

February, 2016



British Home Child Group International

Six Degrees of Separation by Sandra Joyce



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On Sunday January 10, 2016, an extraordinary performer passed away. David Robert Hayward Jones, known to us as David Bowie, was one of the most iconic musicians who graced our airwaves and screens for the last five decades.

He was born to Hayward Stanton "John" Jones and Margaret Mary "Peggy" (née Burns) in 1947, a few years after the Second World War. At the time, John Jones was a promotions officer for the children's charity Barnardo's, working out of Stepney Causeway.

From an official Instagram on Jan. 11 by Barnardo's in Australia: "David Bowie was not only a ground-breaking artist and family man, he was also a supporter of the work of Bar-

nardo's in the UK...in his early career, David would often call on the audience to support the charity. So today we thank him for his music and his generosity."

Early in his career, dissatisfied with his stage name as Davy Jones, which in the mid-1960s invited confusion with Davy Jones (eventually of the Monkees), Bowie renamed himself after the 19th-century American frontiersman Jim Bowie and the knife he had popularised.

Aside from his collaborations with many well-known artists like Mick Jagger, Bing Crosby, John Lennon, Queen and Tina Turner, he was honoured two Grammy Awards and three Brit Awards—winning Best British Male Artist

twice and in 1996 the award for Outstanding Contribution to Music.

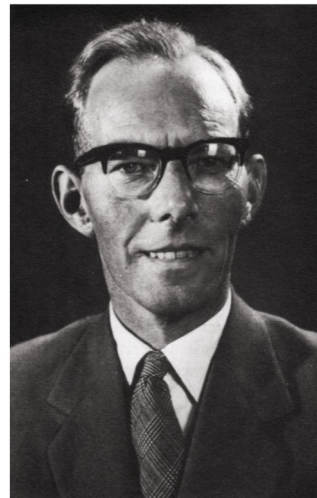
In 1999, Bowie was made a Commander of the Order des Arts et des Letters by the French government. He received an honorary doctorate from Berklee College of Music in Boston the same year. He declined the royal honour of Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2000, and turned down a knighthood in 2003. Bowie later stated "I would never have any intention of accepting anything like that. I seriously don't know what it's for. It's not what I spent my life working for."

Many tributes poured in at the news of his death from all kinds of famous personalities but the most interesting was from the German Foreign Office ; "Good-Bye David Bowie. You are now among Heroes.

Thank you for helping bring down the wall." Bowie created three acclaimed albums in his time spent in Berlin, from 1976 to 1979, and most famously the song Heroes (about two lovers defying the East German border guards).

Throughout his career he sold an estimated 140 million albums. In the United Kingdom,

he was awarded 9 platinum, 11 gold and 8 silver albums, and in the United States, 5 platinum and 7 gold.



Haywood Stenton Jones.

American British Home Child Grace Greenway by Carolyn Perkes

"I thought perhaps some might find my story interesting about how when I was a little girl of nine years old, I supported myself in a strange land among strangers."

— Grace Greenway (1885-1962)

Of the thousands of British Home Children sent to Canada, many went on to settle in the United States. Grace Greenway, born in 1885 in Bristol, Somerset, England, to Henry Greenway and his second wife Emily Jane Harris, was one such child. I first encountered Grace through exploring my own BHC background. She married my grandfather's cousin in Hamilton, Ontario in 1903. My grandfather's father, Henry Saltmarsh-Marshall, was also a BHC. Grace wrote an account of her life, which she left with her son John Marshall. The family of her American descendants has kindly agreed to share her story here.

In the late 1870s, Grace's parents left England to try their hand at farming in Keota, Keokuk Co., Iowa, in the United States, where their sons Frank and Robert were born, but the family returned to England within a few years. After Grace's mother Emily died in London England in 1888, Henry Greenway struggled to take care of his children. By 1891, he had placed his sons in the House of Industry for Boys in Copenhagen St., London. Since his health was failing, he sent his daughter Grace shortly thereafter to Maria Rye's "Avenue House," High Street, Peckham, London. From there, Grace was sent to "Miss Rye's Western Home" in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, arriving in Canada with a large party of children, on September 22, 1894, on the S.S. Numidian, when she was just nine years old.

Continued on page 3.....



An Afternoon with Grade Sixes



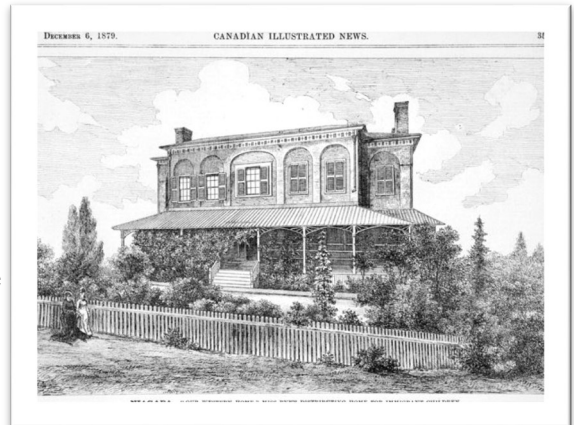
On January 20th, Karen Mahoney attended Holy Cross School in Innisfil, ON to speak to 3 Grade Six classes about British Home Children. The children had been learning about them in class as part of the Ontario Curriculum for Grade Six. The teachers were pleased to be able to provide the students with more relevant information.

The kids were really interested and engaged. They had a lot of great questions!

American British Home Child Grace Greenway *continued*

Grace writes: “Father disappeared (...) leaving my brothers to shift for themselves. They had no idea what had become of me,” then describes her departure from Liverpool (1894): “I remember being put aboard a big boat with a card of instructions around my neck to anyone who might have had time to notice me (...), standing all alone at the ship’s rail, no one to wave good-bye to and just waiting for someone to take me to my berth. Now even after all these years, whenever I hear the old hymn ‘God Be With You Till We Meet Again,’ that scene comes back to me, because that is what the band was playing.”

After her arrival in Canada, Grace was sent to “Our Western Home,” Miss Rye’s Niagara-on-the-Lake facility, where she was supposed to receive training, but by her own account, she was soon sent to work for a local farmer who did not treat her well. In her own words: “I had heard of a farmer who had a sick wife and small children and wanted someone to help out. I walked the long distance and told him that I would work for him; I had enough clothes and would not eat much food. He said all right, so at nine years old I began to support myself (...). These people were so cruel to me that I left them to work for a lady who was dying of tuberculosis.” The cruelty, she said, included being whipped for not knowing how to milk cows. She writes about her despair at this point: “This part is hard to believe, but no one ever tried to find out what had become of me.” However, soon afterwards, she received a letter, bearing postmarks from all over the world, from her brother Robert, now a seaman. He planned to come to Canada, to take care of her. According to the 1901 Canadian Census, Grace was 17 years old and working as a domestic servant for Amanda Smith, a widow, age 56, in Clinton Township, Lincoln County, Ontario. Perhaps this was the ill “lady” that Grace spoke of, in which case, Grace was also working as a caregiver, as we would say today, likely for room and board. After leaving her employment with Amanda Smith, Grace moved to Hamilton, where she found work during the day and where she enrolled in night school, hoping to train as a nurse. An accident prevented her from pursuing her ambitions, and at the same time, she received news that her brother Robert had perished in a shipwreck.



Frank Greenway

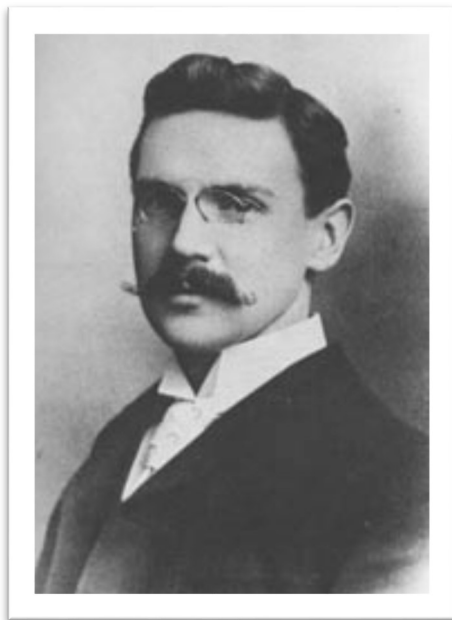
Grace married Charles William Saltmarsh on October 7, 1903. She described him as “a fine man.” He also became ill with tuberculosis, and she states they “moved out west,” where she “nursed him back to health.” In about 1905, they moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where their first son Robert was born in 1906, but returned soon after to Hamilton. By a stroke of luck, through an acquaintance, Grace learned that her name had appeared in the Missing Persons Column in Lloyd’s weekly paper from England. Her brother Frank had been trying to find her and had been placing notices in that publication “twice a year, for nearly twenty years!” By 1911, Frank had joined Grace and her family in Hamilton, where they lived on Kensington Avenue, a modest, leafy street lined with spacious brick homes. However, Grace’s reunion with her eldest brother was to be short-lived.

In 1914, Grace and her husband Charles settled in Detroit, Michigan, where there were many opportunities for employment in the burgeoning auto industry and where they raised their two sons, Robert and John. Her brother Frank became a soldier in WWI. “Early in 1914,” she writes, “I received a letter (from Frank, stating) ‘a little scrap is going on over in Germany,’ but it would not take long to clean that up, then he would be over here to stay” (...) He went through four years of it. (...) Just a few days before the armistice was signed, he received his fatal wound. Heartache once more!”

Grace’s courage, sensitivity and resilience shine through in her memoir even as she recounts the loss of her brothers, the death of her first husband in 1941, and her worries about her two sons, both involved in WWII. She remarried and lived to enjoy her grandchildren. She concludes: “I am filled with a feeling of thankfulness that now in the sunset of my life, instead of being alone in the world (...), I have love and kindness and many dear friends.”

Sincere thanks to the family of John Marshall, particularly Randy S. Galbraith, for sharing Grace’s story.

John Joseph Kelso by Sandra Joyce



In December of 1897 John Joseph Kelso submitted 'A Special Report on the Immigration of British Children,' to the Ontario government in which he concluded that "child immigration, if carried on with care and discretion, need not be injurious to the best interests of this country." This part was written as an afterthought he said, in view of the growing hostility of the public toward child migration. By the late nineteenth century, there was a strong belief—largely instigated and fostered by the media—that Canada had become the dumping ground for British children of suspect upbringing and the importation of them was not in the best interests of the country.

Irish-born Kelso came to Canada at the age of ten along with his family, made penniless by a fire at his father's manufacturing business in Ireland. That year, his eight siblings, along with his mother and his father, all suffered terribly from the hunger and the cold. Kelso helped his family by finding odd jobs and collecting firewood. By selling newspapers and working for a printer, among other jobs, he was able to complete his high school education at Jarvis Collegiate in Toronto. He attributed his remarkable writing ability to reading the Bible and Shakespeare by the light of a coal oil lamp.

Kelso was hired as a proof-reader for a Toronto's newspaper, The World. In his spare time he wrote articles for the paper without remuneration and became expert at reading and writing shorthand. This resulted in his promotion to police reporter. His success led to being hired by The Globe where he took on the task of exposing the circumstances under which the poor, particularly poor children, lived. His experience of poverty was destined to shape his life and one particular incident he witnessed when he was only 14 never left him. He saw five of his companions arrested for petty theft and thrown into jail with hardened adult offenders.

In 1886, he had discussions with the city clerk, after which an amendment to the Municipal Act was enacted - providing licensing and regulation of newsboys and other children involved in street trades. It prohibited those less than eight years of age from engaging in street occupations. In 1887, impressed by his success in that regard, the Canadian Institute asked him to speak at one of their meetings. Subjects of reform were often discussed there. In February of that year, he gave a presentation entitled, "The necessity of a society for the prevention of cruelty in Toronto". He made the case for a non-denominational humane society to protect both children and animals. His ideas were received so enthusiastically at the meeting that a motion was passed to form such a society and Kelso was elected its first President. He resigned six months later due to his work overload at The Globe. His friend, wealthy dry goods merchant and philanthropist, John Kidston MacDonald replaced him as president. However, he continued his crusade to help poor children and in 1888, he started the Fresh Air Fund that would provide day trips to the Toronto Islands and to parks. Christmas entertainment and gifts were also arranged. Eventually, the running of this Fund was taken over by the Toronto Star and remains to this day supported by them.

In 1891, Kelso suggested establishing a Children's Aid Society in Toronto. Its objectives were many and here all Kelso's ideas were brought together – a shelter for neglected children, adequate schools for the poor, separate treatment for juvenile offenders and more youth clubs and playgrounds. An emergency shelter for children opened in 1892 at 18 Centre Street in Toronto. *Continued on last page.....*



British Home Child Group International

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John Joseph Kelso *continued*

The public and politicians were now beginning to support the need for child welfare reform. In 1893, two years after the founding of the Children's Aid Society, a bill was introduced, known as 'The Children's Charter' that provided for the establishment of children's aid societies across Ontario.

In May of that year, J.J. Kelso, still a Globe reporter and also the President of the Press Gallery of the Legislature, witnessed the passing of the 'Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to and Better Protection of Children.' Given his expertise in child protection, he was appointed by Premier Mowat to the position of Superintendent of Neglect-

ed and Dependent Children and Kelso gave up his journalistic career. From 1893 until his retirement in 1934, he helped integrate children's aid societies in other Canadian provinces. He was also involved in advocating for juvenile courts, mother's allowances, more playgrounds and the legalisation of adoption. After 1895 he was recognised as Canada's leading expert in child welfare and was well known as the 'children's friend.'

During the years preceding that post, and the 41 years he was in it, he did more to change the lot of children, not only in Canada but also in the United

States and Britain, than any other person in Canadian history.



Society Display 1940