



Articles written by Lori Oschefski & Andrew Simpson

Find My Past

The release of the 1921 Census of England and Wales

Home Children Canada is thrilled to be chosen as one of the ambassadors to the 1921 Census of England & Wales by Findmypast. The 1921 Census is now exclusively available online at Find My Past as of January 6, 2022.

The 1921 Census is a monumental and incredibly important historical collection, not just for the countries in which it was taken but is essential for really understanding the inter-war period on a global scale.

This release is crucially important to the ongoing research into the lives of our British Home Children, many of us, including myself, have road blocks in our family history which this census will help answer. The story of the Home Children and the work of Home Children Canada having caught the attention of Findmypast, resulted in this special invitation being sent to us. Our role, as an Ambassador of the 1921 census is to help inform, educate the family history community utilizing our marketing influence on social media. Our focus will be on the thousands of Home Children who all emigrated from the UK to Canada.

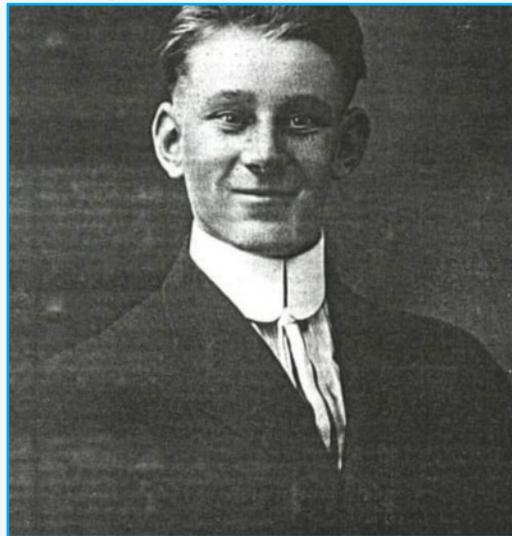
One of the most valuable tools is the listing of institutions, which include Dr. Barnardo Homes, and others relevant to our Home Children. It allows us to narrow the search results to just those locations. Of particular interest is the previously mentioned Barkingside Girls Village Home in England. The data found on Find My Past indicates that in 1921 there were 1,400 inmates living there on the night the census was taken. The information included in this census, which we have not previously seen for Home Children, often includes notes on the living status of a parent/parents. This helps us to understand one of the possible reasons the Home Child was taken into care. Their birth location is included and also the job they held at Barkingside. This is of particular interest as we release our new Hazelbrae Barnardo Home index. Many, if not most, of the children received at Hazelbrae came from Barkingside.

Lori Oschefski is pleased to have been asked to write an article for Find My Past highlighting the importance of this census release to our work with the Home Children. Entitled "*Barkingside Girls Village Home and the Immigration of Inmates to Canada*", the article is set to be published soon.

Keep an eye out for the article on the Find My Past social media sites: [Find My Past on Facebook](#) [Find My Past Blog](#). You can search the 1921 census here: [Search the 1921 Census](#)



Albert Victor Sindall



Albert Victor led an accomplished life in Canada. He served as a police officer in Hamilton, Ontario for twenty-two years and a member of the North West Mounted Police for two years. He also served for our country in the First World War in the Canadian Armed Forces. When Albert passed away, in 1979, his legacy of family included six children, seventeen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Albert began his life, born 1 May 1897 in London,

England to William George Sindall and Susannah Elizabeth Tarbard. On the 1901 England census, William is found, married, but living alone with three of their children, Lily, Harry, Lucy and Bertie. In 1903, Albert's brother [Henry George](#) was shipped to Canada as a British Home Child by the [Annie Macpherson \(Merry\) Homes](#). He was received in Stratford, Ontario.

It wasn't until 1909 that Albert also came to Canada, through the same organization and received in Stratford, Ontario. Albert was able to keep in touch with his brother, Henry was listed as his next of kin on his [attestation documents from the First World War](#).

We know from the War records that Albert was the foster son of John and Sarah Jane Jamison of RR#1 Millgrove, Ontario. Millgrove is located within the former township of West Flamborough of the Flamborough region and is now a part of the amalgamated city of Hamilton.

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Albert's family have chosen to honour Albert's memory in a very unique and special way. In 20217, renovations began on the Sindall's 200 year old barn, turning it into a beautiful event venue and Brewery taproom and restaurant. While renovating this centuries old barn, they discovered a stone with the year 1909 carved into it, indicating the year earlier restorations were done. 1909 also was the year Albert arrived in Canada.

This inspired this brewing family to to commemorate both the heritage of their barn and their families beginnings in Canada by creating a special commemorative beer called "Heritage 1909". The can features a photo of Albert.

Not long after the new beer was launched in October of 2021, Home Children Canada member, Nicole Beer, discovered this beer while

visiting their establishment. The Beer family kindly sent a six-pack to our office in Barrie. After a delightful evening of taste testing

we found it to be a delightful beer made with all natural ingredients, using wheat instead of hops, giving it a distinctive full taste.

We look forward to visiting the brewery after it officially opens this spring.

The Harrowsmith Brewing Company is located at:

4153 Camden Portland Boundary Rd
Harrowsmith Ontario K0H 1V0

For more information visit their Facebook Page:

[Harrowsmith Brewing Co.](#)

Or their Website: [HARROWSMITH BREWING CO.](#)

Photo of the barn and brick curtesy of Harrowsmith Brewing Company.

Photo of the Heritage 1909 beer by Lori Oschefski



Release of our new Hazelbrae Index 1883 - 1923

Home Children Canada is delighted to announce the release of our newest index, the Hazelbrae Index. Between 1884 and 1923 over 9,000 Dr. Barnardo children, mainly girls, were received at his Hazelbrae Receiving Home located in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. It is not known where the 1883 children were received. They are included in this index so that they have a place. This index aims to catalogue all known information about each of children including inspection reports and the information found on <https://heritage.canadiana.ca/>.

We are accepting updates, corrections, and new additions to the index.

1. Check to see if your BHC is in our index. Be mindful of alternative spellings and careful to not include spaces when entering names in the search bar. Spell last name first, with a comma then given name. The search engine is designed to give results with partial spellings.
2. Review available information.
3. Submit additions or corrections through our online form or by contacting us at: hcchazelbraeindex@gmail.com
<https://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/hazelbrae-indexing-forms.html>

This index was inspired by the beautiful Hazelbrae monument which sits on Barnardo Avenue in Peterborough, Ontario. This monument was erected through the efforts of Ivy Succee and John Sayers. Virtually all the girls who were received at Hazelbrae are named on the monument. More information on this monument can be found here: <https://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/the-hazelbrae-memorial.html>

This index has been created by the hard work of many volunteers who have been working hard on transcriptions and data entry. If you are interested in helping to continue building this index contact us at: hcchazelbraeindex@gmail.com

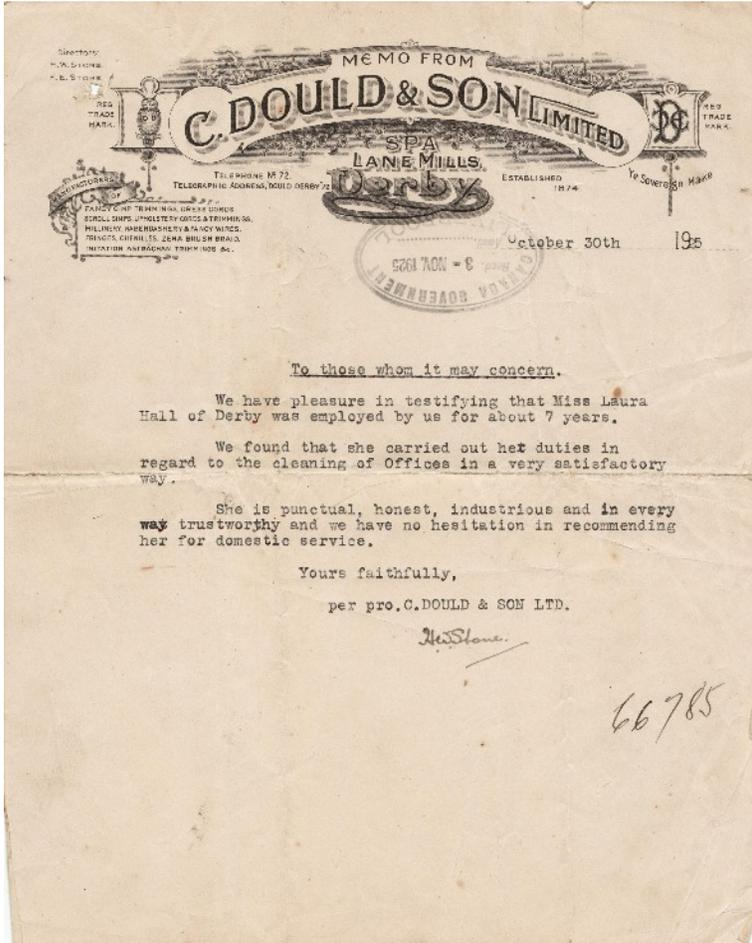
[Click here to visit the new index](#)

British Home Children the unexpected consequences

By Andrew Simpson Historian & Author of "The Ever Open Door - 150 Years of the Together Trust

Now it's an odd thing about British Home Children, which is that a policy to resettle young people thousands of miles from their families should actually have brought me closer to the Canadian side of our family and resulted in me making a tranche of friends.

Like many, our BHC was unknown to me and my sisters. He was my mother's uncle and was migrated by Middlemore on behalf of the Derby Union in 1914. My grand parents never spoke of him, and I am not even sure if mother was aware of his existence.



And he only came to light because of a chance reference in a letter from our great aunt, and then as you do trawling the records his story came out of the shadows.

Nor was that all, because the more I delved the more I uncovered about the lives of his siblings, including that great aunt. To us she was just "aunt Dolly", but her real name was Laura and she also left for Canada eleven years after great uncle Roger. She went partly because of the glowing picture he painted of his adopted new country, and I suspect because the economic opportunities in Britain were less than promising.

In the fullness of time, she met her future husband, had a family and in turn was presented with grandchildren. And it is the grandchildren who I have come to know, and bizarrely the introduction to the first of our cousins was through our common but independent research of that BHC. From that first cousin the circle expanded and eventually led to one of our sons spending time with some of them back in 2015, and in turn one of them making the journey to Britain and spending time with us.

Added to this has been a growing group of friends who I have made during the twelve years I have been engaged in the study of British Home Children. Chief amongst these is Lori, along with Susan Hillman Brazeau, Patricia Lynn Moore, Liz Sykes, former archivist at the Together Trust and Tricia Leslie who runs the very successful UK based British Home Children the story from Britain.*

All of which is a tad personal and an introduction to the bigger picture of just how the study of BHC has grown, both in the number

of young people we now know were migrated, the growing awareness of the subject as well as our understanding of why and how it came about.

And into all of this there is the 1921 census of England and Wales, which went live in January and has been judged by many as a wonderful addition to our research tools. That said for those of us who have a subscription to Find My Past, it is a bit galling to have to pay for access to it. But having sworn I would wait till it either becomes free or appears on Ancestry I succumbed within a few days.

In my case it really confirmed most of what I already knew about our family. More useful has been the 1939 Register, which was undertaken at the beginning of the Second World War and formed the basis for the issue of Identity, and Ration Cards, as well as the database for the National Health Service which was created in 1948.

It was a cut down census and given that the 1931 edition was destroyed and the 1941 didn't take place, it is the last collective snapshot of who we were until publication of its successor in 1951. That one would indeed be worth waiting for because I will be on it, but its arrival will be shortly after my 102nd birthday, which despite my optimism is not one I suspect to celebrate.

And I rather think will be of peripheral interest to those involved in Canadian BHC research but will have use for anyone looking into the story of the migration of young people to Australia.

All of which is a reminder that while the migration across the Atlantic pretty much came to an end before the last world war, its Australian counterpart lingered on into the 1970s., which offers up a rich new avenue of research considering that the Welfare State in Britain was well into its second decade of caring for “looked after children”.

But that is another story.

* British Home Children the story from Britain, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1624406061006317>
www.chorltonhistory.blogspot.com

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in ink.

NAME AND RESIDENCE— <small>If every person who is liable to taxation on the profits of trading, such as a shop, or as a writer, teacher or servant in the household or establishment— (1) names are given in the heading of the Schedule, and the names of the persons who are liable to taxation on the profits of trading, such as a shop, or as a writer, teacher or servant in the household or establishment, are given in the heading of the Schedule, and the names of the persons who are liable to taxation on the profits of trading, such as a shop, or as a writer, teacher or servant in the household or establishment, are given in the heading of the Schedule.</small>	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	AGE	SEX	SINGLENESS OR COHABITATION	BIRTHPLACE AND NATIONALITY	OCCUPATION		EMPLOYMENT		TAXES PAID	REMARKS
						Personal	Professional	Employer	Employee		
1. Eliza Hall	Head	48	F	Married with 3 children	Derbyshire Derby	Home Duties		At Home			
2. John Hall	Son	24	M	Single	Bedfordshire Bedford	Blacksmith 197/6	Sugar Machinery 159	Yes Platters, Copin			
3. Laura Hall	Daughter	18	F	Single	Derbyshire Derby	Tassel Maker 149/6	Textile 304	L. Gould Sons, Spa Lane			

At the end of the Schedule, there is a box for the signature of the head of the household, and a box for the signature of the person responsible for making the return.



Our hearts go out to all those suffering with the invasion of Ukraine, especially the thousands of children being displaced from their homes, their families torn apart through death and destruction. So many are reaching out to help these families and children.

Saul Simpson, son of our Andrew Simpson is one of those people. Living in Warsaw, Poland, Saul, along with his partner Julie Czarjowska, runs a very special school for children, the internationally acclaimed Pines Forest School. This school focuses on the relationship between their learners and the natural world whilst promoting holistic learning. It is an environment which allows children to be children.

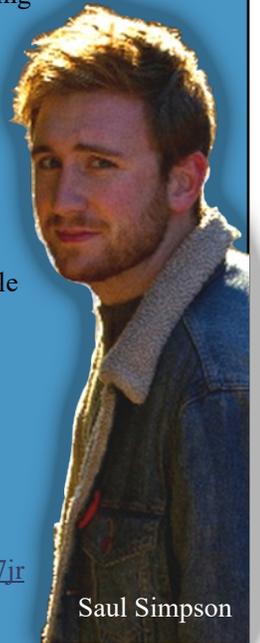
Warsaw is experiencing a massive influx of displaced families resulting from the Ukraine invasion. Pine Forest recognizes the special needs of the displaced children and have opened to them. However, they require more facilities and teachers to help. They have created the Donate A Classroom drive to enable them to better provide free education and offer the children a sliver of normality in their lives.

They have already been able to purchase two additional portable classrooms, but their work is far from done.

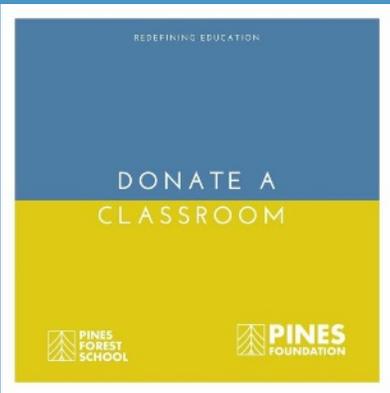
You can read about this very special project here:
[Donate a Classroom on Facebook](#)

[Pine Forest School website](#)

If you wish to donate please visit their website at:
https://www.pinesforestschool.pl/donate?fbclid=IwAR06mMe6wCHR7jrqqGdAfOX1EOcTH0zhwnaLhGTaFIM4_LGJOOiQ_TPHJq8



Saul Simpson



The Montreal City Mission

The Career of a Workhouse Lad - William Bowman Tucker

William was born in London to Phillip (a second generation hat-maker) and Ann Tucker. His parents moved to Bristol, England, when he was a few months old. His father was an alcoholic. William said in his later autobiography, "It was the drink that made me fatherless." William also remembered that his father was a violent man, "I had been sleeping in my bed, but was suddenly awakened by the scream of mother (believed to be Phillip Tucker's second wife), who stood in the middle of the floor, surrounded by neighbours, and with blood streaming down her face, while father sat over by the fireplace with a terrible blaze leaping up the chimney, and which he constantly fed with the furniture which he broke across his knee. Apparently no one dared try to restrain him."

His mother died when he was about 1 year of age and his father died 5 years later. He was in the care of a woman he called his "stepmother". At the age of seven, he became a messenger boy. "Mine was a long walk and the parcel sometimes heavy, and I received a penny for that trip also, but then I saw a good deal of life, and my pleasure compensated my pay."

At the age of 9, he was taken to St. Peter's Hospital in Bristol as a pauper student. He became close to his schoolmaster, Master Hughes, who seemed to be at the head of all regulative arrangements. A few years later, Master Hughes took him aside and



said, "There is an opportunity for you to go to Canada. Your passage will be paid. You will go in company of good guides. You will be given two suits of clothes, and a good outfit generally, and you will be found a place with a farmer, with the chance someday of owning a farm yourself."

William went to Hampton Home in London, a MacPherson agency, where he had some training and education for 3 weeks. Then he was then sent to Liverpool and embarked for Canada. Landing at Quebec, they took a train to Marchmont Home in Belleville, Ontario. After three days, he was taken to a village and chosen by a farmers wife as a laborer. He was happy and fulfilled in his placement, paid well, and given good training with this family for 5-1/2 years. This was the time he chose to complete school and obtain his teaching certificate and moving into the ministry five years later.

Rev. Tucker married Sarah Emily Miller, on September 14, 1886 in Napanee Mills, Addington County, Ontario.

William reported to the Bristol Board of Guardians, in July of 1895, that he was one of the first batch of boys sent out to Canada from the Bristol Workhouse and that he often had contact with children sent out by the board. As a Minister he inspected the homes, making reports on boys who had been sent out. He spoke highly of the emigration of children to Canada. William had obtained the degree of M.A., Doctor of Philosophy, and was connected to the Methodist Church of America.

In 1910 he resigned from the Methodist Church and founded the Montreal City Mission to welcome newcomers and immigrants to Montreal. The mission was non-denominational but aimed to promote the knowledge of the Gospel to the inhabitants of Montreal, particularly the foreigners and the poor.

William ran the mission for 24 years, until his death in 1934. At that time, William was now well and had returned to England hoping to regain his health. He was buried in Bristol, England.

The mission floundered for a while after his death but managed to keep going. The Montreal City is still in operation today.

Sources:

- [HCC BHC Registry Files](#)
- www.montrealcitymission.org
- [BHCARA Research Group](#)