prisons, asylums and the police were also beginning to see the value in maintaining a likeness of their inmates.

However, the Barnardo photographs were also used in fundraising and propaganda. Postcards were printed with desperate-looking, filthy and ragged children and their miraculous transformations after being in Barnardo's care. These cards were popular with the Victorian middle class who bought them in packs of 20 for five shillings. The photographs were also used in newspaper advertisements to solicit funds from the general public.

The children were often suffering when the pictures were being taken: shortly before they'd have left the streets where they'd been sleeping rough - or been handed over by their parents and were then deloused, inspected, measured, lectured and then re-clothed.

To add insult to injury, some of the photos were staged. "Before" shots were taken, not on the streets, but in a studio mock-up of a street, with barrels and orange crates. "After" shots were taken on the same day as "before" shots - that is, before the child's 'redemption' could have taken place. Children found separately around the East End were photographed in destitute-looking groups.

Dr. Barnardo and a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words continued

According to the allegations, one girl said to be a "waif taken from the streets" had in fact been brought in by her mother, who was loving but unable to cope. The poignant match girl, Katie Smith, with broken comb, dish-cloth and box of matches, had been supplied with these by Barnardo himself. Some children even had their clothes torn into rags with a penknife, to make them appear in a worse state than they were.

The claims and counter-claims led to a 38-day Arbitration case in 1877, which focused also on Barnardo's right to the title doctor (he hadn't qualified in medicine when he began using it), and on ill-treatment of children, mismanagement and immoral relations (with girls in his care and with a former landlady).

In his defence, one excuse Barnardo gave as to why the photographs were staged was because they had to appear realistic. Sometimes, if they were taking photographs outside, they had to wait for days for appropriate weather and couldn't leave the children in the state that they were brought in while they waited. Another reason he gave was that neighbours may have cleaned the children up from the usual derelict state before bringing them to the Barnardo Homes.



Edward Barrett -Admitted age 2, Sailed to Canada age 14 - courtesy Shannon Fitzpatrick

Most of the charges were dropped as the court deemed them untrue and malicious and the Times newspaper assured the public that Barnardo Homes were "real and valuable charities, worthy of public confidence and support".

However, the court had strong words for Dr. Barnardo: "(These methods were) morally wrong ...in the absence of very strict control, (they could) grow into a system of deception dangerous to the cause on behalf of which it is practised".

In retrospect, the photographs, staged or not, showed the misery and suffering of the miserable and destitute children as they were brought in.

These days, according to the current Barnardo's website, they have: "dating back to 1874, the archive contains 500,000 images and 300 films of the visual history of the organisation, including our work overseas in Canada and Australia.

The archive handles some 2,000 requests annually, searching photographs of former residents as well as responding to the needs of the media, publishers, photographic/film archive researchers, historians or just about anyone interested in our archive material."

If you are a Barnardo home child descendant and would like to ask about your ancestor's file, contact: makingconnections@barnardos.org.uk

The Duchess of Atholl by Sandra Joyce



The Steamship Duchess of Atholl was built in 1928 for Canadian Pacific by the William Beardmore & Company in Glasgow, Scotland. She had the capacity to carry 1,563 passengers who were divided into 573 cabin class, 480 tourist class and 510 third class. She usually sailed the Liverpool to Canada route.

During the ten years that the Duchess steamed across the Atlantic, she carried only 587 British Home Children to Canada as compared to the thousands of children other ships brought here earlier in the 1920s. The child migrant scheme was starting to slow down because of the Great Depression.

Many fully-grown men roamed the countryside willing to work for room and board and looked unkindly upon the children who could be kept cheaper than them.

The Duchess was requisitioned and converted into a troopship in 1939, but her service was short lived. It was only three years later on October 10, 1942 that she was torpedoed by a U Boat about 200 miles northeast of Ascension Island.

She lost speed, turned to port and all her lights went out. Almost immediately she became immobile. Two more torpedoes struck and the captain ordered all 534 passengers to abandon ship. On board were 236 soldiers, 196 navy personnel, 97 members of the RAF, five nurses and 291 civilians, including many women and children.

The crew members abandoned ship shortly thereafter. Before leaving, they made sure that all confidential books, papers and nine special bags of mail had been thrown overboard.

The Duchess capsized to port and sank gently.

The U Boat surfaced and the captain informed the survivors that they had sent out an SOS signal and that, as it would take some time for another ship to reach them, they should stick together. He then requested information about the name of the ship, their cargo and their intended destination. The submarine then submerged leaving the people to fend for themselves on a swelling sea.

Most of the passengers and crew experienced severe sea-sickness and were dehydrated by the time the HMS Corinthian was able to locate them. They had followed the wireless distress signal being sent out from the lifeboats. On October 11, all passengers were picked up within five hours and were taken to Freetown.

In the attack, four crew members lost their lives and two crew members and two passengers were injured.





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Trunk
British Home Children usually travelled with a trunk, sack or carpet bag with a change of clothes, a copy of Pilgrim's Progress and a Bible. Other articles included writing material and a sewing kit.

Malle
Les petits immigrants britanniques voyageaient avec une malle, un sac ou un sac à dos contenant des vêtements de rechange, une Bible, des articles d'écriture et une trousse de couture.

Hazelbrae and George Cox continued

After Mayor Cox secured the three-story Hazelbrae for Barnardo, it was renovated into a home capable of housing at least 150 children. The drawing room was converted into a playroom, the kitchen was converted into a dining room with long tables and an annex was added with sufficient sleeping quarters and cots. Indoor toilet facilities were also provided.

By 1889, Hazelbrae became the distribution home for girls, while boys were sent to the Toronto Home. Hazelbrae was renamed the Margaret Cox Home in 1912 in honour of George Cox's late wife. By the time it ceased operations in 1922, almost 10,000 children had passed through its doors.

The building was demolished in 1939 and in 1941, Dr Barnardo's Homes in London, England sold the entire property to Morley Shaver of Peterborough.

Today a black granite Heritage plaque stands firmly near the site with the names of the Hazelbrae Barnardo children and the dates they arrived there. These children will never be forgotten thanks to the research and fund-raising efforts of Peterborough's Ivy Succie, Ottawa's John Sayers and the Hazelbrae Memorial Group.



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