



# British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

2017 Celebrates Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and  
the 148<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the  
British Home Child emigration movement

# 2017

## January Newsletter

By Lori Oschefski, Historian and Author Andrew Simpson  
and special guest writers Tom Rolland and Ann MacLaren



## John Grant Rolland, 1889 to 1919 By Tom Rolland

Oscar Wilde once said that "Charity creates a multitude of sins." I never really understood that quotation until I discovered the story of the British Home Children in Canada.

I had known for some time due to an accidental find on a genealogy website that my Great Uncle John died in Canada and was buried in a military cemetery there, but had no idea why he was in Canada of all places; so far from his home and family. In point of fact, before that chance encounter I had never heard of him at all.

My Grandfather Peter, (John's younger brother) was a notoriously private man who never spoke of his early life even to the point where he kept secret the existence of a daughter from his first marriage. My late father knew nothing of his paternal grandparents or any other family outwith his own siblings from the Rolland line. I would often listen to him speculate on his family history for hours at a time; each theory more far-fetched and colourful than the last. Part of me thinks that he would be fascinated by the story of John Grant Rolland, but I know, too that it would have horrified him more.

John was born in the Renfrewshire town of Paisley in Scotland on November 13, 1889; the son of Master Slater John, (James) Grant and Domestic Servant, Christina Rolland. His brother Andrew was born 8 years later in Kirkcaldy before the family moved to Somerville St in Burntisland, Fife. John's father, John Senior died in the family home on May 27, 1900 leaving My Great Grandmother to raise the boys alone by taking in lodgers. One of those lodgers was a dock labourer by the name of Thomas Sinclair who would turn

out to be my long-lost Great Grandfather, (my great grandmother was an independent woman who never married making the paper trail dependent on more than one 'Hail Mary Pass'). My Grandfather, Peter was born on June of that year, (do the math) and it wasn't long before the family situation became completely untenable.

I can only hope that my Great Grandfather was a decent man. I know nothing of him other than where he lived at certain times, but part of me hopes that he did everything he could to keep his new family together. In any case, the records from Quarriers show that my Great Grandmother was forced to go back into domestic service where there was no place for John, 11 and Andrew, 4. I like to think that my Great Grandmother did not make the decision to part with her oldest sons lightly and I ask that having read of the poor creature's eventual fate, you will not judge her harshly either.

The boys were admitted to the City Orphanage in James Morrison Street, Glasgow on the evening of 25 Sep, 1901. John was suffering from measles; Andrew from Measles and Whooping Cough. They spent two days in the city before being transferred to the Quarriers Village in Bridge of Weir where they lived in a cottage with other boys and girls as part of a 'family'. It struck me as being very odd that two children with a mother and nominal

step-father should be admitted to an orphanage, but from even a cursory reading of the history surrounding Home Children, I was amazed to find that of their vast number, very few were actual orphans. It is a stunning indictment of our country's record on social care that a family should have



*John in his military uniform and by his taxi cab, photo credit: [Canadian Taxi Driver Homicides](#)*

to be broken asunder in order to have the best chance of survival. In any case, the measure proved ineffective for Andrew who died of Diphtheria in Paisley's Combination Hospital after a very brief illness when John was 15. He now rests in an unmarked grave in the Quarriers churchyard. The following year, John was sent to work on a farm in Ontario. A single line in the records for my Great Uncle haunts me even now as I write: "*The mother protests.*"

I have no idea whether Uncle John stayed with a single family after arriving in Ontario, or moved around, but I do know that like many thousands of male Home Children, he joined the Canadian military upon the outbreak of the First World War. Did he do it to escape a life of servitude on the farm? Did he do it in the vain hope that it would involve a stopover in Britain? Did he actually get to see his mother again? I have no idea as the diary records for British Home

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**Bridge of Weir, Quarrier's Village**  
*from the BHCARA vintage postcard collections*

Maria Rye started the British Home Children emigration movement in October of 1869 with her first shipment, exclusively, of pauper children. This movement, which lasted eighty years, provided Canada with much needed labour to help build the country to be what it is today. British Home Children and their descendants have protected, preserved and advanced Canadian society through public, military and civic service despite the abuses, maltreatment, stigmatization and ostracization that many Home Children suffered from the general public in Canada. The BHCARA is committed to ensuring their story is never forgotten in Canadian history. In 2017, as Canada celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup>, the BHC will be remembered for their contributions in many ways, including their inclusion in a long term exhibit at the Canadian Museum of History, scheduled to open in July of 2017; a sesquicentennial exhibit at the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg, scheduled to open in July of 2017 and the 4<sup>th</sup> year opening of our award winning exhibit at the Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. The BHCARA will also celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>/BHC 148<sup>th</sup> with a special July 23 event being held at the Waterloo Region Museum and Doon Heritage Village, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener, Ontario. Visit our event pages for more details: [WEB SITE](#) [FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE](#)



Children on both sides of the Atlantic were tragically destroyed due to a communication error between both sets of administrators. I do know that she was aware of his military service because it was listed on a record that I found pertaining to her; again, quite by accident. I have been unable to obtain John's full military record, but thanks to the tireless investigative work of [www.taxi-library.org](http://www.taxi-library.org) and their exhaustive records I know that he was wounded and gassed while fighting in France with the 2nd Battalion Machine Gun Corps. I know too, that he was sent home with an honourable discharge and lived alone in a boarding house; working as a taxi driver. He picked up his last fare - a 'large foreigner' outside Union Station at around 11:30pm on November 3rd, 1919. On the morning of November 4th, 1919, he was found bleeding on the verandah of the Turner family home in suburban Leaside.

He had been slashed ten times in the face and throat by persons unknown. He had walked over 200 yards across an open field in the dark despite his injuries and even managed to give police a description of his attacker at Leaside Military Hospital before dying on the operating table. The records for Hawkhead Mental Asylum in



Glasgow do not indicate whether my Great Grandmother was informed of her son's death, but my grandfather's application to have her committed states in explicit detail that she suffered vivid and horrific hallucinations about my uncle John at the time when he was serving in France. She lived in Hawkhead Asylum from 1918 until her death at the age of 73 on August 6th, 1941. I can only imagine with dread the thoughts that consumed her throughout those long, lonely years which she lived in almost complete silence.

I'm grateful to Quarriers for saving my uncles at a time when nobody else would help. They aren't responsible for his death, but they are responsible for taking his life; a life of extreme privation and hardship, but one spent surrounded by family. The chance at a normal life was taken from him in a benevolent, but clumsy act of charity and lives were destroyed in the process. I often think of him, but I also think about his surviving family; my Grandfather, his younger brother and mother in particular.

In closing I encourage you to visit the Taxi Library website and read their articles on the spate of driver homicides of which my uncle's case is but one. I encourage you also to visit the British Home Children and Advocacy Research group on Facebook who worked - for free - on my behalf to find every scrap of information pertaining to my uncle's tragic circumstances. Finally, I must recommend the genealogy services provided by Quarriers who helped to set me on the path to telling John's story and ensuring that the circumstances of his life are not forgotten.

Children's playground at the back of the Peddie Alexander Cottage Bridge of Weir - this is the only cottage not standing today.

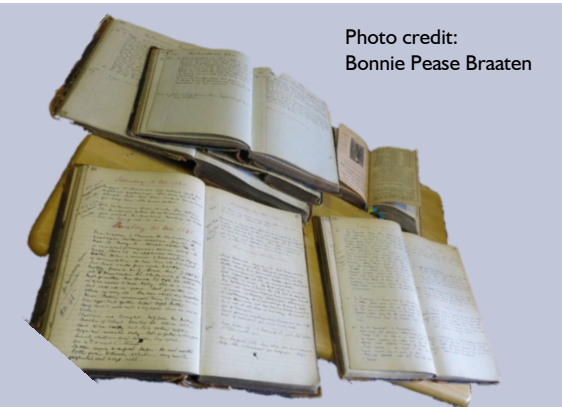
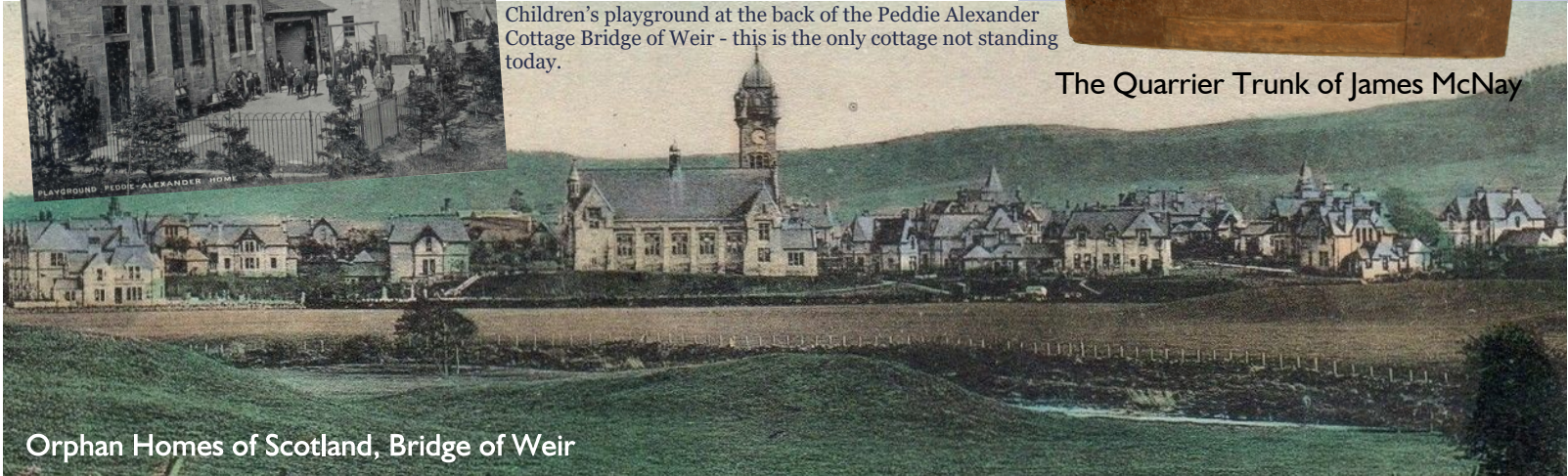


Photo credit:  
Bonnie Pease Braaten

**Contacts for Quarrier's Records**  
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web site:  
[www.quarriers.org.uk](http://www.quarriers.org.uk)



The Quarrier Trunk of James McNay



Orphan Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir

William Quarrier had come from an impoverished background, which he overcame with hard work and determination. After his father died, William began working in a pin factory at the age of six. Eventually he became a successful shoemaker, however his own childhood haunted him. In 1878 he founded Bridge of Weir Orphan Homes of Scotland, situated in the country district of Renfrewshire. In his first Narrative of Facts, a magazine issued in connection with the Orphan Homes, Mr. Quarrier wrote, *"When a little boy, I stood in the High Street of Glasgow, barefooted, bareheaded, cold and hungry, having tasted no food for a day and a half, and, as I gazed at each passer-by, wondering why they did not help such as I, a thought passed through my mind that I would not do as they w<sup>h</sup>o I would get the means to help others."*

William Quarrier first opened a night refuge for working lads and children, the first of it's kind in Scotland. The building selected was the former Dovehill Church, of which Quarrier's took over the top floor. The Night Refuge ran for two years before William Quarrier began looking for other facilities. His dream was to build a children's village where boys and girls would be housed in cottages which, they felt, would provide the children with a family environment. It was during this time that William Quarrier was introduced to Annie MacPherson, one of the pioneers of the BHC emigration schemes. In 1871 he began in earnest to fund raise for his vision of a children's village and his quest to send children to Canada. Encouraged by Annie MacPherson, his first party of children were sent out to Canada in June of 1872. These children were placed through MacPherson's Marchmount Home.

On February 10, 1877 the first stone of what became the Orphan Homes of Scotland, was laid. 2 May, 1878 William Quarrier sailed with his seventh party of children to Canada. He was anxious to visit the country where, for the past few years, he had been sending children. He visited many children who had been previously sent out. He concluded *"We can do nothing here (Scotland) for the class of children we help that will at all compare with what can be done in Canada."* On 17 September, 1878 the children's village formally opened. A detailed history of Quarrier's can be found on the organizations web site: <https://quarriers.org.uk/about-us/history/>, in the book "The Quarrier's Story by Anna Magnusson" and "A Romance of Faith".

TELEPHONE: RENFREW, BRIDGE-OF-WEIR, 34. GLASGOW, 50 2111.

**ORPHAN HOMES OF SCOTLAND, BRIDGE-OF-WEIR.**  
FOUNDED BY WILLIAM QUARRIER.

Orphan Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.  
City Orphan Home, Glasgow, West Street.  
11 James Watson Street, Glasgow.

General Secretaries:  
Miss Quinlan, Glasgow. Miss Quinlan, Glasgow. Miss Quinlan, Glasgow.

Form of Application.

N.B.—This Form must be filled up by some person having an intimate knowledge of the circumstances of the case, and signed by the legal guardian of the child for whom application is made.

Child's registered name in full, William Cameron  
Date, 24th day, August month, 1913 year.  
Is he Legitimate? No  
Birthplace, Black & White Combination Pot House, Renfrewshire  
With whom is he at present residing? With his mother and stepfather, 10, Renfrewshire  
Address, 10, Renfrewshire  
What day School is he attending? Renfrew Academy  
On what Class? I  
Has he any special tendency of character? No  
Is he inclined to be untruthful, quarrelsome, etc.? No  
Has he any mental defect? Not so far as known  
Has he any physical defect? No  
Has he been successfully vaccinated? Yes  
Has he had Measles? No Whooping Cough? No or Scarlet Fever? No or any other disease? No

FATHER'S name in full, Donald Cameron  
If dead, Yes  
(a) What? When? From what cause? Age?  
(b) What was his Occupation? Age?  
(c) What was his Occupation? Age?  
(d) Where does he reside? 10, Renfrewshire  
(e) What is his Occupation? Wood Carter

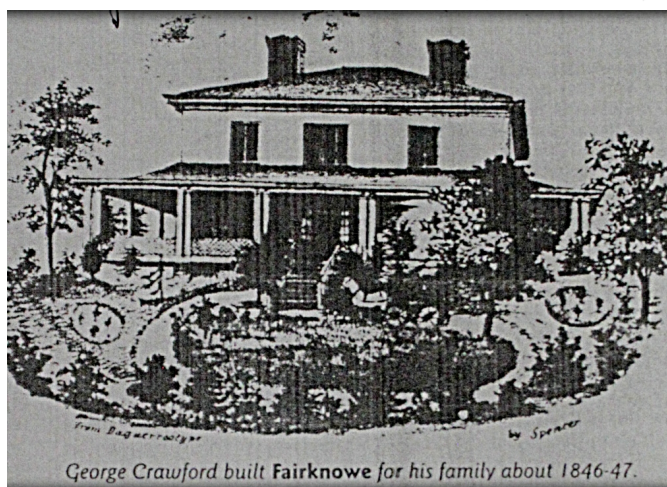
Page 27/28 per week.

The admission record of William Cameron



# HISTORIES OF THE RECEIVING HOMES

## Fairknowe Home, Brockville, Ontario



George Crawford built Fairknowe for his family about 1846-47.

Council, the upper house at that time, and served until 1867, when he became a member of the Senate of Canada.

In 1845 George Crawford purchased an estate of 150 acres (most of lot 8) in the east end of the Town of Brockville called "Woodlawn" from Judge Jonas Jones. The parcel of land purchased was on the north side of the King's Highway and ran from North Augusta Rd. easterly well beyond First Avenue.

On the corner of First Ave. he had built the large stucco-surfaced square home, "Fairknowe." This was finished about 1847. Following the death of George Crawford in 1879, his estate sold the Fairknowe property to Harry Braithwaite Abbott, vice president and managing director of the Brockville & Ottawa Railway. He was also the brother of John Abbott, a former Prime Minister of Canada.

Glasgow shoemaker William Quarrier, founder of Orphan Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, sent more than 7,000 children to Canada between the years 1871-1938. His first shipments of children were sent through the Annie MacPherson Homes.

In 1888 William Quarrier purchased a home in Brockville, Ontario to be used as the receiving Home for his children. This home, a large stucco-surfaced square home was known as Fairknowe. His children who came through Marchmount, prior to the opening of Fairknowe are often mistakenly thought to be MacPherson children.

George Crawford (1793 – July 4, 1870), a founding member of the Canadian Senate, was the original owner of Fairknowe. Mr. Crawford, a Conservative, was elevated to the senate on 23 October 1867 by Royal Proclamation, and served in that capacity until his death.

He was born in County Leitrim in Ireland in 1793 and came to Upper Canada in the 1820s. After moving to York (Toronto), he became a contractor and worked on the Rideau, Cornwall and Beauharnois Canals. He served as lieutenant-colonel in the Leeds militia. He was also president of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway.

Around 1844, he moved to Brockville. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada representing Brockville in 1851 and 1854. In 1858, he was elected to the Legislative

When the Abbot's purchased Fairknowe, time the estate was surrounded by sixteen acres of land. When Harry was later offered the appointment of General Superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1886, they left Brockville, and took up residence in Vancouver.

The Fairknowe property was purchased then by William A. & James Gilmour, and George T. Fulford. These local businessmen in turn sold this house in 1888 to the National Orphan Homes of Scotland. William Quarrier's daughter Agnes moved here with her husband, James Burgess to organize and run it for her father's organization.

On Friday 28 September 2012, Friday, Sept. 28, Heritage Brockville unveiled a plaque in front of the Fairknowe building, which is now used as apartments. The impetus for this new plaque was provided by Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark. Mr. Clark had supported former Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry MPP Jim Brownell in his successful efforts to a Private Members Bill passed through the provincial legislature proclaiming 28 September as "British Home Child Day" in Ontario. 28 September was the day Mr. Brownell's Grandmother arrived in Canada with the Quarrier's. Mr. Brownell was on hand for the unveiling of the plaque.

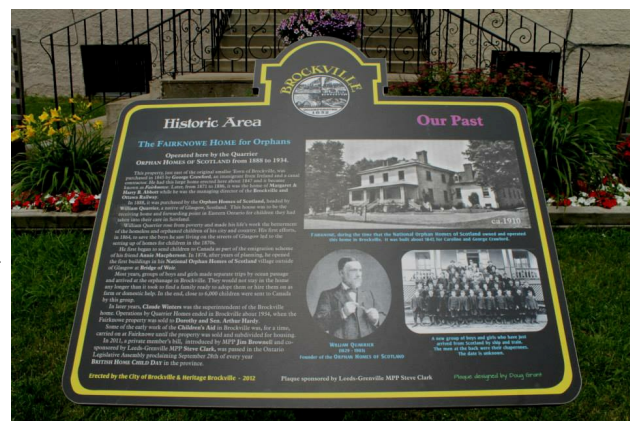
A section of the old Brockville Cemetery contains a large monument with the names of a number of children who died here while under the care of Quarriers.



Photo credit: BHCARA Vintage Postcard collections



Photos taken in 2013 by Lori Oschefska



### Sources and credits

<http://www.insidebrockville.com/news-story/3971328-new-fairknowe-home-plaque-erected-on-site-of-former-quarrier-orphans-home-in-brockville/>

<https://brockvillehistoryhandbook.wordpress.com/notable-brockvillians/crawford-george-c1879/>

[http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/crawford\\_george\\_9E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/crawford_george_9E.html)

<https://brockvillehistoryalbum.wordpress.com/about-myself/>



Another Quarrier Trunk  
c1930

photo credit: John Reeves



# Stories behind the image ...

By Author, Historian and Researcher Andrew Simpson

Now I am always fascinated by pictures which challenge you to uncover their secrets.

They are usually ones where there are few clues to where they were taken with no date and often shed no light on the identities of the people who stare back at you.

And that is pretty much what we have here from a collection of images which belong to David Kennedy.

The originals were 4 by 5 glass negatives and date from sometime around the end of the 19th or the beginning of the 20th century.

Some are of street scenes, others of men and women at work and include a fair number showing life on board a selection of working ships.

They range from causally posed scenes to ones where the photographer has caught his subjects fully occupied and perhaps unaware that they are being photographed.

Amongst these are a few which may even be family members including this one which is a favourite of mine which is one of two.

In the first the mother is staring down at her baby and in the second she smiles back at the camera while in both the photographer is caught in the mirror.

But who they were, when they were taken and where will remain a mystery and that of course is the problem all of us have with pictures of our own British Home Children.

If we are lucky there will be a mug shot from a charity file or a treasured family photograph from before the migration.

But for many of us there will not even be that.

Instead we have to fall back on those general pictures of children being migrated along with those before and after ones much favoured by all the charities and these can pose a problem.

Some of them were intended for publicity purposes and given that all the charities relied on donations ones which showed the success of their work were important pointers to their success.

Equally there can be a temptation to come away from looking at these images and regarding the young people as victims. True they had a hard and very uncertain start in life and some had an equally difficult time after they arrived in Canada but many made successful lives.

The historian in me is keen to follow some of those early photographs matching them with subsequent pictures and the stories of the individuals who they belong to.

An by extension to take one of those migration pictures and follow each of those shown in the image.

Now there is nothing new in this proposal but like so much about BHC it is where the task will lead and in doing so offers up answers to questions about the fate of the individuals and what their collective stories might tell us about the bigger picture of the policy of child migration.

*Pictures; unknown woman with baby, date unknown, from the collection of David Kennedy*



Visit Andrew's blog at

[www.chorltonhistory.blogspot.ca](http://www.chorltonhistory.blogspot.ca)



# Scotland's Home Children

By ANN MACLAREN

*First published in iScot Magazine, December 2016*

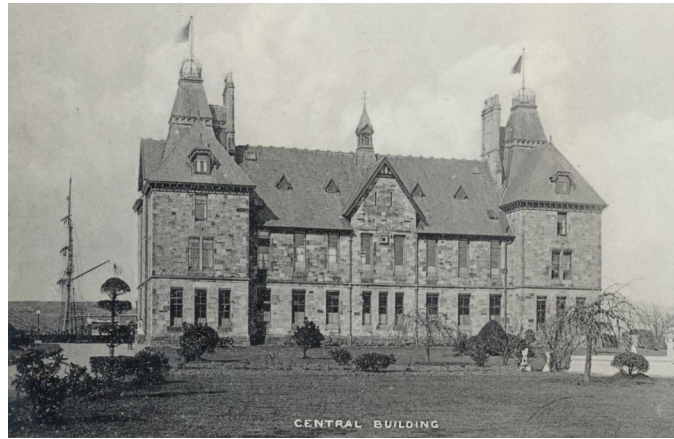
When Uncle Tommy's visit home from Canada was announced in the summer of 1980, it came as a great surprise to me. Not the visit - we'd had relatives descending on us from all parts of the world for as long as I could remember, so we were used to welcoming the "foreign family" as we called them. It was Uncle Tommy none of my generation knew about. Tommy, we soon learned, was one of my grandfather's brothers, one that we hadn't known about because he had been in touch only sporadically over the years. This was to be his first trip home since he left Scotland as a 13 year-old in 1928. My grandfather had died when I was a young teenager and I knew very little about him, or his siblings, except that his mother had been widowed while still young. That was the extent of my knowledge; but Uncle Tommy was about to fill in the gaps.

My great-grandmother was left with five children to bring up when her husband died, and although almost destitute, she managed to keep them out of the workhouse. Tommy, at 13, left home. With the help of the Church of Scotland, he was accepted into an agricultural training school run by the philanthropic Doctor George Cossar, who had taken it upon himself to rescue waifs and strays from the streets of Glasgow, and teach them farming so that they would have a better chance in life.

Various organizations had sprung up in Britain in the late 19th century to help deal with the growing problem of orphans and street children. Industrialization had meant that populations in the cities had doubled, sometimes tripled, but there wasn't the infrastructure to cope with this and there weren't enough jobs for everyone. Overcrowding and insanitary conditions led to illness and death; orphans or children with parents who couldn't look after them properly were left to roam the streets or taken to the poorhouse. Residential Homes were founded by people such as Annie MacPherson and Thomas Barnardo (London), Thomas Guthrie (Edinburgh), William Quarrier and George Cossar (Glasgow), who wanted to do something to rescue these children from their misery and destitution.

The most well known of these in Scotland was Quarriers Homes at Bridge of Weir, only 17 miles from Glasgow but a world away from the deprivation of the inner city. Here children were given good food and clean clothing, slept in a bed of their own, and had plenty of fresh air and open spaces to play in.

Life there should have been idyllic in comparison with their former existence; unfortunately this depended on the houseparents the children were allocated to. The testimonies of many of these children are well documented: some enjoyed their new lives, but many were subjected to



*The Central Building at Bridge of Weir now the "Three Sisters Bake Restaurant"*

physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Those who had no prospect of being rescued by parents or families knew that, for better or worse, this was their lot till they could fend for themselves.

But there was another means of escape - emigration. The British and Canadian governments encouraged this; the former were happy to send their excess population to the latter, who needed workers to help them develop their young country. Both gave grants to help with costs, and all of the children's organisations were keen to participate in the scheme. Receiving Homes had been acquired in Canada to collect and dispatch the boys and girls when they had made their journey across the ocean. These would be inspected at intervals by government officials; it all seemed well organised and above board.

Thus it was that every so often a group of children would leave Quarriers and be taken by ship to Canada to start a new life. Sometimes a Canadian official would visit and give a talk to the children beforehand, painting an idyllic picture of life on the other side of the Atlantic. They were told that positions would be found for them with good families in houses and farms across the country. Many of them couldn't wait to head off for a new start in this rich country where money seemed to grow on trees.

Each child was given a suitcase containing extra clothing and underwear, warm woollens, overalls and boots for working in, a Sunday suit, some writing materials and a Bible. It was more than any of them had ever possessed. The night before they left there was a church service in Quarriers village where everyone sang the hymn, "God be with you till we meet again".

It was a big adventure. A dream come true. They may have felt sad at the prospect of leaving Scotland, or perhaps they were excited at the thought of a golden future. Some would have to leave brothers and sisters behind who were too young to travel, although sometimes younger children would travel too - not to work, but to be placed for adoption.



*One of the children's bedrooms at the Bridge of Weir*

Cossars Farm at Craigielinn, near Paisley sent a large number of boys to work in rural Canada, having first given them a good grounding in farming methods. My uncle, Tommy Armstrong, went with a group of those boys. Although Doctor Cossar's organization was less well documented than some, it is known that he also had a Lad's Home in the centre of Glasgow and other farms in Ayrshire and Stirlingshire. When he was given permission to dispatch his boys to Canada he bought a farm in Lower Gagetown, New Brunswick, where he



sent them for a short time before they were allocated to Canadian farmers and smallholders.

Over 10% of Canada's population is descended from the children who, like Tommy, were migrated to that country between 1869 and 1939 by various British philanthropic organizations. There were over 100,000 of them ranging in age from 6 to 14 - the younger ones went to be adopted, the older ones to work as indentured domestic servants and farm labourers. Of the various Scottish agencies, Quarriers and Cossar sent 7000 and 500 respectively. The children who were sent, from all over Britain, weren't all orphans: most were from families experiencing extreme poverty and had at least one surviving parent who was given little if any say in the matter. This transfer of children across the Atlantic, seen as a conduit to a new life where prosperity and happiness would be found, became known as "The Golden Bridge".

The Scottish children usually disembarked in Quebec or Nova Scotia, and were then taken by train to their Receiving House, from where their new employers would collect them. They would become indentured labourers or domestic servants.

While there is no doubt that some found all they were hoping for in their new home, or at least were thankful for the opportunities their new country afforded them, others found their golden dream tarnished. Many were separated from their brothers and sisters on arrival in Canada and never saw them again. Some were told the lie that their mothers and fathers were dead. There wasn't sufficient follow-up by representatives of the Homes that had supplied them, and with no-one to protect them they were open to all kinds of abuse.

Children over 12 were expected to receive a wage; this wasn't always forthcoming, or if it was, might be a pitiful amount from which they were expected to pay for their clothes and board. They were also supposed to attend school, but this was often denied them. Some were over-worked and made to live in appalling conditions. Many were treated no better than slaves. Canadian society had little sympathy for these children from British institutions, considering them to be the lowest of the low, not deserving of their consideration or sympathy. They gave them the pejorative label, "Home" children.

Tommy was one of the unlucky ones. He sailed from Scotland on the Letitia in September 1928, two months before his fourteenth birthday. After only three days at Lower Gagetown, he was taken to live with a bachelor farmer who lived many miles from any other human habitation in Manitoba.

"It was a real shock when I realized what kind of life lay ahead," Tommy remembered. "As well as chores around the farm, I had to rise at 5, light the fires, and have breakfast on the table for the boss when he got up. I had to do all the cooking, cleaning and clothes laundering. I was expected to perform all the duties of a wife, and I was only thirteen years old." We wondered, but never asked, if these duties extended to the bedroom.

After nearly a year of this slave labour, isolated and lonely with nobody to turn to for help, Tommy ran away. He soon found work on another farm - this time owned by a brother and sister who treated him a little more kindly, although they made him work hard in the fields and paid him a meagre wage. He stayed with them till he was 15 then headed west for Vancouver, where he hoped to find, as he put it, "any kind of labour that didn't involve farming". He was lucky enough to find employment with the Union Steamship company, whose boats plied the rugged west coast of British Columbia, and eventually he married and settled in Comox, Vancouver Island. He never saw any of his Cossar Farm friends again.

To have lived in abject poverty is sad for any child; to have been taken out of that privation and be fed and clothed and well cared for must have been a blessing; it seems particularly cruel, then, that having been saved from destitution and given a comfortable life, he was then plunged into hardship and suffering once again. But Tommy, like many who were treated inhumanely by their Canadian employers, rose above this and eventually made a good life for himself.

Child migration was undoubtedly carried out with the best of intentions, although it ought to have been more regulated; those who sent the children from their care did not know that many of them were destined for years of abuse and suffering, that they would be stigmatised as "Home" children and made to feel they were a lower class, that they would become known in Canada as "the little slaves". As the descendants of these children have testified, they were usually too ashamed to speak about what had happened to them; some died without revealing their origins, and it is thanks mainly to the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association that their stories are now being told and that families can understand their past.



*The Cossar Farm in Lower Gagetown, New Brunswick*



*Dr. George Cossar*

On the quayside of Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the arrival place of most of the immigrants from Quarriers, a plaque reads: *"In honour of the 100,000 British children aged 6-14, orphans and non-orphans, who between 1859 and 1948 were shipped to Canada, where most worked as domestic servants and farm labourers."* The distinguished professor of history who wrote this text wished to add the fact that the children were "cheap farm labour", but she was over-ruled by officialdom.

When Uncle Tommy told us his story, he probably left out the most distressing parts and concentrated on his own determination and resilience. He was rightly proud of having taken control of his own destiny at an early age, of what he'd achieved and of having triumphed over adversity. He certainly bore no grudges regarding his welcome to Canada. *"Doctor Cossar gave me a tremendous opportunity,"* he concluded, *"and I was determined not to let him down. I don't blame him for what happened. He expected me to work hard, be honest and do well, and that's what I've done. All the rest made me what I am today."*