

# British Home Children

## Advocacy & Research Association

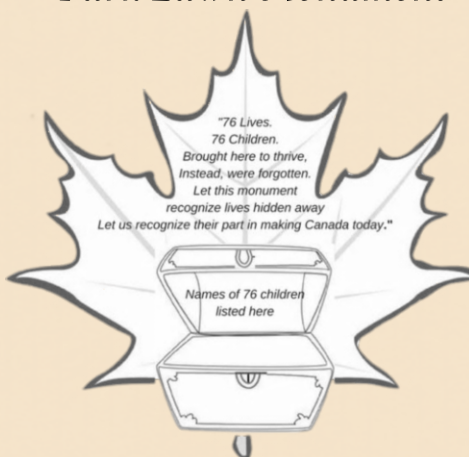
### February 2017 Newsletter

By Lori Oschefski, Author & Historian Andrew Simpson  
and special guest writer James Kempster



It is with great sadness that the family of BHC Marjorie Skidmore announce her passing on 18 Jan 2017. She was born September 1926, in Whitley Bay in north-eastern England. Marjorie came to Canada in 1937 through the Fairbridge Farms at the age of 10. She had her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday during the voyage to Canada. Marjorie's daughter Pat Skidmore detailed her life and journey to Canada in the book *"Marjorie Too Afraid to Cry"*. In 2009 Marjorie and Pat were able to travel to England to hear the apology made by the British Prime Minister to the Home Children who were deported from the UK. An account of Marjorie's story was told in last [January's newsletter](#). Click on the link to read. In this photo, taken on 11 Nov 2016, Marjorie and her daughter Joan lay a wreath on behalf of BHC and their descendants at the Rutland Remembrance Day service.

### Park Lawn Monument



*Congratulations to our second place winning design by Amy Jefkins, Granddaughter of BHC Albert Stanley Jefkins.*

*Visit page 3 for Amy's essay.*

## Standing Tall - Frederick John Kempster

By his Great Nephew James Kempster for the book "Bleating of the Lambs"

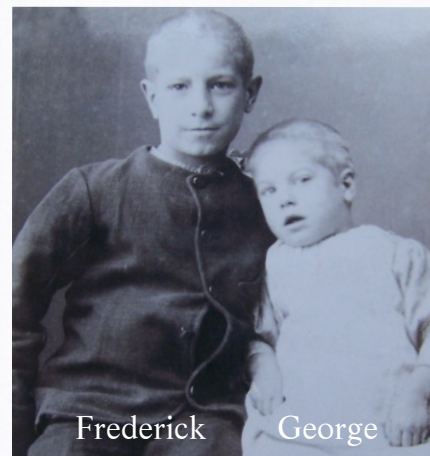
FREDERICK JOHN KEMPSTER was the sixth of seven children born to Joseph Kempster (1847-1897) and Jane Kempster (1849-1923). He was born on 13 April 1889 in Bayswater, London, England where his father worked as a milk carrier for the Aylesbury Dairy Company.

On 25 December 1897, his father Joseph died of asthma and bronchitis at age 50. His mother Jane was left to support her three youngest children, Susan aged 12, Frederick aged 8, and George aged 2. She moved her family to a one room apartment in Islington where she tried to earn a living doing housework and laundry, but she could not earn enough, got behind in the rent and was evicted. At this point, Susan was taken in by her eldest sister Emily and her husband, and Jane applied for help at Barnardo's Commercial Street Shelter in the East End of London for the two boys, so she could find employment in domestic service. This was her only option in the days before social assistance.

The boys were admitted to Barnardo's Receiving House in Stepney, East London on 10 September 1898, at which time both boys were reported to be in good health, and the slightly chubby 9 year old Frederick's height is reported at just over 4 feet. Barnardo's, like many other child care organizations, believed that there were better opportunities for the children in Canada, and on 23 March 1899 Frederick set sail for Canada on board the SS Scotsman, arriving at St. John on 3 April 1899. In October of that year he was placed with a Mr. Allen in Manitoba where he would spend the next 5 years as a farm labourer with that family. In the 1901 census of Manitoba he is listed as Fred Camster.

Frederick's younger brother George remained in England until 11 October 1906 when he too sailed for Canada on board the SS Dominion. George lived in Canada for the rest of his life. He married in 1924, had three children, and died in 1976. George knew very little about his parents or the events that lead to his coming to Canada.

On 12 November 1904, Frederick returned to England on board the SS Canada because his health had left him unfit for farm labour. When he arrived in England on 21 November 1904, he was said to be suffering from a weak condition of the knees due to congenital weakness and lengthening of the internal lateral ligaments of the knee joints and growth on the upper end of the tibia. An operation was performed at Her Majesty's Hospital in Stepney, a children's hospital operated by Barnardo's. Frederick would have a lame left leg for the rest of his life, and the special support shoe on his left foot can be seen in his photographs. On 7 April 1905, he was able to return to work at Barnardo's Youth Labour House at Commercial Road, East London. On 22 March 1911, replying to a letter from his mother Jane, Barnardo's reported that Frederick was living at their Boy's



Garden City at Woodford Bridge, Essex where he worked as a basketmaker.

Frederick's growth was recorded by Dr. Robert Milne during his years at Barnardo's. In March 1905 (age 16) he stood 6 feet tall; in July 1906, 6 foot 4 inches; in May 1908, 6 foot 8 inches; and in November 1909, 6 foot 11 inches.



In June 1911, at the "Festival of Empire" held at the Crystal Palace, a "Parade of Giants" took place as part of the celebrations for the coronation of King George V. As the tallest man in the parade, at 7 feet 3.75 inches, Frederick



received much attention from the press both at home and internationally. His story and image appeared in newspapers as far away as New Zealand and Australia. This attention must have suggested to Frederick that his unusual height might be a means to make a living. In June 1911, he got a job with Astley & Co.'s American Circus at Chigwell in Essex. In August 1911, he visited Barnardo's and reported he was in partnership with a traveling circus, and was doing well. This seems to be the end of his association with Barnardo's, according to their records. However, at some time before 1920, Barnardo's published a set of 4 postcards featuring images of Frederick, noting that the "former Barnardo lad [was] now probably one of the tallest men in the world."

In the years between 1911 and 1914, when not on tour around Britain, Frederick lived with or near his sisters in Essex. For a while he lived at Landermere, near Thorpe-le-Soken in Essex, near the home of his sister Susan, now Susan Woods who lived in Lexden. Publicity photographs (later reproduced as postcards for sale) from this period show Frederick in front of The King's Head public house at Landermere Quay. The picture of Frederick with his mother Jane was taken at that time. Local lore says that Frederick lived for a time at Landermere, in a cottage partly constructed from an old boat.

Frederick's public life from 1911 until his death in 1918 can be traced through reports that appeared in newspapers. A photograph of Frederick was published in The Toronto Daily News (Toronto, Canada) on Saturday, 13 December 1913. It was taken at Bath, England, where he was visiting his sister Ruth Rayner and her family. The caption says that he was 23 years old (he's actually 24). His height is said to be 7 feet 9 ½ inches in his stocking feet. He weighs 322 pounds, and can reach to a height of 12 feet 3 inches. He measures 30 inches across the chest, and is still growing.

The exact date of Frederick's first exhibition trip to the continent is unknown. In March 1914 he began a tour of Europe with the German-American impresario Otto Heineman. He toured under the name "Teddy Bobs". The touring group was in Germany when war was declared in August 1914. For many years, stories circulated that Frederick was imprisoned for 4 years in Germany, and that his health was ruined by the experience. However, here is the text from an interview with Frederick that appeared in the British newspaper The Daily Mail in September 1914.



*Frederick and his mother Jane  
Landermere Quay*

#### ENGLISHMAN FROM BERLIN - "BAYSWATER GIANT" ON HIS EXPERIENCES - PRISONER FOR A MONTH

When the Continental train steamed into Victoria Station, Mr. Frederick John Kempster was occupying with his huge form the whole of one side of a compartment. The hood of a taxicab had to be raised before he could enter, and when he reached The Daily Mail office he had to remove his hat and stoop in the lift. He is 21 years of age. His height is 8 feet 2 1/2 inches, and he is known as "the Bayswater Giant" He gave the following account of his experiences in Berlin:-

*"I was a member of a touring theatrical company which began to travel in Germany last March. I was the giant, and "took" very well. With us were a giantess, midgets, and a legless dwarf who made rings with his mouth. On August 1, when we were in Dresden, the police came to the hall and ordered all the German and Austrian members of the company to the barracks. They said nothing to us, but my manager Mr. Hotter Heineman, an American, saw the state of things and advised us to leave quietly." "There were five of us left:- Mr. Goy, the legless dwarf, his wife, Mr. Gentry his attendant, Mr. Heineman, and myself. On Sunday August 16 we left for Berlin. Being British, we anticipated difficulty at the station, but Mr. Heineman went first and showed his American passport, and then we followed, each saying 'Amerikane' (American). Arriving in Berlin on Monday, we drove to Charlottenburg, where we stayed in a back street. Our room was a large one on the first floor."*

#### MONTH IN ONE ROOM

*"The landlady made us sign the customary police form, and then the police came - an inspector and a detective. They took names, date of birth, etc., and told us not to attempt to leave without their permission, as we were prisoners. But they were very agreeable over it all, and shook hands with us when they left. They pulled down the blinds and forbade us even to look out, much less to leave the house. After a fortnight the police gave us permission to open the windows a little and pull the blinds up, but they forbade us to speak very loudly as they feared the people might attack us. We played cards and dominoes, and occasionally the police lieutenant brought his wife and children to see us. We lived like that for a month, till Monday last, when they provided a carriage to drive us to the Ministry of War. I saw many wounded in the churches and on crutches in the streets. Formalities were complied with, and we journeyed through Holland. The real reason for our release I suppose, was our inability to bear arms."*

A picture of Frederick appeared in Dutch newspapers in the spring of 1914. The caption stated that the picture was taken in Berlin. By this time his height was being reported as 8 feet 2 inches up to an astounding 8 feet 11 inches, quite an increase from the 7 feet 9.5 inches only four months earlier in England before he joined up with a professional promoter.

The story of Frederick's disappearance while on tour appeared in The New York Times on 16 September 1914, exactly two days after he reports being released by German authorities. According to the article, the American ambassador had been asked to help obtain his release from Germany. At that time, the United States was still neutral.

In 1915, Frederic returned to Europe to tour neutral Switzerland. Several accounts of his visit there can be found in Swiss newspaper archives.

In 1916, Frederick again appeared in newspapers worldwide when British military recruiters found him working at The Barge Inn in Seend Cleeve, Wiltshire. The inn was operated by his sister Ruth Rayner and her husband Jim. He was obviously not fit to be a soldier, but the story of the 22 year old 8 foot 2.5 inch youth with his size 22.5 shoes was widely reported. Authorities did not know what to do with him, so he remained quietly at the inn, and made appearances at fairs and other entertainments in England.

In the spring of 1917, Frederick was admitted to the National Hospital, Queen Square, London suffering from headaches and general weakness. His medical files state that his height at that time was 7 feet 9 inches. On the first morning of his stay he ate a plate of bread and butter for breakfast, without realizing that it was actually the wartime ration for the entire ward. This story was reported in newspapers around the world. The reports also mentioned that he had to sleep on two beds placed side-by-side because of his 8 foot 2 inch height. Clearly a giant's medical height is not the same as his professional height.

In April 1918, Frederick was appearing in the city of Blackburn in Lancashire when he fell ill. His extreme height made it difficult to transport him from his hotel to the hospital where he died on 15 April 1918, just two days past his 29th birthday. He was buried in Blackburn in a 9 foot long coffin.

Frederick Kempster appeared in the Guinness Book of Records for many years as the tallest ever Englishman. He is remembered by many names including: The Bayswater Giant, The Essex Giant, The Worton Giant, The Avebury Giant, The Blackburn Giant, and Frederick the Great English Giant. It seems that every town in which he spent part of his short life claims him as a local son and celebrity.

## Park Lawn Cemetery Monument Submission: Bursary Competition by Amy Jeffkins, Granddaughter of Albert Jeffkins

My grandfather, Albert Jeffkins, was a British Home Child brought to Canada in 1915, when he was 8 years old. Growing up, I heard stories of him and his brother sent over from England to live on farms. My grandfather was fortunate to have a relatively good experience. He grew up, married a Canadian woman and left his childhood behind. A childhood that he did not talk much about.

Over 100,000 British Home Children (BHC) emigrated across Canada. These children, were used as domestics and farm workers. Canadians believed these children were orphans, but the fact remains only two percent actually were. I remember my grandfather telling my family he vaguely remembered his mother, and a sister. He recalled his mother became ill and could not care for him; thus placed him and his older brother, Reginald, in the Barnardo home. I have learned that my grandfather's story is not uncommon, and many children came from intact families. However these families through sickness or other circumstances, had fallen on difficult times. Due to the lack of a social system to assist these families, many were left with no choice than to surrender their children to organizations such as the Barnardo homes. Furthermore for some of these families, it was meant to be a temporary solution until the family could again provide for and take care of their children.

In my design, you will notice a trunk. Each British Home Child came to Canada with a trunk that held their few belongings. The trunk was the one piece of my grandfather's past that he kept. It is significant, as it was the one tangible item he had that connected him to his family, friends, memories, and roots in England. When meeting families of other BHC, I was surprised to learn that other families have the same identical trunks.

The trunk in my design represents the emigration process of children coming to Canada. It also represents the roots, families, and memories of the children's individual histories. Each trunk is unique in that it holds the memories of the individual owner for whom it belonged. Although many BHC have long passed away, the trunk is a physical reminder that these individuals lived here in Canada, contributed to Canadian society and its heritage. This is also significant, as it is Canada's 150th birthday in 2017.

You will also notice the trunk is open. Although the child emigration process was well intentioned, the truth remains that many of these children were taunted, abused, and made to feel ashamed of being a Home Child. The monitoring of the children's placements was often neglected. As a result, many of these children were abandoned to new lives, sometimes worse than the lives they left in England. So what happened to these children? Some ran away, some died from ill-health or injuries resulting from neglect and abuse, some committed suicide, and some simply disappeared. This is the story for the 76 children that are buried in Park Lawn Cemetery. The shame these children felt caused many to remain silent about their backgrounds for the remainder of their lives. They were hidden away, like items in a trunk because they were embarrassed, and seen as inferior. It seems that even today many want to put these children and their history in a closed trunk, locked up, and forgotten. That is the reason my design has the names located in the trunk. This is reflected in that these 76 children were buried with no recognition for who they were, forgotten by Canada. This is also reflected in that Canada to this date, has still offered no formal apology. The trunk open with the children's names, is to show that they have not been forgotten or hidden away. We are opening the trunk to remember them, this piece of history, and the role BHC have had in making Canada what it is today.

Lastly you will notice that the trunk is placed on a background of a Canadian Maple Leaf. This emphasizes that these children are important to Canada. My grandfather lived in Canada for 86 years before he died at the age of 94 in the 1999. During that time, he served in the Canadian army, and worked at Chrysler. He had two children, and four grandchildren, of whom I am the youngest. He was the most loving and caring man, with a wonderful sense of humour. My point is mentioning his story is that through him a Canadian lineage began. He is part of Canadian history, and was a contributing member of Canadian society. Through my grandfather's story, my family has met many others with family members that came to Canada through the BHC migration programs. In fact, over ten percent of the current Canadian population are descendants of BHC; however many are still unaware of their heritage. Like my grandfather, these BHC grew up, and contributed their talents, knowledge, and skills to Canadian society, and created lineages from which many Canadians are now from.

This monument is very important, to honour and recognize these 76 Home Children. It also acts to represent the many other BHC that lived in Canada, and their contribution to our nation today. I wrote the following poem for my design, so that passerby's, family members, and others can have a glimpse into the importance of what these 76 lives as BHC represent:

***"76 lives. 76 children. Brought here to thrive, Instead were forgotten. Let this monument recognize lives hidden away, Let us recognize their part in making Canada today."***

References Website: British Home Children in Canada <http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/> British Home Child Facebook group Albert Stanley Jeffkins official documents from Barnardo Homes





# The Children's Trunks



GIRLS' BOXES EN ROUTE FOR CANADA.

## In the girl's Quarrier Trunks:

"For the girls, a nicely trimmed dress and hat, for Sabbath wear, two print dresses for summer, a dark hat and warm dress for winter, in addition to the one she travels in, a liberal supply of underclothing both for summer and winter, three pairs boots, four pairs stockings, ties, gloves, collars, aprons, pinafores, warm ulster for board ship, jacket, hood and scarf, a Bible, "Pilgrim's Progress", writing desk with materials, brush and comb in bag, and a work-bag with needles, pins, thread, worsted for darning, etc. All is packed in a good strong box with each girl's name on her own." - Quarrier's



1913 Fegan trunk of Victor Fry

1885 Barnardo Trunk of Annie Kennett. The alligator tin covered trunk is the most common BHC trunk. From the BHCARA collections



Most children who came to Canada were furnished with small wooden trunks. Most of these trunks were made by the boys in the institutions in England. The trunks were not all the same, they varied with the organizations and throughout the years. Some organizations just used sacks. The trunks carried what the naïve English considered necessary for survival in Canada, those contents also varying with each organization and throughout the years. The clothing proved to be quite inadequate for the bitter Canadian winters. Many farmers did not replace children's clothes when they wore or outgrew them, and many wore the same clothes for years. In late 1924, the Bondfield Commission from Britain, who investigated the scheme, recommended, 40 years after the beginning of child deportation, that children should be given long winter pants to replace their short pants. Cost of the Maria Rye trunks in 1873 was £8 with the outfit costing £2:10s.

The trunks were cumbersome and many BHC wanting to fit in, discarded them as soon as possible. In later years, these boxes and trunks were often found in attics, hay lofts or in sheds on the farms. They were also used as tool boxes or even wood boxes. Other BHC kept their trunks, which were handed down and treasured by their family members.

In 1910 the Fegan's Homes determined their Canadian outfits had to be updated. They started with the old stained heavy wooden trunks. A trunk somewhat of the Saratoga type, made after a model sent from Canada, substituted for it. This single trunk retailed in Toronto for \$2.75. The children's name were often painted on the front, and sometimes, inside the lids.



## Contents of the children's trunks

### G. Bogue Smart list - published in 1925, for the Marchmont Home

#### Girls Outfit

1 winter coat  
2 hats (1 straw, 1 felt)  
1 cap  
3 service frocks  
1 working frock  
1 winter best frock  
1 woollen house coat  
Aprons  
2 sets underwear  
2 print dresses  
4 print aprons  
3 white aprons  
5 pair stockings  
2 pair boots  
1 pair  
slippers > Handkerchiefs  
1 hair brush and comb  
1 housewife and other necessary perquisites  
1 Bible  
Writing material

#### Younger boys:

1 cap  
1 overcoat, muffler, gloves  
1 Sunday suit (knickers)  
1 second best suit  
1 working suit  
2 overalls  
2 suits underwear  
a pair braces  
3 shirts, 4 collars, 2 ties  
Handkerchiefs  
1 jersey  
3 pairs stockings (golf)  
2 pair boots  
1 pair running shoes  
1 pair rubbers  
1 hair brush and comb  
1 housewife [a sewing kit]  
1 Bible  
Writing material

The 1910  
Annie MacPherson  
trunk of  
Henrietta Wren  
Stratford  
Ontario



#### Older Boys

1 Overcoat, Scharfe  
Hat & cap, gloves  
3 suits  
4 shirts, collar buttons  
4 soft collars, 2 ties  
Handkerchiefs  
1 jersey  
1 overalls

1 pair braces, belt  
2 pairs boots  
1 shoes  
3 pair socks  
2 sets wool underwear  
1 hair brush and comb  
1 housewife (sewing kit)  
1 Bible  
Writing material



# 1912 Shipping Agent's Booklet

*In this booklet, in contrast to the contents of the children's trunks, this is what was recommended for potential farmers to bring to Canada with them:*

- One Good Heavy Winter Suit, made from indigo-dyed
- and wool Army Tweed, lined flannel, (pound sign)2 15s 6d;
- or from Heavy navy Serge, wool, and indigo-dyed
- lined flannel. (pound sign) 2 5c 6d
- One Heavy Moleskin Working Suit, with sleeved vest,
- (pound sign) 25/-
- (The above may be dispensed with if plenty of good, heavy,
- warm suits of old clothes are taken.)
- One Army Wool Tweed Reefer Jacket, lined with serge, 37/6; or
- One Frieze Overcoat, lined tweed, 30/-
- One Waterproof Coat (see special list), 16/6; or
- One Oilskin Coat 8/6 (we export large quantities of Oil Coats to Canadian
- merchants),
- One Pair Heavy Cord Riding Pants, either Army quality (clearing line), 10/6
- per pair; or
- One Pair Corduroy Knickers, 10/6
- One Good, Warm Cap, with ear flaps, 2/6.
- One Felt Slouch Hat, 2/11.
- One Straw Slouch Hat, 2/6
- Six Grey Army Flannel Shirts, pure wool, 4/6 each; or with turn-down
- collar,
- 5/- each.
- Three Suits Natural Llama Underclothing (singlets and pants), 6/6 per suit.
- Six Cotton shirts, striped, for steamer wear; 1/11 each.
- Two Suits Pyjamas, strong, 8/6 per suit.
- One Cardigan Jacket or Wool Jersey 6/6
- Twelve Pairs Strong Socks, 8/6 per doz. pairs
- Three Pairs Strong Stockings, 1/6 per pair
- Twelve Handkerchiefs, red or blue spot, 3/6 per doz.
- Two All-Wool Brown Army Blankets (clearing line) 2/11 each
- One Warm Travelling Rug 7/6 each
- Two Good, Strong Wooden Trunks, cabin pattern, 12/6 each
- Two Pairs Brown Undressed Calf Boots, copper quilted soles, 14/6 per pair
- One Pair Army Bluchers Boots, hand sewn, real rejects 8/6 per pair
- (Both these lines of Boots have been sold by us to Canadian merchants,,
- and are readily bought by settlers, with duty, freight, and merchants'
- profits added, in preference to any others.)
- One Good Strong Leather Waist Belt 1/11 each
- One Pair Leather Slippers, 2/6 or Canvas Shoes 3/9 per pair
- One Pair Army Web Braces 1/- per pair
- One Pair Puttees, blue or khaki 2/11 per pair
- Two Pairs Mittens, one pair moleskin 2/6; one pair knitted 9d per pair
- One Jack Knife with Marlinspike

Source: Rootsweb, Gail Smith



## A TRUNK FOR ALL SEASONS How Barnardo trunks were made

At one time, standard issue for almost all children leaving Barnardo's care was a distinctive tin trunk. They were made at Goldings, and the design was so successful that some were also sold commercially. Goldings Old Boy now 86, remembers how the trunks were made. "Taking training in carpentry and joinery, I made or helped make a number of trunks. We started by cutting from planks the required pieces to be assembled as a box-and proceeded to piece together and seal the joints by glue - a strange smelling concoction made from horses hooves. which was always kept simmering on the gas ring and applied hot. The trunks would be in complete box form with the lid produced by skilfully sawing right round the box. holding it carefully on the sawing machine platform. Two sections were produced, the box and the lid. Both had to be carefully trimmed to make a fine fit — no bumps or holes. A small smoothing plane was used for this job using a sharp, finely-set blade. Any careless or rough treatment might result in the whole trunk being scrapped. It took much practice to maintain a sufficient standard of workmanship here. Afterwards a wood preservative was brushed on the whitewood. The lid was fitted by a long narrow brass hinge placed into a groove the depths of the thickness of the metal, say 1/16 inch. A mortice lock also had to be fitted, then an oval spring clip fitted to the outside of the lid - one each, a few inches from the end its purpose being to keep the lid slim without actually locking it. Now came the all important metal crocodile skin covering placed on the top sides and ends of the trunk. this gave it the accessory outfit necessary for touring, travel or whatever, and all took place in the tinsmith shop by tacking wooden strips equally spaced on the top and sides giving it a robust professional finish. Four wheels were let into the bottom of each corner of the trunk and, with flexible handles fitted in the middle of each end, it could be lifted, pulled, pushed, up-ended or whatever, however heavy it might become. The finished trunk was now ready for the anxious girl or boy awaiting its arrival. Alternatively, it might go as part of an older to one at the top London stores such as Harrods. "

Source: [www.web88.extendcp.co.uk/goldings.org/page2.html](http://www.web88.extendcp.co.uk/goldings.org/page2.html)

## Contents in a Barnardo's Trunk

**From Barnardo offices in England - 1 peaked cap, 2 pocket handkerchiefs, 1 Suit, 1 Pair of braces (suspenders), & one belt, 1 pair of rubber soled shoes, 1 ball of wool for sock repairs, 1 pair of slippers needle, thread & boot brush, 2 long night shirts, 1 Bible, 2 pairs of woollen socks, 1 marked New Testament, 1 pair overalls, 1 Travelers Guide, 1 set of light underwear, 1 Pilgrims Progress, 2 shirts.**

**RootsWeb Note by Brian Rolfe: " I have seen more than one report that Barnardo's, for example, did not allow any personal possessions such as toys, dolls or letters, to emigrate with the child."**





Trunks being made at Barnardo's in England by the children



1895 Barnardo Trunk of Richard Williams



1925 Church of England, Waifs and Strays  
Fred Foreman



A Quarrier Home Trunk  
date unknown



1907 trunk of George McDowell - Smyle Home





Waifs and Strays trunk of George Brewer - arrival 1913

## OUR WAIFS & STRAYS.

*The Monthly Paper of the Church of England Central Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays.*

No. 11.—New Series.]

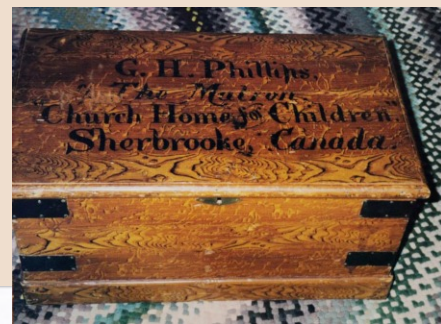
MARCH 1885.

[Price One Penny.]

[Form 5.]—*Outfit to be provided for Young Girls sent to Canada.*

3 night-gowns, 3 chemises, 3 pairs of drawers, 2 white petticoats, to be made with bodies if under 8, 2 flannel petticoats, to be made with bodies if under 8, 3 pairs of unbleached cotton stockings, 2 cotton frocks, made high, and with long sleeves and pockets, 2 linsey frocks, 1 warm petticoat for voyage, 1 plain brown ulster, 3 pinafores, 1 straw hat in box for Sunday, 1 red hood for the voyage, 2 pairs of boots, 3 pocket handkerchiefs, 1 brush and comb, and bag, 1 Bible and Prayer Book, 1 box, 2 feet by 1½, to hold everything, and to be addressed, with child's name, and care of Canada.

It is particularly requested that each child shall have her name written in full on every article of clothing.



Waif and Strays trunk of George H Phillips 1876 arrival

## 1911 Unpacking Barnardo girls trunks at the back of Hazelbrae in Peterborough



Eliza Morris  
Maria Rye Trunk - 1873

### Girls Maria Rye Trunk 1894

- 3 pairs of drawers
- 3 night gowns
- 3 chemises
- 3 cotton petticoats with tops
- 2 flannel petticoats with tops
- 3 pairs cotton stockings
- 3 pairs warm stocking
- 2 cotton frocks
- 2 Lindsey frocks
- 2 warm petticoats
- 1 warm brown Ulster (coat)
- 3 pinafores or aprons
- 1 straw hat for Sunday
- 1 straw hat to travel in
- 2 pairs of boots
- 3 pocket handkerchiefs
- 1 brush & comb & bag
- 1 bible & prayer book



Note the different styles of trunks in the photograph. This tin trunk was one version used by Barnardo's. This list was found glued to the lid of the trunk.

## Is the trunk you found a Home Child Trunk?

There were so many different styles of trunks brought by the children over the years, sometimes it is next to impossible to determine if a certain trunk would have been a BHC trunk. When determining the authenticity of a BHC trunk, these are a few of the markers we look for:

**Name found on the trunk** - many BHC trunks had the child's name painted on the fronts. Sometimes the child would print or write their names inside the trunks.

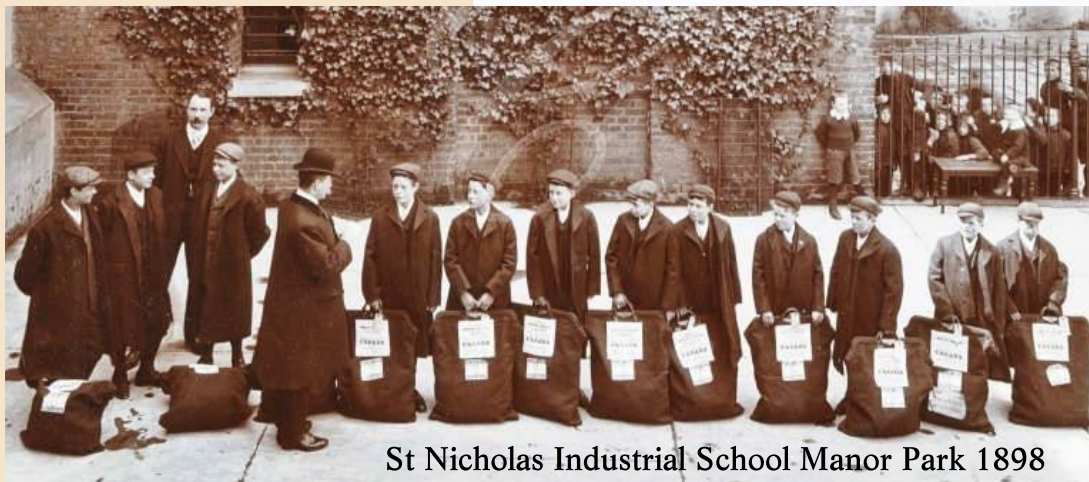
**Stickers or stamps identifying the organization**

**Distinctive markings**, such as the Waif and Stray's trunks painted green with the red cross

**Family knowledge of the trunks origins.**

**Identifying document**, such as the outfit list above

## Bags were used by some sending organizations



St Nicholas Industrial School Manor Park 1898





**A found trunk!** With the wonderful networking of our BHC Facebook Group, this 1903 Barnardo home trunk has been recovered. Eva Cruttenden's name is clearly marked on the face of the trunk. What we know about Eva: She arrived in Canada in 1903, one of the 4 siblings from this large family who became BHC. Horace, Lilly and Florence arrived in Canada in 1895. Left in England were siblings Robert, Egar and Louisa. They were the children of Robert Cruttenden and his wife Eva Caroline Amelia White. We do know there are descendants of Eva's around and are anxious to hear from them.

## THANK YOU!!

Very special thank you for the generous contributions to help fund our newsletters! We gathered enough funding to cover the expenses of publication for 2017!

## Recovered Fegan Medal



The Fegan Roll of Honour Medal of Stephen Perkins has been recovered. Stephen arrived in Canada in 1909, along with his brother Albert E Perkins. They were the sons of Henry Thomas Perkins who died in 1907, and his wife Sophia Eleanor Olley. Siblings who stayed in England were: Henry, Lydia, Ethel, Stanley and Charles.

Stephen served in the First World War, his brother Albert was listed as NOK, service number: 3059124, residence was Nestleton, Ontario

In 1922 Albert returned to England, presumably for good. In December of 1923 Stephen returned to England for a visit, returning to Canada in 1924.

I have traced a Stephen Perkins to Port Perry, his marriage and their deaths. It does not appear this couple had children. I have not yet conclusively proved this is the Stephen we are looking for, however our fella was known to have living in that general area.



## CANADA 150 BHC Family Reunion Sunday, July 23rd, 2017

*Celebrating Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation and the British Home Children's 148 years of contributions to this country!*

**WHERE:** The Waterloo Region Museum/Doon Heritage Village  
10 Huron Road, Kitchener, Ontario N2P 2R7

**Co-hosts:** Lori Oschefski and Donna Diebel

**SPECIAL APPEARANCES:** Laura Teasdale and her new play "Home Child"  
Well known UK Author Sarah Wise

Special guest speaker and BHCARA Executive Director, Canada, Perry Snow, B. A. (Hon), M. A. Clinical Psychologist (Retired)

Renowned Canadian Author Marjorie Kohli

Join us for an afternoon BBQ picnic and a family day

For more information visit our [Event Page on Facebook](#) or our Event Page on our web site: [www.BritishHomeChildren.com](http://www.BritishHomeChildren.com)





# Two books from Manchester's history

by Andrew Simpson with an insight into lives of children

Now one of the nice things about being a resident writer for the newsletter is that Lori allows me occasionally to indulge in some outrageous self promotion and in this case it extends over the next two months.

As some of you will know I write books and while local history will never rank alongside a J K Rowling or Agatha Christie novel for book sales, they are fun to do and allow me to bring people and events out of the shadows.

So on February 2 my book Manchester Remembering 1914-18 will be out. Published by the History Press\* it tells the stories of people caught up in the Great War, from the men who went off to fight, the women who as ever kept the family home going but also worked in the munitions factories on the trams and delivering the post and the children who saw their childhoods interrupted in many ways.

It will I hope give an insight into the lives of some who were to become British Home Children.

But Lori wants a lighter tone to the February news letter and so in keeping with that editorial policy here is that other book which came out just before Christmas and tells the stories of 78 iconic and historic Manchester pubs, many of which will have been known to those who were sent over to Canada in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.\*\*

It is less a guide and more a series of stories of each of the 78 featuring original paintings by Peter Topping, a wealth of historical detail from me, ranging from the trivial to tales of mystery, dark deeds and more than a few odd encounters with Eric.

The 78 pubs are grouped in fifteen walks offering the adventurous an opportunity to discover the history of some of the most important parts of the city including the site of the Astley Arms which in 1821 was home to Mr Thomas Evans, who dispensed beer and cheer to all who fell into his pub.

Earlier in the year archaeologists discovered a fine set of objects including a stoneware bottle from J Moorhouse & Co, Hulme; a crockery set bearing the name of the Astley Arms and its first landlord, Thomas Evans and a glass bottle with the logo of a workman's arm.

And that just leaves me to go off on one of the 78 which is the Vine on Kennedy Street ..... beer sellers, handloom weavers and Mr John Beswick the leach importer

Now I am sure someone will point to the long windows at the top of the Vine and make the connection with handloom weaver's homes which were designed to admit the maximum amount of daylight.

But if the house had been occupied by a handloom weaver he had gone by the 1850s no doubt squeezed out by the growing mechanization of the textile industry.

Instead at number 46 was Martha Dunbar who was selling pints to the residents and passing trade in 1850 but by the following year had been replaced by Mr Edwin Eastwood from Halifax in Yorkshire.

He and his wife were just 22 and I guess were an enterprising couple. They shared the house with Mr and Mrs Leach.\* Next door at what is the City Arms was Mr John Turner at 48 who was also in the business of dispensing beer and happiness and both landlord were in direct competition with Alston William at number 36.

And competition might well have been fierce given that there were 24 households along Kennedy Street whose breadwinners were engaged in a variety of trades from bookbinding, box manufacturer and my own personal favourite ..... Mr John Beswick, leech importer who lived at number 9.

But selling beer was for many just a short term measure which helped overcome a short period of unemployment and had been made possible because by then the 1830 Beer Act allowed an individual to brew and sell beer for the price of a license costing two guineas.

And that is pretty much what seems to have happened on Kennedy Street, for in a space of a year not only had Mrs Duncan moved on but so had John Beswick at 48 whose place had been taken by a Mr William who seems to have fancied selling beer rather than working as a blacksmith.

That said many beer sellers retained their original occupations seeing beer as just a side line.

All of which brings me back to the Vine which extended into the neighbouring building a few years ago and now features a cellar bar devoted to a range of interesting brands of whiskies.

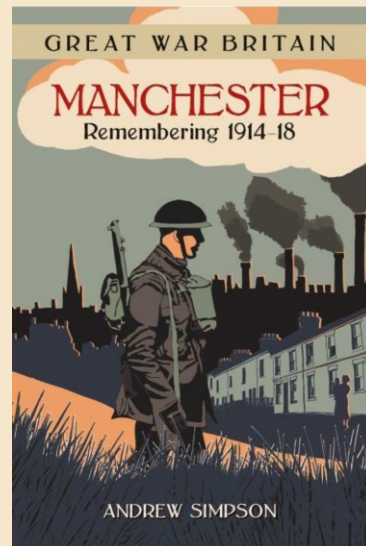
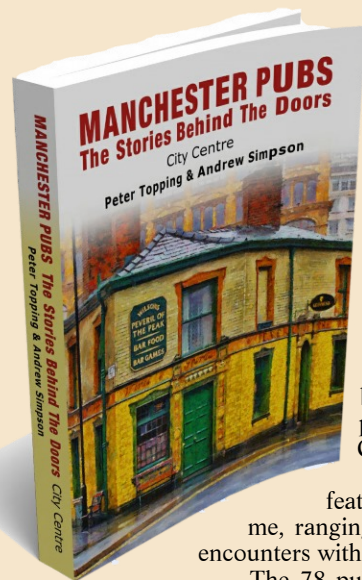
I doubt very much if this is the building which Martha or the other publicans back in the 1850s would have known. It post dates them and may date from late the 1870s when it was the offices of a solicitor an accountant and a cloth agent.\*\*\*\*

These venerable and sober businessmen might well have shuddered at one story that Mike and Rachelle the current owners told me about a Mary O' Sullivan who may have run the Vine at sometime in the past and may have been murdered in the little entry which once gave access from Kennedy Street into a courtyard behind the pubs.

A first sweep of the records has not revealed Mary O'Sullivan but Rachelle was told by someone researching his family tree that his ancestor was connected with the Vine so I shall continue to go looking.

Painting; The Vine Inn Manchester. Painting © 2014 Peter Topping, Paintings from Pictures - Web: [www.paintingsfrompictures.co.uk](http://www.paintingsfrompictures.co.uk)

Picture; detail of Kennedy Street in 1849 from the 1849 OS of Manchester & Salford, 1842-49 and in 1900 from Goad's Fire Insurance Maps, by kind permission of Digital Archives Association, <http://digitalarchives.co.uk/>



Visit Andrew's Blog at:  
[chorltonhistory.blogspot.ca](http://chorltonhistory.blogspot.ca)

The Vine in 2016