



NEWSLETTER

Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society
Vol. 6, No. 3-4, Winter-Spring, 2011

THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY

It is common to reduce history to a drab list of dates, people, and places. Rather, the challenge is to connect those dots and see the movements of the past played out dynamically in their complex social, economic, geographic, and theological settings.

History is about parsing people movements in context. The excitement of today's swirl of events with questions of their causes and effects should be no less present when the action considered is in the past.

The human experience moves on. Conditions change, be they climatic, population shifts, cultural values, economic highs and lows, scientific and technological advances, world views, etc. Very little remains static.

In an interesting work, *Historical Drift: Must My Church Die?* published in 2002 by Arnold L. Cook, the author considers how organizations struggle to hold on to their original enthusiasms and core values. The sequence seems invariably to move from founding zeal, to institutionalization, to enshrinement. In fact, Cook, having examined a number of religious organizations concludes that religious movements typically have a 80 year life span!

It is the Restoration Movement in which we are interested. Early stirrings are identified in the mid-1720s with John Glas in Scotland moving to a Bible-based independency. In subsequent stages, maturing awareness of the Biblical pattern mark the movement's progress. Outreach activities follow. Contests with the established religious orders then emerge over correctness of practice. The resultant restorationism is then exported from the Old to the New World—vigorously in America and modestly in British North America.

Here the social setting shifted from pioneering, to agrarian strength, to industrial and urban success, and in Canada, politically, from colonial to national life. The movement

found cause to look inward as disagreements over interpretations arose. Division occurred at the turn of the century and then happened again. Roughly three 80 year periods of advance and decline have now been experienced in "our" religious

2011 ANNUAL MEETING of the *Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society*

Saturday, August 20, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

To be held at the
Cedar Park Church of Christ
566 Simcoe St. N
Oshawa, ON L1G 4V3

Featuring:

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and David Oliphant Jr.

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movement. And current Restoration interests seem to be more self-focused than outreach oriented.

The vagaries of the human setting and the vulnerability of human movements may well question the future viability of Restorationism.

History is fixed and movements are variable. But Restorationism is anchored in one unchanging ingredient—the eternal gospel. The principle of Biblical authority remains the stabilizing factor in the movement and the standard by which history is measured. Disagreements may and do arise over Biblical interpretation, but the Scriptures present themselves as comprehensible and can be obeyed. This is not an argument for “primitivism” but for accessing the wisdom of God and the instructions of God when God revealed himself in Christ.

Religious energies ebb and flow. Religious movements wax and wane. But the Word is clear on one issue: Christ’s movement in the world will prevail. The challenge is to be committed to the principle, dedicated to the movement, and alert to the meaning of history.

BOARD UPDATE

At its annual meeting in August 2010, the historical society elected the following to its board of directors: Chris Blackwell, Kitchener and George Mansfield, Beamsville. These replaced Geoff Ellis and Ron Knight who, having completed six years on the board, were required by the by-laws to step down for at least one year. At its January 8, 2011 board meeting, the following officers were named: George Mansfield, chairman; Chris Blackwell, vice-chairman; Wayford Smith, secretary; Eugene Perry, treasurer; David Ellis, historian.

Acquisitions:

BRUCE AND ELAINE ROBINSON HAVE DONATED THEIR TWO-DECADE COLLECTION OF CASSETTE RECORDINGS TO THE CCCHS!

In 1986, Bruce Robinson, then of Beamsville, ON, with the assistance of his wife, Elaine, began the arduous but valuable task of recording major lectures, sermons, and important speeches given in various

venues in Canada. Primarily, these have been Ontario gatherings, but in 2002, the Robinsons travelled to Edmonton, AB to record the “Vision Canada” presentations of that year. Events such as the Great Lakes Bible Lectures, Vision Canada, Training for Service, special meetings, etc., have been preserved for future study. Continuing through to 2005, when the Robinsons’ recording technology switched to CDs, an estimated 1,500 cassette tapes have been preserved and make up the collection. The historical society expresses great appreciation for the efforts of Bruce and Elaine, now of Smithville, ON, and for their generosity in making this valuable collection available for future examination.

An invitation is extended to some dedicated volunteer who would like to commit to the task of cataloguing the collection!

Acquisitions:

DIGITALLY BLESSED!

In recent weeks CCCHS has been benefitted by a succession of digital acquisitions!

Lane Scruggs, a Restoration history student at the Master’s level in Toronto, with the help of his wife, recently invested 60 hours in transferring from microfilm to CD all the central Canadian periodicals from 1848 to 1927. Included are most of David Oliphant Jr.’s publications, the *Bible Index*, the *Bible Student*, etc. Lane kindly presented a copy of this work to the historical society.

Bennie Johns, of Baileyton, Alabama, recently completed the herculean task of transferring to a digital base all of the early American Restoration periodicals of the following: all seven volumes of Alexander Campbell’s *The Christian Baptist*, and all 41 volumes of *The Millennial Harbinger* (plus an Index to the 41 vols), all 14 volumes of Barton W. Stone’s *The Christian Messenger*, and the 10 volumes of Walter Scott’s *The Evangelist*. This CD truly qualifies as a treasure trove of well over 35,000 pages of Restoration materials, all conveniently compacted into one CD. The material is very readable as the text has been reset and is readily searched, either by volume or by all the journals on the CD combined.

The CD containing these journals has been obtained by the CCCHS.

(This valuable resource is available for \$59.95US, plus \$4.00 for S&H, and may be ordered from:

CLAY PUBLISHING
P. O. Box 398
Russellville, AL 35653
Phone: 205-668-3135)

Myrna Perry, Beamsville, ON, in a dedicated effort, has retrieved all of the OBITUARIES published in the *Gospel Herald*, 1936-2010. She is currently developing an index for this collection as well as making it searchable. The resultant CD that Myrna is making available to the CCCHS will contain a valuable people history of nearly seventy-five years!

Geoff Ellis, Waterloo, ON, has scanned the CCCHS collection (preserved originally by Grace (Stewart) Perry) of *The Canadian Helper*, 1908-1914, edited by S. M. Jones, while principal of the Beamsville Bible School. Ellis presented the collection's CD to the historical society. The preserved pages of the publication are deteriorating rapidly. Thus, its digitized version not only preserves but makes the publication readable.

Michael Christie, Sheet Harbour, NS, has made available a CD that includes *The Christian*, 1839-1848, edited by W. W. Eaton; and *The Christian*, edited by Donald Crawford, 1883-1900. This valuable collection traces the progress of the Restoration Movement in the Maritimes.

(Michael Christie and co-author, Roland McCormick, have recently released, *A New Perspective: The Origins of New Brunswick Free Baptists* (2011, 256 pages; ISBN 978-0-9687472-6-1.) One chapter deals with the activities of the Disciples in New Brunswick. Edwin Broadus has observed, "Michael bases his work on contemporary records. All of his digging in early journals in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia provides much needed correction of the early history of the Disciples in those Maritime provinces." Mr. Christie comments: "There is an entire chapter in the book on the Disciples' early history in NB, 1830-1850, including the ministries of W. W. Ashley, George Garraty,

Benjamin Howard, W. W. Eaton, William Hunter, John Doyle, and Ralph Phinney. There is also detailed summary of the history of the St. John Disciples church from 1834 to about 1850." \$32.00 plus S&H. Contact: michaelchristie@omniglobe.ca; postal address: 152 Passage Rd., Sheet Harbour, NS B0J 3B0.)

Those interested in accessing any of these CDs are encouraged to contact the historical society so that arrangements can be made.

Acquisitions:

RECENTLY ADDED TO THE CCCHS COLLECTION

Periodicals:

- 29 volumes of *Discipliana*, the Historical Journal of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN: 1976*, 1979*, 1984-1996, 1998-2006, 2008 (*, partial).
- 3 volumes of *The Canadian Christian Harbinger*, 1975-1977.
- 4 volumes of *Living Stones*, 1966-1970.
- 5 volumes of *The Saskatoon Star*, 1953-1958, followed by 2 volumes of *The Star*, 1959-1960.
- 6 volumes of *The Canadian Helper*, 1908-1914.
- 2 issues of the *Christian Quarterly*, 1916*, 1917*.
- 10 volumes of the *Christian Monthly Review*, 1919, 1920, 1922, 1925, 1926, 1927*, 1928, 1929, 1930*, 1931*.
- 5 volumes of the *Oriental Christian*, 1931*, 1934*, 1933*, 1935*, 1937*.
- 26 issues of *The Prairie Proclaimer*, 1955-1970.

Bound Periodicals:

- *The British Millennial Harbinger*, 1851, 1852, 1854, 1855, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, (UK).
- *The British Harbinger*, 1867 (UK).
- *The Canadian Christian Harbinger*, 1966.
- *The Christian Monthly Review*, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1932-33.
- *The Ecclesiastical Observer*, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1876 (UK).
- *The Christian Advocate*, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889 (UK).
- *The Bible Advocate*, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1895, 1897, 1900, 1909 (UK).

- *The Christian Banner & Bible Advocate*, 1852-1853 (UK).
- *The Millennial Harbinger*, 1833, 1854, 1856, 1857, 1861.
- *Lard's Quarterly*, 1863, 1864,
- *The Christian Baptist*, 1823-1830 (one volume).
- *The Christian Messenger and Reformer*, 1841 (UK).
- *The Christian Messenger*, 1944 (Cdn).

Books:

- J. C. Bailey, *40 Years a Canadian Preacher*, 1921-1961.
- L. Louis Pauls, *It Can Be Done*, 1991.
- John T. Brown, *Churches of Christ*, 1904.
- J. B. Briney, *Sermons and Addresses*, 1922.
- Myrtle Bailey, *Evidences of the Personal Touch*, 1968.
- Isaac Errett, *Evenings with the Bible*, Vol. 1, 1884; Vol. 2, 1887; Vol. 3, 1889.
- Robert Haldane, *Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans*, 1847.
- Joseph L. Cannon, *For Missionaries Only*, 1969.
- _____, *The Experiences of a New Guinea Pig*, 1974.
- William E. Wallace, *Daniel Sommer, 1850-1940, A Biography*, 1969.
- Joseph King, *Sermons of Joseph King with Memoir*, 1893.
- Lynn A. McMillan, *Restoration Roots*, 1983.
- Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher: A Book of 21 Sermons*, Vol. 2.
- _____, *Biographical Sketch and Writings*, Vol. 1, 1881.
- Adran Doran, J. E. Choate, *The Christian Scholar: A Biography of Hall Laurie Calhoun*, 1985.
- D. Duane Cummins, *The Disciples Colleges: A History*, 1987.
- Matthew C. Morrison, *Like a Lion: Daniel Sommer's 70 Years of Preaching*, 1975.
- Alexander Haldane, *The Lives of Robert Haldane of Airthrey and of His Brother James Alexander Haldane*, 1852.
- M. Norval Young, *A History of Christian Colleges*, 1949.
- Daniel Sommer, *Appeal for Unity*, c.1930.
- _____, *Plain Sermons*, Vol. 1, 1913.
- Alexander Brown, *Conversion to God: As Exemplified in the Acts of the Apostles*, 1887 (UK).

- James Beaty, Jr., *Paying the Pastor: Unscriptural and Traditional*, 1885.
- Robert Richardson, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, Vol. 1, 1868.
- T. B. Larimore, *Letters and Sermons*, Vol. 1, 1949.
- Rue Porter, *I Remember*, 1952.
- G. C. Brewer, *Autobiography*, 1957.
- N. B. Hardeman, *Hardeman's Tabernacle Sermons*, Vol.3, 1928; Vol. 4, 1938.
- John S. Sweeney, *Sweeney's Sermons*, 1892.
- R. Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 1880.
- T. W. Brents, *The Gospel Plan of Salvation*, 1874.
- Don Carlos Janes, *A Trip Abroad*, 1905.
- W. W. Otey, *Living Issues*, 1951.
- Ashley S. Johnson, *A Life of Interest*, 1897.
- H. A. Dixon, *Saving Faith and Other Sermons*, 1963.
- J. Ridley Stroop, *Restoration Ideas on Church Organization*, 1855-1914.
- J. W. McGarvey, *Jesus and Jonah*, 1896.

Debates:

- *Scherling-Bailey Debate*, 1954 ("Conscience").
- *Neal-Wallace Discussion*, 1933 ("Premillennialism").
- *Sommer-Rhodes Debate*, 1907 ("Bible Schools").
- *Crawford-Sweeney Debate*, 1875 ("Baptists/Disciples").
- *Stark-Warlick Debate*, 1910 ("Instrumental Music").

REPORT ON TOTTLEBANK, WIGAN DIST.

(This 06/23/90 report was received by Ernie Stirrup, Ottawa on a visit to England and passed on to the CCCHS archives.)

By time Alexander joined with his father, Thomas Campbell, in Pennsylvania, 1809, the year of the "Declaration and Address," there were already independent congregations in the UK pleading for a return to NT Christianity: Scotland, Auchemuchty; Ireland, Dungannon; Wales, Allington, Denbigshire.

The Tottlebank Church Minute Book begins with this statement: "This book is for the use of that Church of Christ in Broughton Ffurnessfells and Cartmel whereof Mr. Gabriel Camelford is teaching elder. 18th day

of the sixth month called August, 1669. A Church of Christ was founded in order and faith drawn together in the fellowship and order of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

In his "History of the Churches in Furness," William Robinson wrote:

"It is interesting to note that the Church had the following marks usually associated with the Reformation of the Campbells: 1. It was named 'The Church of Christ.' 2. Only believers' baptism by immersion was practiced. 3. The Lord's Supper was the chief service of worship each Sunday. 4. The government was congregational, and there was liberty of ministry. Elders and deacons were ordained."

The Tottlebank Church of Christ came into being as a result of the British Parliament's passing in 1662 the Act of Uniformity. This law required all Church of England ministers to affirm their "unfeigned assent" to the Book of Common Prayer. Many sincere Puritans could not in good conscience make the declaration. So, on August 24, 1662, nearly 2,000 incumbents were ejected from their livings. One of these was Gabriel Camelford, Vicar of Staveley in Cartmel, a village near the foot of Lake Windermere. "Although ejected he could not be silenced, as he felt woe upon him if he preached not the gospel."

The minute book indicates that in 1695 the Tottlebank congregation became a Baptist church. In turn, in 1842, eight members from Kirby (five miles away) withdrew to worship as a Church of Christ. From this congregation six more churches were established in Furness: Askam, Barrow, Urswick, Daltan, Lindal, and Ulverston.

2011 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE.

2011 CCCHS membership fees, covering Sept. 1, 2010 through Aug. 31, 2011 are now being received. Annual fees are \$25.00 (for both voting and associate memberships). Direct your payment to treasurer, Eugene Perry, 4904 King St., Beamsville, ON L0R 1B6.

Would you like to become a member of the historical society? Contact any member of the CCCHS board of directors for information.

Voting members of the Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society are invited to submit nominations to the board of directors for the 2011-2012 year. The by-law requirement is as follows:

"Any three (3) Active Members may nominate any other duly qualified person 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. Each nominator may nominate one candidate only." (IV.3.1) Mail to Wayford Smith, secretary.

CCCHS Publications Order Form, 2011

	<u>Price</u>
☐ Beamsville Bible School by Edwin Broadus	3.00
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☐ Churches of Christ in St. Catharines, From the Periodicals By Myrna Perry, et al	9.00
☐ Daniel Wiers in the Maelstrom of the Early Restoration Movement on the Niagara Frontier, (with Addendum) by Edwin Broadus	4.00
☐ *Dugald Sinclair: Seven Decades of Unstinting Service by Edwin Broadus	1.50
☐ Early Efforts in Christian Education in Canada (3 Papers)	8.00
☐ Hamilton Churches, Excerpts from the <i>Gospel Herald</i> , 1946-1999 by Myrna Perry	7.00
☐ Maritime Bible and Literary College by Geoffrey Ellis	5.50
☐ Newmarket Church of Christ, Excerpts from the <i>Gospel Herald</i> , 1963-1999 by Myrna Perry	3.50
☐ Periodical Publishing in the Restoration Movement in Canada from 1833	

- by Eugene Perry 2.00
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- ☐ Restoration in Hamilton, Ontario, 1821-2001 by Geoffrey Ellis, et al 7.00
- ☐ Restoration in the Georgian Bay, 1853-1895, Items from the Periodicals by Geoffrey Ellis 4.00
- ☐ Restoration in the Niagara District & the Niagara Frontier, Excerpts from the Periodicals, 1853-1900 by Geoffrey Ellis 4.00
- Restorationist Churches of the 19th Century Along the "North Shore" of Lake Ontario by G. Ellis 7.00
- Stouffville, Pine Orchard, and Orangeville, Ontario Congregations by Myrna Perry 4.50
- ☐ The Fenwick Church of Christ, "Past to Present" by Myrna Perry, et al 4.00
- ☐ *The Canadians at Nashville Bible School by Donald Perry 3.00
- ☐ The Influence of the Christian Connection on the Restoration Movement in Ontario by Edwin Broadus 4.00
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- φ *The Influence of the Christian Connection on the Restoration Movement in Ontario* by Edwin Broadus

- ☐ CDs and DVDs (each) \$10.00
- φ *Christian Quarterly* (1916, 1917), and *Christian Monthly Review* (1919-1922)
- ... *Christian Monthly Review* (1923-1926, 1933)
- ... *Christian Monthly Review* (1927-1932)
- ... *A Virtual Tour of Restoration Sites in Southwestern Ontario* by Geoffrey Ellis
- φ *The Canadian Helper* (1909-1914)

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