



SMITHVILLE, ONTARIO
CHURCH OF CHRIST
And
THE TALLMAN FAMILY

Smithville, Ontario, church of Christ's history dates back to the 1850's, when the Disciples of Christ movement in Ontario was still relatively young.

Throughout Ontario's Niagara Peninsula, churches had been or were being planted within 50 kilometers of Smithville, including Beamsville, Clinton/Lakeshore, Effingham, Gainsborough (Rosedene), Jordan, Selkirk and Winger. In 1861, the Smithville church of Christ built their meeting house, still used in 2015.

Oliver Ellis Tallman and Almeda Electa (nee Huntsman) Tallman, and their children, were active members of the Smithville congregation. This family had a positive influence on churches of Christ in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Nova Scotia and the United States.

Oliver and Electa Tallman passed on their love for the Lord to their daughter Charrie, and their 3 sons: Shepard, Ora Hubert "O.H.", Ozro Ellis "O. E."

Within the walls of the Smithville church building, Ora (O.H.) and Ozro (O.E.) Tallman, honed their preaching skills, which resulted in spreading the "Good News" to thousands of people, many kilometers away from Smithville.

In 1901, O.H. and O.E. Tallman were attending Carman Bible School, which was sponsored by the Carman, Manitoba church of Christ. The Tallman brothers, along with 2 friends from Ontario, Austin Chantler, Meaford, and Gordon W. Tovell, purposed in their hearts to establish a church of Christ in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The 4 young men moved from Carman to Winnipeg, where they met as the Winnipeg church of Christ for the first time, to "Break Bread" and worship, in their boarding house room, located on Bannarityne Ave. East, in Winnipeg.

Following the initial meeting, and several meetings in homes, the church rented Potter's Hall, Elmwood for services. Other Christians soon joined their endeavours. Along with new

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Christians they had taught, the group began to grow.

Although O.E. and O.H. moved on to other endeavours, the Winnipeg church of Christ has met continuously from 1901 to the present time...2015. In 1904, O.H. returned to Winnipeg, and spent about a year preaching for and encouraging the congregation.

"Sheppy" Tallman, the oldest of the Tallman brothers, was quieter than his preaching brothers. He inherited leadership skills all 4 Tallman siblings possessed, and in his later years was an elder in Toronto. He was gifted with Bible knowledge, and, it is said, if someone had a Biblical question, Sheppy could provide a clear explanation complete with scripture and verse.

Ora and Ozro returned from Manitoba to Ontario by 1902. Ora attended Beamsville Bible School. Later, the Tallman brothers went to the United States to attend Potter Bible College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The school was established by James A. Harding (Harding College), with funding from the Potter family.

The Tallman brothers impressed those around them, and were hired as professors upon graduation.

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ANNUAL MEETING

CANADIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, August 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Meeting place:

Pine Orchard Church of Christ
16716 Warden Avenue
(3 km east of Newmarket)

Presentations by Elgin Whitfield:

"Beginnings of the Restoration Movement in
Stouffville and Pine Orchard"

"Relationship of the 'Bible Christians' and the
Restoration Movement in Ontario"

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As students, and later teachers at the college, the Tallman brothers evangelized in nearby states, resulting in conversions and church revitalizations.

Charrie Tallman married William "W.F." Ellis, Meaford, Ontario, in 1908. They moved to Owen Sound and established the Owen Sound church of Christ in their home.. Owen Sound church existed form 1908 to about 1923.

In 1919, Carrie and W.F. Ellis moved from Owen Sound to take over Oliver and Almeda Tallman's farm at Smithville. Charrie and William became active members in Smithville.

O.H. Tallman returned to Canada from the United States in 1908 to become the evangelist at West Gore church of Christ in West Gore, Hants County, Nova Scotia. West Gore's history dated back to about 1831, the same year Lakeshore (near Beamsville, Ontario) church of Christ was established.

West Gore church leaders worked alongside O.H. to establish "Maritime Bible and Literary College." As the first session neared in 1909, O.H. contacted O.E., who was still teaching in the U.S., and invited him to be an administrator and teacher at the school. O.H. agreed.

The government of Nova Scotia provided the college with a charter allowing it to provide degrees to graduating students. School began in 1909 and operated until around 1915.

While at West Gore, O. E. Tallman married Mabel Wallace.

In 1913, O.H. and his American born wife, Hattie Tallman, moved to Alberta. O.H. began serving as the only acappella church of Christ evangelist in the province. They spent several months in Edmonton assisting the small church of Christ in the city.

From Edmonton, the Tallmans moved to Hanna, Alberta, a hamlet established in 1912. A small group of Christians were attempting to establish a church there. O.H. arranged to use the local Hanna "Empire" theatre.

Each Sunday, he preached and the church "Broke Bread." To provide for the family, O.H. operated a feed mill. O.H. used Hanna as his base to encourage the Edmonton church and to hold other eveangelistic meetings n surrounding areas.

O.H. and Hattie Tallman returned to Ontario by late 1915, and settled in Hamilton, where O.H. attended chiropractic school. He was also evangelist for Hamilton's YMCA church of Christ on Barton St.

Upon graduation, about 1917, Dr. O.H. Tallman and family moved to Owen Sound where he set up a practice. He preached full-time for the

Owen Sound church of Christ, and held meetings when possible in other parts of Ontario.

Following the closure of the college at West Gore in 1915, O.E. and Mabel Tallman moved to Ontario and settled in the St. Catharines area. O.E. preached for Jordan and St Catharnes churches for a number of years. He held meetngs in Ontario and the U.S. in the late 1920's. O.E. assisted with the establishment of St. Catharines' Niagara St. church of Christ.

In the early 1920's, O.H. and Hattie moved to the U.S. and settled in Florida, where he operated a practice and preached. The loss to the Owen Sound church of Christ of the Ellis' and Tallmans at the time was insurmountable. The Owen Sound church of Christ closed. Remaining members commuted to Meaford for services.

In 1953, the Jordan church of Christ led the replanting of the Owen Sound church. Keith and Marie Thompson were the first evangelist team to work full time for the 1950's Owen Sound church, which continues to meet in 2015.

O.E. and Mabel Tallman's oldest son, Oliver, in the early 1940's, preached for the Jordan church of Christ. Later, Oliver and Sadie established Tallman Fuineral Homes in the Niagara Peninsula. They were instrumental in the establishment of Great Lakes Christian College in Beamsville, Ontario. Oliver served the Tintern church as an elder for many years.

O.E. and Mabel Tallman's oldest son, also named, O. H. Tallman, beame a preacher and, for serveral years during the 1950's was evangelist at New York City's, "Manhattan church of Christ."

Smithville church of Christ, throughtut its history, has never been a large congregation. However, the Tallman's story is an example of how a small church and family ties was an incubator for good.

SOURCES: The Bible Student; Christian Quarterly; Christian Monthly Review; Gospel Herald; Googlemaps.ca; Ancestry.ca; Paper: The Canadians at Nashville Bible School," written by Donald Perry, July, 2010; Paper: "Carman Bible School" written by Shelley Jacobs, August, 2009; Paper: "Maritime Bible and Literary College," written by Geoffrey H. Ellis, August 2009; Paper: "Churches of Chrsit in St. Catharines-From the Periodicals," researched by Myrna Perry, Eugene Perry, Geoffrey Ellis, August, 2007; "History of the Disciples of Christ in Canada Since 1830", written by Reuben Butchart, 1949; Website: "Hanna-Worth the (conclusion, page 3)

Drive” (Hanna, Alberta)-Our Heritage; canadianbadlands.com (Hanna, AB); greyroots.com (Owen Sound); “The Story of Smithville, Frank E. Page.”

Researched, written and edited by **Paul Linn Dale**.

SERVICE TENURES FOR

CCCHS BOARD MEMBERS

According to the by-laws of the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society, the board of directors is to consist of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, financial officer and historian. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can find each of the present board members listed with their addresses and emails.

The CCCHS by-laws also limit the term of service for each board member, which is two three-year terms. At the annual meeting (in August), those who are finishing the six years of service must be replaced. It is, therefore, necessary that members of CCCHS be ready to accept nomination and election to the board. In order for members to be aware of the year of completion of service for the present board members, we submit the following list:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Board Position</u>	<u>Expiry Year</u>
Wayford Smith	Secretary	2015
George Mansfield	Chairman	2016
Bob Hibbard	Historian	2017
Elgin Whitfield	Vice Chairman	2017
Margaret Hibbard	Financial Officer	2018

MOTHER-LODES

Currently I am working on a family history in preparation for a family reunion this summer. While seeking information from family members, I came across a cache of photo albums held by one of my cousins that reach back a hundred years.

Embedded in 100s of family photos are pictures of family members who were preachers and church leaders in their day such as O. H. Tallman, O. E. Tallman, and C. G. McPhee. As well, I came across a picture of Ralph Schell, who joined an early family gathering in the

Niagara area; the photo was taken ca. 1921. This is the first picture I have seen of Ralph. In the early 1920s he was the evangelist with the East Toronto Church of Christ and who led in beginnings of the Strathmore Church of Christ in 1924.

In several group pictures I found Lution E. Huntsman. Lution became a member of the Tintern Church of Christ in its beginning years in the 1890s, and for several years was a co-leader with S. M. Jones of the Adamsville Bible School.

A group photo captures the Smithville Church of Christ in 1926.

I have been scanning many of these photos for possible use in my family presentation. At the same time some of these digitized pictures that illustrate our spiritual past will be transferred to the historical society’s digital collection.

Because of a family link in our respective ancestry, I invited Claude Cox to assist in my gathering of family data. Not only did Claude assist in this, he was prompted to examine again photo albums in his mother’s possession. From these he forwarded: a photo of the 1922 Meaford Sunday school (with faces identified), and a photo of a coal-oil lamp that had been used by the Cape Rich church to brighten their assemblies. These are now part of the CCCHS digital collection.

I am confident that tucked away in drawers, closets, and attics of families across the land are similar deposits. These valuable records of earlier times deserve to be revisited with an eye to preserving our church history. These albums can be mined for their memories of our forebears in the faith with results that are priceless.

In this digital age, scanned copies of select photos can be readily made and forwarded to the historical society without surrendering the actual picture. You are invited to join in this undertaking, go through your family albums, scan the photos that you feel record some aspect of our church past (or have a grand-child do it for you—as Luke McKee did for my cousin Twyla in Castalion Springs, Tennessee!), and forward them to any member of the CCCHS (e.g. Geoff Ellis, HYPERLINK <mailto:ghellis@gmail.com>; Roy and Edythe Williams, HYPERLINK <mailto:rsejwilliams@gmail.com>; George Mansfield, HYPERLINK <mailto:george4now@gmail.com>; or any one of the CCCHS directors who are listed at the end of this newsletter).

-Geoffrey Ellis

DIGITAL EXPLOSION

Google's Wikipedia seeks to gather all human knowledge under one roof! With digitization, it was only a matter of time before the bulk of digitized documents of the Restoration Movement would be assembled in one location and made generally available to all interested persons. That initiative has been taken. Myrna Perry has written about the effort and identifies the doors to open to access it.

Digitization of Restoration Materials.

There are a number of people and institutions involved in the digitization of periodicals of the Restoration movement. To avoid duplication of effort, Don Meredith and Bob Turner, librarians at Harding School of Theology, and with the help of Jim McMillan, have set up a document on Harding's Web site.

The Web address is HYPERLINK "<http://www.hst.edu/mrha>" or HYPERLINK "<http://www.hst.edu/library-resources/mrha/specialcollections>" or HYPERLINK "<http://www.hst.edu/library-resources/mrha/hyperlink>" special-collections"

Click on Stone-Campbell Digitization Project Collections at the bottom of the page.

On a spread sheet the name of the periodical/item has been listed along with the digitizing party, the format of the original, status (completed, in progress, under negotiation) and the format and/or URL. In addition to periodicals the following categories are included: Indexes, Collections, Institutions, Biographical, Doctrinal, Historical, Bibliographical, Library Catalogs, Controversies and Sermons.

The Christian Quarterly and *Christian Monthly Review* at HYPERLINK "<http://ccchs.ca/PeriodicalsPeriodicals.htm>"

HYPERLINK "<http://ccch.ca/Periodicals.htm>" are two of the periodicals listed and the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society is listed under Collections at HYPERLINK "<http://ccchs.ca/>" HYPERLINK "<http://cchs.ca/>"

Even Google is a digitizing sponsor. Under the Historical category we have the 1904 publication, *The Early Relation and Separation of Baptists and Disciples* by Errett Gates.

This will become a very useful tool for researchers.

"Digitization of Restoration Materials" submitted by MYRNA PERRY.

*Shortly, the entire collection of Canadian periodicals, 1848-1926, currently held by the CCCHS in digital form (on CD) will be included in the data bank identified above.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership in the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society is available to interested individuals for \$25.00 per year. The annual meeting in August each year is an opportune time to purchase or renew your membership. Otherwise, you may contact the financial officer, Margaret Hibbard (address above). If you are already a member of CCCHS, your membership is also renewable at the annual meeting.

Current members, please encourage your friends and family to become members of CCCHS.