

BRITISH HOME CHILDREN ADVOCACY & RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

December 2014 Newsletter

Written by Sandra Joyce & Lori Oschepski

*As 2014 draws to a close the BHCARA would like to thank everyone for all their support for what turned out to be an outstanding year. 2015 promises to be as successful. The ball is rolling now and it is up to all of us to keep it going!
Merry Christmas to all!*

BHCARA News

A reminder that the exhibit at the Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto will be closed from December 24 until April 30 with the exception of special hours at March Break. Please contact Black Creek for information at: www.blackcreek.ca

The BHCARA now has an online store for purchasing promotional items. All proceeds will go to help support the work of the BHCARA. This store can be accessed on the BHCARA web site at: www.britishhomechildrenadvocacy.weebly.com

A wreath was placed at Queen's Park in Toronto by the BHCARA on Remembrance Day in the name of British Home Children who served in the Wars. As well as the wreath, poppies were planted in The Tower of London's stunning display in memory of those BHC who perished in the First World War by Executive Director Sandra Joyce. Names submitted by the BHCARA were also read during The Tower's Sunset Ceremony.

Many Orillia school children, as part of the Orillia Public Library Interactive Remembrance exhibit, visited the British Home Child display at the Orillia Public library on November 10th and 12th.

Four very receptive grade six classes were also spoken to at the John Wanless Public School in Toronto. Plans are also being put into place to address over four hundred Grade twelve students in the New Year at a Toronto high school.

A colour plate found in the December 1882 edition of the Barnardo's magazine "Our Darlings". The BHCARA has collected over 50 vintage editions of these rare magazines. The colour plates will be used for some of our 2016 calendars, available in the spring. The title of this plate is "Winter Sports".



WALLACE FORD

Born Samuel Grundy Jones

Wallace Ford's impressive career is even more awe-inspiring when considering the dreadful start to his life. Separated from his parents at a young age, Samuel Jones (his real name) was placed in Barnardo's at age three. In 1905, at the age of seven, Samuel was sent to Canada to the organization's location in Toronto along with a group of 163 other children. Samuel was placed in 17 different homes before he ran away at the age of eleven after the last farmer he was with mistreated him. He then joined a Canadian Vaudeville Group, known at the Winnipeg Kiddies. He performed with this group for three years before leaving with a friend to ride the rails in the United States. Unfortunately, tragedy struck and his friend was crushed to death in a railway car. At this point, Samuel Jones took his friend's name and became Wallace Ford. Under this name, he found work in theatrical troupes, repertoires and vaudeville.

During this time, he began his 21-year-long search for his biological mother, something that was unheard of at the time. The only information that he had was her name: Catherine Jones.

By 1920, he started to work on Broadway and soon after he married his life-long bride, Martha Harworth. They had one daughter together: Patricia. Wallace Ford got his Hollywood debut in 1932, signing a contract with MGM. He appeared in over 200 films alongside Joan Crawford, Bela Lugosi, Boris Karloff, James Stewart, Richard Widmark and Henry Fonda to name a few.

It was during the 1930's that Wallace did find



his mother through his film connections. Los

Angeles police contacted Scotland Yard who narrowed the search to Lancashire. The aunt, Mrs. Mary Beddoes who originally placed him in Barnardo's, came forward and identified his mother, Catherine Jones, known locally at "Mam Kit". She was living with her husband, a match seller, known as Blind Dan in a trailer beside a river in Cheshire, England. Wallace visited her, his actions garnering world-wide attention, and bought his mother and her husband a little house. "She has had a hard life," he said. Wallace Ford played a number of character roles throughout his career, acting in 'B' horror films before graduating to Westerns. He had roles in five of John Ford's films and also was in Alfred Hitchcock's film, Shadow of a Doubt. Wallace also appeared alongside Henry Fonda in a TV series, The Deputy and on the Andy Griffith Show, as well.

Wallace's last appearance as Old Pa was with Sidney Poitier in the highly successful A Patch of Blue before his heart gave out in 1966, shortly after his wife Martha passed away.