

# THE OBSERVER



Monthly Publication

Volume 3 | Publication 26

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*Reporting Accurate and Objective Information Based on Facts, not Agenda-Setting Theories*

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10:58 PM EST | January 20, 2011

## **America's Children**

Foster Care – The Cult

Series - Part 2 of 5

[\(Part 1\)](#)

Sarah Moore Hamilton-Byrne, author of [Unseen, Unheard, Unknown](#): *"I'm sure there is a market somewhere in the world for small blond children with no traceable identities."*

Anne Hamilton-Byrne was a Cult leader and collector. She collected foster children . . . twenty-two of them and created their multiple identities verified by birth certificates, citizenship documents and passports. *"I suspect that she went to such great lengths in order to enable her to move children around, in and out of the country. Perhaps even to be sold overseas,"* [said Sarah Moore Hamilton-Byrne](#). However, Sarah thought they were stolen or the children of mothers who had given birth and were told their babies had died.

Anne Hamilton-Byrne and Dr. Raynor Johnson, a world respected religion expert and retired administrator of Melbourne University's Queen's College, were co-founders of a New Age group called The Family aka the [Great White Brotherhood](#). Eventually the name was changed to the Santiniketan Park Association for an Indian mystic. The sect was located in Dandenon, Victoria near Melbourne, Australia. The horrendous abuse was based on [the cult's belief](#) that suffering would elevate a member to a higher status . . . nearer to God. Sarah had many identities, but became known as 'Sarah' after her cult initiation.

Anne's first husband Riley was Dr. Johnson's gardener. [The Santiniketan Park Association](#), of which [Julian Assange's](#) musician stepfather was a sect member, was a world of isolated secrecy, thus the sect motto ["Unseen, Unheard, Unknown"](#). The foster children were tranquilized daily and groomed to look similar with matching blond hair and clothing. Their world was so isolated that although they lived near Melbourne, Australia they had no concept of *"a city"*. They were raised indoors and not permitted to be outside for fear of discovery. When they became older, LSD experimentations on the foster children were common.

The children were governed by ["Aunties"](#) who had an unforgiving rigid routine which involved starvation, physical and sexual abuse of the children. Anne often travelled. The children periodically travelled with Anne and were shuffled in and out of various countries. Pre-designated answers were memorized by the children to deflect interrogation by immigration and custom officials.

Anne Hamilton-Byrne aka Evelyn Grace Victoria Edwards aka Fiona Macdonald, aka Anne Hamilton aka Michelle Sutherland was one of seven children born to Ralph Vernon Edwards and an English woman named Florence Louise. Anne's family had a history of mental illness and her bizarre behavior reflected

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such symptoms, also. Often reinventing herself as a psychiatric nurse, physiotherapist, a renowned opera singer and a Sun Aria award recipient, she assumed the title Jesus Christ Reincarnate during her sect leadership while Dr. Raynor Johnson self-proclaimed himself John the Baptist.

Anne thought the world would end in a holocaust and the sect with the children would survive.

In 1968 Anne met her second husband Bill Byrne, when he took his son for treatment to the [Newhaven Psychiatric hospital](#) which was owned and staffed by the sect. Although they cohabited for years, they didn't marry until ten years later in 1978. By that time Anne was collecting children during the time her husband Bill was a local government councilor.

By 1983 a newspaper article was written about the cult, however, it didn't receive a lot of coverage. A second article was written about the cult by a journalist named David Elias. He became interested in the sect when his daughter exclaimed that Helen Mackay *"didn't just have one mummy, she had lots"*. Helen Mackay's father was a sect psychiatrist whose property was opposite David Elias's. How ironic that the innocence of a child was the rescuing voice of the children in the cult.

But it wasn't until 1993 that Anne and Bill Byrne were arrested in the US for [documentation falsification which simply resulted in a \\$5000 fine](#). Most of the statutes of limitation for the other crimes had expired. A policeman named Lex De Man involved in Operation Forest task force spent five years trying to bring Anne Hamilton-Byrne to justice and is still angry that she was never prosecuted for the crimes against the children.

Anne accumulated an extreme amount of wealth estimated by Sarah to be \$150 million (Australian) with numerous homes throughout the world. What had Anne done with and to these children to acquire such wealth?

Per Sarah's book [Unseen, Unheard, Unknown](#), Anne's real estate included a three-story mansion called Broom Farm with property in Langton Green, Kent, England, homes in Crowborough and Red Hill (England), a five acre waterfront property called Upton, huge property outside Trarlgon, England, a mansion in Olinda, three houses on property in the Catskill Mountains, NY, and at least a dozen houses in Ferny Creek that is owned by Anne Hamilton-Byrne and/or her companies Fafette and Audette. Sarah also stated that *"because of the professional people she commands, she has been able also to get away with manipulating the outside world enough to create the reality she desires."*

Six years after escaping the cult, Anne's 'adopted' daughter Sarah wrote that *"many sect members take vows to kill those who harm their master."* She commented that should her brakes fail and she mysteriously drives over a cliff or should she (Sarah) perish in a fire in her flat, *"it will be them."*

A reconciliation between Sarah and Anne occurred in 2009. Anne commented that she was ["unrepentant and does not acknowledge any wrongdoing."](#) Sarah Moore Hamilton-Byrne is now a doctor and has

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responded to the many people who inquired why she would reconcile with Anne. [Her response to "Why I see Anne"](#) . . .

On the other side of the world, Foster Care and the sourcing of children became scandalous secrecy.

**Suggested Additional Reading:**

[Foster Parent Handbook](#)

[Foster Care Statistics 2010](#)

[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

[Foster Care Inquiries by State Chart](#)

[National Coalition for Child Protection Reform](#)