

Note: This represents "History of Newtown Friends Meeting-1815-1976" as prepared by Lois C. Mammel. It apparently lacks "Friends Meeting at Newtown, Pa." believed to have been written by Isac Eyre. Also, certain additions have been made to Appendix item "Biographical sketches of current Newtown Meeting families." The additions are families in the Meeting in the mid-seventies.  
David Gould 12-20-1995

## HISTORY OF NEWTOWN FRIENDS MEETING - 1815-1976

Newtown Monthly Meeting owes its origin to Edward Hicks, primitive artist, who in 1815 gathered nearby Friends to meeting in the empty Court House, Newtown. Hicks himself was the first speaker in the first meeting in the old stone Court House. Previously, these Friends, members of either Falls, Middletown, or Wrightstown Meeting, had had to travel quite some distance for not only First-day Meeting but Midweek Meeting as well. Now, with the approval by Wrightstown Monthly Meeting on April 5, 1815, and by Middletown Monthly on the next day, about 200 Friends were able to meet in Newtown as an indulged meeting. An indulged meeting is one in which Friends may meet together for worship but will conduct their business in the monthly meeting in which they are recorded as members.

As is usual in indulged meetings that are large enough and strong enough, Newtown soon began petitioning Wrightstown and Middletown for permission to form a preparative meeting. The Falls members dropped their request, probably because their members were so few. After considerable deliberation and great caution, apparently fearing possible financial responsibility for the building of a meetinghouse, Bucks Quarterly Meeting finally granted permission on February 17, 1817, for Newtown to become a preparative meeting under the care of Wrightstown Monthly Meeting. Edward Hicks in his earnest petition assured Bucks Quarter that Newtown would carry the entire expense itself, although afterward he admitted in his Memoirs that if all his debts were paid, he himself would not be worth a cent.. But he further adds, "I was present when seven rich Friends pledged themselves to build the house." Following the custom of naming the meeting after the township in which it was located, the group became known as the Newtown Preparative Meeting. The transfer of 52 members from Middletown was effected on November 6, 1817, and 151 members from Wrightstown on December 3, 1817. A preparative meeting holds its own business meetings, but the

business is also brought for approval before the business meeting of the monthly meeting under whose care it falls.

The main part of Newtown Friends Meetinghouse was built in 1817 on Court Street on a lot two acres and 85 perches bought from DR. Phineas Jenks for \$460. The meetinghouse, 40' x 60', was a plain, oblong structure of stone, two stories high, and was built on the typical lines of most Friends meetings of the time, especially those in this country, i.e., two entrances facing south; sliding shutters inside running north and south divided the men's (west) and women's (east) sides, affording almost identical meeting rooms for business when closed, for the women then transacted their own business and kept their own minutes, but when opened united all in the meetings for worship; there was a raised gallery for the ministers and elders on the north side. To conserve the heat from the iron stoves a ceiling was put in which, as conjectured by the architect H. Mather Lippincott, Jr., covered the entire area, probably at the height of just below the second story windows. However, the second story had no floor at this time. A date stone of 1817 is located at the peak of the roof on the west side of the meetinghouse. No record of the cost of the meetinghouse could be found anywhere, including the Meeting Minutes. This omission and Hicks' statement that seven rich Friends pledged themselves to build it have led Newtown Meeting historians to conclude that it was built by private subscription. Judge Michael H. Jenks said that he and his grandfather Joseph Jenks distilled a quantity of apple whiskey and sold it to raised the \$100 they had subscribed toward the building, as reportedly did some others. The original deed for the lot being considered insufficient, a committee executed the first acceptable deed on January 1, 1818. Additional lots were bought later, one 50' x 75' from Rebecca Winder on February 11, 1826, for \$45 and another 50' x 80' from the heirs of Lewis Trego on January 10, 1862, for \$110, thus raising the total acreage to approximate 2.9 acres.



After the meetinghouse was erected Joseph Briggs was appointed to have the care of it at a salary of \$30 per year. This was later reduced to \$25 and then to \$20 per year, which, as reportedly remarked by Harry Van Horn, is a different rate of salary progress than of today. Later, in 1820, Edward Hicks was to take over the job of sweeping it out and laying fires in the stoves in cold weather, and he also was paid \$20 per year.

South of the meetinghouse itself is the Newtown Friends graveyard where Edward Hicks was buried in 1849, in Cemetery 1, Row VIII. His white headstone, less than two feet high in accordance with Friends' practice and tradition, is located under the Sycamore tree just at the left of the gate entrance. Edward Hicks was also the first minister to speak in the new meetinghouse. He was a member and prominent minister of Newtown Friends Meeting from its inception to his death. In turn Newtown Friends Meeting greatly nourished his spiritual life, as it has for many of us who follow. As stated by Eleanore Price Mather, "...it would be hard to overstate the profound relationship between his religion and his art. In the entire history of painting we can scarcely find an artist, from Fra Angelico down, whose works were more intimately involved with his religious traditions and convictions" than that of Edward Hicks "now recognized as America's foremost primitive painter..."

The first addition on the property was horse sheds built in 1819 north of the meetinghouse. An organizational change occurred on February 24, 1820, when Newtown Preparative Meeting and Makefield Preparative Meeting were joined together for business purposes under the name of Makefield Monthly Meeting. These meetings were held alternately at Newtown and Makefield.

First-day School was begun in Newtown on June 29, 1867, in the parlor of the first superintendent, Dr. Lettie A. Smith, in her home on Court Street. There were two classes of children, 14 in all, of whom five were Friends, and an adult



class of six or eight Friends led by Dr. Benjamin Smith. As reported by Robert Kenderdine, "The number of members so increased that roomier quarters were needed, and, permission being granted, the meetinghouse was then used.

The first recorded alteration to the meetinghouse was the building in 1868 of a portico on the south side, with stone flagging at a cost of \$394. The south and east porticoes seem to have been built at different times, for the roofs were dissimilar until 1911 when the east portico was rebuilt to correspond with the one on the south. Thaddeus Kenderdine notes that up to 1827 there had been but \$4.25 spent for cushion, but for all that Newtown Friends raised \$3000 for the benefit of North Carolina Friends for their losses from manumitting slaves; in 1832 they raised their full share towards building Spruce Street Meetinghouse, in the meantime all but a few sitting on hard benches!

Then several other significant changes occurred. In December 1892 for the first time joint meetings of men and women were held. The women's minutes are curiously silent on the background of this merger. One clue in the men's minutes does suggest that it must have been discussed some years previously, for on December 2, 1886, their minute heading suddenly changed from "At Newtown Preparative meeting of Friends...." to "At Newtown Preparative meeting of men Friends...." Then on December 1, 1892, occurs the single sentence entry, "The preparative meeting of men and women friends have agreed to meet in joint sessions hereafter." Then the sliding shutters dividing the two sides were removed, although the lower section of the partition was left in place. Also some seating changes were made about this time. On January 3, 1895, the seats in the northwest side of the house were turned to face east instead of south as formerly, and on July 2, 1896, the seats in the northeast side of the meetinghouse were turned to face west instead of south as formerly. The First-day School found it needed Further accommodations. Also the influx of

George School students and teachers since the school's opening in 1893 greatly increased attendance at First-day meetings. Therefore it became necessary to remodel the interior of the meetinghouse to provide more space. So shortly after the turn of the century all of the partition was removed; the second story over the benches of the main body and the eastern and western benches, thus forming a squared U-shape, was floored, ceiled, and the walls plastered; sliding glass windows were installed that could be raised so the worshipers seated upstairs could look down through a "well" to the elders and ministers sitting below in the first floor north gallery; the stairways were built in the southeast and southwest corners. The old ceiling must have remained in place on the north side just below the second story windows, extending out over the gallery and coming to the new sliding glass windows where the opaque and clear glass divide, for on November 3, 1904, the superintendent of the First-day School asked that the Meeting "provide more ventilation by opening the space now floored over in the center of the Meeting House." The old ceiling was then raised to above the second story windows to correspond with the new second story ceiling. Folding partitions divided the second floor into rooms for First-day School classes.

As the custom of having Meeting suppers became increasingly popular for raising money for Friends Association, American Friends Service Committee, and other charitable purposes, as well as providing lunches for attenders to Quarterly Meeting and other gatherings, facilities had to be provided for that purpose. Accordingly, a well equipped kitchen was built, probably in 1911, on the second floor on the east end, centered over the porch.

Eventually Newtown and Makefield Preparative Meetings decided to apply to Bucks Quarterly Meeting to form two monthly meetings. This was approved on May 27, 1926. At the same time Newtown Preparative Meeting agreed to continue to meet, doing so "once in three months on the Fifth day preceding the monthly



meeting...." However, on August 8, 1940, having decided that Newtown Monthly Meeting and Newtown Preparative Meeting were for all practical purposes one and the same, Newtown Preparative Meeting was laid down. With the death of Mary Bosnal, in the year 1940 also marked the end of "singsong" ministry in Newtown Meeting. Newtown Friends School was founded in 1947 by Newtown Meeting. In 1948 Newtown Monthly Meeting (Hicksite) under Bucks Quarterly Meeting (Hicksite) also became a United Monthly Meeting under Burlington and Bucks Quarterly Meeting (Orthodox). Thus Newtown Meeting was one of those taking the initiative in attempting to heal the unfortunate breach that occurred in 1827 in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and spreading thereafter into other yearly meetings as well. During the split Makefield Monthly Meeting was the only one in Bucks Quarter where the Orthodox had not effected a permanent organization (their own monthly meeting), for the Orthodox numbered only three adults and three children from Newtown Preparative Meeting and three adults and six children from Makefield Preparative Meeting. In 1955 the two Philadelphia Yearly Meetings reunited.

During the summer of 1952 further physical improvements were made by building on each side of the kitchen - a classroom for the First-day School and a men's toilet room. A connecting stairway led to the new kindergarten room on the first floor; which had been made by enclosing all of the east porch. A modern women's lavatory was also provided in the place of the old. Another significant increase in attendance required the building in 1957 of an annex, comprising five<sup>4?</sup> First-day School rooms, a new kitchen, and a complete new heating system for both the old meetinghouse and the annex at a cost of \$26,674. A fire which started in the southwest corner of the main meeting room on January 27, 1957, blistered the interior paint and charred some benches, thereby necessitating some renovations to that room. Over the years, the Women's Group, begun in February 1949, provided new seat cushions, furnishings for the annex, and kitchen equipment by putting on fairs and bazaars;



this was done in addition to outreach projects such as collecting tons of clothing for the American Friends Service Committee for distribution abroad and yearly contributions to Friends Neighborhood Guild.

On November 13, 1967, Newtown Monthly Meeting of Friends became incorporated in order to remove the Trustees from personal liability while discharging their duties and is now known as Newtown Monthly Meeting of Friends, Incorporated. As of October 1976 it is still a thriving religious society with 270 members.

Lois C. Mammel

## APPENDIX

- A. Photographs
- B. Bibliography
- C. Title Record
- D. Photostat of Ded Book 72, page 327, June 26, 1845
- E. Photostat of Deed Book 1925, page 168, Feb. 19, 1969
- F. Photostat of the Friends Meeting Property, 7-23-1927
- G. Photostat of First Page of Newtown Preparative meeting minutes, Nov. 18, 1817
- H. Photostat of names of original members of Newtown Preparative Meeting, pages 16-17 of "Newtown Meeting and Its Establishment" by Thaddeus S. Kenderdine, in Centennial of Newtown Friends Meeting
- I. Photostat of "Friends' Meeting at Newtown, Pa.", Friends Intelligencer and Journal, May 12, 1894, believed to have been written by Isac Eyre *MISSING*
- J. Copy of "Newtown Friends Meeting", a history dated Dec. 12, 1952, believed to have been compiled by Harry Van Horn *MISSING*
- K. Copy of "History of the First-dY Schools in Bucks Quarter", circa 1910, By Robert H. Kenderdine
- L. Extract from Women's Group ,inutes of Sept. 14, 1960
- M. Vignettes of some Newtown Meeting members
- N. Biographical sketches of current Newtown Meeting families
- o. Photostat of application to state and national historical registers

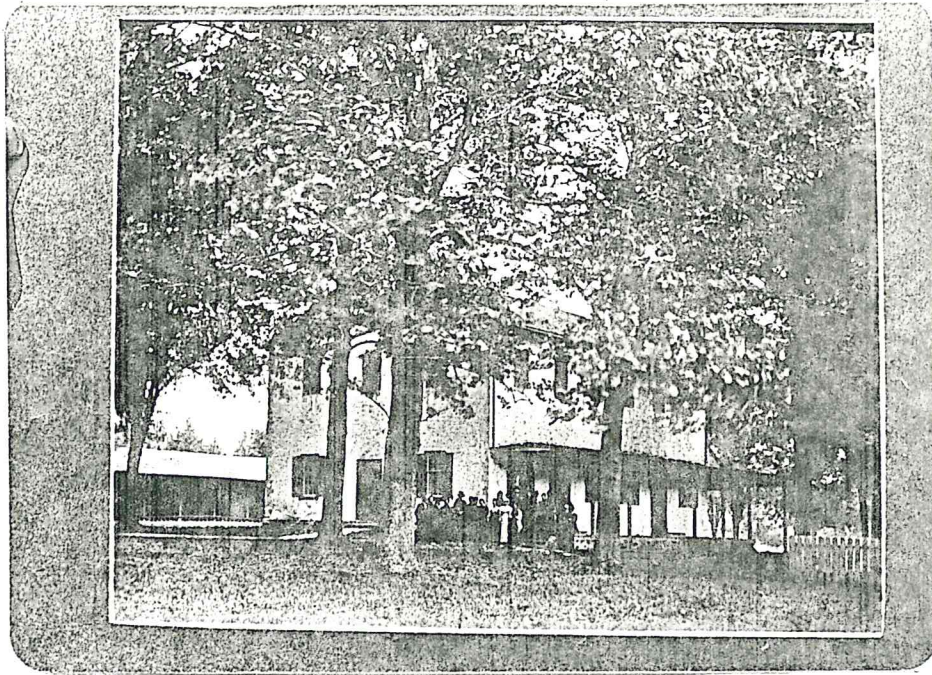
THE ORIGINAL OF THE ABOVE INCLUDING THE APPENDIX IS ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF THE MEETING.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

### EARLY APPEARANCE

Early appearance photographs on pages 1 and 2 were taken by Kenneth A. Mammel on August 3, 1976.

1. Original photograph by W. E. Randall (now owned by Norman Kitchin). Picture of this photograph appears in booklet Newtown 1894, by First National Bank, Newtown, Pa., publisher Clement E. Lloyd, Philadelphia, p. 14.



Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, front view facing south and west side view. Shows original part built in 1817, portico, horse sheds, and cemetery fence. Three possible identifications are Isaac Eyre, tall man with tall hat, fifth from the left; Lavinia Blackfan, fifth person from the right; and Lettie Eyre, third from right of Isaac Eyre.



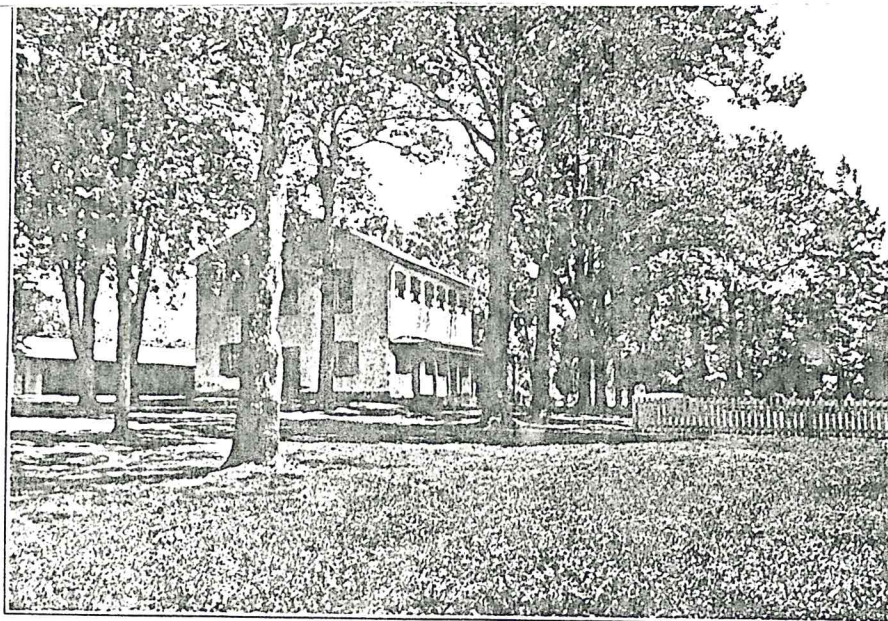
2. Picture in Old Meeting-Houses, by John Russell Hayes, Biddle Press, Philadelphia, 1909. No other date available.



*"Newtown's cheerful sunny Meeting-house"*

Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, front view facing south and east side view. Shows original part built in 1817 and portico on south and east sides.

3. Picture in Centennial of Newtown Friends' Meeting, Newtown Enterprise, 1915. No other date available.

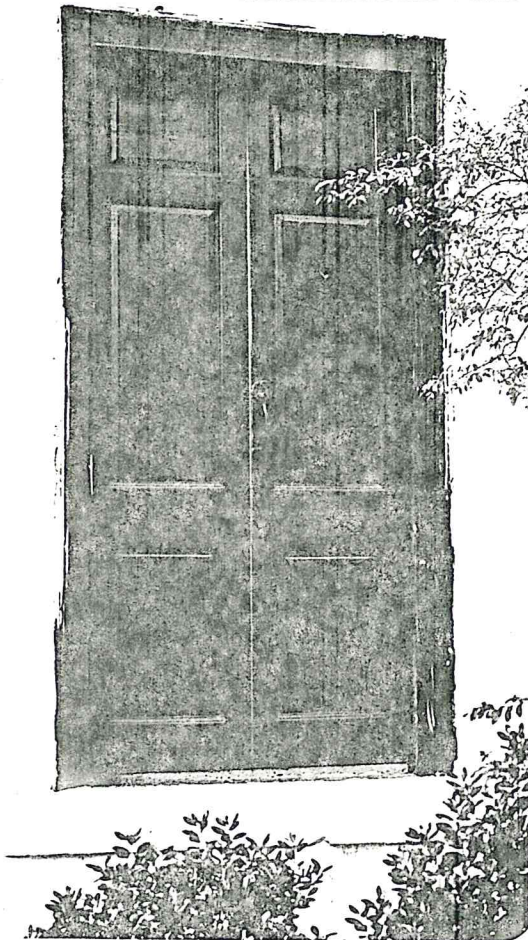


Newtown Friends' Meeting House.

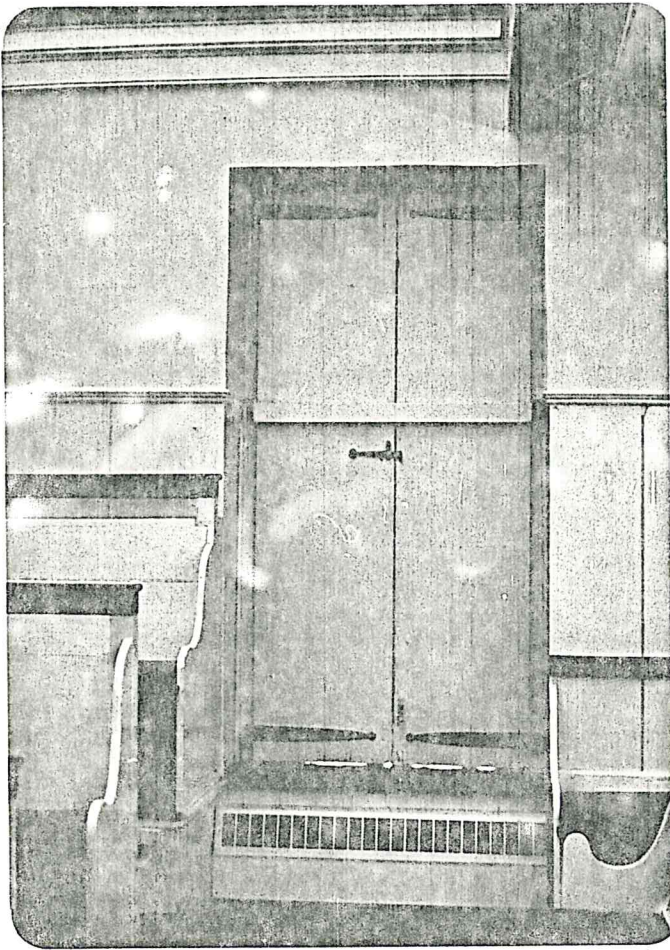
Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, front view facing south and west side view. Shows original part built in 1817, portico, horse sheds, and cemetery fence.



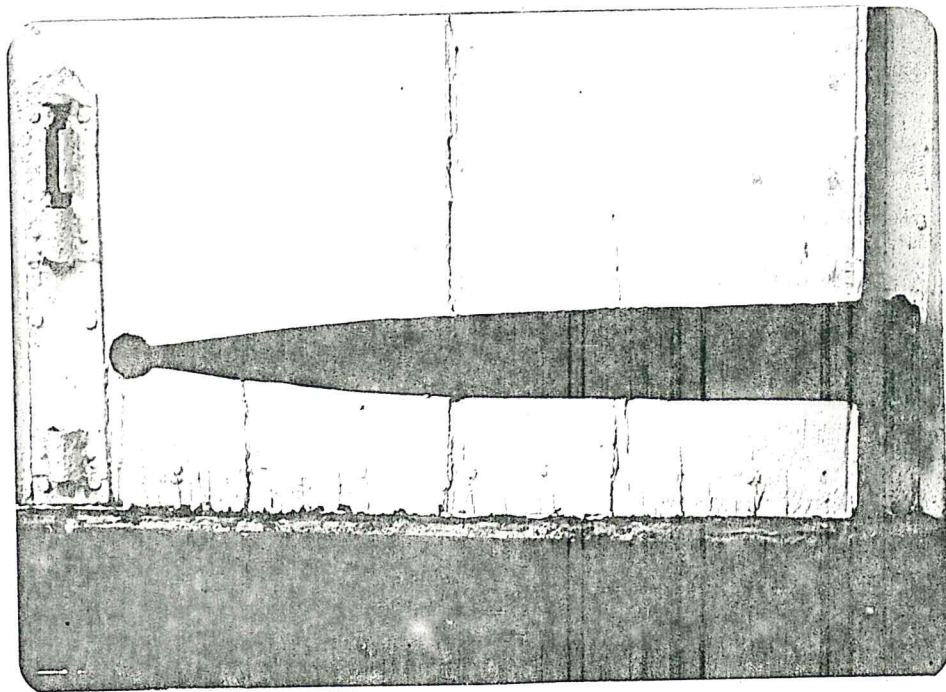
Early appearance photographs on pages 3 - 7 were taken by Kenneth A. Mammel on October 4, 1976.



4. The original portion of this meetinghouse was provided with six pair of panelled, plank-backed doors, all of which are still in use. Two pair of doors in the north wall and the one pair of doors in the east wall are as originally installed, hung with the original hardware. The two pair of doors in the south wall and the one pair of doors in the west wall have been provided with astragals and rehung to open out. They are now hung with modern butt hinges and equipped with panic hardware, cylinder locks and reproduction wrought iron thumb-latch type trim. Doors shown are in the north wall.



5. Interior view of exterior door in north wall showing planked interior face, strap hinges, latch set, cane bolt at sill on inactive leaf, and security bar with wrought iron keepers. All as originally installed. All exterior doors have rabbeted meeting stiles.



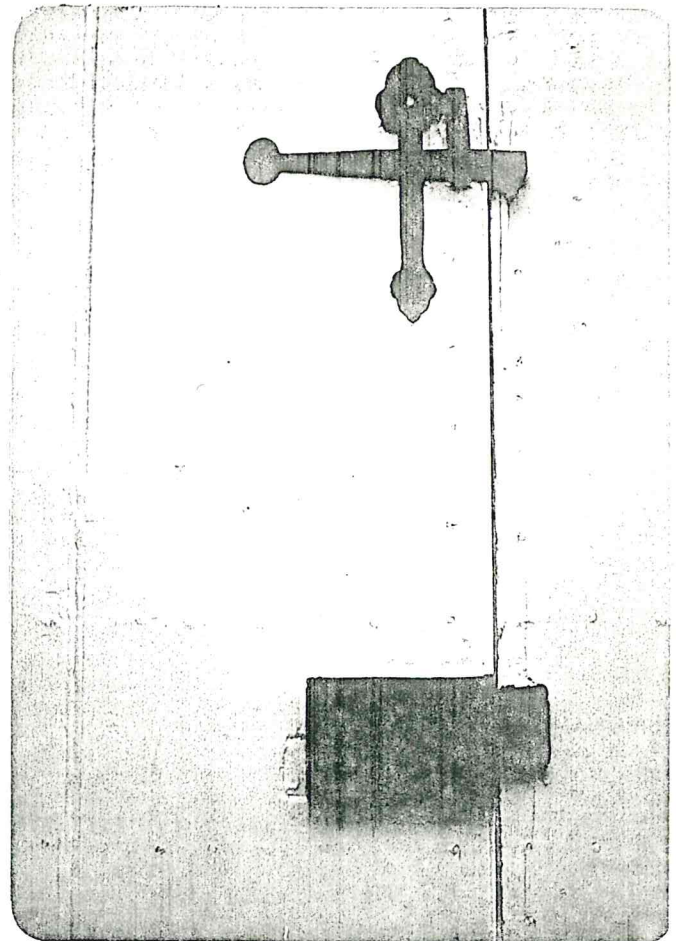
6. Detail of strap hinge, interior face of exterior door, cane bolt shown. Original installation.



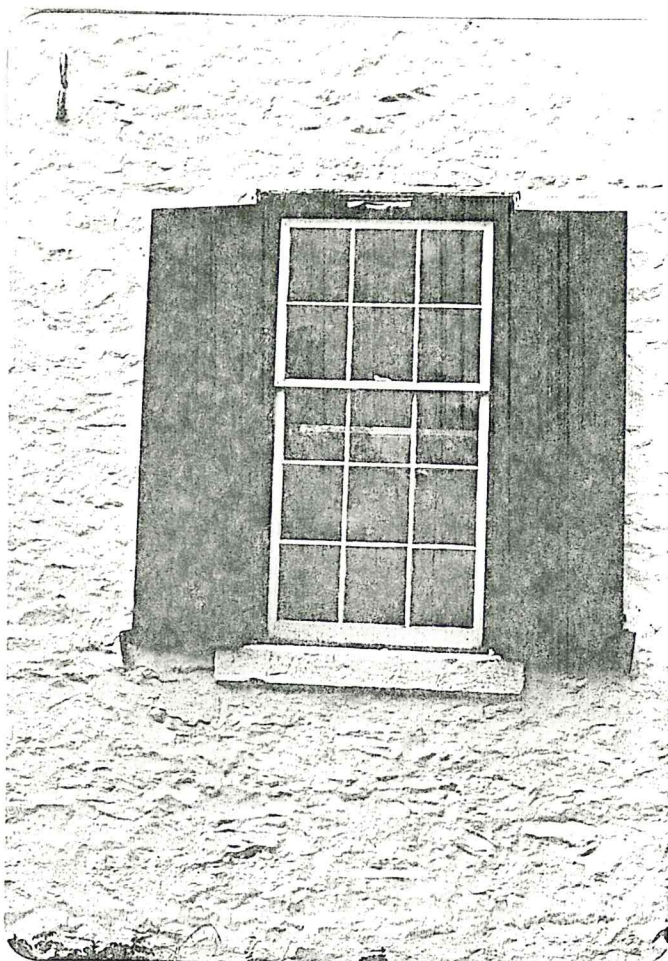


7. Detail of original wrought iron thumb latch on exterior doors. Cusp shaped like a lima bean, grasp rounded, swivel lift with straight bar. These latch sets remain on the north and east doors.

8. Interior detail of original east doors showing latch set with figure four keeper and an added pull. (Pull not original.) The cast iron lock box and box type strike are original. This was the only door so equipped. The lock is no longer used, as this door now communicates with an addition.

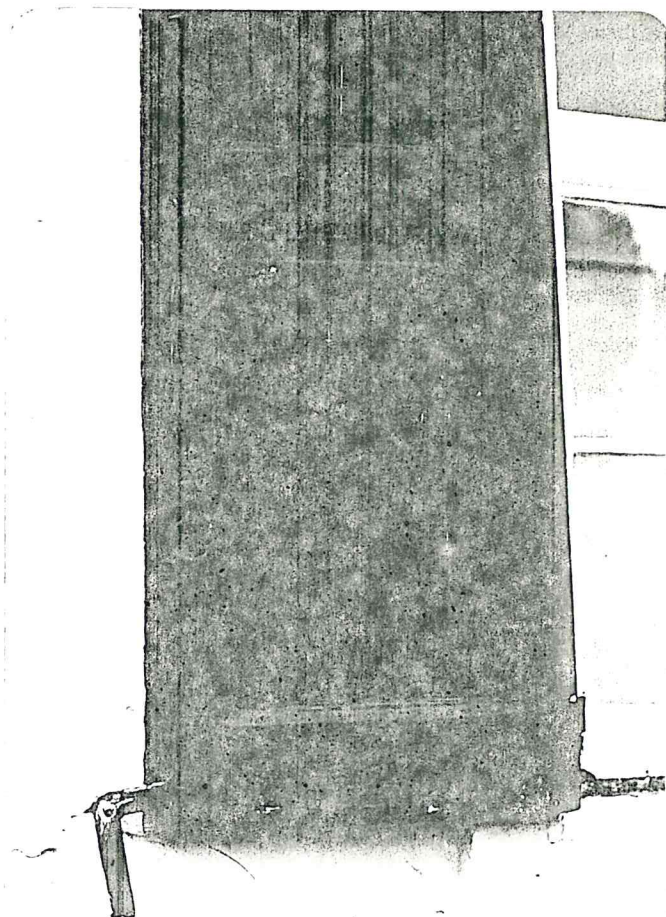




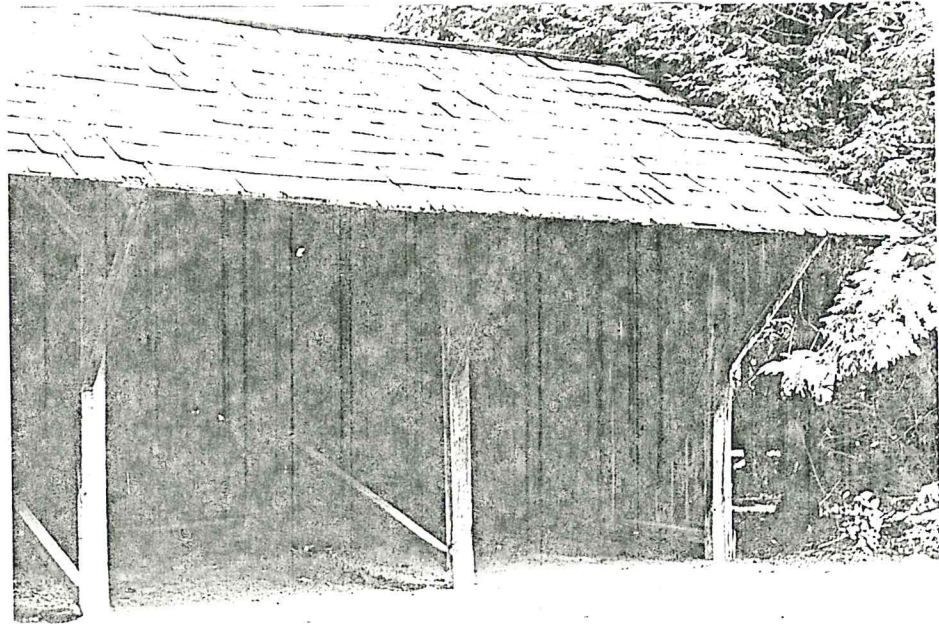


9. Detail of first floor window in the north wall. All windows have one and one eighth inch sash, unweighted. Other arrangements of panes are six over six and nine over nine. With the exception of second floor windows in the east and west walls all windows have panelled blinds.

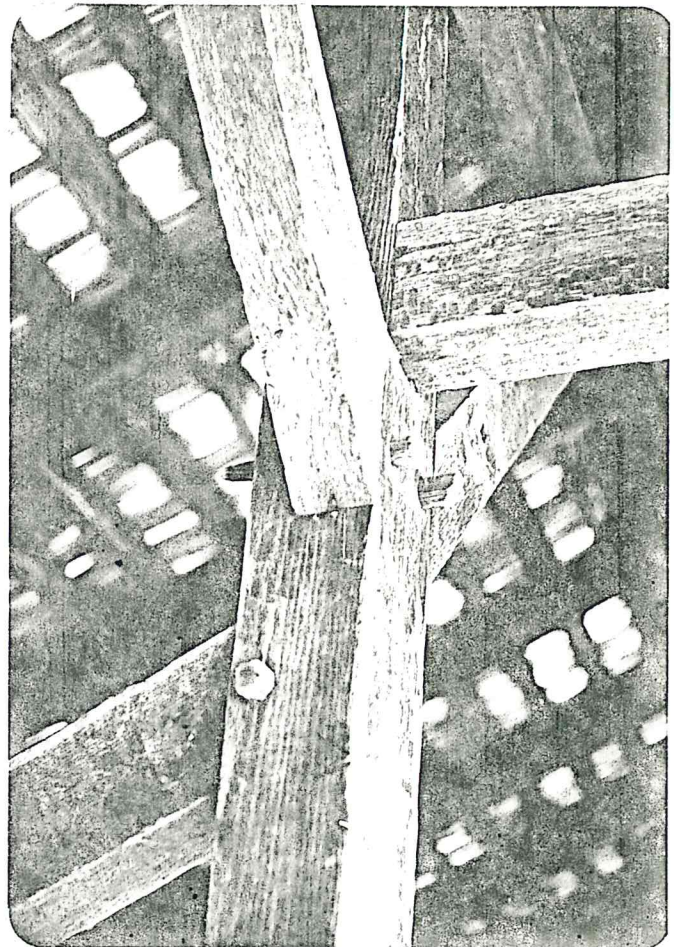
10. Detail of first floor window blind. Original hardware shown includes swivel security bar of wrought iron, wrought "L" type hold-back and pull ring. First floor window blinds are plank backed. First and second floor blinds are panelled alike and have rabbeted meeting stiles. Round wrought iron spreader bars are provided for second floor blinds in lieu of hold-backs, and slide bolts on the active leaf, to sill, in lieu of swivel security bars. All window blinds are hung with the original strap type wrought iron hinges.







11. East end of the horse sheds, completed in 1819. Six stalls remain standing of which the three westernmost are enclosed and used for storage and a tool house.



12. Typical detail of roof framing of the horse sheds showing mortised and pegged joints. The basic framing members of the sheds are generally sound.

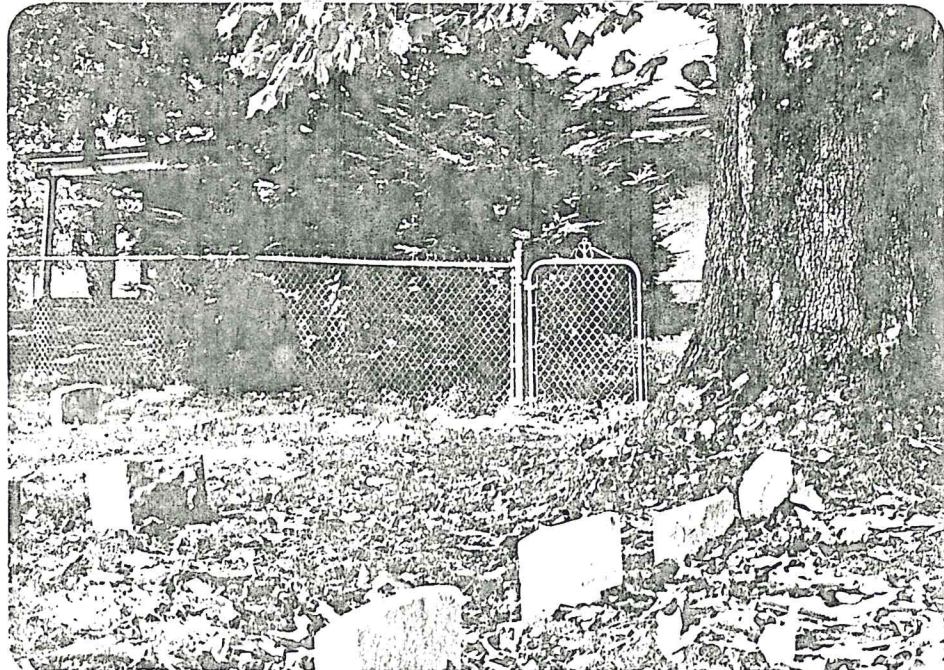


## PRESENT APPEARANCE

Present appearance photographs on pages 8 - 11 were taken by Kenneth A. Mammel on August 3, 1976.

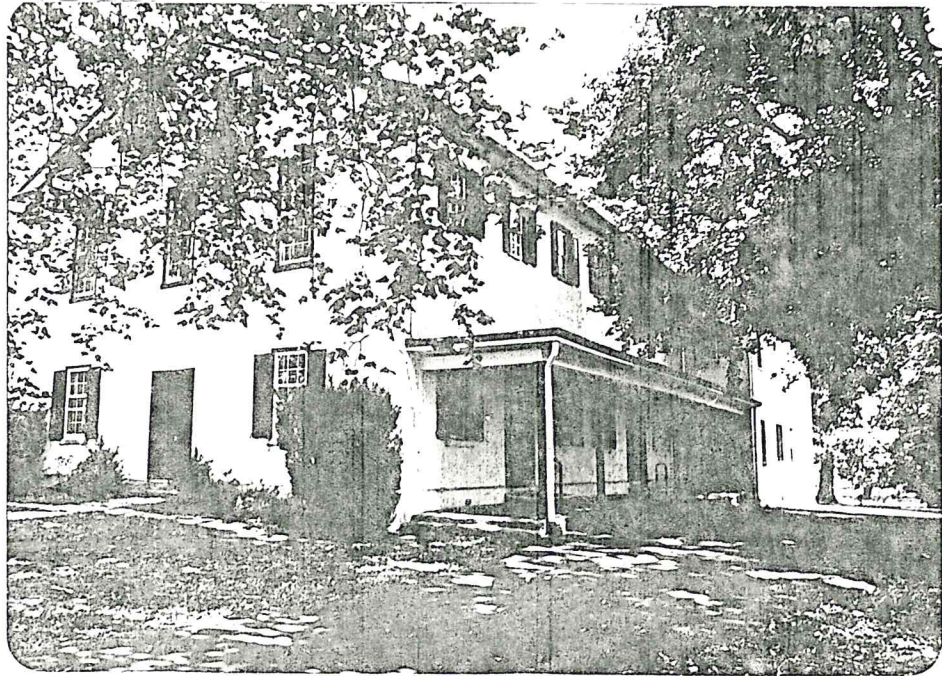


1. Gravestone of primitive painter Edward Hicks, a principal founder and prominent minister of Newtown Friends Meeting.

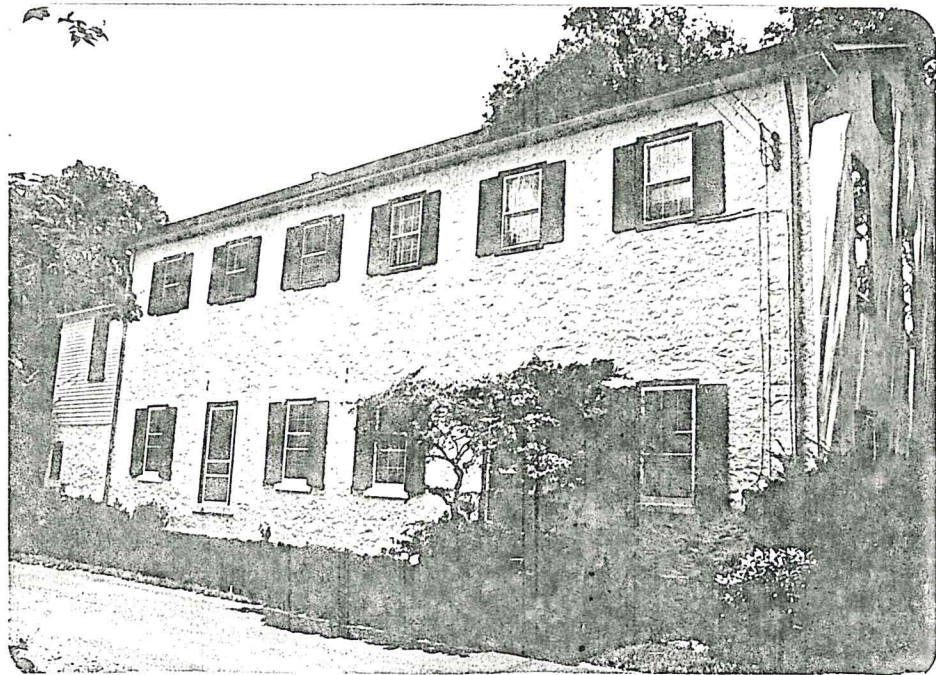


2. Grave of Edward Hicks, second from the right, showing its location in relation to Newtown Friends Meetinghouse.



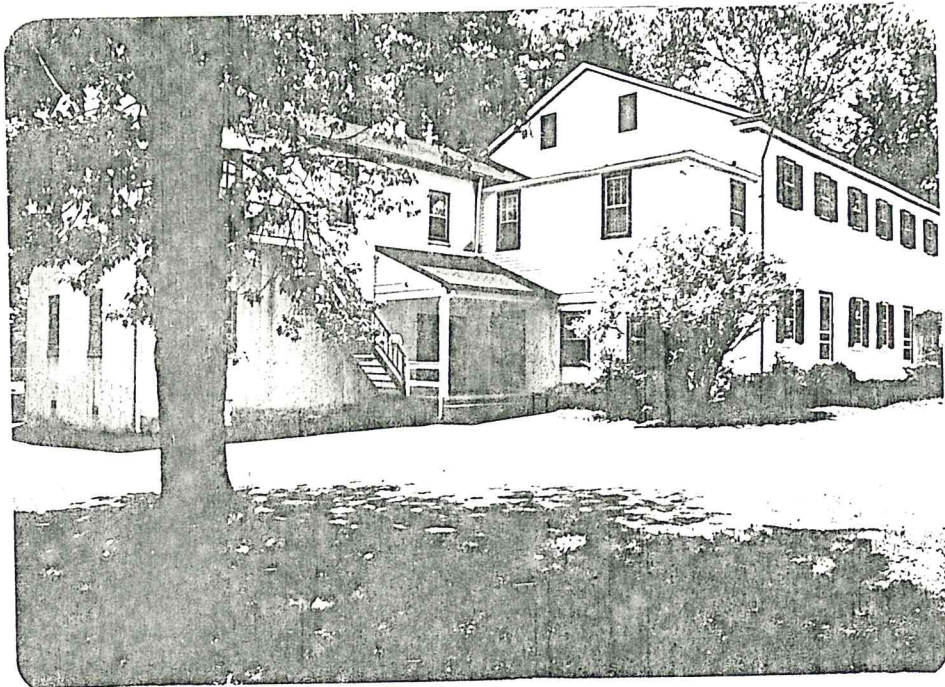


3. Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, front view facing south and west side view. Shows original part built in 1817 that goes to the end of the porch. Beyond the porch to the right is the annex added in 1957.



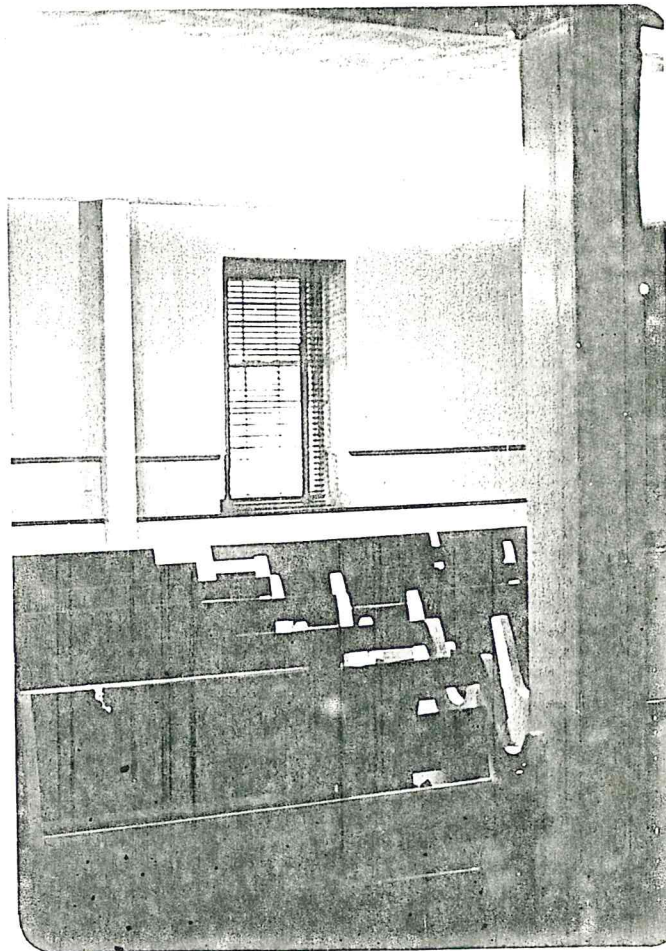
4. Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, back view facing north and west side view. Visible on the left are later additions.





5. Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, northeast view. On the right is the north side of the original building. On the east side of the original and behind the tall bush is the enclosed porch. The left side of the photograph shows the annex built in 1957.

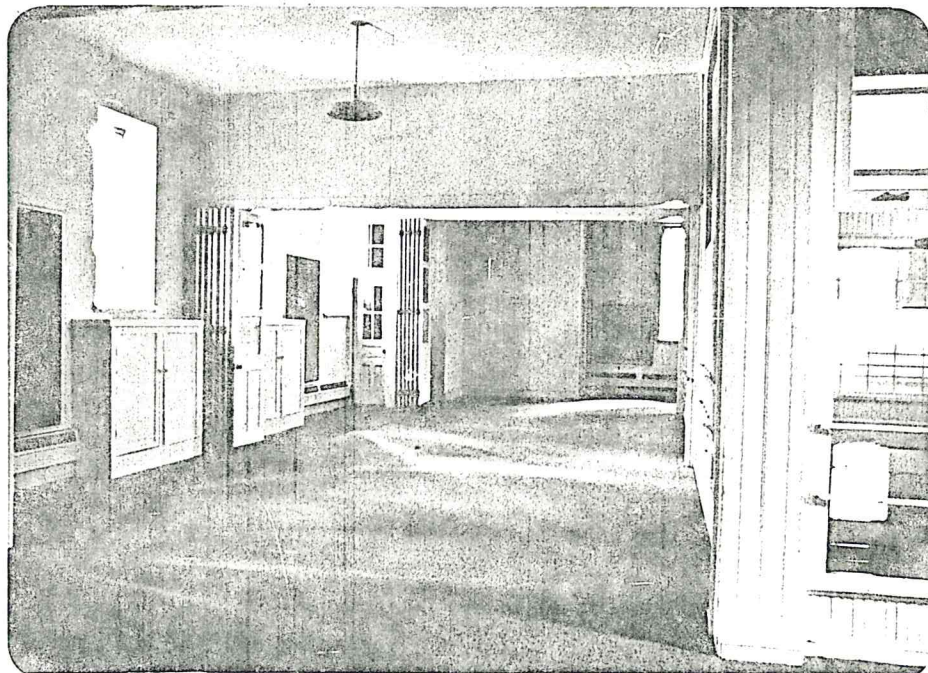
6. Interior of Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, facing south. Originally, sliding shutters divided the men's and women's sides during their separate meetings for business. The photograph shows the remaining dividing post to the left of the window.







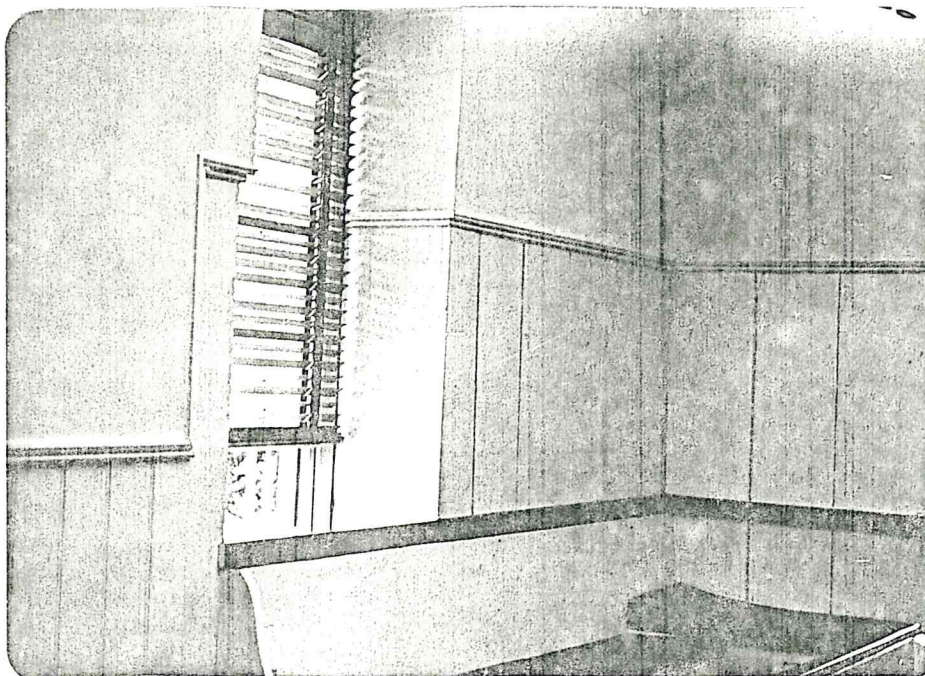
7. Interior of Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, facing east. Photograph shows raised gallery to the left; the second story is floored over, glass windows installed, and the "well" between the gallery and second floor extends to above the second story windows..



8. Interior of Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, showing the second floor, the second floor ceiled, walls plastered, sliding glass windows installed, and folding partitions. View is to the west. At the right of the photograph the "well" is visible.

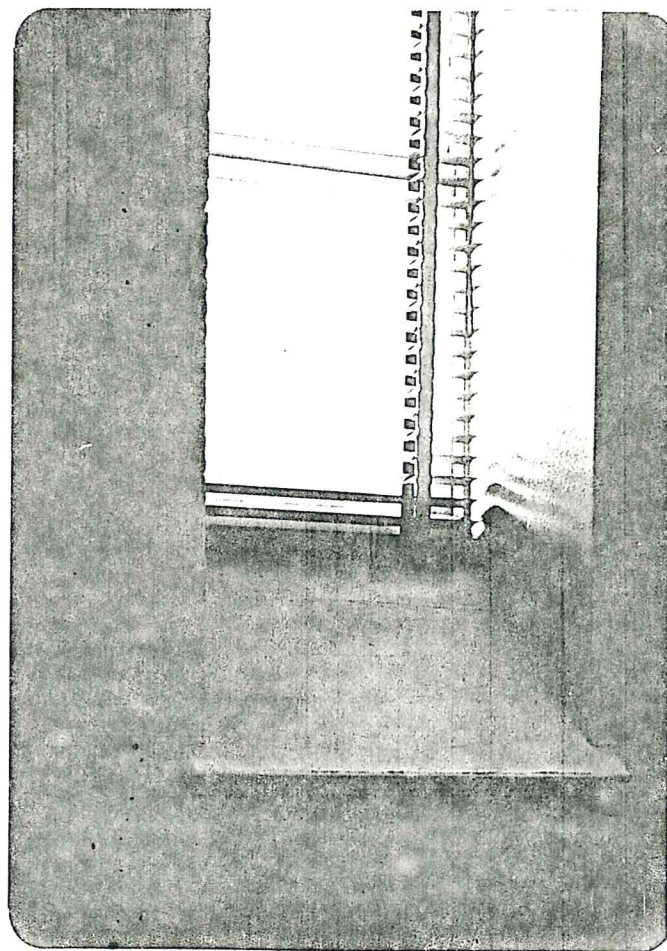


Present appearance photographs on page 12 were taken by Kenneth A. Mammel on October 4, 1976.



9. Interior of Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, northwest corner of first floor showing wood wainscoting, dated first decade of this century.. The plaster as it exists is of later date, the walls having been furred out so the plaster face is slightly beyond the face of the wainscote.

10. Detail of sloping window sill, second floor of Newtown Friends Meetinghouse.





BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Beans, L. L., The Life and Work of Edward Hicks, Newtown Enterprise, Newtown, Pa., 1951, pp. 8-9.
2. Ford, Alice, Edward Hicks, Painter of the Peaceable Kingdom, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1952, p. 30.
3. Haynes, George Emerson, Edward Hicks, Friends' Minister, Charles Ingberman at the Quixott Press, Doylestown, Pa., 1974, pp. 33-34, 36, 57.
4. Hicks, Edward, Memoirs of the Life and Religious Labors of Edward Hicks, Late of Newtown, Bucks County, Pa., written by himself, Merrihew and Thompson, Philadelphia, 1851, p. 70.
5. Historic Pennsylvania Leaflet No. 22, text by Dr. Harold E. Dickson, edited by Dr. S. W. Higginbotham and Donald H. Kent, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, 1960, p. 6.
6. Kenderdine, Thaddeus S., "Newtown Meeting and Its Establishment," Centennial of Newtown Friends' Meeting, Newtown Enterprise, Newtown, Pa., 1915, pp. 14, 18, 20.
7. Mather, Eleanore Price, Edward Hicks, Primitive Quaker, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 170, Wallingford, Pa., 1970, pp. 3, 9.
8. Pullinger, Edna S., A Dream of Peace, Edward Hicks of Newtown, Dorrance & Company, Philadelphia, 1973, p. 12.
9. Smith, Dr. Lettie A., "Edward Hicks," Solebury Meeting, Nov. 18, 1884, A Collection of Papers Read Before the Bucks County Historical Society, B. F. Packenthal, Jr., Riegelsville, Pa., Vol. I, The Chemical Publishing Co., Easton, Pa., undated (1905?), p. 224.

Manuscripts

1. Plan of Newtown Friends Grave-Yard, Cemetery 1, Row VIII.
2. Minutes of the following Meetings:  
Bucks Quarterly (1817); Wrightstown Monthly (1815-1817); Middletown Monthly (1815-1817); Makefield Monthly (1820; 1926); Newtown Preparatory (1817-1940), Newtown Women's (1882-1892), Newtown Monthly (1926-1957).
3. "Newtown Friends Meeting," a history dated December 12, 1952, received from Edna Pearson, who believes it was compiled by Harry Van Horn.
4. "History of the First-day Schools in Bucks Quarter," by Robert H. Kenderdine, circa 1910.



BUCKS COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES - TITLE RECORD

Owner Newtown Monthly Meeting of Friends, Incorporated Date \_\_\_\_\_

East side of Court St., 110' north of State St., Tax Map No. 28 - 4 - 20  
Newtown Borough, Pa.

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Deed Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Acres</u>
1) Leon J. Baker, et al, Newtown Monthly Meeting trustees of the Monthly of Friends, Incorporated Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends called "Quakers" held at Newtown, Pa.		2/19/69	1925	168	2.9
2) Anna P. Fabian, et al, surviving trustees of the Preparative Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends called "Quakers" held at Newtown, Pa.	Norman W. Swayne, et al, trustees of the Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends called "Quakers" held at Newtown, Pa.	1/4/57	1351	291	2.9
3) Edward Taylor and Joseph B. Horne, surviving trustees of the Preparative Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends called "Quakers" held at Newtown, Pa.	Robert Kenderdine, et al, newly approved trustees of the Preparative Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends called "Quakers" held at Newtown Pa.	2/5/1894	267	463	2.9
4) Isaac W. Hicks and Jesse Leedom, surviving trustees of the Preparative Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends called "Quakers" held at Newtown, Pa.	Edward Taylor, et al, newly appointed trustees of the Preparative Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends called "Quakers" held at Newtown Pa.	3/20/1868	142	122	2.9

5) Helms of Lewis Trego,  
for \$ 110.00.

Joseph Flowers, et al, newly  
trustees of Preparative  
Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends called  
"Quakers" held at Newtown,  
Pa.

2/10/1862

118.1000 446

2.9

6) Joseph Briggs and  
Zephaniah Mahan, sur-  
viving trustees of the  
Preparative Meeting of  
the Religious Society  
of Friends called  
"Quakers" held at New-  
town, Pa.

Joseph Paul, et al, newly  
appointed trustees of the  
Preparative Meeting of the  
Religious Society of Friends  
called "Quakers" held at  
Newtown, Pa.

6/26/1845

72

326

2.9 acres  
less 50' x  
80' lot

7) Rebecca Winder,  
for \$ 45.00.

Joseph Briggs and John Buck-  
man on behalf of the Religious  
Society of Friends of the  
Newtown Quaker Meeting.

2/11/1826 (trans-  
action made)  
2/13/1827 (record-  
ed)

52

185

2.9 acres  
less 50' x  
80' lot

8) Dr. Phineas Jenks,  
for \$ 460.00.

Jacob Janney, et al, on be-  
half of the Preparative  
Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends called  
Quakers held in Newtown.

1/1/1818 (trans-  
action made)  
2/13/1827 (record-  
ed)

52

183

2.9 acres  
less 50' x  
80' lot &  
less 50' x  
75' lot

OR

2 acres 85  
perches



At Newtown Preparative meeting held the 18<sup>th</sup>  
of the 11 mo 1817

John Bruckman jun is appointed to serve  
this meeting as clerk

Joseph Briggs Jesse Leedom Jacob Gannery  
Joseph Bruckman and John Bruckman jun  
are appointed to inspect the writings belong-  
-ing to this meeting and report to next meeting

The meeting concludes

At Newtown Preparative meeting held  
the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> mo 1817

The friends appointed to inspect the write-  
-ings belonging to this meeting made the follow-  
-ing report in writing

We the committee appointed to inspect  
the writings belonging to this meeting have  
attended to our appointment and find that  
the present Deed is insufficient and are of  
opinion that a committee should be appoi-  
-nted to take a Deed in trust on behalf of  
said meeting

Signed on behalf of the committee

Joseph Briggs

#

Papers

READ BEFORE THE

Centennial  
of  
Newtown Friends' Meeting

FOURTH MONTH 10TH, 1915

And Others Not Read There  
But Applicable Thereto

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PRINTED BY THE  
NEWTOWN ENTERPRISE  
1915



## PREFACE

THE celebration by Friends of Newtown Preparative Meeting of the one hundredth anniversary of the holding of a meeting of Friends in Newtown was held on Seventh-day, Fourth Month 10th, 1915. Morning and afternoon sessions were held in the meeting house, and they proved of much interest. There was a large attendance, many coming from a distance. The exercises were opened by Evan T. Worthington, who spoke briefly, after which a period of silence was observed. Edward S. Hutchinson, who was selected to conduct the exercises, then read a chapter from the Scriptures, after which he made an address, in which he expressed the pleasure of being the son of an original member, and one whose ancestor came over with William Penn. Then came the reading of such papers given in this booklet as were prepared for the occasion, only interrupted by the noon recess. These papers were discussed by several of the audience, while others added interesting reminiscences. The meeting closed with a prayer by Evan T. Worthington of thankfulness for the past and new consecration for the future. Some of the articles herewith published were not read at the meeting, but are given as pertinent to it, from their relation to Makefield Monthly Meeting and its branches.

# NEWTOWN BEFORE 1815

BY SARAH W. HICKS

The borough of Newtown has possibly borne its present name longer than any other village in the county. The exact time of its founding is in some doubt. Tradition tells us that on one occasion, as William Penn, with a party of friends, was riding through the woods where the village now stands, he remarked to those about him, "This is the place proposed for my new town," and that gave the name of Newtown to the town founded and built in the depths of the Bucks county wilderness. The high estimate placed on the waters of Newtown creek and springs along its banks was further illustrated in 1716 by laying out a tract of forty acres on both sides of the creek called the "common land" or "Newtown commons," free to all the inhabitants of the township for water and pasture. When the township was laid out there was reserved and surveyed at about the middle of it, a "townstead" of six hundred and forty acres on which the borough of Newtown now stands. To encourage purchasers, Penn allowed each one to locate a lot in the "townstead" equal to ten per cent. of the quantity of land he took up in the township. On Eighth Month 16, 1716, the piece of land known as the "common" was patented to Shadrick Walley, William Buckman and John Frost for the use of themselves and other

inhabitants of the township. It included all of that portion of the present borough lying between State street on the east and Sycamore on the west, Frost Lane on the north to a line a little below Penn street on the south. These parties died without perfecting their title, and on Fourth Month 1, 1796, the inhabitants authorized William Buckman, Francis Murray, William Linton and John Dormer Murray to procure title to this property from the State with authority to sell or lease, the proceeds to be equally divided between the academy, a free school in the village, and schools in the township, in such manner as the trustees might direct. It was divided into fifty-five lots, and on Eighth Month 1, 1796, most of them were sold. When the "common lots" were sold State street was left open, but in 1798 a jury laid it out sixty-six feet wide, likewise Bridge street, now Centre avenue, and another cross street, forty-nine and a half feet wide, Strickland lane, now Washington avenue, was laid out in 1784. Amos Strickland was proprietor of the Brick Hotel for about twenty years. The street may have been named for him, as he owned land along that road. The road to Bristol was laid out in 1693, this being the first link in the great Durham road, as State street was then called. A second outlet to the river,



by way of Dolington, was opened in 1723, and a third in 1724 to the Falls. We have record of a tract of land in the eastern part of the township being laid out as early as Tenth Month 25, 1683, to Shadrick Walley. By 1720 he owned 1397 acres in the township. The house on South State street, long known as the Bond property, is supposed to be the oldest house in town, the kirchen part bearing date of 1713. It is thought that Shadrick Walley's land included this property and also Maggie Mather's home; the latter bears date 1723. It is said that the first house was built by Penn's personal orders at what is now the corner of State and Mercer streets, and that Cornelius Spring was living there in 1692. Although he may not have been the first white inhabitant, he was the only one living there at that time.

The first patent for land in the neighborhood was granted to Thomas Rowland, Twelfth Month 12, 1684; part of it lay between Newtown creek and the Neshaminy. These five hundred acres were sold in 1690 for seventy pounds and in 1698 two hundred and fifty-two acres of the tract were sold to Stephen Twining for eighty pounds. In 1725 the county seat was removed from Bristol to Newtown, when there were a few log huts built along Durham road, now State street. For almost ninety years it remained the shire town, and was considered the first village in the county. The five acres bought of John Walley to erect public buildings on and for other county purposes lay on the east side of State street from Washington avenue to Penn. The present Court street cut the lot in twain from north to south. In 1733 the ground was laid out into six squares of equal size, 190 by 142½ feet and streets opened through it. The courthouse and prison were erected on square number one, bounded by land of John Walley that extended to Washington avenue, State, Centre and Court streets. The same year a lot in the fifth square, 60 feet on Court and 142½ on King, now Centre avenue, was sold to Joseph Thorn-

ton, on which the Court Inn was built in 1796. At that time Newtown contained about fifty dwellings and tradition tells us one house in ten had license to sell liquor, besides the keeper of the jail. There were four taverns—the one on the east side of State street, below Centre avenue, known as "The Bird-in-Hand," now occupied as a dwelling; the present "Temperance House," the "Court Inn," on corner of Court street and Centre avenue, and the "Brick Hotel," the latter the only one still used as such. The first-known enumeration of Newtown is that of 1742, when there were forty-three taxables and nine single men. The tax raised was £12, 18s., 9d. and Samuel Cary, the heaviest payer, was taxed ten shillings. In 1781 Newtown contained four hundred and ninety-seven whites, twenty-eight blacks and eighty-four dwellings. In 1810 the population was nine hundred and eighty-two. All these figures doubtless were of the township, for the borough was not incorporated until 1838.

While Newtown was the county seat it was the polling place for the middle and lower parts of the county, and the second Tuesday in October was made a day of frolic and horse racing, accompanied by many free fights. The streets were lined with booths, where cakes, pies and beer, large and small, were freely sold. Newtown was also the seat of public fairs in early times, where the people from the country gathered in large numbers to make merry. The only known buildings on the west side of State street were the academy and the building now owned by Edward S. Hutchinson, and where he has his office. The latter, after its erection in 1796 until 1812, was the county treasury building.

Newtown Library, one of the oldest institutions in the village, was established in 1760, the books being kept in the house of Joseph Thornton, owner of the "Court Inn." He was librarian, John Harris treasurer of the company and Thomas Chapman secretary. The library was in-

incorporated Third Month 27, 1789, under the name of "Newtown Library Company," and is still kept up. The Newtown Academy was the first school of a high grade established in the county. It has educated many teachers. With the Presbyterian pastor at its head it was the right arm of the church. The pastor and other friends of education applied for a charter in 1791. The site was bought in 1796 and the building erected in 1798 at a cost of \$4000.

A Masonic lodge was instituted Third Month 4, 1793. There have been several newspapers published in Newtown, one "The Bucks County Bee" as early as 1802, and "Farmers' Gazette and Bucks County Register" in 1805.

John Harris came to Newtown about 1750, and became a man of note among his fellows, was a leading member of the Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1769 on land donated by Harris. Several of his family went to Kentucky, where many of his descendants are prominent. His home just west of town, was where Washington made his headquarters when in Newtown. Several times troops were stationed at Newtown, and it was a depot for military stores. The captured Hessians were brought here direct from Trenton the same day as the battle, and many of them were kept in the Presbyterian Church. It is said one of the Hessians left on the walls of the church these lines—

"In times of war and long before  
God and the soldier men do adore,  
In times of peace, when all things are righted,  
God is forgotten, and the soldier, slighted."

James Yeates, who owned 295 acres of land south of town, is said to have walked the "Indian Purchase" in 1684. It was later owned by his son, James, who was one of the walkers in the "Walking Purchase" in 1737, but gave out the morning of the second day and lived but three days. Soon after Samuel Cary became the owner of the land and built a stone house there in 1741 and called the place "Retirement." It was sold in 1801 with one hundred and forty-six acres for \$5360.

It was next owned by Thomas Porter who kept a school there, known as Porter's Academy. Thomas G. Kennedy was one of the teachers. He was later prominent in Newtown, sheriff of the county and held other positions. He lived in the old Kennedy home on North State street, still standing and occupied. The place that was called "Retirement" in 1741 is now known as "Fountain Farm," the home of William P. Hicks and family.

In 1702 Stephen Twining owned 690 acres in Newtown but the tract has all gone out of the name now. One writer says, "On part of these acres stands now the fine mansion of Cyrus T. Vanartsdalen, where Stephen sat down in his humble log cabin on his first landing on the shores of Pennsylvania." The Spring Garden bridge crossed the Neshaminy on the Stephen Twining farm. He was an active and leading member of the Society of Friends, and was no doubt a man of business, tact and industry. He left hundreds of descendants who can look back to him as a worthy ancestor.

William Buckman and his mother and brothers and sister sailed in the ship "Welcome" which also brought William Penn on his first visit to his province in 1682. The mother and one brother died on ship board, supposedly of smallpox, which took such a fearful toll of the early emigrants on their way to Pennsylvania. The Buckmans were members of Shiply Meeting, within Dorking and Horsham Monthly Meeting, in the county of Sussex, England. William bought 668 acres in Newtown township and 59 in the township of about 1695, north of Stephen Twining's land. The family of this name is one of the most numerous represented of the old families of the county.

Ezra Croasdale, another early settler, brought to Pennsylvania a certificate from Brighouse Meeting, Yorkshire, England. He married Ann Peacock, of Philadelphia, in 1687. She came from Kildale, Yorkshire, England, in 1684. A memorial of Ezra Croasdale states, "He came into this



country amongst some of the first settlers in these parts, having received a gift in the ministry before he left England in which he continued a zealous laborer, and constant attender of meetings until rendered incapable thereof through the infirmity of old age." He owned 400 acres in the township north of town and 40 acres in the townstead. He has a great many descendants around here now. Thomas Hillborn took up 980 acres north of town toward Makefield in 1702, coming from East Jersey, where he married Elizabeth Hooton in 1688, and had twelve children, six born in Jersey and six in Newtown. The Hootons were very prominent in New Jersey affairs. Thomas Hillborn has many descendants here.

One of the early residents of Newtown who has a number of descendants still living here, was John Barnsley, who came from Yorkshire, England, in 1760, with his uncle, Major Thomas Barnsley, and lived with him on his estate of 600 acres in Bensalem township, on the Neshaminy. After the death of Major Barnsley in 1771, this place was sold, and John Barnsley purchased the land on the eastern border of Newtown and built the house where he lived until his death in 1796, and which has ever since been in possession of the family.

Dr. Phineas Jenks was born in 1781. He chose the medical profession, was a student of the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Rush and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, became one of the eminent physicians of his day and practiced medicine in Newtown over forty years. He was the father of the late George A. Jenks, Esq., of Newtown. His first wife was the daughter of General Francis Murray, and his second wife the daughter of Governor Simon Snyder.

General Francis Murray was living in Newtown before the Revolution. He owned several farms and held a highly respected position in the community. He was major in the Continental army, justice of the peace, and held other local offices,

including general of the militia. In 1790 he bought the dwelling opposite the Court House where Horace G. Reeder now lives.

Isaac Hicks, great grandfather of the writer, came here before the Revolution. He held several county offices and lived where now is the White Hall hotel. It was then a private home, surrounded by a garden of choice fruit. Abraham Chapman was an eminent lawyer in Newtown, moving away when the court was removed to Doylestown in 1812. He was known for years as the "Father of the Bucks County Bar." He lived in the house on Court street next to the Court Inn, the only house there at that time, which house he sold to my grandfather, Edward Hicks, when he moved here in 1811. There were only four or five families of Friends here then, among them, his father-in-law, Joseph Worstall, who carried on an extensive tannery business, and whose home on Court street was built before 1800 and has always been owned by a member of the family.

Another was Joseph Briggs, father of Letitia and Fannie Briggs, valued elders of our meeting, well remembered by many of us, and grandfather of Phoebe A. and Martha D. Hough, of State street.

William Linton's widow was then living where the Hough sisters now live. Her husband built the house about 1796. After his death, a colored man, who had been with them a long while, would sit up all night, when he knew she had been paid any money, to protect her, in case anyone attempted to molest her. The house was considered one of the finest mansions in town. It faced the Court House and at that time had a fine space around it.

In those early days, while the fathers and sons cleared the land and made the crops, the mothers and daughters attended to the indoor work. They picked, carded and spun the wool for clothing and swingled, hatched and spun the flax, quilted and did many other things that fall to the lot of women in a new country, besides frequently assisting the men in

their farm work. Wheat was the main crop and was carried a distance on horseback to mill along Indian paths. The horses were tied head and tail and traveled in trains, a man riding or leading the foremost one. By 1739 there were some wagons in use which did much to increase the wealth and comfort of the farmers. The early settlers lived well in their log cabins as soon as the era of necessity had passed. They were well fed and clothed, but not in fine garments. The women manufactured the clothing for the family, but dress and furniture were plain. The wooden trencher and pewter spoon were used by the most wealthy; simplicity prevailed everywhere. Mush and milk was a universal dish. Pancakes were in every house. Children went barefooted half the year and farmers through the summer.

About 1767 potatoes began to be raised in quantities and were fed to both cattle and hogs. The destructive Hessian fly made its appearance about 1780, previous to which the wheat crop seldom, if ever, failed.

In 1691 we read of one hundred acres of land being traded for an old gray mare. By 1700 improved land was generally sold by the acre, the nominal price being the value of twenty bushels of wheat. When wheat was 2s. 6d. per bus. land was sold for about \$12.50, when wheat was \$1.12 a bus. land was sold for \$26.62. When wheat was low beef sold for two and a half cents a pound, and pork the same. Wages at one time were governed by the price of wheat. About 1700 a laboring man

received from two to four shillings a day.

The first fifty years in the county buckskin and coarse tow cloth were in universal use for trousers and sometimes for jackets, hemp and tow cloth for shirts, wool hats and strong shoes with brass nails; in winter linsey jackets and leathern aprons and trousers were added. The farmers laid in a supply of leather for shoes and stuffs for clothing and the tailors and shoemakers came around twice a year to make them up, boarding with the family they worked for. The fashionable people in the cities wore articles, the very names of which, with the material of which they were made, have long been forgotten. Men carried muffs to keep their hands and wrists warm. A fashionably dressed lady carried an elegant snuff box with a looking glass in it, wore a watch, bracelets, chains and necklace, and black patches were worn on the face as beauty marks. Bonnets were monstrous, something like a Jersey wagon. Brides wore a long black veil without the bonnet. The hair was laboriously done up over a frame work of wire, with mountains of curls, flowers, feathers, &c. The country people began to adopt Philadelphia fashions about 1750. Habits of luxury were thus introduced.

In the more than 200 years since the white man settled here time has brought so many changes we can scarcely imagine just how our forefathers lived. Let us be thankful for all they did for us, and while trying to appreciate our unnumbered blessings, may we strive to do our duty to-day as bravely and faithfully as they did theirs.



# NEWTOWN MEETING AND ITS ESTABLISHMENT

BY THADDEUS S. KENDERDINE

The building of this meeting house and those who raised the money for its erection are important items in a history of this kind, but unfortunately whatever papers existed pertaining to them are lost. I have scanned the minutes of the preparative meeting first established in Newtown connecting it with Wrightstown Monthly Meeting, as well as those connected with the latter, and also of Middletown Monthly Meeting, with which one-third of our members were a part, and whose consent was required before the monthly meeting could be established, and there is nothing of importance in any of the records relative to the erection of the meeting house and its cost. My friend, the late Isaac Eyre, who wrote a paper for the Newtown Friends' Association, and which he read before it Third month 1st, 1899, on the present subject made the greatest efforts to find out something definite in regard to the erection and means for the same, but without avail.

From Edward Hicks' Memoirs we learn a little concerning the matter before us. It appears that in those times when the society was numerically prosperous, applicants for the setting up of new meetings were held in restraint, and if such requests were granted, such probationary drawbacks were named that discouragements

were suggested, as will be seen by the accompanying minutes thereunto referring. I learn from the above authority that "our opposers, though few in numbers, tried to alarm the Quarterly Meeting by stating that, as an organization, it would be held accountable for any expense that Friends of Newtown might be pleased to go to if they granted permission to build." Edward then said: "Friends of Newtown ask no pecuniary favors of Bucks Quarterly Meeting or any other meeting. We are willing and entirely able to build the house ourselves; we only want the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." Edward further says in his memoirs: "I was present when seven rich Friends pledged themselves to build the house."

Isaac Eyre says: "These seven Friends must have got considerable assistance from others in raising funds for building purposes, as we have heard how some of the money was raised. The late ex-Judge Michael H. Jenks said that he and his grandfather, Joseph Jenks, distilled a quantity of apple whiskey and sold it to raise the \$100 they had subscribed toward the building, and it is likely that others did the same thing, for we find that but a few years before, there were quite a number of distillers and retailers of spirituous

liquors belonging to Bucks Quarter, from two to four of the former and seventeen to twenty-one of the latter from 1807 to 1809 and one tavernkeeper and seemingly without protest. A sort of reaction occurred the following year, when a temperance committee was formed and soon after the discipline was so altered that Friends were prohibited from distilling liquor from grain, but could do it from fruit, 'a distinction without a difference,' but it was an opening wedge, which in the end brought results favorable to the temperance cause. But there was much conservatism in those days among Friends of philanthropic bent. There were those opposed to liquor drinking and slavery who would not be seen at a temperance meeting or an abolition gathering, claiming that there was enough prohibition of slavery and liquor drinking in our discipline to answer all purposes without "going out into the world." So we must not judge the attitude of old-time friends from present standards.

While Newtown "indulged meeting," was granted by the Monthly Meetings of Wrightstown and Middletown in 1815, there was an application made to Wrightstown earlier by Friends belonging to those meetings. On Fourth Month 8th, 1813, the first proposal came from Friends about Newtown "belonging to Wrightstown, Middletown and Falls Monthly Meetings." A committee was appointed to take the subject into consideration, which committee reported unfavorably, when the matter was dropped for two years.

From Wrightstown Monthly Meeting minutes of Third Month 8th, 1815, we learn: "A number of Friends belonging to Wrightstown and Middletown Monthly Meetings make request for holding an indulged meeting at Newtown. This being weightily considered, we appoint Watson Welding, John Buckman, Edmond Smith, Benjamin Smith, Isaac Chapman and Jonathan Atkinson to confer with the applicants and such committee as may be appointed by Middletown Monthly Meet-

ing and report their service therein at our next meeting."

This conference occurred and on Fourth Month 5th came a report to Wrightstown, that "the committee generally met and after a solid consideration are much united in judgment that such meeting, granted for a limited time, may be useful to be held on First- and Third-days of the week at the eleventh hour, the first to be held the first day after the monthly meeting and to continue till the first of the Tenth month under the joint care of Wrightstown and Middletown Monthly Meetings, with which this meeting unites and appoints John Buckman, Isaac Chapman, David Story and Benjamin Scholfield to attend the opening of the meeting and to extend such care and oversight as may be necessary, and report their services to the meeting of Tenth Month next." This report to the meeting was signed by Jeremiah Crossdale, Isaac Chapman, Ann Crossdale, and Hannah Buckman.

On Tenth Month 4th, Benjamin Smith, for the committee, reports that "the indulged meeting was largely attended, and that the applicants request a continuance of said meeting under the same regulations, with which the meeting unites, and continues it under the care of the same committee until Fourth Month next."

"Wrightstown, 4th 3d, 1816.

"Your committee appointed in reference to Newtown indulged meeting report that the meeting was attended by most of its members, and to a good degree of satisfaction, but that they could not agree to the request of Newtown Friends made on 2nd month 7th, last, for liberty to build a meeting house, and after some time spent referred the matter to the committee having oversight of the meeting.

"Signed, Sarah Comfort, Mariba Scholfield, Joshua Knight, Isaac Chapman."

"The applicants request the continuance of the meeting one year longer, which request is concurred in, and Jesse Buckman, Watson Welding, Andrew Collins, Isaac Ryan, William Ely, Edward Chapman, Benjamin Hampton, Benjamin Smith, Jacob Smith and Jonathan Martindale are appointed to have care of said meeting



and to report their services in 4th month next."

On 11th month 6th, 1816, the committee reported to their respective meetings that "the indulged meeting be granted, and that they also have the privilege of holding a preparative meeting to be attached to Wrightstown Monthly Meeting:

"Signed, Stephen Comfort, Benjamin Smith, Lidia Watson, Martha Scholfield."

This for the consideration of the Quarterly Meeting of Bucks, which at its meeting of 2nd month 27th, 1817, was thus minuted:

"That the monthly meetings interested be at liberty to settle and set up said meeting for worship and also a preparative meeting as proposed, and the clerk to furnish the monthly meetings with this minute:

"Signed, Isaac Chapman, Clerk."

"The meeting appoints Watson Welding, Stephen Twining, Edmond Smith, Benjamin Smith and Benajah Hayhurst to unite with the Monthly Meeting committees and report the settling of said meetings, and report as occasions may require."

"Wrightstown, 12th Month 3d, 1817.

"The Committee appointed to attend the opening of the Newtown Meetings attended to their services, and said meetings were opened agreeable to the directions of the monthly meetings, and that the preparative meeting is continued to be held on the Third-day preceding the preparative meeting at Wrightstown, on each and every month."

So much for Wrightstown. The Middletown minutes are practically the same even to the hesitancy of allowing the building of a meeting house. Of course there is a change in the names of the local committees. Those reporting for the Quarterly Meeting committee are John Watson and Benajah Hayhurst, and those appointed by the Monthly meeting to attend the opening of the Newtown meetings, are Jeremiah Croasdale, Joshua Knight, John Paxson, Samuel Swain, John Watson and Pierson Mitchell.

Partly composing the Middletown committees I will mention some now unfamiliar

names in the present roll of members: Woolston, Blakey, Comfort, Croasdale, Bunting, Hulme, Swain, Hayhurst and Buckley, while from Wrightstown we have the now eliminated names of Chapman, Story, Scholfield, Welding, Hampton, Collins, Ryan and Martindale. These are among the leading members, while from those below, there must be many more odd names absent from the present list.

Middletown meeting was the first to make a transfer of its members to Wrightstown as from the following minute of 6th month 11th, 1817:

"The Committee to collect and forward certificates to those of our members who constitute a part of Newtown meeting produce the following names." Thereport was approved and signed for conveyance to their respective meetings. Some of these names are no longer familiar. There are 52 names in all.

Phineas Briggs,	Mary Hibbs,
Sarah Briggs,	young woman;
and children,	Benjamin Hibbs,
William,	James Hibbs,
Samuel,	William Hibbs,
Yardley,	all young men, and
James,	perhaps sons of
Sarah Ann,	Sarah;
Theodore and	Zephaniah Mahan,
Mary;	Ann Mahan,
John Buckman, Jr.,	his wife,
Maere Buckman,	their children,
and their minor chil-	William,
dren,	Mary,
Mercy and	John;
Susanna;	Isaac Vanhorn,
Samuel Carey,	Mary Vanhorn,
Deborah Carey,	their children,
his wife;	Charles and
Joseph Carey,	Ann S.;
Elizabeth Carey,	Martha Vanhorn,
his wife, and minor	young woman;
children,	John Vanhorne,
Robert D.,	Thomas Vanhorne,
Ann D.,	his infant son;
Sarah,	Rachel Wildman,
Joseph and	young woman;
Silas;	Joseph Worstall,
Beulah Carey,	Susanna Worstall,
Elizabeth Hutchinson,	his wife;
David Hutchinson,	James Worstall,
a young man;	a young man;
Thomas Hutchinson,	Mary Worstall and
Mary Hutchinson,	Susanna Worstall,
his wife;	young women;
Sarah Hibbs,	Samuel Yardley,
widow;	Mary Yardley.

The transfer of members from Wrightstown to Newtown Preparative Meeting was not made until Twelfth month 3, 1817. As these members were all in the limits of Wrightstown meeting, there did not seem the necessity that there was in connection with those of Middletown, where there was an absolute transfer. In the following list there are 151 names. The husbands and wives are not always sufficiently differentiated so that the children can properly follow, as in the list from Middletown, so I will let those who look over the names use their own judgment.

By the dates named Middletown lost 52 members to Newtown and Wrightstown 151. But when Makefield Monthly Meeting was started, in 1820, Wrightstown lost 44 members, so that the assertion that Wrightstown lost 200 members from the start of Newtown meeting was not far wrong.

At the meeting at Wrightstown above named, Twelfth month 3, 1817, the following transfers to Newtown occur:

Joseph Briggs,	John Cooper,
Martha Briggs,	Esther Cooper,
Alice,	his wife,
Joseph D.,	John Cooper,
Mary,	Beulah Cary,
Letitia,	Samuel Cary,
Francina,	Deborah Cary,
Letitia, Jr.,	Seth Davis,
Asenath,	Jane Davis,
Ann Briggs,	Morris Davis,
Hannah Bond,	Mary P. Eagan,
Joseph Buckman and	Joseph Flowers,
Harriet Buckman,	Jonathan Fell,
Sarah,	Jane,
Martha,	his wife,
Joseph Jr.,	children,
Paul Baker,	James,
Agnes Baker,	Joshua,
Paul Jr.,	Sarah,
Elizabeth Carver,	Elizabeth,
Elizabeth Clark,	Esther Hutchinson,
Benjamin Clark,	Edward Hicks,
Barton Clark,	Sarah Hicks,
Westley Clark,	children,
Ann Clark,	Mary,
Stacey Clark,	Susanna,
Isaac T. Clark,	Isaac,
Chilton Cooper,	Elizabeth,
Rachel Cooper,	Sarah,
Henry Cooper,	Frances Janney,
Mahlon Cooper,	Sarah Janney,
Edward Cooper,	William Janney,
Maria Cooper,	Joseph Janney,

Mahlon Janney,	Albion N.,
Stephen Janney,	Stokes L.,
Jacob Janney,	Eliza,
John Janney,	Matilda,
Martha Janney,	Gervis S.,
Grace Johnston,	Charles B.,
Mary Jenks,	Nathan Roberts,
John Lee,	Margaret Roberts,
John Linton,	Ashton Roberts,
Mary Linton,	Sarah Roberts,
wife,	children,
children,	Wilson,
William S.,	Anne,
Thomas,	Theophilus,
Hannah,	Guy,
Asa,	Sarah Smith,
Cary,	Sarah Smith, Jr.,
Isiah,	Amos Smith,
Thomas,	Rebecca Smith,
William H.,	wife,
Mary,	Jane Slack,
Silas,	Moses Smith,
Joseph,	Septimus Smith,
Laura,	Benj. Scholfield,
Jesse Leedom,	Martha Scholfield,
Mary Leedom,	children,
his wife,	Joseph,
children,	Edith,
Edward,	Sarah,
David,	Jonathan,
Charles,	Oliver,
Beulah,	John Souther,
Elize,	Beulah E. Twining,
Rachel,	Hannah Thomas,
Jolly Longshore,	Jacob Thomas,
Mercy Longshore,	Rachel Thomas,
Jonathan Martindale,	children of Jacob and
Amos Martindale,	Rachel Thomas,
Martha Martindale,	Richard,
Jolly Paste,	Reuben,
Rachel Paste,	John,
children,	Sarah,
Thomas S.,	George,
Mary C.,	Phebe Vanhorn,
Albert,	Mary Watts,
Acsah,	Rachel Wildman,
Sarah,	Silas Wildman,
David Roberts,	Sarah Wildman,
Elizabeth Roberts,	Beulah Wildman,
children,	Cary Wildman.

While in the application to Wrightstown Monthly Meeting in 1813 there is mention of the three monthly meetings of Middletown, Wrightstown and Falls having members making the request, the latter is left out in the later applications. This is perhaps for the reason that there were so few members connected with our limits, those who afterwards belonged being in the confines of Makefield and joining Newtown Preparative Meeting in 1820 after Makefield was joined to that. Later there were a few who, after the building in 1852 of the Yardleyville plank road,



came to Newtown meeting from the road being better. These were the Taylors, Flowers' and Mahans.

In the minutes referring to the establishment of Newtown meeting there is no mention as to where it was first held, but it was in the old court house, two years before vacated by the courts when the county seat was removed to Doylestown. It is supposed a rental was exacted, but there is no mention of the price. This building stood on the foundations of the house now occupied by Henry Sacks, on Court street. The late Nicholas Willard has told me about attending meeting there, and I have often wished that I had got from him a description of the hall of justice which had stood there since 1725. This was not only because our first meetings were held there, but for a knowledge of what sort of a place our courts were held in while here. The local item man was not in evidence in those days, and I have looked in vain for information from the papers of the time. All that we know was that it fronted on Court street with double doors headed with an arched fan-shaped transom and that it had a hipped roof surmounted with a cupola in which was a bell for the call and dismissal of legal sessions. The court room, where Friends' meetings were held was naturally on the first floor with a rear extension for the judges, and the jury rooms on the second. The jail was where the Heilig house is, but as there were no jailbirds therein at the time our meetings were held that was no objection. Why a substantial building of stone was demolished to make way for such a structure replacing it, there is no mention. This seems to have been occupied by Friends for their twice a week assemblages for a year and a half, at which time there is evidence that the present meeting place was built, or in process of building.

It would seem from the best information at hand that the meeting house was built in 1817, although it appears that the deed for the ground was not made out

until First Month 1st, 1818, of two acres and fifty-two perches of land for \$400. The next purchase was on Second Month 11th, 1826, when a lot adjoining the above, 50x75 feet, was purchased of Rebecca Winder. On the 10th of First Month, 1832, a lot of 50 feet front and running back to land belonging to the meeting, was bought of the heirs of Lewis Trego, deceased, for \$110. If the above date is straight, the meeting house property lines must have been built on undeeded ground, but the minutes of the meeting show that in the Third Month, 1818, there was a committee appointed by the preparative meeting to settle the treasurer's account of building the meeting house, though there is no report of that committee until Twelfth Month, 1818, when it is stated that there was a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$4.60, rather a close shave on a building which must have cost as much as this meeting house did, but there is no account of how much had been expended. On the 30th of Twelfth Month, 1817, Silas Cary, James Worstall, John Buckman, Jr., Zephaniah Mahan, Jacob Janney, Jesse Leedom and Joseph Briggs were appointed to take a deed of trust for the meeting property, which seems as if the property must have been deeded. Joseph Briggs was appointed to have care of the meeting house at \$30 per year which salary was afterwards reduced to \$25 and then to \$20.

The sheds were reported built in Third Month, 1819, but their cost is not stated. As near as can be ascertained there were about 45 families belonging to Newtown Preparative Meeting in 1818, and 200 members. In 1830 there were 40 families and some 220 members, but the exact number cannot be given. Nominally there were 18 Briggses, 9 Buckmans, 13 Carys, 15 Hutchinsons, 5 Hibbses, 6 Mahans, 3 Blakers, 9 Coopers, 8 Leedoms, 7 Pastes, 16 Robertses, 6 Fells, 7 Hickses, 9 Janneys, 6 Smiths, 7 Scholfields, 14 Lintons, 9 Thomases, 5 Wildmans, 9 Vanhorns, 3 Martindales, and several of fewer numbers.

The first speakers were Edward Hicks, followed by Mary Schofield, Zephaniah Mahan, and much later by Elizabeth H. Plummer and Amos Jones. Then, after the establishment of the George School, we had frequent messages from Jesse D. Holmes and Charles M. Stapler. In the late 1840s, Eliza W. Twining, as a recommended minister occasionally, but briefly.

Edward Hicks was the first minister to speak in the old court house. This was so much like a steeple house of the days of George Fox, that that good, conscientious man would not have spoken under its roof, with its cupola with bell hung within, its pulpit-like elevation where the judges sat, and the semblance of a chancel in which were penned the lawyers, jurymen and criminals on trial. But Edward Hicks was less afraid of having his religious ideals compromised by the surroundings of a "hireling priest," an uncomplimentary term directed toward many a good minister of other churches. Though a temperance man, and an opponent of negro slavery, Edward had no unity with the exponents of those philanthropies, as with others. I have mentioned. He considered the "Rules of Discipline" sufficient for the guidance of Friends. Thus certain members of the Schofield, Longshore, Linton and Lloyd families, who were great enemies of liquor drinking and slavery, were out of favor with him. Besides the ministers named, there were Mary Kimber Janney and a Hannah Parker, a young woman, who I think came from York State. These two were here around the '40s.

The present membership of our meeting is about 160. Within the borough limits there are 90 adults.

Soon after the preparative meeting was established there appeared need of a Friends' school, and an effort was made in that direction, but was unsuccessful. From what Isaac Eyre says, and I have frequently quoted from him, if the effort had been made a little earlier Friends could have availed themselves of a \$2000 legacy left by Samuel Smith for the es-

tablishment of a boarding school in the limits of Bucks Quarter on condition that \$2000 more would be raised in addition. But Newtown Friends, with the aid of others, continues Isaac, did build what was called the "Neighbors' School" on the lot opposite the meeting house and now owned by Bond Brothers.

The second deed of trust was made in 1826, the third in 1845, the fourth in 1868, the fifth in 1892 and the sixth and last in 1915.

In 1868 the upper part of the graveyard was divided into family plots, and in the same year a portico was ordered built, which, besides the large amount of hauling required for filling in and flagging, cost about \$400.

In 1874 a new roof was put on the carriage sheds at a cost of \$417, including other repairs, which seems very high.

In 1879 a new roof was put on the meeting house in place of the one which had been on over 60 years, a remarkable longevity for a wooden roof.

In 1884 a new ingrain carpet was purchased for the meeting house, believed to be the first in the Quarter. The cost was \$115.84.

In 1886 women Friends first joined in settling the treasurer's account.

In 1887 new flagging was placed on the portico floor at an expense of \$83.55.

In 1889 the house was first painted on the inside at a cost of \$48.20, and in 1890 new flagstone walks were raised by voluntary subscriptions.

In 1893 new cushions were obtained and seats painted at a cost of \$143.43.

Up to 1827 there had been but \$4.25 spent for cushions, but for all that Newtown Friends raised their share of \$3000 for the benefit of North Carolina Friends for their losses from manumitting slaves; in 1832 they raised their share of \$3000 towards building Spruce Street meeting house, in the meantime all but a few sitting on hard benches!

In 1894 the meetings, both for worship



and business, were held in joint session, and so continue.

In 1900 the upstairs of the meeting house was floored and divided up into classrooms for First-day school and dining-room purposes.

In 1915 the meeting house was re-roofed with slate at a cost of \$507.

Comparisons are said to be odious, but this is only true when they bring up disagreeable conditions. This modification comes in play when bringing up the dissimilarity of the Newtown of to-day with that of a century ago, not only in reference to size but in other particulars. Inside the now borough limits there was not a place of worship at the beginning of 1815, for the Presbyterian church was west of its limits. In the Memoirs of Edward Hicks, who moved to Newtown in 1811, it is stated that "every tenth house was a tavern and every twentieth of bad repute." East of the lines on Court street there was not over a half dozen houses, and on a basis of 400 population, for there were but 600 in 1840, there were not 60 houses in the borough, to which can easily be assigned the proportionate number of taverns and other resorts named. The fact of the town being the place of holding the courts of Bucks county and of being the place of annual military trainings of uniformed troops and the "corn-stalk militia," as well as the more frequent running horse races, the courses of which were on the Yardleyville road, to say nothing of the free and easy ways of the times, well accounts for the number of inns. There were but four or five Friends' homes in and near the borough, but within two miles there were quite a number, say 40, for by 1820 there were 200 members of Newtown meeting within the radius named. Those Friends near by were the families of Hutchinson, Twinning, Leedom, Jenks and Chapman, and this before 1812.

The abandonment of the borough by the courts was a blessing in disguise, but the Newtowners did not view it so then,

with its undesirable human drawings, and the coming of the Friends' meeting brought a desirable change in the moral aspect of Newtown. Edward Hicks, with his attractive personality, had much to do with the building up of our meeting. Of course, in after years, when the other churches came to be established, there was a further upbuilding of the moral and religious standards of the place, but I am speaking of the Newtown of one hundred years ago.

I will now draw this somewhat lengthy paper to a close, hoping that the information I have recited will interest all my hearers, particularly the direct descendants of the members of Newtown meeting in the list I have given. It is difficult to believe that there are more than a score of children living of the original members of this meeting, but this is the case, there being nine of the grandchildren of the head of one family who came from Middletown with seven minor children, while there are other instances, several in fact, where the number of sons and daughters range from one to four. Of course this is accounted for from the number of young birthright members who came in with their parents from Wrightstown and Middletown Meetings. Some supposedly lost documents coming into my possession and collated by Isaac Eyre much aided me in getting up this paper.

\* \* \* \* \*

Not having been familiar with Newtown Friends' meeting until 1877, I cannot from my own knowledge give its personal status from a date as early as I would like in the time intervening between its establishment and the date named, so have had to depend for that from what I gained from others. This was before the decease of Isaac Eyre and Susan C. Buckman, both of whom had a fund of personal remembrance and information gathered from others. Of those named in other parts of these papers the Schofields and Coopers lived up the Swamp road, while

the Blakers lived toward Richboro, whence in the time of Edward Hicks many came to Newtown meeting who were not members. Many of the families are out of existence as far as having a "habitation and a name" about Newtown is concerned. The Roberts' lived on now William P. Hicks' farm; the Satterthwaites on the "Dolly Varden" and the Featherbys east of Stoopville. Amos Jones, who came from Buckingham and first settled near Dolington on a farm vacated by Charles Twining, and who was a recorded minister, afterwards moved to his son-in-law's, M. Palmer Rich, within the limits of Newtown meeting, where he lived until his death in 1891.

But I am now speaking of previous conditions—say from 1840 to 1850. Of this period it is difficult to obtain data, but I learn that those who then sat in the gallery on the men's side were Edward Hicks, Joseph Briggs, Zephaniah Mahan and Benjamin Schofield. On the women's side were Ann Mahan, Sarah and Martha Buckman, Sarah Hicks, Mary Dawes Briggs, Mary Kimber Janney and Mary Schofield. The latter two were ministers, while Zephaniah spoke occasionally. Amos Jones came some time in the 'seventies.

The meetings at both Newtown and Makefield were much larger then than now, particularly the latter, and as the members were nearly all farmers the sheds for saddle horses and wagons were as well filled as the meeting houses. The present membership of Newtown meeting is 170, of Makefield 136, or 306 in all. There was frequent vocal service at Newtown meeting, at least when Edward Hicks was at home, while at Makefield there were as ministers William Taylor, Christiana Stapler, and in more recent years, William Lloyd. Earlier than the time mentioned Margaret Hicks was a minister there, but the latter years of her life were spent in Philadelphia. Her Dolington residence was where John L. Cox now lives.

The speakers at Newtown when I came here were Elizabeth H. Plummer and Amos Jones. Those seated on the men's side on the higher seat were Amos Jones, at the head, Hiram Walton and Thomas Janney, while "under the gallery" were Isaac Eyre and Henry Hicks, and later Isaac H. Hillborn. Facing the west gallery were Benjamin and Barclay J. Smith, James Palmer, Joseph Flowers, Jr., and others whom I do not recollect. On the benches of the extreme west gallery were Isaiah Balderston (occasionally), Josiah B. Smith, Jesse Leedom and Mahlon Cooper, while on the benches facing this gallery were Edward H. Worstall, Charles Twining, John Holcomb, Charles Stokes, J. Pemberton Hutchinson and other steady attenders. The most of these could be counted on for week-day attendance, as well as on First-days.

On the women's side, at the same time, were Elizabeth H. Plummer, who sat at the head; Sarah P. Flowers, who lived but a few years after I came; Letitia and Fanny Briggs and Elizabeth E. Eyre. On the lower seat were Mary Cooper, Letitia A. Smith and Rachel C. Hutchinson. Facing the east gallery were Elizabeth Smith, Maria E. Worstall, Hannah Y. Bunting, the Buckman sisters, Susan and Letitia, and Elmira and Ruth Anna Twining. The Leedom sisters, Rachel and Eliza, from extreme age had quit coming to meeting when I came, but when able had been steady meeting goers. They lived where Edward P. Hicks now lives. Rachel C. Hutchinson and Sarah P. Flowers were, unintentionally, rivals in the way of imposing presence. There were not less than a dozen women when they were all there who wore plain bonnets with plaited crowns and the accompanying cap and handkerchief, and many more were semi-plain. Plain hats and coats were worn by Isaac Eyre, Thomas Janney, Henry Hicks, Hiram Walton and Isaiah Balderston. Other steady attenders were Edward and Franklin Taylor and Franklin Smith and their wives. Among the



non-members who were steady attenders were Edward H. Worstall, Ephraim A. White, Davis Watson and the brothers, Ely, Smith and Edward H. Buckman. Those coming from the country were William Janney, Amos Jones, Edward, William and Franklin Taylor, Joseph Flowers, Jr., R. Comly Wilson. Mahlon Cooper, William Taylor Briggs, William Cooper, Samuel Stradling and their families and occasionally others who were not members so that there were often a dozen or more carriages in the sheds or standing under the trees. Outside the First-day school there were seventy to one hundred in attendance on fine summer days or when there was a likelihood of there being preaching. Before the coming of the George School the gallery on the men's side was so depopulated by deaths that sometimes there was none but faithful Isaac Eyre unless he could prevail on me to sit by his side and assist him to "break meeting." For this Isaac did not hesitate, as he sat there in his loneliness, to beckon to me from the body of the audience before the meeting was "settled." The term "faithful" is a Quaker shibboleth in reference to meeting attendance and if ever people were entitled to the word they were Isaac Eyre and his two Elizabeths.

In regretting the numerical decadence of the Society of Friends we can have some satisfaction in the knowledge that there is more harmony now than in times before those of which I have written. Although present conditions might be, with outside cynics, suggestive of the quietude of the grave, it is not to those knowing the strong hold that heredity has on our small numbers compared with the membership of some of the evangelical churches. Despite the fact that opposition to human slavery has been, next to war, the most prominent philanthropic feature of the Quaker faith for two centuries and liquor drinking, either in a temperate or excessive way, has been opposed for three quarters of a century, there was a strong conservative element in

our society, presided over by the "weight" that would not tolerate any extreme measures towards the eradication of the evils, so that an abolition or temperance lecturer dare not occupy a Friends' meeting house to express his views. The Schofields, Longshores, Lintons, Lloyds and others I will not name underwent an undeserved persecution from the conservatives, and if anyone with too pronounced views undertook to speak in a religious meeting they ran the risk of being called down. This happened once at Newtown and caused a very unpleasant sensation, as the speaker, a very young man, was not only halted in his sermon but, persisting, was led out of the meeting by one who claimed to be in authority, and this without remonstrance afterwards. Newtown meeting was then in its height, numerically, but better fewer members in harmony now than full benches then with the feelings only repressed with difficulty from the actions named. It was the same spirit with which New York Friends disowned Isaac T. Hopper for his connection with the editorship of the *Anti-Slavery Standard*. At this late day, and in consideration of the attitude taken by Friends of that time on its philanthropies—temperance and the opposition to slavery—it is remarkable that such feelings could exist among our members, but they constituted a minor numerical portion and justified their actions in the contention that their society held in its discipline a sufficiency of those philanthropies, with checks toward their non-observance, without acting with outside organizations. But politics had much to do with this. Outside of the extreme Abolitionists among them, Friends in our section were strong Whigs and extremely sensitive to any attempts to break into their party's lines, particularly in the times of the Clay and Taylor presidential campaigns. Hence the intolerance towards the Abolition and Free Soil parties.

Since those times our meetings have been free from internal disturbances of the

kinds named; even the "outgoing" of its members in violating our peaceful testimonies during the Civil War being overlooked or condoned by official admission that those who remained at home in those troublous times, making money out of the situation, wishing for the success of the Union army, selling horses and forage to the Government and so forth, were equally guilty of discipline violation with those who bravely went to the front.

Referring to statistics, an approximate canvass of Friends within the limits of Newtown borough, enumerating not only those who are members of our meeting

but those in membership but without certificates here, Friends sojourning among us, shows, without counting minors, about one hundred, of whom seventy-five are women and thirty-two men, this large disproportion of the sexes being partially accounted for by there being but two men among the twenty-six inmates of the Friends' Home and perhaps because of the traditional preponderance of religious sentiment among the majority. There are some twenty members under age, a serious disparity when taking into account the census of 1830, when the minors numbered two-thirds of the adults.



# AMONG OLD MEETING RECORDS

BY THADDEUS S. KENDERDINE

The following was not read before the Newtown Meeting Centennial, but is considered as of interest in connection therewith, while the list of members of the Monthly Meeting seventy-five years ago should be particularly valuable to their descendants.

By direction of Makefield Monthly Meeting a committee was appointed in the Eleventh Month, 1906, to overlook the originally drafted minutes which had been accumulating since that business meeting was set up in 1820, although the Makefield branch had been established since 1752 when it was a part of Falls meeting. Some of these papers were valuable from there being no duplicates; the rest were on record but not readily accessible. These documents were stored in an ancient-looking, rustic chest which had passed from clerk to clerk from the establishment of the meeting to the time mentioned, and the responsibility for their care, the liability for their destruction from fire or getting into irresponsible hands, the preservation of the more important papers, and the elimination of those of a too personal nature, were factors in the appointment of the committee named. From age and frequent handling these documents showed the worse for wear. Those worthy of saving were afterwards carefully smooth-

ed out, the rents mended and the leaves arranged in as near consecutive order as the occasional absence of direct dates would allow, and then bound for preservation and investigation and stored among the other Monthly Meeting records in their appointed fire-proof, while the balance were consigned to the flames. Among papers of interest and of doubt as to having been recorded were those "sent down" from Bucks Quarterly Meeting, upon which were facsimiles of the names of those once prominent among local Friends as well as those belonging to the Yearly Meeting, and, of equal importance, a classified list of the members of the Monthly Meeting in 1827 and 1830, just before and after the "Separation."

Makefield Monthly Meeting since 1820 has been made up of two branches--the preparative meetings held at Makefield and Newtown. The first was set off from Fallsington in 1750, and its meeting house finished two years later. The second was granted by Middletown in 1815 and as a

preparative meeting afterwards joined to Wrightstown, as shown in other papers connected with this book. The Makefield branch has connected with it the "indulged meeting" at Yardley, which was granted in 1857.

The supervised papers extend from 1818 to 1906, but there is nothing of special interest after 1827. Those before the first-named year are recorded in the minutes of Falls, Middletown and Wrightstown, when Friends of Newtown and Makefield belonged to these meetings. Inscribed on the papers not thought proper to preserve were two lists of men members—those who drank intoxicating liquor and those who abstained therefrom. There were forty of the first and sixty of the last. Where the line was drawn is not stated, as temperance was then more of a relative virtue than now, for in those days cider was a common drink, and its hardness did not count, although there was a time when feeling against the apple, pear and peach was so strong in the lower end of Bucks county that whole orchards were cut down to prevent their juices being distilled into intoxicants. This was in the late 'twenties and early 'thirties, but a more conservative state of mind came around, for among the papers I find a report coming from Bucks Quarter, held at Wrightstown, Second Month 24th, 1831, where John Watson was clerk, and signed by Benjamin Smith, Stephen Comfort and John Watson, a committee named at a previous quarter, which reads that in their judgment "way does not open to recommend application to the coming Yearly Meeting for any new rule of discipline bearing upon the subject of spirituous liquors at the present time, but that we unite in the desire that patient labor be extended towards all members who are engaged in the distilling of or retailing the same." The taking of this census involved much trouble, to say nothing of the disagreeable inquiries involved, particularly when it came to formulating the drinking and non-drinking classes, but the committee went at their

work thoroughly, as did other committees on similarly unpleasant lines in those ancient days. It seems to us, in these times of following the lines of least resistance, that those subordinate bodies were unnecessarily eager to do their duty, or rather what they thought was such.

The memoranda, written economically on scraps or sheets of paper, ruled or unruled, such as the times produced, some in poor handwriting, some in that neatly done, as the clerks were educated or otherwise, make interesting reading. The first minute is from Falls, under date of 1787, and is an acceptance from Bernard Taylor of a house at a nominal rental for the use of the schoolmaster at Makefield, there having been previously a school there for the education of Friends' children. This is the stone house yet standing west of the meetinghouse and now used by its caretaker. The next document is of foolscap size, with two printed pages containing brief extracts from the proceedings of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of 1818, of the dates of Fourth Month 20th and 25th, which from some cause is from an adjournment, for, from other matter there seems to have been a six-days' session. I find but a record of four days' proceedings and these are given in a very brief manner. One day is especially devoted to Westtown Boarding School, in being since 1799. The usefulness of that institution is noted, but the annual charges are mentioned as too low, and it is recommended that they be raised to \$100, paid quarterly in advance, and that the age limit of students be fixed at sixteen years, all of which is concurred in. There was also a report of the "Committee for the Improvement and Gradual Civilization of the Indian Natives," which made a favorable showing, but no particulars are given. Evidently allusions are made to the New York Indians, who were semi-civilized, and to whom committees were yearly sent and sometimes ministers individually. These visits were sometimes made unofficially, save as the ministering Friends had



minutes for them, and were peculiarly interesting from the hardships experienced in the long wilderness journeys and the conditions in which the wards of American Friends were found.

The minutes of Fourth-day are on financial questions. Ellis Yarnall was treasurer of the Yearly Meeting, and he held \$987 in his hands, the quotas all being in. The committee advised \$1200 being raised for the ensuing year.

The meeting adjourned on Seventh-day "to meet at the same time next year, if the Lord permits."

The extracts are signed, "Samuel Bettle, clerk for the year."

The next document is from the Quarterly Meeting at Falls, held Eighth Month 27th, 1819, and refers to the establishment of Makefield Monthly Meeting, which was on Second month 24, 1820, the first meeting to be held the Seventh Month following. The committee named to attend the opening were John Brown, Benjamin Smith, Thomas Carey, Samuel Comfort, John Buckman, Daniel Carlile, Aaron Paxson and Oliver Hampton. A committee of women Friends, whose names are given in another paper, met with them.

Following is a report directed to Bucks Quarterly Meeting held at Buckingham Fifth Month 31, 1827, of the representatives to the late Yearly Meeting, and is evidence of the troubles about to come towards the disruption of the Society of Friends in America from Baltimore Yearly Meeting northward, and throughout it runs the vein of distress and the absence of blame on the part of each section so pervading the sayings and writings of earnest Friends on either side, showing that each was right and the opponent section wrong, and the evidence of that mutual lack of charity widening the breach which was finally to end in separation. The report notes the disorder of the late Yearly Meeting and states, "a clerk was imposed on it against the sense of many exercised Friends," and that a committee was named to visit subordinate

meetings, whose reception the representatives opposed, as well as in any way acknowledging the authority of the Yearly Meeting. Of course the latter had its side of the controversy to "send down" to their meetings and, as both sides were sincere in their assertions, we can only express our sorrow that members of a society based on peace and non-resistance should say the unkind words of one another as did prominent members of the opposing sections, and our gratification that the feelings thus engendered have so nearly died out in their descendants. The report is signed by twenty prominent members.

As an offset to this unpleasantness we note the Yearly Meeting's response to the Friends in North Carolina, made poor by the freeing of their slaves. It is ordered that \$3000 be raised and forwarded to them. William Taylor was named as treasurer to receive the quota of Bucks Quarter.

The next paper is dated Eleventh Month 23, 1829. It is signed by a Yearly Meeting's committee composed of William Wharton, James Martin, Samuel Williams, William Abbott and William Yardley, and directed to Jonathan Paxson, clerk of Makefield Monthly Meeting. The paper pre-supposes that Orthodox Friends will commence suits for the possession of meeting properties then held by their opponents, and advises that a census be taken to show the courts what a minority they were in. On the strength of this request a numbering was made which showed that Makefield Monthly Meeting was composed of 529 members, of whom 514 were termed "Friends," and 15 "Orthodox," while 15 were "Neutral."

This census was taken in different ways; by families and as individuals and sexes, and the membership is as it stood both in 1827 and 1830 in the original tabulations. With the individual drafts and changes 18 pages of foolscap were used, showing the amount of labor required. The final alphabetical arrangement is excellently transcribed. I have departed from the

plan of those who arranged the tables by giving the adults first, putting the minors in a separate table. In the family arrangement in one case used, there are outside names shown where uncles, aunts and other retainers are found living, but, while this form differentiates the members of the two meetings, a general alphabetical arrangement, the adults and minors separated, seemed preferable. The spelling of family names, it will be seen, was different then from now; thus Balderston was Balderson, Paist was Paste (formerly Past); Schofield was Scholfield; Lownes was Lowness and Knowles, Knowls.

Numerically, the Buckmans head the list with 37 names, with the Taylors following with 36, the Knowls' with 30 and the Yardleys with 27. That the Knowls' should have such a prominence in the census is singular, considering that the name now is almost eliminated from the roster. The names of Brooks, Closson, Case, Dawes, Drake, Featherby, Hough, Moore, Parker, Winder and Watts are now off the meeting list.

Taken by families, there were 144 households of the "Friends" and 3 of the Conservatives. What are at this day called "old-fashioned families," were surprisingly few, there being but five with seven children, viz, those of John Balderston, Thomas Janney, Daniel Lovett, Elizabeth Cary and Chilion Cooper. More singular to state, there were 35 families wherein there was but one person, seven of whom were men, suggesting a bachelor life, and an inexplicable showing in a marrying age. In some families there were no minors, and in several these numbered but 4, 3 and 2 children only. Of the Conservative branch, Charles and Sarah Beans had 6 children, William, Mary, Benjamin, Hannah, Lydia and Charles. Martha Buckman, a sister of Sarah Beans, lived with this family. John and Macree Buckman, and their three children, Mercy, Susannah and John, and a single woman, Mary Jenks, constituted the rest of the Orthodox Friends who separated from the main

body of Newtown Preparative Meeting, 15 in all, from both meetings. In the Monthly Meeting there were 121 men, 197 women, 116 boys and 90 girls. In the smaller body there were 6 adults and 9 minors. There were 15 "neutrals," or those who could not make up their minds as to where they stood religiously, but who were not classified, except two—Jacob and Rachel Thomas. Including these, Makefield Monthly Meeting had 539 members in 1830.

In reference to names, their occurrence in several of the families mentioned shows a change in social affairs in the last hundred years in which old men's and women's homes and the more modern homes for Friends are factors towards taking care of the aged and helpless from the misfortunes of loss of money or health, a class not ostensibly considered burdensome in the homes they were members of. Sometimes two or three different names will appear registered in one household, outside the family name. These may have been the parents of the heads of the family, or their sisters or brothers, uncles or aunts. They were oftener women who did their part in life's duties in neighborly kindnesses in the way of nursing the sick or in assistance in times of death, when its grewsome offices, now assumed by the undertaker were performed by those now called family outsiders. These now out-lived conditions were perhaps survivals of patriarchal times when different generations homed together, additional housings beings added as needed; conditions so changed now, and not to the betterment of society usages, but rather to a showing of selfishness over old time considerations towards the aged and homeless.

In reference to Hannah Parker, a minister of Newtown meeting, and who was not here long, she was a resident around 1830, and made her home with Jonathan and Grace Kirkbride.

Following is the list of members of Makefield Monthly meeting, as nearly correctly tabulated as may be, considering



there are no contemporaries living for reference. The only one still living of the lengthy numbering is Hannah Taylor, now residing with Charles L. and Anna Taylor Knight. She is an aunt to the last named.

## ADULTS.

B	Ann, Jr.,	K	Rachel.
Benjamin Beans,	Cyrus,	Jonathan Kirkbride,	Jacob Parry.
Ann,	Jacob,	Eliza,	Letitia Paxson,
Benjamin, Jr.,	Jacob, Jr.,	Grace,	Betsy,
Charles,	Susanna,	Joseph Knowls,	Esther,
Elizabeth,	Timothy,	Anna,	Jonathan,
Mary,	John Case,	Ann Eliza,	Letitia,
Sarah,	Catharine,	Banner,	Rachel.
Seneca,	Elizabeth Clark,	Charles,	Elizabeth Phillips.
Letitia Bailey,	Barton,	Clarinda,	
Joseph Betts,	Benjamin,	Elizabeth,	R
Esther,	Betsy Ann,	Elizabeth, Jr.,	David Roberts,
Margaret,	David Coleman,	John,	Albina N.,
Mercy,	John Closson,	Joseph,	Elizabeth,
Thomas,	Rebecca,	Joseph, Jr.,	Mary.
Isaiah Balderston,	Chillion Cooper,	Julian,	S
James,	Esther,	Mary,	Jane Slack,
Phoebe,	Henry,	Mary, Jr.,	John Scott,
Rachel,	John L.,	Mary Ann,	Amos Satterthwaite,
Paul Blaker,	John, Jr.,	Mahlon,	Rebecca.
Paul, Jr.,	Rachel,	Rachel, Jr.,	Sarah Smith,
Agnes,	Rachel Cunningham.	Robert,	Amos,
Letitia Briggs,		Ruth L.	Rebecca,
Asenath,	D	L	Sarah, Jr.
Joseph,	Seth Davies,	John Lee,	Hannah Stapler,
Letitia, Jr.,	Jane,	Elijah Leedom,	Ann,
Martha H.,	Elizabeth Drake.	Charles,	Christianna,
Martha,	Mary Dawes.	Elizabeth,	Esther,
Sarah,	Sarah Dungan.	Jesse,	Hannah,
Hannah Bond,	F	Lucy,	Letitia,
Elizabeth Buckman,	David Fell,	Lydia,	Mary,
Abdon,	Ann,	Mary,	Thomas,
Abdon, Jr.,	Letitia,	Rachel,	Thomas, Jr.,
Acsah,	Benjamin Featherby,	Ruth,	Sarah,
Amos,	Mary Field,	John Linton,	Sarah, Sr.
Elizabeth,	Mary, Jr.,	Hannah,	Rachel Stradling,
Elizabeth, Jr.,	Joseph Flowers,	Isaiah,	William.
Hannah,	Elizabeth Furman.	Jane,	Benjamin Scholfield,
Joseph,		Penquite,	Edith,
Joseph, Jr.,	G	Thomas,	Margaret,
John,	Rebecca Garret.	Jolly Longshore,	Oliver.
Letitia,	H	Elinor,	T
Lewis,	Edward Hicks,	James,	Sarah Taylor,
Martha,	Mary,	Mersey,	Ann,
Mary,	Sarah,	Robert,	Ann, Jr.,
Mary, Jr.,	Susanna.	Jesse Lloyd,	Benjamin, Jr.,
Margaret,	James Hibbs,	Ann,	David B.,
Maecce,	Benjamin,	Sarah Lowness,	Elizabeth,
Mary Ann,	Elizabeth,	Beulah,	Elizabeth K.,
Mercy,	Lambert,	Eliza,	Joseph,
Rachel,	Mary,	Hannah,	Joseph, Jr.,
Sarah,	Phoebe,	Mersey,	Mahlon K.,
Sarah, Jr.,	Sarah,	Rebecca,	Mercy,
Sarah,	Elizabeth Hill,	William.	Rebecca,
Samuel,	Mary,	Daniel Lovett,	William.
Samuel, Jr.,	Matthias Harvey,	Mary.	Jacob Thomas,
Susannah,	Mary.	M	Elizabeth,
Samuel Bunting,	Ann Amelia Holcomb,	Zephaniah Mahan,	Maria,
Anna,	Mary.	Ann,	Rachel,
Letitia,	Oliver Hough,	Mary.	Richard.
Mary,	Phoebe,	Anna Magill,	V
Ann Burroughs,	Sarah Hutchinson,	Mersey Meteer,	Isaac Van Horn,
Samuel Cary,	David,	George.	Ann,
Deborah,	Elizabeth,	Elizabeth Miller,	Charles.
Elizabeth,	Esther,	Joseph Merrick,	W
Joshua,	Thomas.	Charles,	Thomas Winder,
Sarah,	J	John,	Rebecca,
	Mary Jenks,	Ann McMasters,	Ruth.
	Frances Janney,	Joshua Mitchell,	Sarah Wiggins.
	Esther,	Frances.	Hannah Wilkinson.
	Jacob,	Joseph Moon,	Rachel Wildman.
	Thomas.	Hannah,	Hampton Wilson,
		Benjamin Moore,	Ann,
		Burroughs,	Isaac,
		Mary,	Mary,
		Rachel.	Mercy.
		P	Joseph Worstall,
		Hannah Parker.	Jane,
		John Palmer,	Jane,
		Susanna.	John,
		Jolly Paste,	Mary,
			Rachel.

Robert,  
Ruth,  
Solomon,  
Susanna.  
Mary Watts.  
Solomon Wildman,  
Margaret,  
Rachel,  
Rebecca,  
Sarah,  
Samuel.  
Y  
Richard Yardley,  
Acsah,  
Charles,  
Edward,

Eliza,  
Elizabeth,  
George,  
Isaac,  
John,  
Joseph,  
Letitia,  
Lydia,  
Mahlon,  
Margaret,  
Mary,  
Robert,  
Sarah,  
Susana,  
Susanna, Jr.

David,  
Edward,  
Jesse.  
William Linton,  
Cyrus,  
Edward,  
Frederick,  
Joseph,  
Laura,  
Sarah Ann,  
William, Jr.  
Abdon Loughshore,  
James,  
Margaret.  
Sarah Lloyd,  
Benjamin,  
Eliza Ann,  
Mahlon,  
William.  
Joseph Lowness,  
Esther,  
Sarah Ann,  
Susanna,  
Thomas,  
William.  
David H. Lovett,  
Charles,  
Elizabeth,  
Mahlon,  
Mary Jane,  
Phoebe Ann,  
Sarah.

Gervis,  
Stokes L.  
S  
Mary Satterthwaite,  
Charles Swain,  
Abigail Stapler,  
Achsah,  
Edward,  
Elizabeth,  
Hannah,  
William.  
Jonathan Schollfield,  
Joseph,  
Lydia.

T  
Hannah Taylor,  
Anna,  
Benjamin,  
Benjamin F.,  
Edward,  
Eldridge,  
Elizabeth K.,  
Hannah,  
Henry B.,  
Jonathan H.,  
Kirkbride,  
Margaret,  
Mary,  
Mary Ann,  
Lydia,  
Marshall,  
Oliver,  
Rebecca,  
Sarah,  
Stephen,  
Timothy,  
William,  
William, Jr.  
Reuben Thomas,  
George,  
Sarah.

W  
James Winder,  
William B. Wilson,  
James Worstall,  
Mary.

Y  
Courtland Yardley,  
Edward,  
Ellen,  
Joseph,  
Margaret,  
Sarah,  
Thomas W.

MINORS.

B  
Embree Beans,  
Benjamin,  
Charles,  
Hannah,  
Jane,  
Lydia,  
Mary,  
Mary, Jr.,  
Sarah, Jr.,  
William.  
Elizabeth Betts,  
Mary,  
Margaret,  
Thomas,  
Thomas S.  
David Balderston,  
Hannah,  
Jolly,  
Jonathan,  
John L.,  
Sarah,  
William.  
Mary Briggs,  
Francenia,  
Letitia,  
Sarah Ann,  
Theodore.  
Benjamin Buckman,  
Amos,  
Ellwood,  
Elizabeth,  
Howard,  
John,  
Levi,  
Martha,  
Margaret,  
May,  
Mary Ann,  
Samuel.

C  
Beulah Cary,  
Ann,  
Elizabeth,  
Joseph,  
Joshua,  
Robert,  
Sarah,  
Silas.  
Isaac Cadwallader,  
Ann,  
Achsah,  
Deborah,  
Elizabeth,  
Isaac,  
Letitia,  
Samuel,  
Sarah,  
Thomas,  
William.  
Anna B. Case,  
Gulielma,  
John,  
Phillip,

Sarah.  
Stacy B. Clark.  
Elizabeth Closson,  
Mary,  
Mordecai.  
Abraham Cooper,  
Edward,  
Henry,  
John,  
Mahlon,  
Margaret,  
Marin.

D  
Jonathan Davis,  
Lydia,  
Norris,  
Sarah.

F  
William H. Fell.  
Mary Featherby,  
Mercy Ann.  
Sarah Furman,  
Susanna,  
William.

H  
Isaac W. Hicks,  
Elizabeth,  
Sarah B.,  
Daniel Hibbs,  
Albert,  
Oliver.  
Charles Hill.  
Kinsey Harvey,  
Jonathan,  
Mary.  
Elizabeth L. Hutchinson,  
Rebecca C.,  
William S.

I  
Nathan Ivis.

J  
William Jauney,  
Edward,  
Hannah,  
James,  
Joseph,  
Mahlon,  
Stephen.

K  
Adeline Knowls,  
Albert,  
Benjamin,  
Charles,  
Edward,  
Hannah,  
James,  
Mary,  
Rebecca,  
Ruth,  
Susan.

L  
Beulah E. T. Leedom,

M  
William Mahan,  
John.  
Charles Mitchell,  
Ann Eliza,  
Jonathan.  
Rebecca W. Moon,  
David,  
Edgar,  
Joseph,  
Samuel.  
Joseph W. Moore.  
P  
Alfred Palmer,  
Thomas Paste,  
Achsah,  
Albert,  
Beulah,  
Mary C.,  
Sarah.  
R  
Charles R. Roberts,  
Eliza Matilda

\* \* \* \* \*

A report signed by John Leedom and Stephen Twining refers with sorrow to those who have seen fit to withdraw from their meeting and states they will gladly yield them their property rights when they feel it their duty to return to the fold, a monetary proposition not likely to take with those who went out from the body of the meeting on conscientious grounds, even if they are promised to be "received with joy." It was three of these same people I have alluded to who, on a previous month, arose and left the monthly meeting, then in session at Malesfield at the suggestion of the committee of the



late Yearly Meeting appointed to visit the "separatists," as the "Hicksites" were termed, said committee claiming they had been driven out by the repellent conduct of those visited. On leaving they asked all to follow who favored their views. Those who left the meeting met under a tree as near the building as they could find one, doubtless acting under legal advice, and here was organized a second "Makefield Monthly Meeting." This adjourned to meet awhile at private houses, but its few members were afterwards attached to Falls Monthly Meeting. In the face of the overwhelming majority of their opponents, these few Friends deserve a full meed of credit for standing by their principles. "The groves were God's first temples," and these faithful ones, like the "two or three gathered together," must have thought "the tree as near the meeting house as convenient" a sacred fane. There was certainly a pathos about this gathering, so weak in numbers compared to the close-by antagonistic assemblage, which strikes even the unsentimental at this distance of time, but which seems to have been viewed with indifference by their opponents, who quietly went on with their routine business. Makefield was the only place in the Quarter where the conservatives did not effect a permanent organization.

Another paper is the report of a committee to formulate rules for funerals signed by William Taylor and Zephaniah Mahan. The first advised that invitations be mainly confined to near connections; the second against making needless provision in the way of eating and drinking, "as such indulgencies hurt the required solemnities of the occasion;" the third advises "plenty of seats to prevent unsettlement;" the fourth to guard against outside talking and to "promote prompt movements;" the fifth advises solemn pauses before and after lowering the coffin into the grave.

Another document bears on the aftermath of the separation. What was known

as the "Chesterfield suit" involved the possession of a school fund at Crosswicks, New Jersey, which the "Hicksite" branch held. In the long legal contest following and which developed great bitterness of feeling stress was laid on as to which body was endowed with the principles of the early Friends, such as Fox, Penn and Barclay. The court saw fit to charge the jury in such a way that the verdict went in favor of the Orthodox branch, who were given possession of the funds in dispute. The defeated party sunk \$5620 in the suit. As this loss was too much for those directly interested, and as there was a principle involved concerning the "Hicksites," that Yearly Meeting as a body came to their aid so far as earnestly recommending that the different Quarterly Meetings make assessments to aid the Friends of Chesterfield Monthly Meeting. The quota of Bucks Quarter was \$730. Up to 1834 only half of this had been paid in, Wrightstown having paid nothing. Solebury's quota, the least of any of the monthly meetings, had been all met, but \$16.

In 1831 Makefield Monthly Meeting had two recommended ministers—William Taylor, at Dolington, and Edward Hicks, at Newtown. The former died in 1831 and his memorial is among the ancient papers. He was the father of the late Elizabeth K. Eastburn, Sarah T. Carnea and Mary K. Taylor and kept the store at Dolington, his lameness from an injury by a horse preventing him from leading an active life. He was a neat penman, as evidenced by his minutes while monthly meeting clerk and his transcription of the long list of names of members in 1831 with this paper. His wife was Anna Kirkbride, a cousin to the wife of Joseph John Gurney. Edward Hicks was a prominent preacher as well as a painter of pictures of local appreciation, several specimens of his art being heirlooms on the walls of Newtown's old families.

It is of interest to note that the section of country from the latitude of Browns-

burg to that of Summerville (now Edgewood) and westward from the Delaware to the Neshaminy was solidly Friendly at the time of the establishment of Makefield Monthly Meeting. It was strictly an agricultural community, and twice a week, particularly on First-days, the seats of the two meeting houses at Makefield and Newtown would be filled with farmers and their families and the long rows of sheds with carriages and riding horses.

\* \* \* \* \*

And so endeth my summary of the contents of that ancient chest, which has passed from clerk to clerk since the setting up of Makefield Monthly Meeting, gradually growing from a few papers to so many that they became a responsibility and a care. These documents embodied the inwardness of the meeting in their different departments and recounting of the proposals, the inquiries as to fitness, and the consequent marriages for generations, the falling into temptations and forgiveness and disownment resulting therefrom, the admission of new members or the recommending of old ones to the Christian care of other meetings, the granting of minutes to resident ministers to travel outside the meeting's limits, and other matters. The paper written upon showed the economies and fashions of the times. Many scraps were no larger than a man's hand, but of portent to those mentioned thereon as was the bigness of a cloud; the earlier ones unlined and rough-surfaced and, up to 1850, inscribed with a quill pen. The committee of oversight, of which the writer of this was one, had a lengthened task, at which it did the best it knew by laying aside for preservation

those worthy of it and consigning to the fire the unworthy in their making liable to displeasure the descendants of the ones mentioned. What events have happened since the inditing of these papers in the world's history. The "French and Indian Wars," the war of the Revolution, the Napoleonic wars, that of 1812 and later on the Civil War, which so racked our country, had occurred, and yet to read those time-stained documents one would think there had been naught but peace in the world since these writings were minuted. There must have been "outgoings" in contravention of our peace teachings, but the papers seem oblivious to them. For one, as I saw the column after column showing membership to the meeting over 140 families, nearly all farmers, and whose holdings were contiguous over twenty square miles of surface, and thought for what they stood, I could not help but think that, if we had those solid people back again with their honest, unpretentious ways, their faithfulness to their meetings, to those in distress, and to life's duties generally, we might well forego modern innovating conveniences, with their accompanying social and political evils. Those were certainly halcyon days when Friends' Yearly Meeting was an epoch to date from and quarterly and monthly meetings only less noted from their proportionate frequency, and when over the broad lands of Makefield and Newtown townships, from the Delaware to the Neshaminy, there were amenities of life which fully compensated for the restraints undergone in the simple ways of living of those old-time Friends.



## WOMEN'S GROUP

Women's Group was founded February 1949. First minutes were taken at the fourth meeting on May 11, 1949.

Over the years this active group was involved in many projects, including collecting tons of clothing for AFSC for distribution abroad and yearly contributions to Friends Neighborhood Guild. Fairs provided seat cushions (costing \$1778.21 in 1955), furnishings in the annex, and kitchen equipment, such as dishes.

October Fete in 1950 - \$501.86.

Sept. 27 Fair, 1952, for money for cushions - \$558.34.

Oct. 3 Fair, 1953 - \$572.15.

June 1 Fair & Bazaar, 1957, for furnishings in annex - \$1232.37.

Extract from minutes of September 14, 1960, Barbara Walker, Secretary of the day:

"The business meeting was opened with a few moments of meditation. Nancy McFeely felt that we should know more about our meetinghouse and asked three people to give some of their early recollections. Martha Van Doren, one of the oldest attenders of Meeting, led off the discussion. She had joined in 1895 when the meetinghouse was divided into two sections by a partition, each section having its own pot-bellied stove. When George School was started they opened up the ceiling and used the upstairs. The lady speakers removed their bonnets carefully before speaking and often preached in a sing-songey voice. Martha later taught a young peoples' class in First Day School, some of her pupils being Maude Rice and George and Barnard Walton. The meeting started holding annual suppers as money-raising events--for the benefit of Friends Neighborhood Guild and American Friends Service Committee.

"Myrtle Kester came here in 1913. She was greatly interested in the suppers, took part in them and was later asked to be chairman for the group. She was always greatly impressed at how cooperative everyone was. They served as many as 500 people at one supper and it was never too long for anyone to wait their turn for the delicious meal of chicken salad, fried oysters, pickles and home-made cakes. Myrtle read the names of many people whom she remembered as active in the group.

"May Miller gave an account of the early trustees of the Meeting of which her husband Griffin was Treasurer for many years. Anna Fabian was the first Secretary, followed by Marion Richardson. Griffin gave a lengthy report to the meeting once a year explaining in detail how their funds were used. He was also put in charge of the Meetinghouse and grounds and stopped in most every day to check on things. He also did odd repairs himself whenever he could. He said:- "I cannot give hundreds of dollars to the Meeting but I can give of my time."



## Newtown Friends Meeting

Previous to the organization of a Friends Meeting at Newtown, the members of the Society of Friends living in, and adjacent to the town, belonged to the three older meetings of Falls, Middletown (Langhorne) and Wrightstown. It was mostly the custom to give them the name of the township in which they were located. They were particular to attend those meetings on midweek as well as on the Firstday of the week.

In 1815 Middletown Monthly Meeting granted Friends of Newtown the indulgence of holding a meeting for worship on the First and Third day of the week. Hence these meetings were known as Indulged Meetings. They had no organization or listed membership, but were under the care of the meetings granting the privilege to meet. It was usual for the indulged meetings to be held at the houses of the prominent Friends, and if the plan worked out all right, those attending were formed into a Preparative Meeting and attached to a nearby Monthly Meeting.

In the case of Newtown Friends, the meetings were held in the old unused stone Court house on Second Street, later named Court Street. This former hall of justice had stood there since 1726 when the county seat was moved from Bristol to Newtown. As the county seat was in 1813 moved to Doylestown the holding of meetings did not interfere with hold court or vice versa. The stone courthouse was later torn down and replaced with a frame building on the old foundation. Sometime after 1900 when the frame house had become quite delapidated it was replaced by a neat double frame house facing Court Street. It is adjacent to the old brick library building now known as the Hennessy Building.

In 1817 the indulged meeting was formed into a Preparative meeting and joined to Wrightstown Monthly Meeting. When Makefield Meeting was formed Newtown became a constituent thereof with Monthly Meetings held alternatively at each place. While the application of Newtown Friends to build a meeting house was not granted until 1817, and no record of the cost of the Meeting House is found in the Meeting minutes, it is known that the house was built in 1817. It was built on South Court Street on a lot bought of Dr. Phineas Jenks for \$ 460.00. The deed for the lot was not executed until First month 1st, 1818. The additional lots were bought later, one 50 x 75 ft. on 2 mo. 11, 1826 of Rebecca Winder, the other on 10 mo, 1st, 1862, 50 ft. wide running back to other meeting land. This was bought of the heirs of Lewis Trego for \$ 110.00.

Strange as it may seem no record of the cost of the Meeting House is found in the meeting minutes. This and the statement of Edward Hicks in his memoirs that seven rich Friends offered to build the house, leads us to conclude that it was built by private subscription. Edward Hicks moved to Newtown from Langhorne in 1811 having bought the house on Court Street next to Court Inn. He was active in having a meeting established in Newtown and the building of a place for worship. After the Meeting House was erected in 1817 Joseph Briggs was appointed to have the care of it at a salary of \$ 30.00 per year. This was later reduced to \$ 25.00 and then to \$ 20.00. A different rate of salary progress than of today. As near as can be ascertained there were about 45 families with 200 members composing the membership of the new meeting.

At a meeting on Third Month 1819 it was reported that the horse sheds we built. They were re-roofed in 1874 at a cost of \$ 417.00 which included some other repairs. In 1879 a new roof was put on the meeting house to replace the one put on 62 years before. In 1868 the portico was built, with stone flagging at a cost of \$ 400.00. The inside of the house was painted for the first time in 1889 at a cost of \$ 48.20, which would not pay for the paint today. In 1884 a new ingrain carpet was put on the floor. It was believed to be the



first one in Bucks Quarter. In 1893 new cushions were obtained and the seats painted. This was about the time George School was started and the attendance at meetings increased. The upper sections of the shutters between the two sides of the meeting were removed about this time. In 1894 for the first time joint meetings of men and women Friends were held.

The meeting house was built on the typical lines of most all Friends meetings, especially in the country i.e., facing South, with a division of sliding shutters between the men's and women's sides, for the women transacted their own business and kept their own minutes, there was a raised gallery for the ministers and elders on the North side. This was ceiled over to conserve the heat from the iron stoves.

As the coming of George School into the neighborhood increased the attendance at Firstday meetings, it became necessary to provide more seating space for the students and teachers, so shortly after the turn of the century the interior was remodeled. All of the partition was removed, and the second floor beyond the "well" and space over the gallery, floored over, the second floor ceiled and the walls plastered. Sliding glass windows were installed so that a view could be had of those sitting in the gallery seats ~~could be seen~~ and better heard by those sitting upstairs. The well was also extended to above the second story windows at this time. Sometime later folding partitions were installed to make additional Firstday School rooms. Of late years the students and teachers are not required to attend Firstday meetings, and the space could very well be used for Firstday School purposes.

As the custom of having Church suppers became popular for raising money for Friends Association, American Friends Service Committee and other charitable purposes as well as providing lunches for attenders to Quarterly Meeting and other gatherings, facilities must be provided for that purpose. Accordingly a well equipped kitchen was built on the east end over the porch. It contained an ample gas range, hot water boiler, sink and a goodly supply of cooking utensils and dishes. During the summer of 1952, further improvements were made by building on each side of the kitchen. A class room for the Firstday School, men's toilet room and a stairway to the new kindergarten room on first floor made by enclosing all of the east porch. A modern women's lavatory was also provided in the place of the old one.

Mention has previously been made in this article of the interest and efforts of Edward Hicks, the Quaker painter, in getting Newtown Meeting started. He was probably the most noted and outstanding member of the meeting during his lifetime. In those days if speakers in Friends Meetings were united with in their remarks, they became "recommended ministers" and were granted minutes to travel in "the ministry" to other states and across the seas. Edward did much of this kind of traveling to Meetings in the South, West and once to Canada. He was a cousin to Elias Hicks of Jericho, Long Island, whose preaching was largely responsible for the separation that took place in the Society in 1827.

In 1821 Edward Hicks built the stone dwelling on Penn Street opposite the end of Congress Street where his grand-daughter Sarah W. Hicks lived for many years. The shop in which he did his commercial and perhaps some of his pictorial painting was no doubt located on the ample grounds around this house. He died on Eighth Month 23rd, 1849 and was buried in the Meeting burial ground near a tree he had planted as a sapling many years before.

Not until recent years has Edward Hicks been accorded the recognition he deserved as a Primitive Painter. He was considered an adept in the mixing of colors, as the durability of his painting show and their freedom from crazing. While his pictorial work gives him the reputation as a painter,



his sign and carriage painting provided the living for him and his family.

A short sketch of the ancestry of Edward Hicks might be interesting to be included in these meeting notes, since he was so active in the starting of Newtown Meeting, and prominent in its ministry. The family was descended from Robert Hicks who landed at Plymouth Nov. 11, 1621, in the ship Fortune which followed the Mayflower. He settled at Duxbury, Mass. and died at an advanced age. His sons John and Stephen joined a company that bought and settled land about Hempstead and Flushing, Long Island in 1642. Stephen settled at Little Neck and died without issue. John settled at Hempstead and from him are descended the large family of that name on Long Island and other parts of the country. He was active in the affairs of the young colony, as was his son Thomas. This Thomas had two sons, Thomas and Jacob. Jacob Hicks was the father of Elias Hicks the famous preacher whose discourses created the controversy that led to the separation in 1827. Thomas Hicks the brother of Jacob was the first judge of Queens county. Isaac Hicks the eldest son of Judge Hicks by a second marriage, married and was the father of eleven children. His fourth son, Gilbert Hicks was the first Hicks to come to Bucks County. He married Mary Rodman and settled first in Bensalem, later moving to Four Lanes End, now Langhorne and built what is part of the Parry Building. While opposed to the treatment of her colonies by England, he was not ready to withdraw from her, so became very unpopular and had to flee to Nova Scotia, where in 1786 he was waylaid and killed by a highwayman.

Gilbert Hicks oldest son, Isaac married his first cousin Catherine Hicks daughter of Col. Edward Hicks. It was the youngest child of this couple, Edward, born 4 mo, 2nd, 1780 who became the noted painter and minister. His mother having died when he was only 1½ years old he was brought up by David Twining and wife who lived on a farm adjoining Newtown. Two brothers died in childhood and a sister was drowned near her home in 1817. Another brother named Gilbert Edward became a prominent physician at Catawissa, Pa. In 1803 our Edward married Sarah Worstall who died 12 mo, 30th, 1855. There were four children: Mary died unmarried, Elizabeth, married Richard Plummer, and was a noted Friends minister, Sarah B. married Isaac Parry of Warminster, and Isaac who married Sarah Penrose. They had three children whom many of us remember, Sarah W., Edward P. and William P. Sarah never married. Edward P. married Lily Barnsley and had a daughter Mary. William P. married Nellie Brown, and had Hannah B. now Lee, and Cornelia, unmarried. Thus the old families grow smaller and die out.

NOTE: The above history dated December 12, 1952 was received from Edna Pearson, who believes it was compiled by Harry Van Horn. The following should be noted concerning the history as written above:

1. Page 1, paragraph 2 - Wrightstown Meeting also approved in 1815 Newtown Friends forming an indulged meeting.
2. Page 1, paragraph 5 - Edward Hicks moved to Newtown in 1811 from Milford (now Hulmeville), not Langhorne.
3. Page 2, para. 1 - *Joint meetings of men and women friends were held in Dec. 1892 for the first time.*

Lois C. Mammel  
August 1976



K  
HISTORY OF THE FIRST-DAY SCHOOLS IN BUCKS QUARTER

COPY

Circa 1910 - by Robert H. Kenderdine

In 1888 there was a history of the First-day Schools in our Quarter read before one of our Unions by the late Isaac Eyre which I have before me accompanied by the data from which it is compiled. This information was collected by the persistent correspondence peculiar to Friend Eyre when he had a laudable object in view. There are ten reports, some very brief and not showing the enthusiasm which the enquirer manifested, in many cases. There were two schools unreported, Plumstead and Penns Manor while Fallsington seems to have been overlooked, though on file. In this history I will not follow that report, but base my paper on the same data which furnished the original, together with what I have learned personally. I find a few errors, and add one school, the John M. George, which was instituted since the first report.

I will give the schools in rotation based on precedence.

FALLSINGTON

The pioneer First-day School of which I have any record was at this place. The account is written on a scrap of paper, unsigned, and in Isaac Eyre's history it is unnoticed. It states that the School was started in 1865 under depressing conditions on account of so many Friends being opposed to it. The writer adds "But being prompted by an impulse of duty, and encouraged by some of the older members, among whom was our dear friend and wise counsellor, Elizabeth Comfort, who, although she did not take a very active part, was a great strength, engaged in it, and tried to impress upon the minds of the children that the lessons learned there would be useful to them in after life. The school was commenced with few in attendance and a small library, but the number soon increased, and it became lively and interesting and so continued until the spring of 1869, when the Penns Manor School was opened which took some of the teachers and scholars from us. One great loss coming from this transfer was Elizabeth Comfort, who, assisted by Mark and Louisa Wright, started the Manor School. From this time the Fallsington School became smaller and smaller, and was finally discontinued for want of teachers and others interested to carry it on."

The School was afterwards opened and re-opened from time to time, and finally merged into a Bible School, and this is for the present at least, laid down, the last Superintendent, Anna Comfort, being away, and no one left being disposed to carry the remnant of the school on.

YARDLEYVILLE

The second is the Yardley, or Yardleyville School, as called then, and as given by Lettie W. Twining on 7-30-1888. She says that on 1866 or 1867, 25 or 30 children, mostly Friends, were gathered together for the purpose of starting a First-day School, and where Susan J. Cadwallader was made Superintendent, and they met in private houses until the meeting house was built, and was kept up till 1883. Lydia was also one of the chief promoters of the organization of the School which increased until the number of members reached 100, although the children of Friends were few in comparison. By 1883 there were but two or three of these re-



maining, and discouraged by the death of some of the active workers, the removals of others and the attractions of the Sunday Schools in the town, a reaction occurred and Yardleyville First-day School as constituted at the start was of the past, but in 1885, through the efforts of Sarah B. Knowles, a Bible Class was started.

#### NEWTOWN

This was organized in the parlor of Dr. Lettie A. Smith, on Court Street Newtown on 6-29-1867, she being selected as the first Superintendent. There were two classes of children, 14 in all, of whom 5 were Friends, and an adult class of 6 or 8, all of that Society, with Dr. Benjamin Smith as leader. The number of members so increased that roomier quarters were needed, and, permission being granted, the meeting-house was then used, Lettie A. Smith continuing in charge. The Superintendents following up to 1888, were Barclay J. Smith, Susan Buckman, Lizzie H. Kenderdine, Elizabeth E. Smith and Anna T. Cernea. The School increased until 1880 when there was on one day 105 in attendance, and an average of 72. The writer remembers that in 1878 the count was for a few sessions up to near the 100 mark under the leadership of B. J. Smith. He was, whatever his failings, devoted to his meeting and First-day School. In the last few years the average had much diminished, say down to 40 or 50, although the sessions, instead of being dropped in the Fall and Winter, have been continuous.

#### WRIGHTSTOWN

On 7-30-1888, Evalina Sackett writes that in the summer of 1869, with Mary H. Atkinson as Superintendent, Wrightstown First-day School was started with 90 pupils and 7 teachers. The Superintendency was afterwards held by Evalina S. Sackett, Merciana Merrick, Aaron Twining and Clara A. Krusen. By 1888 there was an enrollment of 125, with much interest shown. Perhaps the largest attendance was while Cynthia S. Holcomb was in charge, when, considering the distance traveled, it was phenomenal, and that the School was in a strictly rural neighborhood. Perhaps the novelty of riding on bicycles, a mode of travel just then coming up, caused some of the interest; there being sometimes 20 of these vehicles in sight. This seems a strange reason for the large growth of the school at a particular time but it has been given, and it is about as consistent a religious incentive as a brob-nigagian organ or a high-priced church choir. The growth named was despite the unreasonable opposition of certain ones high in the meeting who conscientiously thought that the occupancy of the meeting-house by the First-day School would be its desecration, so that perforce the narrow quarters of the Friends' school house had to be used, and where isolation of the classes was almost impossible. How much these objectors did on their side towards forwarding the interests of the meeting, numerically or spiritually, is not stated, but, judging by what was done elsewhere, it was infinitesimal. But these Conservatives had one legitimate grievance. This was that the pupils, instead of showing practical results of the First-day School movement, by remaining to attend meeting, got on their bicycles or into their carriages and hied away to their homes as soon as their School was out. The School has much fallen off in these later days, but this is from no ceasing of work or interest in the workers, but from a religious obsession generally prevailing and seemingly unpreventable.



### Present status

Lydia M. C. Thompson is the Superintendent. Last year there were 69 pupils on the rolls, with an average attendance of 28. Last year the School was in session from 4th Mo., 17th to 10th mo., 23d. The School will open this year the 3d First-day in the 5th Mo. and continue six months.

### LANGHORNE

Or Attleboro First-day School, as Isaac prefers to call it, much objection having been made by the old residents of that Borough to changing the name to Langhorne, was started on 2nd month, 1870. There was opposition manifested to the starting of this School by the Conservative Friends, the same as there was at Wrightstown and Fallsington, and for the same reason, or lack of it. Robert Ivins was the first Superintendent, and was followed by Jona. W. Gillam, Pierson Mitchell, Edwd. Wildman, Jeremiah Whitson and John Wildman up to 1888. The attendance was some 60 at the start, but the number grew smaller as the years wore on. This weakening was caused by a growing indifference and the deaths of the most interested. Besides this the leaving of so many for their homes about the time for the commencement of the First-day School instead of staying for its help, and their disparaging demeanor generally was a dampener on the numerical success of the School. The start of the Edgewood School soon after the beginning of the Langhorne, and taking away some of the principal workers caused some discouragement. There was no school in the County where there were so many of the prominent and influential members of the meeting took so much interest in the First-day School connected therewith. I will name John Wildman, Pierson Mitchell, Jona. W. Gillam, Robert Ivins, Palmer Rich, Blakey Bunting, Barclay Knight and the women of their households.

Present status - Superintendent, Edward Palmer; number of members on rolls, 53; 34 of these are members of Friends, and 11 have one parent a member. The average attendance last year was 31; School in session, 9 months. This is the only endowed First-day School; having had a bequest of \$100 left it by the late Mary Wildman.

### BUCKINGHAM

First-day School was organized in 5th Month, 1870, Ann Eliza Smith acting as Superintendent. The teachers in 1877 were Mary K. Taylor, Letitia S. Gilbert, Carrie Watson, Fanny J. Smith, Elizabeth Lloyd and Evan T. Worthington. In that year there were 114 pupils on the rolls; 70 children and 44 adults, 10 of whom were members of Friends. The average attendance was 69. From the last date a decline set in, until by 1887 the average was but 43, although those in membership with Friends had increased to 20. The Superintendents in succession after Ann Eliza Smith, who had eight terms, were Fanny J. Smith, three terms, Emma Fell and Huldah A. Pearson, each one year, and Martha Smith five years; the last in office in 1888. In that year there were 91 pupils enrolled, with an average attendance of 35. I have been unable to get the present condition of this School, although I wrote for it. P.S. Since learned that Marion Eastburn is Superintendent, the enrolment is 68 and average attendance is 35.



## EDGEWOOD

First-day School was started in the 2nd month, 1870 at the home of James Palmer. The School met at the homes of the different families interested for a while, and afterward convened in the Friends' school house at Edgewood, which was in 1874. Barclay Knight was the first Superintendent, and was the leader of the Adult Class. The other teachers were Hannah R. Flowers and Jane Knight. The School went on until 1883, when, from various causes it went down. During its existence there were 170 pupils on its rolls.

Among the responses to Isaac Eyre's enquiries there was no one who showed more interest than Blakey Bunting, the correspondent from Edgewood. The letter was several pages in length and evinced much religious feeling and concern for the welfare of the Society he represented and hopes for the good that the First-day Schools would do for it, although regretting their failures in some quarters. He showed that he was a type of Friend who could mingle with his society zeal a readiness to adopt modern methods of religious work to further the numerical and spiritual growth of Friends. The closing part of his communication is pathetic in the acknowledgement of failure after all possible efforts had been made to make Edgewood School a success. I visited the School a few years before it was closed and found the interest manifested gratifying. The Palmer, Flower, Rich, Bunting and Knight families were the prominent factors in the support of Edgewood First-day School.

## BRISTOL

First-day School comes next in order. Emma R. Burton writes that it was started in 1872. Ashael Troth, of Camden, after a religious meeting at that place, earnestly urged the movement. Dr. George W. Adams was the first Superintendent. The growth of this School was wonderful. With 212 on the roll for three years the average attendance was 117. On one day there were 158 scholars present. Nearly all the churches of the town were represented, the Methodists being the most numerous. Alarmed at the growth of the Friends' school, and seeing in its teachings something which <sup>impeded</sup> ~~bar~~ the progress of Christianity, one of the ministers began denouncing the Quaker Sabbath School. This was done with the conscientious feeling which hung the followers of Fox on Boston Common and lashed women preachers at the cart-tail from one province to another in Connecticut. This kind of opposition had little effect at first bringing the average to 72 in 1876, but reaching to 110 two years later. At this time Caroline S. Wood was Superintendent, she being followed by Ellen Warner, the average under the last keeping up to 95. Then came a noted antagonistic church keeping up its unchristian abuse, so that the children connected with that organization mainly withdrew. The Superintendents and teachers for the first ten years, with three exception, were Friends. The time coming when the children of our Society had almost quit attending the school, and the thankless efforts of withstanding the tide of active opposition, the death of some of the workers in the School, and the indifference of others who should have helped, caused the laying down of Bristol School in 1883.

Bristol First-day School was revived in 1887 with an average attend-



ance of 25, a pitifully small showing when compared with what it was in the height of its prosperity. In this revival one half of the number were Friends. In its rise and fall this First-day School was an anomaly. Present status: This is discouraging. There are but from two to six in attendance in a Bible Class, which is seldom up to the higher number. Some of these think it would be better to close the School altogether. Mary H. Iredell is in charge of this remnant of a once prosperous School.

#### MAKEFIELD

First-day School was organized in 5th Month, 1871. Samuel C. Cadwallader was the first Superintendent. The first year the average was 40, about one half being members, and both interest and numbers have been well kept up. This School has shown more continuous strength than any of the rest, although the losses by death and removals have been great. The School has done much towards holding the meeting together, and has been the means of gaining a good percentage of increase. Present status: Superintendent, Emma D. Eyre, number on roll, 65, average attendance 45. Session continues throughout the year.

#### DOYLESTOWN

First-day School, Ellen E. Hart writes, was started in 4th Month, 1873 with 39 members, 20 of them being adults. Benjamin Smith was the first Superintendent, and acted as such until 1876, when he was followed in succession by Henry T. Darlington, Ellen D. Smith, Allen J. Flitcraft, Mary H. Atkinson and Ellen E. Hart. For some years before 1888 there was no adult class, during which time the average number of children was up to the good average of 40. The School was laid down for a while, but has been again revived with an adult class lead by Harry J. Shoemaker. There is an average attendance of some 15 members, the highest being about 20. They are adults, and their studies are an alternation of the Discipline and the Psalms, as has been the case for the last two years. This plan is so interesting that the class is enthusiastic in its work. The class is in session nine months.

#### SOLEBURY

First-day School was organized in the 8th Month, 1873, with Hugh B. Eastburn as Superintendent, under the auspices of a committee from the general Union at the head of which was Louisa J. Roberts. One of the committee was Robert Eastburn of the Yardleyville School, which was in such prosperous condition at that time that it felt itself in position to encourage a new School. I recollect that Robert made a short address to those gathered. Bearing in mind the desire of humanity to go the easy way, he suggested to those who did not wish to share in the labors of the School that they might sit under the shade of the trees in the meeting house yard and converse on secular subjects until the session was ended and the workers in the inside vineyard, whom they brought to meeting, were ready to go home. There were no Lesson Leaves to help the School along at the start, and the first-aid text books were Jane Johnson's "Questions and Answers", "Cowdray's Moral Lessons" and "The Childs' Book of Nature". In the general session "Devotional Poems" were read in concert. During the closing period a chapter from the bible was read res-



ponsively in a somewhat of a churchly manner, a procedure which was not kept up. The Superintendents following the first incumbent were Sarah Jane Reeder, Eastburn Reeder, Joseph B. Roberts and Huldah P. Mattison; the last in 1888. I have a list of 20 teachers who served up to the date named. The members of Solebury Meeting, who did not take part in the School, were noted for remaining with it until it was through with its labors, so that Robert Eastburns suggestions made at the inception of the School were not taken advantage of, which was "greatly to their credit", as was remarked in "Pinafore."

The School started with 63 pupils, 15 being members. For 25 years, in order to suit the majority, some saying that they would cease attendance if the early hour of nine was to be continued for the assemblage of the School, and others saying they would not come if the sessions were held after meeting, a compromise was concluded on, through which the meeting would be shortened to a half or three quarters of an hour, and the gained time, if it could be called such, would be added to that of a succeeding session of the First-day School, and still allow those from a distance leisure to get home at a seasonable hour. To do this, the "head of the meeting", sometimes but one man, in this case, would announce the hour of adjournment from the religious service to that of the First-day School, the two sessions being practically but one. Eastburn Reeder held for years this solitary position, and after him came Joseph B. Simpson. Having been for two years a part of this School and occasionally making it visits, enables me to dwell more at length on its history.

This is the present status of this School - Superintendent, Acsah L. Hurley; number enrolled, 70; average attendance 35; months in session 5 (middle of May to the middle of October) but adult class the whole year.

I have since learned that there was a small School at the New Hope or Lambertville meeting, which continued as an adult class till the meeting went down about two years ago.

#### PENN'S MANOR

First-day School was started about 1869, but not to a certainty, information being scant from deaths among its promoters. This was a few years after the start, or rather the re-opening of the ancient meeting, which had been silent for years. As a sort of an "Holy Experiment" after the nature of William Penn's, the venerable Elizabeth Comfort and Mark and Louisa Wright, inaugurated this with such success that a First-day School followed, and was kept up for some 20 years, despite the isolation of the locality. Louisa Wright was the Superintendent until she moved away about 1885, and the teachers, so far as known were Amos Ellis, Catherine Robbins, and Anna M. Crozier. The average of the attendance was about 35 or 45, or about the same as the meeting, those attending the last generally taking part in the exercises of the School. The time since the School has been in being has been so long it is difficult to get much data in reference to the subject of this sketch. It had the same part in the program filling of other School taking its turns in being the meeting place of the Unions, sending delegates and the like. The associations connected with the place, and the rise of the School with such good prospects, and the subsidence of both School and meeting into almost forgetfulness, are interesting and pathetic conditions. After the departure of the Wrights, a few of the faithful ones endeavored



to keep both the First-day School and meeting in being, but it was but for a short time. After Louisa Wright left there was no speaker at the meetings for worship, which of course had somewhat to do with the laying down of the Meeting.

#### PLUMSTEAD

First-day School was organized in 1876 with Ezra Michiner as Superintendent, followed by Wesley Halderman for the next five years when his sister Halderman, acted in that capacity until the close of the School in 1883. Despite the fact the neighborhood was distinctly rural, and almost abandoned by Friends, there was an enrolment of 100 pupils, with an average attendance of near that figure for two or three years afterwards. But the School from the adverse surrounding went down as fast as it arose, and like that at Penn's Manor, is but a painful memory for those interested in the success of the First-day movement.

#### GEORGE SCHOOL

The First-day School connected with this institution was inaugurated along with the School in 1895, and with its numerical backing has outclassed the other First-day Schools of the Quarterly Meeting, average from 150 to 200 members, according to the attendance at the School. The Principals of the George School have been the Superintendents until the past three years when Belle Van Sant, one of the Faculty has acted in that capacity. At first the Superintendency was held by George F. Maris and after him was Joseph S. Walton. The teachers were also from the Faculty.

Until recently this First-day School was under the charge of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, from its affiliates therewith, but at present it is connected with Makefield Monthly Meeting. From convenience of attendance this School furnishes nearly one half the average of the Bucks County First-day Schools.

#### SUMMARY

From the foregoing I make the Following Summary, without the suggestive comment, leaving my hearers to form their own conclusions.

There were at different times within our limits 14 Schools and an aggregate membership of 1000, with an average attendance of 700, but there were never more than 12 Schools in being at one time. Quakertown, New Jersey, was the only meeting unrepresented in the Union, although efforts were made to form a School there.

The largest School was Bristol with it 212 scholars on the rolls, but now nearly run its course. Makefield and Solebury, considering their rural surroundings, have the nearest held their own, both numerically and as to fulness of interest, particularly the former.

There are now 7 Schools, half the original number, besides two Bible or Adult Classes. One of these is at Doylestown, which, although religiously isolated, is quite active. The other is at Bristol, now so weak that it is likely to be laid down.

The present number on the rolls is about 700, with an average attendance of about 400, the George School furnishing over one third of this.

Newtown and Makefield hold sessions throughout the year. The organization of Bucks County mainly occurred between the years 1868 and 1873, and they were at the height of their prosperity around 1880.