



NEWSLETTER

Canadian Churches of Christ Historical Society
Vol. 8, No. 4-5, Winter-Spring, 2013

ATTIC TREASURES AND PANNING FOR GOLD

In 1953 Eugene Perry became co-editor of the Gospel Herald. Churches throughout Canada began mailing bulletins to the Herald office in Beamsville with information to be garnered for the news in the GH magazine. Following a long family tradition, Eugene did not throw these bulletins out.

Then in 1974, Eugene and Evelyn went off to do mission work in Zambia (returning in 1983). Tidying up before departure, a number of boxes were moved to their attic.

Most of Eugene's extensive valuable collection of Restorationist materials had previously been donated to the CCCHS collection and had been processed and stored. In fact, this forms the central portion of the archives. But recently 16 boxes, chiefly filled with bulletins, were located in his attic.

Myrna Perry spent exhausting weeks collating the bulletins into congregational groupings. Moved to Waterloo the bulletins are being assembled in congregational bundles and stored alphabetically in storage boxes to be moved to the CCCHS archives in Meaford.

Early on in the processing of materials donated to the historical society, the question arose: should church bulletins be included in the collection? Grudgingly, as bulletins typically contain much recycled teaching material and schedules of meetings, etc., the decision was reached to save bulletins. Embedded within bulletins are nuggets of gold, bits

of information that are valuable in the ongoing process of piecing together our historical past. The older the bulletins, from 1953 in this case, the more precious is the information that can be gathered from them!

Anyone interested in doing a congregational history might check with the CCCHS for a bundle of bulletins and begin panning for gold.

Searching the Internet is often like looking for nuggets of information. Diaries, census info, ancestry sites, googling sites, periodicals, books, photos, etc. are available to the searcher. Paul Dale, Stratford, ON and Shelley Jacobs, Regina, SK have made amply use of this resource in their contributions to this edition of the *Newsletter*, a biography of Samuel Whitfield and the beginnings of the Winnipeg Church of Christ.

ANNUAL MEETING

CANADIAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, August 24, 2013
"ten to three"

Bramalea Church of Christ
750 Clark Blvd., L6T3Y2

Guest Speaker

Dr. Jerry Rushford



Church bulletins being processed in Waterloo

SAMUEL WHITFIELD: CIRCUIT PREACHER AMONG CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

By Paul Linn Dale

Samuel (Sam) Henry Whitfield was a circuit preacher among churches of Christ in southwestern Ontario during the years 1904 to 1925. He served congregations in Woodgreen, Clachan, Jura, Forest, Blackwell, Lobo, Wyoming, London, and planted churches in Glencoe, Wardsville and Sarnia.

For much of the time in those early years, Samuel travelled by horse and buggy/sleigh and/or train. Snow, mud, ice, gravel and dust made travelling difficult year round.

Samuel was born on Thursday, December 15th, 1870 to Alfred Henry and Mary Ann (nee Pittman) Whitfield on their farm in St. Vincent Township, Grey County, Ontario. Samuel was raised in an Anglican home and was "confirmed" at 17 into the Anglican church. He was committed to a faith in

God, "several of us often walked five miles to meeting in those days."

In the summer of 1889, Samuel's father died on Wednesday August 14th, of "stomach, liver and kidney disease". His mother had seven children living at home and a farm to manage. Samuel, the oldest still at home, completed high school at Meaford and took responsibility for running the farm from 1889 to 1896.

Samuel attended several gospel meetings in 1889, held at the local school house by Bro. Roberts of Cape Rich. During a meeting on Dec. 14th, he "made the confession, the next night the ice was broken and I was baptized. I walked home....and got a scolding...I was warm and happy, realizing that I had done what Jesus required me to do." It was his 19th birthday.

In the fall of 1896 Samuel boarded a train in Meaford and travelled to Nashville, Tennessee to study at Nashville Bible School (NBS). He attended 1896-1897; 1897-1898; 1898-1899. During summer breaks Samuel responded to a request by Wilson Mallory, another Ontario born NBS student, to do mission work in Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1899, Samuel completed his courses at NBS and returned to Beamsville, Ontario to preach. Beamsville was one of the largest congregations in Canada at that time with about 200 members. On Tuesday March 6th, 1900, Samuel married Rosanna (Rose) Matilda Falls. S.M. Jones officiated.

In 1901, Samuel and Rose moved to Huntsdale, Pennsylvania where he became the evangelist. The Whitfield's first two children were born there, Fred in 1902 and Walter in 1903. A member wrote years later, "He lived and worked among us here at Walnut Bottom twenty-five years ago; and no man ever was here before or since that lived a better life and tried so hard to keep the Church pure and loyal to the Word of God."

In 1904, the Whitfield's returned to Ontario and settled on a farm in Woodgreen, Middlesex County, about 45 kms southwest of London. In the early 1900s, controversies within churches of Christ due to co-operation and musical Instruments had split churches. A few kilometers from Woodgreen, the West Lorne, Rodney and Ridgetown churches of Christ had identified as "Disciples". Some members chose to leave because they wanted to remain "loyal" to the "Ancient Paths". S. M. Jones from Beamsville held meetings in the Woodgreen area in 1903, and a church was established. Maitland Watterworth, a local "son" became Woodgreen's first preacher. He moved in 1904 to be the evangelist for the Goderich, Ont. church of Christ. In 1905, he moved to Carman Manitoba to be their evangelist.

Following the Whitfield's return to Canada, Rose gave birth to 3 more sons, Arthur 1905; Roy 1906; and John S. on January 16, 1909. Sadly, less than 2 months after John's birth, Rose died of "Typhoid Fever" on Sunday February 28, 1909. Despite challenging times in his life, Samuel wrote concerning faith, "Believing in God and Christ with all the heart, and then obeying from the heart all the commands of God". On Thursday June 23rd, 1910, Samuel married Lillian Gilbert who gave birth to 3 daughters, Margaret, Mary, and Ruth.

Samuel wrote in 1916, "We have worship on the first day of the week at Glencoe, Woodgreen, Clachan, Jura, Forest and Blackwell." Christian Quarterly (CQ) Jan 1916. Samuel preached weekly for Woodgreen and Clachan, and served the other churches several times a year.

Woodgreen was Samuel's home church. Members included the Purcell, Watterworth, Lumley and Dennis families. Charles, Petch, following a three-week meeting he held at Woodgreen in October 1920, wrote, "It is a hopeful sign when a church will accept, as they did, good plain teaching from the word of God. Bro. Whitfield has

labored there patiently for many years, yet not in vain. I was encouraged and strengthened by meeting with all those good people again." Woodgreen advertised in the Bible Student (BS), Christian Quarterly (CQ), the Christian Monthly Review (CMR) and later the Gospel Herald. In 1961 the Woodgreen church building was moved into Glencoe.

Clachan met every Sunday afternoon. The church included the Eddie Purcell and Duncan families. Clachan advertised in the BS, CQ and CMR. In 1925, the church disbanded and remaining members worshipped at Woodgreen.

Glencoe was originally a house church established by Samuel in 1905. Glencoe advertised in the BS, CQ, the CMR and later the Gospel Herald.

Blackwell was a house church hosted by Mr. and Mrs. William Yeates in the community of Blackwell Station, now part of the city of Sarnia. It advertised monthly in the CQ and CMR.

Forest was a house church, originally planted by the Jura church in 1906. The Jamieson and Cully families were key members and advertised monthly in the CQ and CMR into the 1930s.

Jura was located about 8 kilometers west of Forest. This church dated back to the 1880s. Active families included the Campbell's, Jamieson's, Culleys and Gilliards. An ad for the church ran in the BS, CQ and CMR. The church closed in the 1930s.

Wyoming was a house church established in 1916 by Ontario preacher and publisher H. M. (Henry Matthew) Evans and wife Ruth. In 1910 Ruth became wheelchair bound. In 1914, their youngest son Franklin died at 18. Samuel was a constant encourager to the Evans. An ad for the Wyoming church ran in the CQ and CMR for 5 years until 1921, when the Evans moved to Selkirk where Henry became the evangelist.

Sarnia in the 1920s was a rapidly growing oil and chemical industrial center. Samuel knew a church should be planted in the city. Encouraging a few Christians living in the area, Samuel preached the first lesson for the Sarnia church of Christ on Sunday August 30th, 1925, at the home of Alfred Culley. It was his last sermon. Samuel died 3 weeks later at the age of 54 on Thursday September 17th, 1925 of Acute Interstitial Nephritis, kidney disease. For over a year he and his family knew his time on earth was short.



Samuel Whitfield

Charles W. Petch in an obituary wrote: "Bro. Whitfield leaves five sons from his first wife, who are all workers in the church, and three daughters from his second wife, who is left to mourn her loss...The lives of his family bear testimony to the godly life he lived..."

Samuel's work did not die that September day in 1925. Samuel's oldest son, Fred, became a leader at Sarnia. Three of Fred's daughters' married preachers, Evelyn married David Johnson (son of preacher, George M Johnson); Marilyn married Murray Smith; and Joyce married Murray Hammond. Fred's son, Don Whitfield, became a preacher, and served as an elder in Beamsville.

Samuel's great-grandchildren include Fred's grandsons, Tim Johnson, Don Smith, and Guy Hammond who became preachers; Fred's granddaughters: Sarah Hammond

married Drew Chappados and Julie Whitfield married Walter Cromwell. Both men preached for a time at Sarnia.

Samuel's third son, Roy, was one of the first missionaries from churches of Christ to enter China in 1931. Roy attended Harding College, and taught for a time as a teacher of Latin. He became a preacher, worked in Western Canada for several months with J.C. Bailey, and in the United States before going to China. Roy's son Jim became a preacher in the western United States.

Samuel's youngest son, John S. Whitfield,, became an Ontario preacher and worked for churches in Woodgreen, Sarnia, St. Catharines (Niagara St.), Meaford, Owen Sound and Glencoe.

Samuel led all seven of his brothers to the Lord, including, Howard and William. In 1907, Howard moved his family to Thessalon and helped establish the church there. Several of Howard's grandchildren and great grand-children became preachers and/or missionaries including Ruby Whitfield who served in New Guinea with her husband Art Ford. Ruby and Art's son Craig served in New Guinea later as a missionary; Lawrence Whitfield served in Zambia and his son Greg became a preacher. Howard's granddaughter, Alma Whitfield, married Bill Bunting, a preacher, and they planted churches in St. Thomas and Tillsonburg, Ontario. Samuel's youngest brother William Whitfield and his wife planted the Thornbury church of Christ and hosted it in their home for at least 10 years. William later became an elder at Meaford.

The Sarnia and Glencoe/Woodgreen churches remain alive in 2013.

**Canadian Churches of Christ
Historical Society Archives**

Unit 7, 334 Sykes St., Meaford, ON

**W.J. BOYER, "THE CAUSE IN
WINNIPEG," *THE BIBLE STUDENT*,
VOL. 5, NO. 2 (FEBRUARY 1908): 1, 8**

Edited by Shelley Jacobs

On the 8th of September, 1907, the opening of this new Church House took place with a good audience in attendance. Bro. Watterworth, Evangelist, Carman, co-operating with Bro. Walter Eatough, Evangelist, helped in the preaching and opening exercises.

Amongst those present upon the occasion were Sister M. Summerville, Morden, Man.; Sis. James Sterling, enroute to Carman, returning from Ontario; Bro. C. Montgomery, Sisters Louie Malloray and May Stewart, Carman; Bro. A. Summerscales, Manitou, Man. Several strangers were present also, who beheld, for the first time, the observance of the Lord's Supper as in New Testament times. We trust the seed sown on that day will yet spring up and fructify, bearing fruit unto eternal life.

The foundation of the present congregation was laid in the springtime, a season when we are forcibly, and often beautifully reminded that all nature having died, lives again. April, 1901 is therefore memorable, [t] marks the time when four young men, the charter members, met first in this city to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread, in a room in a boarding-house. Their names are Ozra [sic] E. Tallman, Gordon W. Tovel, Ora H. Tallman, and our deceased and beloved brother, Austin Chantler. In a short time the little gathering, of about eight, included in its members Sister Mrs. Langrill, [...]] in Winnipeg, who had previously met with the brethren in Toronto.

The young men referred to, with true missionary spirit, commenced to preach about August, 1901, in Potter's Hall, Louise Bridge, a district now known as Elmwood. Sister G. W. Tovel (nee McLean) obeyed the Master in baptism, at these first efforts.

At the lapse of ten months having meantime moved to another hall, the membership reached twenty-five. About this time the Missionary Society of the Christian Church sent a preacher who held meetings in the city. A Christian Church was formed, absorbing in its formation five of the little company. Bro. Jones, Beamsville, Ont., by request, arrived about August, 1902. By his labours, in a tent, under uphill circumstances, four were added to the little band. The end of 1902 witnessed a move to the Northwest Hall. During the following year a number left Winnipeg leaving the membership at the beginning of 1904 about 16. It was now decided to write Bro. Ora H. Tallman, who had left Winnipeg, to return. He arrived in April. An interesting episode was the mutual efforts for union on the part of the two bodies of disciples. Two special meetings were held but nothing decisive was adopted other than each attended each others Bible Class. This was done for some time. A cottage on Ross Avenue was now purchased for \$1,550.00 and transformed into a Meeting House, Brethren Atherton, G. W. Tovel and Hedley Whitelaw acting as trustees. The small cause had the sympathy and support of some outside of Winnipeg, amongst them our deceased and highly esteemed Bro. James Stewart, of Cypress River, Man. His was a hospitable home to the travelling preacher, and kind was the look in those large expressive eyes, lit up, even in pain, with the Christian's hope.

The work at 447 Ross Avenue was pushed vigorously on, Bro. O. H. Tallman helping manfully. The memory of the gatherings for reading and talks during the bleak stormy winter of 1903-04, in the home of Sister Whitelaw and others of the brethren, is very

dear. Mrs. Whitelaw is back again in the Queen City, but out here in the gateway city of the great North West, are those who miss her cheery counsel, and sympathetic word of encouragement.

A quarterly plan for preachers for evenings, and speakers for the morning meetings, also for presiding brethren, and Old and New Testament readers, was drawn up. This has been adhered to. The spring of 1905 brought Bro. O. H. Tallman amongst us again to devote his whole time to [text illegible] at 447 Ross Avenue to support him. Bro. Tallman was indefatigable, and full of zeal, in the work of preaching and visiting. The result was several precious souls were added to the church. Bro. Ben Elston, of Indiana, about this time favored the church with a short visit. His addresses were much appreciated. Another visit we cannot forget, was that of Elder Forrester, of Toronto. His talks and exhortations, still linger in our minds. They did a great deal to strengthen and stimulate. Bro. Tallman left at start of winter for Bowling Green Bible School to the regret of many. His successes since in the Master's work have been followed by some in the Canadian Northwest with deep interest. The following spring (1906) he was requested to revisit Winnipeg, but replied he could not return from urgent demands for work around him. The year 1906 saw the property on Ross Avenue disposed of, and after some vexatious delays, and anxiety, a site was located, whereon present edifice stands, on the fine thoroughfare, Sherbrooke street.

In the space of time covered by this report several accessions to the church were made, of Brethren and Sisters, including some voluntary workers from churches in England and East Canada, also from one or two points in Manitoba. We might mention here that the church in Blackburn, England, which has contributed about twenty members.

The church welcomed last August, as already reported, Brother Walter Eatough and Sister Eatough, also of the church, Blackburn, England. Bro. Eatough has labored faithfully with us since. The work proceeds steadily, meetings, Bible classes and Lord's Day School as advertised. The

building is neat, comfortable and bright, pleasing in style and getup, with seating capacity for about 150. This young church is striving hard to meet all claims, and is grateful to all churches, and brethren and sisters individually, who have kindly helped, both in Canada, the United States, and the British Isles. The membership now stands about 50. Taking a retrospective view, happy memories entwine themselves around the names of A. Weston, now of Calgary; A. Summerscales, Maniotou, Man., and Lynn Whitelaw, now of Toronto.

Travelling brethren or sisters are assured a hearty welcome at the Christians' Meeting House, Sherbrooke Street [sic], Winnipeg.

Website: ccchs.ca

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

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