

Newsletter

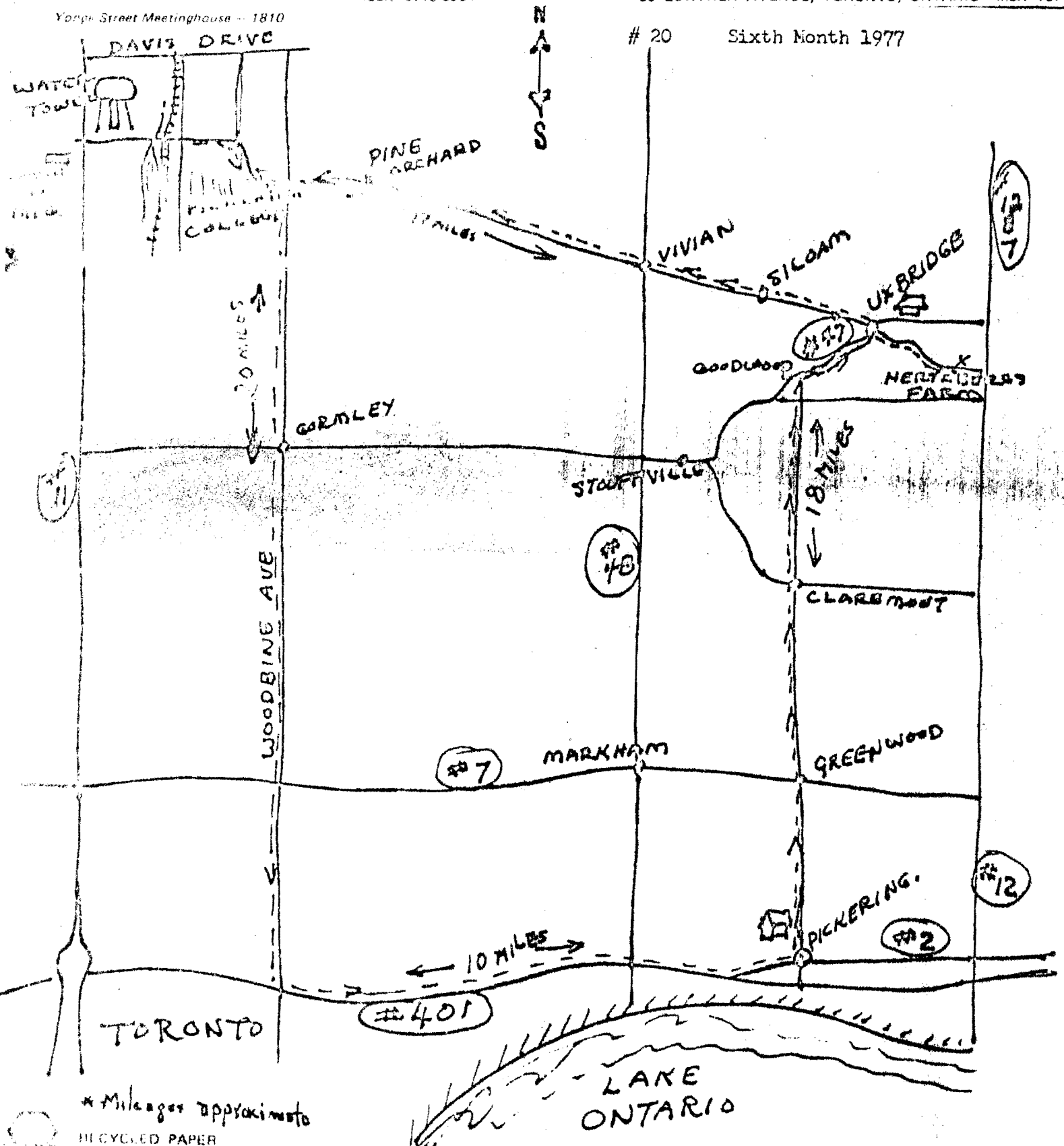
CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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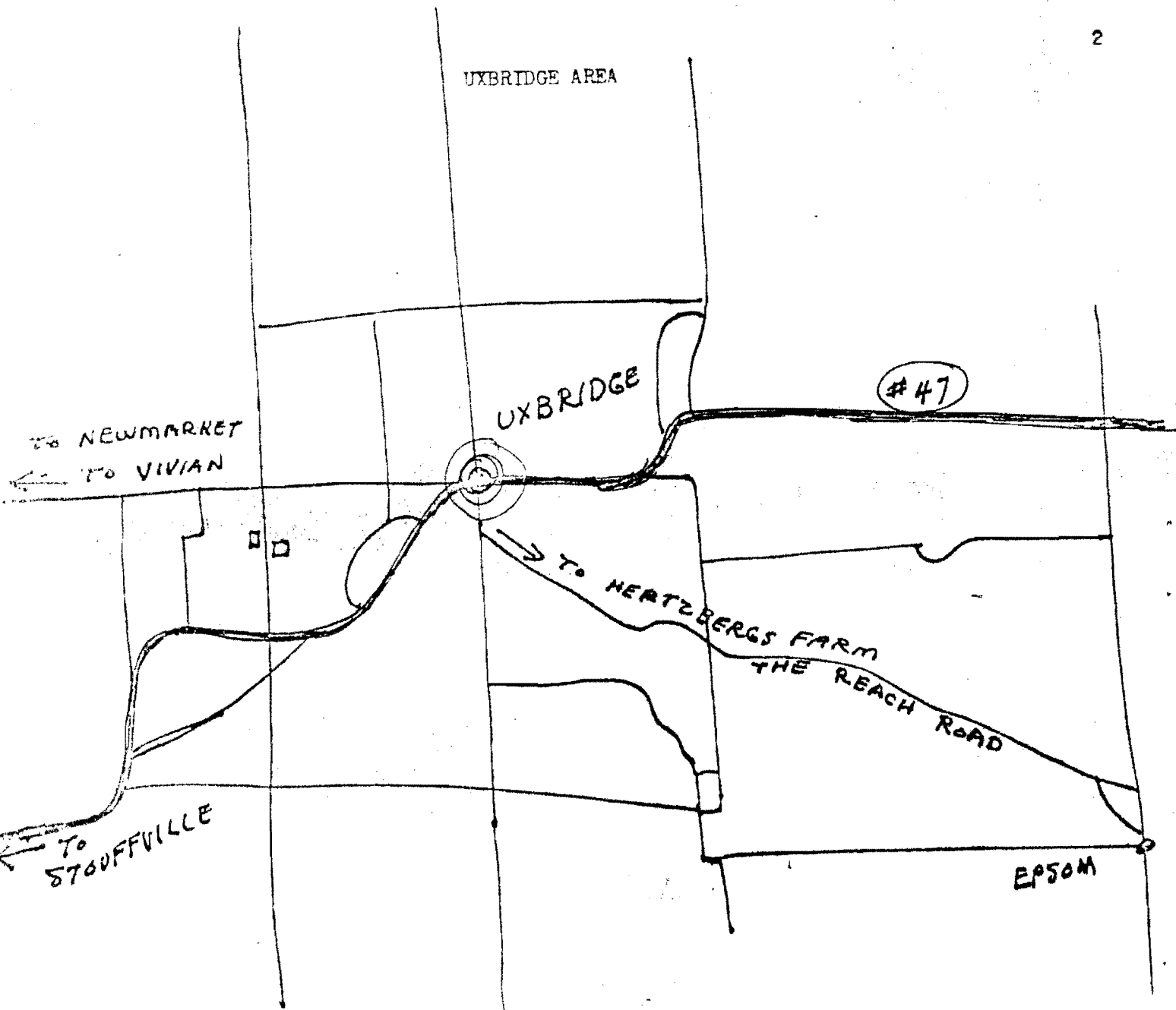
Yonge Street Meetinghouse - 1810

20 Sixth Month 1977



*Mileages approximate

RECYCLED PAPER



RECYCLED PAPER

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One of our stated objectives when we first formed our association in 1972 was to hold an annual field trip (pilgrimage) to some point of Quaker historical interest. Canadian Yearly Meeting had begun a new policy of holding Yearly Meeting in different parts of the country with the locale in 1970 out in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Previously for many years, it was held in Pickering College, Newmarket. Out of this has developed our policy of studying the area in which we find ourselves at Yearly Meeting time. The West and the Maritimes have not provided historic sites near enough for a half days' bus trip, so a special program has been produced in those cases, and a field trip taken in Ontario in June. There is no worry about running out of historic sites in Ontario.

So far we have had historical bus trips in the Niagara Peninsula in 1973, Rockwood in 1974, Norwich in 1975, Sparta/Coldstream in 1976 and this year 1977, Pickering/Uxbridge area. At Memramcook College, at St Joseph's N.B., Ralph Greene spoke to us on "Early Quakers in the Maritimes, and set up a beautiful display. In 1975, in Edmonton, Margaret McGruther set up a fine display on "Early Quakers in Alberta" and we learned a lot about archives in a tour 'Back Stage at the Archives' when Alan Ridge, the Provincial Archivist gave us a guided tour of the Alberta Provincial Archives. The newly restored Yonge Street Meeting House was a happy scene of our annual meeting November 29, 1975, when David Newlands spoke to us about the restoration, after which we drove through the snow in cars down to the nearby burial ground and site of the Hicksite Yonge Street Meeting House and then over to Pine Orchard (Whitchurch) Meeting now a Union Church.

This year, the return to Pickering College has provided the opportunity of visiting old Quaker Meeting Houses or sites, originally Preparative Meetings under Yonge Street, lying east of Yonge Street, and of seeing the present Pickering College as well as the site and what remained after the fire of 1905 of its predecessor in Pickering. We wish we had time to visit Mariposa to the north east and Tecumseh to the north west but they can be enjoyed another time. This issue then, provides you with the background material for our Pickering/Uxbridge trip Thursday, August 18, 1977. An article by Kathleen Hertzberg on the Uxbridge Meeting House appeared in our Newsletter #2, May 1973.

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PICKERING COLLEGE - A QUAKER SCHOOL: AN OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

by Jane V. Zavitz*

Canadian Yearly Meeting will be held at Pickering College, Newmarket, Ontario, from August 14-21, 1977. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the 1927 re-opening of the school at Newmarket, and also the beginning of the last year of Harry M. Beer's headmastership after a full lifetime of association, with and service to, Pickering College. It seemed right for yearly meeting to gather at Pickering this summer, where it has met often in previous years, to mark these two events.

From the beginnings of Quakerism in the seventeenth century education has been an important concern of the Society of Friends. Canada was no exception. The forerunners of the present Pickering College have been on three sites: first, at ~~West~~ Lake in Prince Edward County, Ontario, on the 'old Danforth Road' four miles west of Picton and one mile east of Bloomfield, from 1841/2 to 1869; second, from 1878-1885, and from 1892-1905 east of Toronto in Pickering Village (Pickering Township) at number 104 Kingston Road East, just west and across from the yearly ~~meetinghouse~~ (now a ~~masonic~~ hall) at the corner of Kingston Road and Mill Street; and, third at its present Newmarket site in Whitchurch Township, originally south and east of the town, which has now built up to the property lines except where cushioned by the beautiful 200 acre school farm, from 1909 to 1916 and from 1927 on, continuing as a boys' school in the present.

Several concurrent factors united to bring the ~~West~~ Lake School into being. The pioneer stages of settlement were accomplished sufficiently to create Friends' desires for a secondary school. Only a few could go to the

* Jane V. Zavitz is presently on the staff of Pickering College as a teacher and librarian.

distant Nine Partners School in Dutchess County, New York. After 1835

New York Yearly Meeting (Orth.) sent extracts from its sessions, requesting that member meetings consider setting up schools for older youth 'and report' results of discussion. During this period Joseph John Gurney, the eminent English Friend, traveled among Friends in the mid-western United States and Upper Canada, with his deep concern that they establish schools. He spoke to Friends at Canada Half-Yearly Meeting at Yonge Street (Orth.) in 1839, and through his initial gift of funds the dream began to be possible. Others gave, and thus the West Lake coeducational boarding school came about. The girls' school opened in 1841 in the large red brick farmhouse; the boys' school began the next year after their frame facility was built to the rear. In reality they were virtually separate institutions on one site. Thomas Clarke was superintendent. Today an Ontario Historical Marker "Friends Seminary" stands near the road before the brick farmhouse; the frame structure was long ago removed.

By 1854 West Lake was flourishing as an institution. It was free of debt, with one hundred and ten pupils enrolled - forty-seven girls and sixty three boys. However, by 1869 the school closed and the property was sold. The second separation in the orthodox branch of the society was brewing and had weakened support for the school. Times in general and with them the type of education desired were changing. Competition also came from the new academy at Rockwood, Ontario, which Wetherald established.

In the confederation year of 1867, Canada Yearly Meeting had been set off from New York Yearly Meeting (Orth.) The new expanded yearly Meeting house in Pickering Village soon made that community attractive as a supportive centre for a Friends School. In 1870 the yearly meeting selected a hilltop site for the school across from the yearly meeting property on land originally granted to Timothy Rogers. Yonge Street and Pelham Quarterly Meetings provided students,

non-Friends were also permitted to enroll. The four-story brick building to accomodate 100 students was built for \$30,000, collections coming from North American and British Friends. Samuel Rogers travelled to collect these funds.

Pickering College opened in September 1878, and was just well underway when the Wilberite, conservative group withdrew from Canada Yearly Meeting (Orth.) in 1881. This second separation weakened the support needed by the school; it closed in 1885. Determined that the school continue, Samuel Rogers and John Harris travelled among British Friends again to collect funds. Pickering College re-opened in 1892 with ninety-five enrolled. The academic and arts programs were excellent and the school was well run with William Firth and Ella Rogers as principals of the boys' and girls' divisions respectively. William Firth, a convinced Friend, was from Yorkshire; Ella Rogers was the capable University of Toronto-trained daughter of Samuel Rogers. They shared responsibilities well and two years later married. The life-long service they gave was important to Pickering and is commemorated by Firth House on the Newmarket campus.

At last Pickering College was functioning at full capacity - but disaster struck when the main building burned to the ground during Christmas vacation on December 31, 1905. The only school building remaining there today is the gym given by Samuel Rogers in 1899, until recently used as a private home. Recovering from the blow of the fire, the rebuilding decision came quickly, but again the site was changed. Friends chose Newmarket, thirty miles north of Toronto, where essential utilities, easy communication, and stronger support of Orthodox meetings existed.

This time Samuel's son, Albert S. Rogers, travelled on behalf of the school. Finally contributions of \$90,000, the total cost of the new building and its furnishings, permitted the school to open in 1909. William and Ella Rogers Firth again led the school from their strength and

wisdom. Once more the dream of a school was realized... and, again, it was short-lived.

During the World War I era, when many boarding schools finally closed their doors as public secondary education increased, a new challenge came to Canadian Friends. Many veterans shattered emotionally by the ravages of war needed special hospitals on a long term basis. So Friends donated the use of Pickering College's buildings and beautiful setting as a hospital until the government could erect permanent centres.

The Canadian government returned the school to its trustees in 1920 and plans for a new phase of Quaker education moved forward. Canada Yearly Meeting had requested a special legislative act in 1917 to create a private corporation of Friends and others, for the holding and oversight of Pickering College. They planned a boys' school with preparation for university and professional training as the major emphasis.

Joseph McCulley, leading a fine staff of seven teachers, began the new venture of progressive education in the 'great experiment' in 1927, with sixty-six boys. Their lives still attest its success. Pickering continued to be based on the Quaker ideals of education which believes in the individual worth of each student growing toward disciplined excellence in a loving, but firm, community. Although not a member of the Society of Friends, Joseph McCulley's mark on Quaker education's contribution to the larger field of Canadian education is significant. His death, in February of 1977, evoked responses of deep appreciation for his vision and leadership during his twenty years as head master of Pickering College. During his latter years the scope of Pickering's outreach increased as many students were war guests. This international focus continues. His care for the school was life-long, even as he pursued later careers. The pattern of Pickering education which Joe McCulley carefully established in 1927 continues in the present.

From 1947 to 1953 Robert E.K. Rourke, formerly a teacher in the school, became headmaster. With a particular love for mathematics and the discipline

this involves, he emphasized the pursuit of academic excellence. His era also saw increased interest in the art and music dimensions of Pickering life. The former focus on athletics and good sportsmanship continued.

In 1953 when Robert Rourke left to pursue math teaching and text-book writing more fully, Harry M. Beer his assistant became head of the school. Ably supported by his wife, Elizabeth Holmes Beer, who was a student in 1927, Harry Beer has carried the school through more than two decades of tempestuous educational times seeking to maintain Pickering's particular approaches to the whole education of youth. Within, the established philosophical and practical framework the school is the same, even as it is growing and changing. He is a practical idealist in the truest sense. The use of the loving imperative which he applies so well has ^{/been} instrumental to Pickering, through his years here. Harry M. Beer's years of service, also give examples of physical growth as additions to the school plant and upgrading of existing facilities required continued efforts in planning, funding and implementation.

The present plant, now undergoing new planning for future expansion and service, includes: Rogers House, built in 1909 and since renovated and renamed; The Memorial Field and gymnasium attached to the south end of Rogers in 1927 supported the athletic program for the physical and social development of the boys; Firth House, built in 1931, which permitted natural expansion later of the preparatory department, was expanded by two wings in the 1960's to add infirmary, classrooms and additional dormitory space. In 1967 the beautiful new dining room and kitchen building was added to the north of Rogers, which it joined by a covered walkway. The art collection hanging on the Dining Hall walls also enhances that important facet of school life. In 1971 the indoor hockey rink, with tennis courts in alternate seasons, was built near the orchard. Other major renovations of library, student and staff lounges, art and drama space, of labs and classrooms, and dormitory resident rooms all have continued in recent years. Constant effort is required to maintain a good living

atmosphere and also to meet changing needs for the whole school community.

Further we note that boys are not the 'lightest' users of any area!

In the school year just closed, 1976/77 there were attending Pickering College more than 170 boys from grades six through thirteen representing seventeen countries. The teaching staff of seventeen and the large supporting staff tending the plant, campus and farm testify to the practical idealism that must always be in action.

After the coming year, the present assistant headmaster, Sheldon H. Clark, who first came to Pickering in 1972 as an English drama teacher, has been asked to take the reins as headmaster. This Friend, of broad experience, along with his wife, Sherita, should continue the line of Quaker education on the hilltop with right vision for the new years to come.

The Board of Management in its composition has continued long ties to the past history of the school built on land first granted to Timothy Rogers, both at Newmarket and Pickering Village. Allan D. Rogers is now chairman, continuing the four generations of active support which have meant generous, often sacrificial, giving of time, talents, and financial gifts. This family has been instrumental in interesting others to give support. Their care for the type of education to be given, the concern for staff and oversight for details in the running of the school came out in the correspondence between Joseph McCulley and A. S. Rogers before the 1927 re-opening.

Many chapters of Pickering history could be written of the alumni who have served the College, the Society of Friends, and the broader world, well. Arthur G. Dorland is one who stands out as former student, teacher, member of the corporation, author of her history, and life time supporter of the school. Again we see the long line of generations in a family continuing the involvement. Many leaders have come out of the student ranks over the years. The Old Boys Association today continues its care and support for the school.

Study of Quaker institutions, especially the schools, makes one thankful for their service and existence. Research of Pickering's history has allowed increased awareness of what it means to have a school, Pickering, which survived in spite of great obstacles, because of the many individuals - teachers, staff, committee - who gave of their lives and resources in this service. The story with variations has been repeated in other Friends schools.

Pickering College exists today, growing and changing, as all entities must, alive in the best sense. The school holds to its Quaker ideals believing in each student's individual worth, in the potential for developing his own excellence, in the expectation of evoking his sensitivity and basic goodness, and in training him for service to his fellow human beings.

As Pickering College enters a new half-century of her present life-stage in the 'great experiment' of whole education for body, mind, heart, and soul, may all those responsible continue to dream with vision, find energy and tenacity for the renewed effort, and keep faith in the future. All that is past is, indeed, prologue.

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- Lockyer, John, "The History of Pickering College" centre-fold article in the Voyageur, Pickering College Yearbook, Newmarket, Ontario, Pickering College, 1976. Interesting article with emphasis on individuals' contributions to Pickering College.
- Nicholson, Gertrude, "The Nicholson Girls at Yearly Meeting 1896" Thursday June 25th to July 3rd. The part from the author's manuscript travel diary Six Months in Canada dealing with attendance at Yearly Meeting at Pickering College, Pickering, Ont. Transcribed by Erica Brache, 1977, from Volume 1 of the xeroxed, illustrated copy in Friends House Library, Toronto. Original diary with watercolors by the author is in the Archives at the University of Western Ontario, in London.
- Personal responses of young woman. Entertaining 'pictures' of many persons mentioned in the earlier histories.

Minutes for the meetings related to the founding and support of the early schools in the Regional History Section of the D. B. Weldon Library Quaker Archives at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ont. Same materials are on microfilm in the Ontario Archives, Toronto, Ont. For these use Roger Nickerson's List ... for the reference numbers to the collection (MS303) This list is published in our Canadian Quaker History Newsletter as #13, September 1973. Canada Yearly Meeting (Orth.), Yonge Street Meeting, and Canada Half-Yearly Meeting for the 1830's.

Scrapbooks kept at Pickering College since the reopening in 1927. In the yearbook files and records, Newmarket, Ont.

Copies of the Voyageur, Pickering College Yearbook, 1927 to 1976.

Two folders of materials on Pickering College, loose and not organized, nor indexed, at the Quaker Archives, University of Western Ontario. (Also on microfilm in the Ontario Archives, Toronto)

New York Yearly Meeting records in New York City in the Records Room at 15th Street Meeting House. Again the directive sent as extracts are at times quoted in part, or whole, in the subordinate Meeting's minutes.

Not read:

Dorland, A. G., "A Hundred Years of Quaker Education, the Centenary of of Pickering College". In Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, 1942. This source was unavailable to me, but should be of particular use to the study of Quaker education.

OUTLINE OF HISTORY OF QUAKERISM IN PICKERING, ONTARIO.

by Kathleen Hertzberg*

Timothy Rogers was the first Quaker settler in Pickering Township.

He was born in 1756 in Connecticut in U.S. and died in Pickering in 1827.

Apparently he joined the Society of Friends after his marriage to Sarah Wite, daughter of a Baptist. The 20 Quaker families who came with him (Collins, Wrights, Betts, Chapman, Brown, Haight etc.) were amongst the earliest settlers in Pickering. He had already travelled in Quebec and Nova Scotia before coming to Upper Canada. He was a pioneer of two important settlements, having first obtained a grant of 40 farms in the Newmarket area in 1801 before settling in Pickering in 1807. He bought an 800 acre farm for \$2. per acre on lots 13 & 14 on the first and second concessions in Pickering. The property was on Duffins Creek at Kingston Road (three miles upstream from Lake Ontario) where he built

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the first grist and saw mill in the Township. It is of environmental interest to us today that the mill dam prevented the salmon which abounded in Duffins Creek from going up stream to spawn with the result that in a few years they had practically vanished. The mill site was still in use until the fire of 1956 (close to the 401 overpass and CNR bridge). The year after his arrival there were 180 people in Pickering. These early pioneers had to clear the forest to create their farms and fell the trees for their first homes.

By 1820 immigrants were arriving from the British Isles, including some Irish Quaker families, such as the Richardsons, Valentines, Dales etc. encouraged by Timothy Rogers.

The Quakers formed the first congregation in the Township, meeting in the home of Timothy Rogers and also in John Haight's home in 1810, as an Allowed Meeting of Yonge Street Monthly Meeting. By 1842 when the population in Pickering had reached 3,450, Quakers comprised 7.1% of the population. The historian Leo E. Johnson states, "the settlers found themselves almost totally neglected by the established churches, only the Quakers and the Mennonites, whose religion was based on the lay ministry, were capable of the full enjoyment of their faith".

Timothy Rogers had a dream. His dream was to make the Pickering settlement a Yearly Meeting centre of Quakers in Canada. His dream did come true for a few years but, as we shall see, not perhaps in the way in which he had envisaged. His son, Wing Rogers, wrote in his journal:

"My dear father had prospects of a Yearly Meeting in Canada; he used to tell his children and friends that it would be located in Pickering 60 years before it was granted".

In 1828, 21 years after the arrival of the first Quaker settlers, came the Separation of 1828. The Meeting in Pickering was visited by Thos. Shillitoe, a Friend from London Yearly Meeting travelling in the ministry. In his Journal, Shillitoe comments:

"the tardiness of members in gathering (for worship), the barking of dogs during Meeting; infants running about the Meeting House in this wilderness part of the country". !

The first break amongst the Meetings in Canada as a result of the Separation of 1828 occurred in Pickering. On 8th month 1828, the Pickering Preparative Meeting divided on the Minute of Advice and Direction issued by the Orthodox Branch of New York Yearly Meeting, of which Pickering Meeting, as part of Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, was a constituent Preparative Meeting. The clerk at the time was Nicholas Austin, a Hicksite sympathiser, who refused to accept the authority of that Minute. The members who did support the Minute became the "Orthodox" group and they appointed William Wright as their own clerk. It was Nicholas Brown, a member of Pickering Preparative Meeting and a minister of Yonge Street Monthly Meeting who had just a few months earlier played an important part in the 1828 separation (as a Hicksite supporter) in New York Yearly Meeting. It would seem that the Quakers at this time did not exercise the good Quaker principle of laying a matter over when unity could not be reached!.

The Pickering Orthodox group disowned Nicholas Austin and 15 outstanding Hicksite Friends. However, these Orthodox Friends could not get into the Meeting House (Mill St./Kingston Road), as Nicholas Brown was the caretaker. They had to hold their meetings in the "schoolhouse on Friends' west lot near Timothy Rogers". Eventually the Orthodox Friends regained this Meeting House in 1829. The Hicksite Friends acquired new property two miles further east along the main Kingston Road, where they built a "good brick Meeting House" (circa 1834), (on north side of Kingston Road, a mile east of Ajax traffic light; at the present day, only the Hicksite burial ground remains, accessible by a "right of way along side the Rodari Kennels). The Meeting House stood to the east of the Kennels. It was struck by lightning and destroyed in 1876. It was replaced by another brick building which was still standing in the 1920ties. As the Hicksite Friends in Pickering and in Uxbridge declined in numbers, Canada Half Yearly Meeting of Genesee Yearly Meeting (Hicksite), re-organised Pickering and Uxbridge into Pickering Monthly Meeting after 1828. In 1886 they became Pickering Executive Meeting. This branch of the Society in Pickering, as in Uxbridge, ceased to exist about 1926.

Thus, two branches of the Society lived, worshipped and worked in Pickering down to the second Separation in 1881. In the intervening period, the dream of Timothy Rogers, who had been dead already 40 years, came true, when the Orthodox Branch held their first Yearly Meeting in 1867 in Pickering. Canada Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) was established by New York Yearly Meeting of Orthodox Friends. On 28th day of 6th month 1867 this historical event took place in the large newly remodelled Mill Street Meeting House ("on part of my father's old farm on the same ground that he (Timothy Rogers) gave to the Society many years before his death for the use of a Meeting House and burial ground"). (Wing Rogers' Journal). Actually prior to the Separation of 1828, which Timothy Rogers did not live to see, New York Yearly Meeting had been considering setting up a Yearly Meeting in Canada called "Ontario Yearly Meeting".

Alma Dale (an interesting and intrepid woman Friend who later did service as a Travelling Friend amongst the new Quaker settlements in western Canada on horseback), writes of the Yearly Meeting of 1867 during one session "not a sound was heard, as the spirit of silent worship had settled over the people". William Wetherald,

a well-known minister amongst Orthodox Friends and founder of the Rockwood Academy, addressed the Yearly Meeting. The first clerk was Adam Spencer. As this historical occasion for Friends in Canada, took place in the same year as the founding of the Dominion of Canada, the Yearly Meeting issued an address expressing loyalty to the Queen and to the new Federal Government of Canada, whilst re-affirming Friends' ancient position on war and oaths. The Yearly Meeting used the Discipline of New York Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) of 1859, which, during its revision in 1880, became one of the causes of the second Separation amongst Friends in 1881 which produced three branches of Quakerism in Canada.

The Orthodox Friends held the Mill Street Meeting House until the second Separation of 1881. It is interesting to note that the actual Deed of this Meeting House shows that it was conveyed over the years as follows -

- 1795 - Crown to John Smith.
- 1807 - David Wm. Smith to Timothy Rogers. Deed No. 896.
- 1847 - Jonathan Rogers to Richardson et al. (Trustees of Pickering Monthly Meeting (Orthodox). Deed No. 29822.
- 1868 - Robert Richardson (for Trustees of Pickering Monthly Meeting (Orth.) to James Richardson et al. for the Trustees of Canada Yearly Meeting (Orthodox). Deed No. 607.
- 1890 - William and Sarah Richardson to James Richardson et al. Trustees of Canada Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Deed No. 7264.
- 1943 - Annie Elizabeth Richardson, Elmer Starr, Maurice Pollard, Trustees of Canada Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to Masons (Doric Lodge 424). Deed No. 23739.

(parts of the Meeting House land were subsequentl sold by the Masons for building lots).

The 1881 Separation was another historical and tragic occasion for Quakerism in Canada . . . It produced yet a third and separate branch of the Society - the Conservative Friends. In Pickering the Conservative Friends occupied and claimed the Mill Street Meeting House as their property, though in fact at the time the Meeting House was legally owned by Canada Yearly Meeting (Orthodox).

After 1881, Canada Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) continued to hold Yearly Meeting in 1882, 1883 and 1884 at Pickering College (which they owned), holding some of their business sessions in a small Meeting House (now a Gulf Oil station) at 76 Kingston Road (part lot No.1. plan 205) and some in the Methodist Church. Gertrude Nicholson, (daughter of a Norwich Friend) on a visit from England, describes in her diary Canada Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) held in 1896. She gives some quite revealing and amusing "thumb-nail" sketches of Friends present in describing their appearance, conduct and personal characteristics, e.g.

"Alma Dale, who is a little lady with short hair and dresses rather mannishly is a very lively and splendid speaker and tells all sorts of amusing stories she is a great hand in managing horses.. The Epistle from London Yearly Meeting was read and everyone seemed pleased with it William Wetherald speaks at good length on every subject going".

The Orthodox Branch of Friends in North America was the only one recognised by London Yearly Meeting.

The Orthodox Friends were active in education in Canada. A Friends' Seminary was established in Pickering in 1878, an account of which appears in the current issue of this Newsletter. Whilst still in Pickering, it was destroyed

by fire in 1905. Only the large brick gym with stables and pumping house were saved and are standing today. For a number of years it was the private home of the Ruddy family. It now stands empty and the object of increasing vandalism. It is owned by the Runnymede Construction Co.

Orthodox Friends in Pickering supported the missionary work of this branch of the Society in U.S. and Canada. Pickering Friends' first interest was in work in Mexico. The first Quaker missionary to Japan was a Pickering Friend, William V. Wright, who died in Japan after two year's service. Peace, disarmament and the conditions of Indians in Canada continued as concerns of all three branches in Canada.

In assessing the contribution of organised Quakerism to the development of Pickering, both Johnson in his recent "History of the County of Ontario" and McKay in "The Pickering Story" indicate that the early Quaker settlers made vital cultural contributions to the developing community by "their strong feeling of dependence on God, their civilised pacifism, long tradition of durable honesty and civil speech". *

As long as Quakers continued in a closely-knit way of life with a felt and experienced "centre" and a clear and unified organisation, to which all Friends were faithful, the Meetings held together. The Separations did reduce their spiritual strength and numbers in time and laid unnecessary burdens of property and administration on the three separate branches. All these however, were not the only reasons for the total decline of the organised Society of Friends in the Pickering area. *

It is of value to modern Friends to note that Samuel Bettle, clerk of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, who sided with the Orthodox Friends in 1828, publically stated that "he believed patient labour and suffering would have been better than division".

The Mill Street/Kingston Road Meeting House, then owned by Canada Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was the last of the Pickering Meeting Houses and property to be disposed of by Friends. On Monday, December 21st. 1942, it was put up for

auction by the Trustees (subject to a reserve bid). It was purchased by the Masons (Doric Lodge 424 of Pickering) for the sum of \$2,000 and is still in use today by a flourishing Masonic Lodge. In 1953, when the present writer settled in Pickering, there were two elderly woman Friends as sole survivors of 146 years of Quakerism in Pickering. There are still a number of families whose forebearers were Friends. One of the trustees writing after the sale in 1942, says:

"It was with a feeling of sadness that I left that big Meeting House ... so filled with memories of the past and the dear Friends gone to their reward. Again I question... Why has our beloved Society been reduced to this point and this sad condition?".

The Friend answers with the closing sentence:

"We should not be too dismayed with the present or future outlook, for the same God is overall which has always been and will now as always care for those who put their trust in Him".

At the present time, there are two Quaker families in Pickering and another interested family who meet with other Friends for the study of Quakerism and for worship together once a month. The two Quaker families are active members of Toronto Monthly Meeting.

Refs. and further reading: "The Quakers. A History in Canada". A.G. Dorland.
 "The Pickering Story". Wm. A. McKay.
 "History of Ontario County". L.A. Johnson.
 Deeds in Whitby Registry Office. Letters.

THREE QUAKER CEMETERIES OF THE PICKERING/UXBRIDGE AREA

by William E. Britnell*

FRIENDS CEMETERY, PICKERING (Orthodox, later Conservative)

This cemetery located on Mill Street at the eastern edge of the Village of Pickering, is one of the oldest cemeteries in Pickering Township. Early information concerning this burial ground is to be found, rather strangely, in the will of Timothy Rogers, who owned the farm upon which the cemetery is located. In his will (dated 1829 and probated in 1834) Timothy Rogers mentions the burial ground on lot 14 in the 1st concession of Pickering Township, 30 or 40 rods from

* "Bill" Britnell a member of our association, and of Newmarket Quaker ancestry is well known for his extensive and accurate knowledge of Quaker graves in this part of Ontario.

rods from Duffin's Creek. Timothy Rogers goes on to state in his will that buried in the cemetery are his wife Sarah, his daughter Sarah, his sons John Wilde Rogers and John Elmsly Rogers, John A. Haight's first wife Mary "and others". It is known that the three Rogers children mentioned above died in a great epidemic in 1809, and that his wife died in 1812, showing that this is indeed an early cemetery.

As is the case with most early cemeteries, most of the early burials are not marked by the presence of gravestones. There are no markers for any of the persons mentioned by Timothy Rogers as being buried here, nor is there any marker for Timothy Rogers himself, which is rather sad since he did more than any other person to help establish the Society of Friends in Ontario. The earliest date found on any of the gravestones is 1830, when several members of the Betts family died. The majority of the gravestones are dated from the 1850's through to the 1900's.

There are about 100 surnames mentioned on the gravestones. The surnames which occur most frequently are: Betts, Boone, Bostwick, Chapman, Churchill, Cornell, Dale, Haight, Hartrick, Hughes, Powell, Reazin, Richardson, Rogers, Taylor, Valentine, Wetherald, Willson, Woodruff and Wright.

While visiting the Friends Cemetery, not to be neglected is the small Pioneer Cemetery which adjoins it to the south side, where many of Pickering's non-Quaker pioneers are buried. The gravestones have been collected into a mound in the centre of the grounds, just north of the fire-hall. Found here are the surnames Hatrick, Mathews, McCullough, Tate, Taylor and Took, as well as several members of the Post family. It is interesting to note that William Hartrick Sr. (1778-1857) is buried here, while his son William, Jr. (1803-1874) is in the adjoining Friends Cemetery.

* Jim Adamson, Chairman of the Pickering Friends Cemetery Committee reports that a project is going on this summer to tidy up the stones including the resetting of some.

FRIENDS CEMETERY, PICKERING (Hicksite)

This cemetery is located on the north side of Highway 2, about 2 miles east of the Orthodox Friends' Cemetery. It is just off the highway, with the property in front presently being occupied by a dog-kennel, thus making the cemetery rather difficult to locate when driving by. Naturally, this cemetery is not as old as the Orthodox cemetery, since it was not established until after the Separation of 1828, at which time the Hicksite faction in Pickering and Whitby was forced to build their own meeting-house and start their own cemetery. This is a very typical early Friends' cemetery, with its neat rows of small, white, plain headstones, a marked contrast to other non-Quaker cemeteries of the period, in which the gravestones are much bigger and more elaborate.

The most striking aspect of this cemetery is that, of just over 100 gravestones in the cemetery, well over half of them belong to just one family, the Browns. Of the 7 brothers who came from Vermont during the early 1800's, 5 of them are buried here: Nicholas (1785-1868), Abraham (1791-1840), Sylvanus (1796-1895), Rowland (1804-1878) and James, who died during the 1840's (for whom there is no gravestone). Another of the brothers, Joseph, removed to the West Lake Monthly Meeting, and the last brother, Ira (1802-1886) died in Ohio. These brothers, their wives and descendants account for the great majority of the persons buried here.

Other surnames prominent on the gravestones are: Austin, Carpenter, Cochrane, Lynde, Orvis and Webster. Except for the Websters (who came from Pennsylvania) these others, like the Browns, all came to Ontario from Vermont.

FRIENDS CEMETERY, UXBRIDGE

This cemetery is located across the road from the Meeting-house west of the Town of Uxbridge, at a location long known as Quaker Hill. Even persons buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery up the road are said to be buried on Quaker Hill. This is another very early cemetery, probably, or almost certainly, the oldest cemetery in Uxbridge Township. The grounds were obtained in a transaction dated the 25th of 9th month 1809, at which time 2 acres of land on lot 29 of the 6th

concession were deeded by the owner, Robert Willson, to a committee of friends headed by his father-in-law, Charles Chapman. The grounds are still being used, although burials now are very infrequent, the last being about 1968.

As is the case with Pickering, most of the early burials here are unmarked. The earliest dates on the headstones are for two infant James children who died in 1812 and 1815, but these stones were most likely erected at a much later date. A couple of stones date from the 1830's, but the majority of stones are dated from the 1850's onward. The cemetery was evidently retained by the Hicksite Friends after the separation, as most of the burials after 1828 are for families who belonged to the Hicksite faction.

The first thing likely to catch the eye of the visitor to this cemetery is sure to be the large and rather ornate monument to Joseph Gould (1808-1886), which looks rather out-of-place in a Quaker cemetery. There are, in all, just over 200 gravestones, with over 100 surnames found on them. The most frequent surnames are: Allcock, Ball, Barber, Bell, Blodgett, Chapman, Gould, Hambleton, Hilborn, James, Jones Moore, Plank, Stoner, Webster, Widdifield and Wilson. Descendants of many of these pioneer Quaker families are buried in the large Uxbridge Cemetery at the edge of the town.

NOTE: With a postal strike threatening, and Yearly Meeting fast approaching we thought it wise to get what material we had ready into your hands as soon as possible. We hope to have an account of the recent workshop on Quaker genealogy which took place at Richmond, Indiana, and a bibliography of library materials on the Uxbridge/Pickering area in a forthcoming issue.