

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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



Yonge Street Meetinghouse – 1810



Pickering College

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2005

Feature Article: A Quaker “Whaling Colony” in Wales

By Maida Follini, New Brunswick Monthly Meeting

In 1792, a group of Friends left Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, for Milford Haven, Wales. These Friends, who were engaged in the whaling industry, were encouraged by the British Government and the local proprietor, Lord Hamilton, to come to Wales and set up a whaling centre there. The Quakers established the new town of Milford, on the Milford Haven waterway, which became their base for the whaling ships they sent out to hunt the whale in the southern oceans.

The Dartmouth Quakers were originally from the Island of Nantucket, in Massachusetts. They had maintained neutrality in Nantucket during the American Revolution, saying, “When the

war began, we declared against taking any part of it.” However, the Friends suffered attacks from both sides during that war, and most of their whaling ships were lost. Following the war, very high tariffs were levied by Britain against American whale oil, so in 1785, a group of Nantucket Quakers established a whaling colony in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Here they only paid a low tariff, and they were able to sell their whale oil to Britain at a good profit. But the British Government, desirous that the benefits and profit of the industry should be realized by the mother country, ordered Nova Scotia’s Governor Parr to shut down the whaling colony in Dartmouth. Incentives were offered the Quakers to emigrate to Wales.

Although some Friends remained in Dartmouth and others returned to the United States, one group accepted the British offer, and sailed for Milford Haven, arriving in 1792. The leaders, Samuel

Starbuck, Sr. and Timothy Folger, brought with them their wives and numerous family members, as well as whaling vessels, captains and crews. A thriving industry developed and continued for about 20 years. A Friends Meeting House was built in 1811 which is still in use. Priory Hall, the house of Samuel Starbuck, Sr., still stands, and although no longer in the Starbuck family, continues to be a private residence.



I attended Meeting with Milford Haven Friends, and delivered greetings from my own New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, and also from Dartmouth Worship Group of Halifax Monthly Meeting, thus reestablishing the connection between Dartmouth Friends and Milford Haven Friends, after a gap of more than 200 years. The Quaker Whalers from Nantucket participated in the founding of two towns, Dartmouth Nova Scotia, and Milford Haven, Wales. They suffered in the Revolutionary War for their testimony of peace, and they later suffered for their opposition to tithes, oaths and military service. I am continuing research for an article about this fascinating group of Friends, and hope to share it through a longer article. Any additional information readers may have will be much appreciated.

Maida Follini, New Brunswick Monthly Meeting, 183 E. Victoria St., Amherst, Nova Scotia B4H 1Y7

News Updates

Canadian Yearly Meeting is being held in Camrose, Alberta (near Edmonton), August 13-20, 2005. They are celebrating 50 years as a United Yearly Meeting.

The plans for our annual meeting on September 17th are in place. We hope for good attendance at Pickering, with time for business meeting, seeing the Dorland Collection and Archives, while celebrating the 50th year of combined CYM and *Canadian Friend* periodical's 100th year. The school is welcoming us with tours, and a programme before the catered evening meal. The evening programme is in the planning stage, but will include memories from some who have been involved in these years.

We have a cost commitment for \$30.00 for everything during that day: Breakfast upon arrival; lunch; afternoon refreshments, and the special buffet dinner. It is a Saturday, when school is in session, so boarders will be about. Friends within driving reach of Pickering who are not members of CFHA are most welcome (as is anyone - regardless of distance). This is the opportunity to celebrate Pickering, the scene of the 1955 reunification, and long time 'home' of Canadian Yearly Meeting.

Uxbridge is having a special day in August to commemorate the 200th anniversary of that settlement. On August 7, attend the 200th anniversary of Uxbridge, with formal events and a parade in the town and special displays at the Museum. On August 13, celebrate Descendants' Day with Friends Meeting for Worship at Uxbridge Meeting House on Quaker Hill, followed by some background commentary, lunch, and more displays at the Museum.

The Canadian Friends' Historical Journal, featuring Uxbridge, should be on sale at the museum by that time for \$10.00 a copy as well. They will also sell our Timothy Rogers' Journal for \$15.00. The Archives will sell copies of Arthur G. Dorland's THE QUAKERS IN CANADA, A HISTORY, at \$22.00.

Summer Hours for Quaker Related Sites

Norwich District Museum Tues. -Sat. 10 to 4 pm

Uxbridge-Scott Museum: closed Monday's Open all Summer through Thanksgiving, Wednesday – Friday 1:00-4:00 pm

Uxbridge Friends Meetinghouse: open first Sunday of month, June to September, 1:00-4:00 pm

Sharon Temple Museum: Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm; Annual Illumination, Friday, September 9, 7:00 pm until dark.

Whaler's House in Dartmouth, NS
(check the hours with local personnel)

Quaker history was celebrated for Heritage Day in Newmarket. The Heritage Newmarket Advisory Committee and the Newmarket Historical Society presented local actor/impersonator David Morris in a dramatic portrayal of Newmarket's founder, Timothy Rogers on Saturday, February 19 2005 at the Old Town Hall. Also included in the programme were vignettes about slavery and the Underground Railroad.

The Ontario Minister of Culture, Madeleine Meilleur, officially opened Ontario Heritage Week on Monday February 21, 2005 at the Sharon Temple Museum in Sharon, Ontario. Choosing the Temple as the kick-off site was particularly appropriate because the theme of Heritage Day Canada was "Spiritual and Sacred Places". Ms. Meilleur was joined by York North MPP Julia Munro, York-Simcoe MP Peter Van Loan, Mayor of East Gwillimbury James Young, and other local officials.

Participants were entertained by Newmarket storyteller Bruce Carmody, who performed a reading as Joseph Brammer, a member of the Children of Peace who was arrested and jailed at the time of the Rebellion of 1837. David Geene and Jennifer Neveu gave a musical performance entitled "The Flag of Canada". CFHA was among the exhibitors who contributed to Heritage Showcase at the atrium of the Municipal Offices of the Town of East Gwillimbury.

In appreciation of a lifetime of volunteer work to identify, preserve, protect, and promote the province's rich heritage, Sandra Fuller was presented with a Certificate of Lifetime Achievement by the

Ontario Heritage Foundation in February 2005.

Doors Open Ontario is a programme of the Ontario Heritage Foundation which arranges for communities with sites rich in historic, cultural and architectural sites to open their doors to the public. Among the sites opened to visitors in Newmarket on Saturday, June 11, 2005, were the Yonge Street Friends Meeting House and burial ground (1812), the Hicksite Friends Burying Ground (1832), and Doan House (1845) –now a hospice.

On a happy note, Nickolas May and Malissa Lem were married on May 28th, 2005, under the care of Yarmouth Meeting. This was a lovely occasion when many present experienced a Friends Meeting for the first time. Nick, whom some of you have met via his CQH Journal article on Sparta buildings, is completing his PhD at University of Victoria in 18th century Canadian native history.

His advisor, Sylvia Van Kirk, now retired from U. of T., attended and we learned about a happy historian's life after retirement. Nickolas' wife, Melissa, recently graduated from Ottawa, will be doing her medical internship in Victoria. They have met Friends in Toronto, Ottawa and now, Victoria meetings. Our circles keep expanding and intertwining.

Yarmouth Monthly Meeting has a pot luck after meeting the first Sunday of each month at Sparta. Feel welcome to come and share. It would be nice to know you are coming.

Robynne Rogers Healey spent time in June researching in the CYM Archives at Pickering College. Happy to have her eastern visit, she promises an article for next year's Journal. Her first book is nearly ready for the Queens-McGill Press, and she is already researching for the next one on Peace Testimony and the impact of Friends on society. She is at Trinity Western University in Langley, BC. Robynne is on the planning committee for the Quaker Historian and Archivists Conference at Guildford College, June 2006.

What's in a Name? From the Archivist's Desk

In the census persons whose parents had been Quakers, but had moved, as Friends often did, to a place where there was no meeting, or who had been disowned for an 'irregular marriage,' not according to the procedures laid out in the Discipline, or disciplined and disowned for any reason, still considered themselves to be Quakers, and stated themselves to be 'Friends/Quakers' to the census taker.. Further if still living in the community they went to meetings, weddings, funerals, etc.(not shunned, as the Amish practiced.), However, they could not be named to serve the meeting in any capacity, clerk, committees named, representatives to Yearly Meeting etc.(thus names would not be found in the minutes .

Religion was one of the required questions answered for each person. Some census records show one parent 'Quaker', the other 'Methodist' ; at which point the children would not have been recorded as members in the meeting, but might be reported as such for census purposes.. If they had made no new church affiliation it was as accurate as

they could be. An alternative in the census report for religious affiliation might be: all children listed as having the religion of the father; or, boys as the father's, and girls as the mother's. ..

This explains why the actual membership records for the Society of Friends, and the numbers from the census records reflect a vast difference, and is a subject for further study.

It is also why including the home meeting of a family assists in record searches! If there is no meeting in the area of the family residence, the parents may be listed as members 'somewhere', but the children likely were not recorded as members, and the chain for research in Quaker records ends there. In some instances neighbours in a rural Quaker Meeting vicinity, who felt strong community ties, and participated in the local (often rural- more tight knit - social life, even asked to use Quaker burial grounds, also 'feel ' (or their descendants believe, they are/were Quakers..

Even over 50 years ago immigrants from England, who had attended a local Friends' Adult School, thought they were members and could request a letter or certificate of transfer, found they must go through the required procedure to apply for membership after several years of involvement with our meeting, I expect their first Canadian census report stated Soc. of Friends, with assurance that it was so!

The early census requirement for religious affiliation explains, to large extent, why many individuals listed as Friends are not to be found in the Quaker records.

I hope this is useful to many searchers, and relieves of the frustration when no Quaker records have appeared.

Tom Ward spent a day researching his Kersey relatives. He left a transcription of Mary Kersey's Diary on a visit to Pelham and Norwich from her home in Michigan, in the 1860's..We see the migration back and forth from south western Ontario and Michigan meetings. Later she was a lawyer and clerk of Toronto Meeting when it was set off from Yonge Street. More from Tom on this later.

Randy Saylor came for a day of work on the early Adolphus records, seeking a picture of the early community and those who created it. Carol Williams is working on the West Lake, Prince Edward County, communities as background for an historical novel. Winnifred Tanner, librarian of Ottawa Monthly Meeting, sent her to us. Margaret Green is also coming to look at records for her thesis research. Each search is an adventure that turns up a new aspect to the story, and pieces others together. We call them the "ties that bind"!

We are grateful to Keith Maddock for his work in layout and organizing this Newsletter. We encourage any who can to join us for Annual Meeting, and the Celebrations to follow. See the flier!

Passages

WILLIAM THURLOW (1942-2004)
Born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1942, while still in his teens, Bill Thurlow became interested in non-violence. After his family moved to Maine, he was influenced by the writings of Rufus Jones, also from Maine. Bill's interest in peace led to protests against atomic testing. In 1963, after his marriage to Dana Fenner, they moved to Vermont where he

graduated from Medical School in 1969, and where they began attending the Friends Meeting in Burlington, Vermont. After his internship in St John's, Newfoundland, the Thurlows became Canadian citizens in 1974.

Bill valued meeting Fred Haslam who was also a Conscientious Objector and a passionate astronomer. Bill's love of nature extended to concern for the environment. He organized a protest movement against chemical spraying, researched and published the book, *Matacil*. In each place they lived, the family (eventually with 5 children) became part of a Friends Meeting, and helped to establish the Worship Group in Prince Edward Island. Dana and Bill always supported CFHA, recognizing the importance of Friends' history. Many Friends will recall his ready smile and his concern for others.

NORMA SMITH (1924-2004) died December 5, 2004, after declining from Parkinson's disease. Her husband Lloyd and son Gilbert's family shared Norma with the farm, the community, and her activity in Genealogical and Historical Societies.

She was one who recorded the gravestones in the Sparta Friends Burying Ground.

Her active support for all those who sent inquiries made her a full time volunteer!

Her work in Elgin

County connected her to descendants of early settlers scattered all over the world. She helped the editor of the large Willson Genealogy, published recently.

Her membership in CFHA benefited many who used our resources for finding their family trees. She enjoyed the searches and was determined to find those sought from records that were hard to read, or misspelled. Once by sounding out the word as misspelled it gave a recognized place, and the search yielded the gold Norma sought. She kept working on the clues. Such events remind us to keep working when it may seem pointless! Yes, we keep the 'file open' in case further information may appear.

At such times I think of Norma! The work locally is the key to all we do; each place matters and has its story and records to add to the storehouse.

Thanks for your faithfulness, Norma.

0111-09-2005

Dear Friends,

Please consider coming to the Annual Meeting and celebration of Canadian Quakerism on the 17th of Sept. If you have been a presence in CYM and Canadian Friend's work, or, if you are new to us take the opportunity to be part of our living history. Welcome! Join in the day at Pickering.

Jane F.B.
for CFHA executive com.

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