
Canadian Methodist Historical Society

Organized 1899 – Reorganized 1975

Fall/Winter, 2005–2006

2005 Annual Meeting in Guelph

The 2005 annual meeting of the Canadian Methodist Historical Society was held on October 14-16 in Guelph, Ontario, at the Norfolk Street United Church. The year 2005 was the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the imposing limestone building which is still in use; the congregation itself was well established by that time.

The meeting opened on Friday with a tour of churches in the area. These included buildings constructed by various Methodist bodies and by the Evangelical Church (later part of the Evangelical United Brethren which joined with the United Church of Canada in 1968), and also one Congregational Church, the unusual octagonal Speedside United Church. A beautiful autumn day, a comfortable bus, and an excellent lunch at one of the churches enhanced the informative day. The work of Ken Russell in organizing the tour was appreciated by all the participants.

The first paper of the meeting was presented on Friday evening by Newton Reed. Its subject was Mrs. Annie Orchard Rutherford, whom he described as a woman “of conviction, confidence and courage ... ten years ahead of other Methodist women of the era.”

Following worship on Saturday morning, Ken Russell made a presentation about Norfolk Street Church and led the group on a tour. Then Bert Durst spoke about the Evangelical United Brethren denomination, and Fred Dreyer gave a paper on John Wesley and the Enlightenment. Following lunch, Maria Sakovich spoke on Jane Ferguson, immigrant pioneer and itinerant wife in upper Canada. The CMHS business meeting closed the afternoon.

The following morning, CMHS president Rick Spies was the guest preacher at the Sunday morning anniversary service at Norfolk Street Church. Following the service, conference participants joined with Norfolk

Street members for lunch. Then the CMHS group travelled to Harcourt Memorial United Church for the launch of Marilyn Färdig Whiteley’s book, *Canadian Methodist Women, 1766-1925: Marys, Marthas, Mothers in Israel*.

Although the group was not large in numbers, all those who took the tour and listened to the presentations pronounced the 2005 meeting a resounding success.

A Charles Wesley Celebration October 13–15, 2006

The 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley is approaching. To celebrate, the **Canadian Methodist Historical Society** will join with the **Charles Wesley Society** and the **Southern Ontario Chapter of the Hymn Society** in a meeting to be held at Emmanuel College, in Toronto.

The meeting will feature a number of expert speakers including Richard Watson of Durham University, and S.T. Kimbrough of New York. There will also be workshops, and the event will close with a Wesley Hymn Festival will be held at Humbercrest United Church on Sunday, with organ, choir, and instrumentalists. The program developed for the hymn festival will be made available for local churches to use in their own Wesley celebrations in 2007. The conference can be attended for continuing education credit.

Watch for program and registration details in the spring newsletter. Accommodation will be available at conference rates at a nearby Holiday Inn.

The Newest Book about Our Oldest Church

Thanks to the King of Denmark, John Binger was

born in the Caribbean. Later he became a teacher among the Tyendinaga Mohawks. Loyalist Elizabeth Roblin's husband died tragically on their way to Canada. Daniel Steel became an ordained local preacher but later "jumped ship." William Ketcheson, a legendary horseman and bloodied warrior, has over 16,000 descendants. Paul Huff's grandfather lived 128 years. Andrew Embury's uncle Philip had founded (in 1766) America's first Methodist society in New York City.

These are but a few discoveries to be found in Bill Lamb's latest book about Old Hay Bay Church. It is a well-researched and rare collective biography of the 22 persons who signed up to build the first Methodist church in Ontario, now a National Historic Site of Canada. They were millers and farmers, carpenters and blacksmiths, determined saints and back-sliders, caught up in an amazing revival that transformed them to a bonded Christian community. Other surnames include Allison, Casey, Clapp, Dafoe, Davis, Ferguson, Frederick,, German, Green, Hover, Ruttan, and Vandusen. Not all were Loyalists; not all remained Methodists.

The Founders: The Twenty-two Persons Who Established Old Hay Bay Church in 1792

This 140-page book (with map & illustrations) includes Methodist, Loyalist, and Revolutionary War history and some genealogical data. The author is a past president of the Canadian Methodist Historical Society, and his published studies include books on churches in Belleville and Brockville, and articles in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. He also edits *The Hay Bay Guardian*, an annual journal of Methodism in Upper Canada.

To order, send a cheque for \$25 (\$20 + \$5 postage and handling) to Old Hay Bay Church, c/o Mrs. K. Staples, R.R. #2, Napanee ON K7R 3K7 Enquiries: staples@ihorizons.net

CMHS Papers

Editor Todd Webb reports that the long-awaited CMHS *Papers* for the years 2002–2004 will be avail-

able in March. If you have been a member during that time, watch for your copy! Papers were delayed by a computer crash, but Todd persisted, and the society's thanks go to him for preparing this valuable volume.

CMHS Web Site

The CMHS now has a web site! Go to:

www.rootsweb.com/~cancmhs/

Then bookmark it so that you can easily return and watch it develop. Already it has news and information about the society, and many useful links, but there's more to come. Hearty thanks are owed to Ken Russell of Guelph for setting up and maintaining the site.

Members of the Canadian Methodist Historical Society extend sympathy to Fay Kewley on the death of her husband, the Rev. Dr. Arthur E. Kewley, of Peterborough, Ontario, who died on July 1, 2005, at the age of 96.

Art was an excellent historian of Methodism in Canada, and unfailingly generous toward those with whom he could share his knowledge. He and Fay remained actively interested in the CMHS long after they became unable to support it with their presence.

Book Launch, Part 2:

The project known as **Making Room for Women at the Archives** will host an early-evening event on March 8, International Women's Day, at the United Church/Victoria University Archives in Toronto. It will celebrate recent writing on women and religion and will feature Marilyn Färdig Whiteley's book, *Canadian Methodist Women, 1766–1925: Marys, Marthas, Mothers in Israel*. For details, call 416-585-4563 or 519-824-9345. Everyone is welcome!

Making Room for Women is an effort to identify and preserve the papers of women in The United Church and of their organizations. For information, go to

www.unitedchurcharchives.ca

and click on the *Making Room for Women* link.

Photo Corner



Florrie Mann, 93, had an emotional day when she officially retired as a Methodist preacher after 67 years. Her family and friends were there, including her husband, Norman. PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD DUGGAN 140705601

A METHODIST preacher from Haddenham has retired after 67 years' service.

Florrie Mann, 93, of Station Road, attended a special service in her honour at Thame's newly refurbished Christchurch, last month.

Mrs Mann, who was born in Liverpool, said: "I received my call to preach at a meeting in London in 1935, and went on the circuit plan in Liverpool as

a preacher on trial."

After becoming a fully accredited local preacher in 1938, she served in Ealing, Hillingdon, Sudbury, High Wycombe and Princes Risborough before settling in Haddenham in 1986, where she joined the village Methodist Church. She also served as a lay pastor in Canada between 1974 and 1978.

The service was attended by Mrs Mann's children, John (who flew from Canada for the event), Hilary and David, her granddaughter Annette, and many more friends and family. Her husband Norman played the organ.

She said: "It was a very joyful day and I feel very humble at the affection and greetings I have received from near and far."

Clipping about Florrie Mann's retirement as a local preacher



Fred Dreyer, Ken Russell, Edward Jackman, and Newton Reed at Ellis Chapel



Fred Dreyer presenting his paper

Canadian Methodist Historical Society Annual Meeting, October 15, 2005 Norfolk Street United Church, Guelph, Ontario *MINUTES*

1. Opening:

Rick Spies, President, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Attendance:

T.F. (Fred) Baxter, Paul Bitzer, Linda Cormick, Fred Dreyer, Bill Lamb, Margaret Leask, Bernice Levitt, Phyllis Lucas, Daniel Rupwate, Ken Russell, Maria Sakovich, Rick Spies, Margaret L. Stephenson, Ross Wallace, Hugh Whiteley, Marilyn Whiteley

Regrets: Robert Buchanan, Lily Francis, Father Edward Jackman, Norman Mann, William McDowell

3. Corresponding members:

It was moved that all present be corresponding members for this meeting.

(B. Lamb / M. Whiteley) Carried.

4. Minutes:

It was moved that the Minutes of the August 21, 2004 annual meeting be accepted as circulated.

(L. Cormick / F. Dreyer) Carried.

5. Business arising: none.

6. Treasurer's report:

Paul Bitzer circulated copies of the financial statement for the period June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2005 and noted that the fiscal year runs from June to May since the annual meeting used to be held in June. It is possible to change this date but it requires a letter to Revenue Canada. The suggestion was made to provide an interim statement to cover the months following June 1 if we continue to meet in the fall. Paul drew attention to the opening balance of \$3,177.71, receipts of \$1,135.42, expenditures of \$2,661.43, and a closing balance on May 31, 2005 of \$1,651.70. The Ontario Savings Bond in the amount of \$5,000 held by the C.M.H.S. has been redeemed in order to purchase two \$2,500 step-up Ontario bonds which give a higher interest rate in the second and subsequent years. Paul noted a bank balance of \$3,315.93 at the September executive meeting.

It was moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as circulated.

(P. Bitzer / D. Rupwate) Carried.

The suggestion was made that a donation line be added to our membership forms. Discussion followed. Linda Cormick noted receipt of a donation in the amount of \$25.00 towards this year's meeting from a member who was unable to attend.

It was moved that a donation line be added to our membership forms.

(M. Stephenson / B. Levitt) Carried.

7. Membership report:

Marilyn Whiteley noted regrets and greetings from Norman Mann who sent along a news clipping on the retirement of his wife, Florence. Marilyn reported that as of August last year there were 49 members and we ended the year with a total of 62 members. Currently, we have 47 members, including 3 honorary members. A list of current members was circulated with a request that those whose names are missing please rectify the situation. It was noted that Marilyn needs a current address for Goldwyn French. Rick Spies was requested to visit Goldwyn in Dundas.

It was moved that the membership report be accepted.

(M. Whiteley / R. Wallace) Carried.

8. Newsletter report:

Marilyn Whiteley reported that the decision was made to send out a newsletter in the spring with information on our 2005 annual meeting, that a separate mailing be sent out prior to the meeting, and that a report on the gathering be included in the upcoming newsletter. Circulation currently stands at 150-160. In answer to a question, it was noted that the membership year is the calendar year. Marilyn would welcome names of people who might be interested in joining the Society. Renewal forms will be included in selected newsletters. It was noted that a few copies are sent to institutions, including various archives and a reciprocal society in Australia. Marilyn was congratulated on the outstanding calibre of our newsletter. Marilyn noted that she has been remiss in seeking articles from particular people and asked that contributions be sent to her. Phyllis Lucas expressed appreciation to Marilyn for her article on Glenn in the June newsletter, to Bill Lamb for his eulogy, and to members of this society for their tributes to Glenn following his death in May. Marilyn reported that two newsletters have been distributed since our meeting last August. Bill Lamb noted Dr. Art Kewley, a former president of the Society, has died.

It was moved that the newsletter report be accepted.

(M. Whiteley / P. Bitzer) Carried.

9. Correspondence:

Marilyn Whiteley noted receipt of a brief note from Fay Kewley along with a donation to the Society for support received throughout the years. Linda Cormick will send a thank you letter to Fay.

10. Executive report:

10.1 Meetings: Rick Spies reported that the executive held meetings on September 10, 2004 and on January 14, April 8, May 27 and September 16, 2005. A planning meeting was held at Norfolk Street United Church on February 15, 2005 with Ken Russell and Rev. Tim Graham.

10.2 Visibility:

Website: Rick Spies reported that the executive has noted the need for greater visibility of the CMHS. As a result, Ken Russell was asked to create a mock-up of a website. This has been done using a free server and Ken gave a report. It was suggested that lists of Methodist ministers, meeting minutes and newsletters be posted on the website. Ken has offered his time and expertise. It was the consensus of members present that a website be officially created with an initial cost of \$300 for the account plus an annual fee. The suggestion was made to add links to various sites such as the United Church

of Canada.

It was moved that the CMHS accept with thanks Ken Russell's offer to develop a website for the Society.

(F. Dreyer / R. Wallace) Carried.

Ken will welcome suggestions for articles, pictures, etc. to include on the site and he will track the number of hits.

Pamphlet: Rick Spies noted that there is a need to finalize a new pamphlet. He will contact Tanya Middlebro' for feedback.

Betty Price recommended that a couple of display boards be created in order to raise our profile at Conference meetings.

Bill Lamb offered to work on this project if a couple of others volunteer.

10.3 Papers: Linda Cormick reported receipt of an e-mail from Todd Webb citing computer difficulties and loss of files which has led to a delay in publication. Rick Spies will connect with Todd for an update. Linda reported that back issues of the Papers were boxed by the Whiteleys and have been stored in a secure location at her husband's manufacturing plant in Hamilton. The executive will take under advisement the suggestion that copies be made available free of charge at Conference meetings and at next year's AGM in Toronto. Maria Sakovich suggested that copies be made available to specialty libraries and Marilyn Whiteley noted that the executive is considering this idea. Fred Dreyer was asked to compile a list of libraries, seminaries, and depositories that might be interested.

10.4 Martha Cartmell: Rick Spies reported that he and Linda Cormick represented the Society at a gathering at Centenary United Church, Hamilton on Sunday, July 31, 2005 in celebration of Martha Cartmell, the first Canadian Methodist missionary to Japan. In Japan, Martha founded a school for girls, Toyo Eiwa Jogakuin, and participated in the founding of two other Eiwa schools. Many Japanese school girls, teachers and others associated with the school were present. Following lunch the gathering moved to Hamilton Cemetery for the unveiling of a stone marking Martha's grave. Rick noted that Marilyn Whiteley's article on her was helpful to Centenary.

11. 2006 annual meeting:

Bill Lamb reported on plans for a combined meeting with the Charles Wesley Society, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and the Canadian Methodist Historical Society. The gathering will be held October 13-15, 2006 at Emmanuel College. Since Emmanuel is co-hosting the event there will be no rental costs and academic credits will be given. Each society will feature a key presentation and workshop/s. The meeting will conclude at Humbercrest United Church with a Wesley hymn festival on the Sunday afternoon. Plans include putting together information for the use of congregations to celebrate the 200th birthday of Charles Wesley in 2007.

The Hymn Society will be holding its annual gathering July 15-19, 2007 (Sunday -Thursday) at Carleton University in Ottawa.

12. Nominations:

Bill Lamb suggested that Ken Russell be asked to join the Executive as a member-at-large. Following discussion the following slate of officers was proposed:

President:	Rick Spies
Secretary:	Linda Cormick
Treasurer:	Paul Bitzer
Membership:	Marilyn Whiteley
Newsletter:	Marilyn Whiteley
Members at large:	Bill Lamb
	Daniel Rupwate
	Ken Russell

It was moved that the slate of officers be accepted as proposed.

(R. Wallace / D. Rupwate) Carried.

13. Other business:

13.1 Margaret Leask drew attention to upcoming events and meetings of the Southern Ontario chapter of The Hymn Society and noted that all are welcome.

13.2 Rick Spies extended thanks to all for attending, to Ken Russell for the bus tour and for organizing the facilities, and to the presenters, especially Maria Sakovich who travelled from California.

14. Adjournment:

On motion of Fred Dreyer the meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. and closed with *Till We Meet Again*.

Linda D. Cormick, Secretary

Canadian Methodist Historical Society

Established 1899 Reorganized 1975

Objectives

1. The promotion in Canada of the study of the history of Methodism, its relations with other denominations and its place in the history of Canada.
2. The preparation of papers on Methodism, and more particularly, of Methodism in Canada, and so far as possible, the publication of these.
3. Collection and preservation of historical documents and important artifacts relating to Methodism in Canada and deposit of these in suitable repositories.
4. Promotion, preservation and interpretation of important Methodist historic sites in Canada, in co-operation with Methodist-related religious denominations.
5. Establishment and maintenance of fraternal relations with Methodist historical societies in other countries, and more particularly, with the World Methodist Historical Society.

(The Canadian Methodist Historical Society Constitution, revised 1996)

Officers

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☞ www.rootsweb.com/~cancmhs/ ☞

The annual membership fee is \$20 per year (payable to the Canadian Methodist Historical Society). Members receive the CMHS *Papers* for the year when available. The Canadian Methodist Historical Society is a non-profit organization, and welcomes contributions; an income tax receipt will be forwarded. Please address mail to:

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