



THE MEETINGHOUSE

VOLUME 2013 ISSUE 1 (3RD MONTH)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BY ANDREW CRESSWELL

I have watched with great interest as the new pontiff of the Roman Catholic church, Francis, has quickly brought to bear personal *projects* on his papacy and the curia (e.g. poverty eradication, the defense of nature, and the political solution to conflict). His washing of the feet of twelve young inmates at an Italian detention centre on **M a u n d y T h u r s d a y** (commemorating Jesus' gesture of humility by washing of his disciples' feet during the Last Supper) reflects his desire to change the established paradigms of the Holy See. Taking Francis as his papal name (in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi), Jorge Mario Bergoglio is the

first pope from the Americas, and from the Southern Hemisphere, identities which will, along with his *projects*, certainly shape his papacy.

When I joined the Executive Committee of the Association, a regular feature of the meetings was the sharing of personal *projects*; areas of personal interest, not affiliated with a position on the Executive, yet advance the Mission of the Association. This tradition continues to this day. Many members of the Association know of my interest in Friends of Grey County, and the life of Hiram Bond. A more recent interest is the White family, wealthy Devon Friends who amassed

a fortune through the early Newfoundland fisheries.

Projects are a type of outward and inward service. By engaging meaningfully with activities that resonate with us, not only do we provide meaningful service to others, we minister to our souls. George Fox reminds us in Epistle 117 not to "neglect your talent" and "in the life and power of God live, which we have received...abiding in the measure of Life, ye will have peace and love."

I hope our *project* resonates with you.

Blessings,

CHANGES

The Executive of The Canadian Friends Historical Association is charged with the duty of being good stewards of the resources we have available to the Association.

We are carrying a concern that the cost of postage is consuming too great a per-

centage of those resources and have been looking at options to reduce the costs.

We have made the decision to send all further correspondence and the Association's newsletter, *The Meetinghouse* by email. In making this decision we do

understand that some of you may not have the Internet in your home. We ask that you provide us with an email address where we can send your correspondence and you could have a friend or family member pass the material onto you.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Changes to the Association's mailing practices*
- *Victoria Friends Meeting House turns 100*
- *CFHA's 2013 AGM & Conference date announced*
- *Peace—The Exhibit*

40
Years
1972-2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

POTTERY	2
REBEL TOUR	3
DEEPER REST	4
ACTIVISTS?	5
VICTORIA	6
ARCHIVES	7
TREASURED	8

THE REBEL TOUR BY GORDON THOMPSON



**Beginning the tour in
Lloydtown, Ontario**

In early December of 1837 the residents of what is now Schomberg and the surrounding area gathered in pre-dawn darkness in the nearby mill town of Lloydtown. For some men of this community this gathering would mark the beginning of their local participation in the sequence of events now referred to as the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion.

On Sunday November 4, 2012, Andrew Cresswell and I and some 40 Canadian history enthusiasts gathered at the local Schomberg high school to commemorate and learn of this event as we retrace the steps of the pioneer rebels 175 years later. Unlike the original participants, most of whom walked, we will be traveling by bus.

The first stop is the center of Lloydtown at the statue and plaque erected to record the sentiments of the time and the role played by the leader of the local group, Jesse Lloyd. To those not familiar with this site it should be noted that the small mill town

is located at the bottom of a well-defined valley of the Humber River, and one almost immediately has a sense of being isolated and at some remove from the local landscape. The statue of Jesse Lloyd strongly reinforces this sense. A long time Quaker and respected local leader, he is rendered in a kind of 'attack' pose, with one arm extended and hand pointing towards Toronto, the other arm holding a rifle. Dressed in what appear to be buckskins and a broad leather hat the statue evokes images of some Afrikaner hero of the Boer War, or a Confederate militia commander. It is even possible to see in the defiant and 'heroic' pose of the statue elements of an early southern Ontario version of a Che Guevara, leading a popular people's revolt. This stop eloquently and forcefully communicates to our group that this is exactly what this respected member of the Quaker community is doing 175 years ago.

Our 'Rebel Tour' truly com-

mences here at the point where the gathered men started their march on Toronto. As our bus proceeds east on the Lloydtown Road our narrator points out the entrance to the old burying ground (commenced on land donated by Jesse Lloyd) and the remaining farmhouses and dwellings which have survived since that period.

We continue east towards Yonge Street, traveling unpaved back roads which appear in some parts little changed from rebellion days. Although now there are newer homes and estate houses here and there it is clear the Lloydtown contingent traveled a considerable distance through mostly empty land, crossing up and down the valleys which cut through the Oak Ridges moraine. With much less effort we come to Yonge Street itself in Aurora, and like the rebels we transition from sparsely traveled county roads to a relatively busy thoroughfare. (continued on page 3)



**Huron Pottery in
Edmondville, Ontario**

HURON AND HOLMES POTTERY

Founding member and long-time supporter of the Association, David Newlands has recently published two reports on archaeological excavations of important 19th century pottery sites in southern Ontario. Entitled *The Huron Pottery, Edmondville, Ontario 1859-1910* (\$20) and *The Holmes Pottery, Holmesville,*

Ontario 1859-1892 (\$15), the two volumes contain extensive reports of the excavations, photographs of the site remains and drawings of the various pottery vessels. These volumes are of interest to professional and amateur historians alike who wonder about the extensive, yet now

non-existent, pottery industry in early Ontario.

For more information, or to order copies please contact David Newlands at:

Crunkdale Press
24 Bow Street

Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4E2 or
crundale.kent@gmail.com

THE REBEL TOUR (CONTINUED)

Yonge Street in 1837 represents the single continuous road north from the boundaries of Toronto north to the Quaker community of Newmarket and beyond. Like the trunk of a tree it gathers in the traffic of various east-west branches, and in 1837 the group from Lloydtown becomes a part of a growing body of men, now numbering in the hundreds, moving south towards Toronto.

As we do likewise it becomes less possible to discern the historic elements of the landscape. Redevelopment and urban expansion have largely replaced or obscured the original buildings and open spaces with offices, apartment buildings and shopping centres. Our next stop at Gibson House is a case in point. This stately mansion west of Yonge Street is now a museum located on a small open space remnant of the original property, incongruously surrounded and overshadowed on almost every side by towering apartment complexes. We disembark here for an excellent box lunch in the lower level meeting room, additional history of the building and the role it played in the uprising, and a hurried tour of the elegantly furnished rooms. The radiant warmth of the kitchen fireplace is tempting and inviting as it must have been to the rebels who stopped here, but they could not tarry and neither can we.

We continue our journey

southward. As we do it appears that we travel more quickly and the pace of activity back in 1837 also seems to increase. This is somewhat an illusion as our tour is retracing in a single day the events that originally took place over several days. Still, as we approach the vicinity of the intersection of Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue and the original site of Montgomery's Tavern there is no mistaking that events in 1837 are moving quickly towards a climax. It is at a location near here that blood is first shed. After marching south from the encampment near Gibson house the rebels have set up picket lines on Yonge Street and the main body has stopped for the night. The northern boundary of Toronto in 1837 is now only a few miles farther south and an early morning attack and occupation are planned for the following day. So far the uprising has apparently gone undetected and unopposed. This situation changes dramatically when a group of men on horseback approach from the south to investigate rumours of the rebel activity. They charge the pickets, gunfire ensues and one of their members becomes the first casualty of the uprising.

We continue down Yonge Street. In 1837 the rebel group, now estimated to number some 1800 participants, also proceeded south along Yonge Street. Did the knowledge that the element of surprise had been lost and

that blood had been shed dampen their fervor? Perhaps. As the group advanced south of present day Bloor Street they found their route blocked by a small armed force of opponents. After a relatively brief but sustained exchange of gunfire each of the opposing forces retreated in the mistaken belief that the opposite group was about to over run their position.

This skirmish marked the high-water mark of the rebellion, and like a wave that has crested on a beach the men who had gathered and marched for three days began to retreat back the way they had come up Yonge Street. Our tour, however, continued south to our next stop, Mackenzie House. Here we enjoyed a tour of the press shop and residence of the man most responsible for instigating the rebellion, William Lyon Mackenzie. This building provides an excellent example of living history. Rather than being a simple static display modern day printers use period printing presses and contemporary type faces and technology to maintain a small commercial enterprise much as was done in Mackenzie's day. Our visit included a detailed account of the life of the Mackenzie family during their period of residence, and a quick stop in the museum store.

One last stop on our tour remained, just as one final stop remained for certain (continued on page 4)



Gibson House



Mackenzie House



Reward for Mackenzie's arrest



The location of Lount and Matthew's hanging

THE REBLE TOUR (CONTINUED)

members of the rebellion who were arrested and held in the gaol and court complex that once stood near Church and Queen Street. Our group disembarked one last time in this area to be greeted by well-known Toronto historical tour guide Bruce Bell. The story of hardship and long confinement experienced by the captured rebels was recounted by Bruce in imaginative and evocative detail. Punishments suffered by some leaders included public death

by hanging on a local gallows, while others were sentenced to transport to Van Diemen's Land. Despite these severe consequences many of the prisoners remained convinced of the merits and necessity of their cause. Evidence for this is found in examples of 'Rebellion Boxes' crafted by the prisoners and bearing clear statements of unbroken spirits and sentiments. We walk with Bruce over to the entrance of St. James cathedral and note the grave mark-

ers of some of the rebellion prisoners incorporated into the walls in respectful display.

This stop and wonderful narrative brings our tour to an end. We board our bus and head back to Schomberg, battling the traffic on Highway 401 as we go. Somehow my thoughts are drawn back to the statue of Quaker turned people's revolutionary Jesse Lloyd up in Lloydtown, still raising a defiant accusatory arm south towards Toronto.

EDITOR NEEDED

The Meetinghouse is the newsletter of the Canadian Friends Historical Association and is published three times a year.

Currently, the Executive Committee is collaborating in the production of the newsletter; the time spent in production unfortunately though takes our attention away from other important projects.

The role of the editor is to gather, collate and publish the Association's newsletter with support from the Executive Committee, the Association's membership and those interested in Quaker history.

The newsletter is produced in a user-friendly format using Microsoft Publisher, requiring only basic computer skills

(software, hardware, technical training and support is provided).

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer for the position, please contact Andrew Cresswell, at chair@cfha.info.

For deeper rest to this still room
The Yonge Street Quaker Meeting House



David L. Newlands
with Andrew R. Cresswell

FOR DEEPER REST TO THIS STILL ROOM

Those interested in the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting or Quaker meeting houses in general will enjoy the Bicentennial publication by David L. Newlands with Andrew R. Cresswell, *For deeper rest to this still room: The Yonge Street Quaker Meeting House*. Based on Newlands' 1975 article "The Yonge Street Friends Meeting House 1810-1975"

first published in the *York Pioneer*, this new publication includes a forward by George Ivanoff, preface by Andrew Cresswell, Chairman of CFHA and post-script by the original author David Newlands. The booklet also includes a generous number of images from a variety of sources, many published for the first time.

For more information, or to purchase a copy of the publication, contact Andrew Cresswell at chair@cfha.info.

FROM ARCHIVISTS TO ACTIVISTS? BY RUTH JEFFERY-MACLEAN

The Canadian Friends Historical Association is forty years young and since its inception it has proudly deposited all written publications with the **Library and Archives of Canada**. Those of you active in historical research recognize this depository for its rich collection of material and fine dissemination of the same.

The Library and Archives of Canada was created in 2004 as an amalgamation of the Public Archives and the National Library. Taken from the preamble to the Act which created it, their mandate is described this way:

1. To be a source of enduring knowledge accessible to all, contributing to the cultural, social and economic advancement of Canada;
2. To facilitate in Canada cooperation among communities in the acquisition, preservation and diffusion of knowledge;
3. To serve as the continuing

memory of the Government of Canada and its institutions.

The unsettling news that came to light in the middle of March is that all staff of the Library and Archives will be subject to a new Code of Conduct. On the surface this code is being sold as nothing out of the ordinary for all Public Servants. In short, employees have a “duty of loyalty to their employer”. In the interpretation of that statement however, the Director General of the LAC has chosen to apply the Code of Conduct for his staff in a most severe and punishing way. And the effects of this censorship extend to their personal pursuits.

The job of librarians and archivists is rarely confined to the hours for which they are paid. Attendance at conferences, seminars and public speaking is part of their lives. Research, writing, publishing and participating in advisory capacities are all part of the bailiwick. The new Code of

Conduct says that “LAC staff who set foot in classrooms, attend conferences or speak up at public meetings on their own time are engaging in “high risk” activities”. Our LAC staff has won international recognition for their participation in venues that would further the development of a world class facility. They have given selflessly to further the knowledge of the Canadian public of the stores of information gathered in Ottawa.

We still have our voices. Your Member of Parliament should know how you feel about this. The Library and Archives of Canada is at risk.

References:

The Ottawa Citizen March 25, 2013 Margaret Munro, Postmedia News

The National Post March 15, 2013 Margaret Munro, Postmedia News

CBC.ca/Q Jian Gimeshi

Library and Archives Canada

HISTORIC ATLAS OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING

For those accustomed to the faith and history of Conservative Friends in Canada, family names such as Branson, Edgerton, Morlan and Taber will be familiar. The history of Friends often transcends national boundaries, and in the case of the various schisms in the 19th century, Meetings had greater affinity with those perhaps hundreds of miles

away, and in another country, than with those in the same county (Norwich, for example). Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is an important part of the history of Friends in Canada.

To commemorate their bicentennial in 2013, Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative), has produced a comprehensive

and illuminating historic atlas that traces the evolution of this important “organization for traditional Quakers” in North America.

For more information about the atlas or to order a copy, please contact the Clerk of Ohio Yearly Meeting, Seth Hinshaw at:

sethinshaw@yahoo.com



Historic Atlas
of
Ohio Yearly Meeting

*An illustrated documentation of the
history of the Ohio Quakers
from their earliest meetings to
their bicentennial in 2013*



VICTORIA FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE TURNS 100 BY ANN-LEE SWITZER

Victoria Friends Meeting is planning to celebrate the Centennial of its Meeting House this year. A Quaker presence in the province goes back to before the province even joined the rest of Canada in 1871. On January 21, 1860, a Quaker Meeting was reported in the *Daily British Colonist*: “Mr. Lindsay, and lady, members of the Society of Friends, celebrated Divine Worship in the large room of the Treasury at New Westminster, on last Sunday morning. Far the most numerous assemblage that ever met there for religious purposes . . .”

The December 11, 1898 *Victoria Daily Colonist*, carried an announcement under the religious notices: “The Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, hold their customary services this morning at the A.O.U.W hall.” Victoria Meeting came under care of the Yonge Street (Toronto) Quarterly meeting and Canada Yearly Meeting in 1907. The first Meeting after being sanctioned welcomed Lady Dorothea Gibbs of Wimbledon, England, who presented the group of 12 with a collection of books to create a library, which continues to this day. Meeting was held in various downtown halls, members having to contend with inconveniences such as leaky pipes and noise from an adjacent creamery.

The need for more permanent quarters became an issue

as membership grew. In March 1909, a committee was struck “to inaugurate a scheme forthwith with the object of raising funds for building a Meeting House.” Letters of appeal were sent to Britain, Ireland, the USA and Eastern Canada. The location of a suitable site, a long double lot priced at \$3000, gave urgency to the fundraising; however money was scarce during the hard economic times. A British Friend raised £428, with a promise of more to come. A local Friend, Henry Clark, who happened to be a civil engineer (he had designed bridges in Japan), drew up building plans. Another friend, Alex Ingram, a carpenter, would supervise construction. Sufficient funds and a mortgage obtained, ground was broken in February 1913. The official opening of the first purpose-built Quaker Meeting House in the province was celebrated in July of that year.

Like many residences constructed at that time, the Meeting House displays elements of Arts and Crafts design, with a deep gabled porch flanked by extensions out on either side. A caretaker apartment, cloakroom, office and reading room were included, the main hall at the rear, 25x35 feet, facing east. With its dark fir floors and wooden wainscoting the room is warm and welcoming. Originally fitted with a raised platform (for elders

and wooden benches, the space is now furnished more flexibly with a variety of chairs, which can be stacked against the walls to accommodate other groups who use the hall during weekday evenings.

Over the years, the Meeting House on Fern Street has undergone changes to fit our needs. Wood heating gave way to oil in the 1960s, later replaced by electric baseboards with thermostats in each area. The caretaker suite was enlarged. The attic was finished to create rooms for the children’s programme, the storage of archives and a meeting space. The outdoor area was beautified with suitable plants and trees, the landscape changing over the years. The front is shaded by a magnificent Garry oak, while the backyard features a huge chestnut tree, planted many years ago by young Friends. The city of Victoria leases the back portion of the property for a park.

This May 4th we will invite neighbours and others to join with us in our Centennial activities (still being planned). We are working with the city to enhance the park with native plants, and perhaps give it a name, Friends Park. Long-time Victoria Meeting members are reaching into their memories to share their stories. All of us are thinking about our own remembrances of the Meeting House and its denizens. (continued on page 7)

“Far the most numerous assemblage that ever met there for religious purposes ...”

VICTORIA FRIENDS MEETING (CONTINUED)

As we sit down in the silence this year, our vision of “absent friends” will be crowded with generations of worshippers whose spirit adds to our strength.

Any Friends who happen to be in Victoria are cordially invited to share in the festivities on May 4-5 at 1831 Fern Street. Other special events and displays are planned during 2013.



Victoria Friends Meeting House

REBEL HEARTLAND BY SANDRA FULLER

Rebel Heartland

1837-2012

Newmarket, Ontario,

September 29, 2012

10am – 4pm

The year 2012 marked the 175th anniversary of the Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada. Newmarket decided to mark the date of this important event in Ontario’s history by re-creating scenes of early 19th century life.

Newmarket’s Main Street and Fairy Lake Park became a battleground as rebels and militia skirmished over the future of Upper Canada.

In a series of 4 vignettes, costumed interpreters re-enacted the important events which happened during the Rebellion of 1837: (1) William Lyon Mackenzie sought support from the rebels while Children of Peace and Quakers voiced their support but wanted reform without vio-

lence. (2) Militia and Rebels battled at Montgomery’s Tavern, Yonge Street. (3) The Rebels, under their chief Leaders, attempted to escape but were captured. (4) Mrs Lount circulated a petition and pleaded with Lt-Gov. to spare the life of her husband, Samuel Lount. Two members of CFHA participated in the first vignette – Philip Smith played the part of David Willson, leader of the Children of Peace, and Sandra Fuller was Rachel James.



Rebel Heartland in Newmarket, Ontario

NOTES FROM THE QUAKER ARCHIVES BY JANE ZAVITZ BOND

Peace – The Exhibition will open at the War Museum in Ottawa on the evening of May 30, 2013 and runs until February 9, 2014. They are grateful for permission to display Francis Starr’s FAU - China passport. They also asked to scan and place a copy online on the exhibition website. The exhibit “explores the events and issues that have

propelled Canadians to act for peace. What is peace and how do you make it? Peace – The Exhibition reveals that the answers are evolving and open to discussion. For the first time in one place, artifacts, multi-media and stories are combined to weave the long, rich, and diverse history of peace advocacy in Canada. From the ancient and still

standing peace of the Iroquois Confederacy to the range of Canada’s responses to Afghanistan, peace provokes passions, prompts Canadians to make choices, and propels them to take action.” (<http://www.warmuseum.ca/event/peace-the-exhibition/>). The exhibit will be located in the Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae Gallery.



Frank J. Stevens, an FAU ambulance driver



Mark your calendars—Saturday September 21, 2013. Preliminary planning has begun for the **2013 CFHA Annual General Meeting and Conference**. Please look for more information in the next edition of *The Meetinghouse* online at www.cfha.info, and follow us on Twitter.

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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2012-2013

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The Mission of the Canadian Friends Historical Association is the preservation and communication of the on-going history and faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada and their contribution to the Canadian Experience.

The Canadian Friends Historical Association is an Ontario Corporation and a Canadian Registered charity.

The Meetinghouse is the newsletter of the Canadian Friends Historical Association and is published three times a year. Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: "Reprinted from *The Meetinghouse* (issue and date) published by the Canadian Friends Historical Association." Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Association.

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Internet	www.cfha.info
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A TREASURED VOLUME BY RUTH JEFFERY-MACLEAN

On my bookshelf is a little book called Spiritual Life. It is a self-published volume from 1932 of some personal thoughts by Charles A. Zavitz B.S.A. D.Sc. It was given to me and some others in attendance at the Canadian Friends Historical Association Annual General Meeting in 2002 by Charles' grandson James Zavitz.

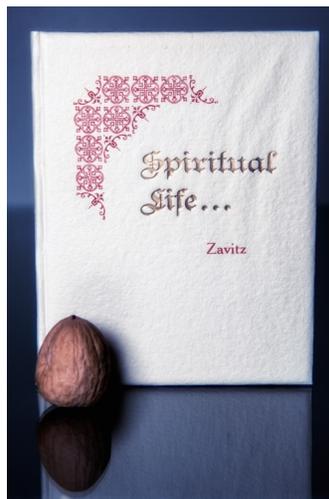
James was invited to speak to us about Charles and his contribution to Canadian agriculture. Charles Zavitz is the same man for whom Zavitz Hall at the University of Guelph is named. He received a Bachelor's Degree at Ontario Agricultural College in 1888 and stayed on at the college as a staff member for the rest of his working career. He distinguished himself as a scientist in the field of agronomy while always remaining

humble and precise in his faith. (You will find an interesting article about Charles Zavitz in Journal #67 on the CFHA website at www.cfha.info)

Charles was a birthright Quaker and in his adult life served the Religious Society of Friends in the manner we would refer to as a weighty Friend. In 1932, four years after his retirement and perhaps when his health had given him pause, he published 1000 copies of the book I refer to in this article. They were given to family, friends and colleagues. It is full of rich thought and as I reach for it time and again, I'm appreciative of my copy.

"Being a Quaker with Quaker parents I learned early in life to listen in silence to the "still small voice" of my Spiritual

Father. During and since my forty-one years of very active service in college teaching and in scientific research in agriculture, the Christ Spirit within me has been the most precious thing in my life." Spiritual Life, Charles A. Zavitz



**Spiritual Life by Charles
A. Zavitz**