



NEWSLETTER

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

c/o Pickering College, 16945 Bayview Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4X2

CFHA Newsletter Fall 2003

- MESSAGE from CFHA CHAIRPERSON -

Greetings! The Annual General Meeting on a beautiful Fall week-end in Kingston with Thousand Island Friends was special for us all. Add the settings at the Cataraqui Conservation Centre, the Cataraqui Cemetery, and Sunday Meeting for Worship on Queen's campus, and the fellowship these all permitted, along with the presentations, which will appear in the CQH Journal 2003, all combined to make us thankful indeed. We were rich in blessings even as we look, still, at the needs implicit in Philip Smith's sharing about prisoners and the justice system in Ontario. We express our appreciation to all who participated and helped make this a valuable time. Each year is different, and, we hope, always special, but with its own theme.

To look at our ongoing activities - We are working toward more on-line access, but that will take time. It is exciting to see the next phase of the CFHA's life coming into view! Related bodies, such as Quaker Historians and Archivists (QH&A) in the USA, the CYM Archives under care of Records Committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM), the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS), and the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) are closest to us. Some of you work in them, too, and that work is valued.

We each have our roles and we are assessing how to make our efforts more efficient and supportive. Any energy saved we can use where needed most. The hope for Peace and the need to make clear responses to our governments at this time can take any extra energies we have. The Peace Testimony is the historic stand of Friends from the early days of Quakerism when George Fox discovered that he could not accept a commission offered in the Puritan Army - he explained that he lived 'in that life and power which took away the cause of all war'. May we all seek that power and spirit of Love in the world that will work to allow the miracle of Peace today, so needed as we are called to attack positively the many problems of environment and all the related living with justice issues that are the seeds of terror and war in this world.

My message summarized as it impacts all our living is simply - Live Peace! JZB

- BLACK HISTORY MONTH comes in FEBRUARY-

Black History Ontario asks any persons with information regarding the Underground Railroad (URR) in Ontario to get in touch with Rosemary Sadlier, Black History Ontario, or Shannon Ricketts, Parks Canada, 25 Eddy Street - 5th Floor, Hull, PQ, K1A 0M5. Phone: 819-953-4611.

Black Community at Milldale, Ontario:

On 30 May 2003, Deborah Haight and Jane Zavitz-Bond went to the historical re-enactment at Otterville near the site of the Black Community at Milldale. Dalyce Newby presented "Hidden in Plain Sight", quilt blocks made to show directions northwards for escaping slaves. The quilts were often hung over porch railings or clotheslines so that help was given although no words were exchanged. Dalyce had relatives at Buxton and Milldale. Deborah's great-grandfather, William P. Barker, developed Milldale, and assisted Black families to re-settle when Wilberforce near Lucan, north of London, faltered. Readers will remember Ron Mattson's paper on Benjamin Lundy's trip to Wilberforce.

- LETTER to the EDITOR -

Thursday, Feb 20, 2003

Dear Editor,

Re: On the trail of discovery - Coffin Connection in PEI

I thought the following story would interest your readers. In February 1998, Pauline Hallanzy, a Quaker living in Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, England, wrote to me (Daphne Davey), as contact person for the Prince Edward Island Worship Group, "as a fellow Quaker ... who has strong connections to the Island". Through genealogical research she had discovered through her father, an Islander transplanted to England through the circumstances of WWII, that she was descended from Elisha Coffin, a Nantucket Quaker who relocated in 1780 to Nova Scotia and thence to St John's Island (PEI). Pauline, born and reared in England, found her spiritual home with Friends, at Malden Meeting, Essex, after which research revealed that hers was not the first instance of Quakerism in the family. I let time slip by ... Fortunately, I found Pauline through a website for Burnham-on-Crouch, thanks to the retired police chief who runs it. Then, Meacham's Atlas (1881 - reprinted) and Cummin's Atlas (ca1928) showed 'Coffins all over the map', as in Savage Harbour and areas on the north shore of the island. Now I owed Pauline much more than a letter; so, with a friend in tow, I drove up to take photos for her of the scenery and perhaps the "Coffin" name on a mailbox.

As we cruised slowly into the village of Savage Harbour, our eyes scanned for "Coffin". Sure enough, the name started popping up on mailboxes, one of which stood at the end of a driveway in which an older couple were repairing a shed. In one of those divinely inspired moments I chose to turn into the driveway and share with these people why we were there. Bull's eye! Douglas and Anna Coffin, retired fishers, invited us into their home for a chat. As we sat at the table, Douglas reached round behind him and pulled from the antique dresser two sheaves of paper: a typed genealogical history, over 80 pages, of his Coffin's family history from before "Nantucket Elisha's" time to the present, and a 58 page history of Anna (Douglas) Coffin's family who on many occasions had intermarried with the Coffins. In an extraordinary act of trust, Douglas and Anna lent me both documents, with permission to photocopy them for Pauline in England and for the Canadian Friends Historical Association.

I am now enclosing for CFHA, a copy of the Coffin family history, full of Quaker references.

The Coffin history states: " It is generally accepted that Elisha and his (uncle)Uriah were the first

- Scott Aaron has been working the John Kipp line and has similar problems. We can only send the data in the records of the CYM Archives. People married out, moved to where there was no meeting, didn't move their memberships. He is building a file that is important in the Norwich-Yarmouth areas.
- Norma Dilts is seeking information for her mother on the Heacock, Crawford, and Woodward families in Pelham and Norwich areas from late 1700s to the 1850s. The records are sparse for these families.
- Mark A. Tope, from Plainfield Friends Meeting in Indiana, is researching Joseph John Gurney's visit to North America in 1837-1840 and wishes to visit those meetings, or sites, where he can trace the visit, even through those living in the areas today, for any evidences of the visit.
- James H. Zavitz is writing a paper on Joseph John Gurney as he related to the history of education and the founding of schools, including Pickering College.
- Jane Orion Smith utilized Peace materials from the CYM Reference Library in preparing her talk for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Conference on Peace held in January 2003, at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA.
- Scott Prior visited Sparta relatives again and continues to piece together his ancestral story for more than just names and dates. He is keeping in touch with those he met.

- REPORT from CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING ARCHIVES: donations -

- A rare find is the Account Book dating from 1817 used in the Millstore of Jonathan Doan in Yarmouth Township, Elgin County (then Middlesex County) which Paul Axford has shared with CYMA by means of a photocopy. We see the names of all the early settlers and learn considerable about their lives and work as the accounts credit labour, barter of products, grown and made, and the purchases made also tell us what state of life various families were in. The meetinghouse building materials are listed and the amount paid for the labour to build it. The school fees are listed, and so it becomes much more than 'cold' accounts, but living history. We are grateful for such sharing of resources.
- Diane Coates Milne reported that she has Brown family letters and items from the home of her mother who was a Brown, which refer to Quaker life. She will bring these items to the Archives when organized. Letters can fill gaps, and also put life onto the bones of family names and dates - a richer store.
- It has been reported that there are some items in the collection at the Wooler/Cold Creek Meeting House which can be moved to the CYM Archives: some minutes books for Wooler/Cold Creek Meeting and the Westlake Quarterly Meeting area at Wooler, and First Day School materials. There is also an autobiography, autographed by the author, Laura Haviland. We are excited whenever more materials are found and deposited in the Archives.

- MEMORIALS -

DIANNE HAMILTON died January 21, 2001 in Newmarket, after a courageous battle with cancer. She wrote for the Journal while completing her B.A. in history at York University. We appreciated her study and care in looking at Quaker education in Ontario with specific attention to women teachers at Pickering College in the 19th century. She was ever considerate of those around her. Working with her benefitted any who were involved with her generous caring spirit.

SUSAN BAX died on August 15, 2002 in Toronto. Her Memorial Service was held at Friends House on October 5th. She lost a battle after major heart surgery, seeming still too young. Susan came to Canada from England as a young woman and made her life here as a documentary creator for CBC, among other things. She continued learning all her days - a course in Hebrew, and computers more recently. History was important to her; she enjoyed researching using the CYM Library and Archives Collections. The records of Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting were her responsibility for some years and she sought to collect them for the Archives. Susan's apartment was a welcoming one as she hosted many visitors over the years. They often had queries about Quakerism. As she entered retirement, we expected support from Susan in our CFHA work, and we mourn our loss for her energy and her vibrancy of life, and her faith, not for what she might have done for the organization.

HARRY HAGGERTY died January 6, 2003, in Welland, Ontario. His funeral at Pelham Evangelical Friends Church, in Font Hill, conducted by Pastor Matthew Chesnes, was attended by his family and many friends. Joy Landon read an account of her father's life and the miracles that were in it, as he had lived from boyhood crippled by polio. He never allowed the handicap to limit his life; in fact, we do not think of that when we remember Harry, but of a faithful friend, who worked and cared for others, and they in turn for him, as life should be!

Harry was a faithful and supportive member of CFHA. Their daughter, Joy Landon, brought them to CFHA by advertizing in the Globe and Mail for anyone with historical information related to Pelham Friends to contact them. Several individuals informed CFHA about the request. He and Ruth kept the records of Pelham Friends Church and assisted many who researched Friends Families in Pelham Monthly Meeting. With the approval of the Church Board, the original records were deposited in the CYM Archives, microfilmed, and photocopies made for reference by the Church.

Harry and Ruth assisted in celebrating the 190th and 200th anniversaries of Pelham Friends by preparing background history displays and arranging for programs which CFHA shared. The Pelham Church hosted annual meetings of CFHA twice in those years, and stronger ties for Friends in Canada were made. Visits with Harry and Ruth were special times. Our deep appreciation of Harry and his wonderful spirit goes out with our sympathy to Ruth, his wife of over fifty years, their three children, Janice, William, and Joy, and their families. We will miss, but not forget him, or his model for living.

JOHN KUMAGAI, a member of Coldstream Friends Meeting, died February 2, 2003. John was the son of Japanese immigrants to Canada, and was interned in British Columbia during WWII.

350th anniversary of Founding of Friends, 1652-2002:

The year 2002 was the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Religious Society of Friends in 1852 by George Fox. To mark the anniversary, an image of Elizabeth Fry was placed on a new issue of the British £5 note.

An All-Quaker Conference, "George Fox's Legacy: Friends for 350 Years", was held Friday-Saturday, 11-12 October 2002 at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Chris Densmore, past chairperson of CFHA, and Curator of the Friends Historical Collection at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA, was in charge of the program. The papers from the George Fox Conference are being published in a special expanded issue of Quaker History in early 2004.

- NEWS & NOTES -

January 19th 2004 is Martin Luther King Day. Another footnote - CYM Archives has a letter from Martin Luther King saying how sorry he was that he could not come to take part in the Peace Education program at Grindstone Island, near Smith Falls, Ontario. The conferences for junior diplomats were one of the pebbles dropped to make ripples in history which are not known to us, but were significant nevertheless.

On June 13, 2003, the Bay of Quinte Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association inducted Arthur Dorland into their Hall of Honour. He joins former Senator Gwendolyn Smith, former Dominion President of the UEL Association and former President of the Bay of Quinte Branch; Adelaide McLaughlin, noted philanthropist and driving force behind the establishment of the Adolphustown Loyalist Park, and wife of Col. Sam McLaughlin, founder of General Motors of Canada; the Hon. Duff Roblin, former Premier of Manitoba (1958-67); and Thomas Alva Edison, internationally-known American inventor.

The *Canadian Friend* was first published in June 1905 in Newmarket, Ontario, by the Home Mission and Advancement Committee (HMAC). June Etta Chenard, editor of the *Canadian Friend*, is preparing for the 100th anniversary of the publication in 2005.

- NOTICES of COMING EVENTS -

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) will hold its Seminar 2004 at the Doubletree Inn, International Plaza Hotel, Toronto, May 27-30, 2004.

The 15th Biennial Conference of Quaker Historians & Archivists sponsored by the Friends Historical Association, USA, will be held at George Fox College, Newburg, Oregon, June 25-27, 2004. The conference invites proposals for papers on any aspect of Quaker history. Undergraduate and master's projects welcome as well as research by independent scholars. Send a one-page abstract and vita (both electronically and in paper if possible) to: