



The Meetinghouse

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

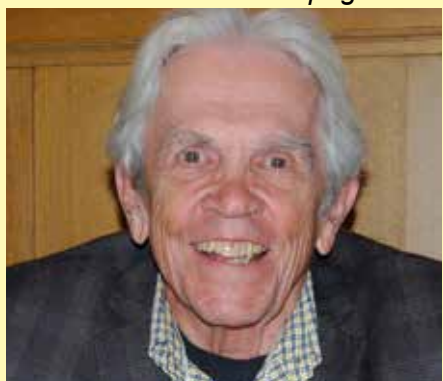
VOLUME 2013, Issue 3 - 12th Month



Tour guide **Bruce Bell**...pages 9-12



Gordon Thompson chairs AGM
...pages 5-8



Chris Raible, historian, keynote speaker
... pages 13-16



Touring in the rain

*Umbrellas were a necessary accessory September 21 this year as **CFHA** members toured historic landmarks in downtown Toronto, formerly the Town of York. A steady drizzle fell during most of the two-hour tour.*



1837 Rebellion cake served to **CFHA** members
... page 17



Replica of wooden box made by an imprisoned Quaker, 1830s ... page 16



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The Mission of the Canadian Friends Historical Association is the preservation and communication of the on-going history and faith of the Religious Soci-

ety 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

The Meetinghouse is the newsletter of the Canadian Friends Historical Association and has been published three times a year. It will be published four times a year, starting Spring, 2014.

Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: "Reprinted from The Meetinghouse (issue and date) published by the Canadian Friends Historical Association." Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Association. Please

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CFHA 2013-2014

Executive

Chairman - Andrew Cresswell

Treasurer - Ruth Jeffery-MacLean

Secretary - Position Vacant

Vice-Chair (Publications) - Robynne Rogers-Healey

Vice-Chair (Built Heritage) - Ian Woods

Past Chairman - Gordon Thompson

Advisory Committee

The Meetinghouse Editor - Pat Moauro

Journal Production - Albert Schrauwers

Webmaster - Randy Saylor

CYM Records Committee Lialson - Jane Zavitz-Bond

Chairman's Message

... Andrew Cresswell, Chairman

Executive to develop "strategic direction" for CFHA

As the days shorten, and the fields lie fallow, the work on the Executive begins in earnest. You will immediately recognize a result of this new work - the appearance of *The Meetinghouse*.

I am sure you join me in welcoming **Pat Moauro** as he assumes the editorship of the Association's newsletter. Pat has extensive experience in newsletter production; skills and talent that he now brings to our organization. As we welcome Pat to the Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee also says farewell to **Gladys Castonguay**. With her gentleness and warmth, Gladys was an integral member of the Executive and will be missed.

Our work is changing. You will read in this newsletter and subsequent editions, that the Association is being recognized as a fine example of a public history organization (both the University of Western Ontario and the Ontario Historical Society recently "tweeted" about our Association). This evolving role requires us to examine and refocus our energies and efforts. To that end, I would like to share with you my Chairman's Remarks from the recent Annual General Meeting:

"I can recall standing before you a year ago telling you that the year had been one of challenge and change in CFHA. Those two words could just as easily be used to describe the one that has just concluded. The year has been a challenge for me personally and professionally, and as such my energy and enthusiasm for the Association has been severely tested. I would like to publicly thank the members of the Executive and Advisory Committees for their pa-

"As we continue to be called upon as an Association in new and exciting ways, it is also important that we remain true to our mission while recognizing the limited resources, human and otherwise, we currently possess."

tience, understanding and support during the past year.

As I begin my third and final year as chairman of the Canadian Friends Historical Association, I believe it is time for me to focus on my legacy, from the Latin word *lego*, to gather, to select, and the French word *legatie*, the body of persons gathered for a mission. This is a turning away from what we have accomplished to what we will leave as a lasting gift to those who will follow.

Must continue to evolve

The expectations and demands on non-profit organizations are radically changing. For example, greater financial stewardship, diverse volunteer opportunities, and greater transparency and access. Our Association is changing to meet these new demands. And yet we know that we must continue to evolve if we are to achieve our mission.

Let me give you a few examples of how we are changing as an association:

- Increasingly our membership is made up of institutions and individuals that have no prior connection to the Association, and are

frequently outside of our traditional stronghold of southern Ontario.

- The website is increasingly being used by non-members for personal research, many of whom are sharing their research with us and becoming members.

- Most of the people who follow us on social media are not members of the Association. Likewise, many outside organizations are increasingly asking us to share information on our website.

- Increasingly we are being recognized as an important resource in the public history sector, and invited to speak at various functions.

Process of discernment

As we continue to be called upon as an Association in new and exciting ways, it is also important that we remain true to our mission while recognizing the limited resources, human and otherwise, we currently possess.

To this end, we would like, as an Executive, to spend the next year developing a strategic direction for the Association. This would require us to maintain certain activities, while possibly laying others down, at least in the short-term while we focus on developing a meaningful, yet manageable plan for the future.

I trust you as members of the Association will continue to support us in this endeavour."

As we begin this process of discernment, I trust that you, our members, will hold us in the Light.

Blessings,



Editorial Notes

... *Pat Moauro, Editor*

New CFHA editor tells intriguing editorial tale

Dear Friends, with this issue of *The Meetinghouse* - the last for 2013 - it's a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the new Editor. I still have to smile as I recall how I happened to find myself in this new volunteer position.

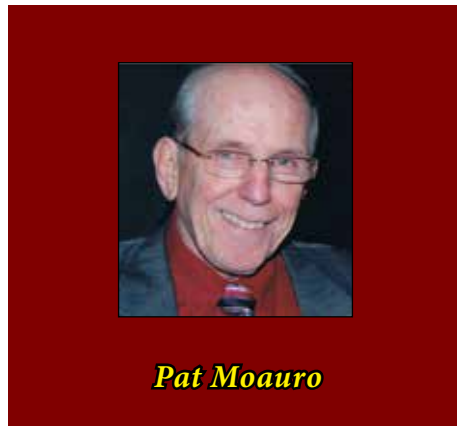
For the past few years, I had seen and read some copies of *The Meetinghouse* online. In recent months I read a couple of issues that had been produced under the editorship of CFHA Chairman **Andrew Cresswell**. As I eventually learned, he had taken on the extra duty as Editor for about a year after the former editor decided to withdraw from the position.

And for about a year Andrew had been running a notice in *The Meetinghouse*, asking for a new Editor to assume the job. I had no intention of taking on another publication as a volunteer editor and graphic designer. No one approached me, and no one asked me to apply.

But, for some inexplicable reason, I eventually found myself writing to Andrew and applying for the Editor's position of this newsletter earlier this year. Here's where this editorial tale gets really interesting.

I applied a couple of months before the CFHA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference in Willowdale on September 21 this year. I offered to attend the meeting so I could learn more about the CFHA and meet members of the Executive, as well as get photos and information for this newsletter.

So that's how I found myself on a dreary, drizzly Saturday morning in September sitting in the *John McKenzie House* in Willowdale with members of the CFHA. **Gordon Thompson**, former Associa-



Pat Moauro

tion Chairman, was acting Chairman for the AGM. Treasurer **Ruth Jeffery-MacLean**, also served as secretary, filling in for former Secretary **Gladys Castonguay**. I had not met nor spoken to either one before walking into the meeting. Chairman **Andrew Cresswell**, with whom I had been corresponding briefly by email, was unable to attend the meeting.

My ears perked up and my eyebrows arched unexpectedly as I listened carefully to Ruth's preliminary remarks. She told the meeting that the Executive had been looking for a new Editor for about a year. She said she had heard about someone from the Coldstream Monthly Meeting near London who was an editor and had some experience with newsletters. Ruth had even asked one of the Coldstream Friends to approach the person and ask whether he or she would be willing to serve as editor of *The Meetinghouse*.

For the first time at the AGM, I learned that I was the person she was talking about. I had to smile because no one from Coldstream had approached me, nor had anyone else communicated with me about the editor's position. As I said earlier, for some unusual reason,

I felt drawn to apply for *The Meetinghouse* position, even though I was busy with other editing/publishing projects. Sorry for drawing so much attention to my personal involvement here, but I feel I have to share this story. Was it just a coincidence, an accident, or something more profound?

After many years on the spiritual path, I have accepted that, in truth, there are no accidents in life. Everything happens for a reason, whether we understand the reason or not at the time. Things don't just happen, they happen just.

Looking back, I'm reminded of that old time religious saying, "God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform."

Newsletter frequency to increase

On another editorial note, I sincerely thank the Association Executive, particularly **Andrew, Gordon** and **Ruth**, for their warm welcome and support of this new Editor. With the Executive's approval, it's been decided to increase the frequency of this newsletter from three to four issues per year - Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Thank you, as well, to all the editorial contributors in this issue. I hope and trust that Association members will continue to support this publication, especially by submitting ideas, photos, articles and items of historical interest to: newsletter@cfha.info.

The next issue - Spring - is scheduled to come out in April, 2014. The deadline for all copy is March 20.

Bountiful blessings to all.

Pat

CFHA Executive confirmed, reports heard at 2013 AGM

CFHA Officers and Directors and Advisory Committee members for 2013/2014 were confirmed at the AGM on September 21.

The following Executive Committee members, who all started their term in September 2011, will complete their term in September 2014: Chair, **Andrew Cresswell**; Member/Recording Secretary, **Gladys Castonguay**; Treasurer, **Ruth Jeffery-MacLean**; Vice-Chair Built Heritage, **Ian Woods**; Vice-Chair Communications, **Robynne Rogers Healey**; and Past Chair, **Gordon Thompson**.

Advisory Committee members: Webmaster, **Randy Saylor**; Publications – Journal, **Albert Schrawers**; Publications – *The Meetinghouse*, **Pat Moauro**; and CYM Records Committee Liaison, **Jane Zavitz-Bond**, will serve for an indefinite period.

In August this year, Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) approved the appointment of **Ruth Kuchinad** of Peterborough Monthly Meeting to the CYM Records Committee Liaison. The AGM also approved the appointment, subject to the concurrence of current committee member **Jane Zavitz-Bond**. As well, the AGM approved the appointment of **Pat Moauro** of Coldstream Monthly Meeting as new Editor of *The Meetinghouse* newsletter.

Gordon Thompson, who served as Chairman of the AGM, read the 2013 report from Chairman **Andrew Cresswell**, who was unable to attend. The report is as follows:



Gordon Thompson served as Chair for the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference of the **Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA)** September 21. He filled in for Chairman **Andrew Cresswell**, who was unable to attend the meeting. Treasurer **Ruth Jeffery-MacLean**, also served as secretary, filling in for Secretary **Gladys Castonguay**. The AGM and conference were held in John McKenzie House, Willowdale, home of the Ontario Historical Society.

Executive

The Executive Committee met eight times in person (once using an Internet-based network platform) and once via conference call between the 2012 and 2013 Annual General Meetings.

Association

The 2012 Annual General Meeting and Conference was held at the Isaiah Tubbs Resort, in Picton, Ontario. 2012 marked the 40th anniversary of the **Canadian Friends Historical Association**. The AGM was well attended and included an afternoon bus tour of significant Quaker sites with a Founders' Tea at the former Wellington Meeting House. The evening keynote address, entitled "Growing up Dorland", was delivered by **Avery Dorland**. The text of the keynote is included in the 2012 edition of the Journal.

The Executive Committee completed all required applications to continue operating as an Ontario corporation and a Canadian registered charity.

Membership

The Executive decided, based on suggestions from the floor at the 2012 AGM, to issue invoices for outstanding membership renewals. Based on the response, this method of notification will continue. The Executive consulted with partner societies about reciprocal memberships, most notable Friend Historical Association.

Marketing

Members of the Executive attended in their capacity the Yonge Street Meeting House Bicentennial Commemoration, York University's Public History Conference, and the **King Museum Rebel Tour**.

The Toronto branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society invited the Executive to participate in the Digging for Gold in Toronto Libraries and Archives workshop; however, because of time commitments the Executive could not attend.

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2013 AGM reports

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Outreach

The Executive, through **Kyle Jolliffe**, was approached by the Editor of the *Canadian Friend* to provide historical material for the magazine. The King Museum approached the Executive to participate in planning a Quaker Bus Tour for this fall.

Two individuals approached the Executive to support the creation of an interpretive panel commemorating the Niagara Movement's gathering at Erie Beach Amusement Park. Various members of the Executive attended the Ontario Genealogical Society conference in Durham May 31 to June 1 this year and participated in the trade show.

We continue to receive requests from individuals and organizations for information and support (most involve architectural or genealogical enquiries.)

Publications

In the past year, two editions of *The Meetinghouse* were produced while the editorship of the newsletter was vacant. We continue to receive messages of support and appreciation for the newsletter from the membership.

Amassing material for *The Canadian Quaker History Journal* continues to be a challenge. Special thanks to those individuals who submitted articles.

Website/Social Media

As of September 19, 2013 the website had 4,437 unique visitors (an increase of over 1,000 new visits since the last AGM). Pages on the Association's website continue to be updated as material and information becomes available. Outside organizations continue to send material for inclusion on the website. Special thanks to those members who have contributed material for inclusion on the website. The Association's followers on both

Facebook and Twitter continue to grow (most of whom are not members of the Association).

Secretary's Report (from Gladys Castonguay):

Membership -

Individual Memberships (as of Eighth Month 2013) total 76, including 16 Life and 60 Regular; *Corporate Memberships* total 34; *Monthly Meetings*, 12; *Libraries*, 13 - 1 U.K., 5 U.S., 5 Canada, and 2 Canada Exchange; *Historical Associations*, 2 - 1 U.S. and 1 Canada Exchange; *Museums*, 5 - 3 Canada and 2 Canada Exchange; *Cemetery* - 1 in Canada; *Genealogical Association* - 1 in Canada.

Total **CFHA** Membership: 110.

Treasurer's Report (from Ruth Jeffery-MacLean):

2012 to 2013 Financial Statement

Opening Balance:

Canadian - \$6,317.50

U.S. dollars - \$ 673.70

Total income:

Canadian - \$6,611.98

U.S. - \$ 243.70

Total expenses:

Canadian - \$5,834.47

U.S. - \$0.00

Income less expenses:

Canadian - \$777.51

U.S. - \$243.85

Closing balance:

Canadian - \$7,095.01

U.S. - \$ 917.55

Proposed Operating Budget for 2013 to 2014:

Total income: \$7,000.00

Expenses: \$5,795.00

Income, less Expenses: \$1,205.00

The meeting approved the budget and agreed to increase the Outreach allocation from \$200 to \$400 "when necessary."

Vice-Chair - Publications

Robynne Rogers Healey, Editor of *The Canadian Quaker Historical Journal*, was unable to attend; however, her report was read to the meeting:

This year's journal is a fulsome piece. I am grateful for all of those who contributed to its contents and hope that **CFHA** members will enjoy its contents. I would like to thank **Albert Schrauwers** for page setting the journal. This is always a great deal of work and some of the articles this year were particularly difficult to align to our template but readers will find Albert worked his magic and we trust the end results will prove satisfactory.

I would also like to thank **Jane Zavitz-Bond** for sourcing a number of pieces for the journal and for her ongoing support of this publication. Jane's connection to researchers through the Canadian Yearly Meeting Archives provides us with invaluable assistance in identifying those working in areas of interest to our readers.

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations, we had hoped to include a special section in the journal dedicated to essays on a number of individuals identified as "founders and builders" of **CFHA**. The **CFHA** Executive identified 12 individuals on whom essays were to be written, a template for submissions was prepared, and authors for each essay were identified.

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2013 AGM reports

Thank you to **Ruth Jeffery-MacLean** who contacted potential authors and encouraged them to submit their essays. Thank you to each of the authors who dedicated time to write the essays and submitted them by the appointed deadline. Unfortunately, there were a number of circumstances that prevented them from being included in the journal itself this year.

The Executive decided at its June meeting to print these essays as a stand-alone publication, but that has not yet been completed. I would like to offer my deepest apologies to those authors who invested a great deal of time and energy in writing and submitting essays that have not yet been published. It is my hope that production of this publication will happen soon.

Canadian Quaker Family History Project Committee Report

No formal committee meetings were called during the past year but informal meetings and communications facilitated considerable activity during this period:

Following the project, approval minuted at the 2012 **CFHA AGM** draft Testimony of Appreciation Certificate application forms were prepared. These require final review and release by the Executive to become official.

New **CFHA** display material was developed based on enlarged laminated versions of the Canadian Quaker meeting charts originally published by **Arthur Dorland**. The enlarged versions are educational visual aids and useful in identifying family history links.

Committee members **Donna Moore** and **Randy Saylor** staffed a **CFHA** booth at the annual **OGS (Ontario Genealogical Society)** Conference held May 31/June 1 at Durham College. In the course of

the conference we logged 67 visitors. Of these, 24 provided contact information and some available details of their family tree.

Among this number we noted two individuals who were apparently unknown to each other but were seeking additional details concerning a common Quaker ancestor. One member enquiry has been received in response to the project announcements in *The Meetinghouse*. There has been follow-up communication with a number of OGS visitors.

Respectfully Submitted: **Donna Moore, Randy Saylor, Doug Smith, Gordon Thompson**

Other Reports (from **Andrew Cresswell**): *The Meetinghouse*

The Executive was approached by **Pat Moauro**, volunteering to assume the editorship of *The Meetinghouse*. Pat has extensive experience in newsletter production, and based on the approval of the Slate of Officers and Directors, will be appointed to the position by the Executive Committee.

Canada Helps

Based on the recommendation of the membership at the 2012 **AGM**, **CFHA** is now a member of *Canada Helps*, which "provides electronic fund transfer services and other services to facilitate on-line donations to charities."

Founders and Builders

Introduced and approved at the 2012 AGM, **Founders and Builders** "recognizes individuals who made significant contributions to the founding of the Association and/or sustained contributions to achieving its mission."

Four names were recorded at the 2012 AGM for this recognition:

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Andrew Brink, Kathleen Schmitz-Hertzberg, Jane Zavitz-Bond, and Norman Jolly.

The following names are submitted by the Executive at this the 2013 AGM for the Founders and Builders recognition: **Peter Brock, Sandra Fuller, Fred Haslam, David Holden, David Newlands, Grace Pincoe, Albert Schrauwers, and Alma Starr.**

Founders' Fund

While the information and forms are available on the Association's website, no individual or group has applied to the fund. Promotional material will be included in the next edition of *The Meetinghouse*.

40th Anniversary Projects

While not yet completed, the following four projects are on-going or close to completion:

1. Create the Founders Fund to provide resources to support individuals and groups in achieving the mission of the Association.
2. Gather and archive material relating to the history of the Association.
3. Produce an anniversary publication.
4. Create a social media presence to encourage greater public awareness.

One project that has been initiated but not yet completed is an anniversary publication. The Executive appreciates those individuals who wrote biographies for the Founders and Builders publication, originally scheduled for inclusion in this year's edition of the Journal.

After much discussion, it was decided to use this material to create a stand-alone publication, which will be one of our projects this year.

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2013 AGM reports

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The Quaker Register/ Quaker Directory

Report from Vice-Chair - Built Heritage,
Ian Woods:

The Quaker Register/Quaker Directory Project continues in earnest, with endeavours to find all the locations across Canada across the centuries.

The QUAKER REGISTER: Assembling the Meetings and the main sites has been a challenge, with each province having unique conditions.

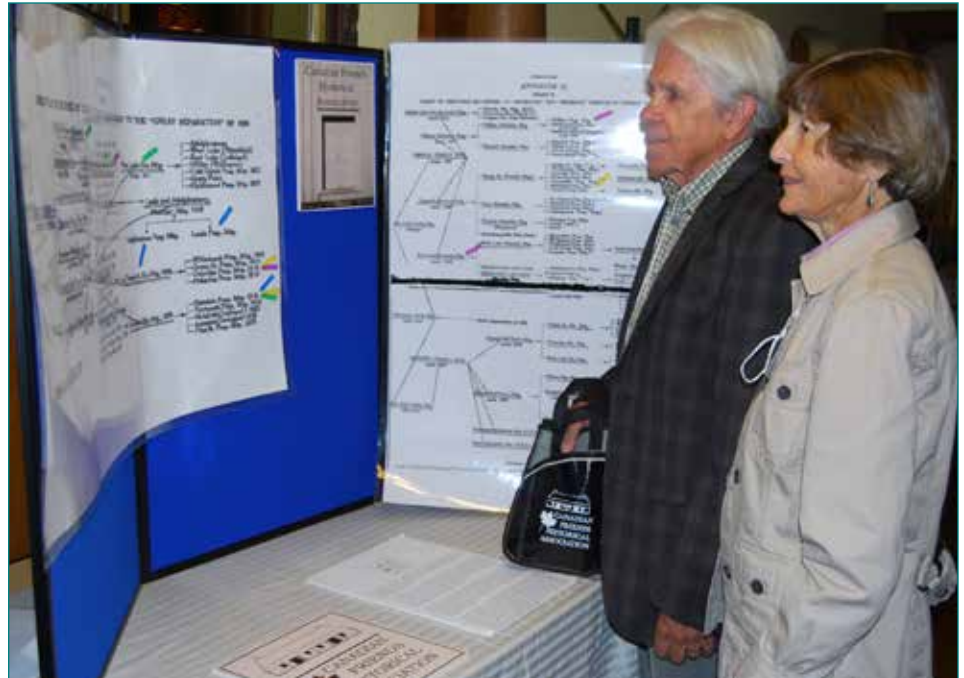
The Ontario listing is just about complete, with The Prairies, The West, Quebec and The Maritimes all in progress. Newfoundland presents special consideration, as there are many unconfirmed locations originating circa the 1600s. I am trying to complete the main frameworks for each province, so that the sites, both past and present can be assembled and researched individually.

The QUAKER DIRECTORY:

This is the most difficult, yet manageable part of the research. Quakers contributed an immense amount of Industry, commerce and influence in the founding of this country. Research is uncovering vast amounts of their achievements, which I am trying to assemble and categorise by province again.

There are strong links to the early settlers, where business originating in the U.K. and Europe, and later the U.S.A. saw the development of Canada by the early Quakers.

There was a thriving industry of commerce between the Maritimes and the Caribbean. Basically, vegetables, foodstuffs and hardware southbound, with sugar, rum and tropical fruit northbound. There were, of course, the Quaker ships and merchants who were successful in this trade.



Chris and Pat Raible of Creemore, Ont., check out new CFHA display material developed on enlarged laminated versions of the Canadian Quaker meeting charts originally developed by Arthur Dorland.

There are connections to trade across the Pacific to Australia and New Zealand, and later to Japan and other parts of Asia.

OTHER Built heritage Items:

Red Bay, in Newfoundland, is now a world Heritage Site in 2013, attributable to the Basque Whaling Industry, which started just a few decades before Quakers developed the whaling Industry as well. Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, were busy whaling centres, with Quakers eventually expanding south to the 13 U.S.A. colonies. Other Quaker shipping saw sea links between Europe and North America.

We have had some enquiries about Quaker sites, namely from Otterville, Newmarket and London. This no doubt will increase once the QUAKER REGISTER is formulated. The QUAKER DIRECTORY will also create much interest, paralleling those enquiries on the Quaker Family project.

There is still a tremendous amount of work to do. Canadian

Quaker History is very much like icebergs. There is still a great deal hidden beneath the surface.

Historical findings (from the long list and growing):

- There was a Quaker director on the founding eight-member Board of Directors of Canadian Pacific Railway, circa 1826.

- The skill and art of silhouette portraits is attributed to Quakers. This was a popular and plain way of recording people's images. Later developments saw these skills grow into larger pictures and friezes, all of which are very valuable today.

- A Quaker called **Esterbrook** founded a company in England, circa 1856, to create metal pen nibs and progress on from Quill pens. The company expanded into the U.S.A. and Canada in later years.

Respectfully submitted.

Ian Woods

CFHA members visit historic Toronto landmarks



CFHA members arrive by bus September 21 this year in front of the St. Lawrence Market to start their tour of historic landmarks in the old Town of York, founded in 1834. Upper right, tour director **Bruce Bell** starts the tour near George Street, Toronto's oldest street.



Plaque marks Robert Baldwin's birthplace

Above, **Bruce Bell** points to a plaque marking the birth place of **Robert Baldwin**, a former Ontario premier, and "father of responsible government," who was born on May 12, 1804. At upper right, Bruce points to a plaque marking the Types Riot of 1837, involving The Colonial Advocate, called "The people's newspaper" and published by **William Lyon Mackenzie**. After 12 years of effort by supporters, the plaque was installed on a column in front of a condominium building at 160 Frederick St. At lower right is a plaque marking construction of St. Lawrence Hall at 157 King St., near Jarvis Street, the site of city government in the 1800s.





Toronto's oldest structure

Bruce Bell gestures as he tells Association members about 252 Adelaide St. E. - the oldest structure in Toronto. The building, formerly housing the Bank of Upper Canada, was built in 1808. It's now privately owned. Below, a closeup view of the front entrance, as Bruce speaks with historian Chris Raible, who was the keynote speaker at the CFHA conference.



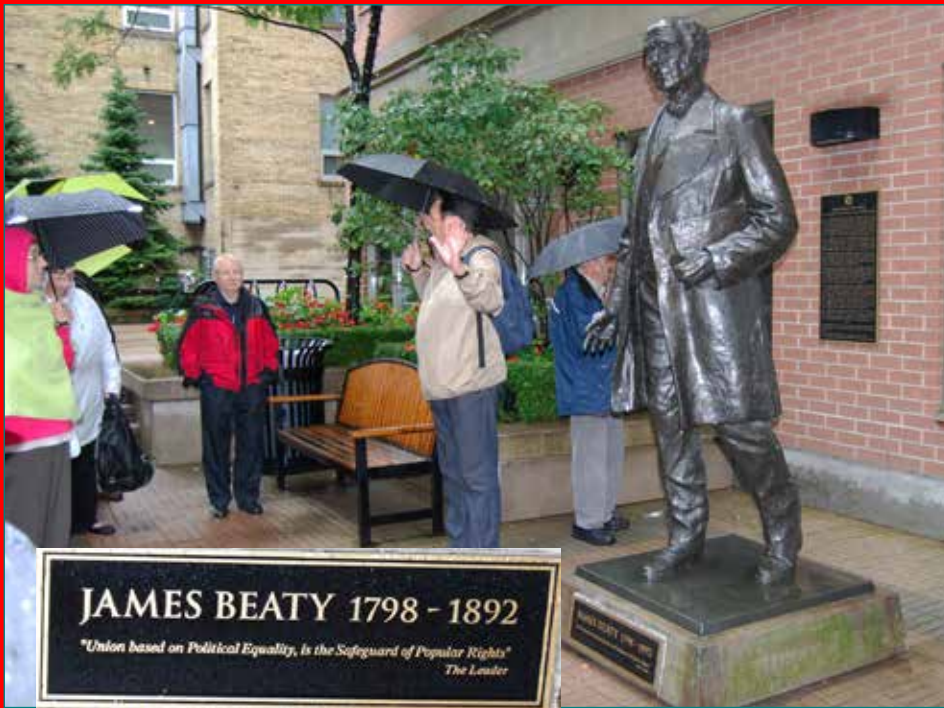
Above, this plaque marks the addition to the Bank of Upper Canada building at 252 Adelaide St. E. in 1851.



Post Office - 1830-1840

At upper left, Association members climb steps and enter the Post Office at 200 Adelaide St. that operated from 1830-1840, and continues to provide postal services today. At lower left, visitors walk past the Royal Mail postal boxes. Above, **Jennifer Stanley** uses 1830s style pen and ink in the Post Office to write names in script. Below, she displays the names she wrote.





James Beaty statue

Association members visit a statue of **James Beaty**, newspaper publisher, developer and businessman, who left his imprint on the Town of York and Upper Canada. Beaty, publisher of *The Daily Leader* and one of Toronto's early pioneers, had a reputation for honest dealings and zealous promotion of his community. At upper right are two nearby gaslights donated to the City of Toronto by the municipality of Liverpool, England.



Last wall of old jail

This brick wall is the last remnant of the old Town of York jail of 1840, where "seditionists" and others suspected of plotting the Rebellion of 1837 were incarcerated. Singing *Yankee Doodle Dandy* could land you in this jail. The wall is in the lower level and adjacent to St. Lawrence Market.



Early Mayor's Chair

Donna Moore poses with this walnut mid-Victorian chair used by mayors of the Town of York (later the City of Toronto) in the original council chamber in St. Lawrence Hall from 1845-1899. The grandson and namesake of former mayor **Edward F. Clarke** donated the chair to the city on behalf of the Clarke family.

Precise number of Quakers involved in Rebellion of 1837 unknown

"The contest to be waged in this province is between Monarchy and Republic. There are of course men professing all shades of opinion, but the time draws nearer each day, when they must either declare their attachment to the British Constitution, or venture on the bold and dangerous step of signing a Declaration of Independence."

*(The Royal Standard
9 November 1836)*

Some Quakers abandoned their traditional pacificism and Quietest principles and took up arms when they were caught up in the turmoil and political upheaval in Upper Canada that led to the Rebellion of 1837.

Historian **Chris Raible** of Creemore, Ont., told the **CFHA's AGM** and gathering on September 21 that Friends found themselves in a tenuous position. Some eventually abandoned their Quietest Quaker views when they clashed with what they viewed as unfairness and injustice under Monarchial British rule.

The **CFHA** gathering, with the theme of *Loyalties in Conflict in Upper Canada*, explored the tenuous position Friends found themselves in as forces "beyond the hedge" of the Society faced each other in open conflict.

Noted historians **Bruce Bell** and **Chris Raible** guided **CFHA** members through *Loyalties in Conflict* in "Muddy York" of the late 1830s. Chairman **Andrew Cresswell**, in his pre-meeting welcome package, wrote to members that the **CFHA** continues "to bring Canadian Quaker history and heritage to light!"

guests boarded a school bus in front of John McKenzie House, home of the **Ontario Historical Society**, in Willowdale, where the AGM and conference were held. They disembarked in front of the St. Lawrence Market in the former Town of York, and toured historic landmarks in the area, including George Street (the oldest in the city), King, Jarvis, Frederick, Adelaide, Court and Bathurst Streets.

Rebellion walking tour itinerary

Toronto historian **Bruce Bell** took Association members on the walking tour. Despite a steady drizzle during most of the two-hour tour, Bruce and Association members held on to umbrellas and pressed on as they walked from one historical site to another.

Among historical landmarks were the infamous *Bond Head Inn* where Government troops were billeted the night before the rebellion began; the site of **William Lyon Mackenzie's** newspaper *The Colonial Advocate*, where the Types Riot broke out on June 8, 1826.

It was one of the instigating moments that would lead to the rebellion years later. The tour also led to the site of the notorious jail where leaders **Samuel Lount** and **Peter Matthews** were held, and the site of the commemorative plaque marking the spot where they were both hanged on April 12, 1838.

Also visited was the commemorative plaque marking the birthplace of **Robert Baldwin**, the father of responsible government in Canada who, in 1849, granted a general amnesty for participants in the Rebellion of 1837.



*Historian **Chris Raible** addresses **CFHA**.*

Town of York in 1800 had about 500 residents and few roads. All supplies and provisions had to be brought in by boat on Lake Ontario. In 1825, with the building of the Erie Canal, a trip that used to take three months, now took two weeks.

William Lyon Mackenzie would later play a prominent role in activities leading up to the unsuccessful Rebellion of 1837, in December of that year.

Mackenzie, publisher of *The Colonial Advocate* ("The People's Newspaper"), railed against what he and supporters considered unfairness by the ruling British Monarchy, over such issues as unfair taxation, the Family Compact, and the Clergy Reserves.

Precise number of Quakers involved in Rebellion of 1837 unknown...from page 13

Chris Raible later elaborated on the part played by Mackenzie and his supporters in the events leading up to the Rebellion of 1837. In his keynote address at John McKenzie House, Chris said he has studied the life of **William Lyon Mackenzie** for the last quarter century.

"He was anything but a Quietest Quaker," Chris said. "He was a printer, newspaperman and politician. He was also an advocate and voice for the small businessman and the voice of the disadvantaged."

The 1820s and '30s were marked with controversy and turmoil. Revolution was a deliberate effort to bring political change, Chris said, adding that "Quakers watched the coming storm with dismay. Faced with prejudice and persecution, most Quakers were moved to support their neighbours' efforts to effect political change."

This change included efforts to make Upper Canada a part of the United States. It was a time filled with turmoil and discontent. Unfair taxation supporting the Anglican Church caused discontent and turmoil and sympathy to rebellion.

"It was not a Quakerly peaceable kingdom," Chris said. "A significant number of Quakers took up arms and took part in the rebellion."

Chris added that at least 50 Quaker men were rebels in 1837 and many more Quaker men and women were sympathetic to the rebellion. Five Quakers were imprisoned, one was hanged, and a number were disowned by their Quaker meetings.

Quakers in the Sparta area



*This commemorative plaque in downtown Toronto marks the site of York's second jail where **Samuel Lount** and **Peter Matthews**, two of **William Lyon Mackenzie's** most loyal supporters, were hanged on April 12, 1838.*

were "notoriously sympathetic to rebellion. They were either rebels or rebel sympathizers."

Quaker rebels?

Chris Raible, spoke from notes based on a lengthy, scholarly article, complete with footnotes and references. Chris kindly sent a copy to *The Meetinghouse*. Following are edited excerpts from his article about the involvement of **William Lyon Mackenzie** and Quakers in the Rebellion of 1837:

"Quaker rebels?"

"**Joseph Gould**, Quaker, joined (indeed, helped lead) an armed insurrection against the established order, a resort to violence seeking to overthrow the government. Was Gould the only Quaker? No. But the question of how many Quakers in Upper Canada became armed rebels in December 1837 is

not an easy one to answer.

"In the introductory chapter of her splendid study of Yonge Street Quakers, **Robynne Healey** declares that, by the time of the Rebellion, 'Quakers were well represented in political reform movements.' As for their actual participation in the Rebellion itself, she notes, 'they formed 4.2 per cent of the population in rebel areas, yet accounted for 40 per cent of the known rebels and supporters.'

"Unfortunately, that startling statistic – in rebel areas, 40% of the known rebels and supporters were Quakers – is not as simple as it sounds. Healey cited as her source an address given to this Friends Historical Association almost thirty years ago by Canadian historian **Thomas Socknat**.

Continued on page 15

Precise number of Quakers involved in Rebellion of 1837 unknown ... *from page 14*

"He (**Thomas Socknat**) graciously replied to my inquiry, telling me that his original paper and its sources were not readily available, but that he had undoubtedly drawn his information from **Colin Read's** comprehensive 1982 study, *The Rising in Western Upper Canada*.

"Read's admirable and comprehensive study focuses exclusively on the so-called 'Duncombe Rebellion' that was prompted by Mackenzie's Toronto uprising. One aspect of the study examined the religious identification of rebel participants and their sympathizers.

"Without overloading you with caveats and the details, it is quite true that in the western area of Upper Canada that Read studied, in 1842 (three years after the Rebellion), 4.2% of the population whose religion was known were Quakers. But only 2.9% of the area's total population were Quakers. In that area, 69 persons were identified as rebels or rebellion sympathizers whose religion affiliation was known.

"Of these, 27 (39%) were Quaker; but of the total 317 identified rebels and rebellion sympathizers, 9% were Quakers. This latter number is less dramatic, of course, but it is not insignificant.

"We cannot, of course, extrapolate and apply these figures to Upper Canada as a whole. To the best of my knowledge, no careful study has been made to ascertain the total number of rebels and rebel sympathizers in all of Upper Canada, much less any study of their religion. Nor could I find a statistical study of just the Quakers who took part in the Rebellion. My own attempt to make an estimate

using secondary sources ran into problems.

"My first problem: who is a Quaker? Clearly anyone on record as a member of a Monthly Meeting is a Quaker. Is anyone who self-identifies, though there is no other known evidence, a Quaker? Is anyone identified in a biography or a family or local history a Quaker?

"Is the child of a known Quaker still a Quaker as an adult, even if there is no evidence of any continued Quaker association? Is anyone disowned by a Monthly Meeting still a Quaker? Does it require the act of disowning to make someone no longer a Quaker?

"Almost immediately after the routing of the rebels at *Montgomery's Tavern*, **Lieutenant Governor Francis Bond Head** issued a proclamation offering large rewards 'to anyone who will apprehend, and deliver to justice' five rebellion leaders who had escaped capture: **William Lyon Mackenzie, David Gibson, Samuel Lount, Jesse Lloyd and Silas Fletcher**. Two of these men are often identified as Quakers.

"Was **Samuel Lount** a Quaker? **Robynne Healey** treats him as a Quaker – or more particularly, treats his wife, **Elizabeth Lount**, who pleaded for his life, as a Quaker. But I turned up no other evidence, although I feel sure there must be some. There is some suggestion that **Samuel Lount** was associated with the **Children of Peace**, yet neither of the modern scholarly studies of that 'Quaker sect' identifies him as a member.

"Was **Jesse Lloyd** a Quaker? His biographer, historian **Ronald**

J. Stagg, identifies Lloyd's Quaker roots, but states that in 1832 'his membership in the Yonge Street Meeting had been cancelled because of non-attendance. This action appears to have ended his involvement with the Quakers as such.' Yet neither **Robynne Healey** nor **Arthur Dorland** mentions him.

"My second problem: who is a rebel? Clearly anyone who fought with Mackenzie at *Montgomery's Tavern* was a rebel. Was anyone who arrived at the tavern, but soon left not taking part, a rebel? Was anyone who was arrested and imprisoned a rebel? (There is a list, albeit incomplete and not entirely accurate, later compiled from official sources.)

"If released very quickly, was he a rebel? Was anyone who confessed guilt in order to be released, but was probably innocent, a rebel? Was anyone indicted by the government, though never captured or tried, a rebel? Was anyone who fled the province to avoid arrest, a rebel? There is no list, there are no agreed numbers. And beyond this, how does one define who was a rebel sympathizer?

"Nonetheless, I compiled a list of individuals identified as participants in the Rebellion and also identified as Quakers.

"Based entirely on secondary sources, I found 27 Quaker men from the Home District – and thus the Yonge Street meeting – whom I could identify as rebels. (I also identified 14 Children of Peace members – almost certainly there were more.)

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Precise number of Quakers involved in Rebellion of 1837 unknown... *from page 15*

"By 1837 there were Quaker settlements in three areas of the province. In eastern Upper Canada, there is little or no evidence of Quaker interest in the Rebellion. In the west, as revealed by the research of **Colin Read** already mentioned, especially around Sparta, Quakers were notably – or notoriously – sympathetic.

"Their rebel activity led to many arrests and, ultimately, to the hanging of **Joshua Doan** (convicted, however, not for rallying to Duncombe's forces, but, after escaping to the United States, for joining a disastrous attempt in late 1838 to re-ignite the fires of Rebellion at Windsor).

"Read listed 317 (nearly all men) who were rebels or rebel sympathizers, specifically identifying 12 Quakers as rebels and 11 more as rebel sympathizers. It is the central area, the Yonge Street Meeting area, that deserves more careful study.

"Thus my own tentative guess – and it is only a guess – is that among the men who actually took part in the 1837 Rebellion, some 40 to 50 were Quakers; something like twice as many more Quaker men and women were active sympathizers. Whether, in retrospect, all this Quaker rebellious activity deserves commendation or condemnation, only a Quaker can decide."



Certificate of appreciation presented

Gordon Thompson, left, past Chairman of the **CFHA** and acting Chairman during the 2013 AGM on September 21, presents a certificate of appreciation to historian and keynote speaker **Chris Raible**.



Small box pledges prisoner's love

Joseph Gould, an Uxbridge Quaker farmer and mill owner, made a small box similar to this one above, while in prison with about 900 men who had been rounded up and jailed after the 1837 Rebellion debacle in Upper Canada. Gould carefully inscribed in ink on the front and back sides these words: "When liberty with all its charms Shall comfort the distressed Then I'll return with open arms, And clasp you to my breast." An inscription on the bottom reads: "From Joseph Gould, in prison June 1838." The box above, owned by **Chris** and **Pat Raible** of Creemore, Ontario, is a replica of the actual Gould box.

All AGM and historic tour photos by Pat Moauro



It's a piece of (historical) cake

Rebecca Baxter of Scarborough prepares to cut an historical cake for **CFHA** members during their annual gathering in Willowdale on September 21. Rebecca, owner of **Sugar Mama**, a custom cake-making business, presented the white maple cake to the **CFHA** as a gift. The cake was decorated to mark the 175th anniversary of the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada. A slice at left shows the apple cinnamon and mixed berry ingredients of the cake, which Rebecca made "from scratch." Below, **CFHA** members enjoy their piece of cake. Rebecca's website is: www.veysugarmama.com





Friends celebrate 100-year-old Victoria, B.C. Meetinghouse

By Ann-Lee Switzer

Saturday, May 4, 2013—the big day that Victoria Friends had been waiting for all year, to celebrate the centennial of our cherished Meetinghouse at 1831 Fern Street.

A perfect May sun set off the early 20th century costumes many attenders had donned: flower-bedecked chapeau for the women, vests and wide-brim hats for the men.

Celebrations had actually begun at the festive 99th birthday last year. In preparation for The Big One, a committee was then struck to plan renovations for the craftsman-style house, the oldest purpose-built Meeting House in Western Canada. The exterior was painted in the original colours (discovered by scraping down to the first layer).

Indoors, electric panels were moved and circuits upgraded. New “schoolhouse-style” lights replaced

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Friends celebrated the centennial of their cherished Meetinghouse at 1831 Fern Street in Victoria, B.C., on May 4, 2013. Below is the centennial cake, baked by a member of the meeting and decorated in the style and colours of the building.

Photos by Ann-Lee Switzer



Friends celebrate 100-year-old Victoria, B.C. Meetinghouse ... *from page 18*

the old ones in the Meeting room. We will not forget upgrades to the washrooms! The old plywood bookshelves were removed and wainscoting rebuilt and varnished. New paint brightened up the whole interior. Everything was freshly cleaned, polished, oiled.

Everything was finished by late April except one item: new bookshelves had yet to come from Vancouver; would they miss the deadline? Almost, but the evening before the celebration the truck arrived with the shrink-wrapped furniture, and a group of volunteers got to work. The piles of books ranged around the floor were transferred Dewey number by Dewey number to their permanent home, till late into the night.

The next morning attendees

were greeted by a large banner over the entryway, designed by a local Quaker artist. Flowers from the garden clustered in vases everywhere. Two large display boards held photos from Meetings and events past. Friends greeted friends not seen for ages, and a happy buzz wafted through the newly varnished hall. A short Meeting for Worship was followed by a welcome, and speakers from the Meeting shared history and memories of how their own lives were interwoven with that of the house.

Time for refreshments—what a spread! Our plates were stacked with sandwiches, cookies, pita and hummus, colourful salads and dips, and brought out into the garden for a picnic.

As a digestive, we gathered indoors once more to hear a visit-

ing Magidah, or Jewish story-teller, recount a wise old tale themed around the sharing of food. And what better way for us to respond, but to sing together afterwards, our 10 favourite songs, from a newly assembled songbook—accompanied by a variety of instruments and our new-old 1913 piano. Outdoors we trooped once more for the requisite Group Photo, and to enjoy a piece of centennial cake baked and designed by a Meeting member.

The afternoon ended with the screening of a show of historic photos back to 1911, updated from attendees' albums, all set to music performed by some of our many musicians. Laughter, sighs and murmurs of recognition from the audience told how we, too, have in a sense already passed into history, leaving behind hopes and



Victoria Friends sing from a newly assembled songbook, accompanied by a variety of instruments. Women are wearing hats with flowers. Men are wearing vests and wide-brim hats.

Photo by Ann-Lee Switzer



Above, Victoria, B.C. Friends pose for a group photo by **David Cheatley** outside their Meetinghouse, 100 years after Victoria Friends posed for a similar photo (below) outside of their Meetinghouse in 1913. Historical photo below is from the archives of **The Religious Society of Friends, Victoria**.



Quaker Meetinghouse Uxbridge, Ontario



Photo courtesy of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Uxbridge, Ontario

Uxbridge Friends celebrate 204 years of worship at annual service

By Gordon Thompson

As one approaches the town of Uxbridge from the west, one is struck by the sweeping panoramic view across the broad valley in which the town is situated. The early settlement of Uxbridge Mills developed near the millponds and industry centered in the valley.

Quaker pioneers, in keeping with prevailing Quaker practice, chose the location several kilometers from town on the west side of the valley to establish their initial log meetinghouse and burying ground. Later, in 1820, they erected the building that still stands on the site today.

This choice long ago was an inspired one. To this day, visitors to the meeting house site frequently experience the sense of quiet spiritual presence and order expressed in this simple rustic building. Perhaps there is something in the play of sunlight on the spacious lawn, the familiar presence of tall full-grown trees, or the slow, orderly progression of

clouds across the open sky which brings on a sense of comfort and well-being.

The Psalm posted near the entrance, "Be still, and Know that I am God", hardly requires stating. There is a sense of openness and arresting presence to the place, and often, inadvertently and unintentionally, one finds that in almost reflexive, spontaneous response one is stilled.

This is a special place. It is not surprising, then, to find descendants of the original Quaker pioneers and friends of those descendants continue to experience a special joy and sense of community during their annual summer gathering for worship at the meeting house.

It was a pleasure for **Ruth Jeffery-MacLean** and me to attend the annual service at the meetinghouse on June 9, 2013. In response to our request to provide a small **CFHA** display, Uxbridge Friends gave us permission and graciously extended

an invitation to attend. Following the service many of the approximately 120 participants enjoyed refreshments and "catching up" conversation.

A few took the opportunity to discuss with us their personal heritage and ask questions about Quaker faith and practice during the early pioneer's days.

At many **CFHA** outreach events we work to promote awareness and interest in Canadian Quaker history and accomplishments. At the annual Uxbridge meeting for worship a strong community sense of appreciation of that legacy already exists. It is always a pleasure to be among those who attend this gathering.

We would like to express our appreciation for the time and preparation provided by the organizers. We also appreciate the thoughtful coverage of Quaker themes included in the sermon delivered by **Reverend Don Wilmer** of Port Perry.

Ann Nottingham asks about her ties to Quaker Haight family

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an inquiry from **Ann Nottingham** about her relationship to the pioneer Quaker families of **Reuben and Sarah (Wright) Haight** and their son **Samuel H. Haight**. **Jane Zavitz-Bond**, a member of Yarmouth Monthly Meeting in Sparta, and a descendent of the pioneer Quaker **Zavitz** family, responds to the inquiry from records and her own personal knowledge.*

I was excited to find your site through my genealogy searching. I came across a copy of the Fall 1995 Journal (<http://cfha.info/journal58.pdf>) which contains an account of **Reuben and Sarah (Wright) Haight's** early life, written by their son **Samuel H. Haight**. Samuel married **Phoebe Mills**, daughter of **Cornelius and Matilda (Beadle) Mills**. I am fairly certain that Phoebe's sister **Priscilla (Mills) Darling** was my great-great grandmother. It appears that Priscilla died young, leaving a widower, **John Darling**, and three children.

According to the 1861 census, Samuel and Phoebe took in two of the children, Cornelius (my great-grandfather) and Priscilla. Thomas may have stayed with his father. So, Samuel and Phoebe were not direct relatives but seemed to have filled in as parents to the children. For that link alone, I was very happy to find so much information on this kind man. Samuel tells of the deaths of his children at a very young age, but not of taking in his niece and nephew.

I do know that Samuel and his large Haight family settled in Sparta, Elgin County and he must have been instrumental in building the Meeting House there. I believe his family house (where Priscilla the

daughter was married to **James Vernall Teetzel**) is still standing. Many Hights, Mills, and Minards are buried in the Friends Cemetery.

I would be happy to join your association and to share whatever I have on those three families. I hope I can also ask if there is a contact person in Sparta who may be able to help find out more about the Mills and Minard families (relatives of Phoebe), what happened to Priscilla and John, and how Samuel took in their children. I also ask how I may purchase a hard copy of the Fall 1995 Journal and how to search those surnames in past issues. Thank you so much for your work.

Sincerely,
Ann Nottingham
anottin@comcast.net

Jane Zavitz-Bond responds to inquiry

Our family home, Locust Grove, was built by **Samuel Haight** in 1837, with an addition in 1839, when he married **Phoebe Mills**. They had two children, **Samuel** and **Rosella**, who died within days of each other with a communicable disease, believed to have been diphtheria. They took in family members and other young people over the years. They were

called **Uncle Sammy** and **Aunt Phoebe** by the community. Phoebe was indeed the aunt to your ancestor and so addressed, rightly! My second daughter is named Phoebe for her, as we lived in that home and carried the family forward, so to speak.

The young Priscilla was treated as a daughter, and when the Prince of Wales came to London she attended the Ball and is said to have danced with him. The dress was in a local home, not ours, 60 years ago. (I do not know what happened to it, but you have put me on its trail).

Priscilla Darling married **James V. Teetzel**, later a judge, in the Victorian brick home Samuel built after the US Civil War. Many South Western Ontario farmers were affluent from the sale of hogs and wheat and built solid brick Victorian dwellings. The marriage was not "under the care of the meeting," as the groom was not a member, nor was Priscilla, perhaps, so there is no record in the monthly meeting minutes.

Samuel's 1865+ house, east of his 1837 dwelling was taken down for local radio towers circa 1959-60. (It required a full single roll of wallpaper for one strip for the central hall stairway.) We have photos. The house built for another of Cornelius' children is almost as grand, and is maintained by the Fish family, also direct descendants - and your cousins, restored and in view as I write on HW 45.

Continued on page 23

Response to inquiry about Quaker Haight family ... *continued from page 22*

The Fish family was just nominated to receive the cultural heritage award for architectural preservation by the CHO for the Municipality of Central Elgin this year. **Allen Fish** is a member of Yarmouth Meeting.

Your reference to supporting the local meeting also brings up footnotes. When the current Yarmouth Meetinghouse was built in 1865 it was larger with high Victorian ceilings, more finished interior wood work, but in the style and proportions of a classic eastern American meeting. possible from economic affluence. The settlers had brought the memory with them. In fact the Mills family

came here from Caledon Center. That meetinghouse facade, built in 1817, looks like Yarmouth Meetinghouse.

Years ago when looking through our family library, which included some books from Uncle Samuel. I found, in Sunderland P. Gardner's MEMOIRS, an 1865 receipt for full payment of the new meetinghouse roof from a Churchill, the local roofer, for \$365. (c.) & credit for 10% as it was for a church. Samuel Haight, on the meeting committee to dispose of the previous 1822 building at the cemetery site, bought it for \$50. Friends do not believe in derelict or sacred buildings. He removed and converted it into the pig pen,

now the south end of our barn. Friends have a sense of humour, and one local Friend quipped, "I was married in Sam Haight's pig pen! "

Humour aside, the larger meetinghouse was expanded by an annex to the west for Genesee Yearly Meeting's use in 1873 and each third year into the 20th century. Local families, including Samuel and Phoebe who entertained over 30-35, hosted Yearly Meeting visitors for the week. **Sunderland P. Gardner**, a minister, among them.

In Friendship,
Jane Zavitz-Bond

Pat Bramley seeks information on possible link to Edward Canavan

Pat Bramley is seeking more historical information to determine whether she is related to an **Edward Canavan**, who, at age 14, went to live with a Rogers family in East Gwillimbury, York County, in 1851 or '52.

The Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA) had a booth at the Ontario Genealogical Society's conference at Durham College May 31 to June 1 this year. **Pat Bramley** approached **Donna Moore** and **Randy Saylor**, who were staffing the CFHA booth, and asked about **Edward Canavan's** family history.

Gordon Thompson, a member of the CFHA Canadian Quaker Family History Project, who was also at the Ontario Genealogical Society conference in Durham, later replied to a letter from **Pat Bramley**. Gordon wrote the following to her: "CFHA does not provide genealogical research ser-

vices but I thought you might like to know that I did check for reference to 'Canavan', using our website search function but no citations were found. This did not surprise me.

"I also checked **The Canadian Quaker Genealogical Index** at the Canadian Quaker Archives site (<http://archives-library.quaker.ca/en/search.php>) linked to the CFHA website but had the same result. Please note, however, that neither of these search tools is definitive. The archives site linked to the CFHA searches through our 40 years of posted publications; the Genealogical name index relies on limited transcriptions of Quaker meeting minute books.

In her reply, **Pat Bramley** provided this information about the **Edward Canavan** family:

"Here is the info I have so far. From the 1851/2 census, **E.**

Canavan is listed as being 14 years old at his next birthday, living with a family named **Rogers (Obadiah, Susan, Nancy, Lydia, Daniel)**, and a couple of names I can't make out) in East Gwillimbury, York County. It states he was born in Ireland and is Roman Catholic. He is listed as a Labourer. I can not find him on the 1861 census. I can not find any indication of parents, siblings, or other relatives. He married **Martha Robinson**, daughter of **Joel Robinson** at St. James Cathedral in Toronto about 1862.

"I would like to know how a boy of his age on his own, ended up living with a Quaker family in East Gwillimbury...."

*If anyone has more information on **Edward Canavan** and the Rogers family in 1851 or '52 and whether he may possibly be related to **Pat Bramley**, please email her at pebramley@gmail.com.*



*This is an artist's sketch of the **John McKenzie House**, home of the **Ontario Historical Society (OHS)** at 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ont., site of the 2013 **CFHA** AGM and Conference.*

Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists scheduled in 2014

Call for Proposals

Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists

Westtown School, West Chester, PA

June 16–18, 2014

The Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists will hold its twentieth biennial conference at Westtown School in West Chester, Pennsylvania, June 16-18, 2014. The conference invites proposals for papers on any aspect of Quaker history. Send a one-page abstract including proposed paper title, a one-page vita, and a separate cover letter detailing anticipated funding sources, if accepted, to John Anderies at quakerhistoriansandarchivists@gmail.com or janderie@haverford.edu. The deadline for proposals is December 6, 2013. Conference Website: <http://libguides.guilford.edu/cqha>

With thanks,

John F. Anderies

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<http://www.haverford.edu/library/special/>

OHS in John McKenzie House

The John McKenzie House, a three-storey brick structure, located north of Sheppard Avenue, just east of Yonge Street in Willowdale, has a long and rich history. It was constructed in 1913 as the second Willowdale home of a pioneer family.

The house is located on lot 18, concession 1, East Yonge Street, on property deeded to Jacob Cummer in 1801. In 1884, a portion of the original property was sold to **Philip McKenzie** (John's father) who was an English immigrant trained as a carpenter and casket maker.

Philip and his wife, **Sarah Thompson**, of Whitchurch Township, moved originally into the old Cummer farmhouse, a 1 1/2-storey brick Georgian style dwelling. This house, built about 1840, was located between Parkview and Norton Avenues and faced west to Yonge Street. When **Philip McKenzie** died, John ran the farm and specialized in Holstein cattle until the local economy for farmers began to deteriorate.

John then decided to subdivide the farm, and in 1912, registered the "Empress Subdivision" that was to become the heart of modern east Willowdale as the area was transformed from a rural village to a suburban community. In 1913, John and his wife, Eva, chose a large lot on the rise of land just east of Yonge Street on Parkview Avenue as the site for their new home. It now houses the offices of the Ontario Historical Society.