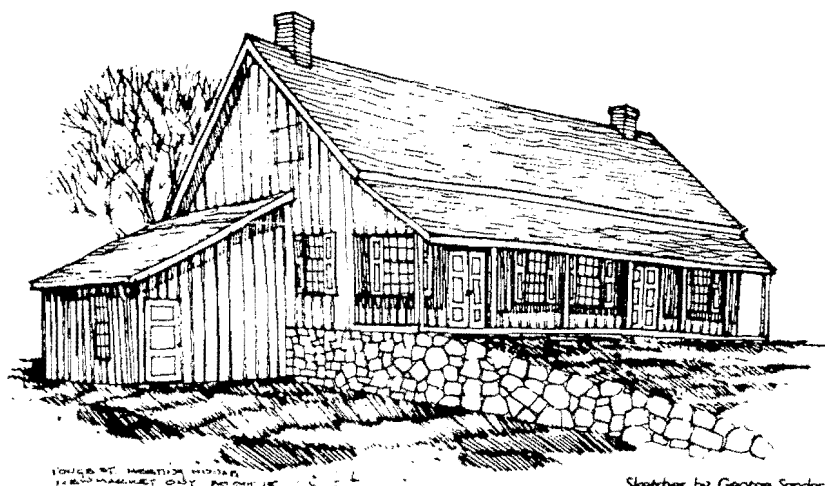


# CFHA Newsletter

Produced by the Canadian Friends Historical Association, 60 Lowther Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada M5R 1C7



## 200th Anniversary of Timothy Rogers' Trek To Yonge Street

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Timothy Rogers, exploratory trip from Vermont to Upper Canada. That trip paved the way for the migration of Vermont and Pennsylvanian Quakers to York Region, and the creation of the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting.

To celebrate this bicentennial, the CFHA is planning a number of events during our Annual Meeting on Sept. 30 at the Yonge Street Meeting House, Newmarket. A **bus tour** will visit the preparative meetings and cemetery sites related to Yonge Street, including the Botsford St. Friends' Church, Sharon Temple, Pine Orchard-Whitchurch, Uxbridge, and Pickering. In the evening, presentations on Timothy Rogers will be given by Robynne Rogers Healey and CFHA chair, Chris Densmore. See the enclosed "**notice of annual meeting**" for more details on registration.

To further celebrate the bicentennial, the CFHA will be **publishing Timothy Rogers Journal**. This autobiographical volume, edited with copious notes and maps by Chris Densmore and Albert Schrauwers, gives a first hand account of the trials faced by the orphaned Rogers, who went on to pioneer three new Quaker settlements over the course of his life. The journal also describes Rogers "travels in the ministry" to Nova Scotia, giving an intimate portrait of the small Quaker community there, torn apart by a sad tale of unrequited love and murder. **Copies will be available for sale at the annual meeting.**

### **Friends General Conference Bus Tour**

A report by CFHA Chair, Chris Densmore

Back last fall, when Spring and Summer were far away, I agreed to do a bus tour of Quaker historic sites in Upstate New York for the Friends General Conference sessions in Rochester. I was thinking of an afternoon jaunt with forty or so history enthusiasts. Fortunately or unfortunately, the idea was very well received, and I just ended three days of tours-- five buses total. From Rochester to Farmington (site of Genesee Yearly Meeting) to Junius Meeting to Waterloo (the M'Clintock House) and Seneca Falls (Women's Rights Park and the Stanton House). At various times, Judy Wellman (Oswego), Nancy Hewitt (Rutgers), Carol Faulkner (Geneseo, late of the Mott Papers project) and Mike Farrell (Rochester) were co-leaders.

**Canadian Content:** Of course Genesee Yearly Meeting included Canada, so the events described (with focus on the alteration of the Discipline in 1838 to make the men's and women's meetings absolutely equal-- the first time that was done in Quaker history) were approved by the Canadian component of GYM. Also, one of the local people from Farmington Friends Church who met the bus when we stopped there was a Sunderland P. Gardner descendant (when the Hicksite meeting dwindled away, some and perhaps many of the Hicksites united with what was then Farmington Orthodox meeting. Sunderland is buried in the cemetery by Farmington Friends Church, though we didn't have time to visit him. Several Canadians went on the tour-- Kyle J., Orion Smith, and a couple of others I recognized.

On the Tuesday tour, we had the grand-daughter and great grand-daughter of Amy and Issac Post of Rochester with us, The Posts left the Hicksite meeting because it wasn't sufficiently engaged with anti-slavery for their tastes, and then became early converts to Spiritualism. They were also heavily involved with the underground railroad, friends of Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, and every other reformer of that era. The great-grandaughter has some early recollections of her grandfather, who once

worked on Frederick Douglass's newspaper. While at Seneca Falls, one of the people on the Quaker tour waked over to a visiting family, struck up a conversation, and then came over to me and told me that those folk were descendants of Mary Shadd Carey, and that one had been born in Buxton. Shadd Cary edited a newspaper in Canada in the 1850s for fugitive slaves (the first African-American/African-Canadian female newspaper editor) and wrote two pamphlets on black migration to Canada.

## SUMMER 2000 ACTIVITIES

- **JONATHAN DOAN'S ACCOUNT BOOK:** Last summer Paul Axford, a friend and neighbour- relatively speaking- brought Jonathan Doan's Account Book for me to see. It holds accounts from 1817 to the 1840's of his mill store in Yarmouth at the village, at the "Corners"., later named Sparta. The names of the early settlers-- Doane, Kipp, Harvey, Dennis, Haight, Moore and many more-- appear in its pages in the lists of goods (weaving), produce (wheat, rye, leather), and labour exchanged. It was a Quaker community and the materials and labour required for the first meetinghouse is listed; even the cost of recording the deed for the land, by Mahlon Burwell. The book's paper is strong rag paper, acid-free, and the ink has not faded. Paul Axford permitted us to copy his ancestor's book for the CYM Archives. It was found in the old Kipp house. The daughter of John Kipp had married Jonathan Doan's daughter. What materials do you have to share with us?

- **FAMILY REUNIONS:** The **Willson Family** met the weekend of July 8-9th in the St. Thomas area. They visited the Solomon Willson House at Union, where he and his father-in-law, James Haight, had mills in the 19th century. They came to the Yarmouth Meetinghouse at Sparta, and learned more of their ancestors' way of life. The opportunities to share with these folks is always a two way street. Lloyd and Norma Smith, CFHA members, planned this reunion for folks from across US and Canada.

Another family reunion held at Thornhill July 20-22nd brought **Hollinghead family** relatives from across North America together for talks and trips related to their family history. One talk gave a detailed account of the interrelated families who came to West Jersey in the latter 1600's, some from Long Island and some from London, England. They were among the early New Jersey settlers near Burlington.

- **SPARTA BUILDINGS INVENTORY:** We are pleased to learn that the Sparta Historical Society and the Central Elgin LACAC have a summer student working on the inventory the buildings and sites important to the history of the municipality. These are primarily Quaker edifices and the interest is high. Others of you might consider what could be done in your

Quaker localities. Uxbridge had an inventory done several years ago. The township had literally thousands of buildings and sites.

• **NEW BOOK:** The Gods of the Hills: Piety and Society in Nineteenth-Century Vermont, by T.D. Seymour Bassett, Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, May 2000. This new book gives us a picture of attitudes and outlooks that many Vermont settlers brought to Yonge Street in 1801. The reader gains an awareness of the 'world' out of which they came. Tom Bassett has spent a lifetime on American social history, not a small part of it in Vermont. Tom continues his careful work in this book and shares the broad base of his experience and knowledge.

• **QUAKER HISTORIANS & ARCHIVISTS CONFERENCE:** The 13th biennial conference of QH&A met at Earlham College June 23-25, 2000. The gathering included nearly 70 historians and archivists from Canada, the US and Britain who heard many papers and relished the time with one another to share ideas and research. Too much in too short a time was the verdict, but we would not have missed it! Tom Hamm, a professor of history and archivist at Earlham, gave us an interesting history of the College and a tour of the archives, housed in new quarters within the recently expanded Lilly Library. Sandra Fuller gave a paper on Ella Rogers Firth, lady principal of Pickering College for 25 years, on Friday evening, when the theme was tied to Quaker Women. Earlham History students presented papers related to Quakers and Black History in the middle-west, even as we wondered if such an entity existed. These conferences are open to interested people, so consider attending the next to be held in June 2002 in the Philadelphia area. Meanwhile the British contingent would like us to come to an 'off year' session in the UK.

• **NEWS OF MEMBERS:** **Jane Zavitz-Bond** has spoken on request to several reunions and meetings in the last several months. The interest in Quaker history and heritage is not slacking. **Rosemarie McMechan** and Jane Zavitz-Bond will be reporting for the records Com., which oversees the Archives, AT CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING August 13-18 at Sedbergh School in Montebello, PQ. **Dan Nelson** from Trent University is working on his Masters' thesis utilizing materials in the Archives and is also working on the Genealogy Index of Quaker Records. **Joe Awmack** of Victoria, BC, continues his family research to south-western Ontario meetings. **William Wells** is sending his parents' (Philip and Marguerite Wells) papers regarding Quakerism in Western Canada to the CYM Archives. Meetings are sending their records for these recent years so there will be Quaker History for the future! Do your part.