

The Meetinghouse

A quarterly newsletter published by the Canadian Friends Historical Association for members and Friends

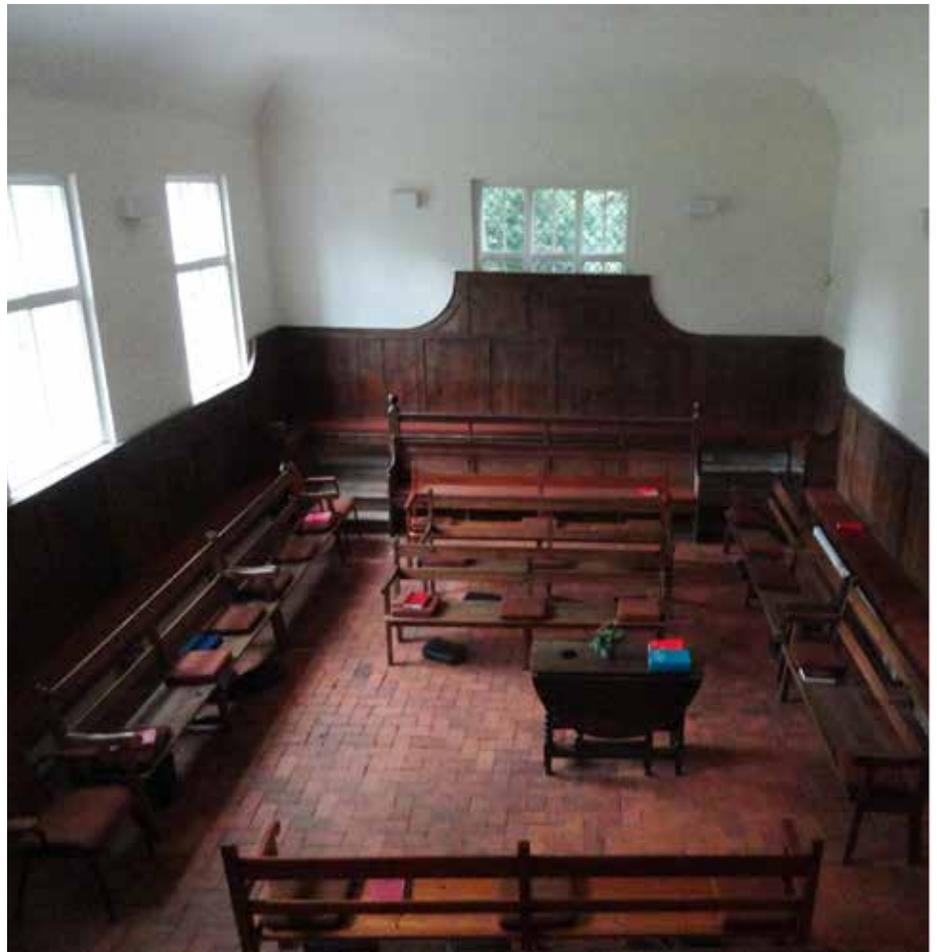
Winter 2014



*A service to celebrate the life of **Aubrey Martin** was held recently in Toronto. See pages 7 and 8.*



***Robynne Rogers Healey**, editor of the *Canadian Quaker History Journal* and Vice Chair, Communications, of the **CFHA**, reports on her visit to the UK and the Quaker Studies Research Association annual meeting at Woodbrooke October 10 and 11. See page 6.*



*Above is the meeting room of Jordans Meetinghouse, one of Britain's Oldest Quaker meetinghouses. **Sheila Havard** of Coldstream Monthly Meeting, visited the Jordans Meetinghouse recently. See pages 9 and 10.*

CFHA Chair encourages members to submit 'witness for peace' stories ... page 3



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The Mission of the Canadian Friends Historical Association is the preservation and communication of the ongoing history and faith of the Religious

Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada and their contribution to the Canadian Experience.

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

The Meetinghouse

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Articles, reports, book reviews and photos about historical events, families and places involving The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) are welcome. See due dates for copy below. Please email the Editor at: patmor123@gmail.com

In this issue

- 2 CFHA Directory, contact information
- 3 Chairman's Message ... Gordon Thompson
Submission of 'witness for peace' stories encouraged
- 4, 5 Transcriptions of Nine Partners Monthly Meeting
minute books relate to Canada Quaker experience
- 6 Quaker Studies Research Association annual meeting
held in UK
- 6 Gift of historical book helps Quakers appreciate their heritage
- 7, 8 Service held to celebrate the life of Aubrey Martin
- 9, 10 Visiting Jordans Meetinghouse, one of the oldest
Quaker meetinghouses in Britain
- 11, 12 CFHA members attend bi-annual conference of
Quaker Historians and Archivists

The Meetinghouse Spring 2015 issue deadline, distribution

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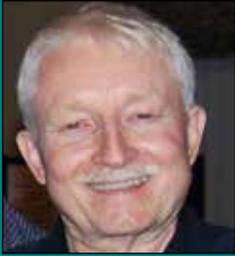
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Chairman's Message

... Gordon Thompson, Chairman

Submission of 'witness for peace' stories encouraged



Gordon Thompson

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

(Matthew 5 verse 9, KJV)

When Quakers and members of the "Peace" churches began to settle and establish communities in Canada they brought with them a long established tradition of adherence to certain principles regarding human relationships. Quakers in particular promulgated their understanding that the "Peaceable Kingdom" was achievable on Earth, consistent with the principles embodied and expressed in the Quaker Peace Testimony.

Collectively, these groups have made an important and significant contribution to the Canadian identity and the sense Canadians share of what is possible and desirable in the world.

This contribution to Canadian society and values needs to be better understood, documented and appreciated. It is a contribution of much more than an abstract concept

called "The Peace Testimony". Rather, through their collective relations with First nations, their opposition to slavery and advocacy for women's and human rights, and their willingness to declare themselves conscientious objectors and suffer the consequences, Quakers have provided real life models and examples of how human relationships can be ordered and experienced.

Quaker witness in sharp contrast to human cruelty

The history of this Quaker witness stands in sharp contrast against the strident voices and terrible images of human cruelty which lately predominate the media. Is this contrast well enough known, we may ask, outside the membership of **CFHA** and Quaker meetings?

Amid the many commemorative events and documentaries which mark the centenary of the start of the First World War mention of the Quaker voice and response is notably lacking. This is a voice, and a contribution to Canadian society, that is as valuable and necessary in these days as it ever was historically.

CFHA works hard to document and promote awareness of the contributions that have been made to Canadian society by members of the Religious Society of Friends. Some aspects of this contribution

- the participation of Canadian Quakers in the Friends Ambulance Unit, for example, have been reasonably well documented in articles published in the *Canadian Quaker History Journal*. There remain, however, numerous accounts of the way in which Quaker meetings and individuals have responded during times of conflict and human suffering.

CFHA members are encouraged to consider whether or not they may have personal knowledge and documentation on this subject which they may wish to share and have added to the public record of Quaker contributions.

Submissions of any length are welcome, and longer articles will be considered for publication in forthcoming issues of the Journal. Your untold stories of witness for Peace represent an opportunity for this aspect of Canadian Quaker legacy to continue to make a necessary contribution.

As the year draws to a close and the New Year dawns I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of myself and the **CFHA** Executive a holiday greeting and our sincere Best Wishes that you find encouragement and refreshment in the coming year.

Gord

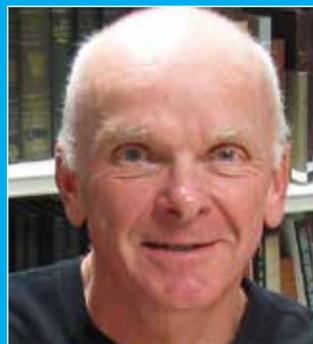
Gordon Thompson,
Chair, **CFHA**



Carman Foster
Volunteer transcriber



Moira Greenlee
Volunteer transcriber



Randy Saylor
Volunteer transcriber
and co-ordinator



Doug Smith
Volunteer transcriber

Transcriptions of Nine Partners minute books relate to Canadian Quaker experience

Recent visitors to the **CFHA** website will have noticed some changes and updates involving minute books and other records related to Canadian Quaker history.

Some content has been re-arranged and frequent new postings and updates added, related to the transcription of minute books of the Nine Partners Monthly Meeting in New York State.

In response to an earlier request, digital copies of these minute books and other records related to Canadian Quaker history were provided to **CFHA** courtesy of **Chris Densmore** at Swarthmore College,

CFHA webmaster and researcher **Randy Saylor** soon recruited an enthusiastic group of volunteer transcribers: **Carman Foster, Doug Smith, Moira Greenlee, and Randy** as transcriber and coordinator. The group started work near the end of Ninth Month 2014 and have completed the following:

- 1) Nine Partners MM Men's Minutes 1783-1790 (transcribed and under review)
- 2) Nine Partners MM Men's Minutes 1790-1797 (reviewed and posted)

Transcription of the Nine Partners MM Women's Minutes 1794-1811 is approximately 50 per cent complete. The work performed so far has resulted in the creation of approximately 500 pages of text.

This work marks an important contribution to the historic record of the migration and settlement of Quakers in Upper Canada. Until Adolphustown Monthly Meeting is set off from Nine Partners in 1801, all affairs of the Quakers in the eastern part of Upper Canada were under the oversight of the senior meeting.

As a result, the Nine Partners minute books are revealing a rich and detailed record and glimpse into the lives of the early Canadian Quaker pioneers. As **Carman Foster** posted in an e-mail to the

group: "Finally a Mention of Earnestown".

To aid researchers **Randy Saylor** has provided a listing of the Nine Partners minute book references to Quaker activity related to Upper Canada. A listing of the family names included in the minute books will be added at a later date.

To those who have not read early minute books these transcriptions open up a world that is at the same time familiar and enriching in terms of Quaker experience and is also fascinating "what-happens-next?" sort of reading. The transcriptions can be easily accessed at www.cfha.info.

Participation in the project is open to all **CFHA** members and interested volunteers. The Nine Partners minute books represent only a small fraction of the documents provided in digital images for transcription and posting.

Continued on page 5

Transcriptions of minute books

... from page 4

All the records relate in some manner to Canadian Quaker experience. These include Minutes of Genesee Yearly Meeting and other US meetings which recorded Canadian Quaker activity.

Contents of the Hicksite Indian Committee from 1868 onwards, once transcribed, will be of particular interest to those with an interest in Quaker relationships with First Nations.

If you are interested in learning more about the transcription project please contact gordthompson@eaton.com or randy.saylor@gmail.com - **Gordon Thompson**

The following excerpt is a passage that **Carman Foster**, one of the volunteer transcribers working on this project, re-marked on:

"At a Monthly Meeting held at Nine-Partners 16 of 11 mo. 1796

Most of the Committee on the Acknowledgment from Peter Irish & to unite with the women on a number of requests from other persons in upper Canada report that part of them has made them a visit and it was their sense that Aaron Brewer was convinced of friends principles, sincere in his request this conduct appeared orderly, under consideration thereon accepts him a member

We have had an opportunity with Peter Irish and he appeared Sincere in his Acknowledgment, after a deliberation thereon accepts it which is as follows viz. (Earnest Town County of Lenox Upper Canada. To the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Nine Partners in the State of New York. Dear Friends; Whereas I have had a right of membership amongst you but not taking heed to that Principle of Truth which would have preserved me but Contrary thereunto married contrary to the good order used amongst friends, which misconduct I am Sorry for and do condemn and desire friends to pass by the Same and receive me under your care again.

Peter Irish)

We have also had an opportunity with Cornelius Blount he appeared convinced of our principles Sincere in his request by inquiry find his Conduct orderly, after a time of Consideration accepts him a member ~

Likewise with Thomas Bowerman & believe him convinced of friends principles Sincere in his request his life and conversation by inquiry appeared to be orderly under consideration thereon accepts him a member and also with Daniel Way and he appeared convinced of our principles Sincere in his request by inquiry his conduct appeared orderly after a deliberation thereon accepts him a member. Enoch Dorland, Tripp Mosher, Zophar Green & Wm. Valentine are appointed to inform them of their reception and report when so done."

"Finally, a mention of Earnestown..."

*- Transcriber
Carman Foster*



A Quaker cap from the 1800s

At right: the interior of the Nine Partners Monthly Meeting in New York State.



Research Update

Quaker Studies Research Association annual meeting held in UK

By **Robynne Rogers Healey**

In early October, 2014 I had the privilege of spending time visiting two of my favourite places in the UK – Friends House Library in London and Woodbrooke Quaker Studies Centre in Birmingham.

This year's Quaker Studies Research Association annual meeting at Woodbrooke (October 10 and 11) was dedicated to presentations of papers based on a forthcoming book edited by **Richard C. Allen** and **Rosemary Moore**. The book, to be published by Penn State University Press will be entitled *The Quakers, 1656-1723: The Evolution of an Alternative Community*.

The collaborative efforts of a number of Quaker scholars will be an important reassessment of **William Braith-**



Robynne Rogers Healey

waite's *The Second Period of Quakerism* originally published in 1919. My own chapter in the collection will deal with Quaker leadership in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the last years of the "second period".

The opportunity to interact with other Quaker studies scholars and those in attendance at the conference was a time of great collegiality. The conference concluded

with the annual George Richardson lecture, an annual address by a leading scholar in Quaker studies. **Stephen W. Angell**, the Geraldine C. Leatherock Professor of Religion at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana, presented the 2014 George Richardson lecture, "*Richard Farnworth, Samuel Fisher, and the Authority of Scripture among Early Quakers.*"

For those interested in hearing the lecture they may find it available online at <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/publications>.

Robynne Rogers Healey is editor of the *Canadian Quaker History Journal* and Vice Chair, *Communications*, of the **CFHA**.

Gift of historical book helps Quakers appreciate their heritage

By **Jane Zavitz Bond**,
CYM Archivist

Yarmouth Meeting in Sparta, Ontario, and the *Dorland Collection* of the Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) Archives have each received a special book, **DANIEL ABELL (1784 - 1868) QUAKER CABINET-MAKER ON THE TALBOT ROAD**, from author and researcher **Donald Anger**.

Daniel Abell, a young artisan, came to The Sugarloaf settlement in Niagara from Connecticut, in 1803. He became a Friend during the War of 1812-14; married a Quaker lass, **Annis Bearss**, and continued to advance his skills

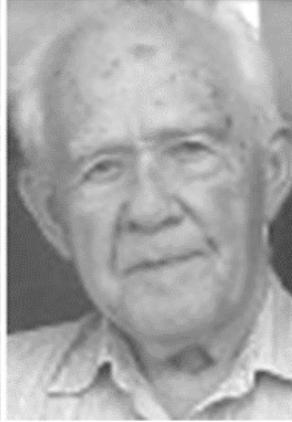
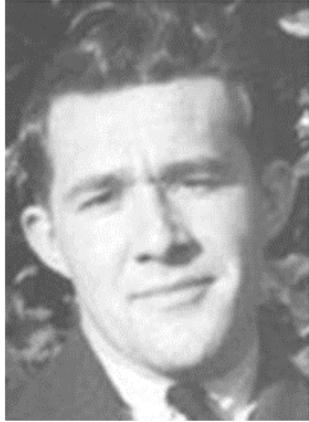
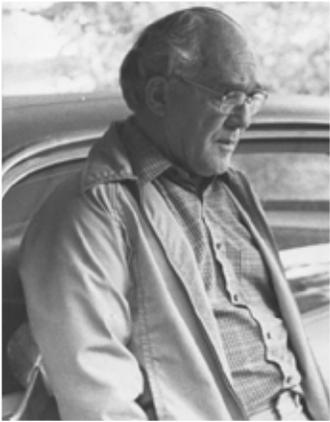
from mill sawer to furniture craftsman. By 1828 he came to Malahide, via Bayham to the east, as part of the Meeting there.

The furniture craftsman set up a family business that expanded and prospered over the years. The plain chairs, cupboards and coffins, all needed, supplied the Quakers and others in the community who valued their good materials and workmanship. Representing the Quaker beliefs of integrity and simplicity in daily living, the surviving artifacts still speak to us today.

Don Anger, a retired history teacher, ties the events of Upper Canadian history to

Daniel Abell and his family's story. A number of us with local Quaker roots may find our ancestors tucked in among these pages. It matters if we have, as **Don Anger** and his wife do, a family heirloom in our homes which can remind us of our heritage from ancestors who met the challenges of the past with faith, courage and, yes, work, as a legacy.

Always a teacher, **Donald Anger** brought the many researched "bits" to life through **Daniel Abell**. Reading his story helps us to be more aware of our heritage. We appreciate this gift, and all that went into creating it.



Aubrey Martin (at left) in a pensive mood; centre as a young man; at right, in latter years.

Andy Barrie holds **Aubrey Martin's** "favourite sweater" urn; daughter **Wendy** reworked it to hold his ashes.

'A mere grave or sweater cannot hold our loved one'

"And this is the Comfort of the Good, that the grave cannot hold them"- From Poem for a Quaker Funeral by **William Penn**

By **Cynthia Martin**

Aubrey Martin—true to the essence of **William Penn's** excerpt—cannot be contained by a grave. Indefatigable, innately peaceful and an eternal optimist, he was an unselfish gentle man who never complained, so when an infection was thrust upon him and he died three weeks later, it truly was surreal.

Even when active at 94 years of age, it seems accepted a person is pretty much living on bonus time, but Aubrey was always ageless given that curiosity was his constant companion; the evening before he died even asking the emergency room doctor if copper tubing was still used in one of the machines hooked up.

Andy Barrie, the service's celebrant said, "I'm very honoured to speak of Aubrey at this passing on to the next place. Over the years I got to know Aubrey, this remarkable astounding fellow," said the former host of CBC's Metro Morning.

"One thing I shared with Aubrey was our Quaker forbearers. I was married by the Quakers and owe to them my place in Canada today. I was a deserter in Vietnam, as you know, and the Quakers made it possible for me to safely get to Canada."

An accidental Quaker, before he found out in the 1970s he had such ancestry, **Aubrey Martin** became a reconnaissance photographer. When called to serve in WWII, he said he would not hold a gun, would not kill anyone.

Ending the war as Sergeant of 39 RECCE Wing RCAF, like many, he brought pictures home as proof, rarely mentioning the war; to a daughter pointing at one harrowing photo saying, "War isn't glorious, this is war."

He and **Wyn Mossop** had married in 1951, living in the same modest house for 60 years with the same bedroom set he'd made from pine and wooden box backs.

"...A great many men and women have had to learn this unpalatable lesson—and then have discovered that magnificent opportunities lay all around them... We shall find them among our neighbours as well as among strangers, in our own families as well as in unfamiliar circles—magnificent opportunities to be kind and patient and understanding."

Excerpt from reading at the service by **Clifford Haigh**
1962 (Chapter 21.43)

Having joined the Toronto Transit Commission as an apprentice electrician just before the war, he returned, rising to Manager of Construction several years before retiring, better suiting his moniker "Mr. Subway."

He cherished his 45 plus years there, relishing its challenges, was rarely stumped, always intrigued by any problem.

Father to **Wendy Mackenzie (Norman)**; grandfather of **Kayella** and great-granddaughter **Ryan**, grandfather of **Katherine**. Father to **Cynthia** and grandfather to **Aubrey**, father to **Nancy**; the three daughters all learned early to fix things, not knowing until our 20s people actually hired "handymen."

Continued on page 8

'A mere grave or sweater cannot hold our loved one' ... from page 7

With a life-long insatiable need to fix things, he was steward of some 534,263 tools and hardware finds; it wasn't exaggeration—born in 1920 he knew that every single thing had a value and a few purposes.

His resume listed 22 hobbies, including that he liked to "help others with their electrical/mechanical problems." As said at his 1985 retirement, he and Wyn derived "a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction in doing things for others," like the God within.

Donation to CFHA

Aubrey would have appreciated our suggestion for donations to the **CFHA** (although most may have chosen the alternate in taking a person to dinner). For all, the thought that a mere grave or sweater cannot hold our loved ones gives comfort to those who remain.

We see it in our familial appreciation of Robertson screwdrivers, white tea, ordinary pencils, our love of Szechwan food and so much more, evoking tender and amusing memories.

At the forefront though, are compelling reminders we should also be examples of purposefulness and ever mindful of the needs of others. I think of the neighbourhood fireworks that they had held without fail or rain, with 2014 being the 60th annual event.

"Outside of Aubrey's house there is this sundial," said Andy, "the gnomon casting its shadow every year over where he had carved a heart on their

wedding anniversary. Unbelievable."

The night of Victoria Day, in the driveway by that sundial, Aubrey hosted the last annual Quaker in the full sense, he was a practicing friend; so many people here speaking to that friendship."

Honoured with a giant card and a tiara, waving off compliments as he always did, embarrassed in being thanked for even the most complex of favours he had done, he donned the dollar store tiara as if it was from the Crown Jewel collection.

Four weeks later, days after giving a D-Day presentation on his photography unit's work, he joined his beloved Wyn on June 16, who died seven years prior.

In choosing cremation in 1964—some 3% of Canadians then—he unknowingly held to Quaker modesty, a

simple flat stone inscribed with their names and dates with so very much unwritten.

After showing Aubrey's sweater urn to the packed room, Andy said he wanted to call a columnist, "You've got to get up to Don Mills and meet this guy, he's an incredible character," he said. "Then I held my breath as no, he's not a character, the word 'character' is patronizing. He was a polymath," Andy said.

"He was not Master of Some Trades he was a Master of all Trades and a Jack of None. Everything he did he did it seriously, in-depth, passionately – if he had 3,000 cameras it was because that was 3,000 stories he could tell as each one was a different story. He was the most interesting 'character' I ever met..."

Readers of *The Meetinghouse* being asked to choose the format they prefer to receive

Which do you prefer, a printed hard copy or a digital (electronic) copy of *The Meetinghouse* sent by e-mail?

That is the question **CFHA Chair Gord Thompson** and other Executive Committee members are asking association members. Some members and other Friends still prefer reading a printed hard copy of this publication; however, for various reasons, an increasing number of people prefer an electronic or e-version.

As well as reducing dependence on and use of natural resources to produce a paper-based publication, an electronic version saves on printing costs.

All **CFHA** members, and any other Friends who are receiving *The Meetinghouse*, are being asked to please e-mail **Donna Moore**, Vice-Chair of Membership, and tell her whether they prefer an e-version copy only. Please contact Donna at: d.moore3@sympatico.ca. Thank you.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

By Sheila Havard

In September 2014 I visited one of the oldest Quaker meetinghouses in Britain, Jordans Meetinghouse. The purpose of my visit was to check out the exhibit in the meeting house gallery and, specifically, examine some photographs of World War I Friends Ambulance Unit trainees to see if I could make out my father's face.

While trying to track down my family past, I became fascinated with the history of the meetinghouse itself.

The birth of Quakerism is associated with England's Lake District; however, Jordans Meetinghouse, Buckinghamshire, in the Chiltern Hills about 20 miles east of London, also merits inclusion in our faith's early history.

Jordans Meetinghouse was built in 1688 right after the 1687 Declaration of Indulgence, which at last allowed sects to worship publicly. Up until that time they had been forbidden to do so.

Before the Declaration of James II, Nonconformists gathering together in groups of more than five could be convicted. Fines were levied for those not attending the established church, the Church of England. When the Declaration, also known as the Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, was reissued, seven bishops refused to read it out in church as instructed. They ended up in the Tower of London.

In 1688, the property consisted of the Barn, the farm – used as a Meeting House prior to the construction of the present building – and the burial ground.

William Penn worshipped at the farm on occasion.



Above is the meeting room of Jordans Meetinghouse, one of Britain's Oldest Quaker meetinghouses. Below, a friend of **Sheila Havard** poses in front of the restored red brick meetinghouse.



Continued on page 10

Where it All Began...Jordans Meetinghouse

... continued from page 9

Isaac Penington, Thomas Ellwood and **John Bellers** also have connections with the property.

The Barn, which according to some, contained timbers from the Plymouth Mayflower, is notable because training camps for World War I conscientious objectors bound for the Friends Ambulance Unit were held there. After a disastrous fire in 2005 destroyed the roof of the Meeting House, the Barn was sold to help cover the cost of reconstruction.

The existing property consists of the Meetinghouse and the burial ground. Close by the Meeting house, at the bottom of the sloping burial ground, can be found the remains of William Penn and family. One stone is inscribed "the Penn children". Perhaps the lack of names indicates that they died shortly after birth.

After the 2005 fire, Jordans Meetinghouse, a red brick structure in Flemish bond style, has been beautifully restored. It nestles in a hollow at the bottom of the village. When I visited with a history teacher friend, we were lucky to meet the warden at the front door. Although visiting hours were over, we had the privilege of a conducted tour.

Fortunately, the interior of the building was preserved when the fire destroyed the roof and the modern extension. The meeting room has white-washed walls and a brick floor. Behind the facing bench is a sounding board, which improved the room's acoustics. The recorded ministers, whether men or women, sat on the facing benches. During business meetings women Friends gathered in the gallery overlooking the meeting room while the men remained in the main part of the meeting room.

The gallery now houses historical records, which include



Jordans Meetinghouse
burial grounds

group pictures of World War I Friends Ambulance Unit trainees. In vain I searched for my father's face in those old photographs.

The village of Jordans itself was a Quaker experiment, an earnest endeavour by some Friends to preserve the land adjacent to the Meetinghouse. Some 100 acres were purchased in 1918 and registered as Jordans Village. Its objectives were:

"To acquire, develop, maintain and govern an estate object at Jordans, by means of a Village Community to be founded in accordance with Christian principles and in a manner serviceable to the national well-being; and in furtherance thereof to erect or permit the erection thereon of residences and any other kind of building, and to promote the establishment therein of suitable industries on sound and just lines so as to give to those engaged therein scope for the growth of character."

See http://archive.org/stream/jordansquakershr00warn/jordansquakershr00warn_djvu.txt

Sadly, much of the Jordans property has had to be sold but

what remains - the meetinghouse and burial ground - is the all-important core, a place of peace and beauty, in which the past is palpable.

As for where and when my father trained for the World War I Friends Ambulance Unit, that will have to be left for another journey of discovery.

1. For those unfamiliar with the World War I Friends Ambulance Unit here's a brief summary: "...besides all the medical, hospital, and relief work, the Ambulance Convoys ... carried 260,000 wounded; the Ambulance Trains, 520,000 patients; and the Ambulance Ships transported 33,000 cases.

The funds collected amounted to £138,000. This [work] was done by an unenlisted and unpaid...band of young men to show their sense of duty to their...country, who, while conscientiously feeling they could not take life, believed they were truly following Him who came 'not to destroy men's lives but to save them.'"

See http://archive.org/stream/jordansquakershr00warn/jordansquakershr00warn_djvu.txt



Above, Westtown School Meetinghouse in West Chester, PA

CFHA members attend bi-annual conference of Quaker Historians, Archivists

Two years ago the Pickering Archives of Canada Yearly Meeting hosted the Conference of Quaker Archivists and Historians at the former Quaker school, Pickering College, in Newmarket, Ontario.

This year Westtown School - an active Quaker centre of learning in West Chester, Pennsylvania - provided the venue.

The proximity of Westtown School to the larger centers of Quaker study such as Swarthmore and Haverford ensures that the conference is well attended. This year more than 80 registrants participated.

Canada was well represented by **Robynne Rogers-Healey**, conference co-organizer; **Sandra McCann Fuller** and **Gordon Thompson**, Chair of the Canadian Friends Historical Association.

Unfortunately, Canadian Yearly Meeting Archivist **Jane Zavitz-Bond** was unable to attend this year; however, Jane's many friends attending the conference appreciated her letter of regret which was read at the closing session.

The **CFHA** display was set up in the display area and proved popular with the conference registrants.



Westtown School foyer with historic walnut table. Below a plaque describes a walnut stretcher table made before 1750.





Above, Westtown School Boys' Residence and Infirmary



Westtown School Girls Residence.



A young man and **Sandra McCann Fuller** at the **CFHA** display during the Conference of Quaker Archivists and Historians.

Bi-annual conference of Quaker Historians, Archivists... *from page 11*

This conference took place between Monday, January 16 and mid-day Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

Westtown School is a Quaker Pre-K-12th grade co-ed, private, college preparatory day and boarding school that has been operating since 1799.

For a complete listing of the many and varied interesting papers presented during the conference please check the "Program" tab at 2014 Program – Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists library.guilford.edu/cqha/program.

Sessions also included panel and round table discussions on issues related to the digitization of Quaker records.

The next Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists will be held in conjunction with Quaker Studies Research Association at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham, England, on June 24-26, 2016.

