

MS-2045
Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School
Originals 1935-1961 2.5 m

The Fairbridge Farm School was part of a philanthropic scheme aimed at strengthening the British Empire and improving the condition of underprivileged British children. The scheme was conceived by Kingsley Ogilvie Fairbridge (1885-1924), a South African-born reformer who was raised in southern Rhodesia.

On first visiting England in 1902 Fairbridge was struck by the over-crowding and poverty in large industrial cities; he was also appalled by the condition of working-class children who lived in unhealthy, unstable homes in city slums. In 1909, having returned to England as a Rhodes scholar, he outlined his plans for saving these children to a group of fellow students at the Oxford University Colonial Club.

Fairbridge's plan was to resettle selected British children in the overseas dominions. There, in a rural environment, children would live together in cottages within a village-like setting. Girls would receive training in domestic pursuits, while boys would be trained in manual arts and agriculture. Vocational training was to be supplemented with moral guidance and leavened with recreational pursuits in such a way that the young emigrants would be able to take their places as productive citizens in the host communities.

Fairbridge's proposal led to the founding of the "Society for the Furtherance of Child Emigration to the Colonies," afterwards incorporated as the Child Emigration Society [CES]. The society raised L2,000 and in 1913 the first "farm school" was opened in Western Australia. Other training farms (which were supported by grants from the British and Australian governments and by private donations) were later established in the states of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

Kingsley Fairbridge had hoped originally to open a farm school in Canada. Ten years after his death - when the CES was reconstituted as Fairbridge Farm Schools (Inc.) - his wish was realized. Encouraged by Canadian enthusiasts, an appeal was launched to help bring the farm school concept to the Dominion. The appeal was led by the Prince of Wales and sufficient funds were raised to purchase a 1,100 acre site at Cowichan Station, near Duncan, on Vancouver Island. The new facility - officially named The Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School - opened in 1935.

The first principal of the farm school was Major F. Trew who held the position from April 1935 to May 1936. Trew's successor was Colonel H.T. Logan, a contemporary of Kingsley Fairbridge at Oxford and a former professor of Classics at the University of British Columbia. Logan resigned in June 1945 to join the staff of the Fairbridge Society headquarters in London. He was succeeded as principal of the Prince of Wales farm school by Mr. W.J. Garnett (July 1945 - January 1949) and Major A.H. Plows (February 1949 - January 1951.)

The Fairbridge Farm School consisted of fourteen cottages, each capable of accommodating a dozen children and a resident "cottage mother". Other buildings included the principal's residence, staff quarters, a chapel, a hospital, and a school. These facilities - which were adjacent to the school's large dairy farm - were maintained with the help of subscriptions from England and a grant from the British Columbia government. Funds were also raised throughout the province and in 1938 Captain J.C. Dun-Waters donated his 2,000 acre orchard near Vernon to the Fairbridge Society. Named the Fintry Fairbridge Training Farm, the Okanagan property was run in conjunction with the main centre on Vancouver Island.

Over three hundred children passed through Fairbridge Farm School during its first ten years of operation. But after the Second World War a number of problems arose which placed the future of the school in doubt. Among these was the unfavourable dollar/sterling exchange rate, the post-war monetary controls which restricted funds from Britain, and the provincial government's decision to discontinue its operating grant. The whole concept of institutionalized child care was also being questioned in many quarters and after the passing of the 1948 Child Welfare Act in Britain [which made local authorities responsible for child care] there was no longer a need for juvenile resettlement on a large scale. Accordingly, the Fairbridge Society reluctantly decided to wind up its operations in British Columbia. The Fintry estate was sold and in the early 1950s the last of the Fairbridge "trainees" left the Prince of Wales Farm School.

For the next ten years the Cowichan Station site was managed on behalf of the Fairbridge Society by the Canada Colonization Association. A subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the association leased the farm school cottages to newly-arrived English immigrant families. The arrangement was eventually discontinued and in 1975 the farm school was sold to a Victoria real estate firm. The property is now the site of a residential housing development.

Provenance and Arrangement

The records which comprise MS-2045 were donated to the Provincial Archives of British Columbia (PABC) [now B.C. Archives] by the Fairbridge Society's B.C. representative in 1984. The collection has been organized into three main categories:

I. Farm School Records

These consist of operational and administrative files created during the farm school's active phase, c.1935-1949. Files in boxes 1-3 may contain information of a confidential nature and are therefore restricted. [See page iv for restrictions and terms of access.] Box 4 includes copies of the "Fairbridge Gazette". [A complete run of this news-letter is also available on microfilm (Reel A00645)].

II. Farm Site Records

Files in boxes 5-12 document the period when the Fairbridge property was leased to local farmers and was used to accommodate English immigrant families. These records are available without restrictions.

III. Fairbridgians Personal Case Records.

Files in boxes 13-22 consist of individual trainee records: they include legal documents, case histories, personal correspondence, and photographs. These records are restricted.

Photographs have been transferred to Visual Records Accession 198502-28. Maps and printed materials have been transferred to BC Archives Library and Map collections.

Restrictions and Terms of Access

Boxes 1-3 [administrative and operational records] and Boxes 13-22 [personal case files] are CLOSED until the year 2035.

Permission to consult these records before that date may be extended to post doctoral or established scholars; such scholars must first apply to the Provincial Archivist (or his deputy) and must sign the B.C. Archives conditions of access form.

Upon applying to the Provincial Archivist (or his deputy) and providing suitable identification, FORMER FAIRBRIDGIANS may be granted access to their own case files.

Notwithstanding the above, the BC Archives reserves the right to refuse or restrict access to any of the records in MS-2045. Additional restrictions - to be determined by the Archives and the Fairbridge Society (Inc.) - may also apply to this collection.

Box	File	Subject	Date
I		Farm School Records	
1	1	Nominal roll of Fairbridgians	1935-1948
1	2	Lists of children proceeding to B.C.	1947-1948
1	3	Distribution of children in cottages	1946-1948
1	4	Trainees (female)	1938-1947
1	5	Trainees (male)	1938-1947
1	6	Nominal list of students/Distribution of children	1950-1951
1	7	Godparents: names & addresses	1950
1	8	"Fairbridge Facts" [statistical summaries]	1946-1948
1	9	Notes on Old Fairbridgians	1946-1947
1	10	Addresses of Old Fairbridgians	1947-1948
1	11	Occupations of Old Fairbridgians (male)	1950
1	12	Monthly reports on Fairbridgians	1954-1959

1	13	Fairbridge Alumni Association (B.C.), deceased Fairbridgians	1984
1	14	Provincial Government Investigation	1938-1945
1	15	Leonard C. Marsh Report	1948
1	16	Certificates of Title	1935-1947
1	17	Budgets: estimates of expenses	1946-1954
1	18	Forecasts of costs of operations	1947-1948
1	19	School chapel: correspondence	1938-1940
1	20	Chapel committee: correspondence & reports	1940-1950
1	21	Chapel donations	1938-1944
2	1	Inventory of boys' & girls' outfits	No Date
2	2	Grocery distribution	1945-1947
2	3	Inventory	1949-1951
2	4	Inventory	1947-1948
2	5	Legacies	1946-1962
2	6	Bequests/donations: correspondence	1956-1959
2	7	Cemetery	1939-1952
2	8	Fairbridge Village planning	1946-1947
2	9	Mortgage & insurance agreement with British Government	1940-1942
2	10	Taxation	1935-1950
2	11	Drainage	1935-1935
2	12	Water supply	1946-1952
2	13	Insurance policies	1935-1939
3	1	Insurance policies	1940-1945
3	2	Insurance policies	1946-1947
3	3	Childrens' pocket money: account for "Aquitania", "Beaverford", "Bayano", & "Erria" parties	
3	4	Childrens' account (school savings)	1942-1948
3	5	Private account [of Fairbridgians]	1946-1961
3	6	Childrens' savings account	1950-1952
3	7	Old Fairbridgians' savings account	1947-1948
3	8	Old Fairbridgians' savings account	1948-1949
3	9	Old Fairbridgians' savings account	1950-1961
3	10	Old Fairbridgians Victory Bonds & War Savings Certificates	1946-1951
3	11	Dominion of Canada Bonds	1940-1969
4	1	"Fairbridge Gazette"	1939-1941
4	2	"Fairbridge Gazette"	1942-1948
4	3	"Fairbridge Gazette" [additional copies]	1939
4	4	"Fairbridge Gazette" [additional copies]	1940-1947
4	5	"Fairbridge Gazette", miscellaneous	

4	6	"Fairbridge News" [articles & reports for Cowichan <u>Leader</u>]	1941-1946
4	7	Prince of Wales F.F.S. pamphlets & brochures	1939-1941
4	8	Promotional photographs	
4	9	Miscellaneous pamphlets & brochures	1938-1939
4	10	Newspaper clippings	1936-1946
II		Farm Site Records, [Post 1949]	
5	1	Miscellaneous re hay, safflower & pasture crops	
5	2	Dispersal sale, 1949: auction catalogues	1949
5	3	Dispersal sale, 1949-52: correspondence, inventories & receipts	1949-1952
5	4	Dispersal sale, 1949: correspondence, inventories, & receipts	1949
5	5	Dispersal sale, 1949: dairy cattle registration & production forms	1949
5	6	Dispersal sale, 1949: records of calfhood vaccination	
5	7	Dispersal sale, 1949: purchasers' agreements	
5	8	Dispersal sale, 1949: proceeds	
5	9	Condition of buildings	1950-1952
5	10	Buildings: specifications, details, etc.	1953
5	11	Offers for lease or purchase of Fairbridge	1953-1959
5	12	Principal's residence	1951-1956
5	13	Farm manager's house	1950-1953
6	1	Greenhouse	1950-1954
6	2	Buildings, conversion etc.	1956-1959
6	3	Painting programme	1957
6	4	Leases	1950-1958
6	5	Leasing agent: W.S. Sharp, Duncan, B.C.	1951-1954
6	6	Tenants: William H.M. Bunt	1956-1958
6	7	Tenants: James Brown	1949-1959
6	8	Tenants: T.A. Marsden	1956-1960
6	9	Tenants: Joseph Young	1953-1960
6	10	Tenants: G. Hebers	1960
6	11	McBryde & Stevenson lease	1951-1955
7	1	Fairbridge Families: correspondence	1950 (I)
7	2	Fairbridge Families: correspondence	1950 (II)
7	3	Fairbridge Families: correspondence	1950-1951
7	4	Fairbridge Families: correspondence	1952-1953
7	5	Fairbridge Families: monthly cottage reports	1956-1961
7	6	Fairbridge Families: monthly cottage reports	1954-1961

7	7	Fairbridge Families: account	1955-1957 (I)
7	8	Fairbridge Families: account	1955-1957 (II)
7	9	Fairbridge Families: arrivals	1958
8	1	General correspondence & agreements	1949-1950 (I)
8	2	General correspondence & agreements	1949-1950 (II)
8	3	General correspondence & agreements	1951-1952 (I)
8	4	General correspondence & agreements	1951-1952 (II)
8	5	General correspondence	1955
8	6	General correspondence	1956 (I)
8	7	General correspondence	1956 (II)
8	8	General correspondence	1956 (III)
8	9	General correspondence	1957-1961
9	1	Workmen's Compensation	1952
9	2	Employees' account book	1951-1952
9	3	School Board correspondence	1951-1954
9	4	Insurance Policies	1954
9	5	Insurance	1957-1960
9	6	Insurance correspondence	1947-1950
9	7	Insurance correspondence	1951-1955 (I)
9	8	Insurance correspondence	1951-1955 (II)
9	9	Insurance correspondence	1951-1955 (III)
10	1	General account: correspondence & receipts	1951-1952
10	2	General account: correspondence & receipts	1951-1952
10	3	General account:	1953 (I)
10	4	General account:	1953 (II)
10	5	School site account	1956-1957
10	6	School site accounting - maintenance	1958
11	1	School site account - maintenance	1959
11	2	School site account	1960
11	3	Geo. A. Touche & Co. [account, correspondence & reports]	1945-1950
11	4	Geo. A. Touche & Co. [account, correspondence & reports]	1951-1955
11	5	Bank of Montreal (Duncan, B.C.) account	1948-1959 (I)
11	6	Bank of Montreal (Duncan, B.C.) account	1948-1959 (II)
11	7	Account receivable	1947-1952
11	8	Account receivable	1953-1960
11	9	Farmsite repairs	1950-1951
12	1	Farmsite repairs	1952-1953
12	2	Farmsite repairs	1954-1955
12	3	Farmsite repairs	1956

12	4	Farmsite account - repairs	1958-1960
12	5	Paying cash vouchers	1955-1956
12	6	Paying cash vouchers	1956-1957
12	7	Paying cash vouchers	1957-1958
12	8	Paying cash vouchers	1958-1958
12	9	Petty cash	1955-1956
12	10	Petty cash	1956-1957
12	11	Petty cash	1957-1958
12	12	Petty cash	1958-1959

III Case Files

13	1-27	[severed] A - Bo
14	1-36	[severed] Br - C
15	1-33	[severed] D - E
16	1-26	[severed] F - G
17	1-35	[severed] H - J
18	1-35	[severed] K - Mee
19	1-34	[severed] Mei - Pop
20	1-30	[severed] Pow - R
21	1-30	[severed] S - Tay
22	1-40	[severed]Te - Z