

British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

Recognized by the CBC, BBC, Winnipeg Free Press & Toronto International Film Festival

March 2014 Newsletter

www.britishhomechildrenadvocacy.weebly.com

George Henry Collins

On Armistice Day in London England, at the end of the First World War, Canadian Private George Henry Collins climbed up a fire escape to get a very special souvenir to take back with him. Upon arriving home, he presented it to the grandmother of Bowmanville resident, Ron Alldred.

Ron's grandparents, the McGaheys, had taken George in at the request of Barnardo's in Lindsay. Little George had been maltreated and neglected by the farmer he had been placed with and was only ten. Mr. and Mrs. McGahey gave him a safe and warm environment, a home he wrote to, while he was in Europe fighting. He was like an older brother to Ron's mother.

The souvenir, the Union Jack, was made into a quilt by Ron's grandmother, Josephine McGahey. The backing is made of left-over printed cloth doll forms representing various regiments. These cloth dolls were normally cut out, sewn together and stuffed with rags. They were then sold for 10 cents and the proceeds were given to the Red Cross for the benefit of the war veterans.

British Home Child George Henry Collins belonged to the 123rd Royal Genadiers which later became the 48th Highlanders. He was wounded twice.

This unique quilt will be on display at the Wellington Museum, Orillia Public Library and the Black Creek Pioneer Village.



BHCARA News

CEO Lori Oschefski participated in a BBC Wales interview, February 26th, along with artist Nerea Martinez de Lecea and BHCD Carol Black of Gravenhurst, Ontario. Nerea & Michele Woodey of Toronto are creating an artistic project which centres on BHC Ivor Jones who lost his life in the First World War. We are collaborating with Nerea and Michele on a special presentation of their project "The Ballad of Ivor Jones" to be shown at Black Creek this year. Details of this project can be viewed at: <http://community.nationaltheatrewales.org/profiles/blogs/the-ballad-of-ivor-jones-waleslab-2014>. The BBC Wales interview is available for another week online at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radiowales>.

Australian academic researcher & author of "After the Orphanage: Life Beyond the Children's Home" Suellen Murray was in Toronto recently from Australia to interview BHCARA CEO Lori Oschefski & BHCARA EDC Sandra Joyce for a new book she is writing.

Progress is being made on our new online British Home Child Registry. This new database will combine both Perry Snow's database and the Norah Dennis database. These databases are now in the custody of the BHCARA, primary care and control with the CEO. We are accepting registrations of children and updates through our online form found on the BHCARA's web site.

Lori Oschefski CEO and Sandra Joyce Executive Director, Canada have requested a meeting with the Minister for Immigration, Chris Alexander to submit the online petition for assistance in accessing British Home Child records from the private organizations who hold them.

Black Creek Pioneer Village Updates

First World War Commemoration Service - July 28th

Service begins at 10:00 am with a special address by the Honourary Lieutenant Colonel of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, Jim Brownell. Address will be followed by Glenna Smith-Walkden reciting the poem "Private Nash". Private Nash was a BHC killed in the war, this poem was written in his honour by his friend in 1917. This will be followed by a reading from The Street Arab by Sandra Joyce and a letter from the front will be read by Karen Mahoney.

A lament will be played by a member of the White Heather Pipes and Drums. At exactly 11 am, a moment of silence will be held. A bugler from the Queen's Own Rifles will play Last Post

Visit our [Black Creek Pioneer Village Facebook page](#) to keep up to date on developments

March Events

- March 13, Niagara Ontario Genealogical Society in St. Catharines. This event will be streamed on-line at <http://www.ogs.on.ca/niagara>, click on Video stream, enter your name (no password required) and join meeting.
- March 18, By the Bay Probus Club, Collingwood

- March 19, Orillia Historical Society
- March 26, Flower City Probus Club, Brampton
- Display goes into the Wellington Museum from March 5th until mid April