



You could be a descendant of a Home Child and not KNOW

An estimated 4 million Canadians are.

*This is a part of Canadian History which has not been openly discussed.
Most Canadians do not know what a Home Child is or that they could be related to one!*

This is still NOT taught in our school as a part of Canadian History!

Who are the Home Children?

From the late 19th Century to 1949 thousands of children, of all ages coming from poor and culturally marginalized families in the British Isles were sent to Canada (and various parts of the British empire) in a little-known migration scheme. The migration scheme effectively helped to address the labor needs of Canada's growing nation. Children were used for cheap labor on farms and as domestics throughout Canada. Many Home Children spent their lifetime searching for lost family.

The propaganda disseminated by the sending organization regarding these children was carefully crafted to rationalize their actions, portraying themselves as altruistic benefactors of "orphans." Only 12% of children were true orphans. Portrayed to be sending children to a better life, sending children to Canada, in reality, exposed them to significant dangers and jeopardized their well-being, placing their lives at risk.

Over 30 organizations and individuals became involved with child migration. Some of the larger ones include: Maria Rye, Annie MacPherson, Fegan, Quarriers, Barnardo's,

Middlemore, Catholic Emigration Society, Emma Stirling, Church of England Waifs and Strays and Fairbridge. The propaganda supporting the continuation of these migration schemes overrode numerous reports, laws and measures that come into place within Canada (as well as within the United Kingdom) that should have legally and ethically stopped the migration scheme long before the programs stopped in May 1948.

Throughout the years, many voices were raised against child migration, but not voices of concern for the well being of the vulnerable children. Unfortunately, when they did voice their opinions, they focused on unfounded fears about the children introducing diseases and engaging in undesirable behaviors in Canada. Many members of the Canadian House of Commons and the Canadian medical community perpetrated the thought that the children were diseased and carried syphilis. They erroneously suggested that it was only a matter of time before the effects of their alleged diseases would be felt. In fact, the Home Children were described in the Canadian House of Commons as "nearly all diseased savages" and likened to garbage being thrown into your back yard and being allowed to stay there. It is crucial to recognize that these claims lacked factual evidence and were rooted in prejudice rather than genuine concern for the welfare of the children.

The local economies in Canada predominantly revolved around farms, and as such, Home Children were often placed in farming or domestic labor positions. Children often found themselves being moved from farm to farm to farm. Unfortunately, there is limited evidence showcasing any concern for the psychological well-being of these children, who, from a modern Western perspective on child-rearing, were deprived of their family, heritage, homeland, and childhood. The stigmatization and ostracization experienced by these children in Canada led most of them to remain silent about their Home Child status throughout their lives. The shame they carried became deeply ingrained in their souls, to the point where even sharing this part of their history with their own families was unbearable.

Not only has the narrative of the Home Children been overlooked in Canadian history, but their significant contributions to the construction and defence of the nation have also been ignored. Over 25,000 Home Children demonstrated their dedication and patriotism by enlisting and serving in various wars, including more than 10,000 "Home boys" who joined the armed forces during the First World War alone. For some Home Children, enlisting in the war provided an opportunity to reconnect with their families in the United Kingdom, as they hoped to locate their relatives during their service. Tragically, many of these brave individuals lost their lives while serving, making the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It is important to acknowledge the honor with which all Home Children served, displaying courage and commitment in the face of adversity. Their contributions and sacrifices should be remembered and appreciated as an integral part of the nation's history.

It is equally important to recognize that the majority of Home Children survived the horrendous conditions they were forced into. They went on to create lives, form families, and make substantial contributions to Canada, as well as any other country they resided in. Canada alone is home to over 4 million of their descendants. Their stories deserve recognition, as they provide valuable insights into both the hardships they faced, their resilience in overcoming adversity and the growth of Canada as a nation.





About Home Children Canada

CRA Charity Registration Number # 792523003RR0001

The leader in continuing the mission to bring the true stories of the British Home Children to light, maintain their memory, and to reunite the families separated by the child migrant schemes.

Home Children Canada (HCC), formerly known as British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association (BHCARA), was launched in 2012, operating for a decade before taking on our new name and achieving charitable status. Our work has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the story of the over 100,000 children brought to the shores of Canada. We are exceptionally proud of our work with the service of the Home Children in the Wars and the key role we played in the recognition of their service by Veterans Affairs Canada. Home Children Canada has done over 400 presentations, created award-winning exhibits, and participated in films, documentaries, studies, and the writing of books.

Home Children Canada is supported by a strong team of volunteers who are credited with reconnecting countless descendants with their past. We are dedicated to ensuring HCC becomes sustainable and protects the legacy of our Home Children. They deserve no less.

Supporting Our Work

We need to continue to educate Canadians and preserve the memory of the British Home Children for future generations.

Please consider supporting the work of Home Children Canada. Your contribution, however small, will play a vital roll in ensuring the memory and contributions of the BHC to Canada will never be forgotten. All donations are tax deductible.

To donate: We are registered with Canada Helps
www.canadahelps.org
or visit www.HomeChildrenCanada.com

Thank you

Suggested reading

Historical books:

Emma Stirling - Died Unmarried by Lori Oschefski
The Little Immigrants by Kenneth Bagnell
The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada by Marjorie Kohli
Uprooted - Roy Parker
Labouring Children by Joy Parr
For the Sake of the Children by June Rose
The Home Children by Phyllis Harrison

Biography

Too Afraid to Cry by Pat Skidmore
Neither Waif nor Stray by Perry Snow

Children's books

Charlie - A Home Child's Life in Canada By Beryl Young
Orphan at my Door - Dear Canada series

Fiction Books

No Ocean Too Wide and the sequel No Journey Too Far by Carrie Turansky

All listed books are available on Amazon.ca,

Contact Us

Home Children Canada

www.homechildrencanada.com

British Home Child Registry

Now containing details on over 83,733 children

www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com

Home Children in Canada - research site

Thousands of children are mentioned here as well as comprehensive historical information.

www.CanadianBritishHomeChildren.weebly.com

Facebook:

We have a experienced team of researchers available to help with your research. With almost 11,000 members we are the largest group of BHC descendants and interested persons in the world. We have many experienced researchers available to help families at no cost. Researching Home Children is a specialized field.

**Home Children Canada Research Group
or our Home Children Canada page**

*We also offer help through email to
HomeChildrenCanada@gmail.com*

Read about: The Declaration on the Rights of the Child, the Home Child's gift to the future generations of children.

<https://archive.crin.org/en/library/legal-database/un-declaration-rights-child-1959.html>

Canadian Best Seller!

" **The Forgotten Home Child**" is a poignant, edgy, and skillfully written portrayal of a Home Child's experience that typified so many. The absence of any sugar coating makes this story come to life and brings a level of reality that is often lacking--an emotional journey well worth reading." - Lori Oschefski

Lori served as the historical consultant for "The Forgotten Home Child" by Canadian best selling author, Genevieve Graham. Released in 2020, this book was the Canadian best seller for four months.

