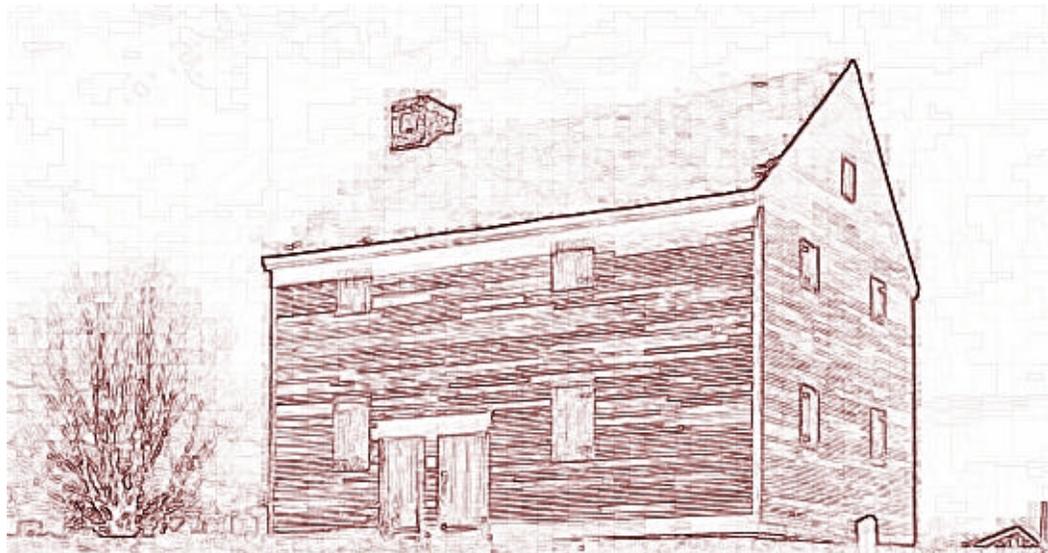

The Meeting House

The Canadian Friends Historical Association

Meeting In Print



Volume: 2008-2

1st Twelfth Month 2008

CFHA CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

13th Eleventh Month 2008

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What would a Newsletter be without 'News'? In our case our current edition of the Newsletter is so crammed with News the question need never arise. The purpose of this newsletter item is to provide you with an update concerning the current status and activity of CFHA, summarize the actions going forward from our recent Annual General Meeting, and provide you with an opportunity to be among the first to subscribe to our exciting Spring 2009 special weekend event. Interested? Please read on!

As those of you who attended our most recent AGM will know, several key changes to our annual membership fees and to our fiscal and membership year were adopted. As these changes will undoubtedly affect your membership please note the steps we are taking to ensure a smooth and fair transition to the new fiscal year.

New Membership Fees

At the last CFHA annual general meeting in Owen Sound, the annual membership dues were increased from \$15.00 to \$25.00 dollars.

New Fiscal and Membership Year

At the same AGM the commencement and ending dates of the CFHA fiscal and membership year were also modified. The previous fiscal and membership year ran from January 01 of a calendar year and ended on December 31st of that year. This is now changed to a commencement date of September 01 and an ending date of the subsequent August 31. See below for the manner in which this change will be implemented.

New CFHA Mailing Address

Please note that our mailing address has now changed. Please direct any written correspondence, membership renewals or enquiries to:

Canadian Friends Historical Association
c/o 298 Kirby Crescent
Newmarket, Ontario L3X 1G9

New CFHA Executive Members

Please welcome Robynne Rogers-Healey and Heather-Anne Lambert to the CFHA Executive. Robynne has kindly taken on the role of the Canadian Friends Historical Journal editor effective the 2009 issue. In addition Robynne and Heather are both collaborating to produce informative and lively newsletters such as the one you are presently enjoying. Heather-Anne is also taking on Chairmanship of the Communications, Publicity and Outreach committee.

...and a Thank-You to Retiring and Returning Executive Members

Please join me in expressing our sincere appreciation for the longstanding contributions of Harold Doan as past membership secretary and Norman Jolly as past Treasurer. Please welcome Ruth Jeffery-MacLean as incoming membership secretary and Andrew Creswell as incoming Treasurer.

Continued on page 2

CFHA CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

continued from page 1

New Name for the CFHA Newsletter

At the AGM a suggestion came forth to provide the CFHA newsletter with an actual name: "The Meetinghouse". With Robynne Rogers -Healey based in Langley, British Columbia and Heather-Anne Lambert located in Aurora, Ontario, our hope is to alternate the main content between East and West. We will have to see if the 'News' co-operates!

Implementing Change—New Membership Year

As a result of the adoption of a new fiscal and membership year a number of action steps have been necessary to ensure that the transition is implemented smoothly and fairly. We have proceeded as follows with respect to the individual memberships:

1. All individuals who are on record as having paid membership dues during or subsequent to December 2007 will be considered to be a member in good standing until August 31, 2009.
2. Members in good standing as described above will receive newsletters and the current 2008 edition of the Canadian Friends Historical Association Journal, now in distribution.
3. If you have received this edition of the Newsletter but have NOT received a copy of the 2008 edition of the Journal please note this indicates that your membership has lapsed. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to ensure you continue to receive communications and publications.
4. Lapsed members will be retained on our active mailing list until the end of July, 2009, and will receive subsequent editions of the newsletter and the occasional polite reminder to renew their membership. Membership fees received up until the end of April, 2009 will be applied to the year ending August 31, 2009, and a copy of the 2008 Journal will be forwarded while supplies last. 'Renewal' membership dues received after April 30, 2009 will be treated as new memberships for the membership year 2009/2010.
5. Members currently in good standing may renew their memberships for the year 2009/2010 at any time between now and August 31, 2009. You may expect to receive polite renewal notifications for the 2009/2010 membership year any time after April 30, 2009.

and finally, a New SPRING EVENT to look forward to!

This coming year a special celebration of joy and song centered on an exploration and experience of African American spiritual songs is being planned. Dr. J LanYe, an accomplished vocal artist, composer, and specialist in African American spirituals will lead a day long event comprising both lecture and presentation and culminating in a moving, uplifting and inspiring evening recital. Please see the additional information and registration form included in this newsletter.

Gordon Thompson, Eleventh Month, 2008. Ref: CFHAChairmanMessage13Eleventh2008

The Plaquing of the Pickering Friends Burial Ground

Jane Zavitz-Bond

On Sunday IX-28-2008, a bright morning after rain, some members of the Ajax Council were present and conducted the dedication of the Ajax Municipal plaque, which sits on a waist-high post and can be seen across the burying ground from the entrance. Jim Adamson spoke on behalf of Friends expressing appreciation to the Municipality and particularly to the council members present who worked with him and a local committee of Friends to arrange permanent care for and recognition of a Quaker site important to the heritage of the community of Ajax.

Some descendants of Quakers buried in the cemetery were present, and shared in the discussion and fellowship which began at the site and continued in the former Meetinghouse in Pickering, a small distance to the west. There the substantial meetinghouse and generous refreshments returned us to the 'living' world. CFHA is grateful to all who have worked to preserve and properly mark the site of a meeting important in the history of Friends in Canada, and one which notes, once again, the sadness of separations in the 19th century.

In 1812, a decade after he founded the settlement at Yonge Street, Timothy Rogers founded the Pickering settlement. It was once a Preparative Meeting of Yonge St. The Hicksite Meeting with this cemetery was established after 1830 and became part of Genesee Yearly Meeting spanning Hicksite meetings in western New York State and southwestern Ontario, then Upper Canada, in 1834. Several Friends buried here had much to do with that history. Some of their descendants are still active Friends in Canadian Meetings today. We need to be reminded of this when we see the burying grounds and 'laid down' meetings across Ontario. Some seeds take root in other places, and a few older implantations continue. CFHA's project for plaquing Quaker sites remains a major concern. This event at Ajax shows the cooperation and awareness that can preserve and mark other Quaker sites in the future.



Seventeenth Biennial Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists (CQHA) by Robynne Rogers Healey

This past June, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England was the site of the Seventeenth Biennial Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists (CQHA). Over two full days (27 – 29 June 2008), scholars and many others with an interest in the history of Quakers and Quakerism and their related documents converged on the former estate of George Cadbury to share ideas and fellowship. It is the first time that CQHA has been held outside North America; it was definitely worth the trip across the Atlantic. The meeting was organized to dovetail with the Quaker Studies Research Association annual conference, resulting in a diverse and extensive group of attendees. The array of papers presented is evidence that Quaker history is a vibrant and growing field that is extending its reach beyond the United Kingdom and the United States.

The conference began on Friday afternoon with a tour of the library at Woodbrooke, the second largest Quaker library in England (after Friends House Library and Archives in London), and a fascinating session exploring the potential digitization of the Dictionary of Quaker Biography. Friday evening, Thomas D.

Hamm, Archivist and Professor of History at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, presented the George Richardson Lecture to a large audience in the Cadbury Room. The lecture entitled “Chipping at the Landmarks of our Fathers’: The Decline of the Testimony against Hireling Ministry in the Nineteenth Century” traced the divisiveness of varied interpretations of the testimony against “hireling priests” that was instrumental in the nineteenth-century separations among Friends. The long day of excellent sessions on Saturday was paused in the afternoon for a walking tour to Bourneville, the model village established by the Cadbury brothers (George and Richard) who wanted to ameliorate the living conditions of their chocolate factory employees. The conference ended on Sunday with business meetings and a concluding session called “What We Have Heard and Where We are Headed.” Ben Pink Dandelion, Programmes Leader, Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies at Woodbrooke chaired the ses-



Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham England

sion in which Thomas D. Hamm, Richard Allen, and Robynne Rogers Healey presented their sense of the conference. A lively dialogue ensued with the input of those in attendance reflecting assorted geographical foci of study from Australia, Norway, the UK, the US, and Canada. The future of the field looks healthy indeed!

The Eighteenth Biennial Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists will be held in June 2010 at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio.

Chris Densmore's report

Dear Jane,

I recently learned that in one of Mary Rogers's diaries at Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburg, Vermont, she reported that a fugitive slave was sent across Lake Champlain en route to Isaac Orvis in Upper Canada. This is a wonderful and rare UGRR connection between the Champlain Valley and Upper Canada.

Don Papson, President
North Country Underground Railroad
Historical Association

Report:

Some of the earliest Quaker settlers in the Ferrisburg area were named Orvis. There were a lot who moved up to Yonge Street Monthly Meeting in what is now Ontario. An Isaac Orvis is received by Yonge Street as a member in early 1833.

In 3 Mo. 1839, Pickering Preparative Meeting sent on a complaint about an Isaac Orvis who struck a person in anger with the handle of an axe, and then used profane language on

forwarded by Jane Zavitz-Bond

several people (presumably either the overseers or a committee from the Preparative Meeting) who visited him.

The monthly meeting sent people to visit Orvis, but they did not seem to be able to reclaim him so Orvis was disowned in 7th Mo. 1839. They do not say who he hit with the axe handle or what excuse he had for doing so. Possibly a coincidence, but at the same meeting were Isaac Orvis is disowned, Elizabeth Orvis was given a certificate to transfer her membership from Yonge Street to Ferrisburg.



Ferrisburg Museum: this historic site was home to four generations of a remarkable Quaker family of abolitionists. It is one of the best-documented Underground Railroad sites in the country

Quakers Here to Explore Underground Railroad

Owen Sound Sun Times

Quakers & The Underground Railroad

Quakers were one of many groups who had come to believe that it was wrong to hold people in bondage, whatever their ethnicity. Early concerned Quakers gave eloquent testimony on the anti-slavery issue and were instrumental in action taken by various Yearly Meetings, which urged from 1758 that members free their slaves. In 1776 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting disowned members who persisted in owning slaves. As early as 1786, some Quakers joined the movement to help runaway slaves reach freedom. This was the real beginning of the Underground Railroad, the secret organization that helped escaping slaves before the Civil War. It was a railroad that ran without tracks, cars, or written records. The abolitionists, for the most part anti-slavery Northerners, were aided by some Southerners who were sympathetic to the cause of freedom. These abolitionists were called conductors." Their homes were the "stations."



About 40 Quakers gathered in Grey County this weekend to explore their society's local connection to the Underground Railroad and the role it played in the abolition of slavery.

As part of the Canadian Friends (Quaker) Historical Association's annual general meeting held Saturday at Grey Roots Museum, the group toured Black heritage sites in and around Owen Sound.

"We haven't reached the point where we see we have a definite connection between the two groups. However, we know there was a vibrant Quaker community in Grey, we know there was a vibrant escaped-slave, Black community in Grey and the law of averages says they had to have interacted," said Andrew Cresswell, the chair of the AGM and one-day conference.

"The Quaker holdings of the museum here are not very extensive and therefore, the role of Quakers locally is largely unknown and that's one of the things we are seeking to recover."

Quakers were actively involved in founding schools and other organizations in the county, including St. Vincent school, the first public school established in that township. Former Quaker communities in Grey County were established in Woodford, Heathcote and Collingwood.

Having only arrived in the area in the 1840s, the small, local Quaker communities had already started to leave the county by the 1880s.

Gord Thompson, the chair of the Canadian Friends (Quaker) Historical Association, says the movement of Quakers to this part of south-western Ontario is commonly called the "final flowering."

"The Quaker communities in Grey are basically expansions of the earlier Quaker communities in southern Ontario and as they were shifting north, the whole Quaker religion was in a state of transition, a state of flux," Thompson said Saturday.

"By the time they got up here, the wholeness of the religious experience was basically breaking down. Numerically they were a smaller portion of the population, they were like melting snow, they largely dissolved into the local area."

At roughly the same time in history, Grey County experienced an influx of Irish and Scottish immigrants who became the "new history" for the area, forcing the Quakers to either blend in or leave.

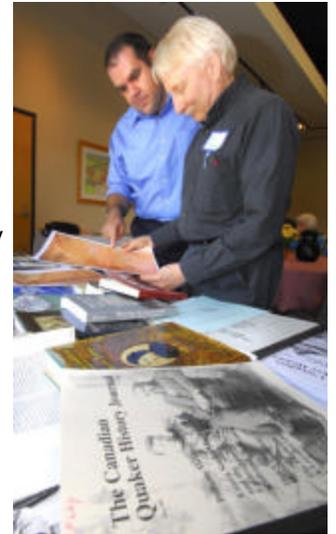
While exact numbers are not known, it is believed about as many as 100 Quakers lived in Grey County. There are two Quaker burial grounds in existence, one near Woodford with seven tombstones and another near Heathcote with an unknown number of plots.

Today, the Quaker disciplines are relaxed from what they once were. Members wear street clothes and no longer use distinct Quaker words like thee and thou when speaking.

However, they keep their dress and appearance simple, eschewing makeup and jewellery, for example. Along with simplicity, peace, equality and integrity are chief among the Quaker doctrines.

There are about 1,200 Quakers in Canada today, 600 of whom live in southern Ontario.

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Canadian Friends Historical Association Fall AGM by Heather Anne Lambert

On the warm and sunny morning of September 20th, 2008, I drove to Owen Sound for the fall AGM of the CFHA. It was a lovely fall day, and as I arrived at the Grey Roots Museum and Archives, I admired the beauty of the unique two year old building. It was constructed to conserve energy, as well as to provide a climate and humidity controlled environment to protect and maintain the exhibits and archived documents.

The topics discussed and decisions made at the AGM can be read in the minutes of that meeting, however, one of the topics discussed was nominations for positions on the CFHA Executive Committee. Most of the vacant spots were duly filled, and the Officers and Executive Committee are now comprised of a dedicated group of individuals who are excited about bringing new life to the Canadian Friends Historical Association. The coming years will include interactive and engaging workshops and meetings, and ongoing opportunities for communication via three newsletter editions each year in addition to the Quaker Journal.

The AGM ended with a spark of enthusiasm that carried through to a thoroughly enjoyable tour of the Grey Roots facility and exhibits. One of the most interesting rooms, for me, was the archive room. It is a large room containing municipal records, township histories, cemetery transcriptions, Bruce and Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society Surname Collection, c. 1919-1965 (also contains family histories) and other fascinating historical information. A visit to this facility is well worth the drive.

After a lovely lunch, prepared by the Grey Roots kitchen staff, we embarked on a bus tour of black history in Owen Sound. From about 1830 to the end of the American Civil War, escaped slaves made their way across the Canada-US border via the Underground Railroad. Many headed for the Village of Sydenham (Owen Sound), the last terminal of the Railroad. They settled there, found work and raised families. It is only recently that the contribution of these early settlers to the City's development and growth has begun to be acknowledged.

We toured early black sites including black Methodist churches, homes of notable black residents, cemeteries, and black homes and business, some of which were safe houses for the Underground Railroad. One of the final stops was Harrison Park, home of the yearly Emancipation Picnic. The picnic has been held every year since 1862, and celebrates the British Commonwealth Emancipation Act of August 1, 1834 and the United States Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. This park is also home to a commemorative cairn, in honour of these early settlers.

Dinner at Grey Roots was followed by the evening program, which focused on black Canadian history. *Speakers for the Dead* producers, Jennifer Holness and David Sutherland, opened the evening with their experiences while filming

this documentary. The film followed; an account of how the early black settlers of Priceville established homesteads, a school and cemetery, only to be pushed off their land by



Gordon at Priceville Cemetery

Scottish and Irish settlers. Only the cemetery remained. The land was used for potato farming in the early 20th century and the tombstones were removed and used for various purposes, from lining a basement floor to a home plate for baseball. The most disturbing and compelling aspect of this documentary was the infighting that occurred between the people of Priceville in the struggle to restore the cemetery. Today a monument resides at the Priceville black cemetery.

Les MacKinnon, our keynote speaker, was at the forefront of the fight to restore the cemetery, and personally met with opposition from many of the townspeople. Les provided a fascinating account of what transpired during his attempts to locate the tombstones. A lively question and answer period followed that shed light on more recent developments.

The final speaker of the evening was Karolyn Smardz Frost, a Canadian archeologist and author of *I've Got a Home in Glory Land*. This book resulted from the 1985 excavation of the Toronto site of two former slaves, Thornton and Lucie Blackburn. The book recounts the slave couple's dramatic escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad. It is an interesting historical book that reads much like a novel. Karolyn spoke about her discoveries at the site, what compelled her to write the book, and the 20 years it took to research the lives of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn.

The evening program was attended by committee members of the Emancipation Picnic, which made for wonderful conversation prior to departure. I know that as I left that night I felt both betrayed and enlightened. I realized how little our history books speak of these early settlers. I had a sense of touching something vital and previously unknown in my country of birth. The day was full. It was a day for learning, sharing, and hoping for a more inclusive, united and honest future.

references

Grey Roots Museum and Archives website: <http://blackhistory.owensound.ca>
<http://www.emancipation.ca/picnic/picnic.html>
http://www.halifaxwritersfest.com/html/karolyn_smardz_frost.html

Moments from the September AGM

by Heather Anne Lambert



Monument at Harrison Park
windows taken from early black church



Karolyn Smardz Frost, a Canadian archeologist and author, talks about her book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land*.



Les MacKinnon and Jennifer Holness answer questions during the Q&A period.



Gordon presents a plaque to **Jennifer Holness** and **David Sutherland** and one of their beautiful daughters.



Quilt Square Tile - Monument at Harrison Park

Quilts that were hung out were used as a means of communication for the run-away slaves. Concealed in the quilt design were complex instructions directing the slave what to do next. The above quilt square is a Monkey Wrench design. This message tells the viewer to gather up family and tools and prepare to escape for freedom.

Escaped slaves settled in one northern terminus of the Underground Railroad, Owen Sound, Ontario. Far north of the American border, and far from the slave catchers, Owen Sound is nestled at the base of the Bruce Peninsula, and has been an important trading centre since long before Europeans came to this continent.

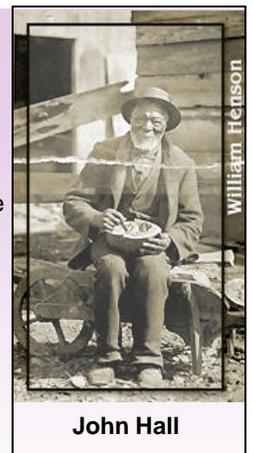
Owen Sound and the Bruce Peninsula became home to many escaped slaves, and many of those former slaves became pillars of their communities. Their names live on today in the museums from Owen Sound to Tobermory.

In Owen Sound's Harrison Park, a cairn commemorating escaped slaves and the contributions they made was unveiled, on July 31, 2004, during the annual Emancipation Picnic. The Emancipation Picnic has been held in Owen Sound every year since 1862; it celebrates the end of slavery in the British Commonwealth (August 1, 1834), and in the United States of America (January 1, 1863).

One prominent escaped slave who settled in Owen Sound was, in fact, born in Canada! John Hall was born in Amherstburg, Ontario, around 1800. He served as a scout for Tecumseh's First Nations warriors during the War of 1812, and was wounded in the leg by bayonet. He, his eleven siblings, and their mother were later 'captured' as 'prisoners of war' by American soldiers, taken south, and sold into slavery. Hall escaped and made his way back to Canada; he eventually settled in Sydenham (now Owen Sound), where he became the town crier. Hall died in 1900.

Why did so many former slaves travel so far north after crossing the border to freedom? Many went to work, drawn by an industrial boom in Owen Sound and surrounding areas in the 1800s. They built ships and sailed them, they worked on railways, in quarries, and in lumber camps. Some became merchants, some became leaders in business.

Some families remain today, some have disappeared, but the roots of the Black citizens, their presence, and their contributions live on in the many fine museums of Owen Sound and surrounding area.



John Hall

147th Emancipation Celebration Festival

Dennis Scott, Chair

Mark Your Calendar!

Join us in celebrating the journey of our ancestors within the **Underground Railroad's most northerly safe haven**. Bring your family and friends for a weekend of music, art, storyboards, crafts, children's' games, speakers, literature & more.

Individuals interested in history, family, culture and community have been congregating every August 1st weekend **since 1862** in Owen Sound, "the most northerly retreat of the Underground Railroad journey in Canada". Descendants of blacks, who came via the Underground Railroad to settle in freedom, gather to reminisce and enjoy a time of fellowship." – www.emancipation.ca

The Emancipation Celebration Festival commemorates the British Commonwealth Emancipation Act of August 1, 1834. Owen Sound and area residents have incorporated celebrating the United States Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863.

Friday, July 31 – 7p.m. to 9:30p.m.

Speakers Forum - "Perspectives - Community, Roots & Culture"

Saturday, August 1 – 1p.m. – 9 p.m.

147th Emancipation Celebration Picnic

Sunday, August 2 – 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Emancipation Gospel Explosion

4th Annual Emancipation Art Exhibit

Grey County Black History Event

8th Annual Genealogical and Educational Conference focusing on local and Canadian Black History

Everyone Welcome

Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada – July 31st to August 2nd

"Community Roots and Culture"

<http://www.myspace.com/osemancipation>

<http://www.osemancipation.ca> osemancipation@hotmail.com (905) 331 0200

Jane's Corner

by Jane Zavitz-Bond

Re: Martha Ann Moore / LaBarre / born 1839. Query from Patti Molenaar

I have not found the LaBarre/Lebar/ - or variants-of the surname in the Archives card index. The fact that Martha Moore married a Methodist in 1863 will indicate NO Meeting records in Canada (after the marriage) , as her marriage would have caused disownment for marrying out while in USA. However, there were Quaker Moore's who were significant in Colonial and post Revolutionary war (1776-1783) period in Quaker history in Canada and the United States. Some were United Empire Loyalists (they did not fight against the British) and many received land grants (or others - often relatives, or neighbours from US) acquired land at modest cost per acre in Canada, as a result of their non-combatant status. A few did support the British openly, and they received the land, and opened the door for migration of other Quakers to settle near by. They were welcomed as good citizens by the British authorities at the time.

There were Pennsylvania Dutch immigrants (mainly Mennonite/ Amish) German speaking (hence the designation "Dutch") who sought the religious freedom in Pennsylvania. Wm. Penn's colony established to be a Holy Experiment in political and social life for all who settled there. The Moore Family was originally Irish, not German. They were important in North American Quakerism. The records for Martha (birth etc. if her parents were Friends/Quakers - and record of her disownment after irregular marriage would be found in the local Monthly Meeting Minutes/ records within Yearly Meeting equivalent to a Conference/Diocese). Martha was one of the common names, next to Elizabeth , Mary, Sarah, etc. Your 1839 date would help tremendously, and under Philadelphia YM (likely). The records at Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College are the best possibility, but no guarantee they are there since many Moores were not Quakers (but the Pennsylvania ones were more likely Quakers, as Penn brought many Irish Friends over). There is a Moore genealogy, as well. Most were in US. The Canadian arm became more manageable/smaller, but as Martha was not a member when she migrated, that will not help! The Canadian Quaker Moores came soon after the Revolutionary War..It appears 'your' Martha was not of that family.

Do you have a question for Jane Zavitz-Bond? Contact either Jane or Heather Anne Lambert. See the last page for details.

Being a Peace Church in the 21st Century: Old Testimonies, New Times

by Barbara Horvath
Yonge Street MM

Crieff Hills, Ontario

September 26-28, 2008

This weekend conference, sponsored by Friends World Committee on Consultation, brought together Friends from southern Ontario and neighbouring American states. Led by Bible scholar, Janet Ross; CFSC Coordinator, Jane Orion Smith; and long-time peace activist, Murray Thomson, 65 Friends explored the meaning of the Quaker Peace Testimony in this post-9/11 world.

The challenges to peace today seem overwhelming, but a parallel was drawn between our chaotic times today and those of the 1650s when Quaker principles were so clearly discerned. We were reminded that the Quaker "peace testimony," as articulated in the 1660 declaration to Charles II, was appropriate for its time, but does not define our witness today.

Our Peace Testimony is demonstrated in how we live, where we work, how we spend our resources. It must begin within and move outward. As individuals, we can strengthen our experience of the Quaker faith, and learn from those who have gone before us. In our homes, we can foster peace in our non-hierarchical family relationships and child raising practices. In our communities, we can align with like-minded people, find common ground, and sustain and support one another. When we engage in the political process and raise awareness of peace issues, our witness can have far more power than our mere numbers.

In today's polarized environment, we need to look for ways to dialogue about peace in a manner that is, itself, peaceful. We heard a number of inventive, non-threatening approaches to engaging people in conversations about peace. We were reminded that we need to look for good news to keep us focused on the positive.

We left the conference with renewed intention, to develop a listening heart which allows us to know, to be compassionate and then to transform.

In order to find a way to work effectively for peace:

- Start somewhere and focus: ask yourself, what is the piece of peace that speaks to your mind and heart?
- Find out who shares your passion or concern: engage with them
- Develop a depth of knowledge
- Express your moral outrage and positive anger (we yearn for peace, but must own our own anger)
- Try not to do too many things at once

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world."

From "A Declaration to Charles II," 1661. Full text at: <http://www.quaker.org/peaceweb/pdecla07.html>

A Fond Farewell Old Testimonies, New Times

by Ruth Jeffery-MacLean
Yonge Street MM

A Life Member of the Canadian Friends Historical Association passed away on 15th day, eleventh month, 2008. Dorothy Muma was a supporter of our organization and a woman who served the Religious Society of Friends for nearly forty years.

Dorothy worked as assistant to Fred Haslam who was the General Secretary of Canadian Yearly Meeting for many years and when Fred retired Dorothy became General Secretary and continued in that role herself for a long time. She also served as secretary for Toronto Monthly Meeting and the Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust.

Friends describe her as a very capable, devoted woman with a wonderful heart who did not suffer fools gladly. Many of us at the CFHA are used to hearing ourselves referred to as the Canadian Friends Hysterical Association, and I have learned this week that we can thank Dorothy for that loving (?) handle.

We will miss her. Well done, Dorothy Muma.



I believe Quaker history matters! *The Canadian Friends Historical Association is dedicated to the preservation and communication of the history and faith of Friends (Quakers) in Canada and their contribution to the Canadian experience.* Your support is needed to ensure we can achieve our mission. Consider 'topping-up' your charitable donations before the end of the current tax year by supporting The Canadian Friends Historical Association. Please make cheques payable to the "Canadian Friends Historical Association". Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

Coming soon - the **CFHA Storefront**. Look in the upcoming edition of The Meeting House for the CFHA Storefront - a list of the available resources for purchase from CFHA.. Purchase back editions of the Journal at discounted prices, or the new CD version in PDF format of the last eight editions of the Journal, including an index.

Ruminations on Illuminations....

by Michèle Mougeot

After attending a number of special occasions at the Sharon Temple National Heritage Site and Museum to learn about history, attend concerts and view art exhibitions, I was privileged to experience this year's illumination ceremony on September 5th. I was surprised by how popular this annual event has become. The excellent turnout was an encouraging means of contributing to the financial support of this unique heritage site.

In addition to those seated within, droves of photographers gathered outside to capture the beauty of this architectural treasure, during the various stages of its illumination. In order to light the uppermost lanterns, it is necessary to climb on the roof. This is only possible when conditions are dry enough, yet one seasoned volunteer commented that the weather has typically been suitable for illumination to occur.

During its active use as a monthly place of worship by the Children of Peace, the Sharon Temple was often filled with music, as its members sang along to a pipe organ and other instruments. To honour this musical tradition, present day illumination ceremonies also incorporate music. This year's ceremony included hypnotic hammered dulcimer music by David Rankine and percussionist, Fernando Villalobos.

John McIntyre, Sharon Temple Director-Curator, also read from David Willson's autobiography, published in 1852. As well, Katherine Belrose performed interpretive dance. Various other artistic expressions at previous ceremonies have included piano, organ, choir and orchestra recitals, as well as theatrical performances and art displays.

A few moments of silent contemplation and worship are generally included in the program, though of a much shorter duration than that of the original meetings, probably to hold the interest of those attending present day ceremonies. The Children of Peace originally attended the Yonge Street Meeting House in Newmarket, but left to form their own congregation in order to worship in silence and also celebrate with music.

I wonder if a sprinkling of music would add a lively new dimension to the Yonge Street Meeting House, as well? Perhaps this could be included, on occasion, before or after the largely silent meetings for worship that are interspersed with vocal ministry.



CFHA Spring Conference

by Andrew Cresswell

On Saturday April 5, 2008 close to 60 people gathered at the historic Yonge Street Meeting House in Newmarket, Ontario to participate in CFHA's Spring Conference, entitled 'Heaven was the word for Canada: The experiences of free Blacks, escaped slaves, and the Religious Society of Friends.'

The day began with a moving presentation by Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley, renowned Canadian musicians who told the story of the Underground Railroad through stories and music. Christopher Densmore, curator of Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College delivered the key note address exploring the issue of the Underground Railroad crossing national, racial and religious boundaries. After lunch, participants heard from Karolyn Smardz Frost, author of the Governor General's Award winning book *I've Got a Home in Glory Land*, and John McIntyre, director of Sharon Temple National Historic Site. The day ended with a panel discussion and moving musical sing-along with Dr. J.

The conference also included displays from Grey Roots Museum, Uncle Tom's Cabin National Historic Site, the Small Gallery, and Buxton National Historic Site.

Comments on the participant surveys included "Good connecting with people about this important cultural and racial relationship", "Glad you exist... keep up the good and necessary work," "Presenters were well-informed and passionate...when is the next spring conference? I can't wait," and "An enriching and fascinating union – thank you!"

CFHA would like to thank the presenters, supporters, and guests for a wonderful day. A special thank you to Yonge Street Monthly Meeting for the use of the Meeting House - a fitting location for this important exploration of our common heritage.



News and Events

1. A special **THANK YOU FRIENDS to Coldstream Monthly Meeting** for their recent membership renewal and kind financial donation to the Canadian Friends Historical Association.
Monthly Meetings are a welcome addition to the CFHA family - Is your Meeting a member?
2. A CD of the sampler for a new project on **George Fox's travels in 1652-3** is now available on the internet at: www.lanacs.ac.uk/fass/projects/quakers
3. **Victoria Friends Meetinghouse**, which dates to 1913, is a well-preserved and well-maintained home for Vancouver Island Friends. We have a fine meeting house and garden surrounding, also well-tended by resident Friends. We have recently completed extensive restoration of window sashes and other wood frame, and have re-painted it in the colours as close as we can determine to the original. Funds for this were contributed by local Friends, the CYM Meetinghouse Fund, and the City of Victoria's Heritage Fund. We are blessed to have this home. (submitted by Arnold Ranneris)
4. **Friends News** Jim Adamson celebrated his 90th birthday on October 16th. Jim is a long and faithful member of CFHA and has also worked for the plaquing of the Pickering Friends Burial Ground, where, among others, Timothy Rogers is buried. Our warm wishes to Jim.
5. The **Open Doors** events in Ontario included the Newmarket Yonge St. Meetinghouse, Pickering College, the Seneca Doan House; and Sparta had the Friends Burying ground and Orchard Hill Farm - organic Quaker farm into 6th generation of Haight - Zavitz- Laing family. On Saturday, October 18th, two hundred fifty eight visitors came to Orchard Hill with its Suffolk-farmed CSA garden and timber-frame buildings. The most recently-constructed building is a straw bale, mud-plastered bunk house for the farm's apprentices. When the *Canadian Geographic* featured organic farms in Ontario several years ago four of the five were operated by Quakers families. Sites for 2009 are to be submitted in December. (Jane Zavitz-Bond)
6. The **Uxbridge Meeting Historical Association** is holding its annual Meeting for Worship on June 14th, 2009 for its 200th and all are invited to share. Folks from Uxbridge visited Sparta and Port Stanley for this year's Open Doors tour.
7. **CFHA Spring 2009 Meeting:** Dr. J LanYe, an accomplished vocal artist, composer, and specialist in African American spirituals will lead a day long event comprising both lecture and presentation and culminating in a moving, uplifting and inspiring evening recital.
8. **Passing of Friends:** The deaths of T. H. McLeod, in Victoria, BC last February 2008, Kenneth Muma this past summer in his 99th year, and Dorothy Muma on November 15th in her 86th year. All were faithful and supportive members of CFHA over the years. Both were authors who integrated their Quaker faith at work and in the world. They made their lives count. Specific details of each available if you wish more-- ask! We need to incorporate new strength and energy to continue recording and making Quaker history known; this is an appropriate way to honour them by continuing in their wake.



Coldstream Monthly Meetinghouse

Canadian Friends Historical Association was founded in 1972 with the aim of preserving and making known the religious, cultural, social and pioneer heritage of Quakers from when they first settled in Canada until today.

CFHA is open to all who share an interest in Canadian Quaker History. Membership in CFHA is welcomed and needed. Membership supports the Canadian Quaker Archives and helps maintain CFHA's website. Membership entitles you to Canadian Quaker History, the annual journal, and periodic newsletters published by CFHA.

We are always looking for fresh new material on Quaker History in Canada. If you have an article that you would like to submit to the journal, please send to:

- Jane Zavitz-Bond's email at janezb@allstream.net
- Heather Anne Lambert at halambert@aci.on.ca.

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