



Yonge Street Meetinghouse — 1810

## CANADIAN QUAKER HISTORY

# Newsletter

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0319-3934

60 LOWTHER AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5R 1C7

No. 23

Eleventh Month (November) 1978

### C O N T E N T S

	<u>PAGES</u>
1. Timothy Folger 1732 - 1814 .....	1
2. Indexing Project - Quaker Heritage '78.....	11
3. Quaker Whalers, Refugees, and Settlers .....	14
4. Pre-Canadian Yearly Meeting Visit to New England and ..... New England Yearly Meeting by Grace Pincoe.	16
5. Plaquing Ceremony at Ottersville, Ontario .....	18
6. Norwich, Ontario - Opening of Archives Building.....	19
7. Deaths.....	21
8. Coupon - Inserted.....	-



RECYCLED PAPER

TIMOTHY FOLGER, 1732 - 1814

Whaling Captain, Merchant, Loyalist

RALPH GREENE\*

A talk given at the Canadian Friends Historical Association  
Canadian Yearly Meeting of Friends, Eighth month 17, 1978,  
Shediac, New Brunswick.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It would not have been possible to have had as interesting a discussion of Timothy Folger if his likeness wasn't present at our meeting. This was made possible because Meredith Cornell an artist from Little Compton, Rhode Island, kindly consented to paint an oil copy of Folger's portrait which hangs in the museum on Nantucket. The Cornell portrait will be presented to the Quaker House Museum in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, as part of their exhibit.

This effort would not have been made without the enthusiastic support and encouragement of Grace Pincoe of the Canadian Friends Historical Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

Timothy Folger was born into a Quaker family on Nantucket Island in 1732. As was the tradition in this centre of the whale fishery, young Timothy learned the seaman's trade with the goal of becoming a captain of his own whaling boat. He was able to accomplish this so successfully that he owned several ships and became a wealthy whaling merchant. He owned several stores and a number of shares in the old North Wharf on the Island; his business was to take him to London, New York, Boston and back home frequently. As he grew prosperous, he gained in self-confidence and social standing. More and more, the Islanders would turn to him to represent them in the many problems which they were to confront; especially as the turbulent years of war engulfed them.

---

\* Ralph Greene is currently parson at Dartmouth (Mass) Friends Meeting (Smith Neck and Apponagansett Preparative Meetings).

One of the first opportunities Timothy Folger had in representing the Island in a 'cause' involved Acadians from Nova Scotia. In March of 1758 thirty-five Acadians of the Brufee and Dupee families were moved from their homes in Canada to Nantucket. Their hardships made them dispirited, poor and sickly; many of the exiles being elderly or under ten years of age. The Nantucket people were uneasy about having these forlorn people among them and on August 8, 1766 chose Timothy Folger, Richard Coffin and Francis Macy to be a committee to "give proper instructions to our Representatives in behalf of the Town respecting the ... affair concerning the French." A short while later the Acadians were removed and a year later Folger was chosen to be the local representative to the General Court of Massachusetts in Boston. Perhaps this election was made possible because of his work in dealing with the 'Acadian problem.'

Folger was to gain many friends during these years before the American Revolution. He travelled in a circle of merchants which included John Hancock and William Rotch and was a close relative to Benjamin Franklin (Franklin's mother was a Nantucket Folger). These contacts were to help him out greatly in the upcoming years of crisis.

In 1771 Timothy Folger was in London on business and visited his cousin Ben Franklin. The conversation turned to the question of why it took longer to sail westward in the Atlantic and why some of the Nantucket captains were able to sail to England in record time. Folger told of a strong ocean current which he and other Nantucket captains took advantage of in sailing. He then made a sketch of the stream with directions as to how to avoid adverse currents; a chart which remains basically unchanged to this day in describing the Gulf Stream. In his notes Franklin went on to write: "The Nantucket captains who are acquainted with this stream, make their voyage from England to Boston in as short a time generally as others take in going from Boston to London, viz., from 20 to 30 days. The

Nantucket whalers being extremely well acquainted with the Gulph Stream, its course, strength and extent, by their constant practice of whaling on the edges of it, from their Island quite down to the Bahamas, this draft of that stream was obtained from ... Captain Folger, and caused to be engraved on the old chart in London for the benefit of navigators." American sailors were to use the chart and knowledge to good advantage but the British were to remain skeptics (much to their disadvantage) for years to come.

Nantucket Island was gaining in prosperity as the demand for whale oil and whale products increased. Fortunes were being made and Nantucket became one of the richest towns in the colony. Thus it is easy to understand why the Nantucket merchantmen should become uneasy as trouble developed between the Americans and Great Britain. In 1775 Folger and other merchants loaned money to the Americans so that they could carry on their struggle and in April of that year he was chosen with Josiah Coffin, Grafton Gardiner and Josiah Barker to represent Nantucket in the provisional Congress which had connections with the 'minutemen' and Committees of Correspondence in the American cause. We can be sure that the Nantucketmen didn't realize the full implications of their involvement.

Some initial questions of loyalty came into Timothy Folger's mind when he had to defend his staunchly Loyalist friend, Dr. Benjamin Tupper. He was to write letters of support for Tupper and arranged with the American committeemen to release Tupper on a £600 bond with Folger giving the surity. A few years later Timothy Folger and Dr. Tupper were seen as advocating the Tory cause by a number of American patriots. This charge was to come about because of the difficult place the Nantucket merchants found themselves in as they tried to protect their interests by playing a game of neutrality between the warring factions. By trying to remain neutral they were suspected by both sides.

In April of 1779 the people of Nantucket sent Timothy Folger, Benjamin Hussey, William Rotch and Dr. Tupper to New York and Newport to try to arrange protection from the British for their fishing fleet. They were to have an appointment with General Prescott in New York. At first, Prescott grew angry at the presence of Folger in particular, and Folger had to leave the room. Dr. Tupper questioned the General about this and learned that the General had recently been a prisoner of the Americans. While travelling through Lebanon, Connecticut, his guard, a Captain Alden, had his wife bring a bowl of succotash for the meal. Prescott threw the plate on the floor in disgust and Alden took a horsewhip to him. Dr. Tupper then understood why General Prescott's attitude to Timothy Folger was brittle when the General mentioned that Folger "looked so much like a damned Connecticut man that horsewhipped me, that I could not endure his presence."

The Massachusetts government, upon learning that the men from Nantucket were treating with the British, passed a resolution that no one from the Island was to have any communication with the enemy. Upon learning of this, Timothy Folger immediately left for Boston to lay a petition before the General Court. In part that statement read: "The inhabitants of Nantucket petitioned Your Honours to go to New York after their property. (We) beg leave to inform the Honourable Court that the property taken from them is nearly £4,000 sterling belonging to fifty different persons, (who) will be left miserable without they can recover it. And as the Fourth Fleet is expected this summer ... your petitioners will undoubtedly lose the whole without Your Honours will grant the prayer of their petition." The plea was accepted and Timothy Folger was given permission "to go to New York and bring back their affects" but was required to place a bond of £ 10,000 to insure his return to Massachusetts.

In November of 1779, Thomas Jenkins made the charge that Timothy Folger, Dr. Benjamin Tupper, William Rotch, Samuel Starbuck and Keziah Coffin were "persons dangerous and inimical to the freedom and independence of America; as encouragers and abettors of the enemy." The charge specifically stated that Folger had made a written request that Islanders should treat with the British and consider if Nantucket should pay taxes to Massachusetts. Timothy Folger was supposed to have said that the selectmen would "be damned if they refused to comply with this proposal." The case dragged on until March 3, 1780 when the General Court "asked leave to report that upon the strictest examination, it does not appear ... that the charges alleged by ... (Thomas) Jenkins against Folger and others were supported." However, the complaint was sent to Robert Treat Paine, the Attorney General, for review.

Conditions on Nantucket deteriorated rapidly in 1780. Again Folger was asked to talk with the British and so he addressed a petition to Sir Henry Clinton, who was General of the British Forces and to British Vice Admiral Arbuthnot. This petition detailed the difficulty of the Islanders in the war and went on to observe that "your petitioners hope and flatter themselves that, as they have ... remained these five years in a state of peace, without civil or military officers on the Island or any court of justice ... and 2/3 of the inhabitants are of the people called Quakers and principled against bearing arms on any occasion." To maintain a subsistence level they "hoped your excellencies will permit twenty fishing boats to fish around the Island of Nantucket and four vessels to supply the inhabitants with wood, and one to go to New York for some little supplies ... your petitioners likewise beg of your excellencies, that you will prohibit all armed vessels and armed men from going to Nantucket." In October, William Rotch, Samuel Starbuck, Benjamin Hussey and Timothy Folger were appointed by the town meeting to go to New York to follow up on the petition. They were able to obtain twenty-five permits for fishing.

Timothy Folger was one of the first to take advantage of the permits and set sail on his ship Good Intent for London. Suspicion was that he carried a large quantity of whale oil on board for trade. On this trip Folger not only carried a permit signed by British Admiral Arbuthnot but also a 'protection' paper signed by Benjamin Franklin.

It was this trip with the Good Intent which caused Folger his next round of problems with the Americans. Word of his sailing reached the government of Massachusetts and the state authorities were ordered to seize the boat with the cargo of English goods. Folger and the passengers were ordered to appear in Boston for examination. When the Naval Officer of the Commonwealth took the boat it was loaded with codfish and onions and was bound for Havana, Cuba. According to the charge the Good Intent was supposed to have sailed out of Portsmouth Harbour in England with a ballast cargo of English coal, grindstones and chalk with various packages of drygoods. In August of 1782 the Attorney General finally ruled that if Folger actually committed an offence then those in authority realized that the situation on the Island was a life or death matter and prosecution would be useless.

A month later some American privateers came to Nantucket to seize goods. Kezia Fanning reported on Timothy Folger's reaction to this latest depredation. She wrote of how people were gathering in the streets as Levi Barlow, the leader of the privateers was throwing down goods and taking an inventory. The inhabitants tried to make peace and give bonds for their good behaviour but things came to a head when "they went into Mr. Bean's and Timothy Folger's shop and there in the name of the Commonwealth seized their goods. Timothy Folger pulled them out of doors and fastened his doors upon them -- things were pretty peaceable after they left the shop."

Folgers' strength of character can be seen further when, a little while later a British crew seized a ship belonging to his friend and partner, John Bean. Folger and Bean's wife sailed out into the harbour in a rowboat to get the large vessel back. They tried to arrange to pay a ransom for the boat but were not allowed to board her. The British sailed away to New York leaving the two disappointed in the harbour.

The situation on Nantucket was growing so desperate that again the town appointed Timothy Folger, William Rotch, Stephen Hussey, Christopher Starbuck and Josiah Barker to draw up a petition for relief. This petition restated the extremes the people were suffering and observed that "if the war continues: we view it with regret and mention it with concern, and from the gloomy prospect now before us, we apprehend many of the inhabitants must quit the Island, not being able to even provide necessaries for the approaching winter; some will retreat to the continent and set down in the western governments; and the most active in the fishery will most probably go to distant countries where they can have every encouragement, by nations who are eagerly wishing to embrace so favorable an opportunity to accomplish their desires; which will be a great loss to the continent in general, but much more to this government in particular." These were prophetic words for even though the Nantucket people did not abandon the Island in this particular year, efforts were to be made to settle Nantucket people in other places because of the economic difficulties which came after the peace was signed. Perhaps it was at this time that the Nantucket merchants were putting out feelers as to where their families and their businesses might go.

Peace finally did come in 1783 but the people of Nantucket Island were dispirited and business remained depressed. In 1785 Timothy Folger was again chosen to represent Nantucket in the General Court. His main task there was to



place before the Assembly a petition requesting that "a neutral state is the most convenient situation that (Nantucket) can be placed in for the present for the benefit of the inhabitants thereof under their present circumstances." This neutral state would "preserve so much of the whale fishery as may procure them a subsistence." The main force behind this petition was William Rotch who hoped to recoup his losses and yet not be forced to leave his home. However, Folger had already started looking in different directions: Even while he was representing Nantucket in the Massachusetts Legislature he was negotiating with the British in Nova Scotia for a new whaling port. Sadly, Rotch wrote to a friend that "(Folger) wrote me very short on subject of his business there, promis'g to give me full account fr next conveyance ...; I suppose by these movements nothing was likely to be done as to setting our Island at Liberty, w'ch if is the case I wish I could have known it in time, that I might have done something here for ourselves ... ." The General Court did turn down the petition for Nantucket's independence.

Sometime in the spring of 1785 Timothy Folger and Samuel Starbuck sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia to talk with Governor Parr about emigration. The Governor gave great encouragement and the two Quakers decided to embark on this new venture. Starbuck started with the first group in the spring "with three brigantines and a schooner, with their crews and everything necessary for the whale fishery." Folger sailed early in June 1786 and by mid-summer there were twenty Nantucket families living in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. One of the inducements to emigration was the ready market for whale oil as evidenced by the 447 tons of oil brought up from Nantucket and put on the British market. Other inducements were that their whaleships would be registered as British; that land be made available for their homes, warehouses and wharves, and that protection for their religious views as members of the Religious Society of Friends be guaranteed. The colony prospered quickly and the industry began to bring £ 150,000 annually into

the province. The Quakers brought their best seamen and large amounts of capital with them from their native island. By late summer there were forty families, or 164 inhabitants and 150 whalemén from Nantucket settled in Dartmouth. Richard Unacke, a leading Nova Scotian, wrote that "there was not on the face of the earth a set of people who pursued a single branch of business with the same spirit of enterprise than the inhabitants of that Island (Nantucket)pursued the southern whale fishery." Nova Scotia's gain was Nantucket's great loss for the American fishery was experiencing serious difficulties.

However, powerful forces in London were soon to change this picture. The British Board of Trade found the success of the fishery too tempting to leave in the colonies. There was also suspicion that the 'American'whalemén might have too close a connection with their brothers in the former colonies. Folger and Starbuck were approached to move the whaling colony to Milford Haven in Wales. The Board recommended financial support and in April 1791 granted the proposed migrating families £ 50 each on removal to Milford Haven; £ 2,000 to be paid for losses incurred in the removal process and a just cargo of whale oil was to be admitted to the British market duty free. Pensions of £ 150 per annum were allotted Timothy Folger and Samuel Starbuck for the duration of their lives and the lives of their wives because they were 'Loyalists'. At age sixty, Timothy Folger must have found this an attractive arrangement. In fact, Samuel Starbuck's son observed in a letter that his father and Folger greatly preferred Great Britain because of the stability of the government and the security and permanency found there.

In her article "Dartmouth Whalers" (Dalhousie Review,15:85-95, 1935-1936) Margaret Ellis wrote: "The success of the Dartmouth fishery was too complete, and the temptation to transplant and use it as a nucleus for establishing the industry in Wales too strong, to be resisted. The loss that a good number of Nova Scotians would suffer by the change seems to have been merely incidental to Englishmen and

whalemen alike. The bargain was struck, and all but one of the forty Nantucket families took their departure. Seth Coleman and Deborah (Swain) decided to remain. The houses stood vacant, their warves idle. Dartmouth's good had been sacrificed to the larger Imperial interest. After the migration of the men of Nantucket, the whaling from Halifax Harbour collapsed."

On September 9, 1792 a fleet of thirteen ships with a crew of 182 men brought fifteen families to Milford Haven in the first step of the migration process. Again a thriving colony was set up and later in that year the colony was strengthened by a Nantucket whaling colony which had been established in Dunkirk, France but was forced to move because of the French Revolution.

The Quaker merchants built their large homes in Milford and the town became the stopping place for some of England's greatest social figures. Lord Horatio Nelson was an occasional visitor there as were Sir William and Lady Hamilton. These rich merchantmen were even able to keep some contacts with the royal family as well.

Stability seemed to be the rule of Milford Haven. A Quaker Meetinghouse was built in 1811 and between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 fifty Nantucket ship masters, 500 seamen sailed under British registry. However, the government began to lose interest in the venture and the government terminated the lease of the docks in 1814. On the sixteenth anniversary of the migration to Wales (September 22, 1808) Abiel Folger, Timothy's wife expressed her feelings in her diary in this way: "This day sixteen years I stepped my feet on Welch land and a greivous day it was to me."

Timothy Folger was witness to the rise and fall of the whaling industry, he felt the effects of two revolutions, yet lived a full life of great advantage. He died in 1814 at the age of eighty-two and lies buried in the old Quaker burial ground in Milford Haven.

\*\*\*\*\*

## INDEXING PROJECT

### ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION

#### "EXPERIENCE '78". PROGRAM 0701

#### "QUAKER HERITAGE '78".

by Kathleen Hertzberg and Edward Phelps

Since the Archives of the Society of Friends in Canada was established by Arthur Dorland at the University of Western Ontario, London in 1926, the material has been considerably used without the invaluable aid of an index. Over the years, many enquiries for genealogical research and for the purpose of historical research into Quaker and related matters, have been received and answered. We are indebted to Elsie Cutler for much of the work done in handling the enquiries without an index. Because Quakers in the past maintained accurate and extensive registers of births, deaths and marriages, Quaker records offer in many cases reliable genealogical resource. Because Quakers were amongst the early pioneers in many places in Upper Canada, their records, minute books etc., provide valuable information about early settlement. Regrettably, the original documents had to be painstakingly used for such research. In 1975 we were fortunate to have most of the records microfilmed by courtesy of the Public Archives of Ontario and by the University of Western Ontario. In 1973, Edward Phelps, Special Collections Librarian and Archivist of the Quaker Collection, prepared an inventory of the Archives of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada. All of this has been a great help in making the material more accessible to researchers. Nevertheless, the Quaker Collection remained without an index.

Realising the urgent need for an index but unable to finance the work, the Canadian Friends Historical Association has sought since 1974 ways of funding the project. The submission of an application early in 1978 for an Ontario Government "Experience '78" grant to employ a student to work on the indexing, was successful. "Experience '78" is a special summer youth employment program of the Government of Ontario. Our project came under the terms of reference of "Experience '78 - Program 0701" of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, by whom the grant was approved.

On the advice of Edward Phelps and in co-operation with Walter Balderston, chairman of the Canadian Friends Historical Association, a young student, Mark Allen Ritchie of London, Ontario was employed. He commenced work on the index on May 15th and worked for sixteen weeks. The total amount of the grant was \$1,800.00.

Within the limits of the time available, the aim was to get as much useful information out of the records and on to an index as possible. This included births, deaths, marriages, disownments, removals and other specific details useful to people tracing ancestors. In particular, the earliest Minute book of Yonge Street Meeting (1804-1819) was dealt with thoroughly page by page and indexed, including subjects. This task took three weeks and was a demonstration of how the rest of the archives could be indexed. The Yonge Street Records give a great deal of genealogical information and are practically complete up to 1866; only a few records up to that time are missing. Some are only on microfilm and, due to scratching, presented some technical problems.

The genealogical material in the following records, was indexed -

Yonge Street - (1804-1890)	7 Books, 2 Films.	Approx 1,600 Cards.
West Lake - (1820-1900)	7 Books;	Approx 1,200 Cards.
Pelham - (1800-1844)	4 Books;	Approx 500 Cards.
Pickering - (1804-1896)	5 Books;	Approx 400 Cards.
Norwich - (1822-1898)	4 Books;	Approx 200 Cards.

The index is on cards and the system used is alphabetical by surname.

The disparity in the number of cards produced for various meetings is explained by the completeness of some meetings' records in contrast to others which are either somewhat uninformative, or incomplete. Yonge Street, for instance, is used in conjunction with the alphabetical typed copy of the "Registry of Births and Deaths, 1803-1805" of which the original copy is unknown to the Quaker Archivist; this has not been re-indexed onto cards. In the case of Norwich, despite the obtaining of a microfilm of a register from the Ontario Archives, of which the original is still held by the meeting, the total yield of names was disappointing. Some additional work needs to be done in conjunction with Quaker genealogists and "elders in the faith." For example, we plan to ask Arthur Dorland to sort out the Dorland names in the West Lake registers (which, by the way, are outstanding) by family groups.

Early in the project, when it became obvious that the complexity of Quaker polity could lead to incredible numbers of index cards (for example, each position held or reported on by each officer in a meeting), it was decided to stick strictly to names, and note them in the following four categories: Membership (often the previous location, an invaluable bit of information, is given) and removals; Marriage (both parties indexed and residence and parents given if listed) discipline (e.g. disownments); and Meeting (major events, such as the purchase or donation of meeting grounds from specified individuals).

One set of information which posed a daunting problem, and one which the project had, regretfully, to decline, would have been to index all the names of witnesses to the Quaker marriages, when the actual registers exist with the host of witnesses. This would have given further clues to family connections, and perhaps mobility of Friends attending weddings, however, since (1) many of the signatures were well-nigh illegible (2) there was great repetition (3) no places of residence were given, this was not done. It is possible that a close study of a small time-span in conjunction with the indexes compiled this summer, might produce interesting results, especially if combined with a demographic essay by a student of population and Friends.

The index is far too small for a computer card system. Should all the existing records ever be indexed, then at some time in the future computer cards and a computer system might be feasible.

In conversation with Mark Allen Ritchie, the writer was informed that this work could be continued next summer. Work on the smaller Monthly Meeting records such as Leeds Monthly Meeting, would round out the indexing done this summer. Mark expressed obvious enjoyment in the work and he appreciated the opportunity of doing it. He may be available again in 1979.

In submitting our evaluation of the summer work on the Quaker Archives to the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, we replied in the affirmative to the question as to whether we would wish to repeat the project in summer 1979. Under the general terms of the 0701 Program of the Ministry, projects such as ours would be considered in general for funding up to a maximum of 66 per cent of youth wages and benefits in the second year. Therefore, should our 1979 application for funding be successful the Canadian Friends Historical Association may have to raise 34 per cent of the estimated project costs.

The Canadian Friends Historical Association would like to thank the Ministry of Culture and Recreation for making it possible for us to commence work on the urgently needed index of the Canadian Quaker Records which will benefit historical and genealogical research beyond the Society of Friends.

We would also like to thank Mark Allen Ritchie for the work he did so well and so enthusiastically; Edward Phelps for guidance and supervision and Dorothy Muma for doing the payroll and treasurership for this project - "Quaker Heritage '78".

Kathleen Hertzberg  
and  
Edward Phelps

---

QUAKER WHALERS, REFUGEES, AND SETTLERS ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S MEETING

Thursday, August 17, 1978 - 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

at the

LOUIS J. ROBICHAUD POLYVALENTE, SHEDIAC, NEW BRUNSWICK

during

The 1978 Canadian Yearly Meeting, Memramcook Institute, St Joseph, N.B.

An account by Kathleen Hertzberg

---

There being no Quaker historical spots near enough for a bus trip we had perforce to bring these things to our group by camera, movie, tape, speech, maps and books. Our meeting was to have been held at Memramcook Institute, where the Yearly Meeting was housed, but the Historical Association was allotted the very same time on the very same day as the Beach Party! It was a beautiful day under a clear blue sky and the feeling was that very few people would feel like staying behind at the Institute to attend our program. It was therefore proposed that we take our program to the Beach Party! (A modern version of Mahomet's difficulty with the Mountain). This would enable those folks who wished to attend both the program and the party, to do so. The move proved to be very successful as there was a good gathering of about forty present at our program who joined the Beach Party just in time for the picnic. Our thanks go to Rolf Krehr who managed to obtain permission from the Memramcook officers and who transported the audio-visual equipment to the locale of the picnic and safely back to the Institute.

Thanks to the good offices of John Calder, we were able to use the Louis J. Robichaud Polyvalente (secondary school) which was not far from the Beach where the Beach Party was being held. The room was large and cool with very comfortable chairs. Our thanks are due to John Calder and Ronald Vienneau who arranged for the school to be opened up for us.

A beautiful and artistic slide-tape show photographed, and researched by Doris Calder on "The History of Beaver Harbour, 1783-1790" was shown and delighted us all. Particularly exciting were several shots from the original Pennfield, Record Book, now in the Museum at St John, which magnified on the screen and read out in John Calder's sonorous voice the words "No slave master admitted", 'writ' large above the signatures at the end of the agreement, almost made you feel you were really there. This was truly remarkable considering the time and place. Reminiscences about the old days were given by two local people. We hope a revised expanded version of this slide-tape show will be available on loan from Friends House Library.

Ralph Greene, now of Dartmouth, Massachusetts Monthly Meeting, who spoke to us in 1974 at Memramcook Institute, on Early Quakers in the Maritimes, this time gave a talk based on his extensive research on "Timothy Folger, Nantucket Whaler" who played a leading part during the Revolutionary War in the removal of the Quaker Whaling Industry to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, the establishment of a Quaker settlement there. Ralph had by no means time to tell us all the fascinating things he had discovered in his research into this interesting piece of Quaker Whaler history.

At the end of his talk Ralph unveiled a portrait of Timothy Folger which he was taking as a gift from his Dartmouth, Massachusetts Meeting to the Dartmouth, Nova Scotia Heritage Museum. This portrait by Meredith Cornell, a very talented member of the Dartmouth, Massachusetts Meeting, is a smaller version of a larger one painted by J.S. Copley in 1764. This portrait now hangs over the fireplace in "Quaker's House Museum" at 59 Ochterlony Street, Dartmouth, N.S. It looks very much at home, was most gratefully received by the Heritage Museum officials, and helps to strengthen the bond between the two Dartmouths.

The programme ended with the showing of the film which Ralph had brought from New Bedford, "Whaler out of New Bedford" a 24 minute colour film produced by the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, in 1961. It was made from a panorama in the Museum (those spectaculars of the 1800's). Painted by a Quaker in 1848 this panorama is said to be over two miles long. The animation is delightful. Authentic songs of the period, sung and played by Peggy Seeger and Ewan MacCall are used in parts of the whaling voyage around the world. It includes views of New Bedford, Nantucket, the Azores, Hawaii, Tahiti, Alaska whaling grounds, the Horn, and the harbours in Typee and Rio.

Friends present expressed their thanks and appreciation to Doris Calder and Ralph Greene whose research and work brought the history of the Quaker settlement in the Maritimes closer to us, thus fulfilling the aim of our program at Yearly Meeting time to become familiar with the Quaker history of the area where we are meeting.

Grace Pincoe had prepared a display of Quaker historical material chiefly relating to Quaker settlement in the Maritimes. The chief exhibit, which was created by Ralph Greene, was a huge, arresting, coloured, demountable, collage-type map of the Maritimes with red streamers leading to short, historical notes on relevant places. This map can be reassembled and may be borrowed. Wes Nickerson's "fun" pen drawings which went with Ralph's 1974 map to illustrate "First Visit", an account of Rufus Jones' grandparents' religious visit to Nova Scotia in the 1840's and which constituted one chapter of the book which Rufus Jones edited and published under the title "Eli and Sybil Jones". The display was available in a room next to the assembly room where the sessions of Yearly Meeting were held. It was large and was well visited.

The gathering heard that Grace Pincoe has retired from her work as Secretary of the Canadian Friends Historical Association and as Editor of Canadian Quaker History Newsletter. On behalf of the Association, Kathleen Hertzberg expressed deep thanks and appreciation for Grace's dedicated and able service in many capacities, which has piloted the Historical Association through its founding and the first six years of its existence.

\*\*\*\*\*



## A PRE-CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING VISIT TO NEW ENGLAND AND TO

### NEW ENGLAND AND TO NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING By Grace Pincoe

Before each Canadian Yearly Meeting held outside of Ontario I like to spend some time in the area, visiting museums and archives and meeting local Friends. Hence this year I spent ten days (August 3-12) in New England, as guest of Ralph Greene at his parsonage on Smith Neck Road, near New Bedford, Massachusetts, a place renowned for its Quaker whaling days. Ralph took me to the New Bedford Public Library where he did some researching on Timothy Folger, while I browsed in their fine Local History Room, which includes a good genealogical collection, and also I visited the New Bedford Whaling Museum, which contains the panorama which was used in the film shown at our Shediac Meeting, "Whalers Out of New Bedford." I got to Nantucket and visited the Peter Folger Museum, and read microfilm at the Public Library of several years of the "Nantucket Mirror and Inquirer" of which the Public Library has a good run. My two other objectives, namely, one, to visit the New England Quaker Archives which are housed in the Rhode Island Historical Society building at Providence, Rhode Island; and two, to visit the New England Quaker Research Library of Mt Toby Monthly Meeting at Amherst, Massachusetts were unfulfilled. The reason was that although Ralph had mentioned that New England Yearly Meeting was on the week of August 7 - 12, at Wheaton College, Norton, Mass., the full implication of it did not strike me, that of course everybody I wanted to see would be at Yearly Meeting and not in their offices. Also, I should have allowed an extra week because I did not know till I got there that there was a series of four Workshops put on by the Historical Records Committee of the Yearly Meeting for Recorders of their Monthly Meetings, one every afternoon from Tuesday to Friday from 2:00 p.m. till they quit, so great was the enthusiasm.

### PRODUCING A MEETING'S HISTORY (Quaker Record Keeping) August 1-11. WORKSHOP

This Workshop was a response to a response to a Minute sent on from the Pre-Triennial Conference of Quaker Historians, Archivists, Librarians, etc., held at Richmond, Indiana, Friends Centre, July 1976, to the Triennial Conference of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, July 1976 at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. That body endorsed it and recommended it to its constituent members. New York Yearly Meeting picked it up and held a Conference at Powell House New York, October 28 - 29, 1977, "Making and Using Quaker Records" This Conference was attended by four New England Friends and three Canadians Joe Awmack, Marguerite Johnson, and Grace Pincoe. The four New England Friends, Thyra Jane Foster, Thomas Hancock, Francis Holmes, and Ruth Burgess were very enthusiastic and

say they received material help for this year's Workshop, "Producing A Meeting's History (Quaker Record Keeping)."

Regrettably, I missed Wednesday and Thursday's session to visit Nantucket. On Wednesday Thomas Bassett dealt with "The What and How of Local Record Keeping" the Recorders job, its responsibilities and opportunities. Thursday's topic was "Resource Materials", by Clarabel Marstaller and Maria Grossman. It covered Yearly Meeting forms; how and why they should be filled out; and other materials and services available from the Yearly Meeting Office. Also covered was "What Kind of Materials should be used for Permanent Records?" Where can they be obtained? Where to put supplementary matter? (e.g. photos, newspaper clippings, letters, etc.) Are typewritten records suitable for long term storage?

On Friday, I was stuck on the program under the topic "What Can We Learn from other Yearly Meetings?" This I used to good advantage to put in a plea for automatic machinery of communication between Yearly Meetings in these matters and mentioned I was only present by a fluke, and I would like to receive if possible, since they were taping all sessions, a full report of the proceedings. This they promised faithfully so I can shorten my account. Barbara Curtis, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Archivist and Haverford College Bibliographer whom you will have had a chance to hear at our Annual Meeting, November 25th, 1978, at Friends House in Toronto. Thomas Hancock reported on the 57 questionnaires sent out by Francis Holmes, to Yearly Meetings around the world. Sixteen answers were received and four Yearly Meetings were not doing anything. We shall look forward to seeing his report on the proceedings.

Going back to Tuesday: Thyra Jane Foster told the history of New England Yearly Meeting Records, and described the service available from the Central Providence Archives. Bob Leach, Assistant Clerk and Recorder, Geneva Sutherland Monthly Meeting spoke on "Record Keeping Through Tapes". He also described how he produced the Nantucket Tapes, and spoke on the importance of oral history.

Would it not be a fine thing if Canadian Yearly Meeting could help keep the ball rolling? Do we have the right kind of structure?

\* \* \* \* \*

## PLAQUING CEREMONY AT OTTERSVILLE, ONTARIO, COMMEMORATES "ERBTOWN"

### AND THE SITE OF PINE STREET FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

On October 15th, 1978, a chilly Sunday afternoon, about 75 well wishers joined with the members of the South Norwich Historical Society in the Woodlawn Adult Community Centre, a fine architectural example of an octagonal house, built 1866, moved to the site of our old Pine Street Meeting House and there beautifully restored. The purpose of the gathering was to unveil the following double plaque.

#### PINE STREET FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Woodlawn Adult Community Centre occupies the site of the Pine Street Friends Meeting House built in 1819. The first church of log construction was replaced in 1849 by a frame building with porches, which was used until 1893. The Quaker burial ground to the East is the resting place of many of the areas earliest settlers.

#### ERBTOWN

During the latter half of the 19th century, this area was known as Erbtown, a community founded by Samuel Erb, who settled here about 1855 and with his sons owned and operated saw and woolen mills. The Erb family donated this land, sometime before 1861, for the Episcopal Methodist Church and Cemetery.

Ken Peers, Warden of Oxford County presented an 1852 gazeteer and history of the county to the Society. Carl Howse a descendant of the Erb family who remained in the area, when the rest of the family left, gave us a brief history of the Erb family and "Erbtown". "Erbstown" as it is popularly known is not an official place and does not appear on any map he told us.

Pine Street is not the correct name of the road where the Friends Meeting House stood but ran parallel to it.

Jane Zavitz, who gave a talk on the history of the Pine Street Preparative Meeting, is no stranger to Norwich having taught school there for five years before moving to Barnesville, Ohio, where she taught and her husband was principal of the Olney Friends Boarding School. She expressed the very deep gratitude of the Society of Friends to the members of the South Norwich Historical Society for the work they had done and special thanks to Joyce Pettigrew for her excellent research notes.\* She urged her audience to be on the alert for the gap in Pine Street Meeting Minutes, 1830-1852. Jane gave a moving account of her husband's ancestors, Sarah and Reuben Haight, as specific examples of the pioneer settlers. Originally from Westchester County, New York,

---

\* We expect to publish a history of the Pine Street Meeting by Joyce Pettigrew in a forthcoming issue.

they came to Canada in 1817 with nine children. They suffered the hardships of providing food and clothing, clearing the land only to lose it later. They went through the "Separation", in the Society of Friends and moved to Sparta. Sarah, a valued minister of the Society made many religious visits, and is gratefully remembered for her preaching of the funeral sermon for Joshua Doan, executed for his part in the 1837 Rebellion.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Plaque was unveiled by Russell Zavitz (Jane's father-in-law) and Carl Howse. Harvey Erb, who had come all the way from Kingston and had arrived late. Harvey introduced himself and told us a little about his place in the Erb family.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1903 the Pine Street Meeting House was sold to John Sandham of Springford, Ontario. It was moved three miles away to his farm, where it was put up on a foundation, painted a bright red and is now used as a workshed. You may still see it if you are around that way. John Sandham brought one of the benches along for us to see. It was displayed on the porch, and very lovely to look at.

\* \* \* \* \*

Over coffee we were able to admire the beauty of the octagonal house we were in and I sensed that the Pine Street Quakers would be pleased to see the land used for a Community Centre.

---

NORWICH ONTARIO, OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE ARCHIVES  
BUILDING - September 30, 1978

---

Norwich and District Historical Society had the pleasure of opening their Archives Building to an enthusiastic crowd on Saturday, September 30th, 1978 at 2:00 p.m. Benches were arranged on the lawn out in front, the ribbon was placed already to be cut, by Carson Bushell's father, A.L. Bushell, and Paul Moore; the visiting dignitaries from the governments were in place, Dr. B. Halliday, MP for Oxford and Mayor of Norwich Township were ready to bring us their greetings and congratulations. Jack Burn was the chairman, and all ready to go. Refreshments for later were already laid out for us after we had enjoyed our food for the mind. The President, Donald MacPherson welcomed us.

The building being opened today is the third complex devoted to Norwich history. The Museum was opened in 1970 in the Friends Meeting House offered for that purpose by the Norwich Friends Monthly Meeting. In 1974 the Barn to the rear was opened to house Agricultural Machinery, and today, September 30th, 1978 next door to the Museum they now have an Archives

Building, which is equipped with vaults and other necessities for the safekeeping of Norwich's records. The Archives is a service to coordinate documents, and illustrative material to provide the public with a history of basic activities and deeds of individuals and organizations which have been part of the community in the past.

The Archives Building is the former North Norwich Township Office Building, and was too small to be of use when the later municipal restructuring took place.

Marie Avey, introduced the speaker Edward Phelps, Special Collections Librarian at the D.B. Weldon Library of the University of Western Ontario, and Archivist of the Quaker Collection of the Society of Friends Records there. Here are some gleanings from his speech.

Ed Phelps pointed out that Oxford County was the best documented county in the province. Len Coles preserved material but Oxford County has no written history yet. He pointed out, how old school registers are often used for proof of age for pension rights. He stressed that if you collect things you must make them as accessible as the place from which they came originally. The genealogist is a very likeable chap, but he won't hit the jackpot every time. What to collect? All of something? Very few places have small business records, or records of voluntary associations. Now with computerized history, business records can be handled easier. With the proliferation of collecting agencies there is a need to "Find Your Role" he said. Basically it was Norwich Township. Be all things to Norwich emigres. He was very much impressed by the photo collection. He urged us to get the detail of industrial and business buildings. He urged us not to neglect the children; the converts of the future. It is important to interest three generations all at once. Make your Archives homey, a place to come and study documents. Encourage indexing of church records.

With Ed Phelps's words ringing in our ears, we watched the ribbon cutting ceremony, and the presentation of the portrait of Wilfred Bishop, who had done so much to make the new building possible. We went inside to look over the fine displays and have a cup of tea and talk history to each other.

\* \* \* \* \*

NORWICH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICIALS

Archivist - (Mrs.) Johan Hopkins - Phones:  
Home: 1-519-863-2072  
Archives: 1-519-863-2478  
Museum Curator - (Mrs.) Winifred Hilliker - 1-519-863-2632  
President - Donald MacPherson - 1-519-863-2213

### DEATHS

The Canadian Friends Historical Association has just suffered a terrible blow. In just two days over a month we lost two outstanding Quakers, both from the same Monthly Meeting - Lobo, near London. Harold Zavitz belonged to Coldstream Preparatory Meeting and Walter Balderston to London Preparative Meeting.

#### ZAVITZ, (Charles) Harold, 1898-1978

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Harold Zavitz, on Sunday, September 24, 1978, at the Nel-Gor Castle Nursing Home in London, where he and Neva had moved some time previously from their home at 490 West Mile Road. Harold Zavitz will be remembered long for his outstanding service in the founding of our Canadian Friends Historical Association, and help thereafter in its early days. Elsie Cutler will tell more about his life and service in a memorial which we expect to publish in the next issue. In the meantime, our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Neva (Perry) Zavitz, his son Perry Zavitz of London, and other members of the family. A memorial service was held on September 27th at Coldstream Meeting House, where he was buried in the Friends Burial Ground. Burton Hill conducted the service. Neva is still living at 46 Elmwood Avenue, London, Ontario, N6J 1J2.

#### BALDERSTON, Walter, 1912-1978

Members of the Canadian Friends Historical Association will feel a great sense of loss in the sudden death of our Chairman who died in California, October 26th. A memorial service was held at Coldstream Meeting House on November 3rd. Our warmest sympathy goes out to his wife Marydel and other members of his family. It is sad to think that he lived such a short time after his retirement in June of last year. We expect to publish a longer memorial in a forthcoming issue.

\*\*\*\*\*