

Sarah May Hyam
Home Child
Scandinavia
October 3, 1920

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM
PIER 21



Editor's Note: Sarah May Hyam, was a very young girl when she was admitted to the Barnardo Home. This letter was written in response to Mrs. Murphy's request for information about her mother. The images above depict Sarah when she was admitted to the home and just before she left for Canada. Many thank to Mrs. Murphy for sharing the letter and images with us.

Dear Mrs Murphy,

I refer to your request for information about your mother Sarah May Hyam. I have now completed my research and have found the following.

Sarah May HYAM

Born 5th July 1905 in the Lambeth Union Infirmary

Admitted to Barnardo's on 21st July 1910

Sarah was admitted under a Custody and Maintenance Order made at Oxted, Surrey, petty sessions. The case was brought by the NSPCC as Sarah had been ill-treated by both her mother and father.

It was alleged that at one point she was sent to live with an aunt in Purley, Surrey to conceal the marks of violence from the police.

For several weeks before admission Sarah had been cared for in the Bletchingly Union. It was said that she became afraid at any suggestion of her returning to her mother.

On admission she was boarded out in Acton with a Mrs Finch and she remained there until 22nd September 1919 when she was transferred to the Girls Village Homes, Barkingside.

On 24th September 1920 Sarah sailed to Canada on the SS Scandinavian arriving at Quebec on 3rd October.

Unfortunately Sarah's mother and father are not named nor are any other relatives with the exception of a mention of a half sister, Ethel who was said to be 7 weeks old at the time of Sarah's admission.

I have enclosed two photographs of Sarah one taken at the time of her admission and the other prior to her sailing to Canada, two of the Girls Village Homes, a letter written by Sarah to Barnardo's, a reading list of books about Canadian emigration and a booklet on the work of Barnardo's today.

I will be grateful if you will acknowledge receipt of this information.

Should you feel that we can help further please let me know.

Brian Partridge
After Care Officer, Barnardo's

More Information:

Group escorted from England to Canada by Dr and Mrs. Hobday. SS. Scandinavian sailed from Southampton September 24, 1920 arrived in Montreal October 3, 1920. Went to Peterborough for 4 days, then to Toronto for 5 days (Jarvis Street). Arrived London, Ontario October 12, to live and work at Mr & Mrs. Humphries, 334 James St, for 6 years.

Sarah May Hyam married William George Lowman October 7, 1926.

Born July 5th, 1905 Surrey, England, died October 30 1993, London,
Ontario, went on orphanage aged 5, came to Canada aged 15.