

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE MEETINGHOUSE



VOLUME 2012 ISSUE 3 (12TH MONTH)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY ANDREW CRESSWELL

"For I was hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."
Gospel of Matthew 35:35-36.

This year has been one of challenge and change for the Canadian Friends Historical Association; at times we have been stretched thin, only to be graced by an overwhelming bounty. It has been one of our busiest years, drawing out our energy, but rewarding our efforts with new opportunities. As the year draws to a close, we reflect on projects begun, events staged, rela-

tionships built, and lives passing; we had a year fully committed to the Mission of the Association - the "preservation and communication of the *on-going* history and faith of the Religious Society of Friends" - in all its glory.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of *The Meetinghouse*. You will notice a new appearance, one that will allow us to include more content, while providing more information about the Association. While you will find all of the articles interesting, I would like to highlight the back page, where you will find information about how to connect with the Association through

social media. We continue to welcome your contributions to the newsletter.

I would like to thank Barbara Horvath, for her hard work and dedication as the past editor of *The Meetinghouse*. We wish you well in your new endeavors

Finally, I hope your "day the world calls Christmas" is a happy one.

Blessings,

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- This edition contains a number of articles about the spring Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists.
- This edition includes a special announcement regarding The Canadian Quaker Family History Project.

40

Years

1972-2012

THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

The success of any association is dependent on the people who populate it, especially volunteer organizations; without new energies and sustained focus, organizations become stagnant, where existing members discontinue their support, and potential new

members question the value of membership. As we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Canadian Friends Historical Association, we would also like to invite you to become more involved. From working on transcriptions at your own pace, to editing our tri-annual news-

letter, or volunteering for a role on the Executive, the Association needs your help, and would like to invite you to consider how best your interest and skills may contribute. For more information, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

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**Joshua Waring of
Norwich, Ontario**

“The purpose of the project is to facilitate better understanding and appreciation of the living heritage of early Canadian Quaker pioneers”

CANADIAN QUAKER FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT BY GORD THOMPSON

After several years of discussion and development, the CFHA members present at the recent AGM have endorsed the creation of a Canadian Quaker Family History Project.

The purpose of the project is to facilitate better understanding and appreciation of the living heritage of early Canadian Quaker pioneers by documenting the lives, experiences and contributions to Canadian society made by their descendants.

One does not need to be a descendant of a Quaker family in order to participate and make an important contribution to the historical record. All that is required is an enthusiasm to learn and share details of the family and social relationships and experiences of Quaker pioneers and their descendants. The project aims to provide a systematic and methodical way in which individual CFHA members can contribute information and personal research related to Canadian Quaker communities, families and descendants

over time.

At various times in the 40 year history of CFHA, efforts have been made to facilitate and collect genealogical and other historical information. Although this aspect of the CFHA mission has appeared to be dormant, there has been a steady stream of enquirers and contributors interested in family history. Advances in internet access to software databases have transformed the ability of individuals to document and share family history. The CFHA project will seek to improve access to existing CFHA Journal and Newsletter articles related to family history and to assist member researchers with guidance and advice. The project will also seek to facilitate central coordination and communication of contributed information and areas of interest to individual members.

No study of the experience of early Quakers in Canada could be considered complete without some knowledge and understanding of the religious

life of these individuals and communities. The family history project will also embrace this aspect of the lives of early Quakers and their descendants. Project participants will be encouraged to learn more about the principles behind the religious practices and social ordering which distinguished Quaker communities and the lives of their members. When fully launched in 2013, CFHA members who are descendants of Quaker ancestors may submit evidence of their descent and apply to receive a Testimonial certificate attesting to their appreciation of the life lived and the Quaker legacy bestowed upon them by their Quaker ancestor.

If you would like to know more about this project please contact Donna Moore at

(d.moore3@sympatico.ca)

and provide some details of your area of interest.



**James Henderson
and family**

JAMES HENDERSON POST-SCRIPT BY ANDREW CRESSWELL

While conducting research for my article “To pursue the prospects as the pointing of Truth may direct: James Henderson’s ‘Visit to Friends of Canada 1903’” (published in the *Canadian Quaker History Journal* No. 75) in Barnesville, Ohio, I had a chance to interview James’ grand-

daughter Marjorie Hunter. When the *Journal* was published, I forwarded a copy to Marjorie with a note thanking her for her time, and for allowing me to reproduce images in her possession. Marjorie called me last week to thank me again for sending her a copy of the article and

for making the life and ministry of her grandfather wider known to Friends in Canada.

A recently published history of Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) included a short biography and image of James Henderson.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CQHA BY STEVE ANGELL

The program contained its usual mixture of interesting surprises. Robynne Rogers Healey, a historian from Trinity Western University in British Columbia, spent a recent sabbatical in South Africa, consulting the archives of South Africa Yearly Meeting. Her paper was on the conflicts between the American Friends Service Committee and South Africa Yearly Meeting between 1977 and 1991 on how to end apartheid. Briefly, many at the AFSC were much more interested in a kind of liberation theology that placed little importance on traditional teachings of Quaker nonviolence. On the other hand, South Africa Yearly Meeting sought to address the oppression and inequality of the South African apartheid system using traditional Quaker methods of pacifism and non-violence. Healey's paper featured H. W. van der Merwe, an Afrikaner Quaker and a friend of the Nelson Mandela family and of Steven Biko, and an expert in conflict resolution. In 1984, Van der Merwe set up the earliest meetings between African National Congress exiles and supporters of the South African government, "a key step in breaking the deadlock over apartheid in South Africa." (Marge Abbott et al., *Historical Dictionary of the Friends (Quakers)*, 2nd ed., 2011, p. 356.) Evidently, the

archival resources on this subject are voluminous, and we look forward to hearing more from Healey on this subject.

Race relations continue to interest Quaker historians. Allan W. Austin of Misiordia University, whose forthcoming book *Quaker Brotherhood: Interracial Activism and the American Friends Service Committee, 1917-1950*, will soon be published by the University of Illinois Press, discussed the AFSC's sponsorship of African-American lectureships on Quaker and other campus in the immediate post-World-War-II context, and the variety of experiences that the African Americans who participated in those lectures had. Betsy Cazden, an independent scholar from Rhode Island, continues to produce fascinating work on the Quakers, especially in Rhode Island, who lived at the time in the mid-eighteenth century when the Society of Friends turned decisively against slaveholding amongst its members.

There continues to be a great deal of interest on various groups of schismatic Quakers. One session was devoted to papers on the Free Quakers, a group centered in Philadelphia that offered support for the American Independence movement during the 1770s when the main body of Friends attempted to remain

neutral; also, the Progressive Friends of the mid-nineteenth century, who decried the unwillingness of both the majority of Hicksites and Orthodox to form common cause with antislavery activists of other denominations, for fear that the wayward religious principles of the other groups might infect and contaminate their own members. Both Free Quakers and Progressive Friends emphasized the need for any Friend to consult their conscience whether they might not need to support warlike measures: in the case of the Free Quakers, during the American Revolution; and in the case of Progressive Friends, in support of the Union cause during the American Civil War.

Whether it was the Progressive Quakers and Free Quakers, who were represented only in historians' papers, or the Yonge Street Quakers and the Children of Peace, in whose worlds we were guests for a remarkable weekend, the creativity and the dedication to following the Light Within of Quakers past and present is astonishing and can obviously lead to quite diverse ways of being faithful to the God known to us through revelation, whether Biblical, the fruit of past Quaker witness, or continuing. Thus the richness of this weekend's events leaves me with much still to ponder.



Steve Angell

**Conference of
Quaker Historians
and Archivists
Pickering College
Newmarket,
Ontario, June 22 to
24, 2012**



YONGE STREET BICENTENNIAL BY RUTH JEFFERY-MACLEAN

On the 13th of tenth month, 2012 Friends and interested folk gathered to commemorate two hundred years of worship in the Yonge Street Meeting House of The Religious Society of Friends.

The bicentennial committee met monthly for a year in preparation for this occasion. There had been a commemoration a few years earlier to mark the arrival of Timothy Rogers to the site which became the town of Newmarket and that occasion drew many interested parties and to most it marked an anniversary of Quakers. We wondered if this celebration would draw similar interest. It was to be a true "birthday party" for the meeting house and for those who worship here. Would our surrounding community understand and welcome an opportunity to join in our happiness?

Our trepidation was easily set aside when the day began with silent worship at 1:30

p.m. and the benches were as full as I have ever seen them. Following the worship we enjoyed David Morris acting as Timothy Rogers to give a brief history of his leading to come to the area, and we received greetings from our M.P.P. Lois Brown and the Mayor of Newmarket, Tony Van Bynen.

Our guests had an interlude to enjoy some hot cider and look at various displays set up by the Quaker Archives, Canadian Friends Historical Association and the Bicentennial Committee. There were items for sale to mark the occasion and a silent auction.

We reconvened after the break for a wonderfully engaging lecture and slide presentation by David Newlands entitled "*Choose what is Simple and Beautiful*". David had been an integral part of the restoration committee when the meeting house underwent its initial renewal in the 1970s and we were all thrilled to

hear his presentation that day.

A harvest dinner was enjoyed by approximately 50 people, served in the basement of the meeting house which was a very cozy and hospitable setting. After dinner we retired to the upstairs again and enjoyed our keynote speaker, Seth Hinshaw, a historic preservation planner and clerk of Ohio Yearly Meeting (C). Seth spoke to the gathering about the history of meeting house architecture, its evolution over the years and how that related to the evolving faith of the Friends worshipping in the structures.

The commemoration of Yonge Street Meeting's two hundred years was a wonderful day for all those who participated in it and a day to give thanks for all of those who have come before us and worked to insure the preservation of the building and the faith of those who worship within its walls.



FOR DEEPER REST TO THIS STILL ROOM

Those interested in the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting or Quaker meeting houses in general will enjoy the Bicentennial publication by David L. Newlands with Andrew R. Cresswell, *For deeper rest to this still room: The Yonge Street Quaker Meeting House*. Based on Newlands' 1975 article "The Yonge Street Friends Meeting House 1810-1975"

first published in the *York Pioneer*, this new publication includes a forward by George Ivanoff, preface by Andrew Cresswell, Chairman of CFHA and post-script by the original author David Newlands. The booklet also includes a generous number of images from a variety of sources, many published for the first time.

For more information, or to purchase a copy of the publication, contact Andrew Cresswell at chair@cfha.info.

NORMAN THOMAS JOLLY (1923-2012) BY SANDRA FULLER

Norman Jolly passed away in his 89th year, on Saturday, 18 August 2012 at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket, Ontario. His wife, Dorothy Fuller from Stratford, Ontario, predeceased him in 2007. Norman is survived by a daughter, Donna (Martin Blackwell) of England, and a son, Norman William (Bill) of Newmarket.

Norman, the son of Thomas & May Jolly, was born December 23, 1923, in Mossbank, Saskatchewan, Canada. During the Economic Depression in the 1930s, the Jolly family loaded their household belongings as well as a number of horses and farm animals onto many railway cars and moved to a farm near Exeter, south-western Ontario.

Norman was a World War II veteran, having joined the Royal Canadian Naval Voluntary Reserve (RCNVR) in April 1943. His first posting was *HMCS Kenogami* which escorted ships from overseas,

serving on the triangle run from St John's, Newfoundland, to Halifax NS, and New York City USA. After that, he served on the North Atlantic run.

After the war, Norman became a secondary school teacher who taught at schools in Lively (west of Sudbury), Port Hope, Aurora (Dr G.W. Williams Secondary School), and Newmarket (Newmarket High School). He retired in the late 1980s.

Norman worked at compiling information for several books. *Robert Srigley 1777-1836 and Jane Heacock Srigley 1787-1867 and Their Descendants to Seven Generations*, printed in June 1977, was compiled by Alvin Mylo Srigley and Norman Jolly. Later, Norman worked at compiling *York County Men & Women who gave their lives in World War I*. Volume I: *York County, Ontario, excluding the City of Toronto*, c1995, and Volume II: *Toronto City*, c2002, were both published by York Region

Genealogy Group of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch

Norman was a Life Member of the Newmarket Historical Society and served as president in 1990, 1991, and 1992. Norman was also a member of the Aurora Historical Society.

Norman's knowledge of Quaker history led him to become a member of the Canadian Friends Historical Association and he served as treasurer for a number of years in the early 2000s. Norman's keen interest in genealogy was demonstrated by his work with the York Region Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society.

A memorial service was held at Thompson Funeral Home in Aurora, on Wednesday, 22 August, followed by burial at Aurora Cemetery.



Norman Thomas Jolly
December 23, 1923 -
August 18, 2012

BARBARA GAIL SMITH (1938-2012)

The family of Barbara Gail Smith sadly announced her passing on November 18, 2012, after gracefully living with cancer for 3 ½ years. The much loved mother of Peter and his wife Cathy and their boys, Kyle and Matthew, she is also survived by her sister Beverly Jackson (Jack) and their children Victoria Bucsic (Mike) and Jeff

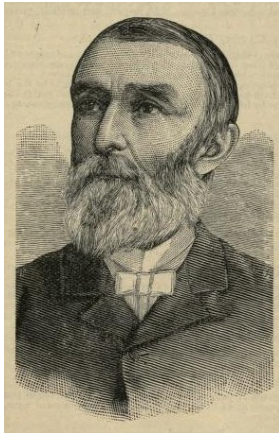
(Amanda). Vicki and Mike's children Nathan and Evan add to the family of boys. She was predeceased by her son David in 2010.

Barb was also greatly supported by a wide circle of friends. Born in Welland in 1938, she was the daughter of Howard and Vera Brown and worked for many years as a

bookkeeper at JW McMaster Hardware. A Memorial Meeting was held Saturday November 24, 2012. In keeping with the spirit of Barb's life, "pay it forward", do something special for another.

Barb was an unwavering supporter of the Canadian Friends Historical Association.

A SIXTH SENSE



William Wye Smith

An excerpt from
William Wye
Smith's

*Recollections of a
Nineteenth Century
Scottish Canadian
(1900).*

I have the following story from Dean Harris of the R [oman] C[atholic] Church, St. Catharines, who said it was related to him by Colonel Gorham of Newmarket, Ontario some years before. I knew Colonel Gorham, and was aware of his wonderful memory, and his stores of historical and antiquarian learning and research.

The Dean began by saying, "Some men hold that there is a 'sixth sense.' It is largely exemplified sometimes in the lower creation. You take some pigeons in a bag, and carry them far out to sea, and let them loose. They will rise up and circle around a little - till they get their bearings; we know not how - and then shoot off in a direct line for home. Or you take a dog in a box, and set him down forty miles from home and in three days he is back again! Now there are men who seem to have this sixth sense and who never lose themselves, whenever they go. They can't explain it, but they are aware of the power they possess. Such a man was one of whom Col. Gorham told me."

Governor Simcoe founded York (now Toronto) in 1792; almost immediately he wanted to connect Lake Ontario with the Lake named "Simcoe" after himself - a distance of forty miles - with a good road and had started out a surveying party under Mr. Miller, to go "as straight

as a crow would fly" to Lake Simcoe.

A man named [Timothy] Rogers had come from Pennsylvania to explore for good land. [There was afterwards a large immigration from that State to the County of York.] He had been north of the "Oak Ridges" and, about where Aurora now is, came across a trapper. The trapper said that he had that morning left a surveying party, several miles to the west, who were striking out a line, "as the crow would fly," from York to Lake Simcoe. Rogers told him that they must be out of their course, for, judging by the number of hours the trapper had been coming east, the party must have been about where Schomberg is now.

The two men parted; Rogers came on south, directly to York. He had this sixth sense and could go anywhere through the trackless woods. At a tavern a little north of York, he put up for the night. In the barroom he had been discussing the news he had heard at Aurora. At 9 o'clock - for he had retired early - the landlord roused him, and found a messenger from Governor Simcoe, who wanted to see him.

He was soon at "Castle Frank," on the banks of the Don, where the governor lived. A gentlemen, connected with Government House came in, whom he

recognized as one of those who he had conversed with at the tavern. The governor wanted to know "how he knew the surveyors were wrong?" He said he was one of those men - he did not know how it was - who never went wrong or got lost in the woods. He could go anywhere, and always come out where he intended. He himself had come in a straight line to York, and he knew, from what the trapper had told him, that the surveyors were quite too far west. He was employed by parties in Pennsylvania, to explore for them and must now return and make his report, and though he could not remain and be a guide to the surveyors to the north, he could remain two or three days.

So the Governor sent off a messenger to bring back Mr. Miller, whom he had found about where Newton Robinson [in West Gwillimbury, along today's Taunton Road] now stands. He was surprised at the order, but complied. And Mr. Rogers convinced him something was wrong. The blame was put upon their compasses, but however that might be, the survey began *de nouveau*, and this time they went "as the crow flies," straight to Holland Landing; thirty-four miles from York. Such, by Colonel Gorham's account, was the beginning of "Yonge Street."

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

"We do not want to merely "see" beauty -- though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it." - C.S. Lewis

Membership in CFHA is an affirming act; it supports the work of the Association in achieving its Mission. It also brings value, in a myriad of

ways, to the individuals who belong. We are grateful for the continuing support we receive from the membership.

The membership year for the Canadian Friends Historical Association is September 1st to August 31st. While the Association accepts membership renewals throughout the year, our largest expenses, and hence our greatest need for renewals is in the period

from September 1st to December 31st.

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to renew your membership (or consider giving a gift membership this holiday season). As the tax year draws to a close, please consider making a financial donation to the Association (a receipt for charitable donations will be issued for donations of \$20 or more).

NOTES FROM THE QUAKER ARCHIVES BY JANE ZAVITZ BOND

Congratulations to Stanley Fulecki who reports that his historical fiction account of the underground railroad escape, and the subsequent formation of a black brigade in the Niagara area during the War of 1812-14, is being published. Written for youth, this historical novel depicts slavery and the Quakers in the United States and the early runs of the Underground Railroad. A labour of love, well supported by research, including some from the Quaker Archives, this is a story that needed to be told.

A footnote to the Dorland Family story which Avery Dorland shared at CFHA in September. I chanced, if there is ever such, while reading in the biography of Henry Hodgkin, the Friend who went to China as missionary, and at the end of his life was the founding director of Pen-

dle Hill, that John T. Dorland's words heard by Hodgkin as a young lad stayed with him and directed the course of his life. John T. Dorland had a major evangelical influence among Friends in the United Kingdom at the end of the 19th century, but who, unlike Friends in North America, retained meeting for worship based upon silent waiting. John Dorland visited in the Hodgkin's family estate so the young Friends were well acquainted.

The family's resources allowed the boy to undertake service to Friends without concern for earning his living. This was a key to much of the work related to living the Testimonies in service to 'the world' by British Quaker families. They were not concerned with amassing more, but in using what they gained rightly. Some conducted the

family business that others could serve.

Helen Brink has given the Dorland Collection of the CYM Archives Andrew Brink's' Isaac Penington's writings in 2 volumes, published in 1761. This is a generous rare book gift. We remember Andrew and his wise counsel and support for CFHA from our beginnings, and will care for this treasure in his memory.



CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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2012-2013

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The Mission of the Canadian Friends Historical Association is the preservation and communication of the on-going history and faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada and their contribution to the Canadian Experience.

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CQHA FIELD TRIPS BY DONNA MOORE

Given my strong interest in Quaker history, I was delighted that the Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists was held close by in Newmarket, Ontario. The conference was very worthwhile with many interesting sessions, and the field trips were a real highlight for me.

On Friday, the theme of the field trip was "West of Yonge Street." The tour was led by Andrew Cresswell, Chair of the Canadian Friends' Historical Association and Gordon Thompson, Past Chair. The tour included stops at Yonge Street Meeting House (celebrating the bicentennial of the meeting house this year), the site of the former Tecumseth Meeting in Dunkerron, the Lloydtown Pioneer Cemetery and concluded at the former King

Meeting in Schomberg (now a chapel for the Union Cemetery). For many of us, this trip was the first time we had seen the inside of the former meeting house.

On Saturday night, we made a delightful and memorable visit to Sharon Temple. Built by the Children of Peace, a group founded by former Friend David Willson, the temple is an inspiring example of early Canadian religious architecture. Our American visitors were especially impressed by this unique and marvelous structure.

Sunday's field trip theme was "East of Yonge Street". The tour was led by Ian Woods, Vice-Chair of Built Heritage, CFHA. The tour included stops at the former Uxbridge Meeting House, and at non-

Quaker sites including the former home of Lucy Maud Montgomery in Leaskdale, and the Foster Memorial north of Uxbridge.

So, here ends my summary of the Conference. As I put together this material, I could feel myself getting excited again about the event - a most worthwhile conference, great people, thought provoking presentations, interesting field trips. What a great opportunity!



Former King Meeting House, Shomberg



Former Uxbridge Meeting House, Uxbridge