

# British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

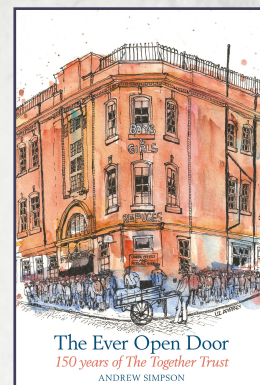
Written and composed by  
**Lori Oschefski & Andrew Simpson**  
with guest author **Andrea Harris**

## Inside:

The Case of Arthur Walter Grimes  
by Andrea Harris

New to our Collections - Cecilia Jowett's book  
**ANNOUNCING** our The Second World War,  
Korean War and Boer War project

NEW BOOK RELEASE



See Page 3 for details on Andrew Simpson's  
new book "The Ever Open Door"



## Renowned Canadian Artist George Alfred Paginton

On 24 December 1901, single mom Eliza Paginton gave birth to a little boy she named "Alfred George Paginton" (George) in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, England. He was baptized on 24 April the following year. Dr. Barnardo Home records indicate that Eliza had three illegitimate children, Rhoda, James and George. George remained with his family until he was three years of age, at which point he was surrendered to the Dr. Barnardo Homes and placed into foster care. His siblings were placed in the care of their maternal Grandparents.

George was moved through six different foster homes before he was sent on the 14 March 1912, to Canada. George was placed on the farm of Sulvanus Rae where he seemed to fare well. The terms of the children's indenture contracts expired at eighteen, at which time George was released to make his own way in Canada. George was afforded a public school education, developed a good work ethic and through the Rae family he soon found work in Toronto.

George's introduction to the artistic world came though a free lance project with Simpson's, doing layouts and illustrations for the catalogues. He enrolled in a program with the Ontario College of Art in Port Hope where he studied under the direction of noted Canadian artists, J.W. Beatty, Frederick Haines, and Frederick Challener. It was here that his passion for painting became deeply rooted. By 1927 George was employed by the art department of the Toronto Star, a position he held for forty-three years.

George married Jessie Mae Forster in 1930. The following year, marked his first solo art exhibit, showcasing ninety of his paintings at the New Toronto Library. This was followed by many prestigious showings of his work including venues such as the Art Gallery of Toronto. George was also closely associated with the Group of Seven, especially A.J. Jackson, serving as a pallbearer at his funeral in 1974.

In 1940 George and his wife Jessie welcomed their only child, Anthony. By now, a well known artist, George was constantly asked about his past; where he was born and questions regarding his childhood. Unwillingness to discuss the past was a common trait among the Home Children. This caused George to retreat from the publicity. It was clear he did not wish to disclose those details. Later in life, he asked the film crew for CBC to discontinue the production of a documentary about him when they began asking about his past. Exhibitions of his personal work become rare.

In 1955 George suffered the loss of his beloved wife Jessie. He never remarried, raising their, then fifteen year old son, on his own. Along with his personal sorrows, George still carried the heavy burdens of a Home Child - the inability and unwillingness to discuss his past.

As Art Joyce noted in a 2019 article he co-wrote with Lori Oschefski, *"the belief in eugenics was rampant in North America at the time". Home Children were considered inferior stock to their Canadian counterparts. Newspapers of the day stigmatized them as the "refuse of the*

...continued page 2



From the  
Barnardo Archives, England



"A VILLAGE,  
ILLE D'ORLEANS" CIRCA 1939



"WINTER STREAM,  
SOUTHERN ONTARIO" 1930



"OLD HOUSES AT THE HUMBER,  
TORONTO" 1935



Empire," "gutter trash," and so on, merely because they were at the bottom of the social ladder. It quickly became clear that despite Canada being touted as a land of promise and a classless society, the old British class prejudices still held. In Canadian communities, instead of the fostering, nurturing love they needed, they were taunted and made to feel ashamed for being a Home Child. This shame caused most Home Children to remain silent about their backgrounds, their entire lives." This shame was not truly eradicated from society until recent years. Now we stand proud of the BHC and their accomplishments, but it held for almost 150 years!

Joyce further notes: "The history of the Home Children suggests a fundamental truth about human nature, our capacity for resilience in the face of trauma is infinitely variable, depending on the personality of the individual. Some Home Children who suffered abuse never fully recovered." Many, he notes, lived emotionally sterile lives. "Yet", he adds, "many managed to build a successful career and family life". George Paginton falls into this category, discovering an innate talent for art. "Artists have an advantage over others in that the act of producing art is often cathartic—a means of releasing old demons in a healthy way". We have seen an astonishing work ethic in the lives of many British Home Children. In the artistic world, three artists stand out, George Paginton, Madge Gill and Nick Hodson.

Madge Gill (1882-1961) was an English mediumistic artist who made thousands of drawings "guided" by a spirit she called "Myrnerest" (my-inner-rest). In her adult life, she suffered the loss of three of her four children, many illnesses and an unhealthy marriage. In her childhood - known by her birth name, Maud Ethel Eades - she was a British Home Child, discarded by her family over the shame of her illegitimate birth. Difficulties in her childhood and throughout her life led her to seek creative refuge with her spirit guide. "I then [c1921] had an inspiration to take up my pen and do all kinds of work of an artistic type. . . . It took various forms. . . . I felt impelled to execute drawings on a large scale on calico. I simply couldn't leave it and I did on average 20 pictures a week, all in colour. . . . I felt I was definitely guided by an unseen force" (Cardinal 1972:135) Guided by this unseen force, she created a multitude of creative works including: drawings, writing, knitting, crochet-work, weaving, tapestry, rug making and colorful embroidery. Madge never spoke of her time as a British Home Child, however her art created in her later

years bore a similarity to the intake photos of young Dr. Barnardo girls. You can read Madge's full story in our [Spring 2019 Newsletter](#).

Nick Hodson was an accomplished sketch artist whose magnificent drawings were focused on his home town of Collingwood, Ontario. He arrived in Canada in 1932 through the Overseas Settlement Committee. He soon found that it was a tough go in Canada. "The first job was a back breaker and a good indication of what was to come", he said. "Day by day I got accustomed to the heavy work, with practically no time off. No mention of time off was in the contract, and believe me, most of the farmers took advantage of it". Nick's health began to suffer from the heavy work load, taking another farm job with hopes of easing the burdens, he found he had "gone from the frying pan into the fire".

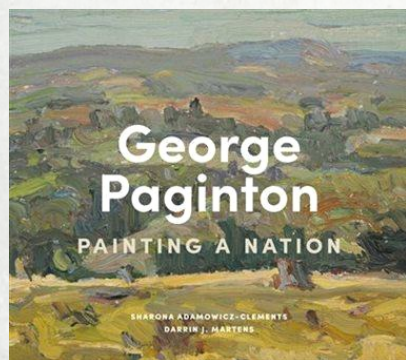
Nick missed his family back in England and would often write them, including drawings of where he was living at the time. These drawings included everything; barns, houses, farms and even an outhouse! They were extraordinary in their detail, the outhouse drawing included the Eaton Catalogue hanging on the wall. After his marriage, his beloved wife Flora encouraged him to continue his art work which now hang in homes and offices across the world. His story can be found in our [September 2015 Newsletter](#).

After George Paginton's wife's death in 1955, he continued to work for the Toronto Star. His last major assignment was to cover the 1959 visit of the Queen to open the revamped St. Lawrence Seaway. After his retirement in 1970, George continued to paint full time. He passed away on 6 Dec 1988; leaving behind an impressive collection of sketchbooks, drawings and painting which covered his life from the 1920's to the 1980's.

George's pieces are now part of Canada's Official Residences Crown Collection in Ottawa, they are included in the permanent collections at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Peel Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Northumberland, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, and the Sudbury Art Gallery.

George's art is now featured in a special exhibition at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives in Brampton, Ontario. The exhibit is open until 17 Feb 2020. Details are below and also details on a newly released book which tells his story and shows his extraordinary work.

Sources: Tony Paginton and Roswita Busskamp; George Paginton - Painting A Nation by Sharona Adamowicz-Clements and Darrin J. Martens; Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives; Wall Fiction (links below); BHCARA Newsletter Archive, Author Art Joyce and Kelly Juhasz, Fine Art Appraisal and Services.



George Paginton: Painting a Nation explores the journey of a relatively unknown Canadian landscape painter who was a peer of members of the Group of Seven. Paginton's private passion was to document the wonder of nature from coast to coast. A prolific artist, Paginton created over 1500 oil paintings, the majority of which never exhibited or sold commercially. This publication aims to present the artist to Canadians and include him in the art historical cannon of the nation.

Written by Canadian art curators, Sharona Adamowicz-Clements and Darrin J. Martens.

To purchase visit: Wall Fiction at:

[www.wallfiction.com](http://www.wallfiction.com)

Description of book from Wall Fiction



PEEL  
ART GALLERY  
MUSEUM +  
ARCHIVES

## George Paginton: Painting a Nation Exhibition on now until Feb. 17, 2020

Connect with beautiful landscape paintings by George Paginton that capture scenes in the Region of Peel and from across Canada. Created in the tradition of the world-famous Group of Seven Painters, this exhibition reveals his passion for the Canadian landscape and use of expressive brush strokes.

**9 Wellington St. E., Brampton, ON, L6W 1Y1**

**PAMA Talks: British Home Children Talk with  
Guest Speaker Lori Oschefski  
Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:00 p.m. - 8:30**

Assistance with not only the book but also the exhibition at Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA) was supplied by the owner of Wall Fiction and Fine Art Appraisal and Services, Kelly Juhasz, who has been working with the artist's family, Tony Paginton and Roswita Busskamp.



## Andrew Simpson's much anticipated new book is released INTRODUCING "The Ever Open Door - 150 Years of The Together Trust

It remains odd that Britain still lags behind in the study of British Home Children, compared to Canada.

I can see why that might be the case, but it is still very frustrating that there are few books given over to the subject, and when programmes appear on the television or wireless they focus mainly on the experiences of those young people sent to Australia in the middle decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

So, when I began the long journey researching my own BHC, I very quickly ended up in Canada, trawling the books, and social media sights having exhausted the one book published in the UK.

And that brought me to Lori and the work she has been doing to bring the story out of the shadows. In the decade that we have known each other British Home Children has become recognized as a serious area of study, and her contribution to that growing awareness has been inspirational.

Like many I started with the unknown relative, proceeded through the odd documentary scraps I could garner in Britain and ended in Canada.

And like so many along the way I dug deep into the history of Britain and Canada in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to understand why children were migrated.

Very early on, because I live in Manchester I drew on the story of the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges, who migrated youngsters from the twin cities from 1870 through to 1914.

Now, my great uncle was migrated



*The Ever Open Door*  
*150 years of The Together Trust*  
ANDREW SIMPSON

by Middlemore on behalf of the Derby Union, but if you have a children's society on your doorstep which was involved in sending children to Canada, it makes sense to approach them.

And that led to an equally long working association with Liz Sykes who is the charity's archivist.

Liz was very helpful, indulged my more crass questions, and provided much useful information on the work of the charity.

Somewhere along the way we talked about the possibility of writing a history of

the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges, which would update the only existing account which had been published in 1920, to commemorate the first fifty years of the charity's existence.

The idea hung in the air for a few years, but eventually as the charity began to consider how to mark its 150 anniversary in 2020 the idea of a new book became a reality.

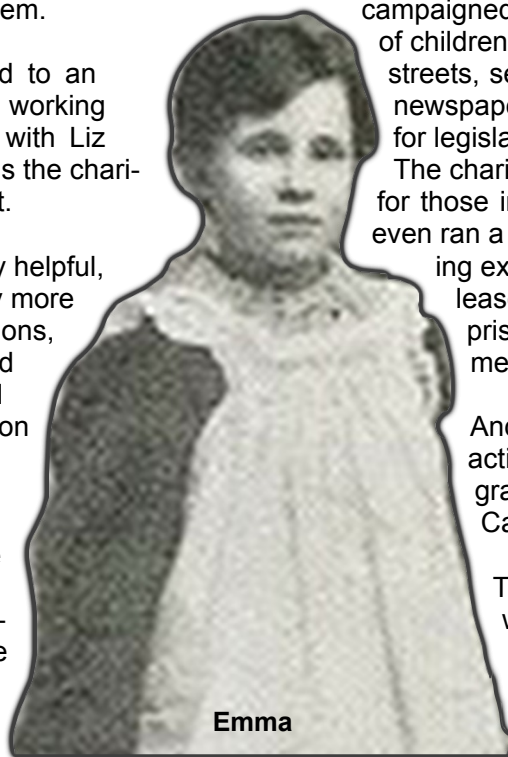
Which is how I got the commission, and why it is the subject of the article.

I have to confess my knowledge of their work was limited. I knew that they had begun in 1870 with a modest undertaking to take six destitute boys off the streets of Manchester and Salford, give them a bed for the night and breakfast in the morning.

Within a decade this had expanded to girls as well as boys, a group of permanent homes, and vocational training schemes. Added to this they intervened in the courts on behalf of children in need of protection from neglectful or cruel parents, campaigned for better monitoring of children who worked on the streets, selling matches and newspapers, as well as calling for legislation to protect them. The charity provided holidays for those in their charge and even ran a programme of meeting ex-convicts, newly released from Strangeways prison, offering them a meal and advice.

And amongst all these activities they also migrated young people to Canada.

The numbers sent were small in comparison with other charities, and represented just a small percentage of those were



Emma

cared for by the charity.

And that itself makes the book interesting for all those studying BHC, because we set out to show how migration fitted into the bigger picture of caring for children in an age before the State became involved.

So, here are case studies, including the reasons for migration, the involvement of parents and the subsequent reports on the progress of children in Canada, and in some cases the letters that were sent home by the children.

What quickly became apparent was that the book would reflect the changing nature of care over 150 years, reflecting the growing role of the State, and changing ideas about how young people in care should be helped.

The logic of which was to break the book down into three sections, starting with 1870 through to 1920, which saw the first homes, the expansion into a variety of activities, and essentially was the period before the State intervened, leaving charities to shoulder the burden.

The second reflected changing ideas of care, which focused on the provision of smaller “family” homes, the move out of the twin cities to a



rural setting, concluding with the establishment of the Welfare State, which involved the development of a partnership between the charity and local authorities.

The third and final section takes the story from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century into the 21<sup>st</sup>, which saw the organisation taking on exciting new roles, particularly where there were gaps in State provision.

It concludes with the observation that as central government and local authorities divest themselves of responsibility for some areas of care, the charity has stepped in, which almost takes us full circle.

The book draws on the archives of the charity, including reports, photographs, letters, reminiscences, and other memorabilia, and is supplemented by newspaper coverage,

and government documents.

But above all what comes through are the experiences of the young people who went through the doors, the dedication of the staff over that 150 years, and the changing approach to the care of those young people.

Those changes are reflected in the name of the charity which is now known as the Together

Trust.

All of which leaves me to thank Liz, whose deep knowledge of the charity's work, skill at selecting the right documents from the archives, and great patience in answering my questions has made the task of writing the book both easy and fun.

And Liz deserves also to be singled out for her willingness to help those enquiring about members of their family who the charity has helped. So much so, that the book includes pages devoted to guiding people through how to ask for help.

The book will be out later in the year, and is available from the Together Trust, and will be an important addition in the story of both BHC and just how Britain has evolved its policies of care towards young people.\*



## The Ever Open Door, 150 Years of the Together Trust, Andrew Simpson, 2020

Pre-order via, The Together Trust;  
enquiries@togethertrust.org.uk  
and Liz Sykes, archivist, liz.sykes@togethertrust.org.uk

Visit Andrew's Facebook Group at: [British Home Children ..... the story from Britain](#)

His blog can be found at: <https://chorltonhistory.blogspot.com/>



## FARMER'S WIFE SLAIN AND HIRED MAN HELD ON MURDER CHARGE

Dog Leads Husband to Bat-  
tered Body Hidden Be-  
neath Floor

## YOUNG FARMHAND SENT UP FOR TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGE

Arthur Grimes Committed for  
Alleged Killing of Em-  
ployer's Wife

## ENGLISH BOY FREED AFTER TWO TRIALS

Arthur Grimes Is Liberated  
From Jail Following Jury  
Disagreements

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)  
St. Catharines, Aug. 11.—It was an-  
nounced by Sheriff Henry O'Loughlin  
today that Arthur Grimes twice tried

# The Case of Arthur Walter Grimes (1929-1930) by Andrea Harris

Arthur W. Grimes, a British Home Child who allegedly endured years of abuse, stood trial twice for murdering his employer's wife. After both trials resulted in a hung jury, the charges were ultimately dismissed by the crown.

Some brief news clippings regarding Arthur Grimes have been posted in the BHCARA FB group before, but The Globe newspaper covered the case extensively and these articles add much detail and context to his story.

Arthur Grimes was 15 years old when he came to Canada aboard the S.S. Regina with a party of children from National Children's Home, landing at Quebec on May 7, 1922. After spending a brief time at the receiving home in Hamilton and a first placement in St. George, Ontario, Arthur was placed with the Stuart family of Grassie's Corners near Grimsby. His Juvenile Inspection report indicates that his formal indenture period was completed in 1926 and a note at the time states: "Arthur is a fair worker, if very untidy, the boy is happy & contented."

Almost three years later, Arthur was still living and working on the Stuart's farm. On February 9, 1929, Arthur and Mrs. Pearl Stuart were left together on the farm while Mr. James Stuart and his 9-year-old daughter, Margaret, went on a shopping trip to Grimsby. That afternoon, Mrs. Stuart allegedly asked Arthur to lift a sick calf that was lying in foul bedding. Arthur later stated that he was unable to lift the calf as the smell was turning his stomach. When he told Mrs. Stuart he was unable to do what she asked, she allegedly hit him twice with a pitchfork. Arthur then went to the woodshed where he began to chop wood. Mrs. Stuart apparently followed him and came at him again, and Arthur allegedly confessed that he had struck Mrs. Stuart on the head with an axe in self-defense. Mr. Stuart discovered his wife's body after returning to the farm from the shopping trip and searching for her for some time.

When police arrived they followed footprints in the snow and found Arthur hunkered down in the corner of a field with a bag of food. He was so weak they had to half-carry him back to their car, and at first Arthur behaved as a "mute" when police tried to question him (it seems, possibly due to shock).

Surprisingly, public support for Arthur was strong from the start when details of the story broke. Two lawyers were retained for

Arthur Grimes' defence. National Children's Homes stated they would "save no expense on defending the youth," and hired lawyer Peter White, K.C. of Hamilton. Also, a Hamilton philanthropist hired D.A. Robinson, another Hamilton lawyer, to work for the defense. "I have simply retained Mr. Robinson to assist in defending the case of a poor English lad in a strange country without friends," the anonymous patron was quoted to say. ("Young Farmhand Sent Up For Trial on Murder Charges." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 26 Feb 1929: 5.).

In response to this news, "A Farmer's Wife" from West Montrose, Ontario wrote a letter to the Editor of *The Globe* expressing her relief that Arthur was going to be well-represented at trial and detailing how she once had taken in a home boy who had turned up at her door in a pitiable condition. "I say all honor to the kind hearts, both in our country and in the Old Land, that are going to see justice done. Many home boys who are placed out here have good homes and many haven't, but how this boy in particular was treated has yet to be proved." ("A Kindly Act." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 8 Mar 1929: 4.).

One of the initial articles about the case stated: "The prisoner has an impediment in his speech, and when the officers first called upon him at the jail he acted as if he were deaf and dumb. The officers, in view of the statements of the prisoner, that he had been ill-used, had a medical examination made. They say he has the appearance of being poorly nourished, and does not look 21 years old, as claimed by himself." ("Farmer's Wife Slain and Hired Man Held on Murder Charge." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 11 Feb 1929: 1).

Once Arthur's trial began, many details came out about his physical and mental condition while living with the Stuarts:

"Stuart said that he [Grimes] had come to him as a lad of fifteen, and he had contracted to pay him \$5 a month and supply him with board and clothes. Grimes was also to have schooling. The wages were gradually increased to \$10 a month, as the contract with the National Children's Home Association was renewed every year. Mr. White presented statements showing Grimes had received from 80 cents to \$1.30 a year for spending money, and Stuart said they were correct. He paid the youth by the year. He admitted that Grimes's bedroom had no heat, that once when Grimes first came to him as a lad of fifteen he had thrown him out of the barn door, and his knowledge



## .....The Case of Arthur Walter Grimes (1929-1930) page 2

of what friends or diversions the boy had was exceedingly vague. 'I supposed my friends were his friends,' said Stuart." ("Farmer Examined on His Treatment of Alleged Slayer." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 9 Oct 1929: 5]

"... the boy was very poorly dressed and badly nourished. He weighed 113 pounds when he came to the jail on Feb. 9 last. A month ago he had tipped the scales at 145, and this morning he had weighed 135. He had been fed on ordinary prison fare, with a pint of milk a day. ... when Grimes arrived at the jail his body was in a very dirty state, but marks could be seen on his arms, legs and back. There was an old mark, three by four inches in size at the base of his spine, but the marks on his arms seemed fresh... The prisoner appeared "dormant" in both mind and body." ("Alleged Confession Excluded by Judge at Farmhand's Trial: Grimes's Body Scarred." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 11 Oct 1929: 24.).

There was even doubt as to whether Arthur was even physically strong enough to have hurt Mrs. Stuart, and the police constable who testified was chastised on the stand by the defense for not taking fingerprints on the handle of the axe. The "confession" in which Grimes had admitted to striking Mrs. Stuart with the axe was not admitted as evidence, as there was a question as to whether Grimes was coerced into signing the account of events. Also there was slim circumstantial evidence to connect Grimes with the crime, mostly hinging upon the whereabouts of a paper bag of gumdrops that Mr. Stuart had purchased on the shopping trip to Grimsby and that was allegedly found in the pocket of Arthur Grimes' ragged overalls. "Defense counsel Peter White stated: "There is nothing to connect Grimes with the killing of Mrs. Stuart, except, perhaps, the fact that he ran away. Someone else may have killed the woman, or her death may have resulted from a dozen different things. Grimes ran away and hid, it is true, but he may have been panic-stricken over something." ("Young Farmhand Sent Up For Trial on Murder Charges." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 26 Feb 1929: 5.).

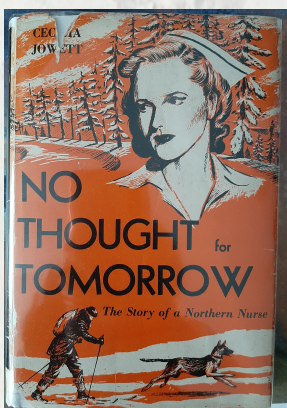
Arthur's first trial resulted in a hung jury when 7 of 12 jurors voted for his acquittal. Judge W.E. Raney made several questionable statements after the jury failed to render a verdict including, "I am quite plain about my impressions and expressions. The evidence is clear. I have never heard, in all my experience, a plainer case of responsibility than for the death of this woman." Also, "Well, all I can say is that I hope this will not be a precedent, and that the result of this trial will not be an encouragement to hired men in this Province to murder their mistresses." ("Jury Fails to Agree and Trial of Grimes Goes to Next Court." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 12 Oct 1929: 1.).

At the second trial, Judge McEvoy refused to allow any questioning of the farmer James Stuart about his relationship with the accused, "I cannot see what anything which may have happened since 1922, and up to the time of the death of Mrs. Stewart, had to do with this crime, and I must refuse to allow questioning on the subject," his Lordship ruled." ("Crown's Case Ends Abruptly at Trial of Arthur Grimes." *The Globe* [Toronto, Ontario] 20 Mar 1930: 2.).

The second trial placed further doubt on Arthur's connection to the murder. A doctor testified that the stains found on Grimes' clothing were not blood, as was suggested at the first trial. 11 of the 12 jurors voted for a not guilty verdict at the second trial.

After two trials failed to produce any verdict, the Crown decided to drop the charges against Arthur. Although it was stated that he would need to report to a parole officer periodically following his release, it was also reported that: "Assurances have been given by friendly disposed people that Grimes' education will be looked after and that he will be given a chance in life." ("Arthur Grimes Is Freed From Jail." *The Windsor Star* [Windsor, Ontario] 11 Aug 1930: 12.).

For sources and to read the newspaper articles visit our web site at: <https://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/grimes-arthur.html>



### NEW TO OUR COLLECTIONS

After searching for many years, the BHCARA has secured a vintage copy of Cecilia Jowett's book "No Thought for Tomorrow - The Story of a Northern Nurse". Jowett outlines her experience as a Dr. Barnardo's Home Child sent to Canada in 1901. In this rare detailed first hand account of a BHC, Cecilia describes the journey to Canada, magical in the icebergs and whales she saw. Hazelbrae, she described idyllically as being castle like and a haven for the children. As a child she resolved to become a Nurse, so that she could show kindness to others as it was shown to her. Cecilia did just that, becoming a selfless nurse and missionary to those in need. She trained as a Nurse at the Orillia General Hospital.

In her autobiography, Cecilia speaks of the loneliness of the loss of her family and her desire to return to England to find her Father. She acknowledge one brother in Canada. She leads us to believe she never saw her mother again, or any other siblings. "My beloved mother, for whom I fought for at school, I scarcely remembered", Cecilia wrote describing the bullying she endured at school for being an

"orphan". Research into her family has shown this not to be true. Cecilia had come to Canada with a sister, Ethel. Four years later, her mother and remaining siblings followed the girls, settling into the very same remote northern community. Cecilia was a witness to a sister's marriage, confirming she did know they were there.

Like all British Home Children, Cecilia suffered the humiliation of being essentially abandoned by both her parents. In Canada she was taunted and teased, called an orphan while living with complete strangers and knowing full well that both parents were alive. A child's mind is unable to process the complex reasons behind a family break-up or the migration process. What Cecilia understood was only that her mother did not take her back into the family, but remarried and had more children. Many of our British Home Children invented alternative pasts, they rewrote their own histories, omitting what they could not understand and omitting their pain.

Cecilia's story and a digital copy of her book can be found on our website at: <https://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/cecilia--ethel-jowett.html>

### A Mission in Life

**NO THOUGHT FOR TOMORROW.** By Cecilia Jowett. Ryerson: 104 pages, \$2.75.

Cecilia Jowett came to Canada when she was five in the care of Dr. Barnardo's nurses. With a ticket pinned to her coat she was sent to a farm family in Ontario. Of these early years she makes little mention save that she met with kindness on all sides. She worked hard and was able to train as a nurse, graduating from the Orillia General Hospital. Following some hospital work and private duty nursing she joined her brother, who was ill and needed her, in the Hunta district near Cochrane. "No Thought for Tomorrow" covers the seven years—the bitter ones of the depression—she spent in this northern area where, for the most part, she lived alone with her Collie, Prince, as her only companion. Save for a brief period when she returned to England for a reunion with her long lost father, she has spent most of her adult life in fairly remote districts of Ontario.

Her simple narrative bespeaks her faith in God, devotion to her fellowmen and a deep affection for the Northland.

E. K.



# Announcing our Second World War, Korean War and Boer War Project

In 2012 the BHCARA launched a project aiming to identify all the British Home Children who had died in the First World War. To date, over 1,100 BHC soldiers are now in our index. The Government of Canada requested lists from the sending organizations of their former wards who had enlisted. The list we have are published on our web site at: [Those Who Served in the First World War](#). From these lists researchers spent years combing through to identify all the casualties of the War and then researched the soldiers so that we have fairly comprehensive information on all. The full files are held by the BHCARA with an index to the files published at: [First World War Deaths](#). From the lists and other information published during that time and our research done, we know that well over 10,052 BHC enlisted and that over 1,100 died. We have been able to compile stats on the First World War, granted as more information is uncovered the stats are subject to change. These stats were officially released to the public in a [statement read by MP John Brassard](#) in our House of Commons, 2 June 1917. Mr. Brassard, using the newly released stats, greatly helped us in our successful bid to have Veterans Affairs Canada formally recognize the service of the British Home Children in the War. Without the enormous efforts of all, this would not have happened!

The Second World War, the Korean War and the Boer War seems to be different, there have been very few enlistment lists found, to date. We have no information on how many served, died - no stats at all. The service of the British Home Children in these wars is sorely lacking representation. Their service remains relatively unknown. The BHCARA has launched a project aiming to gather enlistments and identify those who served and those who died. This project is structured differently than the First World War as our needs for the Second World War is different. Most BHC who enlisted in the Second World War and the Korean War have Government Inspection Reports which have now been released on [Heritage.Canadiana.ca](#). These reports give details on the child's placements and activities while indentured farm workers. As part of this project our aim is to have these reports attached to each file. To date, we have now gathered information/reports on over 500 soldiers with 70 deaths found. Our index has now been published on our [www.BritishHomeChildren.com](#) web sit. Our project kick starts with: Entries to Date: 500 Deaths Identified 70.

## How can you help?

1. If you have a BHC in your family or one that you know of, their information can be submitted to this project through our on-line submission form. This form is detailed and we need you to fill it out to the best of your knowledge. Links are provided to enable you to look up information you might not know. The form is best to be filled out on your home computer and not on your phone. [www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/wwll-korean-and-boer-war-project.html](http://www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/wwll-korean-and-boer-war-project.html)
2. If you know of any listing of BHC who served in these Wars please contact us at: [bhcsecondworldwar@gmail.com](mailto:bhcsecondworldwar@gmail.com)
3. We need a team in place to help with this project. It will be, like the First World War, ongoing however, we do have information that needs to be checked and entered into the index. We are looking for people willing to do look ups as required, including checking submissions for possible deaths and those who might be able to input this information on to a spread sheet for easy transfer to the index. We have created a private Facebook group for those able to help. If you are not on Facebook and willing to help, we can assign soldiers to you via e-mail which need look-up, checked and entered.
4. Questions or problems with entering the information can be sent to: [bhcsecondworldwar@gmail.com](mailto:bhcsecondworldwar@gmail.com)

Please note:

Only the BHCARA will be responsible for the final entry into the index.

The submission form and the official spread sheet is designed to be compatible for future entry into the Registry.

