

A special

British Home Child Day Celebration Sept 28th 2014 at the Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto

British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

September 2014 Newsletter

Written and designed each month by Sandra Joyce and Lori Oschefski

Featuring the
launch of
"Belonging" by
Sandra Joyce

BHC Robert Joyce &
his daughter Sandra



Featured British Home Child

This month our featured BHC is Robert Joyce, father of author Sandra Joyce. Sandra has written two books based on his life, the very popular "The Street Arab" and the soon to be released "Belonging". "Belonging" will be launched at the September 28th British Home Child Day Celebration being held at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. Robert's story will follow on page 2 of this newsletter.

Events

Beach Celtic Festival
September 6th and 7th

Orangeville Library
September 13th

North Emily Women's Institute
September 17th

Probus Burlington
September 22nd

Telco Annual Conference, Toronto
September 24th

Barrie Legion
September 27th

BRITISH HOME CHILD DAY
Black Creek Pioneer Village
September 28th

BHCARA News

11th Annual Beach Celtic Festival

This year the 11th annual Beach Celtic Festival is honouring the British Home Children on September 6th and 7th at Kew Gardens in Toronto. The British Home Child Advocacy and Research Association will have a booth there to answer queries and hand out information about the work that is done to help people find out their roots as well as reunite families torn apart by the child migration scheme.

Toronto's only outdoor ceilidh was started in 2004 by Sandy Graham – a first generation Scottish Canadian. When Sandy's Mum was passing away, she asked not be mourned but to be celebrated. After the first year, the event has now grown into what is now a local tradition, celebrating the Scottish, Irish and Welsh diaspora who came to Canada to start a new life. This year, Sandy has decided to celebrate the other side of her family. Her grandfather, Peter Graham, was sent to Canada as a British Home Child by the Orphan Homes of Scotland (Quarrier's). He eventually settled in The Beach and Sandy's family have since called it home.

Calgary events update:

Invited by BHCARA Director Bruce Skilling, MLA Dr. Neil Brown will be attending our event at the Calgary Public library on October 18th. The Mayor of Calgary has also been asked to participate. A dinner to celebrate British Home Child John Vallance's 90th birthday will be held on October 16th. Please contact Bruce at bruceandjudy@gmail.com for reservations. There are two more events planned: October 14th at the Strathmore library which will also be available as a webcast on the RISE network and at Book Shelf books on October 17th, downtown Calgary.

Walter Goulding:

After celebrating his 106th birthday with members of the BHCARA, just a short while ago, Walter Goulding passed away. It is believed that Walter is our longest surviving BHC. This weekend, flowers were laid on his final resting place by members of the BHCARA. Many thanks to Lynn Bice of London and Nancy Johnson who took care of the arrangements for us and placed the flowers on his grave. Lynn had been visiting Walter the past few months and Nancy kept in touch with Walter after her company Lockwood Productions, made the 2005 film "Nobody's Child - Canada's Home Children" in which Walter appeared.

We will remember you, Walter.



Promises of Home - Book Launch

Rose McCormick Brandon's new book "Promises of Home" will be launched Thurs. Sept. 25 at 7 p.m in the Blair Room of the People's Church, 510 Mohawk Rd. W., Hamilton. Speaking will be Lori Oschefski, writer of the foreward. Rose's book contains stories of our BHC, many who are featured in our Black Creek Pioneer Village display. Walter Goulding's story is also included in this book. Our display at BCPV in Toronto is opened until December of 2015.

Copies of "Promises of Home" can be purchased through Mrs. McCormick Brandon's web site at:

<http://writingfromtheheart.webs.com/>

British Home Child Robert Joyce

“Nothing fixes a thing so intensely in the memory as the wish to forget it.”

Michel de Montaigne

Robert Joyce, his brother Thomas and sister Emma were placed in the Poor House in 1921 because “the mother of these children has divorced and since then, has lost interest in her children and they are not getting the care and attention required.”

The children had been living with their mother because their father had left the family and their existence was meagre. Robert Joyce senior, at that point in time, had suffered from shellshock in the First World War and was unable to return to the mines. At the age of 32, he became an apprentice tailor. Robert senior had also met a shipbuilder's daughter who made it quite clear to Robert senior that she didn't want anything to do with his children from his prior marriage. It seems not only their mother but their father had lost interest in their mutual children.

Yet upon finding out that his three children had been placed in the Poor House, Robert Joyce senior, went to the Kirkcaldy-Abbotshall Combination Poor House and picked up the eleven-year-old and eight-year-old boys. To his surprise, his thirteen-year-old daughter had absconded. Later, when found, she was admitted to the hospital with suspected tuberculosis. Emma remained in Scotland and became a domestic servant there. She eventually married a businessman and had four sons.

The boys were taken to The Orphan Homes of Scotland (now known as Quarrier's after the founder) by their father and admitted into their care. Their father then signed the Canada clause, effectively surrendering all parental rights to his

children and allowing them to be emigrated to Canada as they deemed fit.

The boys spent four years in the Village at Bridge of Weir where they were fed, clothed and educated. At that time, there were over 1500 children being taken care of there. Now, the 'cottages' are privately-owned one family homes. Then, there were 30 to 35 children living in one cottage with one set of 'parents' looking after the children in each cottage.

In 1925, Robert and Thomas were sent to Canada at the ages of 15 and 12. They were destined for Fairknowe Home in Brockville and then farm work. They were separated, and sent to different farms, never to see each other again.

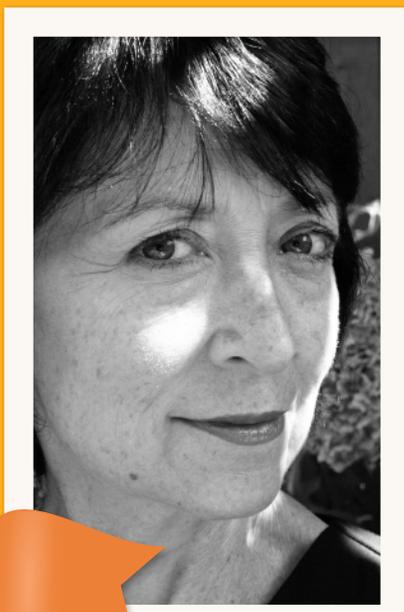
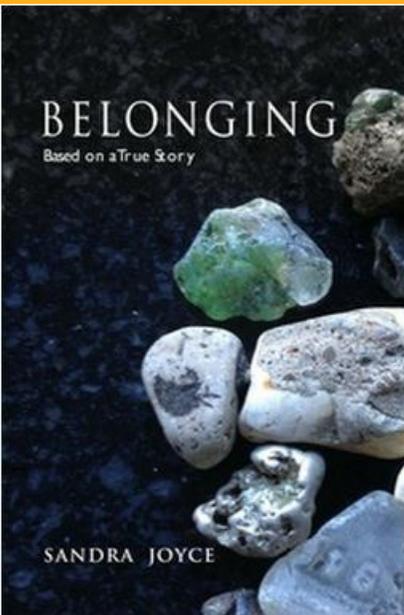
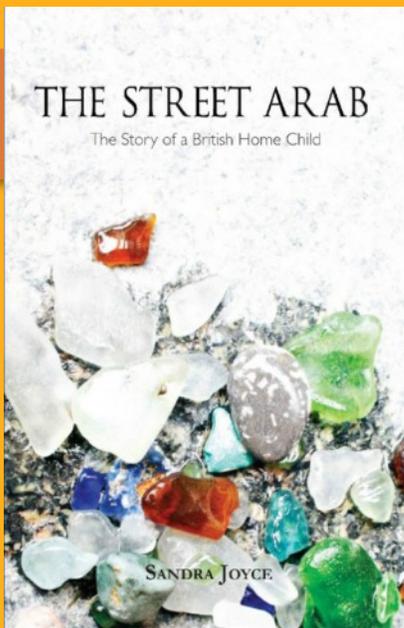
The notes that Quarrier's in Scotland had, aside from the admission papers, were 'special reports' that they kept on file in Scotland. They told of complaints by Thomas that he couldn't correspond with his father as he was given no paper or stamps and that he had to work hard every day including Sunday. Robert, on the other hand, found it necessary to run away from three farms, once after a 'free-for-all' but always ended up back in Brockville to be placed on another farm until he finished his term of indenture. The farms were in Portsmouth, Smith's Falls and Lansdowne, Ontario. Unfortunately, detailed Canadian records that could have told infinitely more and held by the superintendent of the Fairknowe Home, were destroyed after the closure of the Home and not sent back to their head office in the UK.

Robert was under the impression that his mother was dead. She was alive until 1985. Emma, his sister, the aunt that was never mentioned, was alive until 1995.

All this was discovered after Robert had passed away in 2002 and so, he couldn't be asked why he hadn't talked about his family or that part of his life. A few phrases come to mind that made sense after knowing he was a Home Boy. “The first farmer I worked for was mean. He didn't let me sit with the family to eat dinner. He didn't want me talking to his children.” Robert was there to work and nothing else. Robert was only 15.

Because of the admission papers, the Robert Joyce family was finally able to connect with Emma's Joyce's family in 2013 for the first time in over 85 years. Four cousins were found in Lochgilphead, Scotland. The eldest son, Dugald, who bore an uncanny resemblance to his uncle, Robert, has a daughter who is the only female Beefeater in the history of the Tower of London.

Sept. 28th launch of “Belonging”



Author Sandra Joyce

Ms. Sandra Joyce is an Author and Advocate for the British Home Children. She has written two books as well as has done over 150 presentations on the subject.

Based on her Home Child father's life, 'The Street Arab' looks at the causes of familial breakdown, life in the Homes in the UK, a Home Child's subsequent immigration to Canada as well as a Home Boy's life on the farm.

'Belonging', which is the sequel to the 'The Street Arab', looks at the lasting effects this immigration scheme had on these children and their families during adulthood.

Ms. Joyce is a native Torontonionian with a varied career. A Journalism graduate from Ryerson University in Toronto, she was an award-winning publicist during her tenure at CBS Records, a contract negotiator for the German Department of Defence as well as an English teacher and storyteller. She is the Executive Director, Canada for the British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association. Copies of "The Street Arab" and "Belonging" can be purchased at:

www.sandrajoyce.com

British Home Child Day Celebration at the Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto
September 28th 2014

An itinerary of the event is as follows:

10 am registration, name tags

10:30 am 48th Highlander Piper piping in attendees to the Event Pavilion

11 am Opening Ceremonies – 48th Highlanders – The Maple Leaf Forever, God Save the Queen, O Canada

Emcee, BHCARA Regional Director, Karen Mahoney

Opening remarks –BHCARA CEO Lori Oschefski

Opening address Judy Sgro, MP York West and former Immigration Minister

Launch of BHCARA Executive Director, Canada, Sandra Joyce's book – 'Belonging'

Members of the cast of the HOMECHILD the Musical will be performing a selection of songs

A performance by members of The Miller School of Irish Dance

A performance by members of the Bold Step Dance Studio - Highland Dance

Ongoing throughout the day

Book signing of "Belonging" in front of the Town Hall.

Michele Woodey and Nerea Martinez de Lecea's visual interpretation of "The Ballad of Ivor Jones" which is based on an unclaimed Welsh Home Boy at the Church. Folk

Singer Marion Parsons will be performing outside the General Store

Author Marjorie Kohli will be speaking about the BHC service in the First World War at the School House.

Children's Games and Piper Andy Stewart will be performing outside of the School House.

Author Rose McCormick Brandon will be hosting an Open Mike at the Town Hall. British Home Child stories are urged to be shared.

Event Pavilion

A performance by the members of The Miller School of Irish Dance

A performance by the members of the Bold Step Dance Studio- Highland Dance

Closing Prayer and Benediction – Glenna Walkden

Dinner, Canada West Room – Dinner reservation package must be made by September 15th. Tickets are \$40 per person which includes parking, admission, all BHC day events and a three course meal. To order tickets please visit:

<http://britishhomechildrenadvocacy.weebly.com/sept-28th-bhc-day.html>

Performing at the dinner will be the Joyce Kite Highland Dancers