

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO FIRST ANNUAL MEETING HELD 17.8.75.

The first year in the life of the Canadian Friends Historical Association confirmed that the Association has a real purpose and that it has many tasks to perform.

The executive met five times since the inaugural meeting held August 19th, 1972. Routine matters associated with the setting up of an organisation were accomplished, such as preparation of application forms for membership, correspondence, mailing of minutes and the draft constitution, the Newsletter, banking account. The library at Friends House, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, provided a valuable base.

The steady increase in membership throughout the year has been most encouraging. There are now 98 members, including 5 life members, 3 honorary members and 7 Monthly Meeting members. Three quarters are members of the Society of Friends, others friends of the Friends and descendants of Friends.

Correspondence has been very rewarding and has opened up new areas of historical research. People have told of their Quaker historical interests, reported on material available or given encouragement.

A start was made on the main objectives of the Association, namely the collection, care and availability for use of Quaker records and the encouragement of research. The offer of David Newlands to edit the Newsletter is a tremendous asset. Four numbers of the Newsletter have appeared and is proving a valuable channel for furthering interest and for reporting on progress in tackling our main objectives.

The preliminary Inventory of the Society of Friends Archives at the University of Western Ontario, prepared by Edward Phelps in 1971, has been copyrighted and represents the first publication of the Association. 96 copies were reproduced. Selected libraries in Canada and the Quaker Historical Collections in the U.S. and England have been sent a copy.

The micro-filming of records, estimated by Edward Phelps to cost approx. \$1,800, has received attention from the committee. Micro-filming will be an important contribution towards making the Quaker Archives more complete and would make the Archives available for research through other centres. An approach has been made to the Ontario Provincial Archives regarding the micro-filming for their collection, copies of which may then be made available by the Provincial Archives for the Quaker Collection at Western Ontario.

We are encouraging individuals and Meetings to locate existing records and to make them available to the Quaker Archives. There is also a need for interested individuals to do additional research into the history of Quaker Meetings and settlement across Canada and for Meetings to maintain archives and to keep them in good order. The Association will serve as a channel for collecting, locating and indexing records and materials. For example, our attention has been drawn to a research paper undertaken by a Friend on "Quaker Education in Canada".

The concern for Quaker Meeting Houses as historic sites, which includes preservation and restoration, has been followed up in connection with the Yonge Street Meeting House where a good opportunity seems open to combine the wish to keep the historic character of the building with the need of the Monthly Meeting to make it more practical for the activities of a contemporary Meeting of Friends.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Grace Pincoe for her initiatives and the skill and service she has put into the launching and first year of the Association. We all welcome Arthur Dorland as honorary president of the Association, to whom we owe so much for having paved the way for the founding of the Association.

During the year, we have seen a gathering of interest. Some valuable ground work has now been done to put us on the right road for the serious, accurate as well as enjoyable awareness of the Quaker heritage in Canada. We look forward to participating in the first Quaker Historical Pilgrimage in Canada "On the Trail of Jacob Lindley around Niagara" during the time of 1973 Yearly Meeting, which we hope may become an annual event. The first year of the Association is only a beginning; a good deal of further exacting work lies ahead of us. The contribution and continued interest of all members and of new ones, is very much needed.

on behalf of the Executive  
Kathleen Hertzberg. Clerk.

14.7.73.