



NEWSLETTER

Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society
Vol. 1, No. 4, Spring 2006

ARCHIVAL INTEREST GROWS

In this issue of our Newsletter are two articles submitted, at our invitation, by Shelley Jacobs, Library Director, Western Christian College and High School: the archival center at Western and a sketch of the history of Carman Bible School, Carman, Manitoba, the first Bible school among Churches of Christ in Canada. We believe that having multiple centers of archival interest in Canada is positive. And in a time of advancing communications, accessing complementing collections will support the study of our past. Our best wishes are extended to Shelley Jacobs and her work with the WCC archives project.

TOUCHING BASE

A mid-May trip to Searcy, Arkansas to attend the graduation of two grandsons reminded Doreen and me how our lives are rooted in history. Our first stop was the Vinewood Church of Christ, Detroit, Michigan to attend the Hispanic worship service conducted by Javier Cuarezma. Brother Cuarezma, after 12 years of ministry at Waterloo is in his second year at Detroit reaching out to 100,000-plus Spanish-speaking residents in that city. The Vinewood building is one of three of the earliest church buildings erected in Detroit and is still serving—presently utilized by both Black and Hispanic congregations. Next we visited the Cane Ridge meeting house, east of Paris, Kentucky. This preserved log structure, erected by Presbyterians in 1791, was the focal point of the most famous encampment of the Second Great Awakening of American religious history, 1801, when between 20,000 and 30,000 settlers gathered. Barton W. Stone was the preacher at Cane Ridge at the time. Directly linked to that event was the formation, 1803, and dismantling, 1804,

of the Springfield Presbytery, when Stone and five others signed, at the Cane Ridge building, "the Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery." These men determined to take "no other name than 'Christians.'"

We then traveled to Nashville where we visited Sara Church, widow of Roger Church who had for 35 years led the African Christian Schools Foundation. The Church

Announcing:

ANNUAL MEETING
Canadian Churches of Christ
Historical Society
Saturday, August 26, 2006
10:00 am-3:00 pm

Fennell Ave. Church of Christ
321 East 27th Street (at Fennell)
Hamilton, ON L8V 3G8

Featuring:

Roy D. Merritt,
evangelist, church planter, educator

"ROY MERRITT REMEMBERS"

Exhibits, Workshops, Histories
12:00-1:00 Sack lunch,
beverages provided

Meetings open and free to all!
Information: ccchs1@gmail.com
1-519-885-3702

residence is across the street from the campus of David Lipscomb University, founded in 1891 by Lipscomb and James A. Harding as

Nashville Bible School. There, landscaping was being completed around the new Bible building named in honour of the Ezell family, including Miles and Houston Ezell, great friends of teaching the Bible around the world, including Nigeria and Canada.

Our arrival in Searcy was in time to attend a dinner promoting Great Lakes' Christian and Bible Colleges where Art Ford introduced the guest speaker, Don Rose, Great Lakes' president-designate. The meeting was held in the James A. Harding room of the Heritage Center on the campus of the university named in honour of Harding. In the room are hung Harding's portraits and photos of various schools Harding served, including Potter Bible School, Bowling Green, KY. Harding traveled widely in his work as a preacher and educator, including visits to Carman Church of Christ (see article by Shelley Jacobs) and Meaford. That a number of students from Meaford attended Nashville Bible at the turn of the century points to his influence.

Following graduation, where the largest graduating class in Harding's history, 658, took place, we traveled to near Gallatin, Tennessee to visit cousin, Twyla McKee. Generations of the McKee family have attended the Old Union Church of Christ located at Bledsoe Creek. Barton W. Stone visited this area on his way to Kentucky from North Carolina. From the McKee's we traveled to Cumberland Gap, at the Kentucky/Tennessee border north of Knoxville, where between 200,000 and 300,000 settlers passed through to access the Mississippi Basin, many of whom would discover "New Testament Christianity."

Our last stop was at the home of Bob and Rachel Davison, Washington, Pennsylvania. Bob, native of Griersville, Ontario, is an elder of the church of Christ in that city that he served as evangelist prior to his retirement. Washington, PA was the community to which Thomas Campbell came in 1807 and his son in 1809. In that latter year, Thomas Campbell published the "Declaration and Address," a great plea for unity among all Christian believers.

Thus our travels touched base with the two significant influences of our religious history as well as number of important connections along the way.

- Geoffrey Ellis

Our mission: To encourage and promote the historical study of the Restoration Movement in Canada

ARCHIVES INITIATIVE AT WESTERN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Western Christian College has launched an initiative to develop an archive that will serve the Churches of Christ in western Canada. The archive will be housed in a climate controlled room in the Lydia Zorn Resource Centre, better known as the Western Christian College Library. The room has controlled access, and a security system is in place. The library's holdings relating to the Restoration Movement are also held in this location, creating a separate collection of Restoration materials. A computer has been dedicated for use in connection with the archives and is housed in a room adjacent to the library. It is equipped with a scanner and VHS/DVD converter, which will facilitate digitization of items in the collection.

The library has an extensive collection of published materials relating to the Restoration Movement. The collection of periodicals includes a complete set of Stone's *Christian Messenger*, Campbell's *Christian Baptist* and *Millennial Harbinger*, and *Lard's Quarterly*. Also included are copies of the *Gospel Advocate* dating back to 1927 (some missing issues), the *Firm Foundation* dating back to 1950 (some missing issues), and other American periodicals. The library has a set of the (Canadian) *Gospel Herald* dating back to 1936 (some missing issues). Don Meredith, Librarian at Harding University Graduate School of Religion, has provided the library with photocopies of the missing issues of the *Gospel Herald*, which allows access to a complete set. The collection has an extensive representation of American Restoration materials written by key figures in the American Restoration Movement. On the Canadian side, works by John Brown, Reuben Butchart, Joseph Ash, H.A. Rogers, J. C. Bailey, Lillian Torkelson, Wilfred Orr and others are part of the collection.

As the new Library Director, I have been designated to direct the development of the archive. This is an area of both professional and personal interest for me, as I am near completion of the MA History (with a focus on restoration history and theology) from Harding University Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee. I plan to

research and write in the area of Canadian Restoration history, focusing on western Canada.

For some time, I have been concerned that our history in the West will be lost if we are not intentional regarding the preservation of the past. It is my dream that the archives room will eventually become a history room that will house enough material to be useful as a place of research. It is hoped that the collection will expand to include additional archival materials connected to the history of the Restoration Movement in western Canada. Please join us in working toward the preservation of our rich heritage.

Submitted by Shelley L. Jacobs,
Western Christian College

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CARMAN BIBLE SCHOOL (1897–1902; 1921–1927)

The Church of Christ in Carman, Manitoba enjoys the status of being the first congregation of Churches of Christ west of Ontario (1889), and the first Canadian location to have an established Bible School. It is noteworthy to mention that the congregation in Carman has connections to James A. Harding from Nashville, Tennessee and the Nashville Bible School. Harding was the guest speaker at the grand opening of the Carman church building in 1892. He also held protracted meetings in nearby Rosebank, Manitoba and baptized the Laycock family, whose descendants are still members of the Carman Church of Christ. Abraham Foster, a student of the Nashville Bible School from 1894 – 1897, came to preach in Carman in 1897. He established the first Carman Bible School, which ran for five years under his directorship. The school was sponsored and financially supported by the Carman Church of Christ. For the first year, the school was held in the church building at Carman. The following year, the

school was housed in a newly built, large brick building located across the street from the church building. Classrooms were on the main floor, and the Fosters had living quarters in the attic of the building.

Abraham Foster, Daniel Stewart and Miss Tolton were the teachers for the first term, the duration of which was December 1, 1897 – March 31, 1898. The curriculum included courses in New Testament, physical culture, voice culture, English grammar, public speaking, debate, Old Testament and singing. Students who attended the first term are Herb and Elsie Sterling, H. A. Rogers, Chris Stevenson, Fred Dafoe, Stanley York, Amy Mallory, Allen Mallory, Maggie Mallory, John and Minnie Sterling, Arthur and Maria Laurenson, George and Mary Laycock, Bertha Rogers, Ora and Ozro Tallman, Willie Saunders and his wife, and Elizabeth York. In the evenings the students entertained themselves with debates, recitations and monologues, which drew young people from the community. The school came to an untimely close when the Boyne River flooded and the school building was damaged. Foster's failing health and financial difficulties due to the flood, were factors that brought about the school's demise (1902).

The Bible School was resurrected in 1921 when H. A. Rogers, a student of the earlier Bible School, convinced the Carman congregation of the need for another winter Bible School. H. L. Richardson moved to Carman to preach and direct the Bible School. Richardson had been conducting a successful commercial school on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. The curriculum of the school included commercial and Bible courses. Richardson strongly encouraged students to memorize scripture and assigned six memory verses per day, three from each of the Old and New Testaments. Students who attended the first year were Alonzo Rogers, George Morgan, L. L. McGill, Frank Tovell, Wilfred Orr, J.C. Bailey, Walter Stebbings, Lynn Perry, Bethel Vine, George Johnson, Eileen Campbell, Halfrid Strom, Myra Hjorth, Pearl Perry, Henry Leichterist, Lloyd Eby and Rene Nass. Richardson operated the school for five years, and then went back to Ontario because of faction. A. T. Purcell kept the school open for one additional term, and the school closed its doors in 1927.

The Bible Schools at Carman were influential in training workers to carry on

evangelistic work. Ora and Ozro Tallman, along with Gordon Tovell, established the church of Christ in Winnipeg, Manitoba. H. A. Rogers was the first evangelist to preach and establish Churches of Christ in Saskatchewan. J. C. Bailey was a full time preacher and evangelist, and was influential in the growth and development of the Churches of Christ in Saskatchewan. The result of their work lives on in congregations that were established by students of the Carman Bible School.

Submitted by Shelley L. Jacobs, Western Christian College

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

CCCHS would like to hear from you if you have interest in participating in any of the following activities: website management, doing oral histories, transcribing existing oral history tapes, researching a particular person, congregation or event of significance in Restoration history, developing a family history that includes roots in the Restoration, scanning periodicals, indexing periodicals, locating web links to historical sources, writing articles for the Newsletter, locating and arranging for their placement in the CCCHS archives of old church records, searching out diaries, letters, old photos, etc., relating to our past, recruiting new members for the CCCHS, etc. Contact any CCCHS director with your suggestions and offers. Because our present challenges us, and because we are racing to the future, our past is important!

PREPARING FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Restoration activities in the Hamilton area will be the chief focus of our activities at the annual meeting, August 26. Photos, writings, family histories, personal sketches, and artifacts that pertain to this area and that might be exhibited would be welcome. Particularly, information on former congregations at Sanford Ave., Westdale, and Ivon Ave. is desired. Please contact any CCCHS director about including your items.

Attention CCCHS members!

Nominations for the position of Director on the board of directors of the Society are invited. Director Donald Perry will have completed his three year term this August. He is willing to stand for re-election. Other nominations are encouraged. "Any three active members may nominate any other duly qualified person (i.e. active member and Canadian citizen) for election to the Board of Directors. Such nominations must be in writing, signed by the nominators and must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee to act as a Director if elected. Nominations must be sent to the secretary at least 30 days in advance of the meeting." (Deadline for nominations to be received is July 27, 2006 at: Donald Perry, CCCHS Secretary, 4868 Thirty Road, RR 3, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B3.)

MEMBERSHIPS, YEAR 2006 *

Forward your \$25.00 annual membership to Eugene Perry, CCCHS Treasurer, 4904 King St., Beamsville, ON L0R 1B6.

*Covering the period, August 27, 2005 – August 26, 2006.

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