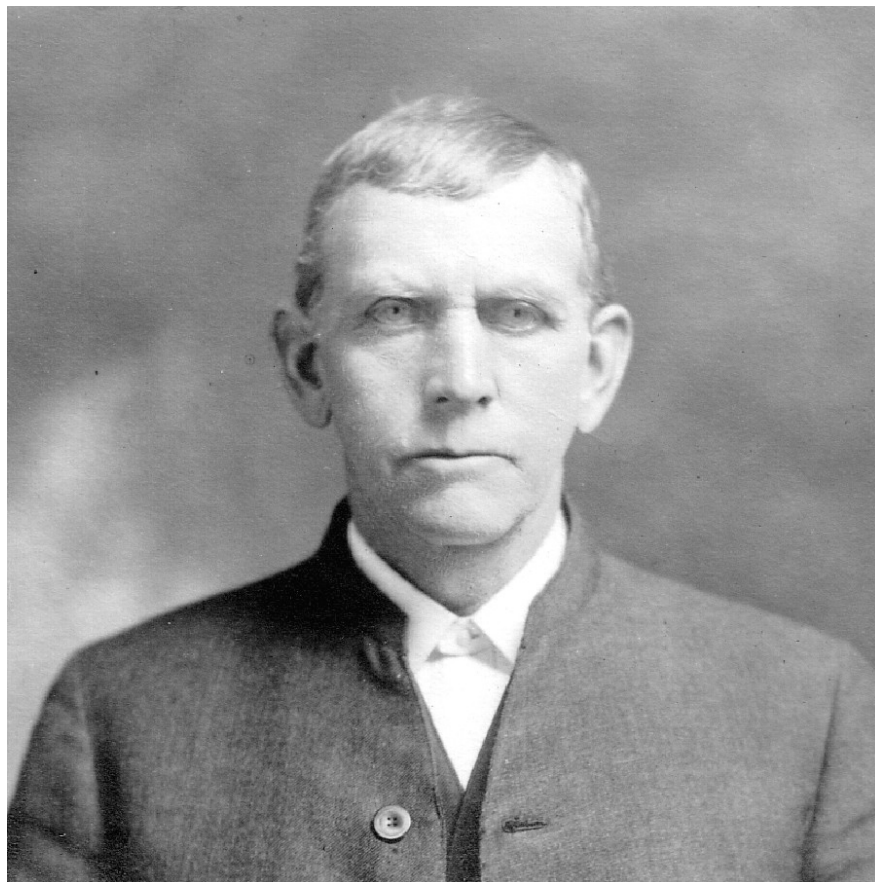


**“To pursue the prospect as the pointings of Truth may direct”¹
James Henderson’s ‘Visit to Friends of Canada 1903’**

*Introduced by
Andrew R. Cresswell²*



James had been “much exercised” of late. His bright blue eyes scanning the beautifully cavernous Meeting House, he looked for some sign of Divine approval. Finally, grasping the railing on the high facing bench and pulling his frame erect, James, “loud and plain, without much tone”³ announced that he again felt a call to travel in the ministry.⁴

Joseph Henderson, a carpet weaver from Glasgow, along with his wife Isabella and five children, four-year old James among them, set sail for Canada on 11 May 1863. Poor working conditions in the weaving factories and the

worsening economic situation convinced Joseph to “leave all his earthly friends and go and sojourn in a strange land and among strangers.”⁵

Married in 1852, Joseph gave up a life of “vice and misery” and joined his wife who was attending a branch of the Methodist Church. Having been convinced of the power of the Lord, and after having read a copy of Barclay’s *Apology*, he decided that the doctrine of the Religious Society of Friends was “most in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.”⁶ Joseph attended his first Meeting for Worship shortly thereafter.⁷ It was this



Stillwater Meeting House

meeting that issued the letter of introduction that Joseph carried to Friends in Canada.⁸

Arriving in Oxford County, Ontario Joseph first rented land in the village of Holbrook; he later purchased a small farm south of Norwich in 1872. Henderson was in poor health and was unaccustomed to the physical strength and stamina required for farming. As a result, it was not long before Joseph turned once again to weaving, while hiring out his children, including thirteen year old James, to local farmers to supplement the family income. It would be a "good many seasons of loneliness"⁹ before Joseph felt confident that the move to Canada was the right one.

First exposed to the theology and practice of Friends in Scotland, and now living within an established Quaker community, it was not long before Joseph sought membership in the Society of Friends. He did not, however, press the issue "until his wife felt that it would be right for her to do so."¹⁰ Joseph and Isabella Henderson were received into membership by Norwich Monthly Meeting in May 1866. James did not become a member until he turned eighteen in 1877; this was only a few months before his father's death.

Perhaps as a result of his poor health from working in the weaving factories, and the added

strain of starting fresh in a new country, Joseph died at the age of fifty-two on 1 February 1878. His son recalled that "on the last day, feeling that the time of his departure was at hand, he called them around him, and bidding them farewell, and with a word of exhortation to all - 'Follow me as I have followed Christ' - he folded his arms in peace."¹¹

With the death of their father, it fell to David, Joseph Jr. and James to provide for the family. After initially renting additional land to provide work for all three, the brothers once again turned to hiring themselves out to local farmers. It was at this time that James noted, while "working with my employer one day the subject of education came up...the result of which was the turning of my mind toward obtaining more school learning for myself." He went on to write that

the way opened for me to attend our Yearly Meeting held at Pickering in Sixth Month. There were in attendance four Friends from Ohio, two of whom were members of committee of their Yearly Meeting on scattered remnants of Friends following the separations in various places. From these I learned of a Boarding School in their neighbor-

hood near Barnesville, Ohio.¹²

Friends' Boarding School, established by Ohio Yearly Meeting in 1837, near Mount Pleasant, Ohio was built by Friends as "a public institution for the education of the youth of our Society." Within a generation, the Separation of 1854 caused the school to pass from the hands of Wilburite to Orthodox Friends, the followers of Joseph John Gurney. Undaunted, the new Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) gathered close to fifty-thousand dollars to purchase land, and build a new school near Barnesville, Ohio to "provide for the religiously guarded education"¹³ of their children.

Realizing that "small groups of 'consistent Friends' in other yearly meetings were standing fast"¹⁴ against the growing wave of revivalism that had washed over the Society in the period from 1854 to 1870, Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) adopted the following minute in 1881:

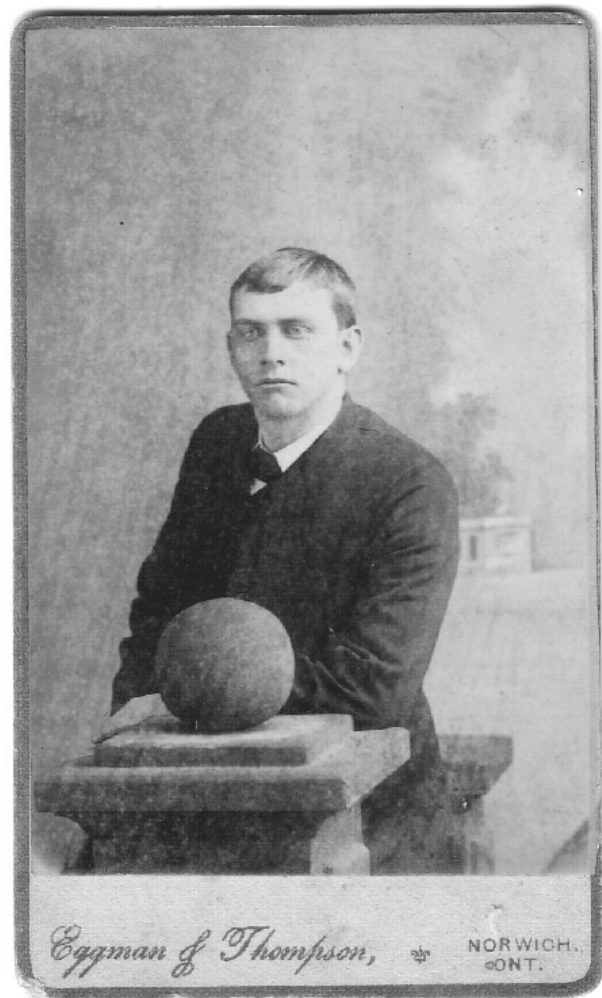
The situation of the remnants of Friends in various parts of the lands, being introduced into this meeting, after a full and free expression thereon, it was the united judgment of the meeting that a joint committee of men and women Friends be appointed to have the whole subject under consideration, and report to this meeting next year the result of their deliberation.¹⁵

The "result of their deliberation" was a visit to Canada Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in 1883. Only two months after visiting Canada, Ohio Friends reported that

the committee, to whom was referred the situation of the remnants of Friends in various parts of this country, have several times met, and endeavored to give the subject that consideration which its

importance demands. Some of our numbers have, at different times since our appointment, visited nearly all those meetings, and many families composing them, and received favorable impressions, believing they were warranted in withdrawing from those organizations which have laid and continue to lay waste our precious principles and testimonies; that we believe they are sound in faith, and concerned to uphold our doctrines and practices.¹⁶

James, along with brothers Joseph and Albert Pollard, all of Norwich Township, arrived at Friends' Boarding School in October 1883. Of his time spent there, James found that



James Henderson as a young man

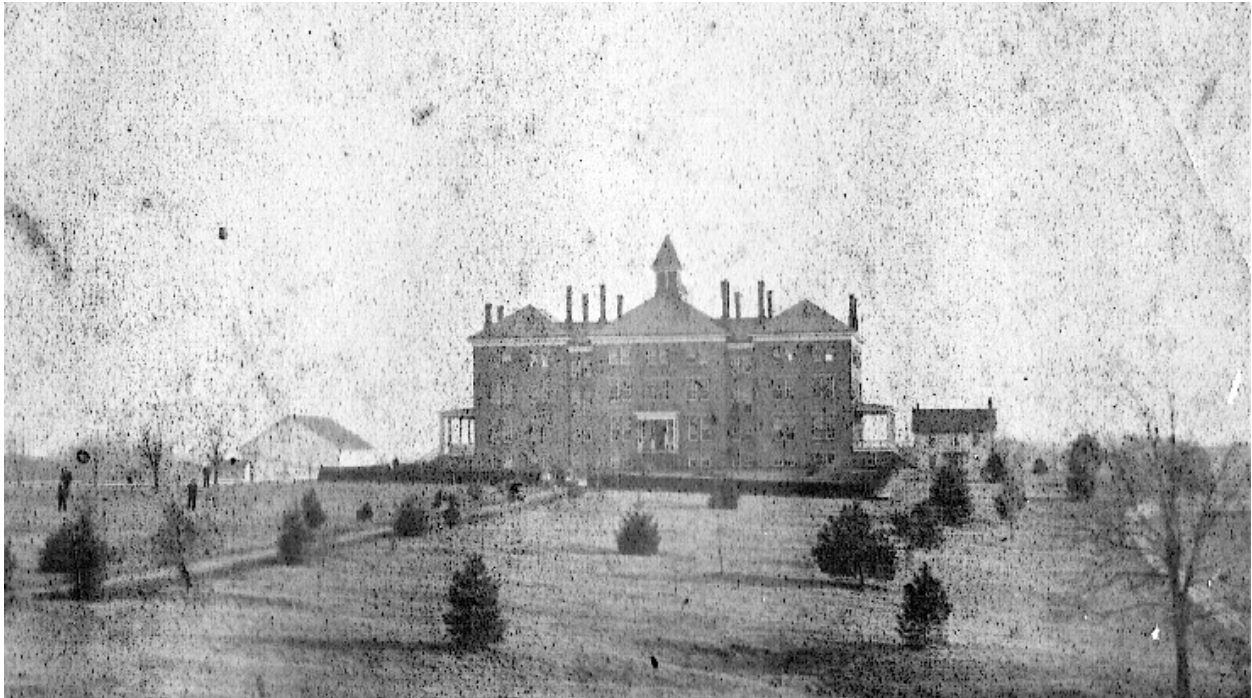
"the Christian atmosphere was not as perfect as he had imagined"¹⁷ yet wrote that "as a whole [it] was a time of deepening to me in best things."¹⁸ Two events at the school, though understated in his *Autobiography*, would have a profound impact on the rest of his life - having "some care of the boys...assist[ing] in the class work"¹⁹ and meeting Eunice H. Smith, his future wife.

James was twenty-four years old when he arrived at Friends' Boarding School. Within a year of his arrival the student population at the school had almost doubled from thirty-four students in the fall of 1883 to sixty-four students in the winter of 1884-85. As a result, James, considered "a serious and solid person,"²⁰ was persuaded, somewhat reluctantly, to accept positions of increased responsibility at the boarding school. Acting as Governor and Teacher, James noted that although he "got through," it was "not without considerable exercises and trials which were very humbling."²¹ Undeterred by his "weakness and lack of wisdom,"²² and concerned about what he would do after graduating and leaving

the school, James hoped, in the language of Friends, that a way might open for him to teach at a Friends' primary school.²³ With no prospects in Ohio, and having returned to Norwich to find employment, an opportunity arose for James to work at a school for the Seneca in the Allegheny region of New York.

Philadelphia Friends had been in contact with the Seneca as early as 1791 when Chief Cornplanter of the Seneca requested that Friends teach their children "the same principles by which your Fathers were guided in their councils."²⁴ Since the United States' capital at the time was in Philadelphia, Friends were regularly called upon to act as honest brokers and observers of Indian treaties. It was at one such treaty conference at Canandaigua in 1794 that Sakarissa, a Tuscarora chief made the suggestion that "Friends should send some of their young men among the Indians as teachers."²⁵ Within a generation, Tunesassa Indian School would open "to teach them that would come."²⁶

James was twenty-eight when he arrived at Tunesassa in early 1887, almost a year after a



Friends Boarding School



Tunesassa Indian School

devastating fire which destroyed the original school. Hired as “assistant superintendent and boys caretaker, at a salary of \$20 per month,”²⁷ James enjoyed his duties which included farming, care of the animals, and supervising the boys assigned to farm duties. He also, along with the superintendent, Aaron Dewees, oversaw the construction of a new building that replaced those destroyed in the fire. The expanded house was

75 feet in length from north to south, and 50 feet in width from east to west: a porch 12 feet wide reaches entirely across the rear end, and one in front of the same width, 35 feet long.. In height, the building is two stories, with a basement. In the later are the dining room, kitchen, pantry, wash and bake rooms, with a bath room for the children...On the first floor, east side, are the family parlor, a chamber which may be used as a nursery, if needed, a sewing room, and the girl’s living room. On the west side of the hall are the Meeting room, the boy’s living room and the main school room. On the second story, east side, are the superintendent’s chamber, chamber for

girl’s caretaker, and the girl’s chamber. On the west are three chambers and the school room for the younger children.²⁸

James, with his characteristic reserve, noted in his *Autobiography* that it was during his first year at Tunesassa that he “became interested in a young woman Friend in Ohio, and with whom [he] had been in correspondence” and that they had “decided to enter into an engagement of marriage.”²⁹ Eunice Holloway Smith, the daughter of Israel and Margaret Smith of Carlisle, Warren Township, Iowa,³⁰ was a year older than James, and was also a senior student for a period of time at Friends Boarding School.³¹ Having laid their intentions to marry before Stillwater Meeting, James and Eunice were married 20 October 1887. They returned as a couple to Tunesassa where they were given the use of a tenant house on the property, something James considered “not an unpleasant settlement”.³² James remained at Tunesassa for another seven years, becoming superintendent in 1889. Tunesassa would also be where James and Eunice’s first child, Joseph Dempsey Henderson was born.

There appears to be no single reason for the Hendersons’ departure from Tunesassa in

1894. With the birth of Joseph in 1888, James was certainly thinking about a suitable place to raise a family; he did purchase a farm in Barnesville in 1891. Yet three events recorded in his *Autobiography* might suggest to another reason - a call to travel in the ministry. First, James experienced a call to ministry while he was in meeting. He remembered the moment:

For as I had heretofore been furnished with the matter to be delivered before I rose, hereafter should I prove faithful to the gift bestowed, there would be experienced an enlargement in the Divine power and wisdom vouchsafed, to declare matters possibly unthought of before. I was much humbled under the exercise, and blessed God for his adorable mercy and goodness in this enlightening my understanding to behold some of the mysteries of Godliness.³³

The meeting clearly agreed with James' call to ministry; he was recorded as a minister in 1896. Second, James felt a strong inclination, referred to by Friends as a leading, "but what was awaiting [him] on the way home [he] knew not."³⁴ James recalled that "it came rather suddenly and with weight" for him to converse with a local saloon-keeper, not to speak directly about the "liquor business" but the "responsibility of the influence of our lives upon others."³⁵ This would be a theme to which James frequently returned later in life, especially when meeting American Presidents William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson. Finally, the event that especially influenced the future direction of James' life was his visit to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in 1892. Eunice was ill, and James noted it was an "anxious time."³⁶ Even so, he sensed a spiritual calling in his life. James kept a diary of the period, recalled later in his *Autobiography*. A brief passage from January 1894, just before leaving Tunesassa, is prophetic as it accurately

describes what would become his life's work:

I felt it to be a large undertaking for one so young in experience, but felt that if it were a right call the Lord would do his own work through me if I followed his guidance and I can truly say he was near to help for I felt no lack to express what came before me to my relief.³⁷

James Henderson's life is unique within the history of the Religious Society of Friends. He was born and first experienced the faith of Friends as they were, especially in North America, reeling from the doctrinal challenges initiated first by Elias Hicks and later Joseph John Gurney. His family remained true to what Wilburite Friends considered the original testimonies or ancient landmarks of the Society: James would spend three formative years in the spiritual centre of conservative Friends in Barnesville, Ohio attending Friends' Boarding School. His experiences both at the boarding school and Tunesassa gave James a deeper understanding of the religious source, practices and outreach of Friends. As a result, James was convinced that his calling was to travel in the ministry; by the end of his life he had fulfilled this calling across a large portion of the United States, Southern Ontario and Europe. James believed in a simple, plain and humble religion that was, he believed, true to the faith of the first Friends. It is this faith that brought James back to Canada:

I felt a peculiar responsibility in thus visiting Friends there, where I was raised from a few years old till I was twenty-four years of age... by abiding lowly and seeking Divine guidance in all our movements, were favored, I hope, to perform the services to the honor of the cause we love.

Visit to Friends of Canada 1903³⁸
James Henderson

Early in 1903 I felt called upon to visit Friends in Canada Yearly Meeting and was liberated for the same. Started on the journey on the 14th. of 5th. Month accompanied by Wm. G. Steer, first going to Norwich, Ont. Were met by my brother-in-law Albert Pollard to whose home we went for the night. Next day attended Monthly Meeting where we were openly received and arrangements were made for us to visit the families, that being a part of my concern. Had about 25 sittings. I felt a peculiar responsibility in thus visiting Friends there, where I was raised from a few years old till I was twenty-four years of age and the meeting to which I requested for membership. But by abiding lowly and seeking for Divine guidance in all our movements, were favored, I hope, to perform the services to the honor of the cause we love. Feeling then clear of Norwich neighborhood, Joshua Waring, an elderly Friend, offered to take us North about 60 miles to Peel neighborhood where there was a small meeting. On the way there I felt to propose the appointment of a meeting should way open for it, at a village named Wellesley. On reaching there made some inquiry of two men who appeared quite friendly. They manifested interest in the proposal and took the matter up and soon succeeded in obtaining a place and the appointment was made for that evening at 8 o'clock. About 35 in attendance and passed off comfortably and hope was in place. Also had a satisfactory meeting in Glennallen for the next evening, where a family of Friends had lived. Then went to Peel neighborhood, our destination, where arrangements were soon made for a meeting in Friends' meeting house the following evening and notice given. It proved an interesting and impressive occasion. Our kind Friend Joshua Waring then returned home and we proceeded farther north to Owen Sound on the Georgian

Bay where a Friend Stephen Feasant and his daughter Lilly lived. His daughter is his housekeeper. They seemed much pleased that we called on them. Next forenoon, on making some inquiry in regard to going by water to Meaford, met a young man, Thomas Brough, at teacher in the High School, whom I had met some years before in Peel neighborhood and had an interesting visit with him and his wife and also found opportunity to go by water to Meaford. Took boat about noon and on reaching there was met by George Rorke who took us to his home in Thornburg where we were kindly welcomed. Next day attended their regular meeting being 1st. day and made a few calls in P.M. On 2nd. day and 3rd. day visited families and on the evening of the later had an appointed meeting in Clarksburg which I believe was to the honor of Truth and relieving on my mind. On 4th. day went by train to New Market [sic] and went to Lydia Moore's where we were kindly entertained. Next morning went to Arnoldi Haight's to lay before him our concern to visit the families. He united with it and arranged to go with us to part of them at least. And it seemed to be laid upon me to have considerable exercise in the opportunities. Friends from a distance through their concerns frequently I believe bring local Friends into exercise for the good of the cause which we hope to advance. Attended their Quarterly Meeting which was small but hope to profit, though the business was quite dull. In the Select Meeting in the afternoon had some close labor which was humiliating. First day morning meeting I felt my place was to be silent, though not without my exercise. Had some labor in the afternoon meeting. Benjamin W. Wood a minister belonging to Pickering Meeting, within the limits of the Quarter, (Yonge Street) was in attendance and has some exercise in vocal labor. Met him afterwards at Lydia Moore's, our lodging place, when he gave us some account of his visit to Europe and to North Carolina which was interesting. Next morning took leave

of our kind hostess and went by trolley to Toronto. On the way met an interesting man who took his seat with me. He appeared to have best things uppermost so was not difficult to get on serious subjects. In talking of meeting people in our travels who proved congenial, he referred to a man who had taken a trip across the Atlantic and on his return, when coming into the harbor at Montreal, he overheard a man say as in a reverie [sic] "He bringeth them to their desired haven". That brought the two men together and they regretted not getting acquainted sooner on their trip. Reached Joshua Richardsons, at Pickering, in the afternoon. Had some headache and retired a little early. Rose next morning feeling better and started visiting families. By evening came to Joshua's mother's. She was a feeble old woman, bright mentally and appreciated her friends visiting her. Called on about all the Friends' families and attended Monthly Meeting by the evening of the 4th. of 6th. month, and started next morning for Wellington, a distance of about 100 miles to attend West Lake Four Months Meeting, arriving there at 1:20 P.M.

It was interesting to meet with a number of plain elderly Friends particularly women, as Eliza H. Varney, Matilda Branscombe, Mary Robinson, and Lavina Merrill. I went with the above to Select Meeting where there were a number more of both men and women and it seemed good to meet with such substantial Friends. Next morning being Seventh day, we attended the Four Months Meeting, which we felt was a favored time. Spent the afternoon visiting. Next morning took a walk along the shore of West Lake under deep exercise of spirit in regard to the proper manner of prosecuting the work before Yearly Meeting, being desirous of returning home after that occurs. After meditating on the subject, desired to be rightly directed and calling on Rhoda Garrets to counsel with my dear friends, Matilda Branscombe and Lavina Merrill, concluded to endeavor [sic] to do what family

visiting I felt drawn to on the morrow, so as to proceed from Pictor [sic] to Athens on the 3rd. day. In the meantime arranging with Justice Robeson, who lives near Athens, to have an appointed meeting there 3rd. day evening. After doing so felt some relief and attended meeting at 11 A.M. and considerable labor and some other service. In the afternoon meeting Lavina Merrill, Eliza H. Varney and Justice Robeson were engaged in service and I believe were owned by the Master. Made a few calls that evening and the next day had some interesting visits in different places, reaching Matilda Branscombe's in the evening where we had an enjoyable visit and a night's lodging. Next morning her son Marshall took us to Stephen Hubbs, whose wife was a member. He seemed to dwell much on the troubles in Society and inclined to talk about it but I felt I had no ear for it, nor joined in the conversation. He soon took the hint and dropped into silence and we had a comfortable and relieving opportunity. When we rose to leave they expressed their appreciation of the visit, especially Stephen, who seemed so changed from the time we entered his house.

Went from there to the Wharf where we boarded the boat "Deserouts" going 15 miles to a place of the same name as the boat. Then took train to Lyse, changing at Napanee. Here we came to the main line of the "Grand Trunk Railway". The conductor seemed very kind and accommodating, having met us before on other parts of his road. Very dry in that territory where pastures were brown and very little depth of soil in many places and none at all in others where I think there would be acres of nearly level rock. Then again it would be better. Reached Athens toward evening and were met by Justice Robeson, who took us to his home and after supper awhile returned with me to the appointed meeting in Sara Wiltsie's house. William was not very well and so did not attend the meeting. It passed off comfortably and fairly well attended. Quite a shower of rain

with thunder and lightning during the time freshened things up. There were but a few Friends in this neighborhood. Visited some in the forenoon and arrangement was made to have Justice's family together at his son Phillip's to dinner and afterwards had a religious opportunity. We soon bid farewell and were taken to station. Took train for Brockville on the St. Lawrence River. Made some inquiry and found Daniel Derbyshire, a son of Harvey Derbyshire of Norwich vicinity, where we lodged, being welcomed. Next morning we ferried across the river to Morristown, in Jefferson Co., New York, as I understand, and took train for Evans, a distance of 44 miles. There was no one there to meet us as my letter had not been received so we walked to La Raysville where there was a small meeting belonging to Canada Yearly Meeting. Went to Frederick Appenzellers, but not finding him at home, found other Friends, John and Susan Sheldon, who kindly took us in and welcomed us, with whom we made our home while we stayed in the neighborhood. Next day was quite wet having rained all night and continued during the day so we rested and wrote some letters. On Second day visited some families, going to Black River, where we had two sittings and returned to Le Raysville. In the evening took a walk to the old stone meeting house Friends used to meet in before the separation. Although there are several members belonging to this meeting the principles are not supported as they should be. Next morning took a walk, which has been my practice when away from home in most of my travels unless hindered by something more important, to an old Mansion house built by a Frenchman by the name of Le Ray about 100 years ago. Called at Edward Gardner's a little while before meeting. He is an elderly Friend whose wife was a cripple and very poorly. The meeting was an exercising one, in I had heavy labor but relieving to my mind and accompanied with peace. Went to F. Appenzellers from meeting to dinner and about

4 P.M. went to Edwin Gardner's where we had a comfortable visit and stayed for supper. Their daughter Clestia Wolcott and her husband being there. Made plans for starting toward Kingston in the morning. Had hoped to get around to more of the members but way did not open.

Started 2nd. day morning the 15th of the 6th. Month for Watertown with a horse and buggy belonging to F. Appenzeller with a one legged man named Chas. Malot. The horse he said was 31 years old and had been guilty of running off, and he handed over the lines to me. We got there safely however, though meeting a traction engine, the horse was much frightened.

Took train there for Cape Vincent where there was a boat bound for Kingston, where we arrived about noon. Only a few families there, whom we called upon. Jonathan P. Ward and his wife Margaret are the more prominent Friends. Margaret was at their daughter Emma's in the city, then living on a farm west of town. Went out there to see Jonathan in the evening and stayed the night and visited with him until about 10 next morning when she had a sitting which I felt was precious, after which we returned to the city and dined at his daughter's. Then took train for Bellville where we arrived at 1:45 P.M. As we had no Friend's address in the city William went to find out. After some time he returned with Richard Garret, who came with a horse and buggy. We went with him to his home where we stayed to tea. After that was over, on considering the best way to move decided to go north to another neighborhood and visit there and return, so Richard took us to station and we went by train to Holloway. As they had not received information there no one met us, so we walked to Arnoldi Fosters, a distance of 3 miles. Next morning we called on two widows, mother and daughter, the latter being the sister-in-law of Arnoldi. After which Arnoldi and his wife took us to Justice and Lavine Merrill's. Their

daughter Mary Sweatman and her daughter Alice were with them and some other company. Our opportunity there was an impressive one which I hope was good for all. In afternoon we returned and took train for Bellville and went to Mary Robinsons, where we stayed for supper. She lived with her son and family. Had an opportunity before we left and then proceeded to Richard Garrets for the night and next morning he and his wife Mary Jane went with us to Pickering to attend Yearly Meeting, where we arrived about 8:34. Received letters from home giving good reports of their getting along which is a comfort. In traveling around from place to place it is often long between the times of hearing from home.

Attended Pickering regular Meeting at 10 A.M. and the Select meeting at 2 P.M. Met quite a number of Friends just arrived from different parts, among them being my three sisters from Norwich. The next day, the 19th, attended the first sitting of the Yearly Meeting, the first part of which was held with open shutters in which I had much secret exercise, and I fear delayed too long in engaging in supplication as E.H. Varney knelt at the same time. I uttered nothing but remained on my knees till she finished and rose. Not feeling clear, however, and the exercise remaining, after a pause I knelt again and was favored to get along to my own relief and peace of mind. During the reading of the epistles from other Yearly Meetings there was a solemn covering over us, which tended to our edification.

In the afternoon had a feeling of discouragement for fear I had not kept my place, but meeting with Elizabeth McKeel from N.Y. was refreshed by her company. Called in the evening at W. V. Richardson's to visit my sisters and before we parted Matilda Branscombe who was present suggested a little silence, in which she spoke very impressively to some one whose state was such as called for serious thoughtfulness, for she felt there was not much time to lose. Second sitting of Select

Meeting met at 10 A.M. on the 20th, in which Benjamin W. Wood gave an account of his visit to England, Germany, Norway, which was interesting and instructive. The second sitting of Yearly Meeting was held at 2 o'clock in which the state of Society was entered upon and considered. Went to W. Richardsons to tea where the Ohio Friends in attendance put up, Gilbert and Eliza McGrew, Anna Mary Hall and Elma Whinnery. There was but one sitting on 2nd day and my sisters came to our boarding place, Joshua Richardson's to dinner to give me a good opportunity to visit and I went with them to Margaret Boones to tea where there were several others. These social visits among Friends are often memorable occasions to some as religious opportunities frequently occur that are remembered. The next day was pleasant, although it had rained quite heavily during the night so was a favorable day to close and we believed it a favored time, tending to draw the hearts of Friends nearer together in the bonds of Christian fellowship, for which thanksgiving was offered. The closing meeting was a public one. My companion, Wm. G. Steer, decided to return home at the close of Yearly Meeting but I did not feel relieved as there was one neighborhood we had not visited. He started that evening. Next morning I went to depot to see my sisters off as well as many others. A tender parting. Returned to J. Richardson's who had offered to take me to Mariposa neighborhood to visit Friends there. We started about 10 A.M. going by way of Port Perry on Scugog lake. Fed horse at Nouquon. A river of the same name running near which is an outlet to the lake. There is an island in the lake of about 10,000 acres of good farming land. Then proceeded through Manilla and Oakwood to Mary Rogers where we were kindly received. Had driven about 50 miles and made it in about 9 hours. Started visiting families next day and got along pretty comfortably, returning to Mary's to lodge. The second day went toward

Lindsay making a call or two on the way reaching there about 11 A.M., a distance of 8 miles. Dined there at Wm. Clendenon's whose father and mother Edwin and Phebe Clendenon live with them. Made inquiry as to the propriety of holding a public meeting in Lindsay and worked our way back and went to James Terrel's, at Cambray, for the night. Understanding there were some Friends near 40 miles north at Minden I suggested to Joshua a drawing toward going there and having a meeting. He did not seem very favorable and I did not press it, having but dropped the subject for the time. In the evening at Jones Terrel's the subject came up again and Jones was quite favorable and encouraged it. Next day we got pretty well around and toward evening Joshua took the matter up himself though there was no pressing on my part and sent a telegram to Reuben Garret, Minden, to have a meeting appointed for us for 2nd. day evening. The 28th, being First day, attended meeting in the morning which was a rather open time, Jesse McKeel and company also being in attendance. In the afternoon went to the appointed meeting at Lindsay, the New York Friends also going. It proved a relieving time to some of us. I felt much the responsibility of these appointed meetings and hope to be preserved from moving in such service without Divine prompting. Returned to Mary Rogers for the night. On the 28th, called a few more places in the forenoon and in the afternoon made preparations for the trip to Minden, going to Cameron, a distance of 8 miles to take train. It was a mixed train, freight and passenger, and made but slow progress so by the time we reached Gelert we were 50 minutes late.

Then took a stage 7 miles to Minden, reaching there about 8 o'clock and the meeting appointed for 7:30. Reuben Garret's were waiting for us so we got a little refreshment and went direct to the Methodist meeting house where it was held and the people were waiting. Anybody that knows the responsibility of such

service can imagine my feelings but we were soon gathered and more came so that I thought we had not sat in a larger meeting since we came into Canada, save on First-day at Yearly Meeting time. We also felt it to be a favored time for I believe the Lord magnified his own Cause and the people were very attentive and appeared satisfied. Lodged at R. Garrets where we had a comfortable social visit before retiring. Rose at 3:30 in the morning, ate breakfast at 4:30 and left on stage near 5 A.M. for Gelert where we took train about 6:35 reaching Cameron at 8:45. Hitched up the horse and buggy and started for Pickering, arriving at Joshua's home near 7 o'clock in the evening. After a comfortable night's rest started next morning for home, feeling relieved of the weight of concern which had been on my mind for some years.

Reached Barnesville the next day about noon and there being no one to meet me walked out home being met in the front yard by our daughter Edith on the sixth anniversary of her birth. Found all well and glad to receive me in the household where I felt I had a place.

Footnotes:

1. "Our beloved Friend James Henderson, a minister with whom we have unity, informed this meeting of a concern which had rested with him for a long time, and lately with increased weight to pay a religious visit to Friends of Canada Yearly Meeting, and some others in the course of the visit as way may open amongst them. After a time of deliberation unity was expressed with the concern and he encouraged to pursue the prospect as the pointings of Truth may direct." Minutes of Stillwater Monthly Meeting 25 February 1903, Barnesville Hutton Memorial Library, Barnesville, Ohio.
2. I would like to thank Representative Meeting of Ohio Yearly Meeting for permission to reproduce a portion of James Henderson's *Autobiography*, and the Historical Committee of Ohio Yearly Meeting, Olney Friends' School and Marjorie Hunter for permission to reproduce images from the life of James Henderson.
3. Kenneth P. Morse, *A History of Conservative Friends* (Published by the author, 1962), 25.

4. This reminiscence is creative license; it is based on recollections of people about James Henderson, and there certainly was a time when he did rise in meeting to lay his leading before the meeting. I cannot say it happened as I have written this, but it may have.
5. *The Friend: A Religious and Literary Journal*, 53, no. 11 (25 October 1879), 1.
6. *The Friend*, 53, no. 11 (25 October 1879), 1.
7. While there are no records to indicate that Joseph attended Glasgow Meeting, the Alphabetical List of Members of Edinburgh Two Months Meeting 1837-79 (covering all of Scotland south of the River Tay) confirms that Joseph did not apply for membership in what would have been his local meeting for worship. Pers. com. from Paul F. Burton 25 March 2011.
8. James Henderson mentions that his father had a letter of introduction to a Friend in Norwich, Ontario. James Henderson, *An Autobiography of the Life and Religious Experiences of James Henderson* (Ohio: Ohio Yearly Meeting, 1944), 1. Arthur Clayton identifies this “Friend in Norwich, Ontario” as Gilbert Moore (*The Henderson Family Reunion Norwich, June 19-21, 1981* (Toronto: Canadian Friends Historical Association, 1981), 29:14.)
9. *The Friend*, 53, no. 11 (25 October 1879), 2.
10. *The Friend*, 53, no. 11 (25 October 1879), 1. Kenneth P. Morse notes that Isabella had a “sort of vision of herself in the garb of a Friend, which no doubt helped her to decide.” Morse, *A History*, 25.
11. *The Friend*, 53, no. 12 (1 November 1879), 1.
12. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 3.
13. Friends Boarding School, *Olney 1876-1926*. (Ohio: Friends Boarding School, 1926), 9.
14. William Taber, *The Eye of Faith: A history of Ohio Yearly Meeting, Conservative*. (Ohio: Thomson-Shore, Inc., 1985), 107.
15. *Ohio Yearly Meeting Minutes*. (Ohio: Ohio Yearly Meeting, 1881), 19.
16. *Ohio Yearly Meeting Minutes*. (Ohio: Ohio Yearly Meeting, 1883), 9.
17. William Taber, *Be Gentle, Be Plain*. (Ohio: Celso Press, 1976), 60.
18. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 6.
19. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 6. The *Catalogue of Officers and Students of Friends’ Boarding School* lists James Henderson as governor and teacher for the winter 1884-85 Term. James’ older brother David C. Henderson is also listed as a student in the senior class that term.
20. Taber, *Be Gentle, Be Plain*, 61.
21. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 6. James questioned the wisdom of appointing him to such important positions, but more importantly notes that he did not “seek that wisdom from above to guide in the path of judgment.”
22. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 6.
23. Perhaps inspired by his father, James’ first son, Joseph D. Henderson became a teacher, and taught at Stillwater Primary School. His second and third child, Edith and Lloyd respectively, were students in Joseph’s class in 1910, the year of the famous fire at the boarding school.
24. Lois Barton, *A Quaker Promise Kept: Philadelphia Friends’ work with the Allegany Senecas 1795-1960* (Oregon: Spencer Butte Press, 1990), 1.
25. Rayner W. Kelsey, *Friends and the Indians 1655-1917* (Philadelphia: The Associated Executive Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, 1917), 93.
26. Barton, *A Quaker Promise*, 13.
27. Barton, *A Quaker Promise*, 39.
28. Barton, *A Quaker Promise*, 39.
29. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 7.
30. In the 1870 United States Federal Census Eunice is listed as attending school and residing at the house of Dempsey and Rebecca Bundy in Barnesville, Warren Township, Belmont County, Ohio. The 1880 United States Federal Census lists Eunice as a housekeeper in the house of her aunt, Rebecca in the same district as 1870. James notes in his *Autobiography* that “Aunt Rebecca W. Bundy...had brought her up from her ninth year” 8.
31. The *Catalogue of Officers and Students of Friends’ Boarding School* lists Eunice H. Smith as a student in the summer term of 1885. An autograph book in the Olney Friends’ School Archives, contains two entries one after the other from both Eunice Smith and James Henderson, the later dated 2 December 1886, a year before James’ arrival at Tunesassa. Eunice Smith’s entry contains a faint pencil note “Married to J. Henderson”.
32. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 8.
33. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 8-9.
34. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 10.
35. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 11.
36. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 12.
37. Henderson, *An Autobiography*, 13.
38. Representative Meeting of Ohio Yearly Meeting on 20th, 11th month, 2010 recorded a minute that “Friends considered the request by Andrew Cresswell to quote excerpts from the Journal of James Henderson in a paper. Friends find no objection to such quotations, and grant permission, requesting that Friend Cresswell provide copies of the paper for the library and archives.