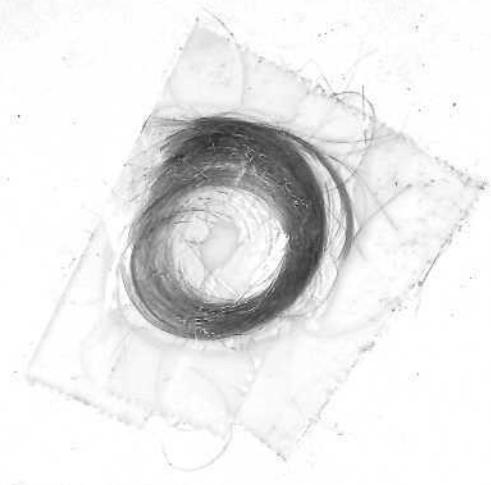




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D.M.A.

Old country descendants

Editor
The Intelligencer
During the last decades of the 19th century, and well into the 1930's, tens of thousands of children were sent to Canada from orphanages all over Britain to start a new life in the New World.

I have been commissioned by Quarrier's Homes in Glasgow, Scotland, to write a history of the Homes and, as part of my research, I'm trying to trace some of the boys and girls sent by Quarrier's to families all over Ontario and eastern Canada.

About 7,000 children made the journey across the Atlantic from Quarrier's Homes between 1872 and the late 1930's, and until 1888 were sent first to a first to a distributing Home in Belleville called Marchmont Home From this distributing centre the children were then sent to families far and wide across Ontario and there must be hundreds of those who came out in the 20's and 30's still liv-

ing all over Canada, as well as countless descendants of those who came out earlier.

I'm trying to find out what happened to those young boys and girls and what their new life in Canada was like, and I should like to ask any of your readers who are former Quarrier's children, or their family connections, to write directly to me at the address below, giving me the brief details of their story - such as, when they came out, what kind of family they stayed with and what they're doing now. Then, if necessary, I will send back a questionnaire to get fuller details, or a cassette on which their memories and little remembered incidents can be recorded.

I hope you will allow me the courtesy of your columns to try and trace these men and women so that I can tell their fascinating story.

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The Marchmont Home was established as an institution under the direction of Miss Annie MacPherson, a strong-willed Scottish philanthropist in 1870. The Home was operated by Miss Ellen Agnes Bilbrough of Croydon, England. She was assisted by Rev. Robert Wallace, whom she later married. It was maintained as a receiving centre for orphans from England, Wales and Scotland, until a new home could be found for them in the surrounding area. These orphans, who crossed the Atlantic by boat and arrived in Belleville by train, could be heard singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" as they marched up the street to their new Canadian home. Many of these children were welcomed as members of the family; however, others were not so fortunate. The first two homes were destroyed by fire. The present building was built in 1875 by donations from "friends in Great Britain and Canada". Outbuildings housed the animals and the large garden and orchard grew produce for their own use. A chapel, built for their spiritual needs still stands, but is now a private home. The last group of children arrived in 1920. By 1925 the Marchmont Home was closed and the Dr. Barnardo Homes Organization took over the records.

by *Claine Preston* from
1st. Building booklet.
Building No. 34

Allegations 'absurd'

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