



Off to a better life in Canada — perhaps

MARJORY HARPER writes about the mixed fates of the 100,000 or so British children shipped to the dominion by philanthropic bodies such as Quarrier's and Barnardo's Homes in the years between 1870 and 1930.



William Quarrier on board ship with a party of girls bound for Canada.

Dedicated to Preserving the History of Glengarry

REMEMBERING BRITISH HOME CHILDREN

The early to mid-1800s were challenging times for the United Kingdom. The country was rapidly changing from a rural to an urban based-society. Thousands of people were leaving the countryside in search of work in the new mills and mines in and around the rapidly expanding cities. This mass migration led to deplorable living conditions in the cities. Explosive population growth produced overcrowding, unemployment and poverty. Crime, alcohol abuse and infectious diseases were rampant. Young children were sent out to work to supplement meagre family incomes. Parents who could no longer care for their children due to unemployment, injury, illness or death in the family were forced to send them to workhouses or to a life on the streets. Government actions to deal with these appalling conditions were inadequate. As a result, humanitarians such as Annie Macpherson, Thomas Barnardo, William Quarrier and others stepped forward and established homes in various cities to provide shelter, food, clothing and a basic education to needy children. These homes were soon overcrowded as the demand for spaces quickly exceeded the supply available for children. As a result the idea of sending children to Canada

Next Meeting

- Date: April 7, 8PM**
- Speaker: Will Robertson:
Remembering British Home Children**
- Place: The Church on the Hill,
Alexandria**

and other Commonwealth countries was born. Between 1869 and 1933 humanitarians in the United Kingdom sent some 100,000 orphaned or abandoned children to Canada. These children, known as home children, worked as farm or domestic helpers through an indenture agreement that covered their work, wages, board, clothing and secular and religious education. The majority of home children were treated relatively well by

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their Canadian families. However their condition was not monitored as well as it should have been and many children were physically and or mentally abused. In 1939 the changing world economic situation and the outbreak of World War II virtually brought an end to a child migration programme which had been in existence for over 60 years. In spite of their suffering and hardship home children have made an enormous contribution to Canada. It is only recently that this contribution has been recognized officially by the countries involved.

Will Robertson will talk on the British Home Children at the April 7 General Meeting. He describes his relationship to Glengarry: "My father and 4 of his siblings (2 sisters and 2 brothers) were Quarrier's children. Four of the five children came to eastern Ontario between 1925 -1930. One sister had TB and remained at Quarrier's. My father worked for awhile on a farm near Moose Creek (just over the Glengarry-Stormont boundary) before settling in Brockville. One brother also worked on a farm in the same area and eventually bought a farm there. The other brother was a member of the SD&G Highlanders during WWII. Our family spent many summer vacations on my uncle's farm and we always attended the Highland Games."



Canada recognized 2010 as the Year of the British Home Child and issued this commemorative stamp in September, 2010

Become a Member

Membership in the Historical Society means you are an integral part in preserving local history. You are invited to each of the regular meetings, which usually feature an interesting guest speaker or presentation. You will receive the Newsletter (several per year), and advance notice of Historical Society events. Membership in the Glengarry Historical Society is \$20 (\$25, Family) annually, or \$200 Lifetime membership. The Glengarry Historical Society is an affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society.

BEAVER HATS AND BAGPIPES

A successful fundraiser for the Glengarry Pioneer Museum was hosted by the Bonnie Glen Pavilion on February 25th. It was a most enjoyable and entertaining evening.

The fundraiser featured award winning storyteller Deborah Dunleavy with her performance of "Beaver Hats and Bagpipes" - a series of short stories relating to Glengarry.



For thirty years Deborah has made the arts her business. Whether producing award winning recordings, writing for Jim Henson Productions, or touring internationally as a singer and musician, Deborah has always balanced the business of the arts with the integrity of her creative expressions.

For more than a decade Deborah has specialized in the art of storytelling with performances in Ireland, Scotland and many places across Canada. She has been a repeat presenter for numerous Subject Councils and Associations including the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ontario Reading Association.

Deborah is an award-winning author (Kids Can Press) and is currently the editor of Pippin Magazine for Storytelling Toronto. She is the founder of The 1000 Islands Yarnspinners and Artistic Director of FOS – Festival of Storytelling.

Deborah is a member of SC/CC, The Storytellers School of Toronto, The Writers' Union of Canada, The American Federation of Musicians, The Canadian Society of Authors, Illustrators and Performers, The Society of Composers Authors and Music Publishers and The Canadian Childrens' Book Centre.

Many thanks are extended to: the Bonnie Glen Pavilion for free use of the hall and an additional \$2 donation per meal, Ashley MacLeod for the sound system, and door prizes donated by Flora Chisholm, Ronna Mogelon, Rosemary Rutley, Karen Davison-Wood, Phylis Rowland, & Rozon Insurance.

THE RAILWAY AT DALKEITH

The last half of the nineteenth century was the Age of Rail, and Glengarry did not want to be left out. In 1872 a group of promoters headed by D. A. Macdonald of Alexandria obtained federal authorization to build a railway from Ottawa to Alexandria, and from Alexandria to the Grand Trunk Railway near Coteau Landing. A depression held up construction for almost ten years until finally, with the financial backing and direction of J.R.Booth, the lumber king of the Ottawa Valley, the road was constructed in 1881 and 1882 as the Canada Atlantic Railway. The 21-mile branch line from Glen Robertson to Hawkesbury was opened in 1892, with stations at Glen Robertson, Glen Sandfield and Dalkeith en route to Vankleek Hill. The Grand Trunk Railway operated the Canadian Atlantic until 1904 when Grand Trunk bought it out. In 1920 the Grand Trunk was taken over by the Canadian National Railway.

The coming of the railway to Dalkeith in 1892 shifted the commercial centre of the village from Robertson's mills and store north of the corner westward towards the railway tracks. The trains were heavily used to carry both passengers and freight, as the local roads were still impassable in wet or wintery weather. When the railway started operating, the mixed train went south to Glen Robertson about 8:30AM and returned about 11:00AM (EST all year). In the late afternoon the train went south about 4:30PM and returned about 6:00PM with the mail and express. Students at Vankleek Hill Collegiate who boarded in town would take the late afternoon train home to Dalkeith on Friday nights. This late afternoon train was discontinued in the late 1920s, and the mail and express came on the morning train until around 1960 when Canada Post contracted a truck to deliver mail to the different communities. The passenger service was discontinued in 1958 and the line became a freight-only line.

At Dalkeith there was a station on the west side of the track with a waiting room for passengers and an express room. On the east side there were two frame sheds about twenty by thirty feet, here farmers would bring cattle to load into cars bound for the Montreal slaughter house. These sheds became redundant when Clifford Campbell and Arthur Levac started trucking cattle to the stockyards in the 1930s. They were torn down in the 1960s.

On the first curve north of Dalkeith there was a water tank to replenish the

water in the steam locomotives. In 1940 a fire destroyed the top part of the tower down to the water level. It was rebuilt and lasted until the late 1950s when diesels replaced the steam locomotives.

Dan Macintosh worked for the CNR as the station agent in Dalkeith for over forty years, retiring in 1957. The station closed in 1959 and was sold to MacLennan Sawmill who moved the station and used it as their office, until the present office was built

About 1970 Ivaco Rolling Mills opened at L'Orignal, necessitating the construction of a 4.4 mile spur line from Hawkesbury to L'Orignal to carry their raw materials and finished product. In 1996 the Canadian National sold the branch line from Glen Robertson to Hawkesbury and L'Orignal to Rail Tex who called the line the Ontario L'Orignal Railway. In January of 2001 Ottawa Central Railway purchased the Ontario L'Orignal Railway and still operates it.

The Ottawa Central Railway operates from L'Orignal and Hawkesbury to Glen Robertson on its own line, and it has running rights over VIA's Alexandria Subdivision from Glen Robertson to Coteau. Today the train runs seven days a week, It starts from its local headquarters in Vankleek Hill and goes to Coteau to pick up freight cars on the CNR line, takes them to Ivaco, then picks up the finished products and returns to Vankleek Hill for the night. For 116 years the sound of a train whistle and the rumble of steel wheels have been heard in Dalkeith, a reminder of the importance of transportation for our local products.

Douglas Irvine



The Minutes of February 3 Annual General Meeting of the Glengarry Historical Society (Pending Approval)

(Held at the Church on the Hill in Alexandria)

After the participants have indulged in social discourse during the potluck supper the president, Allan Macdonell presents the agenda to call the meeting to order. William MacMillan moves acceptance of the agenda. David Anderson does his customary introductions of new faces.

Allan Macdonell lists the members who have “crossed the bar” during the past year: Leonard Fourney, Marion Polson, Ken Alexander, Donald Simon Fraser, Jim Seay, Ruth MacMillan, Thelma Rose, and Janet Graham. A moment of respectful silence ensues.

Richard Bleile is called upon to summarize the minutes of the last AGM from the February 4th, 2010 and move that they be accepted. After David Anderson seconds the motion general approval is indicated by a show of hands.

Announcements bring on Jennifer Black to tell about the Pioneer Museum’s upcoming February 25th winter event at the Bonnie Glen. Dinner and “Beaver Hats & Bagpipes” as a show to reflect the Scottish lore.

Blair Williams tells of an event on February 24th at Avonmore community center on the subject of loss of forests in SD&G..

Despite the absence of treasurer, Don Wood, a financial report for the year 2010 is presented and a copy submitted to the secretary. Grant Cameron moves to recognize reception of the report and Bill Gilsdorf seconds. General approval.

The Pioneer Museum report is given by Gary Smith on behalf of the absent Karen Davison Wood. It speaks of the successful year in 2010 with over 5000 visitors and many events. Repairs and improvements are ongoing and exhibits are being enhanced. Exhibits will be fewer each year but they will be rotated and more effectively displayed. The continuing work of Jennifer Black and grants from the Trillium Fund are leading to the artifacts being digitized. Thanks to the active volunteers who turn out each year.

The Museum committee has decided to submit a funding grant application to the Ontario Museum Association (twenty thousand dollars per year) by implementing ten policy requirements. An ambitious agenda is being planned for 2011 and also for the 50th anniversary year in 2012.

Gay Hamilton presents an encouraging report for the Nor’ Westers & Loyalist Museum. The list of the past year’s activities is commendable. John Woodrow has re-designed a more dynamic museum website which features recent events, visitors and news. South Glengarry Township has facilitated building restoration. Funding continues to come from Federal and Provincial governments. A thoughtful donation has been received from the family of Thelma Rose, whose long time support will be missed. Many plans are in the works for the coming year, some in relation to the Fair and Bicentennial events. Thus far a \$14,000 grant has been awarded by Canadian Heritage/Patrimoine Canada.....

In his “President’s remarks” Allan Macdonell draws attention to the 50th anniversary of the GHS which seems to have been formed on January 2, 1962. He tells of the successful sales campaign of Royce MacGillivray’s dictionary. Close to 90% of the volumes have been sold.

Mr. Macdonell acknowledges the contributions of the departing members of the GHS executive: Grant Cameron, Maurice

Gauthier, Basil McCormick, and Doreen Hutton.

Rosemary O’Flaherty rises to deliver the report of the committee of past presidents. The proposed Slate of Directors of the executive are: Allan Macdonell, David Anderson, Don Wood, Richard Bleile, Bill Gilsdorf, Dane Lanken , Rosemary O’Flaherty, William MacMillan, John Woodrow, Bruce MacPherson, Karen Davison Wood, Gay Hamilton.

The officers will be:

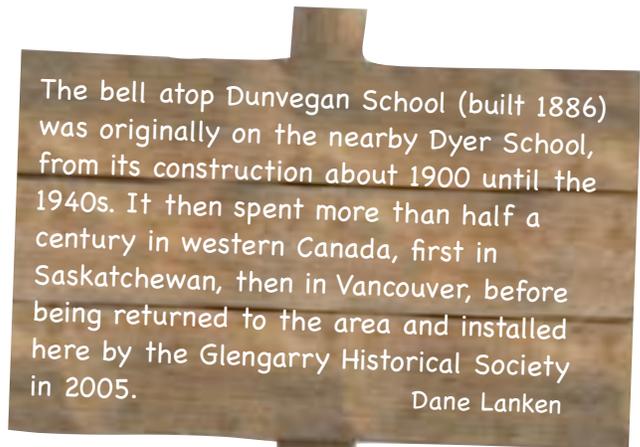
President	Allan Macdonell
Past President	Rosemary O’Flaherty
Vice President	vacant
Recording Secretary	Richard Bleile
Newsletter Editor	John Woodrow
Treasurer	Don Wood
Membership	Bruce MacPherson
Lunch Convener	Suzanne Bujold

Blair Williams moves acceptance of the proposed slate and Gary Smith seconds the motion. General approval.

Bill Gilsdorf commends Allan Macdonell on his very extensive work and contribution.

The meeting is adjourned by Gary Smith’s motion.

Richard Bleile (recording secretary)



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