

# British Home Children

Advocacy & Research Association  
November 2020 Newsletter

By Lori Oschefski &  
Andrew Simpson



New book release by  
Julie Band

*Lest We Forget.*

## George Beardshaw

By Lori Oschefski from her book "Bleating of the Lambs"

**BHC and Second World War Veteran**

**Celebrates his 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This is his story.**

### Remembrance

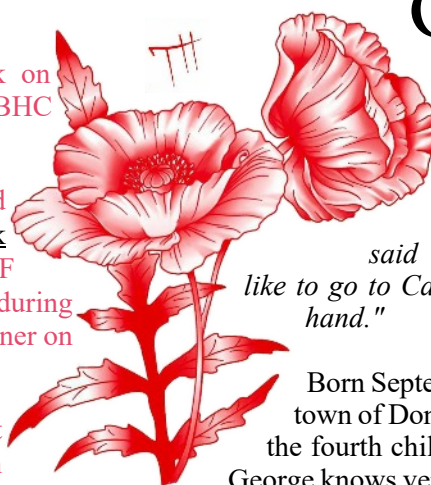
This Remembrance Day we reflect back on 2020 on the work done to remember our BHC who served.

We were saddened to lose Fegan Boy and Second World War Veteran Patrick Maloney recently. He enlisted in the RAF and was stationed in Scampton, England during WWII where he served as a mid-upper gunner on a Lancaster bomber.

Craig Froese, Grade 10 history teacher at the Nantyr Shores Secondary School in Innisfil, Ontario, spent time during the covid lock down uploading our Honour Roll plaque to each BHC's page on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site, who are listed on the plaque. He also identified 140 BHC who are not listed. The original plaque was made in 2014, more BHC who lost their lives in the War have been identified since. We are currently working towards creating a new plaque with all their names (to date) added. You can view the current plaque at: British Home Children in Canada

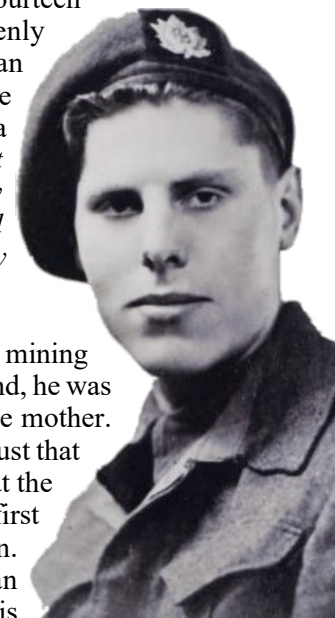
This year the service of the BHC was formally recognized by the Veterans Affairs Canada. They now appear on their web-site at: Remembering Those Who Served.

Our beautiful new image of poppies, appearing in our custom service logo, was created exclusively for our use by Tamara Harmsworth of maras.tattoos. Tamara is a BHC descendant and niece to CEO Lori Oschefski. We invite everyone to display the new logo on their Facebook pages or social media to highlight the service of our BHC this year.



George Herbert Beardshaw came to Canada as a fourteen year old boy, mistakenly believing he was an orphan and that he would become a cowboy. *"I was at school one day and they said "How many boys would like to go to Canada? So I stuck up my hand."*

Born September 14, 1923 in the coal mining town of Doncaster, Yorkshire, England, he was the fourth child of five, born to a single mother. George knows very little about his father, just that he had a family elsewhere. He believes that the police had made his father return to his first family causing the family breakdown. Young George was sent to stay with an "Aunt May". He retained no memory of his mother and memories of his Aunt are of her heavy drinking habits. *"She could drink ten men under the table"* George said of his Aunt. Of his siblings, he only remembered two older brothers, Charles and John. At the age of six, he was sent to the Barnardo Homes.



George remembers Barnardo's as being a very strict home, where the boys were thoroughly punished for small things. Alone at first, George was left to the difficult task of fending for himself among the boys. Charlie and John, initially boarded out, came to live in the same cottage as George and protected him from the other boys. Although many of the children were educated out in the community, George was sent to school inside Barnardo's. John was sent to Canada through Barnardo's in 1932 at the age of fifteen and Charlie was boarded out, once again leaving George alone. In 1938 George was also sent to Canada. ....continued pg 2



He had been in school when the Barnardo Homes inspector came in and said “*how many want to go to Canada?*” Fourteen year old George wanted to get out of the Barnardo Homes, stuck up his hand. He looked forward to the excitement of an ocean voyage and to becoming a cowboy. Nobody ever explained to him what going to Canada really meant. George, knowing his brother was in Canada already and believing his mother was dead, looked forward to the new life that was being offered.

George was sea sick on the voyage but otherwise enjoyed the trip. They were treated well and could eat what they wanted. In his box he was allowed to bring a box camera, clothing and a crystal set. From Quebec they took a train into Toronto and stayed at the Jarvis Street receiving home for three days. Barnardo’s took the children on a trip to the Toronto Island.

The boys were given a list of about two hundred farmers who were looking for farm help. On that list he saw a Mr. Payne who was located in Little Britain. George thought, since he came from Great Britain he would go to Little Britain, and thus his placement was chosen. George was transported to the farm just outside of Lindsay, Ontario by train. Mr. Payne picked him up from the train station in a 1929 Chevy.

George stood out from the neighborhood children, who often came to see him to hear him speak and see his different clothing. He got used to stepping in cow dung and although he had never seen cows before, he soon got used to cleaning it up.

Mr. Payne was “*ahhhh alright*” in George’s words. Mr. Payne told George he was too smart for his own good. George was worked very hard and felt he could run rings around him work wise. George was to earn three dollars a month and was told by Mr. Payne many times that he was not worth it. His pay was put into an account held by the Barnardo offices from which was deducted items for his cares such as clothing and his straw hats needed. Barnardo’s held his money on account and he did eventually receive it. George lived a very isolated and restrictive life, he was there to work. Simple activities such as going to a movie was not allowed. Indentured to Mr. Payne for five years, George often ran away. Barnardo’s told him that he could not leave Mr. Payne and that he had to stay there.

One morning; George, weary of the harsh life, had been up ahead of Mr. Payne. He had milked his three cows and by the time Mr. Payne arrived for work, George had started milking his. George remarked that the cow wasn’t giving as much milk as before to which the farmer replied “if you kept your mouth shut she’d likely give more”. Well, George just stared at him, thinking he’d had about enough. Now was his opportunity to get out of there, he scared the cats away, took the milking pail and set it against the wall. Mr. Payne asked George where he was going and he told him that he couldn’t take this treatment anymore and he was leaving him.

Fed up, George went into the house where Mrs. Payne was making breakfast. She asked “George, did you get your chores done already?” “Yup”, he replied, “about all I’m going to do.” “You didn’t leave Will down there all alone to do the chores did you?” George told her that he didn’t care when she told him that they would be unable to obtain another hired man if he left them. “After all we have done for you?” She replied. “You’ve done nothing for me but work my ass off!” George responded. “One of these days this farm will be yours” she pleaded. “I don’t want your damn farm,” was George’s final words to the Paynes. He left, walking down the road and hitched a ride to Delhi. Although his brother John was also in Canada, George did not see him for at least two years. John was placed in Delhi and that is where George headed. Once in Delhi, he was able to obtain a job working on a tobacco farm. Barnardo’s did try to get him to return to the Payne’s but George was determined he was not going back.

In February of 1944 he went to Toronto to join the Air Force. He was told that because he did not have enough education he would work as a grease monkey. George wanted to go overseas to see his family, he knew by this time his brother Charlie had found their mother. Although she had never bothered with him all his life, George, now nineteen years old, still wanted to see her and joined the army as a means to get back to England.

Once over sea’s he obtained three days leave and arrived on her door, unannounced. Although his grandparents said they were proud of him and that he looked sharp in his uniform, it was like going into a stranger’s home. His mother was very quiet. George avoided discussing why she had given them up, he just wanted to meet his family. He was proud to be a Canadian soldier. George served with the Queen’s Own Rifles reaching corporal status with the 8th platoon. While serving in action near the end of the war, he was taken prisoner of war in Deventer, Holland. After “a bit of a schemozzle” Beardshaw was captured and spent the final 28 days of the war as a Prisoner of War. That was George said “*another fine mess.*” (Ian Gillespie, The London Free Press)

George settled in London, Ontario where he lived with his pretty wife Emma. George and Emma did not have children of their own, but enjoyed a good relationship with his brother’s children. Charlie had come to Canada in 1953, married and had two children. Tragically just after his forty first birthday, he was killed in an automobile accident. George and Emma helped the family out a great deal after the loss of their father.

One of George’s keepsakes from the war is a handkerchief which was given to George Beardshaw by the Red Cross after his capture in Deventer, Holland. The names of fellow prisoners of war are written on it, including the names of his captured platoon in the top right corner. George framed it and proudly shows it off to visitors.

George is glad that he came to Canada. Despite his struggles on the farm, he is proud and grateful to be Canadian. George was the special guest speaker on July 28, 2014 when the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association held a special commemoration service to Honour the British Home Children who served and died in the First World War. At the end of his address, he lifted his fist into the air and declared “*I love Canada*”. George is one of our last two surviving pre 1940 BHC and our last Home Child, surviving, who served.



# George's 97<sup>th</sup> Drive-by Birthday Party!

George, a Second World War veteran and one of Canada's last surviving British Home Children, was not expecting much for his birthday this year, given the Covid-19 outbreak. Friends Debbie and Rick Harley called and said they would bring him fish and chips for lunch that day, hoping that he would agree and be ready. George said *"I guess so since nothing else is going on."* Little did he know that his friend and caregiver Judi Helle was busy creating an amazing party for him. *"He's a wonderful man and he helped bring us peace. Now with things being so difficult during the pandemic, I just wanted to bring him a little joy."*

George was unhappy with the lack of recognition of 6<sup>th</sup> June, the anniversary of the D-Day invasion, he felt more should have been done. *"He was down and he does not get depressed. I saw all these people were doing drive-by parties,"* said Judi. She had arranged for a massive drive by party to mark his day. Public officials, including federal and provincial politicians Kate Young, Peter Fragiskatos and Lindsay Mathysen were on hand to greet George. CEO Lori Oschefski, along with Dan Oatman - a BHCARA executive - were also in attendance. A rolling vehicle tribute, spanning over 5 block long drove past George - who was seated at the end of his driveway to watch. Dozens of classic cars, riders from the Veterans 1st CAV Ortona Motorcycle Unit and Jeeps from the 401 Heavy Rescue drove past, honking horns and shouting best wishes to George. The participants also shouted thank-you's to George for his service to our country.

Kate Young, Member of Parliament for London West, wished George a Happy Birthday in the House of Commons.

With many thanks to Judi and all those who participated, this was one memorable birthday for George! *"It was fantastic. I could not have asked for anything better. I'm spoiled rotten,"* said George.

[View George's article in the Wortley Villager on page 3](#)

Source of quotes: London Free Press:

["International orphan. WWII veteran. Now, at 97, beloved birthday boy"](#)







## Andrew Simpson

Historian & Author Andrew Simpson  
British Home Children ..... the story from Britain

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

## The impact of the Great War on the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges and Homes

Now it is that time of year when many of us reflect on the impact of two world wars and countless other military conflicts on those who fought or were in some way caught up in those events.

And of course, this year will be very different as those ceremonies on Remembrance Day take a different shape.

I had thought of writing about those young BHC, who volunteered to fight, either by joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force, or returned to Britain to enlist.

Some of them are buried in our local cemetery, having been sent back from the battle fronts to military hospitals in Manchester, only to die of their wounds.

My great uncle [James Rogers] who had been migrated to Canada in 1914 by Middlemore on behalf of the Derby Union was one of those, having run away from his last placement on a farm he joined the C.E.F., the following year, and served on the Western Front.

But their story is one I have already written about, and so instead I decided to explore the impact of the Great War on one of the children's charities, who also migrated young people to Canada.

This was Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges and Homes, which had been established in 1870.

The Great War touched it in many ways. Like other charities it had to adjust to a loss of revenue at a time when it was extending its provision of care, was forced to close some of its homes and faced the loss of some young people and staff it held dear.

By the end of the war its Roll of Honour extended to over 400 men who included committee members and staff as well as those who had been helped by the Refuge. Of these 400 men, 55 enlisted in the Manchester Regiment and 83 were youngsters who had been migrated to Canada and either returned to Britain to serve or volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

*Auth Original*

9 30

ATTESTATION PAPER

No. *1578*

Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? *James Rogers*
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Derby England*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Parents dead*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Derby England*
5. What is the date of your birth? *March 15<sup>th</sup> 1897*
6. What is your trade or calling? *Farmer*
7. Are you married? *Single*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *No*
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

*James Rogers* (Signature of Man.)  
*James Rogers* (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *James Rogers*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *Aug 5* 1915 *James Rogers* (Signature of Recruit.)  
*James Rogers* (Signature of Witness.)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *James Rogers*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *Aug 5* 1915 *James Rogers* (Signature of Recruit.)  
*James Rogers* (Signature of Witness.)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Aldershot* this *7* day of *Aug* 1915.

*G. D. White* Capt. J.P. (Signature of Justice.)  
*in and for county of Hants*

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

*G. D. White* (Signature of Approving Officer.)  
CAPT. COL.

M. P. W. 52.  
100 M. 2. 15.  
H.Q. 1775-25-541.

CAN. ARMY BATTN. C. E. F.

The Attestation Papers of James Rogers



Harold Moss

Of these 400, 33 were killed.

Harold Moss was one of those who never returned. He had been admitted to the charity in 1906 where he stayed until he was 14 when he began work in a drapery shop as an apprentice. He enlisted at the beginning of the war and was sent to France with the 15th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers, and was killed on March 17th 1916 aged just 20.

News of his death was reported in the Manchester Evening News which wrote that Private Harold, formally of Rusholme was 'killed by a rifle grenade.'

His housemother Mrs Howarth on hearing the news of his death recorded;

"We were very grieved to hear of his death, he had always been such a good lad in every way, as he grew older we always felt he was a real elder brother to the younger boys. It was most touching many times when he has been home, to see him with the little ones, he was never tired of them, and they used to love to have him with them. We shall miss him very much, but it

is a comfort to know he has died as he always tried to live, doing his duty and helping others."

By 1916 the Refuge was experiencing a severe short fall in donations as the public increasingly channelled their money toward charities directly connected with the war.

These covered everything from the National Fund to relieve hardship, to sending comforts to the troops and those aimed at Refugees.

And as the conflict dragged on the Government found a whole range of ways of raising funds including the Tank Bank which consisted of a tank in Albert Square with an office set aside in the Town Hall to take deposits from the general public.

There was an expectation that the total amount collected would out do Liverpool which in its first three days had raised

£797,800 and Sheffield which had donated £113,380 and so with a degree of civic pride the Manchester Guardian reported that the city had hit £870,444 in just two days.

But the downside of the outpouring of the public's money to the war effort was a squeeze on the existing charities.

The Refuge made regular appeals highlighting the shortfall. In the October of 1915 it announced that "there is a deficiency of £10,000 on Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges maintenance account, the institution having been most unfavourably affected by the War and leading to a further appeal to "the community which it serves in caring for of its most needy member."

Already some of the buildings had been closed partly as a cost cutting exercise but also because they were no longer needed. These included the Young Men's Institute and the Sir William Stevenson Emigration Training Home, while the loss of so many of the Refuges' workers to the armed services saw a reduction in the income from the workshops just as the price of food, clothes and fuel continued to rise. Only the shoemaking department was maintained and after the war none of the other workshops reopened.

All of which was at a time when the charity increased its activities. In 1914 they had decided to "receive motherless children whose fathers had been called to the Front [and noted that] already quite a number of such children had been received into one of the homes."

And as the Juvenile crime rates climbed they were acutely aware "that funds were urgently needed" to tackle the problem.

But amongst the gloom and anxiety, the Refuge did decide to run the summer camp in 1915 with the help of generous donations from Southport and later in the war began to plan for the future.

It was a future which envisaged a move out of the twin cities, and was in part brought on by financial pressure. In 1916 the Committee reported that "if the empty buildings can be sold a probable consequence will be the transference of part of the Institution's work to a more desirable situation in the country."1

*Adapted in part from The Ever Open Door, 150 years of the Together Trust, Andrew Simpson, 2020*

*Pictures, the Attestation Papers of James Rogers, 1915, from the Simpson family collection, and Harold Moss, 1916, courtesy of the Together Trust, <https://www.togethertrust.org.uk/>*



## News bites

### BHC Day 2020

The Covid restrictions did not prevent us from holding a very successful commemoration of our British Home Children. Dozens of our members, through our BHC Burial Index, commemorated BHC graves in their area. Photos were then posted in our group and uploaded to their pages on [Find-a-Grave](#). Over two-hundred new burials were added to our [BHC Burial Index](#) through these efforts! Currently we have 3,820 burials identified with more being added each day!



and William Bramwell, commemorated by Lori Oschefska

### 661 Huronia Street Receiving Home Update

Our Bid to save the Church of England, Waifs and Strays receiving home located at 661 Huron Street passed another important phase in the bid designate it as a historical property.

A "Notice of Intention to Designate for 661-665 Huron Street" was received in late October informing us that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 661-665 Huron Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. A 30 day period was given for any notices of objection to be received. The full text can be read on the [City of Toronto](#) web site.

### Follow us on the Social Media!



The BHCARA hosts accounts on:

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)



# ASU School of Molecular Sciences

## Professor George R. Pettit (son of Dr. Barnardo girl, Florence Elizabeth Seymour) retires after an illustrious 55 year long career in cancer research. *By Lori Oschefski*

It was Thanksgiving time in 2016 when I first came across the story of Florence Seymour while looking for a positive story that highlighted the enormous contributions our BHC made to our world. I found the story of Florence and Bob in a book written by Dr. Robert Byars, “Waging War on Cancer”, after doing a search for “Barnardo” in [Google Books](#).

Florence was sent to Canada on the 19th of April, 1904 aboard the SS Kensington. Upon arrival she was taken to the Hazel Brae Home in Peterborough, then put out to work. Florence’s sisters Rose and Catherine were also brought to Canada, arriving together through the Dr. Barnardo Homes, on the 28th of May, 1909.

In about 1914, Florence was “adopted” by a physician’s family from the USA. While working there, she met her husband - George Robert Pettit Sr. Bob arrived on the 8th June 1924

As a child, Bob sat by the sea and wondered why fish do not get cancer! His cancer research was based on marine products - he scoured the seas, at times by himself, looking as many marine organisms as he could possibly find. His work spanned in to a career of 55 years in which he published over 800 scientific papers and wrote multiple books and book chapters.

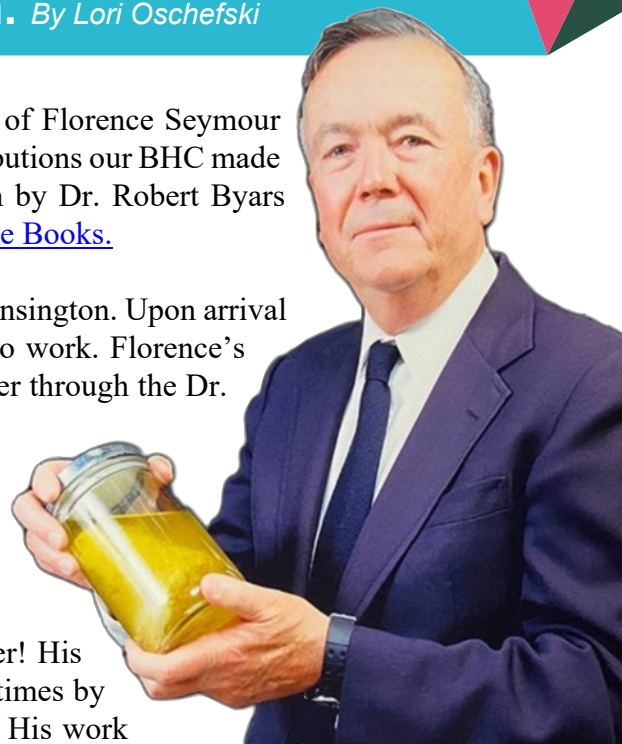
Bob is a leader in anti-cancer research, identifying and developing medicinal drugs obtained from marine animals and other natural sources as anti-cancer agents. He hold an amazing SEVENTY patents on anti-cancer medications in use today.

Bob is a humble man, always willing to share his knowledge and offer help. I contacted Dr. Byars, author of the biography on Bob to gain permission to use the information for an article I wanted to write. Dr. Byers put me in contact with Bob - who contacted me right away. The phone call with Bob was one of the most powerful and humbling calls I have taken. Here was this distinguished man, whose life work has saved so many lives, brought to tears because I had written a short article about his mother. It reinforced with me just how meaningful, powerful and impactful the work we do with the BHC is. I was in awe of Bob, and he was in awe of the work we do. Bob quickly shared the story of the descendants of Catherine and Rose, unfolding a remarkable story of the vast contributions of their descendants to our society and a strong contribution to our military service.

The original article published on Florence can be read in our [October 2026 Newsletter](#).

The story greatly expanded after speaking with Bob to include the descendants of Catherine and Rose. The complete story was featured in our printed Canada 150 magazine and our online BHC 150 magazine - available for [free download](#).

We wish Bob the very best in his retirement.



FLORENCE, ROSE AND CATHERINE SEYMOUR.



## 2020 BHCARA Student Achievement Award recipient

# ***Eva Apecetche***

### From Oromocto New Brunswick

Last school year, 11 year old Eva Apecetche created a poster project on the British Home Children for her school Heritage Fair (Grade 5 at Hubbard Elementary School). Due to Covid closures, Eva was unable to present her project.

Eva worked on her project with her grandmother, and learned about her 3rd Great Grandfather who was a British Child sent to Canada. The objective of her project was to share what she learned.

- Who were BHC?
- How they came to Canada ships and the belongings they carried with them (trunks)
- Where they went once they arrived to Canada
- Story about her 3rd Great Grandfather
- Share family pictures, pictures of the items they carried, BHC book and flag with BHC logo

*We are pleased to present Eva with the 2020 Student Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding efforts in completing her project. Eva will receive a small bursary and a framed certificate. Congratulations Eva!*

**Eva feelings "I was disappointed that school was closed and that I could not see my friends. I had put so much work into my project and I couldn't show my teachers and friends."**



# The Power of Remembering

By Julie Band

Adventure. A bit of romance. A dash of science and business. A real page-turner. A historical mystery.

That is what I wanted to write when I set out to pen *The Ever Open Door*.

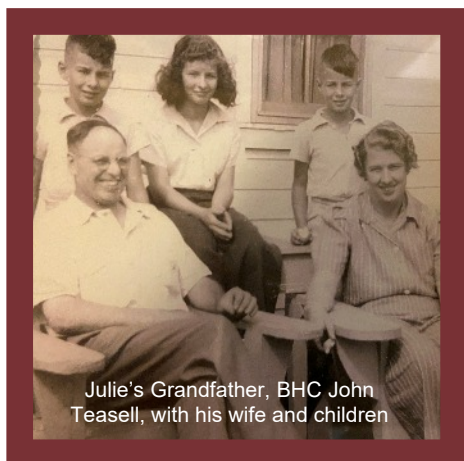
What had started as a project to improve my writing skills was morphing into a new desire – the desire to create something that would entertain readers and carry them away to a different time.

Growing up, I always loved history. I found myself curious about other cultures and times and would often imagine what it would be like to live during those periods. The by-products of that curiosity were the lessons I gleaned from studying historical figures and the questions it raised in myself.

Would I have made the same choices? The same mistakes? Would I have been brave? Or would I have cowered when faced with the same challenges?

Around the same time period that I started *The Ever Open Door*, I was researching my grandfather's history. I learned he was a British Home Child and had come to Canada as part of a large-scale emigration scheme that had spanned over seventy years.

I was stunned. How did I not know this? Had I missed a day in Grade 10 Canadian History?



Julie's Grandfather, BHC John Teasell, with his wife and children

No, I had stumbled upon what many before me already had discovered – that child immigration is a part of Canadian history that is seldom discussed or taught in school. Our loved ones seldom talked about it. There was shame and stigma in being a Home Child. It is a

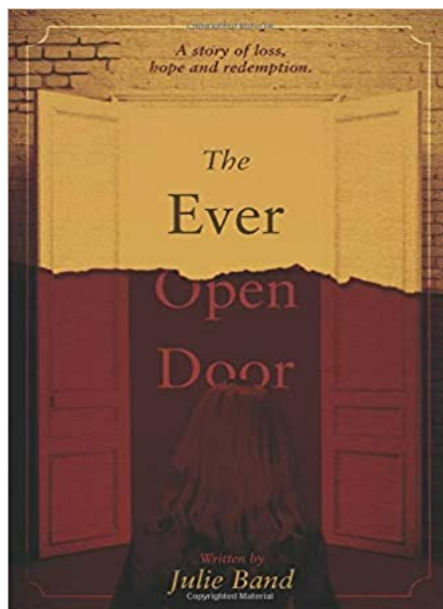
story filled with pain, humiliation, separation and oppression. It's uncomfortable. And so why pick at it, why remember it and why bring it to light?

Shame is a toxic emotion. It suggests to us that we don't belong, we are less than, or that we are unlovable. It is an impediment to connection, change and growth. It was a burden foisted onto the shoulders of the British Home Children - a stigma they could little understand, let alone defend against. And so they hid their shame, never spoke their truth or of their experiences, sometimes thinking they deserved the hardship they endured.

"If you put shame in a petri dish, it needs three ingredients to grow exponentially: secrecy, silence, and judgment." – Brene Brown

When we teach others about the child emigration schemes, we end the secrecy. When we share the stories of our loved ones, we end the silence. When we learn of their struggles and triumphs we quiet judgment. We alleviate the shame.

The story of British Home Children is not only one of grief and sorrow. It is a story of perseverance, love, and strength. In neglecting to tell the story because of the uncomfortable parts we neglect to share the light of these children and the contributions



A home child story with a twist! Julie Band takes a refreshing and different approach to a home child's plight, telling of her precipitous fall in social and economic standing in Victorian England. It highlights that not every home child was born of humble beginnings as a waif and stray. Interesting; well written and well worth the read. A wonderful precursor to her follow up book!

CEO BHCARA  
Lori Oschefski

they made to Canada. A contribution that shines even brighter when contrasted with the darker side of their story.

As I wrote *The Ever Open Door*, the things I was learning about my grandfather started to weave themselves into my writing. The story started to be about more than entertainment. I started to look at child immigration not only through the eyes of the children but through the philanthropists and charities that carried it out. I started asking myself questions again: Would I have made the same choices? The same mistakes? Did these people have good intentions or were they all bad or perhaps a mix of both. Considering the social construct of the day, what were their blind spots? And finally in our own time, how can we ensure we improve lives when we help others and not, inadvertently, make their life worse?

We share the past so we can learn from it. We build understanding and compassion. We face the pain, confront its teachings and summon the courage to turn the page and do better. We connect. We learn. And we grow. Not just as individuals, but as a community.

For me, that is the power of remembering.

And what of the adventure? A touch of romance? The dash of business and science? A real page-turner? Heck yes, that is all there too! Because I love history, and I love when it is shared through a good adventure story even more.

*The Ever Open Door* follows the story of Rachel Gilmore, the daughter of a prominent ship owner who is forced to volunteer in a children's sheltering home by her "do-gooder" stepmother. When Rachel's father is gravely injured in a suspicious dockside accident, Rachel races to keep his business out the hands of greedy creditors and finds herself becoming ensnared in the child emigration scheme of Liverpool.

Rachel Gilmour's story does not end with this book.

My goal is to have the next part of her saga explore British Home Children and their lives even further – still through her eyes. And of course, to be a good page-turner!

More information can be found at:

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

"*The Ever Open Door*" is available for purchase on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)