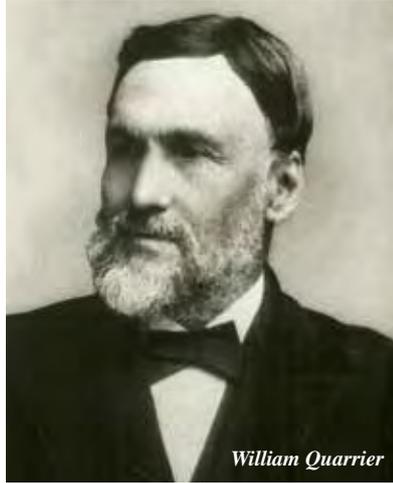


*A self-guided walk of
historical Quarriers Village*

Quarriers



In 1871, Glasgow shoemaker William Quarrier founded an organisation that offered help to thousands of destitute children in Glasgow's infamous slums. A few years later, Quarrier's Village was opened, providing a countryside refuge to abandoned and orphaned children.



The following extract from the first Narrative of Facts, or printed annual report, was written by William Quarrier in 1872.

'My early dreams and life's desire have been partly accomplished in the establishment of the Orphan Homes, but as there are a great many orphan children whom we have not been able to take up and whom it is desirable to keep at home and train to useful occupation, I would like to see an Orphanage establishment near Glasgow on the cottage principle, to which children from any part of the country could be sent.

By the cottage principle I mean a number of cottages built near each other, say ten, each capable to accommodating 20 or 30 children, with a father and mother at the head of each household; playground and other appliances attached to each cottage, with a school in centre; also a central workshop; the father of each family to be able to teach a different trade, such as tailor, shoemaker, joiner, printer, baker, farmer, smith, &c.; the mother to do the cooking for each household with assistance if needed.

Boys from the tailor's household, wishing to learn shoemaking, could be sent to the shoemaker's workshop; or boys from the farmer's household, wishing to learn joinery work, could be sent to the joiner's workshop; and so on, interchanging according to the trade best suited to the boy.

The children would meet altogether at school and church and on special occasions in the common playground and at other times in their own playground. It is desirable to keep up the family and home feeling amongst the children, and we believe this cannot be done in large institutions where hundreds of children are ruled by the stringent uniformity necessary where large numbers are gathered together for years.

Boys ready to go to trades in the city would require to be lodged and cared for, and a house for that purpose would be needed, where they could lodge until they were able to maintain themselves.

A small farm near Glasgow would do for the purpose of building the cottage homes. The purchase of the land and the building necessary would cost from £10,000 to £20,000. If any of the Lord's stewards would give this sum for the purpose contemplated, I am sure that a better investment could not be made. Interest from the Bank of Heaven would come into the soul far more enduring than any earthy gain. For the maintenance of the Homes the Lord would provide as needed'.

From these beginnings and William Quarrier's vision, Quarriers Village grew into what it is today.

Please use the enclosed map to help find your way around. We hope you enjoy your walk around historical Quarriers Village.



Central Building

1

Central Building (Sommerville Weir Hall)

This building was the first to be constructed in the village. Upstairs it had a hall where the first church services were held. Downstairs housed the school, workshops and staff accommodation. Mr Quarrier and his family lived here before their own house in the village was built.

The original building was in the style of a French chateau with turrets on the corners. Because of dry rot, renovation took place and in 1967 the building was re-opened and re-named Sommerville Weir Hall.

Today it still has a hall upstairs which is used for different functions. Downstairs has seen a variety of uses such as Miss Forman's Pantry, Sommerville's Restaurant which was a training restaurant for people with learning

difficulties, a high class restaurant called Cail Bruich and more recently a cafe.

In the vestibule the plaque reads: 'This house is given in answer to prayer by the generous gifts of friends throughout the country from the "Widows Mite" to the "Merchant Prince's" thousands.'



SS James Arthur

2

James Arthur

Behind Sommerville Weir Hall stood the James Arthur, a training ship used to train the boys for a life in the Merchant Navy. She was a fully rigged brig with double topsail, 120ft in length, 23 feet beam and 9ft between decks.

The ship was fully equipped in gear and stores, as if bound on a foreign voyage. She was manned by a crew of 22 boys under the command of a Captain. The cost of building the vessel was around £3,000 and was gifted by Mrs Arthur of Barshaw in memory of her husband James. The ship was 'launched' in 1886. The stairs behind where the ship stood are still on occasion referred to as the "ships steps". The crew learned their seacraft on the river Gryffe and were the only sailors who never left dry land before heading off for a career at sea!



Kintyre Home and Greenock Home (now Maple Cottage)

3 *Canadian Garden*

This was constructed in memory of the children who left Quarriers to start a new life in Canada. There is a plaque at the centre of the garden to commemorate this.

4 *Maple Cottage*

(Right hand building in picture on left)

Maple Cottage was built as a home for children. It was given to the former boys and girls of Quarriers to be used as accommodation when they came back to visit the village. More recently Quarriers have renovated the house which will offer accommodation to those who wish to visit the village.

5 *Old Laundry Building*

An early Annual Report stated that a 'friend in Paisley' gave money for the building of a laundry, bakehouse and other workshops. We now know this to be Thomas Coats, the textile manufacturer of Paisley. The building was enlarged by his family in 1889 and subsequently destroyed by fire in 1899. The building was rebuilt and opened in 1900 as a laundry only. More recently the buildings have been converted into housing.



Old Store Building

6

Old Store Building

William Quarrier purchased the farmland which was to become the Orphan Homes of Scotland in 1876. The actual house and buildings were not acquired until 1885 when the farmer's lease expired. The farm steading was altered to provide a store, stables and shoemakers shop. Eventually over the years the building became the provision store, drapery and Post Office. This has now closed and the building is currently let to an Art Gallery and antique shop. Upstairs in this building is the old drapery where generations of children were provided with all of their clothing needs.



Cottage 10 and Homelea (former home of William Quarrier)

7

Homelea

(Right hand building pictured left)

William Quarrier and his family originally lived in accommodation provided in the Central Building. Homelea was built for him and his family which they moved into in 1886. More recently, Homelea was used as the Administrative Offices for Quarriers. It is now let as office accommodation.

8

War Memorial

This Archway was built with stones taken from the house where William Quarrier was born in Greenock. This now serves as a memorial to those who died in the two World Wars.

*Entrance to Quarriers Village
with gatehouse and war memorial*



9

Lodge

(pictured in foreground)

The Gatehouse was built in 1884 and also served as the mortuary.

10

Bethesda

(behind the tree)

This building was one of two hospitals in the village and was for chronically sick and terminally ill children. This building is now used to house Quarriers SVQ Centre.



Cottage 14 on far left

11***Cottage 14****(left hand building in picture opposite)*

This is a typical example of the style of home which William Quarrier envisaged for the children who came to the village. This is a 'cottage style' home which would have been staffed by a married couple who were employed as 'houseparents'. This building would have been home to around 30 children at any one time.

12***Canadian Garden***

William Quarrier believed that some of the children in the homes would benefit from the opportunities provided in Canada and began the child migration scheme. Around 7,000 children left the village and went to Canada to begin a 'new life'. This Canadian Garden was planted by two former boys on 21 September 1997 in memory of the children who left Quarriers to live in Canada. You will see from the plaque that it was placed here as the children stayed in Cottages 11 and 12 prior to them leaving for Canada.

*Coming home from school
(school building in background)*



13 *School*

The Main Building together with the Teachers House was built in 1891. The cost of £8,000 was given by Mr William Houldsworth in memory of his wife. Over the years the building was enlarged and modernised. It was converted to flats in 1999 but the outer façade of the building has been preserved.

14 *Graveyard*

This was constructed in 1887 and is of special interest. On the wall is a bronze plaque recording the deaths of children over the years since 1888. As medical science has progressed to combat childrens' diseases the number of deaths each year declined. As you look around you will see the graves of the founder William Quarrier and his family, and others associated with the homes.



Church Road

15

Mount Zion Church

Mount Zion Church is gothic in style with a large tracery window in the north side. It is 100 feet in length and 45 feet wide with a gallery at one end and a platform in a recess at the other. It could seat 1,000 people and was the focal point of the village for many years. The main entrance to the church is under the tower at the south-east corner and leads onto vestibules which adjoin smaller halls. The tower rises to a height of 120 feet, and is finished at the top with a roof covered with lead, and four corner turrets. This tower was constructed principally, to carry a large water tank, from which the surrounding homes would be supplied by gravitation and which had by necessity to be placed at a considerable height.

All of the children in the village attended the Sunday Service in the church and it was the only time that the trainee sailors on the James Arthur were allowed onto 'dry land'. The entire cost of this building was met by an anonymous donor.

The church building was sold to a developer and converted into flats as the upkeep and repair costs could not be met by Quarriers and as such is closed to the public.



Mount Zion Church interior

16 *Cottage 25 (Sagittarius)*

The money to build this home was provided by an anonymous donation with the request that it be called Sagittarius. This is unusual in that the home was named after an astrological sign in a village that was predominantly Christian.

17 *Cottage 28 (Sabbath School Home)*

Cottage 28 is one of the most interesting. The £1,250 required for this building was donated by Sunday School Scholars - hence the name above the front door "The Sabbath School Home."



Operating room in Elise Hospital

18

Elise Hospital

(now Marcus Humphrey Care Home)

1912 saw the Opening of the Elise Hospital, an Elizabethan styled building. The hospital was fully equipped and had two large wards to accommodate 30 patients. The cost of the building was £10,000 and was given by Sir Thomas Glen Coats in memory of his wife. The front entrance forms a memorial porch with marble bust of Lady Glen Coats with a bronze monogram. The whole entrance is laid with Iona marble. The building is now a private care home for older people.



A ward in Elise Hospital

19 *Main Road through Quarriers Village*

As you proceed back down the main road you pass on your right hand side three buildings which were originally Baby/Toddlers Homes accommodating 72 under three year olds. Today they are:

- a. Campbell Maltman Home
(now The Gateway, Quarriers' Training & Staff Development Department)
- b. Laing Shrewsbury Home
(now Quarriers' Head Office).
- c. Campbell Snowdon Home
(now a unit run by the Abbeyfield Society for the care of older people)

20 *Elim*

This building was built and opened in 1892 for the initial purpose of caring for invalid and terminally ill boys. Over the years different groups of people were cared for here. Elim Construction now has this building as their Head Office.

We hope you enjoyed discovering historical Quarriers Village. Explore more of our amazing history via the following links:

- www.iriss.ac.uk/goldenbridge
Learn about the orphans who were sent to Canada
- www.quarriers.org.uk
Read about where it all began for Quarriers
- www.flickr/photos/quarriers
View the Quarriers Heritage set for a collection of historical photos from around Quarriers Village



www.quarriers.org.uk

Quarriers

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