



Yonge Street Meetinghouse - 1810

CANADIAN QUAKER HISTORY

Newsletter

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

60 LOWTHER AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5R 1C7

No. 3

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HISTORICAL MATERIALS IN FRIENDS HOUSE LIBRARY, TORONTO

Grace Pincoe, Librarian
Toronto Meeting

The Toronto Monthly Meeting library was set-up , as is the usual Quaker practice, as soon as the Meeting was established. There are, therefore, some important books and documents in our collection. During the past few years our collection has increased, due in part to the increased interest in the Society of Friends, and the availability of funds for the purchase of books.

The library has a large collection of old Quaker books, as well as a lending library of contemporary books. Most of the manuscript material pertaining to the history of the Meeting is not available through the library but is in the Quaker Archives at the University of Western Ontario, London. The following is a bibliography of materials in the Library that may be of interest to members of the Historical Association.

Canadian Friend. Newmarket, Toronto, Ottawa, v.1, no. 1-
June, 1905 -- to date.

Dorland, Arthur Garratt, 1887-

Former days and Quaker ways: a Canadian retrospect. Picton, Ont.,
Picton Gazette, 1965.

198 p. illus., ports., 24 cm.



RECYCLED PAPER

Dorland, Arthur Garratt, 1887-

Former days and Quaker ways: a Canadian retrospect.
2d ed. Belleville, Mika Studio, 1972.
198 p. illus., ports. 24 cm. (Canadiana
reprint series, no. 41)

First published in 1965 by the Picton Gazette.

Dorland, Arthur Garratt, 1887-

The Quakers in Canada: a history. 2d ed. Toronto,
Canadian Yearly Meeting, Society of Friends, c1968.
360 p. illus. maps (on lining papers) 23 cm.

First published in 1927 under title: A history of the
Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada.
Bibliography: p. 348-353

The index in this issue is less detailed than that in the 1st ed. 1927.

Dorland, Arthur Garratt, 1887-

History of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada.
Toronto, Macmillan, 1927.
343 p. illus. ports., maps., charts.

Bibliography: p. 330-334.
Includes bibliographical footnotes.
The index in this edition is more detailed than that of the 1968 ed.

Gummere, Amelia (Mott) 1859-1937.

The Quaker: a study in costume. New York, B. Blom, 1968.
vi, 232 p. illus., ports. 25 cm.

Reprint of the 1901 ed.

Haight, Canniff.

A genealogical narrative of the Daniel Haight family, by his grandson
Canniff Haight. Toronto, Rowsell & Hutchison, Printers, 1899.
71 p. 25 cm.

Xeroxed from copy in Toronto Public Library.

Haslam, Fred

A record of experience with and on behalf of the Religious Society of
Friends in Canada, and with the Canadian ecumenical movement 1921-
1967, with some thoughts for the future. Selly Oak, Birmingham,
Woodbrooke College, 1968.
131 p. illus. map tables 22 cm.

References: p. 121.

Phelps, Edward, comp.

Inventory of Canadian Yearly Meeting archives at University of Western Ontario, London. Compiled by Edward Phelps. London, 1971.
22 leaves 29 cm.

Xeroxed copy from typescript.

Preliminary inventory subject to correction.

Includes letter of transmissal.

Riley, Lyman W., comp.

Guide to the location of American Quaker Meeting records, comp. by Lyman W. Riley and Frederick B. Tolles. 1951.

4 p.

Xeroxed from the Bulletin of Friends Historical Association v. 40(1951), p. 33-37.

Riley, Lyman W.

The William Wade Hinshaw Index to Quaker Meeting records.

1950.

4 p.

Xeroxed from Bulletin of Friends Historical Association v. 39(Spring 1950) p. 37-38 and v. 39 (Autumn 1950) p. 106-107.

Descriptive information only.

Shipton, Clifford K.

The archivist and service. National Microfilm Association Journal v. 2, No. 4 Summer 1969, p. 127-128.

Shufelt, Harry B 1896-

Nicholas Austin the Quaker and the Township of Bolton, by Harry B. Shufelt. Knowlton, Que., Brome County Historical Society, 1971.
ix, 230 p. illus., maps, ports. 23 cm.

"Reflections, recollections, romance: Eastern Townships history".

References and notes: p. 201-218.

Story of the Pine Orchard Quaker Meeting, 1816-1941.

17, 6 leaves 34 cm. unpagged

Xeroxed from typescript in possession of Elma Starr, Newmarket, Ont. Appears to be the history of the Whitchurch Meeting of Friends, at Pine Orchard, which became the Orthodox Branch of the Society of Friends after the Separation of 1828. A short introduction is followed by extracts from the Minute books. Compiled by a Committee of people in the district.

"Names appearing in Minutes in 1816-1882 Women's Meeting" p. 4.

"Names appearing in Minutes in 1816-1841 Men's Meeting" p. 5.

"Entries in family Bible in possession of Elmer Starr, Whitchurch."
p. 16.
"Marriages" p. 17.

Letters of transmissal including J.M. Walton

Zavitz, Harold

Where the Friends were/are. Ontario Geneological Society Bulletin
v.9 No. 3, Summer 1970, page 15-17.

Index of Canadian Quaker Names

An Index of Canadian Quaker names from any source: books, minutes, documents, hearsay(!) has been commenced. It now consists of some 150 entries. There is one entry per slip. The name is given on the slip as in the source. The user must consult the source and do his own identification. The repetition of identical names in different generations has to be experienced to see that an attempt at exact identification would be time-consuming and hazardous.

Volunteers interested in helping please send their names to Grace Pincoe, Secretary of Canadian Friends Historical Association, %Friends House Library, 60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto M5R 1C7.

Canadian Young Friends and Camp NeeKauNis

1931 - 1950

Stirling Nelson

The Religious Society of Friends in Canada saw some significant changes come about in the later years of the 1920's and in the early years of the 1930's.

In 1923, what has become known as the Young Friends Yearly Meeting came into being. The Canadian Friends Service Committee was formed in October 1931 to which the Yearly Meetings in Canada sent representatives.

Also in the summer of 1931 property was purchased west of Waubashene, Ont. and made available to Friends for summer camping purposes. This has become known as Camp NeeKauNis.

In this article I wish to outline a little more fully the relationship between Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting and the development of both the property and the programmes for Camp NeeKauNis. Before I do this however may I indicate the great wisdom and foresight which was shown by such persons as Raymond Booth, Albert Rogers, Fred Haslam, William Willson, in the choice of the site and in the location and erection of the first building on the NeeKauNis site.

The idea of summer camping programmes was being evidenced in the minutes of Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting and prior to the purchase of NeeKauNis. In April 1930 it was recorded: "Frank C. Guyatt reported on some workable plan by which our organization might make its contribution toward the solution of social problems. This had centered around the idea of a camp for under privileged boys and girls. Frank C. Guyatt reported that a good site would likely be available on Lake Simcoe. The difficulty for oversight and personnel was discussed and the whole matter referred back to the Committee for further consideration and report." Further consideration was given in August 1930 to the possibility of holding a conference the next summer at Snake Island in Lake Simcoe. The Minutes do not indicate the final outcome of the above discussions but we do find that at a Meeting of Canadian Young Friends in September 1931 the following was recorded:

"The secretary reported that a camp site of about ten acres had been privately purchased on Georgian Bay near Waubashene. He reported that while the deciding factor in the purchase had been the boys and girls clubs in Toronto Meeting, it was felt that it could be used for Friends boys and girls in both Canada and Genesee Yearly Meetings under the leadership of Young Friends. A committee was appointed to collect information as to the children who would

be able to go, and Young Friends who would be free to undertake the leadership. A second function of this Committee is to co-operate with the trustees of the camp in planning its development. The Committee is as follows: Fred Haslam (convenor), Beatrice Brown, Lula Cleland, Violet Carroll, Claire VanEvery, Marion Nelson, Burton Hill, Kenneth Muma, Alex Hay, Elston Willson, and Frank Guyatt. Stanley VanEvery and Raymond Booth were co-opted members." We find that later in the minutes of the meeting, "the conference adjourned to meet at Camp NeeKauNis (Camp of Friends) July 29 or 30, 1932.

We now see a strong relationship between those in Canadian Young Friends and the membership of Canadian Friends Service Committee charged with the development of Camp NeeKauNis. This was very strong in the early years as Friends made decisions in relation to the types of buildings and their locations. The decision to place the buildings on the cleared area overlooking the Bay has proved to be a sound and wise one.

The ten-acre site is part of lot 10, concession 9 Township of Tay in Simcoe County. This property was purchased from the Tanner family and had formerly been used as the place where the shanties and buildings had housed the mill hands and helpers in the Tanner Saw Mill near by. The front field area is quite level and the hillside slopes to Sturgeon Bay an inlet of Georgian Bay. In the summer of 1938 three acres were purchased on the east side from Mr. Albin.

The first building which later became known as Nelson Hall was erected in 1932 and was used by Canadian Young Friends at the end of July that year. It had six sleeping rooms, a dining hall and a kitchen. For the first summer cooking was done on coal-oil stoves. The milk was delivered by the Waubashene Dairy in milk cans and openly poured into containers provided by the kitchen.

Canadian Young Friends soon faced the possibility of erecting additional buildings since a large tent on the hillside was not satisfactory. The minutes of meetings held in 1933 and 1934 show that an offer had been

received to donate the cost of one cabin if Young Friends would raise money for another. We note that Toronto, Norwich and Pelham groups all raised money for another cabin, but no further mention is made in the minutes concerning this. However we do know that two persons donated money for cabins and that in the summer of 1934, three cabins had been erected. These cabins later became known as White Feather, Amitie and Welcome.

Canadian Young Friends did not carry through further programmes for building purposes but have contributed substantially to other needs at NeeKauNis. In July 1955 we find "There was some discussion about the purchase of a new gas stove for the camp kitchen. A committee consisting of Paul Zavitz, Burton Keffer, Arnold Muma, and Stirling Nelson was appointed to make arrangements for some definite immediate action in the purchase of a stove. During the past year Young Friends have collected \$290.62 for the Stove Fund." In July 1956 we find this installed and paid for. We do know that Canadian Young Friends completely paid for this stove. In April 1959 David Muma and Romaine Jones were appointed to inquire about the size and price of a refrigerator for camp. There is \$314.56 in a fund for this purpose. We know that a refrigerator was purchased at the beginning of the summer in 1960, and that Canadian Young Friends contributed \$400 of the cost. The total cost was \$649.50. I would like to note that the first refrigerator which served until this time was donated in 1932 by John Toyne of Newmarket.

Canadian Young Friends have by their efforts made substantial financial contributions to buildings and equipment for NeeKauNis.

I wish now to outline some of the other ways in which Canadian Young Friends have been helpful at NeeKauNis. From the beginning of NeeKauNis in 1931 to 1945 all programmes held there were under the care of Canadian

Young Friends Yearly Meeting. The exception to this was the programmes held by Toronto Monthly Meeting and the Boys and Girls Clubs programmes.

After the purchase of the property in 1931 a small group of Young Friends met at the property and were housed for these few days in one of the buildings owned by the Tanner family, near Tanners Beach Road. There is little record of this programme. Early in August 1932, Canadian Young Friends met in the newly constructed building overlooking Sturgeon Bay. We find much concern expressed for the development of programmes for NeeKauNis. A tentative outline was given for July and part of August as well as the Young Friends gathering. It was felt advisable to consider holding a programme for Junior Young Friends, Aug. 8-21 and a Committee was appointed to look into this possibility. This did not happen but indicates the concern of Young Friends at that time. Another item of interest was the suggestion that there should be a scrap book for the collection of photographs and any other material of special interest concerning the camp. One of these early picture collections is available.

In 1933 Young Friends met early in August and we find the Camp Council appointed at that time to be Anna Haight, Mable Willson and Stirling Nelson.

In 1934 a study type programme was offered with Wm. Reagan leading one group and Claire VanEvery another. The Camp Mother was Mable Willson; the cook, Elizabeth Sutton; the swimming supervisors, Margaret Knott and John Petrie.

In 1935 another study programme was offered on International and Interracial relationships with a view to promoting peace. The leaders were Eugene Forsey and Raymond Booth.

In 1936 Eugene Forsey returned and shared the leadership with LeRoy Cody. LeRoy Cody's programme was on Bible study.

In 1938 we find the following recorded, "The Canadian Young Friends Yearly Meeting met at Camp NeeKauNis July 23 to August 1. The leader of the seminar on Co-operation was W.P. Kessick, Dept. of History, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. G. Raymond Booth gave a daily talk on 'The Truth and Practice of Friends'. Chas. Zavitz's nature study hikes were greatly enjoyed, as also his address on Unified Quakerism. The hostesses were Rebecca Zavitz and Gracia Booth." This same article records with sadness the passing of a Young Friend, Janet Cody. "Our sorrow has been somehow made joyful by the realization that Janet, so often a member of our camps lives still in that spirit of gentleness and love which so characterized her as we knew her at camp."

In 1940 Norval Webb of Five Years Meeting offered leadership and Dorothy Cutler was the Camp Hostess. The study this summer centred around worship. This group of just over twenty campers were also concerned for the events of the time. An article states, "One evening was spent around the fire exchanging thoughts regarding our position as citizens of a country at war."

In 1941 Errol Elliot and family came from Indianapolis, Indiana and led the campers in consideration of Basic Christian Faith and Friends belief. There was a new accomplishment this summer in the programme activities. The campers pieced together quilt blocks and the Missionary Society of Wooler Meeting did the quilting. The finished product was donated to the work of the War Victims Relief Committee. The host and hostess were Stirling and Mildred Nelson.

The effect of the second World War was felt even at NeeKauNis and for the next two years no programmes were held due to the difficulties of transportation and food rationing.

With the advent of plans for the summer season in 1945 we find a slight change in the way in which programmes to be held at NeeKauNis was done. The Education Committee of Service Committee had been formed and they in turn began to accept certain responsibilities for programmes at NeeKauNis. For the summer of 1945 Canadian Young Friends and the Education Committee set up a programme there following Yearly Meeting. Those responsible for the day-to-day activities were Errol Elliott of Indianapolis, John and Enid Hobart of Montreal, and Harold Zavitz of Chatham. This was operated more as a family camp endeavour as both individuals, families were registered. We note this began a programme change and programmes were conducted which involved a full-age range of attenders.

For the next five years the attendance covered a wide age range and at the same time it continued to be a family camp type of endeavour.

NEWS AND NOTES

Quaker Opposition to War in Upper Canada

A short article quoting extracts from the Yonge Street Minute Book on the subject of opposition to war preparations in Upper Canada appeared in the publication Canadian Friend, vol. 69, No. 1 for February-March 1973.

Editor appointed to New Post at R.O.M.

The editor of this newsletter, David Newlands, has recently been appointed to the post of Curatorial Assistant at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. He will be working in historical archaeology, with particular emphasis on eighteenth and nineteenth century Canadian industrial and settlement sites. It will also provide time for work with the Canadian Friends Historical Association.

--June (Sixth Mo.), 1973
David Newlands, Editor