

CANADIAN QUAKER HISTORY

JOURNAL

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ISSN 1180-968X

60 LOWTHER AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5R 1C7

Collingwood Meeting House
c. 1861

No. 49

Summer 1991

CONTENTS

MONTHLY MEETING GREY COUNTY ISSUE

From the Dorland Room

Jane Zavitz-Bond 1

Articles:

Grey County Meetings - Gerald White 3

Jeremiah Lapp - Gerald White 10

Biography of William Rorke - Gerald White 12

List of Records deposited in CYM archives -

Grey Monthly Meeting 14

Pelham Quarterly Meeting Minute Books 14

Pictures of Meetings Houses 14

Map of Meaford - St. Vincent Township Grey County -

from 1880 Atlas 15

CFHA Event at Canadian Yearly Meeting 1991

George Fox Tercentenary, Lancaster England - March 25-28, 1991 -

Report - Arnold Ranneris 16

FAU - China Unit - letter from Gordon Keith 16

Quaker Biographies: Marguerite Haight Zavitz (1985 - 1991) 18

Deaths 18

Acquisitions to the Dorland Room 20

NEWS AND NOTES

Pacifist Impulse in History Conference 23

Researchers in the Archives and Dorland Room 23

New Guest Book II 23

Elder Hostel - Summer 1991 24

News of Members 24

The Canadian Quaker History Journal is published twice annually in summer and winter issues by the Canadian Friends Historical Association (as part of the annual membership subscription to the Association).

Contents of the published articles are the responsibility of the authors.

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ISSN 1180-968X

Editors: Jane Zavitz
Kathleen Hertzberg

Production: Small Business Resource Centre Ltd.
1480 Bayly Street, Suite 7
Pickering, Ontario L1W 3T8
Kathleen Hertzberg

FROM THE DORLAND ROOM

This issue of the Canadian Quaker History is really Gerald L. White's special gift to CFHA. He has done the research and the writing with a care to detail and a knowledge of Friends in Grey County that brings them into clearer focus for the first time. His cousin, Deborah Haight, encouraged him to write for us, and then when six record books turned up in Robert Alexander's home, it was too much to pass up. History could be written from this primary material. Previously we had only one record book in the archives, and Arthur Dorland had only a portion of a page in his History of Friends in Canada for he knew of no records, and thought them lost forever. We must never give up; does anyone know of any of the Registers? Gerald has done writing for the local historical society. He has taken pictures of buildings as they were altered over the years, of sites, and of grave yards. He responded to the previous article about Jeremiah Lapp, who moved to Grey County.

The day at the Canadian Yearly Meeting when Robert Moore Alexander and Gerald L. White brought the record books was a gala one. Deborah Haight was there to greet and introduce them to other Friends. Bob is a grandson of William Ira Moore, the Friends minister who went West to the new Friends communities to support them, until his untimely early death. We pick up other threads as we read the history and look in the archives. Martha Luton, whose beautiful taffeta bonnets Audrey Field gave us, moved from Yonge Street to Woodford in 1847, after her marriage, as the Grey Meetings were just beginning. The bonnets survive because the fabric was acid free prior to 1850s, just as the rag papers of that era do!

The ties to earlier Quaker settlements in Upper Canada is clear. Some Rogers' went from Mariposa, Rorke's from West Lake, others from Pickering allowing the short time span, roughly two generations long, in Gerald's history. Marrying out depleted the numbers, as did the next Westward movement, but saddest of all was the impact of the Separation of the Canada Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) in 1881. The story of William Rorke and his immediate families brings in another thread in the Biography Section as Gerald tells of a family that supported the meetings until they were laid down. Their names appear as clerks, both men and women, on the majority of the minutes. (Winnifred Tanner visited and worked this Fall to photocopy all these record books, so we can refer easily to them.)

It is ironic to note that John Bright, the English Friend in Parliament who crusaded to repeal the Corn Laws, indirectly caused their business to fail in West Lake that forced the Rorke family to begin again in Grey County! Robert Byrd's pamphlet in the Acquisitions List in one I hope you can all read. It was included in the Canadian Friend in October issue and helps us to consider the role of our religion in politics, not the usual pursuit for a Friend in Bright's day.

So, our sincere thanks to Gerald for his many contributions to this issue. We dedicate it to those mid-century Quaker pioneers in Grey County whom we know better because of Gerald's timely work.

For the rest of the issue, the report from Arnold Ranneris' letter about the George Fox Tercentenary Conference at Lancaster University, March 25-28, 1991, gives you a sense of the full days. Over sixty papers, some delivered simultaneously in smaller groups, gave us painful choices. We hope to read the proceedings of those papers relating directly to George Fox when it is published. Canadian Quakers were only related to Fox through those descendants of early Friends who later came to Canada. It was a stimulating time. Kenneth Carroll's plenary presentation on the last day brought the impact of George Fox upon North American Quakerism home to us all, particularly in the south, Ken's special field of research. Arnold and I reported on this at the Annual gathering for CFHA at CYM on Thursday, August 16th in Yonge Street meetinghouse.

Next the Friends Ambulance Unit, China Team, spoke about their experiences during World War II in Burma and China driving trucks and ambulances into China. This, too, is part of our history, and helps us feel current lives are making contributions to the world and for positive change. We can still answer many calls. We heard about Robert McClure that day, and so his death on November 10th, 1991, was a reminder again of the full life he led to serve always. Friends work and history is tied to the larger religious community of the world. The faces of the men who spoke that day radiated the Love they discovered in their lives of continuing service. We should not fail to respond to the calls that come for us to serve.

I wrote the memorial minute for Marguerite Haight Zavitz during Yearly Meeting at the time of her sudden death. Her life parallels the experiences of Friends who spent their lives in rural preparative meetings, although Lobo Monthly Meeting did not split in any of the separations. (A few joined the Baptists after 1860 when evangelism spread through Ontario.) I also include the account because she was so important to me for more than forty years. Her stories began my interest in Canadian Quaker History.

As a woman she was clear and helpful to me, a young housewife on the farm. The home which she established in the old house built in 1837 on the Sparta Road by her great uncle Samuel Haight, continues in the family. She attended my recent wedding; in fact, she was on the committee, and even tatted the collar for the dress I wore and for the circle of my bouquet of wild flowers picked in the woods. The sense of family and community among Friends remains and we value it wherever Friends gather. Marguerite's life examples others who lived their faith and practice, and may help some readers sense what is behind our Quaker way of life more clearly.

The many researchers who come or write find more than the dates or facts of their genealogical heritage when they begin reading and using the background materials in the Dorland Collection. That work will continue with the help and support that has always come when most needed. I am grateful and trust you all will continue to give assistance in any way you are led to help.

GREY COUNTY MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The history of the Meetings of The Society of Friends in Grey County, Ontario, spans a period of about forty years from 1861 to 1900. This was one of the areas of relatively late settlement and one of the last locations for the development of Quaker communities in the province. The three meetings in Grey County were located in the Townships of Collingwood, St. Vincent and Sydenham along the shore of Georgian Bay. After the surveys of Collingwood and St. Vincent in 1833-34 and of Sydenham in 1842, the initial settlement proceeded slowly but gathered momentum in the late 1840's.

Three families of Friends came to these townships in the early period of settlement and formed the nuclei around which Meetings eventually developed. The Bonds took up land, lot 23, concession 9, St. Vincent Township, three miles northwest of Meaford in 1836. The Knights settled near the eastern boundary of Sydenham Township in the vicinity of the village of Woodford in 1845-56. The Rorkes came to Collingwood Township in 1847-48, acquiring lots 24 and 25, concession 12, at the village of Heathcote (Williamstown).

Many years would elapse before these three locations grew into communities of Friends of sufficient size to undertake the building of meeting houses and during this time Meetings were held in homes.

The Collingwood Meeting House was built in 1861, the first St. Vincent Meeting House was a former school purchased in 1866 and the Sydenham meeting House was erected in 1866.

Grey Monthly Meeting was formed in 1871 with two Preparative meetings participating - Collingwood and Sydenham - and an indulged meeting in St. Vincent. St. Vincent Preparative Meeting was formed in 1885, but it did not function regularly. Monthly Meeting usually alternated between Collingwood and Sydenham until the closing of the Sydenham Preparative Meeting in 1888. From that date until the late 1890's, Monthly Meeting was held at the Collingwood Meeting House.

COLLINGWOOD MEETING

The first step toward the emergence of the Collingwood Meeting was the arrival of William Rorke on lot 24, concession 12, Collingwood Township, in 1847. His youngest brother, Richard Rorke, settled on lot 25 in 1848. They were members of a Quaker family in Waterford, Ireland and along with four other brothers had come to Canada in 1821.

William had been in business in Picton and his move to Collingwood Township came as a result of severe losses in the grain trade on the Repeal of the Corn Laws in England. Richard had farmed in Tecumseth Township, Simcoe County and wanted to be near his eldest brother.

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At the time of the 1861 census, taken early in that year, there had been no significant increase in the Quaker community of Collingwood Township. However, we do know that several families of Friends arrived in the course of the year and this prospect may have encouraged the William Rorke family to proceed with the building of a meeting house.

Amongst the newcomers in 1861 were George Clark, Jeremiah Lapp and Benjamin Moore, each of whom played a major role in the Collingwood meeting.

The meeting house was built on the northwest corner of the William Rorke farm at the intersection of the Collingwood-Euphrasia Townline and 24-25 Sideroad. It was a frame structure, 50 feet by 34 feet, with board and batten siding. William Doan Rorke, a nephew of William, had set up a planing mill, operated by horsepower and his first job was the finishing of lumber for the meeting house. In 1873 a shed was erected to shelter horses and a "platform horse block" was provided to facilitate exit from and entry to buggies and other vehicles.

When Collingwood Friends first assembled in the new meeting house sometime in 1861, the founding group included William Rorke, Benjamin Moore, George Clark, Jeremiah Lapp, Daniel Rogers and Richard Rorke. This was an indulged Meeting until 1866. In that year it acquired some partial measure of preparative status when Sydenham became a Preparative Meeting and invited Collingwood to participate. On occasion this Preparative Meeting was held at the Collingwood Meeting House.

In 1869 the meeting house was conveyed by Thomas Jacob Rorke, (eldest son of William) and his wife, Sarah Valentine Richardson, to the trustees of the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting. These trustees were Thomas Moore, Clayton Webb, Owen Phillips and Arnold Haight. This indenture also covered a plot for a Burying Ground on a knoll a short distance along the sideroad from the meeting house.

The Collingwood Meeting organized a First Day School in 1869. The annual report of the school presented in the 6th month, 1872, showed five classes. There were 58 children on the roll, of whom 27 belonged to the Meeting and an average attendance of 25. There was a library of 269 books with a lending total of 900 for the year.

Commencing in 1877 the records show a change in name, with the school entered as Heathcote Bible school and also as Friends' Bible School.

The school attained its maximum size in 1881 with 70 children on the roll and an average attendance of 43. The register ends in 1884 and it is probable that the school was closed at the time. The Benjamin Moore family had provided many of the teachers for the school and that inspiration was lost in the Separation of 1881.

In 1871 Grey Monthly Meeting was established by authority of Yonge Street Quarterly Meeting. The formative Meeting was held in the Collingwood Meeting House with Harris Knight of Sydenham serving as clerk for the day. An early minute of Grey Monthly Meeting read as follows:

"This Meeting, considering it advisable that Collingwood and Sydenham should constitute two separate Preparative Meetings, decides (subject to the approval of quarterly Meeting) that Sydenham Preparative Meeting shall be held exclusively at Sydenham and that a Preparative Meeting be established at Collingwood to be called Collingwood Preparative Meeting."

Thomas J. Rorke was clerk for the day at the first Collingwood Preparative Meeting and at the second meeting was appointed clerk, a position which he held until his death in January, 1900.

The best years of the Collingwood Meeting were in the decade from 1871 to 1881. The only record of membership comes from Quota Lists prepared periodically to establish percentages of contributions to the expenses of the Meeting. Names on this list in 1871 were: George Clark, John Clark, Thomas Idle, Jeremiah Lapp, Benjamin Moore, Ann Rogers (widow of Daniel H. Rogers), Eli Rogers, William Rorke, George, Thomas J. and William Henry Rorke (sons of William) and Richard Rorke. There were the inevitable changes, but the Quota Lists of 1876 and 1881 confirmed the essential stability of the Meeting.

Some of the more important changes by 1881 were the death of William Rorke; the withdrawal of Richard Rorke and his family from the Meeting; the departure of Benjamin Wood who had been a teacher in the Heathcote School; the arrival of Robert Brown and his wife Hannah, a sister of Benjamin Moore; and the marriage of Ann Rogers to William Henry Rorke. The first evidence of the decline of the Meeting came after the Separation of 1881.

The minutes of the Collingwood Preparative meeting for the 7th month, 1881 reflect deep concern over the conflicting views of the two branches of Orthodox Friends. A note of local resolution came in the 8th month, 1883, when the Meeting adopted "the discipline formerly used by us and set aside for the one latterly in use." The Collingwood Meeting and Grey Monthly Meeting with its other constituents, St. Vincent and Sydenham, were attached to the Canada Yearly Meeting of Conservative Friends.

The immediate significant change in the Collingwood Meeting was a considerable decline in membership. The Quota List for 1883 had only eight names: Robert Brown, George Clark, John Haight, Eli Rogers, J.W. Rogers, George Rorke, Thomas J. Rorke and William Henry Rorke. The role of the Separation in the decline is not entirely clear but is apparent in two important instances: Jeremiah Lapp joined the Conservative Branch but moved back to Mariposa and Benjamin Moore became a member of the Progressive Branch.

As changes took place in the St. Vincent and Sydenham Meetings, the Collingwood Meeting became the predominant and finally the exclusive constituent of Grey Monthly Meeting. By 1893 the minutes of Grey Monthly Meeting of Women Friends contain only names associated with the Collingwood Meeting. The last entry in the Monthly Meeting minutes was for the 6th month, 1898, and the Collingwood Preparative Meeting of Women Friends closed at the same date.

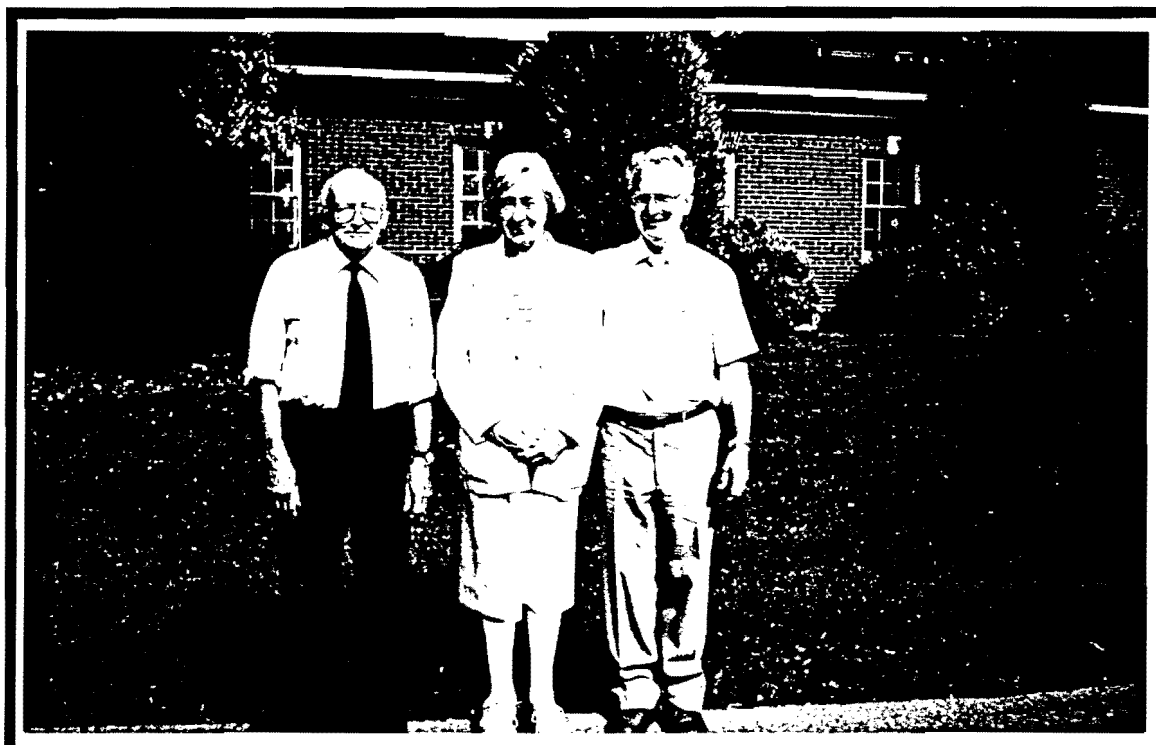
The Collingwood Preparative Meeting for the 6th month, 1898, was a joint session of men and women Friends. On this occasion two men were appointed as the representatives to the next Monthly Meeting. At the next Preparative Meeting, a man and a woman were appointed as representatives and this practice continued until the Collingwood Meeting was laid down.

The precarious state of the Collingwood Meeting is disclosed by the Quota List established in the 11th month, 1898. the list included only five names; three Friends who had been with the meeting since 1861, George Clark, George Rorke and Thomas J. Rorke; William Henry Rorke, who had been only 18 in 1861 and George Clendenan, whose mother Phebe was a daughter of William Rorke. The William Rorke family had played a major part in the establishment of the Meeting and was now its principal support in its final years.

The women who played major roles in the Meeting at this time were Sarah V. Rorke, wife of Thomas; Elizabeth (Lizzie) Rorke, wife of George; Ann Rorke, wife of William Henry; Agnes Clark, wife of George; and Martha Rorke, youngest daughter of William. The three Rorke wives were daughters of James Richardson of Pickering.

The final entry in the minute book of Collingwood Preparative Meeting was for the 8th month, 1899. This Meeting was adjourned "to meet at the usual time." This plan was disrupted by the illness of Thomas J. Rorke, who died in January, 1900. There may have been Meetings for Worship in the last months of 1899 and the final decision to close the Meeting came with his death.

The meeting house reverted to the family of Thomas J. Rorke and in 1910, Sarah V. Rorke and her three sons donated it to the community on a long-term lease for a hall. They provided a site adjacent to the centre of the village of Heathcote, on the southwest corner of the farm and the building was moved to that location. With numerous renovations and addition of a dining wing, it continues to serve as the Heathcote Community Centre.



*Gerald L. White, Deborah Haight, Robert M. Alexander
at Pickering College, August 16, 1991*

EGYPT MEETING

The last chapter of The Society of Friends in Grey County was written by Benjamin Moore. After he left Collingwood Meeting, he became interested in providing services for a rather isolated area in the southwest corner of Collingwood Township. This was the community of Egypt, embracing six lots along the Collingwood-Euphrasia Townline. Much of it was still wooded, but logging operations were interspersed with a number of farms.

In 1887 Benjamin Moore, assisted by his daughter, Martha Jane (Mattie) Moore, started to hold Meetings and Sunday School in the Egypt school house on the north half of lot 5, concession 12, Collingwood Township.

There are no records of Quaker families in the school section, but the people welcomed the services and there was good attendance. Occasional services were held in the two adjoining communities of Germany on the 10th Line of Collingwood Township and Rome on the 3rd Line of Euphrasia Township. The Egypt Meeting continued into the early 1900's.

ST. VINCENT MEETING

Isaac Bond and his son Hiram came from Frontenac County to settle on lot 23, concession 9, St. Vincent Township, in 1836, two years after the survey of the township was completed. They were probably the first Friends to locate in Grey County. Thirty years were to elapse before the St. Vincent Meeting was established, but Hiram and his wife Elizabeth had made a major contribution to community activities in the meantime.

Hiram Bond was credited with establishing the first school on the 9th Line, sometimes known as the Quaker School. In 1856 he was on the executive committee of the Interdenominational Phoenix Sunday School which served the community for many years. The obituary of Elizabeth Bond summed up their early contributions thus:

"Together they worked and planned and succeeded in establishing a home which was known throughout the county for its Christian hospitality to friend and neighbour and which embraced not only the ministers and workers of their own church (The Society of Friends) but those of all other denominations."

Another founder of the St. Vincent Meeting was Cyrus R. Sing who came to Meaford about 1860. In the previous ten years, he and his brother Joshua had been involved in mills on the Mad River in Simcoe County, where they surveyed a village plot on the Grey-Simcoe line that became Singhampton.

At Meaford, Cyrus Sing soon set up a carding mill and later built a saw mill and woollen mill. His mills prospered and he built a fine home in St. Vincent Township just east of Meaford, which he named Swarthmore Hall.

In the early establishment of the St. Vincent Meeting, Hiram Bond appears to have provided the inspiration and Cyrus Sing the financial backing. The "Quaker" school on the 9th Line had been abandoned after a new school was built and in 1866 it was purchased from the township to become the St. Vincent Meeting House, located on the northwest corner of lot 20, concession 8. On the document covering the transaction, the signatures on behalf of the Society of Friends were those of Hiram Bond and Cyrus Sing. The little meeting house was frame structure, 25 feet by 19 feet.

No records have been found of the Indulged Meeting which continued at this site until the second meeting house was built in 1880. The census returns for St. Vincent Township for 1871 show only a few families of Friends. There was some attendance at the Meeting by families of other denominations, perhaps in some measure reciprocating Hiram Bond's long record of cooperation. After the meeting house was abandoned, it was eventually moved to the south part of lot 20 where it forms the back section of a residence.

In 1874 Cyrus Sing built a small brick chapel, ostensibly for Quaker use, on the Swarthmore Hall property, lot 13, concession 4, St. Vincent Township. However, by that time it appears that the little community of Friends was shifting towards the northwestern part of the township far removed from Swarthmore Hall. The chapel was used for a number of years for an undenominational Sunday School and was later removed to make way for highway improvement.

The second St. Vincent Meeting House was built in 1880 through the combined efforts of Hiram Bond and Cyrus Sing. This stone meeting house was located on the south half of lot 31, concession 1, Sydenham Township, on the St. Vincent-Sydenham Townline. It was about five miles north of the Sydenham Meeting, in the Union School Section of Morley, a rural section without any village centre. There is no record of the reason for the selection of this site and one can only assume that it was based upon the presence of a number of Quaker families in this northern section of the two township.

The History of Sydenham Township states that John Rogers of Woodford, a minister of the Sydenham Meeting, assisted with the Meeting at Morley and Sunday School classes were held regularly. MacMillans, Greenfields and Vails are mentioned among the members of the Meeting.

Dorland indicated that the Meeting was given preparative status in 1885 under the name Morley Preparative Meeting. His comment that this Meeting was held irregularly and discontinued in 1891 is confirmed by minutes of Grey Monthly Meeting of Women Friends.

There was an Indulged Meeting at Morley for a few years after 1891 and the Meeting was then laid down. The stone meeting house remained until 1912 when it was sold and taken down.

The sites of the St. Vincent Meeting have undergone major changes in this century. In 1942 the Department of National Defence took over 16,600 acres of land in the northern part of St. Vincent Township for a Tank range, which serves today as a Militia Training and Support Centre.

The 9th Line, site of the first meeting house, is now the access road to the Centre and numerous new homes have been built, changing the rural character of the area. Morley School Section lost much of its area to National Defence and little but the name remains. The site of the Morley Meeting House, just beyond the boundaries of the Centre, looks across a vista of deserted countryside.

SYDENHAM MEETING

The families closely associated with the formation of the Sydenham Meeting were the Knights and the Lutons. Three Knight brothers - Alfred, Benjamin and Harris - came from England in 1844 and were in the Newmarket area with Friends before locating near Woodford in Sydenham Township in 1845-46. Alfred and Harris married daughters of Daniel Luton of Whitchurch Township and a Luton son, Thomas, also settled in the Woodford area.

Meetings were held in the homes of the Friends around Woodford for many years. In 1866, with the cooperation of Friends in the Newmarket area, a meeting house was built on one and one-half acres of land on the northwest corner of lot 15, concession 1, Sydenham Township, the farm of Benjamin and Ann Knight. The trustees for The Society of Friends were Eli Rogers, Whitchurch Township (who later came to Collingwood Township); James A. Edward, King Township; Jacob Boyle, Tecumseth Township and Harris Knight, Sydenham Township. The frame meeting house was approximately 40 feet by 24 feet.

A Preparative Meeting was established at Sydenham in 1866 and apparently was associated with Yonge Street Monthly Meeting until the formation of Grey Monthly Meeting in 1871. The participation of Collingwood Meeting in Sydenham Preparative Meeting has been mentioned previously.

The first indication of the decline of the Sydenham Meeting came in 1888, when it was noted in Collingwood minutes that Preparative Meeting had not been held at Sydenham. The decision to discontinue Sydenham Preparative Meeting followed and Meetings for Worship were held for a few years.

The Sydenham Meeting House was sold in 1933 and taken down. The Burying Ground at the site has been restored with the mounting of a few stones on a concrete base. The names that appear in addition to Knight and Luton are Cameron, Challies and Silverthorne.

TRAVELLING AND VISITING

The little groups of Friends in Grey County were at some distance from the principal Quaker centres in Ontario. However, there is ample evidence that this did not isolate them even in the early period of difficult travel. Access to Pickering and Newmarket became much easier with the arrival of the railroad at the town of Collingwood in 1855 and its extension to Thornbury in 1871 and Meaford in 1872.

Within Grey County, the St. Vincent and Sydenham Meetings were only a few miles apart, but it was a long drive to Collingwood. The shortest route from Collingwood to Sydenham was about 17 miles and to Morley, some 22 miles. Fortunately, travellers could always count on a warm welcome to visit, have a meal or stay overnight.

The diary of Thomas J. Rorke for the years 1875-77 gives some indication of visits by Friends from Yonge Street, Pickering and farther afield. Amongst those from considerable distances were Thomas W. Ladd, Brooklyn; Samuel Morris, Philadelphia; James N. Richardson, Ireland; Sarah Satterthwaite, England; Joseph Dillon, Iowa; and Elwood Scott, Indiana. Thus the Friends in Grey County were in touch with various aspects of current thought within the Society.

There are many gaps in the story of the Meetings of Friends in Grey County, but hopefully enough has emerged to ensure that their contribution to the religious life of the county will not be forgotten.

COMMENTS ON JEREMIAH LAPP ARTICLE (Issue #47 p.)

I was pleased to find the article on Jeremiah Lapp in the Summer 1990 issue of the Journal. His name appears frequently in the minutes of the Collingwood Preparative Meeting but there was nothing to throw much light upon his life. The article cleared up some questions about his arrival in this area and his eventual return to Mariposa.

Since the article on the Grey Meetings does not contain much information on individuals, the following comments may offer some additional facts about his sojourn here.

When Jeremiah Lapp arrived in Collingwood Township in 1862, he took up the north half of lot 15, concession 12, about three miles south of Heathcote. This lot was in a union school section of Collingwood and Euphrasia Townships and the community came to be known as "Union".

Probably in the same year, the south half of lot 15 was occupied by George Clark, also a Friend. I do not know where the Clark family came from, but it appears likely that Lapp and Clark were acquainted previously. George Clark was one of the mainstays of the Collingwood Meeting from his arrival until it was laid down in 1900.

There are a few sentences in the article on Jeremiah Lapp which may be clarified by the following paragraphs:

1. Page 19, paragraph 2, last sentence -

"In 1862 he moved to Collingwood and then back to Mariposa-Eldon in 1877 where he lived to the end of his life."

Because the town of Collingwood adjoins the Township of Collingwood, there is always some chance of confusion arising between the two municipalities. The reference above is, of course, to the Township of Collingwood.

The date of 1877 for the return of Jeremiah Lapp to Mariposa is at variance with the minutes of the Collingwood Preparative Meeting. Appointments of Jeremiah Lapp, usually to attend Monthly Meeting were as follows: 1877 - 3, 1878 - 2, 1879 - 2, 1880 - 5 and 1881 - 3. The last appearance of his name in the minutes was in 2nd month, 1882 when he was named to attend Monthly Meeting. As additional evidence of his residence in Collingwood Township up to this time, his name appears on the list of Collingwood Meeting Contributors in 1881.

2. Page 20, paragraph 1

"Two years later they moved to Collingwood where a few Friends held meetings in their homes."

The Meeting House at Heathcote was built in 1861 and was probably in use when Jeremiah Lapp arrived in the area.

3. Page 21, paragraph 3

"On the eighteenth of tenth month 1875 Jeremiah Lapp left for his first religious visit accompanied by George Rorke of Mariposa."

George Rorke, the second son of William Rorke, lived in Collingwood Township and the Town of Thornbury from his arrival in 1847 until his death. He was a very active member of the Collingwood Meeting and was mentioned a number of times in minutes in 1875. There is no entry in respect to the visit to Friends, since this was probably sanctioned by Monthly Meeting.

4. Page 23, paragraph 2

"Visiting Benjamin Moor at Collingwood, being one of those who went out from Friends."

The correct spelling of the name is Benjamin Moore.

In regard to Benjamin Moore's comment that he did not feel the same peace and satisfaction as he had before Separation, there were family as well as religious considerations involved. His wife, Hannah, was a daughter of William Rorke and he may have had some misgivings about the family aspects of his separation from Collingwood Meeting. In the long run, any such concerns were not justified because the ties between the Rorke and Moore families remains close.

Gerald L. White

WILLIAM RORKE

William Rorke was born in 1793 at Clonmel, Tipperary County, Ireland, the second son of John and Phebe (Ruddock) Rorke, members of the Society of Friends. The family moved to Waterford by 1795 and eleven children were born there. For the most part, the children were educated at Newtown School in Waterford.

By 1820 William and his brother, John, were engaged in the bran business in Waterford. However, the family was deeply concerned about prospects in Ireland and began to investigate the possibilities of immigration. Canada was finally chosen and in 1821 six of the brothers set sail and after surviving shipwreck on the Gaspé Peninsula, reached York (Toronto). They secured lots in Tecumseth Township, Simcoe County and proceeded to the Newmarket area to investigate their property.

William Rorke did not settle in Tecumseth and soon located in the Bay of Quinte area. He taught school at Adolphustown for a few years where one of his pupils was John A. MacDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister. In 1826 he married Martha Williams Boone of Amherst Island in the Friend's Meeting House at Adolphustown.

About this time, William gave up teaching and embarked upon a business career in Hallowell (Picton), Prince Edward County and resided there for some twenty years. He operated a store, was post master, land agent and secretary of a county insurance company and became involved in the grain trade.

No information has been handed down about his participation in the Society of Friends during this period but he was evidently a member of Bloomfield Preparative Meeting in West Lake Monthly Meeting.

In 1846 the Repeal of the Corn laws in England resulted in financial disaster for William Rorke. Grain which he had bought was awaiting shipment in Montreal when the market collapsed. He sold his store with the proceeds going towards the discharge of debts and with his sons, Thomas and George, decided to make a new start in an area where land was relatively cheap. The location selected was lot 24, concession 12, Collingwood Township (then Simcoe District, later Grey County). It was located where the Old Mail Road, which gave access from Barrie to Meaford and Sydenham (Owen Sound), crossed the Beaver River.

In 1847, William's sons, Thomas and George went with team and wagon to the Collingwood Township lot and looked after the construction of a log house. William, Martha and five other children came later by boat from Picton through the Welland Canal to Meaford and thence by the Old Mail Road to their new home.

With the boys in charge of clearing land and developing the farm, William turned to other activities. With the background of his postal experience in Picton, he arranged in 1848 for the establishment of the first post office serving the townships of Collingwood and Euphrasia. Originally named Euphrasia Post Office, it was changed to Heathcote in 1861. With settlers coming to the post office for mail, there was an opportunity for trade in supplies. Account

books list diverse items, including chopping axes, forks, Irish shovels, hammers, nails, grindstones, fish hooks, cloth, tea, tobacco, salt and flour. Associated with this business was a brisk trade in agricultural products such as cattle, pigs, wheat, peas, geese and guinea hens.

The third service offered to settlers was in the matter of land transfer in which William could draw upon his experience as a land agent. Some of the first deeds for lots in the village of Heathcote were prepared by him in the early 1850's. His advertisement in W.W. Smith's Gazetteer and Directory of Grey County 1864-65 reads as follows:

William Rorke
Notary Public, Conveyancer and General Agent
Post Office, Heathcote, County Grey
Deeds, Mortgages, Leases, Wills, etc.
Fully and expeditiously prepared

When township councils were established in 1850, there was one Council for the united townships of St. Vincent, Euphrasia and Collingwood. William Rorke served as the councillor from Collingwood Township. For the years 1851-53 there was a council for the united townships of Euphrasia and Collingwood with William Rorke as Clerk.

For one who played such an important role in the establishment of meetings of the Society of Friends in Grey County, there is a very sparse record of his contributions. His advancing years appear to have placed him in the background at the time the meetings emerged.

It is evident that his family formed the nucleus for the development of the Collingwood Meeting and his influence extended to the other Grey Meetings in St. Vincent and Sydenham. When the census was taken in 1851, Hiram Bond of St. Vincent was enumerated at the Rorke house and there was also contacts with Harris Knight of Sydenham.

He participated with his sons, Thomas and George, in the building of the Collingwood Meeting House in 1861 and was active in its years as site of an indulged meeting. When Collingwood Preparative Meeting was established in 1871, William's name appears in the minutes a few times but at age 78, he was willing to stand aside observing, with some sense of accomplishment, the fruits of his years of commitment.

Martha died in 1859 and William in 1877. They were laid to rest in the Friend's Burying Ground at Heathcote but in the 1920's the graves were moved to the Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery.

DEPOSITED IN CYM ARCHIVES AT PICKERING COLLEGE

MINUTE BOOKS

1. Grey Monthly Meeting of Women Friends
1883-1898
2. Collingwood Preparative Meeting (2 books)
1871-1891
1892-1899
3. Collingwood Preparative Meetings of Women Friends
(3 books)
1871-1883
1883-1895
1895-1898

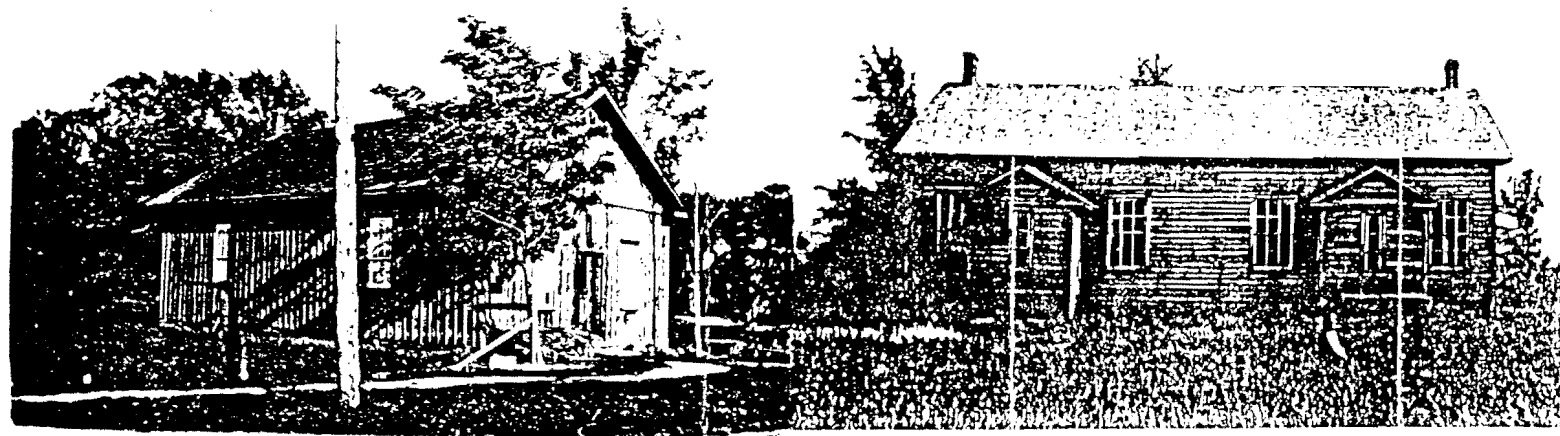
Deposited by Robert Alexander. Maintained by his family since meetings were discontinued.

Also,

Pelham Quarterly Meeting Minute Book
1853-1872

Deposited by Harry and Ruth Haggerty.

PICTURES OF MEETINGS HOUSES



Heathcote Community Hall (about 1910)
previously Collingwood Meeting House.

Woodford Quaker Church.
Sydenham Preparative Meeting.

CFHA EVENT AT CYM 1991

GEORGE FOX TERCENTENARY, LANCASTER, ENGLAND

There were about 110 persons there - not all Quakers - some were scholars/historians. But that added to the value, as the academics brought the region of trained minds. Quakers were in the majority, however, and we were given some special "treatment" like Meetings for Worship, outings. Three fine concerts (classical music) added another dimension among the excellent papers given. I particularly valued ones by Alistair Lomax, Alan Kolp, Bill Taber, Tatiana Pavolova (USSR). A. Lomax's "The Lord's Supper and George Fox" was a classic (he said Arthur Windoor had given him much help.) Others like Christopher Hill and Richard Graves spoke on the 17th Century. By the way, Alan Kolp's new (1991) book Fresh Winds of the Spirit (FUM) is an excellent dna on Fox's teaching.

It was good to share the event with other Canadians - Jane Zavitz and Gordon Pitter (my Meeting). We had a good weekend at Woodbrooke March 29 - April 1, on theme "Come Holy Spirit" - a deep look at "Easter" from perspective of John's Gospel.

While at Woodbrooke, I had a good meeting/sharing with Jean and Tony Brown.

Arnold Ranneris

FAU - CHINA UNIT

Members of the Friends Ambulance Unit China Team invited to CFHA event at CYM. Ed Abbott, Walter Alexander, Joseph Awmack, Albert Dorland, Terry Dorland, Gordon Keith, Russell McArthur, Reginald Smith, and Francis Starr. Frank Miles came, although he was not a Canadian when he joined the China Team. Several regretted their inability to come. Four were able to come, Gordon Keith sent a special letter which reads as follows:

August 12, 1991

To:
Canadian Friends Historical
Association

Dear Kathleen:

Last winter you sent out a letter regarding the Canadian Friends Historical Association meeting during the course of C.Y.M. The Friends Ambulance Unit was to be on the agenda.

I must apologize that I forgot about it. A few days ago I was reminded about it.

Janet and I after a brief stay at CYM plan to go and visit with members of our family in Mass. USA and won't be able to attend.

While I was in China with the F.A.U. I took coloured movies of our life in China; our hostels and garages and the transportation of medical supplies across the country.

At a F.A.U. reunion four years ago I gave the films to the F.A.U. in London, England. These were shown at the reunion in 1990.

I retained a video copy of the pictures and would like to give it to the Friends Historical Society. I think they take about 40 to 50 minutes to run through.

I would like to make arrangements to make a copy of keep at home. Perhaps we could work that out together.

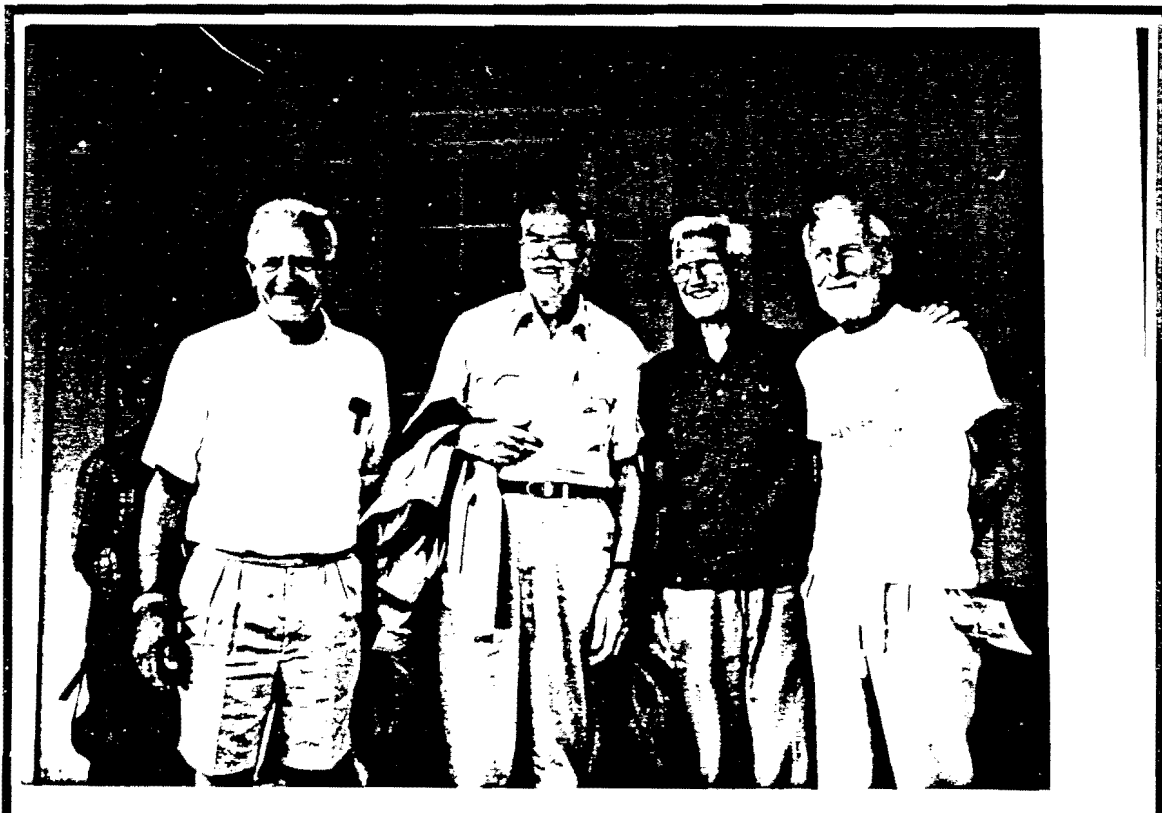
I would be happy to show them at the C.Y.M. next year, to an interest group, and give whatever commentary I can on them, if you think them suitable.

They are amateur movies but they do give an idea of our life there in China.

Finally I would like to say that my life was deeply changed by my experiences in China and I am forever grateful to the F.A.U. and the Society of Friends to have made it possible for me to have this extraordinary "happening."

With Greetings of love
Gordie Keith

P.S. You may be happy to know that the war office in London asked for a copy of the pictures. They have set up a department at their Museum for Alternative service. School children and adults have an opportunity to see these services in action, I was told.



*Friends Ambulance Unit (China) - Frank Miles, Jo Awmack,
Ed Abbott, Francis Starr at CFHA-CYM Event 1991*

QUAKER BIOGRAPHIES

MARGUERITE HAIGHT ZAVITZ (1895-1991)

We give thanks for the Grace of God in the life of Eva Marguerite Haight Zavitz. She was born to Reuben and Eva Norman Haight on the ninth day of the ninth month, eighteen hundred and ninety five in Yarmouth Township of Elgin County, Ontario, on the farm cleared by her Grandfather, James Haight. The Haight family, Quaker pioneers, many of whom she knew as elderly relatives, made Marguerite a link for all of us with our heritage. The memories shared through her stories gave us living roots. Because she also lived so fully in the present she had a perspective and balance which added strength to the ministry of her life which came to us through both physical care and as an example.

Her early life was spent on the farm until she was six when her father retired and moved across the road to Cedar Villa. These early days are recorded by her much elder brother's photography. She began school at Union, and sometimes attended meeting with her father taking the buggy ride to Sparta. In 1908, the family went to Corpus Christie, Texas, where her father had business interests in the developing area. She met the Mexican-Spanish culture and began another widening of her horizons. At fifteen she went to George School, along with other youth from Lobo Monthly Meeting, and was away from home "on her own" and then returned to St. Thomas Collegiate Institute followed by the local business college. Her father permitted education but did not feel his daughter should seek a position.

On eighth month, third, in 1920, Marguerite Haight and Russell William Zavitz were married under Lobo Monthly Meeting at Cedar Villa, beginning over 68 years of companionship and work together. Her life of relative leisure became that of a busy farm wife and matron. Marguerite learned much from her Mother-in-law, Emily Cornell Zavitz, whose early death necessitated Marguerite moving into Sunnyside and caring for all the family needs. The four children : Elizabeth Evangeline; David Homer; Paqul Louis; and Frank Edwin remember those days before coming to Yarmouth and Turtledale in 1934. There the house was rebuilt and the dam replaced to make the pond. Mother had a busy sabbatical when she could garden and do all the things to make the new home while farming was put aside during one depression year. As the family grew they came to Locust Grove. The children grew, went to school, married and made their own lives. Then Marguerite turned to farming, long a passion and with a little help grew 91 acres of corn. In 1951 Russell's work transferred to London and they spent the next time till retirement there. Marguerite worked as an aid at the London Psychiatric Hospital caring for 50-70 elderly women, often alone. They loved her and responded to her care. The cottage at the pond was built and week-ends became family times, even growing into the reunion only recently laid down. After retirement the years were spent at Cedar Villa and then in the new little house at the pond built especially to fit the wheelchair needed for the last ten years. Marguerite never complained and made life full always.

Her welcome, real listening and interest in each visitor drew those of all ages to visit her. Several of her great grandchildren lived near and made visits to Grandma, so did older family members, making her essential independence possible. She encouraged, valued and rejoiced in all their pursuits and accomplishments.

As a child she had many hours alone. She learned to value this solitude and enjoyed books to read, her painting, playing the piano, and handwork, especially tatting. She wrote and received letters to keep in touch with those at a distance. She loved flowers and animals, from her pet toads in the flower beds to the horse she rode, called Dilly-Dally, and the big cat who was combined pet and nuisance these past several years. After years of family responsibilities Marguerite was able to return more fully to these pleasures, although she never gave them up.

In all the challenges she kept her self discipline and the demands she made of others were never greater than what she expected of herself. Her temper matched her auburn hair at times, and yet the force of life's energy was essential to carry her through the challenges of her life. Her faith was strong, She was able to stay in her home where she wished to be. We give thanks for the ministry of her life.

DEATHS

MARY L. ECK on June 30, 1991. A lifelong member of Toronto Monthly Meeting and beginning member of CFHA who maintained her interest through her niece, Patricia Eck Wilson, even to directing memorial gifts to CFHA. She was a descendent of Gideon Vernon, a settler in Uxbridge who came to UEL land after 1783 from Pennsylvania, and his Vernon's were among Penn's first settlers in 1684. Mary was born on Oct. 16, 1904, to Sherman and Mary Vernon Eck in Stouffville, Ont. Mary was a school secretary for Toronto Board of Education until retirement. She had many nieces and nephews and friends who remember her with affection and appreciation.

ROBERT R. DODDS, a member for several years and interested in work of CFHA. He, too, had Quaker antecedents.

SARAH PRESTON, on June 15, 1991. A member of Hamilton Meeting and of CFHA, who cared for the native peoples and worked with them; mother of five children, and recently enjoyed her teaching at McMaster, after lengthy illness. She wrote a history of Hamilton Meeting for the Journal and made presentation at Annual Meeting there in 1988. After sabbatical time at Pendle Hill she and Dick Preston gave summers to directing Camp Nee-Kau-Nis. She was clerk of the camp committee and on the Foxfell board. We remember her with appreciation. Her spiritual journey continues.

OLGA W. WILTSE member of Willington MM and West Lake Quarterly Meetings. Another faithful Friend of CFHA from the beginning. She attended YM at Pickering for many years. Her son, Morley, has been in correspondence with Yearly Meeting Records Committee as a result of long term ties to Friends with concern for records. It is this faithfulness that allows our work to continue.

ALAN GEORGE NEWCOMBE, on March 14, 1991, whose long service with Hannah Newcombe for Peace Research Abstracts continues as others work. He was a member of Hamilton Meeting and a faithful friend, one of our quiet 20th century heroes for peace.

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Cronk, Sandra, Dark night journey: inward re-patterning toward a life centered in God. Wallingford, Pa., Pendle Hill, 1991. 179 pp. Bibliography.

Davidson, Miriam, Convictions of the heart: Jim Corbet and the sanctuary movement. Tuscon, University of Arizona Press, 1988. 187 pp. Notes, index.

Fager, Charles E., Selma, 1965: the march that changed the south. Boston, Beacon, 1985. 257 pp. Notes, index.

Fletcher, James A. & Mabee, Carleton, eds., A Quaker speaks from the black experience: the life and selected writings of Barrington Dunbar. New York, New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, 1979. 68 pp. Notes and index.

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Hayes, John Russell, Old Quaker Meeting-houses. Philadelphia, Biddle Press, 1911. 72 pp. plus illustrations. Gift of Kendal Library.

Jones, T. Canby, ed., "The power of the Lord is over all": the pastoral letters of George Fox. Richmond, Ind., Friends United Press, 1989. 515 pp. Bibliography.

McGowan, James A., Station master on the underground railway: the life and letters of Thomas Garrett. Moylan, Pa., Whimsie Press, 1977. 181 pp. Bibliography, index.

Newman, Daisy, The autumn's brightness. Richmond, Ind., Friends United Press, 1991. 251 pp.

Nouwen, Henri J.M., Love in a fearful land: a Guatamalan story. Notre Dame, Ind., Ave Maria Press, 1985. 116 pp. illus.

Palmer, Parker J., The active life: a spirituality of work, creativity, and caring. San Francisco, harper & Row, 1990. 160 pp. Notes.

Punshon, John, Encounter with silence: reflections from the Quaker tradition. Richmond, Ind., Friends United Press, 1987. 131 pp.

Richmond, Ben, Reminiscences of Levi Coffin: the reputed president of the underground railroad. Richmond, Ind., Friends United Press, 1991. 390 pp. Illus.

Sharman, Cecil W., George Fox & the Quakers. London, quaker Home Service, 1991. 255 pp. index.

Steere, Douglas V., Work and contemplation. New York, harper, 1957. 148 pp. Index. Reprint

Turner, Frederick Storrs, The Quakers, a study historical and critical. London, George allen, 1911. 448 pp. Index. Gift of Michael Walsh.

Wilson, Roger C., Manchester, Manchester and Manchester again: From Sound Doctrine to a Free Ministry - the theological travail of London Yearly Meeting throughout the nineteenth century. London, Friends Historical Society, 1990. 38 pp. Notes and references.

Woodcock, George & Avakumovic, Ivan, The Doukhobors. Toronto, Oxford University Press, 1968. 382 pp. Ilus. Notes, bibliography, index.

The Ark papers. An account of the discovery of the secret compartment in the Sharon Temple's Ark of Covenant, and a discussion of its contents. 1990.

Armitage, Tanner and Kenning families, homesteaders, Minnedosa, Manitoba, 1879. From the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. Gift of Jayne Cooper Moore.

Asa Rogers. Several articles about him and a list of family members. Gift of the Wintertons.

Evangelistic works of Mr. and Mrs. Binford in Japan. Printed in Japanese. Gift of Mrs. E.R. Firth (from Kenneth and Marion Hill.)

Genealogies of the builders of the Sharon Temple. 1990.

George Fox and the origins of Quakerism, by Michael Mullett. In History today, May 1991.

Index of Monthly Meetings in North America. Quarterly revision, September 1991. Thos. C. Hill's working copy for reference only.

Journal of Joseph Oxley's life and travels, Entry for Joseph Oxley in the Dictionary of National Biography.

Letter to David Milne from Peter Milne, 1802. Letter to Alexander Milne from Peter and David Milne, 1803.

Memories of wartime China, by Francis Starr. In The Magazine, The Whig-Standard, Kingston, Ont. July 27, 1991. From Francis Starr and Cyril Haworth.

Pride, prejudice and politics: a history of the Lloyd Family in Wales, Pennsylvania and Ontario. Part II, the Pennsylvania years. Gift of the author Lloyd.

Quaker/Friends. Two listings of Friends in Ontario and Manitoba, from 1871 and 1891 censuses. From Lily Corson.

"Scratching along amongst the Stumps": Letters from Thomas Priestman, a settler in the Niagara Peninsula, 1811-1839. Edited by Angus J.L. Winchester. Ontario History, LXXXI (1) March 1989.

Selected poems, by Sara Keith. 1991. Gift of Ruth Pitman.

The Vernon family. Compiled by John Vernon Winterton and Laureen E. Winterton. 1991.

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL

Chocolate soldiers. Audio cassette. Music from the radio production, based on the Friends Ambulance Unit's experiences. Gift of Margaret Smith.

Friends Ambulance Unit, China, 1941-1944. Gordon Keith family movies. Videotape.

Quaker Meeting Houses in NW England. 1991. Videotape. Prepared for George Fox Tercentenary Conference at University of Lancaster.

NEWS AND NOTES

EVENTS

Pacifist Impulse in History Conference _____

Peter Brock was honoured at a reception in the Quadrangle of Hart House, University of Toronto, on Friday, May 10th, 1991. The event was part of a conference of peace historians under the topic "The Pacifist Impulse". The University of Toronto Press has published Peter's three recent books on the history of pacifism. Speakers from the Faculty of History of the University of Toronto spoke of Peter as a world expert on the history of the Peace Movement and on the lives of pacifist over the centuries, saying that Peter's writings show a remarkable intellectual fairness and because his approach in 'untrendy' his work will be enduring. Others who paid tribute to him spoke of his great humanity and the encouragement and help of his wife, Carmen, who was also present at the gathering. In response, Peter gave a 'map' of his intellectual journey in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the outstanding people in history who have been 'trail blazers' for the pacifist and peace impulse. A book of the papers delivered at the Pacifist Impulse Conference will be published. Several U.S. and Canadian Quaker peace historians were present.

Kathleen Hertzberg

Genealogical Research _____

Genealogical Research continues as the Rogers, Armitage, Walton, Brown, Pearson, Bonnell, Hilbourn, and Lloyd families are continuing to be searched. Visitors add interest and make the efforts to collect and organize material seem more worthwhile. The guest book is full! We have a new one, Vol. II. Historical researchers come and call as our libraries and archives in the Quaker World work to support one another. Jayne Moore and two daughters came from White Cloud, Michigan, with her materials combining the summer event at CYM with research. Others had similar plans and a group interested in the same families met!

The level of activity supports getting the 'new-old' records, which have come into the Archives during the past decade microfilmed, so we are off on another spree of activity. Do keep in touch, even as Lilly Corson sends further Quakers from the census lists and adds to our reference tools. If you are coming, please check ahead so that we are here and can arrange to be free to assist you. We appreciate the correspondence although our time to respond is limited. We hope the Journal makes up for that lack in part.

New Guest Book II _____

The Dorland Room/CYM Archives has started on its own **Second Guest Book**.

Elderhostle

Elderhostle at Pickering College July 28 - August 3, 1991. Twelve students in the Quakerism course looked at settlements in this region with introduction to Quakerism to make it more understandable. Several had Quaker ancestry and interest was high. As always, I learned new things, too. Allan McGillivray at Uxbridge-Scott Museum and Don Jones at Sharon Temple gave excellent background talks along with the tours. In the settings we were again impressed by the contributions of Quakers to the region.

News of Members

JANE ZAVITZ and EVERETT BOND were married under the care of Yarmouth Monthly Meeting on fifth month eleventh at Locust Grove Farm. Our very best wishes from all our readers!

KYLE JOLLIFFE has returned to Canada after his year of study at Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, Ind.

DAVID McFALL has recuperated well from orthopedic surgery and is back to his active support keeping up with the history organizations in Toronto!