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'Twas a long separation



The following is a front page article reprinted from the Greenwich, England, Mercury. Mrs. Prot (pronounced Pro) returned to her Pearce Street home last week, still bubbling over her experience and suffering from a touch of "jetlag".

Sisters Ann Catley and Dolly Prot have had a joyful reunion. ..after 63 years apart.

The sisters, who were brought up in an orphanage, were separated in 1919 when Dolly, then 14, was selected to emigrate to Canada.

Ann, who was just 13, was left behind because she suffered from an eye defect.

On Monday the sisters met for an emotional reunion at Ann's home in Reade House, Trafalgar Grove, Greenwich, England

Ann, 76, who lives with her husband Thomas, said: "We just broke down and had a good cry.

Then we talked and talked. We still haven't stopped, we have so much to say to each other in such a short time."

Dolly, 77, said: "It is a dream come true to be here. My daughter-in-law, who is here with me, organized the trip because she knew how much it meant to me to see Ann again. Unfortunately it is such a short visit. We have to fly home again on Saturday."

Ann, who has one son, said: "Dolly and I were brought up in a Dr. Barnardo's home after our mother died. We had other brothers and sisters who we haven't seen since they were babies. In those days the authorities were looking for children to emigrate to Canada and Dolly was selected to go. I had to stay behind because I had an eye defect - they only wanted healthy children. At first Dolly used to write to me regularly and she once sent me a present of a watch, which the orphanage took away. When the war broke out we lost touch. But after the war I wrote to a children's home in Canada and they managed to trace her. We've kept in touch ever since. I can still remember all those years ago how upset we were to be separated and how Dolly assured me she wouldn't be away for long - neither of us imagined it would be 63 years before we meet again!"

