

## Quaker Research guide

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Members of the Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, arrived in Upper Canada before 1800 from both New York, Vermont, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and settled in pockets where they could settle excellent farmland – Prince Edward County, Niagara area, north and east of Toronto and along the north shore of Lake Erie. They left a rich record in their minute books, registers and other ephemera for both the genealogist and social historian.

### **Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA) since 1972**

<http://www.cfha.info/>

The CFHA is an active association that has become known for a large number of transcribed minute books, registers, journals, research as well as past Newsletters and Journals. These are available **free** on the website.

In 1974 the Canadian minute books held at the Archives were microfilmed. A list of these microfilms was published in the [CFHA Newsletter #13](#). Many of them have been transcribed on this site.

CFHA holds an annual conference each September. The website has an active blog.

### **Maps and Charts of Canada, NY and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings**

CFHA has prepared a pdf of the map and charts done by Arthur Dorland in 1927 and they are included as endnotes in his book, *A History of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada*. A few links to other maps are provided as well.

<https://cfha.info/QuakerMapsCharts.pdf>

### **Quaker Archives and Library of Canada**

<https://quaker.ca/archives/>

The Quaker Archives is at Pickering College, Newmarket, ON, and is the undoubted major repository of Canadian Quaker Records. The credit goes to Arthur Garratt Dorland, Quaker, history professor at the University of Western Ontario, who from the 1920's onward collected old minute books, registers, religious and history books, scholarly journals, personal journals (Timothy Rogers), letters and much else. The Dorland Reference Library at the college honours his role. Most of the registers and minute books have been microfilmed and these films are available at the Archives of Ontario and on Ancestry.com. The Marion Cronk Fonds has a lot of Quinte area material and the [finding aid](#) is on the website.

The website has a catalogue of holdings, a genealogical index and a number of other indexes of their holdings.

## **Ancestry.com**

Researchers with a paid account at Ancestry will recently find 76 Quaker collection titles in the Card Catalogue searching with the keyword being "Quaker." The Library edition only yields 14 titles and the Canada Quaker Meeting Records are not available on the Library edition.

Here are three major ones.

### **1. U.S. and Canada, Quaker Yearly Meeting Annual Reports, 1808-1930**

This database contains hundreds of volumes of minutes from **Yearly Meetings**, which is the highest administrative level of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The records span more than a century and come from more than 20 different Yearly Meetings including the following: Baltimore, California, Canada, Genesee, Central, Green Plain, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, London, Nebraska, New England, New York, New Zealand, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, South Africa, Western (Indiana), Wilmington.

The minutes contain names of representatives and committee members, memorials and obituary notices, along with business news.

*This collection is available for browsing only and contains no indexed records.*

### **2. Canada, Quaker Meeting Records, 1786-1988**

See CFHA Newsletter 13 for a complete list of the books that were filmed. This database contains records from various Quaker meetings in Canada. Most come from Ontario, but you will also find records from other provinces, as well as a few from areas in the United States that fell under jurisdiction of a Canadian Yearly meeting.

### **3. U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935**

This database contains Quaker monthly meeting records which are archived at the following Quaker colleges: Earlham (Indiana), Guilford (North Carolina), Haverford and Swarthmore (Pennsylvania).

Notably absent are the New England and Philadelphia Yearly meeting minute books which may be available soon with a membership at **Find My Past**.

## **Archives of Ontario**

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/index.aspx>

1. Religious Society of Friends Papers, F 997, MS 303, 59 reels, Private Records. The finding aid is with the yellow binders listings all the meeting records that were in the possession of the Quaker Archives in 1975. A few have been acquired since and are not filmed. This finding aid is available online in the 1975 Newsletter #13.  
<http://www.cfha.info/newsletter13.pdf>
2. The blue card index lists about 20 holdings, mostly letters that have Quaker references. Search under Friends, society. There are a few Yonge St records.
3. Rachel Cronk Fonds – F550, MU759

### **Robarts Library, University of Toronto**

The library has several shelves of Quaker books. Many histories and also 19<sup>th</sup> C religious books. Most importantly it has a complete bound set of the Quaker History published by the Friends Historical Assoc, Haverford, PA. Volumes 1 (1906) to recent volumes. Search the Robarts web site to see the holdings. <https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/>

### **Toronto Public Libraries**

Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Wm Wade Hinshaw, 1936 and later, 6 Vols. Vol 1 – North Carolina; Vol 2 – Penna and New Jersey (Salem, Burlington, Philadelphia, Falls); Vol 3 – New York (Flushing, Westbury, Jericho), Vol 4 and 5 – Ohio; Vol 6 – Virginia. This is a major index to some of the records of the Monthly Meetings but is not comprehensive.

### **Library & Archives of Canada, Ottawa**

List of the archives of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada: microfilmed by the Archives of Ontario (MS303) / prepared by R. Nickerson . CD 3649 O5 N63 1975.

### **Some Suggested Books**

1. *A History of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada*, Arthur Dorland, 1927, [revised in 1968 to reflect the Quaker reunion of 1955.] Said to be available on Ancestry.com.
2. *From Quaker to Upper Canadian: faith and community among Yonge Street Friends, 1801-1850*, Robynne Rogers Healey, Publisher Montreal; Ithaca: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006
3. *Children of Peace*, John McIntyre, McGill Queen's Press, 1994
4. *Quaker Crosscurrents: three hundred Years of Friends in the New York Yearly Meeting*, Hugh Barbour, Arthur Worrall, and Christopher Densmore, 1995, Robarts Library BX 7607.N5 Q34. [Available at Google Books](#). Highly recommended.
5. *Quakers in Colonial North East*, Arthur Worrall, 1980, 289.674 W59 [Robarts BX 7639.W67].
6. *The Hicksite Separation*, Robert Doherty, 1967, 289.609 D57, [Robarts BX 7637 D6]. A fine account of the difficult to understand separation.
7. Families, OGS, Vol 19, No. 1, 1980, two excellent articles by James Zavitz and Jane Zavitz about Quaker history and using Quaker records.
8. *Quaker Marriages in Upper Canada*, Wm Riddell, OHS Papers and Records, 1927, V24, 507-11. The legal issues behind the acceptance of Quaker marriages.

## US Quaker Records

1. Swarthmore, Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges hold the major collections of Quaker records. They have joined forces under the Tricollege Library web site where you can search all three of their catalogues at once. Enter your search word(s) and then select a result of interest. On the new page click on "Collection Organization" for detailed list of holdings.
  - a. <http://archives.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/>
2. The three colleges have joined forces to present their "Digitized Images and Manuscripts" on this Tricollege Libraries web site. <http://trptych.brynmawr.edu/>
3. Or visit each College archival web site separately.
  - a. <https://www.swarthmore.edu/friends-historical-library>
  - b. <https://www.haverford.edu/library/quaker-special-collections>
  - c. <https://www.brynmawr.edu/lits/libraries-collections/special-collections>
4. At Swarthmore, see the James E. Hazard Index of The Records of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. This will replace Hinshaw as the index for NY records as it is more complete. <http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/friends/hazard/>
5. New York Yearly Meeting Microfilm Collection – a list of the 326 NY meeting films available at the New York State Library (NYSL). This provides an excellent list of the records filmed.  
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/guides/nyym12.htm>
6. The main Monthly Meetings from which settlers came to Upper Canada as found on the Tricollege web site.
  - a. **Nine Partners MM** records of the New York Yearly Meeting. There are meeting records at Swarthmore that are not mentioned in the NYSL list of films. Some of these films are transcribed on CFHA web site.  
<http://archives.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/resources/ny-ninpamm>
  - b. **Pennsdale and Muncy MM** records of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Muncy Meeting. Muncy is transcribed at CFHA.  
<http://archives.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/resources/phpennsamm>
  - c. **Rahway and Plainfield MM.**  
<http://archives.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/resources/ny-rahplmm>
  - d. Search the meetings on your own.

## Other web sites - Google the following:

1. Volumes of *The Friend, A Religious and Literary Journal*, at times published weekly, from the early 19<sup>th</sup> C are packed with genealogical information such as obituaries. These volumes often surface in google books during searches.
2. Friends Historical Association – publishes the American scholarly journal *Quaker History*.  
<http://www.quakerhistory.org/>
3. Earlham School of Religion - 17 and 18C Quaker books online.  
<https://esr.earlham.edu/dqc/>