

The CYM Archives Corner

by Jane Zavitz-Bond

The Records Committee of CYM has asked that the Archivist report regularly to Friends so that you may keep in better touch with the Archives. There is much to tell, but this Corner Nook, or cupboard, can be like the one at my great aunt's where special items were stored and some displayed, but each had a story. This time we will look at a few current materials either just deposited or dug out to meet requests and each has a story.

After Francis Starr's memorial meeting in fifth month at Yonge Street I realized his story should be in the *Canadian Quaker History Journal* and reread his Memoirs, deposited in 1991. When I called for permission to publish the FAU-China Team years portion in CFHA's Journal 2000, Stuart said the original had not been found and could Kay Starr have a copy? Of course, and it was sent off, happily. Meanwhile his daughter emailed about it, and Phoebe recontacted a special Olney classmate, and the circle is far from what one might think an archives vault might be. And Kay phoned me her thanks.

The next week I had a message from Albert Dorland, Arthur's son, asking if by chance we had the letters he had sent to Canadian Friends Service Committee from China. I said I thought so, but would check when I went to the Archives that week. Sandra Fuller had listed them on CFSC inventory and Yes, they were there. Ellen Laing and I photocopied all 177 pages of letters and related correspondence, and those were sent off to Albert. The CFSC received all the FAU China Team reports and letters, collecting the news for families and sending it on; since reports were necessary and postage was high the one mailing was better. Terry Dorland, Albert's brother was there as well, and by accident one letter he wrote stating he felt it right to go, and his new wife, Mae, agreed he should. That was a touching letter that was in the wrong file, but I was glad for it and will get it in the right place! The Archives is an alive place, or waiting to come to life whenever we go to a new spot.

While writing of CFSC holdings it is important to tell you that Kathleen Hertzberg is sending her own files relating to CFSC to the Archives. She was CFSC clerk during the Viet Nam War years. These represent parallel and complementary files

to those sent up from CFSC office at Friends House. Sandra Fuller has been processing these since bringing them up.

Yonge Street Friends are preparing for the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the settlers in 1801. Twenty seven families came encouraged by Timothy Rogers to take up 200 acre holdings on Yonge Street in his Grant from the Crown. Heather Lambert is getting material together and writing articles for the special Newsletter Yonge Street is setting up for the occasion. They want a display from the Archives. "Yes, we have lots to choose from!" What might some be? Well, a scanned page from Timothy Roger's original Journal; the CFHA's recently published edition of Rogers' Journal, edited by Chris Densmore and Albert Schrauwers; some photographs of earlier members, pages from the family book of Yonge Street Meeting copied of course, the map of the route taken by Catawisa settlers coming in from the north branch of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, as they had moved out earlier from Bucks County. ... Well, riches are there for searching.

To show the university world using the Archives, Heather Cameron from Guelph is researching her thesis on the impact of the Save the Children Fund which Friends and CFSC were involved in during and after World War II. She is looking at the impact of this work toward developing the international aid and philanthropic philosophy in Canada as opening the door to later international aid programs. I found in the 40's *The Canadian Friend* had articles related to this. CFSC helped, Lloyd G. Williams was working with Montreal officials, even the Mayor, to gain support, Scott and Molly Dorland Montgomery were active, and so the circles grow to show Friends involved in the groups that were concerned and bring change. Peggy Lorenz even received a medal from Save the Children for all her volunteer work on their behalf. In Poland Paul Zavitz wrote of their relationships with the 'Save the Kid-dies' staff workers, as they were affectionately called.

Last fall Elaine Bishop came to research for her PhD thesis on Canadian Friends and peace and Aboriginal land rights. You will hear more from her later as she continues work in peace and justice studies at Sunderland University in England. The

resources of the Dorland Collection and the records of CYM, and its predecessors, provide background and primary materials. As microfilm entries were copied into the computer, and book materials photocopied, there were items that will appear later with expanded comments on what happened in Canada as Canadian Friends responded to the Peace testimony. The minutes of the YM were put into action as Friends responded in various ways.

What part do you play in the archives? The meetings are sending in Minutes at various times. Five-year intervals, or when a clerk change, are good times to go over the records and deposit them. Records belong to the meeting that created them as long as it exists, and become the property of the next related meeting above if it is laid down. The Archives holds all the records and related materials generated by the monthly meetings and the yearly meeting and their related committees and bodies.

An example of this which was especially well organized, and will be appreciated in the future came from Atlantic Canada. Dana Thurlow and others worked to put together a box of photocopies, on acid free paper, of records of the Atlantic Gathering from its beginnings. It is organized and gives the theme/content of each Gathering; those who attended; and, at the back, pictures laser-photocopied, identified and dated! Now you see this Archives Corner is to help you know what to do as well as let you know what we are doing! Although it has been some time ago, the Hamilton Monthly Meeting Minute Book with the pressure binder, and photocopied on acid free paper - each page hand written - and made just enough smaller to fit - is beautiful. The loving care will be seen by any who refer to that volume in the future. The Friend who did the work for this deposit was a child in Hamilton Meeting when it began. It was a work of love as is much that we do.

This Report can not come to you without a word of how much the Clerk of Records Committee does to be supportive to the Archives and to me, the Archivist. Rosemarie McMechan comes and works on CFSC project materials, and with me in the Dorland Collection, and for other inventorying of CYM Meetings deposits. We plan for

the work ahead and find sharing ideas most rewarding. She is supportive and encouraging always with whatever work is needed. We spend a few days together periodically. Records Committee will hold its Spring Meeting in the Archives at Pickering on April 5th.

There is always more work to undertake. Donations of personal biography are always

useful. Write your stories, or encourage your meeting to write a history update at least every ten years. Thinking of years, the Archives is 20 years old this year, and is coming of age. There is a definite change in how it feels. Even in the requests that come the responses are easier as the holdings are there and many are archived for use. It has a good approach to service. There is a sense

of stability and of service, while there is still much to do. Friends have a treasure to cherish, and continue to build and to use.

Until next time. How can the CYM Archives help you and your meetings?

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