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## CANADIAN QUAKER HISTORY

# Newsletter

CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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# From the Dorland Room . . .

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Welcome to the Summer '89 issue of the CFHA Newsletter. The activity in the Dorland Room has picked up since school let out. The cataloguing of the Dorland Collection is proceeding, to be followed by the vault next year. We continue to appreciate the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council whose grant has made this work possible.

Production of this Newsletter was done on the Dorland Room computer, with the result that this issue has grown out of the daily activities of the collection and the researchers who are using it. You'll note the appearance has changed due to new software; please give comments on its appearance and facility for reading.

The major article in this issue is by Richard K. MacMaster, Professor of History at Bluffton College in Ohio. Richard did research on the early Quaker settlers in Niagara at the Dorland Room after the Quaker Archivists and Historians Conference at Pickering College in June, 1988. He was familiar with the early settlement of the area because of his extensive work on Mennonite history. The period he covers (1786-1802) predates most of our records, and demonstrates ties with early Loyalist settlers, many of whom were disowned by their home meetings during the revolution. Their families, still Friends, followed them to Upper Canada, maintaining strong kinship and community ties. A few of these Loyalists did rejoin Friends when new meetings were established. In another instance, Thomas Priestman, whose letters to his English family were published in the Spring '89 issue of Ontario History, was disowned for a marriage irregularity, but rejoined Friends after moving from Adolphustown to Wainfleet near Pelham. In pioneer communities it was hard to stay "beyond the pale."

Allan McGillivray, curator of the Scott-Uxbridge Museum, brought us a copy of a hand written speech delivered by Joseph Gould on the history and growth of Uxbridge. It was recently discovered in the vault of the Uxbridge library. Do you know of other materials relating to Quaker history in Canada? As our resources grow, our usefulness increases. The scope of the Dorland Collection includes: materials about Canadian Quakers - individuals and meetings; materials written by Canadian Quakers; and areas of concern to Canadian Friends as they respond to their "faith and practice" in the testimonies and concerns related to simplicity, human rights, peace, the environment and education.

Researchers continue to come. We have had visits from genealogists, as well as those interested in our broader historical collection. Our booth at the OGS annual meeting in Waterloo and the regional workshop at Georgian College in Barrie attracted

the interest of many. We are still selling the indexes for the Yonge Street records and Arthur Dorland's The Quakers in Canada, a History. Several were sold on those days. We hope that others will learn to use the index and have the satisfaction of doing their own research using the microfilm.

Many projects now in progress require your help. John McIntyre is researching meetinghouses; he would like to know if the porch at the Yonge Street Meetinghouse was added after its original construction. We continue to research Quaker sites (eg meetinghouses, burial grounds, schools, etc.) for our map. Can you add any that should be included? We would like to have as much information about these sites as possible, such as pictures (if available) or sketches, exact location (township, concession and lot numbers) and descriptions. This will help us counter the disappearance of some buildings.

The Workshop Reading of the first new Canadian opera in several decades, SerINETTE, by James Reaney (libretto) and Harry Somers (music) at the Sharon Temple on June 25th was a highlight of the summer. The Children of Peace at Sharon and life in the city of York following the War of 1812 are bound together in the production. Victor Feldbrill directed ten singers through a variety of musical styles to underscore the various themes of the opera, leading to the thrilling finale of David Willson's hymn. This work was commissioned by the Sharon Temple Musical Festival with the support of the Canada Council and the Ontario Council for the Arts. When SerINETTE appears in full regalia next summer do plan to see it!

This summer is not long enough for all we would like to accomplish. If you are coming to use the Dorland Collection, please make an appointment. And do take seriously the request for articles and materials of interest to others. This Newsletter and its contents came from many sources - will you be one? Do you have an article or an item for News and Notes? What is happening in your part of Canadian Quakerdom? Our readers have wide and varied interests. Can we focus future issues on the East? or West? Or upon themes of ongoing interest? All testimonies have their histories. Add to the Canadian Quaker Biographies (how about it, genealogists?) or do an oral history with an elderly Friend. What suggestions do you have? Keep in touch with CFHA! Encourage new memberships!! We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in Norwich!!!

*Jane Gavit*

# Friends in the Niagara Peninsula 1786 - 1802

Richard K. MacMaster

Friends began settling in the Niagara region in 1786. They were part of a larger migration "from the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, particularly the county of Sussex, in the latter state" (1). Many incoming settlers, including some Friends, had stood loyally by King and country during the American Revolution and could be counted as refugees from the United States. Nearly all Friends who came to Niagara had taken no active part in the war and did not claim to be Loyalists. They had suffered nevertheless from double taxation and the loss of civil rights for their refusal to bear arms or pledge to defend the new nation. These penalties continued after the war. In 1778 Quakers in Chester County "in behalf of themselves and others in similar circumstances" petitioned the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania for relief stating that "being conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, they have been fined in considerable sums for not attending militia musters" and their property seized by local collectors who gave no receipts so "the petitioners are still chargeable with the same fines." In urging repeal of "the present disgraceful test law" in 1789, the editor of the Pennsylvania Gazette observed that:

Virginia, and the governor of Canada, have already taken advantage of our folly; they invite Quakers, and other sects who are opposed to oaths, and promises of fidelity to government to come and settle among them (2).

Other patterns can be seen in this Quaker migration. It originated in a small number of Quaker communities that had exceptionally close ties with one another. Friends who settled in the Niagara peninsula came from southeastern Lancaster County and eastern Bucks County and from Sussex County, New Jersey. Mennonites, Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Anglicans also came to Niagara from these same places. During the American Revolution this had been the safest route for British prisoners escaping from internment camps to reach their own lines at New York. Sergeant Roger Lamb, for instance, recorded in his journal how "our worthy friends the Quakers" helped him and his companions across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Quite a few settlers in Ontario had sheltered these fugitives and some had suffered for it.

Friends in other parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey sent few or no members at all to Ontario. Friends moving to Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in these same years did not come from meetings in Bucks County or Sussex County. Of 84 Quaker migrants from Pennsylvania who brought certificates of membership to

Hopewell Monthly Meeting in 1786-1797, Chester County meetings accounted for 52 individuals and families with certificates. Sadsbury Monthly Meeting in southeastern Lancaster County sent 15 certificates, two meetings in York County sent 10, Exeter Meeting in Berks County sent 4, meetings in Montgomery County sent 3, and Philadelphia only two. Since the wartime experience of Pennsylvania Friends was much the same, with no regional differences in the enforcement of state laws, these different sources of Quaker migration to Ontario and Virginia are striking. Only Sadsbury sent members to both Niagara and the Shenandoah Valley. In this case Friends reflected a broader migration pattern (3).

The pattern was already an old one. In the eighteenth century some 1,260 southeastern Pennsylvania Friends followed the Philadelphia Wagon Road to cheaper, but equally fertile, land in Virginia. "The migration accelerated dramatically in the 1760's, when 291 Quakers moved south," the majority of them with children. Land was no longer available for more than one or two sons of Chester County farmers, but the general prosperity of the region provided other alternatives to migration, as Duane Ball demonstrated. In his study of Chester County Friends, Barry Levy showed the degree to which they were able "to diversify their children." They had some more investments, rented more land, and followed a wider variety of occupations than their parents had. Bucks County Friends used the same strategies. They combined farming and a trade and set their sons up as blacksmiths and wheelwrights and in every other honorable occupation. Migration also relieved pressure on a now limited supply of land. This migration was also at full tide in the 1760s. Fifty Quaker families moved to Virginia. Friends in Bucks County also crossed the Delaware to settle first at Kingwood in Hunterdon County, New Jersey and later to establish a daughter colony at Hardwick in Sussex County.

Movement to new lands on the frontier again began in earnest in the late 1780s as the economy revived in Pennsylvania after a period of severe depression. With farm prices improving, tenants and small land owners could afford to move. As Professor James T. Lemon noted in his classic study of southeastern Pennsylvania:

Even Quakers and Mennonites, after two or three decades during which their holdings did not expand, felt the pressure and established new colonies elsewhere. In the more expansive early 1790s movement was considerable (4).

As land grew scarcer and land values soared in long-settled areas of eastern Pennsylvania, sons of large Quaker families would have to subdivide their father's farm, move away or choose another occupation than farming. Subdividing a small farm made no sense. Economic diversification and migration to other settlements of Friends worked as ways to preserve the Quaker

community so long as the individual sought counsel from the meeting in making a change and did not go off on his own "in a disorderly manner." The experience of one Bucks County Quaker family can illustrate some pressures on the meeting.

John Gillam, who came to Ontario, a landless, unmarried young man, was one of eight sons of Lucas and Ann Dungan Gillam of Middletown Township in Bucks County. His father ranked among the less prosperous farmers and paid taxes on 117 acres in 1782. One son Simon, who married in 1783, lived on his father's farm and eventually inherited it. Other sons appear on tax lists from 1785 through 1791 as landless or as tenant farmers, paying taxes only on a horse or a cow. Middletown M.M. disowned all of Lucas Gillam's sons except Simon and Joshua. Joshua was too young to be challenged by military service in the American Revolution. His brother Simon's losses by distraint for muster and substitute fines were reported to the Meeting for Suffering of Philadelphia Y.M., but Lucas Jr. "left in a disorderly manner and joined a military body" in 1778. He was a Loyalist. Militia fines bore heavily on poor young men and distant places appealed to those with few prospects at home. Joseph "left his master and these parts" in 1781 as an apprentice or hired man. He later went to Ontario, according to family tradition. James and John mustered with the militia in peacetime in 1786. Thomas "left these parts as a soldier" in 1794 and joined his brother in Niagara a year later. The other Gillam brother, Jeremiah, married a wife who was not a Quaker. Daughters of the family all remained Friends; the eldest moved with her husband to Sadsbury M.M. in Lancaster County in 1787 (5).

Establishing new communities evidently ranked high in the priorities of Friends who came to Niagara. Nearly all of them chose to settle in a compact Quaker rural neighbourhood; only a few selected lands in isolation from other Friends.

They came to Niagara in extended families, so the religious community had a strong family base. Quite a few unmarried young men migrated, but usually in company with older parents, married sisters and brothers. There were not many isolated individuals among the Friends or any of the other migrants.

The typical Quaker settler in Ontario belonged to a network of more-or-less closely related families who had moved at least once in the Colonies before coming to Upper Canada. The settler's immediate family included a United Empire Loyalist, usually a brother or brother-in-law disowned for taking up arms in the King's defence. Some Quaker settlers sold a profitable farm or mill before leaving for Ontario, but the typical Quaker migrant owned insufficient land for profitable farming and many were landless or farmed someone else's acres as a tenant.

Movement to the Niagara frontier in these years began what

is called a chain-migration, with other family members and former neighbours following the first-comers a few years later. In some cases this involved migration in two stages. Friends from Bucks County, Pennsylvania and Sussex County, New Jersey were also going to the upper Susquehanna valley in Pennsylvania in the 1780s and 1790s, establishing meetings at Catawissa, Roaring Creek, Muncy and elsewhere. Some of them later moved to Ontario joining kin in Pelham and Yonge Street meetings (6).

This chain migration of extended families included men and women of Quaker background who had been disowned in New Jersey or Pennsylvania or never associated themselves with the meetings in Upper Canada. Settlements of Friends in Niagara as elsewhere had families with only this tenuous link to the Society of Friends who nonetheless participated in the life of the community. Other convinced Friends carried unfamiliar surnames into the meeting. The Quaker settlements, while compact, were not isolated from their neighbours (7).

#### Settlement Patterns

Friends, like other settlers, took their time in locating lands at Niagara. This enabled them to select not only fertile acreage, but land close to other Quaker settlers. Philip Frey received an appointment in December 1784 as deputy surveyor "for making surveys in the Upper District of the Province of Quebec" and began surveying in the settlements at Niagara in 1786. Major Campbell, commanding at Niagara, wrote Frey in July 1786 urging him to "come down" and begin "making a regular survey of the whole settlement" which was needed "from the number of people daily coming in from American States." In October 1788 Frey sent "a plan of the settlement of Niagara" to the surveyor general, but he was asked to make a new plan with the names of each settler on his lot. Frey replied that this was difficult to do:

With respect to my insertion of each Proprietor's name in his Lot be pleased to allow me to observe that the change of property &c is as yet so frequent that it would convey but a very uncertain acco't of each man's settlement, therefore could not be depended upon to stand on record . . . the people being allowed to roam about and choose situations in every respect suitable to them makes this Settlement very much scattered and it would employ ten surveyors to follow them in order to lay out their lands (8).

Irritating as this may have been to the deputy surveyor, Friends who came to Niagara over a period of years were enabled to locate or relocate Crown grants side by side in two major settlements.

Ezekiel Dennis may have been the first Quaker to settle on



the Niagara peninsula. When he petitioned for additional land in 1797, Dennis presented an order dated 12 October 1786 from Major A. Campbell to Philip Frey, deputy surveyor, requesting that "Ezekiel Dennis being intitled to 500 acres for himself and Family as a Loyalist you'll please direct him to any ungranted Lands." He came up from Richmond township in northern Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Tax records there indicate that Ezekiel Dennis owned 15 acres of land, a horse and a cow. In 1784 the assessor noted that Dennis had a dwelling house and a family of nine. The 1786 tax list indicated that he had gone away. He evidently returned for his family and recruited others. Richland Monthly Meeting gave certificates dated 25 5th month 1788 and addressed to Friends at Niagara to Ezekiel Dennis and his brother Joseph Dennis and their families. On June 3, 1788 Ezekiel and Ann Dennis deeded their land in Richland Township to Robert Penrose. Joseph and Deborah (Webster) Dennis, their three children, and Ezekiel and Ann Dennis and their nine children traveled to Niagara in the summer of 1788 to settle on lands Ezekiel Dennis had chosen (9).

When he settled, Ezekiel Dennis located 200 acres at Point Abino on Lake Erie in what was to become Bertie Township. Since this represented less than his original grant, he was awarded 500 acres in 1797 for himself and his family. Ezekiel Dennis may have been the first settler in what was by 1789 "the Quaker township." On the same day as his brother Ezekiel's request, Joseph Dennis petitioned for confirmation of his lands fronting Lake Erie in Lot 15 of Humberstone Township and additional family lands.

John Hill Sr. stated in his 1796 petition that "he came into the Province in the year 1787 and was desired by Colonel Hunter to locate lands on Black Creek" and asked to be "confirmed in 400 acres which were allowed for himself and family." John and Elizabeth Hill belonged to Buckingham M.M. in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, but were living in Bertie Township in 1797 when their daughter Elizabeth married Nathan Havens. The tax lists of Buckingham Township credited John Hill with 180 acres, two dwelling houses, five outbuildings and a family of six whites in 1784. He was assessed for only 100 acres the following year and in 1786. His land petition is evidence that Hill was one of the earliest settlers in Bertie after Ezekiel Dennis.

The Dennis family network is a good example of the patterns of Quaker migration. Ezekiel's grandfather was Joseph Dennis who sold his land in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and moved to Sussex County, New Jersey where he died in 1770. His oldest son John Dennis, a wheelwright, remained in Rockhill Township in Bucks County and later acquired land in neighbouring Richland Township. (He conveyed 16 acres of that land to his son Ezekiel, the first Dennis in Ontario.) Charles, the second son, eventually moved to Muncy; his son Levi settled in Pelham Township.

Joseph's third son moved to Sussex County with his father. Richland Friends gave a certificate in 1767 to Joseph Dennis Jr., his wife Hannah Lewis Dennis and their seven children to Kingwood M.M. Their eldest son, also an Ezekiel Dennis, accepted a commission as Ensign in a Loyalist regiment, the New Jersey Volunteers; he came to Niagara and settled by 1790 in Clinton Township with other Sussex County Loyalists and died there in 1810. A sister (Anne) and brother (Lewis) of the Loyalist Ezekiel Dennis also came to Ontario. Anne Dennis married Daniel Willson in 1780. They moved with their nine children to Pelham Township with a certificate from Hardwick M.M. in Sussex County. (10)

Nathaniel and Obadiah Dennis came from Sussex County, New Jersey and settled in Humberstone. Obadiah Dennis indicated in his petition in 1797 that he came to Niagara with his wife and three children in 1787. Obadiah and Prudence Dennis were among the original members of Black Creek who were included in a 1799 list of "all those who have a right of membership" but some of the others who came in 1787 had been compromised by wartime activities and no longer belonged to any meeting of Friends. John Moore, although of Quaker background, had been fined and imprisoned in Sussex County, New Jersey for helping recruits get to the British lines. Benjamin Willson had also helped recruit for the British in Sussex County as his former neighbour Nathaniel Pettit testified. John Harrit came from Sussex County, New Jersey in 1787, according to his later land petition. He brought his wife, who was a daughter of Friends, Asa Schooley, and their one child. Abraham Webster, who was one of the original overseers of Pelham M.M. in 1799, came with his wife Ann Lundy and their nine children in 1787. All of them were from New Jersey and all of them settled on lands in Bertie Township and Humberstone Township fronting on Lake Erie. (11)

Friends formed part of a growing migration from New Jersey. In September 1787 Robert Hamilton compiled a list of "Families who have this Season Come into the Settlement of Niagara" and, of 48 settlers, he identified 44 as from Jersey. None of the settlers just named appeared on Hamilton's list or a companion "Return of Loyalists and disbanded troops" already in the Niagara district. It is probable that they came later in the year. Adam Burwell arrived in 1787 but made his first improvements only in 1788, an indication that he did not live on his land through the winter. Some migrants did come very later in the season. A group of Baptist Families left Mansfield Township in Sussex County, New Jersey in mid-November 1788 to settle in Clinton Township in the Niagara peninsula.

Some early settlers located their lands and then returned home for their families. A second migration of Friends came in 1788. Asa Schooley and his family brought a certificate with them from Hardwick Township in Sussex County affirming that "he

is an orderly and peaceable man, and is a member of the Society of The People called Quakers" and dated in April 1788. They were following their married daughter and others might have come with them from Sussex County. The Dennis families from Richland M.M. cannot have left Bucks County until June 1788. (12)

These Friends formed a reasonably compact settlement within Bertie Township and adjacent parts of Humberstone Township by 1793 when Jacob Lindley, Joseph Moore and other Friends from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting visited them. Moore mentioned Benjamin Willson, Asa Schooley, John Harrit, John Cutler, Daniel Pound, and Joseph Havens as among Friends he met in Bertie Township. The visitors "went to Ezekiel Dennis's, up the side of Lake Erie about six miles, to Point Ebino" and next day continued "on the lake shore, about ten miles, to what is called the Sugar Loaf," and called on seven Quaker families. (13)

The Quaker settlement stretched in contiguous farms on either side of the later town of Ridgeway. Joseph Marsh lived on Lots 16 and 17 Third Concession on the Garrison Road and the road from Fort Erie to Sugar Loaf. Adam Burwell was his neighbour on Lot 18. Joseph Havens, Benjamin Willson, Daniel Pound, Joel White Morris, John Harrit, whose petition suggested he had settled on Lots 28 and 29 as early as 1787, Asa Schooley, Jehoiada Schooley, John Hill, and Azaliah Schooley owned adjacent farms to the Humberstone line. John Moore, Joseph Havens and John Cutler all owned land across the township line. Ezekiel Dennis was located at Point Abino. (14)

Ezekiel and Nathaniel Dennis, Jehoiada and Azaliah Schooley, Joseph Havens and his son Nathan, John and Crowell Willson, sons of Benjamin Willson, Thomas Doan and John Cutler were among signers of a petition from settlers at Point Abino in 1793. (15)

Not all Friends lived in this neighbourhood. Abraham Webster settled much closer to Fort Erie on Lot 8 fronting on Lake Erie. Another group of Friends lived in Humberstone Township closer to Sugar Loaf. Abraham Laing, Wilson and Elijah Doan, Titus and Enos Doan, Joel White Morris, Joseph and Nathan Havens, Asa Azaliah, and Jehoiada Schooley, John Harret, John Cutler, Amos Morris, James and Samuel Wilson were among the signers of another 1793 petition, this one from "Inhabitants settled round the Point called Sugar Loaf." Some of them, as we have seen, lived closer to Point Abino. There was another cluster of Friends in Humberstone Township. Joseph Dennis patented Lots 14 and 15 fronting on Lake Erie, Benjamin Schooley had a grant for Lot 18 Second Concession, and Thomas and Aaron Doan patented Lots 16 and 17 Third Concession. (16)

When Pelham M.M. was established in 1799, members of these families formed Black Creek Preparative Meeting. Abraham Webster, Asa and Sarah Schooley were the first overseers. John

Cutler and his children, Abraham and Ann Lundy Webster and family, Obadiah and Prudence Dennis and family, Joseph and Deborah Webster Dennis, Joseph and Ann Havens with daughter Sarah, son Nathan, his wife Elizabeth Hill Havens, and their son Daniel and Prudence Pound and family, brothers Abraham and Isaac Laing, Titus and Deborah Willson Doan and son Wilson Doan were on the initial list of those at Black Creek with a right of membership among Friends. Ezekiel Dennis brought his certificate from Richland M.M. for himself and his family. Anna Morris, widow of Joel White Morris, and Joseph Marsh each brought certificates from Rahway and Plainfield M.M. for their families. Adam Burwell and his children requested to be joined among Friends. (17)

Other members of these same families evidently shared in the life of the Quaker community, for example, as witnesses at family weddings, but never held membership in Pelham M.M. (18)

The Doan, Harret, Havens, Moore, Schooley, Webster, Willson families and some of the Dennis family were from Hardwick M.M. in Sussex County and Kingwood M.M. in Hunterdon County. The Laings came from Shrewsbury M.M. in Monmouth County, and the Marsh and Morris families from Rahway and Plainfield M.M. in Morris County. Ezekiel Dennis and his family from Richland M.M. and John Cutler and his children from Buckingham M.M. were the only settlers from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Cutler, a widower, brought his nine children in 1789 from Buckingham Township where he was taxed for 117 acres. Adam Burwell may not have been a Friend before coming to Upper Canada in 1788, as he said he had served under the British standard as a Loyalist and married the daughter of another Loyalist Nathaniel Veal. Daniel Pound, who served in the Engineers Department with the British Army on Staten island during the war, and was originally from Mendham M.M. in New Jersey. (19)

### The Short Hills Settlers

Most of the Black Creek families came from New Jersey. Quaker settlers in Pelham and Thorold Townships, on the other hand, nearly all came from Bucks County and from Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. Joseph Moore, one of the visitors from Pennsylvania in 1793, set out from Niagara-on-the-lake and went along the Lake Ontario shore as far as the Twelve Mile Creek in Grantham Township, where he met with Benjamin and Jesse Pauling. Both men served as officers in Butler's Rangers but they had Quaker relations in Philadelphia. The next day they "went three miles to our friend John Taylor's." John and Hannah Taylor lived in Township Number 3 (later called Grantham Township) in 1790 when their daughter Anne married Joshua Gillam of the same township. The Taylors came from Sadsbury M.M. in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. (20)

John Taylor informed his visitors that "divers Friends live

at a place called the Short Hills, about twelve miles off" in Pelham Township. They passed an area of woodland devastated by the 1792 hurricane and stopped on their way to see Thomas Rice and Joshua Gillam, who came from Bucks County, where both had been landless young men. Joshua Gillam was of Middletown Township, and Thomas Rice and his wife Mary belonged to Buckingham M.M. and had lived in Solebury Township before coming to Upper Canada. (21)

The Philadelphia Friends, "finding a few Friends settled in this neighborhood," mentioning James Crawford, Enoch Scrigley and John Darling, concluded to have meeting on first day with them at John Darling's house. James Crawford and Enoch Scrigley were also landless when they lived in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In his 1795 petition for land, Enoch Scrigley said he arrived in the province on October 8, 1788 with his wife Mary and six children. The Scrigleys lived in Buckingham Township, where he was listed as a taxpayer in 1786 but owned no land, and belonged to Buckingham M.M. John Darling was also from Bucks County. He married Elizabeth Canby Birdsall, widow of Samuel Birdsall, who emigrated with their children from Upper Makefield in Bucks County in 1788 and died a year later. After her first husband's death, she kept house for her brother Benjamin Canby. The Canbys belonged to Falls M.M. in Bucks County. Elizabeth Darling petitioned for land in her own right and for her four children in 1795. (22)

Benjamin Canby, the father of these two Niagara pioneers, was a blacksmith by trade. He moved from Buckingham to Falls in 1770 and on to Upper Makefield by 1786 when he sold his 50 acres in Falls Township. Falls M.M. disowned his sons Joseph and Thomas in 1778 for joining the British army. Joseph served in the Bucks County Volunteers and Thomas in the King's American Dragoons. Both men settled in New Brunswick. Joseph Canby joined the Quaker pioneers at Pennfield. Their nephew Samuel Birdsall, Jr. later wrote that his uncle Thomas Canby, "who was a British loyal subject, has at the close of the Revolution, retired with the British troops, and settled at the City of St. Johns in New Brunswick." The eldest son, Whitson Canby, was disowned in 1770 for marrying out of meeting and Elizabeth Canby Birdsall in 1780 for marrying a cousin, but both later satisfied Friends and remained active Quakers. Another sister Martha married Joseph Taylor at Upper Makefield in 1788. The Canby's, with their Loyalist connections and ties to other Quaker communities in Bucks County could be at the centre of the 1788 migration to Pelham Township. (23)

The Pelham settlers actually formed a more connected migration than their Pennsylvania origins suggest. At first glance the Pelham Friends seem removed by more than just a few miles from the Black Creek community, but many ties linked Bucks County and Lancaster County Friends to New Jersey meetings. When James Moore Jr. from Sadsbury M.M. in Lancaster County was

married to Rebecca Birdsall of Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 1782, many of the wedding guests who travelled from Bucks or Lancaster would be neighbours a few years later in Niagara. Among those who signed the marriage certificate were Samuel Birdsall, his wife Elizabeth Canby Birdsall, Benjamin Canby, Ann Birdsall, who married Samuel Taylor, William Pettit and his wife Sarah Birdsall Pettit, Andrew and Ruth Birdsall Moore, Jeremiah and Mary Moore. (24)

The Moores and the Taylors from Lancaster County, the Canbys from Bucks County, and the Birdsalls from across the Delaware in New Jersey not only knew one another, but formed a single extended family. When Pelham M.M. was constituted in 1799 Jeremiah and Mary Moore, John and Hannah Taylor, John Jr. and Elizabeth Moore Taylor, Samuel and Ann Birdsall Taylor, from Sadsbury M.M., Joshua Gillam from Middletown M.M. and his wife Anne Taylor Gillam from Sadsbury M.M., John and Hannah Hill from Buckingham M.M., their son Benjamin Hill and his wife Ann Moore Hill from Sadsbury, and Benjamin Canby from Falls M.M. together with Samuel and Hannah Becket from Woodbury, New Jersey and Jesse and Sarah Thomas from Merion M.M. in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania were the original members. Jacob Moore (1767-1813), son of Jeremiah, brought a certificate from Sadsbury M.M. in 1800 "some years (2 or 3) after Jacob Moore had become a member." (25)

They all came in 1788, as far as can be established, but they did not all settle together initially. The Pelham Quaker settlement represented a deliberate choice to locate Crown lands where Friends could form a compact colony.

Jeremiah Moore of Sadsbury in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania had "been a great sufferer during the American War on account of his attachment to Great Britain," according to his 1795 petition for land. He said he came in 1786 with his wife and eight children. Sadsbury Township assessed Jeremiah Moore for 200 acres and two dwelling-houses and counted a family of ten in 1783. His 200-acre farm was valued at 600 pounds putting him in the top 30% of landowners. His name is on the 1787 and 1788 tax rolls, with a tenant on the land in the latter year. The assessor marked "gone" against his name in 1789. If he was in Upper Canada in 1786 looking for suitable land, the family migration was evidently completed in 1788.

Jeremiah Moore located his lands in Township 2 (later called Stamford), where the visitors from Philadelphia stayed with him in 1793. They noted that his house was "within about three miles of the great cataract" and went with him and his son-in-law Benjamin Hill to see Niagara Falls. He was still living in Stamford Township in 1795 when he asked for an additional 500 acres, which he located in Pelham Township. (26)

Solomon Moore, on the other hand, related in his 1795

petition that he came into the Province in 1788 and improved Lots 11 and 12 in the Eleventh Concession of the Township of Pelham, as well as Lot 6 in the Eighth Concession, "to which latter he was in some measure forced to go for water." He received Crown grants for all these lots. Sadsbury M.M. sent a request to Pelham M.M. in 1802 regarding Solomon Moore, but "as he seldom attends our meeting" Pelham Friends took no action. (27)

The language of Solomon Moore's petition suggested that land in Pelham was there for the taking. This situation did not last long. Friends obtained Crown grants for a solid bloc of south-eastern Pelham Township from the Seventh to the Fourteenth Concessions, and from the Thorold Township line westward as far as Lot 9. Additional grants to Moores and Hills extending along the western edge of Pelham gave grounds for considering it, like Bertie, "the Quaker township."

Friends with Crown grants in Pelham Township were James Crawford, Enoch Scrigley, Jeremiah Moore, Jacob Thomas, Benjamin Hill, Jacob Moore, Solomon Moore, Joshua Gillam, Thomas Rice, John Taylor, Sr., John Taylor, Jr., Samuel Taylor, James Moore, John Darling, Elizabeth Darling, Jacob Birdsall, and John Hill, Jr.

A few Friends settled at an early date in Thorold. John Hill, John Wilson, John and Adam Dennis were among the settlers shown on a map made in 1794 by Augustus Jones. Benjamin Canby owned land in Thorold Township adjoining the Quaker settlement in Pelham. (28)

The two centres of Quaker settlement at Black Creek and Pelham drew other Friends who had taken up land in more distant communities as well as Friends who came after the first settlers.

After 1801 new settlements at Yonge Street in York County began to attract migrants from the United States and a few families from Black Creek and Pelham joined them. Before Yonge Street M.M. was established, Friends moving to Upper Canada brought certificates of membership to Pelham M.M. A substantial number of early Pelham certificates consequently belonged to settlers who never actually lived in the Niagara district, but these settlers can be readily identified. A more difficult problem is the impossibility of knowing, given the fact that Pelham Minutes mention a certificate in a given year, whether the individual had recently arrived or had sent to the former place of residence for a certificate years after coming to Canada. Benjamin Canby left Bucks County in 1788, but only requested a certificate from Falls M.M. to Pelham M.M. in 1801. An analysis of Pelham certificates is fraught with peril.

Hardwick M.M. and neighbouring Kingwood M.M. in New Jersey kept up a small but steady migration to Niagara in 1790-1812.

The later migrants generally settled in Pelham and Thorold, where they were obliged to purchase land in order to settle near other Friends. This was a classic chain-migration. Daniel and Anne Dennis Willson moved to Pelham with their nine children from Hardwick in Sussex County, New Jersey requesting a certificate in July 1801. She was the sister of Loyalist Ezekiel Dennis. They may have joined her relatives in Niagara somewhat earlier. His younger brother Jesse Willson married Anne Shotwell in 1790 and also requested a certificate from Hardwick M.M. in January 1801. Her parents William and Elizabeth Shotwell, both ministers among Friends, came in 1803 with two unmarried daughters and settled in Thorold Township. A son Elijah Shotwell came soon afterward with a certificate from Westbury M.M. on Long Island, New York. All three subsequently married into families originally from Hardwick. Family connections similar to this drew Friends from Buckingham M.M. in Bucks County as well as the two New Jersey meetings despite the limited amount of free land available in or near the two established Quaker communities. For them the community and family were clearly more important than access to good land at no cost. Joseph Hill married Grace Brotherton in 1798 at Hardwick and moved in 1800 to Niagara where both had relatives. In 1803 they went to Yonge Street where they could settle among Friends and obtain a Crown grant of 200 acres. Many others chose York County settlements. Contemporary Quaker migration to York County indicated free land was a factor. (29)

Other Friends took a different approach. William Man, who came from New Jersey in 1787, selected lands in Grantham Township where his descendants lived a century later; he is identified a Quaker in government documents but never in the Pelham Minutes. The Friends from Philadelphia met with others in 1793 who chose to live at a distance from other Friends and remained on their original grants. They went about two miles from Niagara Falls "to our friend William Lundy's" where they held a meeting on first day. Lundy, who was from Sussex County, New Jersey, had grants of land on Lundy's Lane. Robert Spencer, another Friend, owned nearby land, but Stamford Township never developed a viable Quaker settlement. Later they visited "our friend Richardson" on the Niagara River in Willoughby Township. Edward Richardson sold his land in Willoughby to Benjamin Hershey in 1795. (30)

Friends who took no counsel from their own meeting and "left in a disorderly manner" were less likely to choose land in one of the established Quaker settlements. Chesterfield M.M. asked Pelham M.M. in 1800 about Thomas Horner, originally from Kingwood, "coming to this province without concurrence of his friends." In 1803 Pelham Friends reported that Horner had accepted a military commission and was administering oaths as a civil magistrate and disowned him. (31)



## Conclusions

Quaker migration to Niagara reflected Loyalist sympathies, since so many of the 1786-1790 settlers had close relatives who had violated the peace testimony of Friends to take up arms for King and Country. Their deliberate choice of settlement in two compact Quaker communities, both when Crown grants were available and when land had to be purchased, is an indication of the importance of the religious community to them. Since so many Quaker settlers had been landless or had limited economic opportunity in their former communities, economic considerations played a significant part. Like other settlers who left older Quaker communities for newer settlements of Friends, those who came to Niagara were following a traditional strategy of preserving Quaker family and community values by migration. The gradual shift of migration to York County and away from Niagara reflected the desire for economic opportunity within a Quaker community.

Niagara was the destination of only a few Friends who chose migration. The movement to Niagara in 1786-1801 drew on such a small number of Friends meetings in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and on a network or related families that linked them together, that it represented a chain-migration of family members over several decades. This migration of close relatives was complete by 1820. This fact, more than the availability of cheap lands in the Ohio Valley, will explain the gradual decline of Quaker migration from the United States to Niagara.

## Footnotes:

1. R. Gurlay, Sketches of Upper Canada (London, 1822), I, 134.
2. Colonial Records of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, 1852), XV, 418. Pennsylvania Gazette, February 4, 1789. Arthur J. Mekeel, The Relation of the Quakers to the American Revolution (Washington, D.C., 1979), 315-319.
3. Hopewell Friends History 1734-1934 Frederick County, Virginia (Strasburg, Va., 1936), 422-434.
4. Larry Dale Greeg, Migration in early America: The Virginia Quaker Experience (Ann Arbor, Mich., 1980), 27, 36-38. Duane E. Ball, "Dynamics of Population and Wealth in Eighteenth-Century Chester County, Pennsylvania," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, VI (Spring 1976), 621-644. Barry Levy, Quakers and the American Family: British Settlement in the Delaware Valley (New York, 1988), 241-243. James P. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey (Philadelphia, 1881), 743-745. James T. Lemon, The Best Poor Man's Country: A Geographical Study of Early Southeastern Pennsylvania (Baltimore, Md., 1972), 227.

5. Martha Paxson Grundy made this material available to me from her forthcoming dissertation at Case Western Reserve University on Middletown Friends.

6. Bruce S. Elliot, Irish Migrant in the Canadas: A New Approach (Kingston, Ont., 1988), 82-115 and passim is a classic explanation of chain-migration.

7. Martha Paxson Grundy, "Are Outcasts Cast Out?: Disownment, Inheritance, and Participation in Middletown Monthly Meeting," Mercer Mosiac, IV (Spring 1987), 41-44.

8. "District of Nassau Land Board, Letter Book No. 2," Third Report of the Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1905, 308-309, 312-315.

9. Bucks County Deeds, Richland Township Tax Lists, Microfilm, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa., E.A. Cruikshank, "The Settlement of the Township of Fort Erie, Now Known as the Township of Bertie: An Attempt at a Domesday Book," Welland County Historical Society papers and Records, V (1938), 24-25 and 47. Elwood Roberts, Old Richland Families (Norristown, Pa., 1898), 40-42 and 62.

10. Clarence V. Roberts, Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks (Philadelphia, 1925), 99-103. Land Book B, May 2, May 16, 1797, Report of the Department of Public Records and Archives of Ontario, 1930, 149. Grimsby Historical Society, Annals of the Forty, IV (1953), 49. Record Group 1, L3, Land Petitions, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

11. Pelham Records, Canada Yearly Meeting (hereafter CYM) Archives, Pickering College, Newmarket, Ontario. Cruikshank, "Settlement", passim.

12. Asa Schooley's certificate is owned by Howard Schooley, Port Colborne. E.A. Cruikshank, Records of Niagara 1784-1787, Niagara Historical Society, 39 (Niagara-on-the-lake, 1928), 126-8.

13. Ambrose M. Shotwell, comp., Journals of Jacob Lindey and Joseph Moore or Quaker Accounts of the Expedition of 1793 to Detroit and Vicinty (Lansing, Mich., 1892), 76-77.

14. Abstract Indices, Bertie No. 1, Humberstone No. 1, Welland County Registry Office, Welland, Ontario. Record Group 1, L3, Land Petitions, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

15. "Petitions for Land Grants, 1796-1799," Ontario Historical Society 26 (1930), 99-100. Record Group 1, L3, Land Petitions, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

16. Ibid., 24 (1927), 136-137. Abstract Index Humberstone No. 1, Welland County Registry Office. Record Group 1, L3, Land

Petitions, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

17. Pelham Minutes, 1799-1801. CYM Archives, Pickering College.

18. Pelham Register and Marriage certificate. CYM Archives.

19. Pelham Minutes, 1799-1801. Record Group 1, L3, Land Petitions, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

20. Shotwell, Journals, 58. Pelham Minutes.

21. Shotwell, Journals, 58. Record Group 1, L3, Land Petitions, National Archives, Ottawa. Bucks County Tax Lists, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

22. ibid.

23. Samuel Birdsall, "History," Edwin Seaborn Collection, London Public Library, London, Ontario. W.W. Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy (Ann Arbor, Mich., 1936), I, 987. Bucks County Deeds, 1786-1787, 137, Microfilm, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa. Esther C. Wright The Loyalists of New Brunswick (Fredericton, N.B., 1955), 267.

24. James W. Moore, comp., Records of the Kingwood Monthly Meeting of Friends, Hunterdon County, New Jersey (Flemington, N.J., 1900), 14.

25. Pelham Minutes and Pelham Register, CYM Archives, Pickering College. Shotwell, Journals, 58. Record Group 1, L3, Land Petitions, National Archives, Ottawa. Lancaster County Tax Lists, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg.

26. Shotwell, Journals, 59.

27. Record Group 1, L3, Land Petitions, National Archives, Ottawa. Bucks County Tax Lists, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

28. Corlene Taylor and Maggie Parnall, The Mini-Atlas of Early Settlers in the District of Niagara 1782-1876 (St Catherines, Ont., 1984), 53, 62-63. Indices, Pelham No. 1 and Thorold No. 1, Registry Office, Welland, Ontario.

29. Moore, Records, 39-40. Pelham Minutes, Pickering College. - Hardwick Register, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College.

30. Shotwell, Journals, 59. Index Willoughby No. 1, Welland County Registry Office, Welland, Ontario.

31. Pelham Minutes. CYM Archives.

# The Rise and Progress of the Village of Uxbridge

by Joseph Gould

(The following lecture was recently discovered in the vault of the Uxbridge Library - a library bearing the name of the man responsible for much of the "Rise and Progress of the Village of Uxbridge", Joseph Gould. Gould was one of the many Friends who established the Uxbridge Preparative Meeting (under Yonge Street Monthly Meeting) in 1810, and in this lecture he recounts the early settlement of the area until the Rebellion of 1837. Further information on Gould can be found in The Life and Times of Joseph Gould by W.H. Higgins, and in an article in the CFHA Newsletter No. 42 (Winter '87) by our "Friend" in the Uxbridge-Scott Museum, Allan McGillivray, who drew our attention to this document. The spelling has been revised to meet present standards.)

Gentlemen. I am requested to address this club upon the question of the rise and progress of the village of Uxbridge, and while it would afford me great pleasure to discourse for a whole evening with you, upon the rise and progress of a town in which I have spent the whole of my active life in assisting to build up and bring to its present prosperous condition, yet my health is so poor and my voice so feeble that I fear it will fail me before I have finished what little I have proposed to say. But you know my infirmity and will without doubt be charitable. Another thing I must ask you not to be too critical about, that is the dates of the principal events, inasmuch as the history of the village extends over a period of seventy years and upwards, and there being no written statistics to fall back upon, I have been obliged to compile all my remarks from my own memory and while in the main I think they will be found to be correct, yet it is quite likely that some of them will be somewhat astray as to the precise year in which they occurred.

I will commence by stating that the first improvement in this town was made by one Christopher Biswick, a Medical Doctor, a little English bachelor that was said to have never weighed more than ninety or ninety five pounds. So we see that great results accrue from small beginnings. Biswick patented the whole lot no 30 in the 6th Concession of Uxbridge in the year 1806 and commenced to build a saw mill and grist mill the next year, on the spot where Whelers saw mill stands. He got out the timber for both mills and partially built the dam, and then sold out to an old Quaker friend by the name of Joseph Collins who with his son Joseph moved in and built a log house a little south of the

Mansion House. This was in 1808. Then Joseph Collins the elder sold the E1/2 of the lot 30 to Joseph Collins from whom I got the above particulars, informed me that he worked for Collins all through the building of those mills and if my memory is not at fault the dates they were built as stated above are those that he gave me.

Young Collins having married Anna Bogart a sister to the late John Bogart of Bogart Town, came in with some considerable means and being an energetic man, soon finished up the mills and cleared up a small farm and built a frame barn upon it. The frames of those mills and barn would now be considered quite a curiosity in their way among framers of the present day. They were all framed by the old scribe veile, if not before the square rule was discovered, it was before it was put in practice in this country. The mode of framing was to frame each bent by itself by laying it down the full size and scribing and framing each stick for its proper place and marking and numbering each stick so that they could put them together again in the same way.

I may remark here that Robert Willson patented Lot 29 in the 6th in 1806 and settled on it in 1807. His house stood a little south of Isaac Gould's barn, and its location is now within this corporation but formerly was not considered in the village. The sawmill was a little old fashioned mill built very cheaply and ran with a schroud wheel and would probably cut 700 or 800 feet a day. The grist mill was of the most primitive kind, with a pair of native rock stones about 3 feet 6 inches in diameter made by the late Stephen Hilborn, and run by a small breast wheel.



Uxbridge Township 1877  
Concessions 5 - 7, Lots 24 to 37

But small and insignificant as those mills would now appear they were amply sufficient for the wants of the neighbourhood for so many years. For the settlement was very small consisting of only about eighteen families which I may name, although outside of the question in hand, yet it may interest some of their descendents. I will note the names of the first settlers and the consession and lot on which they settled. The first Robert Willson lot 29 in 6th, Joseph Collins 30 - 6th, Jonathan Gould 32 - 6th, Ezekiel Roberts 33 - 6th, Thomas Hilborn, Stephen Hilborn & Amos Hilborn

35 - 6th, George Webb 19 -  
5th, Elijah Collins 21 - 5,  
James Hughes 22 - 5th,  
Charles Chapman & Isaac  
Chapman 28 - 5th, William  
Gould 31 - 5th, Ezekiel  
James 32 - 5th, Samuel  
Haines 34 - 5th, Job Webb 35  
- 5th, Samuel Siddins 3 -  
4th and these constituted  
(with not more than three  
additions) the whole  
settlement for about fifteen  
years. Europe had been in a  
turnoil of war with Napoleon  
for a long time and there  
had been no immigration from  
this source, and although  
there had been a strong  
current of immigration from  
the United States, partially  
settling Markham, Vaughan,  
King, Whitchurch East  
Gwillimbury, Uxbridge,  
Pickering and Whitby. Many  
of who were Quakers settling  
in King, Whitchurch, East  
Gwillimbury and Uxbridge and  
when the War of 1812 broke  
out, those parties in

out, those parties in

But the most fatal blow that befell our village in its early life was the death of Joseph Collins Jun. who was killed in his sawmill on the fifth day of December 1815. The manner of his death was most tragical. He was running his sawmill the day before his death and the ice had accumulated on the Pitman from the splashing of the creek and when the mill stoked, the crank would stand up plumb, caught by the ice building between a post and the pitman, and the saw gate was up as far as it would go and in the morning, finding the mill froze fast Collins laid down across the beam under the saw gate and with his axe leaned down to knock the ice off of the pitman, but as soon as that was done the wheel turned bringing down the saw gate across his back holding him there between the saw saw gate and the beam till he

died; at least this was the conclusion arrived at at his death.

As I said before the death of Collins was a severe blow to the village of Uxbridge. He was a very enterprising man and had he lived would no doubt have built up a town here much earlier than it has been done. But he died intestate leaving one daughter and two sons, and the old primogenitor laws of England was then the law in this province by which the oldest son inherited all the real estate, and John Collins the oldest son, a lad of two years old, became the heir at law to all the real estate, which consisted of the deed in fee of the E1/2 of 30 in 6th and the household of the whole of 31 in the 6th then a Clergy Reserve.

Mrs Anna Collins, the widow, with her three children removed back to her fathers' near Newmarket where she married again and raised another family, and dying has left them well off. John Collins, the heir at law, has raised one family lost one wife and got another and is now living in North Gwillimbury. And Joseph Collins his brother is now and has been Town Clerk and Treasurer of Whitchurch for over thirty years back.

This much I felt bound to say for the family that made the first practical improvement in this village of Uxbridge.

John Bogart, the uncle of John Collins took out letters of administration for this property and administered it for the heir at law during his minority, and rented the mills and farm to different parties from time to time for about 17 or 18 years. At the time of Collins' death there had been no addition to the village or the settlement, nor was there one settler in the Reach Brock or Scott. Mr Bogart put Stephen Hilborn in possession of the mills for a short time at first it was rented to a Dutchman by name of Abram Meride(?). He had it two or three years, then Robert Widdifield rented a year or two, then Stephen Hilborn had them again for a short time, and then Amos Hilborn rented them and continued to hold them till the year 1831, but how long each one of those tenants occupied the property I am unable to say. But there was no improvements made upon the Collins property while they occupied it, save a little log house and a log blacksmith shop which John Lyons built in 1827 a little south of Micheal O'Neil's smith shop north of Brock St.

In the spring of 1826 a permanent acquisition was added to the village by the arrival of John P. Plank a wide awake Dutchman from York state who located the W 1/2 of lot 30 in the 7th and built a little frame tavern I think a little west and a little south of Alonzo Planks' present house. And being a jolly good fellow "which nobody could deny" and with his beautiful clean tidy dutch wife one of the best housewives that ever cooked a turkey or broiled a beef stake, they soon established for themselves and house a reputation that has served the family as

passport to the present time.

By this time a strong current of immigration had set in from all the Brittish Isles and the Townships of Brock, Thorah and Mariposa had began to settle and the only road by which they could be reached was through Uxbridge and Mr Planks' house became the nest place for all the emigrants that settled in those townships and he began to pick up money pretty fast. And by this time the Collins property mills and all had gone into complete delapidation without any prospect of being renovated, as it was several years yet before the heir would become of age so as to improve or dispose of it. And Mr Plank recognizing the neccesity and importance of having saw and grist mill accommodation conceived the idea of buying out Robert Willson the owner of lot 29 and built a saw and grist mill on the sites upon which the Gould saw and grist mill now stands, and succeeded in inducing Joseph Chapman to buy the grist mill privilege and build the grist mill while he Plank would buy the saw mill privilege and build the saw mill. This I think was in 1828. They both made the purchase, and Plank in the course of two years built the saw mill, which I think was started in 1830, but Chapman failed to complete his contract but sold out and moved to Pickering. About the time Carlton Lynd a young merchant from Whitby came in and started a general store not far from where Elonzo Planks house stands. This was the first store ever started in Uxbridge.

Mr Planks' saw mill was not a success. It was badly arranged and crudely built, had very little power and less speed and the dam being built on a pile of logs with dry sand broke away frequently till in the spring of 1832 it broke and undermined the mill, completely disheartening Mr Plank, so that he could not be induced to rebuild it, but allowed it to lay idle during the whole summer of that year. The whole neighborhood urged Mr Plank to rebuild his mill dam and repair the mill but like all shrewd Americans, finding himself in difficulty, determined to shift his burden on some one else to be carried. But not being able to induce any one acquainted with such property to buy it, in looking round for a purchaser he found a young man in the neighborhood, a carpenter, who knew very little about mill property and less about the ways of the world without education or any knowledge of business.

A very inconsiderate venturesome fellow, mostly acting on first impressions, frequently jumping into difficulties and depending more upon his hands than his head to get him out, he knew well what it was to work, but he knew nothing what it was to fail and determined never to learn; him Mr Plank induced to purchase his sawmill and 42 1/2 acres off the east end of 29 and he came in, in the fall of 1832 and rebuilt the dam and repaired the saw mill. Thus Joseph Gould drove his first stake in the village of Uxbridge which he has never been able to draw out though frequently trying to do so. Although Mr Gould had



repaired his mill dam as he thought all right yet he had not sawn one log when it broke again as bad as ever and being so late in the fall that it had to lay over till the next spring when he rebuilt it, and sawed some four months when it broke again and had to lay over another winter. He then sold it to a Bagshaw and for his right got a bond for a deed of no. 5 in the 6th Scott. But the following spring he rebuilt it and it has remained good ever since, but what with the breaks each of which cost \$200 and two years lost time of himself and the mill left him heavily involved. This was the spring of 1834 and at this time a young man by the name of Joel Bardwell with his cousin Rufus Bardwell from York state who had rented Planks Hotel the fall before, bought out the Collins property for \$1200 and paid \$200 upon it, and made some repairs to the grist mill. But Rufus Bardwell who was the lad to come over from the states, and who had all the money, seemed to be very much wanted back again by some acquaintance he had over there, and in order that he might not miss his way, in going back, one of those acquaintances called on him with the Deputy Sheriff and Constable one evening and offered him a safe conduct back to his friends pledging themselves to take good care of him by the way. To this (Mr Bardwell not being destitute of the characteristics of his country men) returned them the greatest thanks and gratitude for the kind consideration they had manifested and the interest his friends had taken in him, and the love and affection they had for him, and could well understand their anxiety for his return, and that he had fully made up his mind to go back and visit them in a week or so, but that he should take pleasure in going back with them, that he was aware when he came away that some of his friends were needy, but that now he had plenty of money and would make them all happy the moment he got over there. But said he, you shall not go out of this house tonight, and said to his son, put up those gentlemen's horses, and tell the horster to groom them well and have them and my two best horses well fed in the morning for you will have to go with me as far as Toronto with them tomorrow. "Now gentlemen," said he, "have something to drink, and have supper and take your rest and I will get ready and we will have an early start in the morning." But Mrs Bardwell was uneasy, and she said in the presence of the constables, "Whats all this hurry about Rufus", he replied "It's all right, it's all right, those men want me to go with them to the states and I am going in the morning. It is a little sooner, you know than I intended to go, but I want that matter settled and I have the money and I may as well go now as any time." This gave the constables total confidence in mine host, who treated liberally, and they drank freely, and got to bed gloriously, and slept long and soundly.

In the mean time Rufus was not idle but with his son Silas, and an American who had two race horses at his place at the time, they fled not wishing to disturb the constables, not even to bid them good bye. And late in the morning the constables got up, to find breakfast all ready for them, and after a leisurely meat

they inquired for mine host and were told that he had gone out for a short time, and after waiting some time, and making further inquiry, and an investigation of the premises, they found that Rufus and his son with their horses and the American with his horses had all fled before midnight. They therefore saddled their horses and wended their way back to Toronto sadder and wiser men than when they came the night before.

Mr Bardwell and his racing friend with their horses scoured the country all round, racing and gambling at all the spring races and exhibited their trophies of some 20 or 30 watches and other trinkets won at the races for a month or more and then returned to Uxbridge. He commissioned Joel Bardwell to sell out the Collins property which he did and the purchaser was Abram Anderson who is still living on the west end of 30 in the 6th, and Joel Bardwell then purchased Mr Gould's grist mill privilege with 107 acres of that farm now owned by Mr Gould. He made no improvements on it except to build a little log house at the turn of the road opposite the head of the mill pond, and after occupying it for a year or two, he too was wanted for some special purpose, and Mr Scripture, the Bailiff, called on him to accompany him to Toronto, and this time Mr Scripture determined that his bird should not slip out of his hands at any rate not till he had picked his feathers off, and therefore purchased the 107 acres from Bardwell for a consideration, the amount I was never able to learn. Further than that Scripture admitted that he gave him a good new suit of clothes and otherwise fitted him out in good running trim, the truth of which I was never able to dispute, for on their way to Toronto, each on horse back, in the thick woods near the Roughts Hill, Bardwell slipped off the horse and ran into the woods and unfortunately, or fortunately for Scripture, he never could reach him. But it was known shortly afterwards that he had joined his cousin Rufus in Michigan.

Before Mr Bardwell bought the Collins property Mr Robert Taylor had purchased one acre off of the north east corner of it (the site of the Plank house) and built a store upon it and done a smashing business for a time. But failing, the property fell into Mr Planks' hands and is now some of the best business stores in the village.

In 1835 Abram Anderson having purchased the Collins property come in that spring and repaired the grist mill and built a new saw mill and a good one for the time. He induced Joseph Bascom to come in and purchase the site and build a tannery, the one lately owned by Mr Parrish. He also bought from Anderson all the land to the east of Wheeler's Mill Pond, except the one acre owned by Mr Plank, and nearly an acre reserved by Anderson for a log yard fronting on Main St. and now owned by John McGuire and Henry Thompson, with the little old drug store between them. Mr Bascom was a thrifty honest industrious business man and established shoe shops in connection with his tannery and was a great

acquisition to the place. And in the year 1836 between him and Anderson they got a weekly mail route through from Duffins Creek to Brock, and Mr Bascom was made the first Postmaster in our village. And at that time and for 7 or 8 years after there was no road connecting the east side of the creek with the west side excepting over Andersons, now Whelers mill dam, and Mr Bascom built his tannery fronting on the mill dam and had his first post office in the tannery. But his first dwelling house was a little log house that he built which I think is still standing on the north part of Micheal O'Neils village lot that he lives on and must have been standing there near forty six years. His next dwelling was a frame house that he built on the west end of Dr Bascoms lot. About 1836 Joseph Marslond came in and built a little tavern and a blacksmith shop on the spot where the late Joseph Finch's tavern and sheds stands.

By this time Anderson had got three or four little frame houses built on the south side of Brock St over west of Church St, and had also got a small school house built on the old school house grounds. Those houses were occupied by Anderson's laboring men and in the commencement of 1837 the houses on Andersons property on the west side of the creek would be about 7 not to exceed 8 and on the east side there was Mr Plank's Tavern and driving house and Boulton Linds store then empty. Bascom's tannery and dwelling house, Taylor's store on the site of Plank's Hotel and a little cooper shop on the road opposite John McGuire's house owned by an old Yankee runaway by the name of Thomas Arnold, and this as near as I can recall constituted the whole of the village of Uxbridge in 1836 + 37. The merchants that had started in business here had all failed or moved away. The grist mill was of the poorest possible description. Anderson's saw mill not being kept running cut very little lumber. And Mr Gould's mill was kept running cutting an average about 9000 ft. a week supplying all the early settlers in Reach, Brock, Scott, Uxbridge and some in Mariposa and some in Thorah besides considerable clear lumber of the very best quality which he sold at the mill at six dollars a thousand, and yet his stock accumulated as the countryside did not require one half.

But the village was not an exception to the other posts of Canada in the stagnation of trade and improvements for there was general stagnation and want of confidence everywhere for the Canadas was then and had been for several years involved in one of the greatest political struggles that any young country was ever afflicted with, and while it is not my intention to give you a political lecture on the state of the province, as it would be outside the question in hand, but some of you young men may very reasonably query in your minds as to what the blighting influences could have been, that should for near thirty years keep a most disirable plot for a town in a central position with a good water power, surrounded on all sides with good land, and that land covered with a dense forest of the most valuable timber the

world ever produced, from becoming a large town.

My answer is, that the first check to improvements in this village as well as to the country at large was the American war of 1812 which put a stop to immigration from the United States, while as yet there was very little immigration from Europe. And the next fatal check to this locality was the tragical death of Joseph Collins who built the first mills. But the most blighting influence of all that destroyed all confidence and put a check to all enterprise was irresponsible system of government that was then and had for a long time been governing the country. This government consisted of a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Crown in England, an Upper Chamber of Legislative Council as it was called, also appointed by the crown, an Executive Council of six ministers appointed by the Governor, and a Legislative Assembly elected by the people. But it was not necessary that these ministers should be elected and hold seats in Parliament as at present. Nor were they or the Governor in any way responsible to Parliament for their acts, nor had Parliament any influence over the Legislative Council. Therefore, the peoples representatives under that system had no controlling influence in the government of the country or in the administration of public affairs, nor ever could they get their most popular measures to become law, for all bills had to be passed by the Legislative Council and sanctioned by the government and any bills that the government took exceptions to, if they got through the Legislative Council, were sure to be vetoed by them. But the Legislative Council, being the creatures of government, was mostly called on to check any measures the government did not want to pass and they generally done that part of their duty most effectively. I have known the legislature to pass some of their most necessary measures year after year for several years, before they would become law. For instance, the secularization of the Clergy Reserves bill was passed no less than thirteen times during the thirty years of its agitation.

Nor had Parliament any control of the patronage of the Crown. The governor appointed who he pleased, and who he pleased he dismissed with or without the advice of his council. Thus the office of a minister was a mere nominal thing and carried no responsibility with it. If he recommended a candidate for office he must be such a one as the governor would approve of, or he would not get appointed, and in time there grew up around this system a set of Tory syncophants, ready and willing at all times to defend the governor and his administration no matter how much it was against the interest of the province, so long as they and their friends could hold office, and they took care that none but their relatives and such special friends as would befriend them on all occasions should get appointed. And so, thorough and so long had they carried out the principal, that for a quarter of a century this oligarchy got the well earned name of the Family Compact, a name which will have a place in Canadian history in

all times to come. And so blighting and paralyzing on the energy and enterprise of the country that Sir Francis Bond Head in one of his dispatches in contrasting Canada with the United States in 1836, said that she stood like a girdled tree by the side of the thriving forest. But this system so hostile to the interest of Canada, so foreign to the constitution of England and so repugnant to the liberal institutions of the United States, did not escape without challenge in Canada, and for many years a great agitation had been raging for constitutional reform and many able men had been ruined and fell before the Hydra headed monster, the Family Compact; and all that could sell and get away were leaving the country as they are now. But Wm Lyon McKenzie had for several years with his pen and his paper been a thorn in the side of the Family Compact, and just at this time in our history he had lashed the Country into the convulsions of rebellion against them, which culminated in an open rupture in the fall of 1837. And in this uprising the principal land proprietors of the village took more or less part. Mr Gould and B. Plank joined a large party from Brock and went down to Montgomery's, about seventy strong intending to share in the honor of taking the city, and in revolutionizing the country. In this we failed, for while we did actually take the city, the city actually took many of us - I say we failed. But there is such a thing as to lose to win; and this problem I think I shall be able clearly to demonstrate as I proceed farther with this history.

I have also said we did not actually take the city but that the city actually took many of us. And this was true as well of the landed proprietors of this village as of some hundreds and thousands throughout the province everywhere. Mr Anderson, Mr J.P. Plank, Mr Bartholemew Plank and Mr Gould all found a resting place in Toronto and was fed at the public expense. But Mr Gould for the want of more convenient accommodations had the honour on this occasion of making his first entry into the parliamentary arena by being ushered into the Legislative Council Chambers in the House of Parliament and had for his (?) a trusty old soldier, a brother-in-law to Squire Bagshaw. I have said that those men were fed at the public expense - yes; and they was guarded too at the same expense, not so much to keep them from getting out as it was to keep others from getting in to them for no man was allowed to get in to see them not even their wives or sweethearts without a permit from the mayor, an alderman or an officer of the guard. And now since I have got our village brothers so safely and comfortably housed I propose to leave them resting there, till on some future evening; if all's well, I will release them, and exhibit them before you, and give you as correct an account as I can of what they with others have done to promote the rise and progress of the village and the country around it.

# Canadian Quaker Biography

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We introduce a new section to the newsletter in memory of Grace Pincoe, who had worked for many years on the creation and upkeep of the Canadian Quaker Biography file. We encourage members to contribute short biographical sketches of Canadian Quakers.

The deaths of the following three Friends has left us with a sense of loss of their experience and knowledge of Canadian Quakerism. They represent the three groups of Friends who joined together for the reunification of the Canadian Yearly Meetings in 1955. Each attended a boarding school for their Quaker persuasion. Some of you will not have known all, or any, of them, but these accounts may make the past of Canadian Quakerism more alive to you.

## **Amy C. Pollard**

9th 3rd month 1897 - 14th 4th month 1989

Amy Pollard, daughter of John and Janet Pollard, grew up in the Conservative community at Norwich. She lived in the Norwich area for all of her ninety two years with the exception of two years at Olney Friends School and another year in a Friends home in Ohio. Through deafness she was isolated from active participation in the Quaker activities of her relatives.

She was a gentle spirit; she had said to Bertha Pollard, her cousin, that she wished she could hear the birds' songs, but all she could hear was the crow's caw. She accepted her situation in spite of its limitations. Sharing the values of her Conservative home, she matched the title of the history (Be Gentle, Be Plain) of the school she attended in Barnesville, Ohio.

## **Helen Wigham Pracht**

23rd 2nd month 1895 - 9th 6th month 1989

Helen Wigham Pracht was the last member of her generation, and the eldest member of the Toronto Monthly Meeting. She was a daughter of Cuthbert Wigham and Eliza Cody, some of the most active early members of the Toronto Meeting. In sharing her memories with Kyle Jolliffe, she spoke of going to meeting and First Day School at Pembroke Street. She attended Pickering College the year it opened in Newmarket, 1910, and was in Arthur Dorland's first English History class. She graduated from The University of Toronto in 1916 in Household Economics. She taught in Sudbury for most of her working life.

A descendent of Timothy Rogers through her mother, Helen valued her Quaker heritage with a sense of deep roots from both

English and Canadian lines. Her nieces and nephews shared this, but even more they valued the spirit of the life she lived, teaching by example. Her last years were physically difficult, but she seldom complained, keeping in good humour and not letting others know how hard it must have been. Many Friends may not know her, even though the Yearly Meeting is richer for the support of the Wigham family to the Canada Yearly Meeting (Orthodox).

I met Helen in the home of Doug and Catherine Knowles when the books from the Wigham family library were offered to the Dorland Friends Historical Collection. This treasure trove of books is enhanced by the memory of the very special Friend who once read them.

### **Russell William Zavitz**

24th 7th month 1899 - 7th 4th month 1989

Russell William Zavitz, the youngest of four children of Jonah Daniel and Emily Cornell Zavitz, was born on the family farm on the 10th concession of Lobo Township, Middlesex County. He was a member of Coldstream Meeting (Genesee Yearly Meeting - Hicksite), and attended Poplar Hill School. For two years he attended George School in Bucks County, PA., where he learned carpentry, a life long interest.

Russell Zavitz and Marguerite Haight were married on August 3, 1920, and had four children. They remained on the farm in Lobo until 1934 when they came to Yarmouth Township. In Lobo, Russell was active with community and meeting affairs. In the fifty years since coming to Yarmouth, he was always involved in the support of Friends' Meeting. He worked on projects at Camp NeeKauNis, and was doorkeeper at Canada Yearly Meeting for many years. In recent years he was active with the senior citizen's group at Sparta.

After he retired from CN Railways, he built a home by the millpond on Beaver Creek where he and Marguerite hosted family, meeting and neighbourhood activities. Always active, he found joy in seeing his family grow to five generations. He lived by his faith and said he believed Friends should do rather than speak words. When he did speak, it was with clarity and assurance.

For Russell, the Zavitz family picnic was the major event each summer. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren have had a patriarch and sense of family not often experienced today.

The tapes of the oral histories given by Helen Wigham Pracht and Russell William Zavitz are in the Dorland Collection.

# News and Notes:

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## Membership Renewals:

Members are reminded to renew their membership now for 1990. Please use the enclosed renewal form. 1990 membership rates are as follows:

Individual	\$10.00
Institutional	\$15.00
Student/Senior	\$ 5.00

## Newsletter Index Available:

At long last, the Index to the Canadian Quaker History Newsletter (1972-1988) prepared by Stanley Gardiner is complete. Copies will be made available by request for the cost of photocopying (\$5.00). Contact:

Jane Zavitz,  
Dorland Room,  
Pickering College,  
389 Bayview Ave.,  
Newmarket, Ont.,  
L3Y 4X2

## Hoag Journal:

The Supplement of Issue 39 (The Journal of Joseph Hoag - A Quaker in Atlantic Canada) contained a number of typographical errors. A revised edition of the Journal is now available to subscribers by request from Jane Zavitz at the above address. We appreciate Chris Densmore's fine scholarship and care in providing us with a corrected version.

## Canada Yearly Meeting Special Events:

Two special events of interest to our members are planned for Canada Yearly Meeting at Pickering College, Aug. 21st to 28th.

On Thursday August 24th at 2:30, the CFHA has arranged for a guided tour of the Sharon Temple Museum. The Temple was built by the Children of Peace who separated from the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting in 1812. The Children of Peace were noted for



their musical tradition, so be prepared to sing as Friends gather for the tour. Refreshments will be provided at the tour's conclusion. Admission is free.

A lecture, as yet unscheduled, will be given by Daniel Bassuk on Abraham Lincoln and the Quaker Connection. Mr. Bassuk is the author of a Pendle Hill pamphlet about Lincoln, and so has a great deal of background material to share.

Come and enjoy both of these special events.

### **Archive Deposits:**

Norwich Monthly Meeting has deposited their "Record Book B" in the Canada Yearly Meeting Archives. This book records Norwich births, marriages, deaths and memberships from 1842. It was held by the Conservative Friends. It will be indexed in our ongoing Quaker genealogical project.

The travel journal of William Allen (pastor of the Newmarket Friends Church and evangelist) from 1885 to 1898 was deposited in the CYM Archives by Verla Haight, the daughter of Walter Armitage, Allen's youthful travelling companion (and also a Friends minister). Verla Haight also sent an oral history tape and materials relating to the settlement at Swarthmore, Unity, Sask. This included Swarthmore's 50th anniversary booklet. We are very grateful for this valuable gift.

A number of eighteenth and nineteenth century Quaker books were donated by the 15th Street Quarterly Meeting Library of New York. These books fill a number of gaps in the Dorland Room Collection.

### **Archival Photographs Donated:**

Ken Muma, a professional photographer, has donated a number of photographs of Canadian Friends and sites (Camp Neekaunis, etc) taken by him over the years. We thank him for the gift, and take the opportunity to encourage others with similar photographs to help us preserve Friends' heritage. Do you have some photographs that would enrich the CYM archives' resources? We are interested, in particular, in identified pictures of older Friends of the past.

### **News of Members:**

We are saddened to report the death of Amy Pollard of Norwich Monthly Meeting and of Russell W. Zavitz of Yarmouth Monthly Meeting in April. Helen Wigham Pracht, a member of an active

family of Friends in the Toronto Meeting, died at the age of 94 in June. We are grateful to Kyle Jolliffe who recently obtained an oral history interview with this Friend by which we can remember her. All will be missed.

We are pleased to report the birth of a son to Allan McGillivray in June.

### **Oral History Progress Report:**

With the assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Canadian Friends Historical Association I have continued to interview older Friends about their life experiences. The people I have spoken to this year are Elsie Cutler, Mae Ham, Pearl and Leroy Jones, Bertha and Myra Pollard, Morley Wiltsie, and Russell and Marguerite Zavitz. In the next few months I plan to step up the pace of this work as the provincial grant for it (extended one year from the original termination date) will end on March 31, 1990. I am grateful to these Friends for sharing their memories with me and I have found these interviews to be always pleasant experiences.

Kyle Jolliffe

### **Kitchener Meetinghouse History:**

Margaret Springer's A Meeting Home in the May issue of Canadian Friend is meant, as she says, to encourage others to write their meeting's history.

TRY IT!! Thank You, Margaret, for living history.

### **CFHA Membership Leaflet:**

The executive of the CFHA met on 22nd April, 1989 at Friends House, Toronto. It was decided at that time to reprint the Association's membership leaflet, as the demand for it has been quite considerable. For copies of this leaflet (to distribute to members of your Monthly Meeting) contact:

Kathleen Hertzberg  
c/o CFHA  
60 Lowther Avenue,  
Toronto, Ont.,  
M5R 1C7

### **Quaker Tapestry:**

A colour photo of the Canadian panel of the Quaker tapestry will be hung at Canada Yearly Meeting. The completed Quaker Tapestry

will first be displayed at London Yearly Meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland. It will then be taken to Bayeaux, France, the home of the Bayeaux tapestry which was created after the battle of Hastings in 1066. That tapestry was the model for the Quaker tapestry. In future, Meetings might like to make other panels for a Canadian Quaker tapestry.

### **Norfolk Genealogy Fair:**

The Norfolklure '89 Genealogical Fair is scheduled for Sept. 30 1989, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eva Brook Bonly Museum, 109 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe, Ont. The Norfolk Archives and Loyalist Library will be open to all.

### **Cody Family Reunion:**

The Cody family, descendants of Phillip and Martha Cody of Beverly, Massachusetts (since 1698), gathered for their biennial family reunion at Pickering College, July 23-25. Joseph Cody, an Elder in the Society of Friends, was a member of the Board of Governors of Pickering College. William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody was the grandson of the Newmarket Quaker Codys. The group visited the Yonge Street Meetinghouse, and were given some background history by Sherita Clark, the clerk, as part of their activities. In the unlikely event that there are Cody descendants unaware of this organization, contact Mrs. Joan Cody, 138 Tecumseth St., Orillia, Ont., L3V 1Y4, for more information.

### **Liason with other Heritage Groups:**

David McFall, our roving contact with other heritage groups, reports the following:

- the CFHA, with other members of the Toronto Umbrella Heritage Organization, issued a press release asking the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to cease destroying original Land Registry Records. We are pleased to report that the Ministry has responded to our letter, and has temporarily suspended the document destruction program.

- David has represented the CFHA at a number of Heritage Displays, including one at Yorkdale Mall, Feb. 18th; the Genealogical Colloquium in Barrie, April 30th (where Jane Zavitz gave a presentation on the use of Quaker records); the Ontario Historical Society Symposium in Ottawa, May 4-6; and the Ontario Genealogical Society Meeting in Kitchener June 2-4 (with the assistance of Jane Zavitz on June 3). A display table of our publications was available at each of these events. Public response was very positive.

# Book Reviews

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## Victoria Friends Meeting Celebrates 75 years

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In January of 1988, a small group of five called the "75th Anniversary Committee" began meeting to research, write and plan the celebration of seventy-five years of occupancy of the Friends Meetinghouse at 1831 Fern Street, Victoria. In actual fact, the Meeting itself had started on November 17, 1907 with thirty-one members, meeting at Harmony Hall in downtown Victoria. We had celebrated the actual 75th event in 1982, but the anniversary of the Meeting House itself had not been marked, nor had a history been written. The committee commenced work, co-opting help along the way.

Using past Minute Books (we have these complete), microfilm copies of Victoria newspapers, photographs from various sources, one Friend's computer, and the keen participation of a number of Friends, we completed and printed Victoria Friends Meeting - a History, 1907-1988, just in time for the October 28 - 30 events. The souvenir program prepared notes: "This booklet with the interesting stories of the Meeting since its founding in 1907, contains a record of the actions of the Victoria Meeting as various concerns arose." The chapter headings reveal something of the contents of our 83-page history:

- Chapter One - Early Beginnings
- Chapter Two - The Victoria Meetinghouse
- Chapter Three - People We Have Known
- Chapter Four - Quaker Concerns Over 75 Years
- Chapter Five - Young Friends and First Day School
- Chapter Six - Up-Island and Isolated Friends of Victoria Meeting
- Chapter Seven - Victoria Meeting and Wider Quaker Connections

Appendices include a brief description "Who are the Quakers?", lists of Clerks of the Meeting, a note about British Columbia and Alberta Quarterly Meeting, and indexes of names and subjects.

In June, we began planning intergenerational celebrations. The first would be held on July 17, in the Meetinghouse garden -- a picnic with games and fun for all. This event was given a wonderful new dimension with the arrival of Harold and Ann Nichols from England, travelling with the Quaker Tapestry project. So, on the Saturday prior to the picnic, and on the Sunday afternoon, stitchery quietly went into the Canadian Panel of the tapestry. Intergenerational games, singing, sharing and reminiscing around the large chesnut tree planted 50 years

earlier made for a memorable day!

The autumn events (October 28 - 30) began on Friday evening with an Open House and displays of Meeting activities and concerns (present and past), and sharing by those who had done the research and writing of the history. On Saturday afternoon, events included a children's drama/skit series in which the children acted out stories and events of the Meeting's history -- such as the planting of the chesnut tree. Singing, a potluck supper (for over 100 persons), and a talk by Floyd Schmoie, a longtime Pacific Northwest Friend, gave us much food for thought. We were enriched by the presence of visitors from Vancouver, Seattle area, and other parts of Vancouver Island. We were warmed by letters of greeting from the Clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting, the Clerk of Canadian Friends Historical Association, the Archivist of C.Y.M., and greetings from FWCC.

The Sunday Meeting for Worship was a moving experience, as we gathered in the Spirit and shared in deep thankfulness for what had been passed on to us from Friends who were faithful to the calling of God in their lives. A tree-planting of several trees in the Meeting's garden concluded and opened, in a symbolic way, our hope for the future. A dedication written by a Victoria Friend was read, as we gathered in worship around these new trees.

Arnold Ranneris

**Note: Copies of Victoria Friends Meeting, a History, can be obtained by sending \$5.00 to:**

The Clerk,  
Victoria Friends Meeting,  
1831 Fern St.,  
Victoria, B.C.,  
V8R 4K4 Canada

We would also like to remind readers that Volume One of the Genealogical Index to the records of the Canada Yearly Meeting is still available. Volume one indexes the records of the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, including the early records of Pickering, Mariposa and Grey Monthly Meetings (which were set off from Yonge Street later in the nineteenth century).

**Copies of Volume One: Genealogical Index to the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting can be obtained by sending \$25.00 to:**

Jane Zavitz,  
Dorland Room,  
Pickering College,  
389 Bayview Ave.,  
Newmarket, Ont.,  
L3Y 4X2



# CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

60 LOWTHER AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA M5R 1C7

## Annual Meeting and Heritage Weekend

at Norwich, Ontario, November 6 -7 (first weekend of November)

The CFHA has been invited to hold their annual meeting in the Norwich Friends Meetinghouse (now the Norwich Museum). The itinerary includes:

### Saturday:

- Business session 10:30
- Lunch, provided at the site, cost \$5.00.
- A pilgrimage, by bus (no charge), to various Quaker sites in the area, including Beaconsfield, Milldale and Otterville.
- Supper (cost \$8.00, includes the film) is a 1850's rural style meal followed by a showing of Friendly Persuasion, based on the book by Jessemyn West.

Several Bed and Breakfast Inns at nominal cost can be found in the area. To register for the weekend (either meals or to book a room) please contact:

Deborah Haight  
Apt 306, 69 Light St.,  
Woodstock, Ont.,  
N4S 6G9

### Sunday:

- Meeting for Worship will be held in the Norwich Meetinghouse at 11:00.
- Bring your own lunch or join the Meeting's potluck.
- The plaquing of the Norwich Meetinghouse at 2:30 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Meetinghouse's construction.

## Plan to attend!!