

CANADIAN QUAKER HISTORY

Newsletter

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

60 LOWTHER AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5R 1C7



Yonge Street Meetinghouse - 1810

No. 11

Third Month (March), 1975

MINUTES OF SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO, LONDON

November (Eleventh Month) 23, 1974

Members present: Hilde Rosenfled, Grace Pincoe, Ed Phelps, Fritz Hertzberg, Kathleen Hertzberg, Elizabeth Russell, Joyce Howlett, Ken Totten, Elsie Cutler, Edith Zavitz, David Pollard, Arthur Clayton, Bertha Pollard, Myra Pollard, Dorothy Muma, Walter Balderston, Glenn Julian, Flossie Hobbs, Alaine Hawkins, Wanda Robinson, Marion Thomson, Pat Starr, Andrew Brink, Helen Brink, and Sandy Brink.

Regrets: David Newlands, Josef Drenters, Fred Haslam, Ralph Greene, Isabel Maxweil, Harold Zavitz, and Roger Nickerson.

Opening Remarks: Opening remarks were made by Kathleen Hertzberg. Fritz Hertzberg reported that a special sod-turning ceremony was taking place this same day to mark the beginning of the restoration of the Yonge Street Meeting House. The Meeting House is being moved to excavate a full basement. This will allow it to be used on a year-round basis. The architect, B. Napier Simpson, Jr., is an expert on the restoration of old buildings. Contributions from the Rogers family and others are nearly adequate to cover the cost. A "Meeting House Newsletter" has been started to keep interested people in touch with the progress of the work.

Minutes: The minutes of the first annual meeting of the Canadian Friends Historical Association were circulated in newsletter No. 5. They were approved as circulated.

Report of Executive Committee: The report was read by Kathleen Hertzberg. This report follows these minutes in the newsletter. Note that the report covers the period from August 1973 to November 1974 because of our change to the calendar year for reporting.



2.

Financial Statement: A financial statement for August 1, 1971 to November 20, 1974 was presented. This is an unaudited statement and shows a balance on hand of \$337.66. It was noted that there are still some outstanding bills for stationery and office supplies. Registration for income tax purposes under the Charitable Act is proceeding. Arrangements have been made for auditing the accounts.

Membership report: Grace Pincoe presented the membership report which showed a total of 95 members, including 1 honorary, 6 life, 2 ex-officio, 73 annual, 8 Friends Meetings, and 5 corporate members. It was suggested that membership in the Association would make a good Christmas gift.

Pennfield Settlement Memorial, Beaver Harbour, N.B. The Association approved a donation of \$25 to the Charlotte County (N.B.) Historical Society toward maintaining of the site of the burial ground of the Pennfield Settlement.

Discussion on reports: It was noted that the Executive Committee is planning to bring out a brochure containing general information about the Assn. Several suggestions were made about the Newsletter. With the assistance of Ed Phelps it is hoped to make a permanent "wrap-around" cover which would contain information about the aims and purpose of the Assn., general information on the Society of Friends, and other pertinent information. A list of members was mentioned as highly desirable. Ed Phelps stressed that accuracy is very important in newsletter material if it is to be of value to serious researchers. There were several comments of appreciation for the newsletter.

We were pleasantly reminded of the Rockwood, Ontario bus trip by seeing the coloured photographs taken of the trip by Arthur Clayton. Arthur Clayton noted that William Wetherald's daughter, Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherlad was a poet and wrote memoirs and reminiscences of William Wetherald. Yosef Drenters is also working on a biography of William Wetherald.

One of the highlights of the meeting was to learn of the donation of the Nicholson diary "Six Months in Canada, 1896" to the Quaker Archives. Elizabeth Russell, its present owner, delivered it to Ed Phelps during our day at the Archives. A reproduction of this remarkable book was a highlight of the display at our first annual meeting. At this second annual meeting we were able to see the original with its beautiful watercolours.

Nominations: The proposed slate was read by Andrew Brink:

Honorary Chairman:	Arthur Dorland
Chairman:	Walter Balderston
Clerk:	Kathleen Hertzberg
Corresponding & Membership Secretary:	Grace Pincoe
Treasurer & Recording Secretary:	Alaine Hawkins
Convenor of Publications Committee:	David Newlands
Convenor of Archives Committee:	Ed Phelps
Convenor of Nominating Committee:	Hilde Rosenfeld

These nominations for the next year were approved.

Suggestions from Ed Phelps: Ed Phelps stressed the importance of preserving visual materials such as old photographs. Put an article in the Newsletter encouraging Friends to send such material to the Archives or to Friends House. Taping the recollections of Elderly Friends was also suggested. After some discussion about the means of doing this, Fritz Hertzberg offered to do it if a list of questions was prepared. Grace Pincoe, Ed Phelps and David Newlands might assist in this respect.

Talk and Tour of the Archives: After the business part of the meeting, Ed Phelps spoke on the importance of the Quaker Archives and then took us over to the collection itself. Displays were set up and with the help of Ed Phelps and his staff we were directed to interesting things, or to areas of our own special interests. Friends lingered until closing time at five o'clock.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TO THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

Members will recall that at our first Annual Meeting held in 1973 at Niagara Christian College, Fort Erie, it was decided to hold the Annual Meeting of our Association in the late Fall of the year rather than at the time of the Canadian Yearly Meeting. Our business year will therefore correspond to the calendar year. Therefore, the present report covers the period from August 1973 to November 1974. During this period, the Executive Committee met five times. Individual members were contacted by telephone when necessary.

It was reported to the Annual Meeting 1973 that the Association had 58 members. We are now pleased to say that to date we have 95 members. This shows a continued interest and indicates growth and support of the work of the Assn. The Association is now becoming known in wider archival circles and in libraries both in Canada and abroad and has been welcomed by Quaker collections in England and the United States.

We regret the passing of our member Herbert Cadwallader who will be known to some of our members.

Publications: We have had increased requests for the Inventory of Quaker Archives prepared by Edward Phelps, the most recent being for the library of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. A total of 9 issues of the Canadian Quaker Historical Newsletter have appeared to date. The Newsletter has now become a quarterly publication (No. 7, February; No. 8 June; No. 9, Oct.; No. 10, Dec. 1974). David Newlands edits our Newsletter and we thank him for the work he puts into this indispensable regular production. This is our only printed means of communication across Canada. We are also indebted to those who have contributed articles. It has been encouraging to have letters of appreciation for the Newsletter. Members have made it known to other interested people, some of whom have become members.

Quaker Archives and Microfilming: We are very glad to report that the microfilming of the Quaker records housed at the University of Western Ontario has now been completed through the generosity of the Ontario Archives as reported in detail in Newsletter No. 9 (Tenth Month, 1974). This makes the material more accessible for research purposes. We would like to have on record the sincere thanks of the Association for this valuable service. Other microfilms of Canadian Quaker records have become available, e.g. the minutes of Dartmouth (Nova Scotia) Preparative Meeting has recently been sent to us from the Nantucket Athaneum. We would like to draw the attention of the Association to the increasing role of the library at Friends House, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, in collecting and housing source material either as a book, photocopies, microfilms or transcripts. As the material becomes available, it is listed in our Newsletter.

A recent and most valuable new acquisition on permanent loan to the Quaker Archives is the original Journal of Timothy Rogers, through Gregory Elias Rogers of Uxbridge, Ontario, and a transcript copy of the Journal has been presented to the Toronto Monthly Meeting library by David P. Rogers, of Toronto.

Another most welcome acquisition has been a microfilm print-out of the Journals of John Townsend's journey to Nova Scotia in 1786 from the Peter Foulger Museum, Nantucket. A gift of historical Quaker dress has also been made to the Royal Ontario Museum by Mrs. John O'Hemly, of London, Ontario.

Events: The Historical Bus Tour to Rockwood, Ontario on June 22, 1974 included visits to the Rockwood Academy, the old Quaker cemetery, the 1898 Meeting House and the Harris Woollen Mills. We had lunch together at Burton and Lillian Hill's residence. About 60 people participated in the tour.

The meeting at the time of Canadian Yearly Meeting, August 1974, held at Memramcook Institute, St. Joseph's, New Brunswick, was addressed by Ralph Greene on "Quakers in the Maritimes" which opened up new vistas of Quaker history in Canada, in particular the reasons and the fortunes of the first Quaker settlements in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This talk was fully reported in Newsletter No. 9.

It was brought to our attention that the Charlotte County (New Brunswick) Historical Society erected in 1968 a memorial which marks the site of the burial ground of the first Quaker settlement in 1783 (Joshua Knight). Grace Pincoe was able to visit and to report on archives with Quaker material and Quaker sites in New Brunswick (Penfield Settlement at Beaver Harbour) while in the Maritimes. A full bibliography will appear in the next number of the Newsletter.

The committee continues efforts to locate and to have preserved existing Quaker historical records, either in the original or in copies.

Our secretary, Grace Pincoe, working out of the Toronto Monthly Meeting Library at Friends House, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, receives many enquiries addressed to the Association, some of which need to be referred and some can be answered informatively through the resources of the library.

We are delighted that the sod-turning ceremony to mark the commencement of phase I of the restoration of the Yonge Street Meeting House is taking place today and we wish the project a successful conclusion. We would like to draw the attention of members to the "Meeting House News", the news bulletin of the Yonge Street Friends Meeting House Improvement Fund, 367 Second St., Newmarket, Ontario. This bulletin gives full details of the project.

In conclusion, we would like to thank members for their letters of appreciation and support and for the work done to

6.

further the aims of the Association in particular by Grace Pincoe, Edward Phelps, David Newlands, Elsie Cutler, and everyone who has helped.

Dorothy Muma is retiring as treasurer. She has been a great help in launching the Association. We thank her and look forward to continued cooperation with Canadian Yearly Meeting.

Kathleen Hertzberg
for the Executive Committee

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUGUST 1, 1971 to NOVEMBER 20, 1974

Receipts:

Memberships	\$843.00	
Donations	73.75	
"Quakers in Canada"	17.00	
Sale of Inventories	8.00	
Bus Tickets - Rockwood	142.00	
Bank Interest	<u>8.38</u>	\$1,092.13

Payments:

Stationery	388.50	
Ontario Historical Society	10.00	
"Quakers in Canada"	17.00	
Office Expenses	130.75	
Bus at Niagara	81.10	
Bus for Rockwood	125.00	
Bank Charges and Exchange	<u>2.12</u>	754.47

November 20 Balance at Bank \$337.66

DOROTHY MUMA
Treasurer

MEETING HOUSE MEMORIES II & III

Bessie (Elizabeth) Sutton Dann

II: The Old Brick

The Old Brick meeting house always had a special interest for me as a child--perhaps because I was not often there and when I was, it was usually June Quarterly Meeting, which was always to me a special event.

The meeting house was about two miles north and west of Norwich on a road which came to be called locally "Quaker Street". The building stood back a little from the road on a slight rise. It faced the south and was a long, rather low building built of brick with a platform in front beside which the buggies and democrats drove up so the women folk could step out while the men went on to put the horses in the shed.

In front there was a clump of two or three pine trees which made such a lovely murmur in the June breeze and could be heard during the silences of the First Day Meeting for Worship at Quarterly Meeting time.

There were two doors opening off the platform with windows between which had wooden shutters. Originally the platform inside was on the north side and the seats were arranged so there was a distinct Men's and Women's side. I can just remember being there once as a small girl with my father at what I think was a Monthly Meeting. Later the platform and seat were moved to the east and the whole seating arrangement was altered. The long seat on the platform usually had some visiting Friends and in my early memories there were two or three women elders in plain bonnets. Others that I remember at one time or another were Albert Stover, William Wetherald, Alma Dale, Albert Colquhoun, and later Robert Rogers and sometimes William I. Moore. Sometimes there were visiting Friends from U.S.A. or from England. I remember once Alma Dale preached from the text, "The spider taketh hold with her hands and is in king's palaces"--from Proverbs. I do not remember the sermon, but I have always remembered the text.

Quarterly Meeting began on Seventh Day morning with a Meeting for Worship followed by a business meeting. In the evening the Womens' Missionary Society had charge and we used to sit in the front seats below the platform. I sometimes had "a piece to say" on the program. There were minutes and a Financial Report read by Georgina Cohoe, and usually a letter from Gurney Binford, who I think used to write about once a month. His letters came to Phoebe Jane Wright of Pickering, who sent out copies to the various Auxillaries and served to keep us in close touch with him and later his wife Elizabeth, whom we all grew to love. When on furlough they visited all the meetings.

The First Day Meeting for Worship was always well attended and the meeting house would be well filled, including Friends from Millvale and Beaconsfield. It began with Sunday School. We always liked going out into the cloakroom to where the infant class met and sitting on the little seats there. It was taught by Louisa Walker who later went as a missionary to India.

Meeting always began with silence. Thinking back, it seems to me it was always a fine June day with the doors open and the murmur of the pines outside, and the hymn-singing and the speaking inside. Sometimes the meeting seemed very long to me. There were always some mothers and babies in the cloak room.

It has always been a sadness to me that the "Old Brick" had to be pulled-down. I was past there in 1949 and it did seem such a blank not to see the old building. The graveyard at the back seemed much the same with several tall spruce trees in it. So many of the old Friends' families are buried there and I believe it is still used occasionally.

Among those who attended the regular meetings at the Old Brick whom I remember were William and Esther Dellen, Jacob and Phoebe Smith, Jay Stover and his wife (I suppose his name was James, but I always heard him called "Jay"). William and Eliza Cohoe and their son Ambrose. Thomas and Julia Walker and their family, Edward Cohoe and his family, Fayette and Sarah Barnes and family, and William and Mary Ann Bishop. There may have been others, but those whom I have mentioned are the ones I remember best.

As I said before the Old Brick always seemed a special place to me, and as I sit here in my quiet room in Vancouver, I can shut my eyes and picture the old building as it once looked, especially at June Quarterly Meeting time.

III. Beaconsfield, Hibbert, & Swarthmore, Sask.

I have not the same memories of Beaconsfield Meeting as of the other two, because I was not often there.

The meeting house was smaller than the others and stood on Charles Walker's land. I suppose it was built in the 1870's by the efforts of Charles Walker and probably his brother, Thomas. At first they lived on adjoining farms, though later the Thomas Walker family moved into Norwich.

Sunday School and Meeting for Worship were held there for a good many years during the lives of Charles Walker and his sons, Albert and Arthur. I do not know if there is any service there now. Three of Charles Walker's grand-children still live in the old farm house and I have kept in touch with Dorothea Walker for a long time. In the early days of '79 and '80 there was a group of young people who had mid-week Bible readings at the meeting house. My father and mother were among this group. I do not think there were ever very many Friends in the district. There were Charles and Martha Walker and their family and Moses and Melissa Carless at one time, and their family and some members of the Ward family. In the early days, I can just remember an elderly woman who was known as "Aunt Esther Wood'ard"--really Esther Woodward. She lived on the farm later owned by Burton and Marion Hill--parents of Kenneth and Burton Hill.

These are somewhat haphazard memories. Dorothea Walker could probably have more definite ones as she has lived there all her life.

There were two other meetings I have often wondered about as to what became of them. One was at a place called Hibbert, but whether that was a village or township I never knew. I only know the name as my father sometimes went there for special meetings and it was connected with the Colquhoun family. Albert Colquhoun married and went to live near London. He had twin sons whom he named Gurney and Binford.

The other meeting was in Grey County, somewhere near Meaford. The family of Benjamin Moore was connected with it. One of his sons, William I. Moore, was well-known and had something to do with starting a meeting in Saskatchewan at a settlement they called Swarthmore. My father was there in 1911 and again visited there in 1923, but I do not know what eventually became of it.

NEWS AND NOTES

Sampler Illustrated in Preview

A sampler made at Ackworth School, in England, donated to the Royal Ontario Museum through the auspices of the Canadian Friends Historical Association is illustrated on the March 1975 issue of the monthly magazine of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. A copy of preview is enclosed with this newsletter with the compliments of the Royal Ontario Museum.

10.

The Museum is interested in developing a collection of authentic Canadian Quaker clothing for its large and important collection of textiles. Friends who may have important Quaker textiles are encouraged to contact the Canadian Friends Historical Association, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, if they would be willing to consider having the materials go to the Museum. The textile collection at the R.O.M. is well-kept and donors can be assured that their gifts, once accepted for the collection, will be properly kept and appreciated for generations to come. The same comments can be said for early photographs of Friends and Friends Meetings. More will be said about photographs in the next issue of this newsletter.