Birmingham Meeting House in 1777 (Photograph of an Etching)
Birmingham Meeting House (Photograph of a Recent Etching by Daniel Garber, N. A.)
Two Hundred Fifty Years of Quakerism at Birmingham

1690 - 1940

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DEDICATION

THIS volume is dedicated to the sacred memory of those Quaker pioneers whose labors have created a heritage which we, their descendants, are humbly attempting to maintain.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE Publication Committee hereby expresses their appreciation to the Department of Records, 302 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.; to the Friends' Historical Library, Swarthmore, Pa.; to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa.; and to the custodians of meeting records in West Chester and elsewhere for free access to records and cooperation in securing information. But, most particularly their debt of gratitude goes out to the Chester County Historical Society, without whose liberal advice and suggestions and cooperation and free access to records in their custody, many of the facts contained in the covers of this book could not have been recorded.

The picture of the 1704 House (home of William Brinton) was taken from the original painting of the 1704 House which is owned by the heirs of the late Dr. John Hill Brinton of Philadelphia, Pa. The original painting of the Meeting House by Franz de Merlier is the property of Mary H. Brinton, Homestead Farm, Thornbury. Both of these were made available through the courtesy of Dr. Christian Brinton, "Quarry House", Birmingham, Pa. The photograph of the etching by Daniel Garber was obtained through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall D. Strode, West Chester, Pa.
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FOREWORD

THIS book is not to be considered as a polished literary product, but rather represents an effort to collect and collate, from scattered sources, historical data which intimately reveal the rich history associated with the beginning and developments of Birmingham Meeting. It is to be expected that an organization such as this Meeting, which has been functioning for the past two hundred and fifty years, would leave an indelible imprint upon the life and activities of its community. The abundant fulfillment of this expectation is in store for lovers of history who may peruse these pages.

A debt of gratitude and an expression of appreciation are due Helen Wood Shortlidge, West Chester, Pa., for her untiring efforts and continuous enthusiasm in collecting and organizing the contents of this book. Special mention should be made of the service which she has rendered in making more accessible valuable historical excerpts from the early meeting minutes.

In the paper depicting the character of the early citizens of Chester County, Dr. William T. Sharpless, West Chester, Pa., presents an intimate and delightfully entertaining picture of the daily lives and concerns of the ancestors of many people still living in the County.

After reading these pages, perhaps some individuals will have more patience, appreciation, and respect for the way in which meeting minutes are still recorded. At least, the minutes of the past contain and reveal information of historical value which otherwise would have been entirely lost.

ARTHUR E. JAMES.
CHAPTER I

THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY MEETING AS REVEALED BY THE MINUTES

"CHICHESTER MONTHLY MEETING being Called It being moved to this meeting that Concord firstdays meeting be Every fourth firstday at William Brantons in Burningham, beginning the 23 day of this month, al also the fourth day following if sd meeting think fitt this to Continue till further order."

One can almost hear the clerk of the Chester Quarterly Meeting, as he reads the above minute, at its session held on the third day of 9th month 1690. Unfortunately, history does not record for posterity the clerk's identity. This is the earliest mention on the minutes of any meeting of an attempt to hold Firstday meetings for religious worship in, what is now, Birmingham Township, but then "back in the woods" of Chester County.* But, even before this date, as early as 1687, sessions of Concord Monthly Meeting had been held on week days at the "cabin" of William Brinton. In those days it was customary to hold such sessions at the homes of certain members and once or twice a year Friends journeyed through the woods and over the Indian trails to the aforesaid cabin.

And now a few facts are in order relative to William "Branton", or Brinton, as it was later written. In the summer of 1684 the Brinton family, who had emigrated from England the previous year, arrived at their grant of 400 acres. They appear to have been the first white settlers in the district which was to be named by them "Brummagen", or "Bromidgam" or "Birmingham" — so called for the home district in England,— a name which signifies the ham or home of the descendants of Boerm, a Saxon chief. The family consisted of William and his wife, Ann (Bagley), their seventeen-year-old son William, and perhaps their two daughters, Elizabeth and Esther. Another daughter, Ann, and her husband, John Bennett, who had been married in England, followed the parents to America in 1685 and settled upon an adjoining property.

Here at Birmingham the Brintons were not disturbed by religious

*The site of this cabin was on the property now owned by Isaac Sherwood, located one mile north of Painter's Cross Roads.
persecution. But a more primeval persecution pursued them—cold and hunger. During that first winter they lived in a cave and doubtless would have starved had not friendly Indians brought them food. During the second year the Brintons built a cabin, the location of which can still be seen.

Other settlers soon followed this pioneering family—the Thatchers, Webbs, Dix or Dicks, Gilpins, Freeds, Chads and many others settled in the Birmingham community.

In 1684, as William Brinton passed through Philadelphia, he presented certificates of membership from Dudley Monthly Meeting, England, dated 1683. The nearest meeting to the new Birmingham settlement in 1684 was that at Chichester, which had just been established. To attend this meeting meant a journey of at least ten miles, over uncertain trails through the woods, and must have taken nearly half a day. A very considerable amount of time must have been consumed in these journeys, for not only was there the Firstday meeting but also the weekday meeting, held usually on Fourth or Fifth days. In addition to these weekly meetings, there were the Monthly and the Quarterly Meetings. Each of these necessitated a journey to Chichester until 6th month 2nd, 1685, after which for a time they were held alternately at Concord and at Chichester. Since William Brinton was one of the attenders of this meeting his name frequently appears on the minutes. “At A Monthly Meeting Held at Concord ye 5th of ye 6th month 1686” we find the following minute: “this meeting takes into their serious consideration ye thinnes of our monthly meeting by reson of our new settlemt and some being backward this meeting orders yt those whose names are under written to attend ye monthly meeting for some time here weare few or none.” The first one named is “Will Branton”. At this time the Monthly Meeting seemed to move from house to house. Between 1687 and 1692 the minutes indicate that Monthly Meeting had been held on ten different occasions at William Brinton’s in Birmingham. This circulation of the Monthly Meeting continued until “3 mo. 1711” when it again alternated between Chichester and Concord. This continued until “7 mo. 12th 1729”, when at the insistence of the Birmingham Friends, it was held for the last time at Chichester.

As the settlements in Birmingham became thicker and the population increased, it is likely that the Friends began to think of a meeting of their own, in order to obviate the journey to Concord. We have no way of knowing whether such a request was presented to the Chester Quarterly Meeting, now Concord, for no mention of it is made on the minutes. Judging from the slowness in which changes were made in meeting affairs in those days, it is probable that considerable agitating
was done before we come to the "minute" quoted at the beginning of this history.

So official permission was given for a Firstday meeting at Birmingham. Prior to this date there may have been, and perhaps there were, meetings held in homes of the members in the community when it was unsafe to travel to Concord. This official meeting was to be held twice a month at William Brinton's cabin on the fourth Firstday of every month and the following Fourth day. The first official meeting, therefore, was on the 23rd of the 9th month, which, according to the old style calendar, would be our 11th month, since the year then began in March.* The marriage of William Brinton, Jr., and Jean Thatcher occurred "at a meeting in Bunningham" 10th mo. 9th, 1690.

The following minute of the 14th of 5th month 1694 indicates that there was a desire for more meetings at Birmingham: "The business referr'd to this meeting concerning another meeting at Bromidgan this meeting thinkes fitt it should continew at present as it is." We do not know why the Monthly Meeting was loth to grant this request. It may have been prompted by the fear that valuable members would be lost to the parent meeting or that they considered the Birmingham Friends were not experienced enough to conduct a meeting.

On the Monthly Meeting minutes there was no indication of this undercurrent of feeling. The minutes at this time were taken up with the disturbing element of George Keith, who almost disrupted the meeting. Among his followers were William Brinton and his wife. On the minutes of Concord Monthly Meeting under the date of "ye 13th of ye 12th mo. 1692" we find the following: "The friends ordered Last meeting to spake with William Branton Reports yt he said he should not come to the meeting—friends—Waitly considering his state and condition and in brotherly Love his soul: Doth order too friends to go to him again to order him to appear at ye nixt monthly meeting and there to Lay his exceptions—why he absents himself from meetings."

"The 10th of 2nd mo. 1693. William Branton not apearin nor gives no satisfaction to this meeting ye meeting haveing a sence of his condition being very Dangerous & also his absenting from meetings & have of some of ye love of god upon our harts Which reaches forth onto him wards for his restoration & unity with us in ye blessed truth of our Lord Jesus Christ which was sensibly in joy in these our meet­ings: doth order four friends hearunder named to go to him & soon to win him to ye truth and friends thearin if possible—and if he remain

*The early dates mentioned in the meeting minutes are based on the old style calendar which continued until 1751 inclusive.
Tu'O Hundrtd fifty l'ears of Quakerism al Birmingham

"ye 8th of ye 3 mo, 1693. The friends ordered Last meeting to go to Will Branton reports to this meeting yt after some time of waiting upon ye Lord having a good measure of the sense of the love of god upon their harts spake unto him & after some time of labor and travel with him found him somewhat pliable & so—willing to bear with him for his soul sak—did not order him to yt Quarterly Meeting."

If Concord Meeting still continued to meet once a month in Birmingham, it evidently ceased that practice in 1695, as the following minute will testify: 9th mo. 4th, 1695 "Chichester monthly meeting being called it was agreed that Concord meeting which was moveable be now fixed at the new meeting house." This was the Concord Meeting House.

William Brinton evidently profited by this labor on his behalf for in 1695, in 1696 and in 1697 we find it recorded that he was again an attender at the sessions of the Monthly Meeting; and in 1698 was appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting. Two more minutes will close the account of this difficulty with William Brinton:

"ye 14th of ye 6th mo. 1699: William Brinton sent a paper to this meeting to Condemn himself for going to George Keith's meeting: It being of Long date and not being required of him by friends of this meeting: But After a Consideration This meeting orders Robert Pyle, George Pearce, Nicolas Pyle & Thomas King to spake to him, to know the Reason & Cause of this paper being brought at this time And Make Report thereof to the Next Monthly Meeting." And again: "ye 9th of ye 8th mo. 1699: William Brinton appeared at this Meeting and After some Debate Concerning his paper which he sent to this meeting of Condemning himself for going to G K meeting; This meeting Expresses as satisfaction for his going to the Seperates meeting, But not as Relating to his Testimony."

After 1694 the minutes are silent as to whether any meetings were held at William Brinton's. It is doubtless a satisfaction to some of his descendants that William Brinton was in good standing with his meeting at the time of his death which occurred in 1700.

By 1704 new names appear on the minutes. Under date of 8th month 9th 1704 we find this minute: "John Bennett and Elizabeth Webb in the behalf of friends, Inhabitants of the uper part of burningham and brandiwine Creek with the advice of the preparative meeting of Concord did Request of this meeting that they might have a meeting att John Bennets house this winter time because of their farr Living from Concord meeting house this meeting well waying and Considering for the
Ease of friends and service of truth did agree and Conclude with the advice of the quarterly meeting the first meeting to be the third first day in the 9th month and so Every other first day untill the second first day in the first month following and also Every fifth day following Except that fifth day which the preparative meeting is held att Concord, and then to meet together as usuall."

John Bennett has already been mentioned as the son-in-law of William Brinton, the elder, having been married in England to his daughter Ann. He was the first constable of the newly organized township of Birmingham in 1685.

The Brintons and other Birmingham Friends continued to be attenders at Concord, for in 1697, when Concord Meeting House, a frame building, was erected, we find the following subscribers contributing to the expense: William Brinton, Sr., William Brinton, Jr., Richard Thatcher, Peter Dix, and John Bennett.

Elizabeth Webb, referred to in the above minute, had been under the care of a chaplain of Queen Anne in England but felt that the church people she knew laid off their religion when they got off their knees. After her conversion to Quakerism and her marriage to Richard Webb, she visited the colonies. At the Quarterly Meeting 6th mo. 31st, 1697, held at Tetsbury, County of Gloucester, England, she received a certificate which was later presented by her to Philadelphia Monthly Meeting on the occasion of a religious visit. In 6th mo. 27th, 1700 the Quarterly Meeting at Nailsworth, England gave Richard Webb and his family a certificate, which they presented to Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. A deed dated 2nd mo. 25th, 1712 was granted to Richard Webb for 415 acres of land in Birmingham Township. Elizabeth's name first appears on the minutes of Concord Monthly Meeting in 3rd mo. 8th, 1704 as follows: "Elizabeth Webb Requested of this meeting to give her a few lines of her Conversation since she have been amongst us for the seventh day's meetings of ministering friends att Philadelphia and according to her Request it was Granted."

Although the Webbs had land in Chester County and doubtless lived there, they seem not to have moved their certificates from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting until 1710, as is evidenced by the following minutes of 2nd mo. 5th, 1710: "Elizabeth Webb appeared at this Meeting and Signified her Intention of going to Visit friends in ould England and desired the Consent & approbation of this Meeting & also She desired a Certificate this meeting upon due & solid consideration appoints George Pearce Nicholas Pyle and John Lea to draw up a Certificate for & bring it to the next meeting." This request was granted at the next meeting.
6th mo. 5th, 1710: "Richard Webb produced a certificate for himself and family from the meeting at Philadelphia held the 12th of the 4th mo, 1710. This meeting receiving recommendations of Elizabeth Webb from Philadelphia meeting in the year 1704 her Husband and Children not being mentioned although desired by them the sd Richard and his wife requested this meeting that it might not yet be recorded at present giving us some Expectation of obtaining a Joynt Certificate from them in Respect to their request it was forbom until this meeting whereunto the sd Richard Webb produced a Joynt Certificate from Philadelphia meeting which this meeting orders to be Recorded."

The reason for dwelling so long on William Brinton and Elizabeth Webb is because they are indelibly connected with the early history of Birmingham.

Thus meetings were held the winter of 1704 at the home of John Bennett by permission of Chester Quarterly Meeting as per the minute of that body under date of 9th mo. 6th, 1704: "Chichester Monthly meeting being called the friends appointed to attend this meeting produced an application from their monthly meeting for to have a meeting at John Bennett's every other first and fifth days, except that week the preparative meeting is at Concord, for this winter Season, the first to be the 3d firstday in the 9th month, and Continue untill the Second firstday in the first Month next, which this meeting approves off."

A similar request was made in the Monthly Meeting minutes of 8th mo. 8th, 1705: "John Bennett Requests of this meeting that the meeting may be att his house as it was Last winter this meeting assented to it and Leaves it to the approbation of the Quarterly Meeting."

And the accompanying Quarterly Meeting minute: 9th mo. 5th, 1705: "The friends of Burningham make application by the Consent of their Monthly meeting that they may have a meeting at John Bennett's as they had the last year, which this meeting admits off for the winter Season, and to begin & end as they did the last winter."

Evidently this practice of meeting in Birmingham during the winter season became a regular practice for again the next winter we find a minute almost duplicating the above.

The Friends of Birmingham appear to have been satisfied with this procedure as shown in the following Monthly Meeting minute: "3rd of 12th mo 1717 the friends of the upper parts of Burnhingham haveing had a meeting for every other first day during the winter Seasons and now they saide friends doth request that they may have it the Same time all the year about which this meeting doth alow of it in order to goe to the quarterly meeting for their approbation." From the Quarterly Meeting of 12th mo. 10th, 1717 we have the accompanying minute:
"Concord Friends gave this meeting to understand that the friends of the upper part of Birmingham have had a meeting for the Winter Season Every other first days and week days for Some time past and now come to them friends (with the Leave of Concord meeting) have Laid before this meeting their Desire of holding their said meeting all the year in Like manner Which this meeting allows of till further order."

The first reference to a meeting house at Birmingham is found in the Quarterly Meeting records of 9th mo. 10th, 1718 when the following appears: "Concord monthly meeting Layd before this meeting a proposal of Birmingham friends of Buiding themselves a meeting house to whom this meeting Gives Leave provided that they and their monthly meeting can agree on a place to Build it, and make report to our next meeting." In the minutes of the next Quarterly Meeting we find under date of "12th mo 9th 1718 According to Leave Given at our Last meeting to Birmingham friends to Build themselves a meeting house have signified from their monthly meeting that they have a Greed of a place whereon to Build it Which is upon Richard Webbs Land near the Great Road which this meeting is Satisfied with."

This place was an acre of land along the Great Birmingham Road. The deed to the property was given by Elizabeth Webb on the 27th of 4th month 1721, for the sum of three pounds. The death of her husband, Richard Webb, in 1719, may account for the delay in issuing the deed.

Under date of 6th of 9th mo. 1721 Concord Monthly Meeting minutes recorded: "the friends of Birmingham meeting Layed before this meeting a proprousall for Sum of their friends belonging to their meeting to be Chosen as ffeees in trust upon ye account of their meeting house and ground its the mind of this meeting to Chouse William Brinton Jospeh Taylor Philip Taylor John Bennett Joseph Brinton and Nicholas freed."

These are the men who were selected to receive the title to the property when the conveyance was made 4th mo. 27th, 1721 and who gave a declaration of trust as was usual at that time. We know the meeting house was completed by 7th mo. 13th, 1722 for under date of 8th mo. 8th, 1722 we find the following information: "those friends that were appointed to attend the marriage of Joseph Webb and Ann Willis report that it was accomplished orderly at ye meeting house in Birmingham ye 15th of ye 7th mo 1722." A second marriage, that of John Coulour and Mary Davis, occurred there "29 day of ye 9 m 1722." (For other marriages, see Marriages at Birmingham Meeting 1690 to 1940 page 104.)

In 1724 Elizabeth Webb obtained a certificate to follow out "the
concern upon her mind for some considerable time to visit friends of New England." On this trip Elizabeth Webb was accompanied by Jean Brinton, wife of William Brinton, Jr., who, on 3rd mo. 4th, 1724, obtained a similar certificate for this service. This trip was made by horseback and must have been an occasion of much hardship.

With the addition of these names on the minutes: "Townsend, Gilpin, Varnon, Taylor, Woodward, Chadsey", it is evident that the Birmingham Meeting was increasing in strength. The following minute also is indicative of progress: "ye 7th of ye forth month 1725 The friends belonging to Birmingham meeting have made application to this meeting in order that they may have the privilege of keeping their meetings every first day and week day except when ye preparative meeting is at Concord." This application for a full time meeting did not immediately fall on receptive minds among the Concord Friends for in the "5th of 5th mo 1725 The Business relating to birmingham meeting is Continued til ye next meeting." Each month henceforth a similar minute was recorded until sentiment in favor of the proposal was crystallized into approval, as follows: "ye 1st day of ye 9th mo 1725 this meeting having Considered of the request of Birmingham friends in order for the holding of their meeting and it is Left to ye Quarterly Meeting for their Consideration." Approval was promptly given by the succeeding Quarterly Meeting in 9th mo. 8th, 1725: "Birmingham meeting with the consent of Concord Monthly Meeting signified their desire of having Liberty to keep their Meeting every first day and every fifth day of the week except that week when the preparative meeting is at Concord after consideration had thereon this Meeting allows the friends of that Meeting to keep their Meeting as desired till further order."

Now Birmingham was released from attendance at Concord except once a month to attend Concord Preparative Meeting and the subsequent session of the Monthly Meeting. About this time Birmingham Friends were appointed with other Concord Monthly Meeting Friends to journey to Caln Meeting to help with the selection of a suitable location for their second meeting house.

After one year of partial independence of Concord Preparative Meeting the Birmingham Friends determined to establish their own Preparative Meeting. We are not surprised, therefore, to read this Monthly Meeting minute: "6th day of ye 12 mo 1727 Birmingham friends makes application to this meeting in order to have ye privilege of keeping a preparative meeting on the fifth day of the week before ye Monthly Meeting which this meeting allows of." Strange to say, the Monthly Meeting approved the first request; however, no mention of this is found
on the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting. Thus an important step in meeting history was made with apparently little effort and opposition. Usually the establishment of a Preparative Meeting requires a long time and much discussion.

Immediately after the establishment of the Preparative Meeting at Birmingham, William Brinton and Richard Woodward were appointed overseers. On “ye 5 day of ye 12th mo 1727/8 John Townsend is appointed an elder for Birmingham meeting and to attend ye meeting of ministers and elders till further orders.”

Times were becoming easier; labor less arduous; travel less difficult. Although Friends had more time to devote to religious meetings, we find them objecting to the journeys to Chichester for Monthly Meeting every other month when it alternated with Concord. “3rd of ye 12th mo 1728 Birmingham friends requested that ye monthly meeting might be Settled at Concord; all together Which Request is Left to Consideration” This request appears on the minutes for five consecutive months “for further consideration.” Finally, the issue was decided: “4 of ye 6 mo 1729 the Monthly Meeting is concluded to be Settled at Concord till further orders only to be Kept at Chichester ye next time.” Evidently the influence of the Birmingham Friends was stronger than that of those at Chichester.

Among the concerns which confronted the new Preparative Meeting was the effort to have all gravestones and monuments removed. In 1729 Richard Woodward and Joseph Townsend were appointed to represent Birmingham “to advise those that are concerned in placing of Tombstones in order to remove them and make report to ye next meeting.” They were also advised “to Suppress all Superfluous practises of putting of names and Dates upon Coffins and it is the mind of this meeting that for the future friends should Desist from all such Idolatrous practices.” Evidently the committee attended to their duties for in 12th mo, 14th, 1731 the Quarterly Meeting reported all meetings were clear except Chester, Goshen and Darby Monthly Meetings. This accounts for the fact that there are so few stones in the graveyard at Birmingham.

Another concern of this time was the dealing with offenders and the meting out to them the usual reprimands and punishments. “Testimonies” against offenders were read to them before being “publickly” read at the breaking up of a Firstday meeting. Certain persons were appointed to attend to these duties. “Drinking to excess” becomes an offense to be reckoned with.

In 1737 “the yearly meeting repets there advice and caution against ye encouraging the Importation of negrous by Buying them after Im-
ported and also ye yearly meeting repets their advice and Caution of
the last yearly meeting against ye frequent use of drams or other strong
drink in famelys or else where and pertizlerly of giving them to children
and thereby accustoming them to ye habit of drinking such strong
liquors."

About this time the minutes are full of applications for membership.
Friends, meantime, were spreading westward and southward to Hope­
well, Deer Creek, Sadsbury, Nantmeal, Fairfax, Newberry, Warrington,
Little Britain, Bush River, Lancaster, Hempfield (Columbia), West Caln,
Pipe Creek, Pikeland, etc.

Friends were solicitous not only about gravestones, but also about
personal apparel and individual responsibility as recorded in the follow­
ing Monthly Meeting minutes of 10th mo. 3rd, 1739: "A concern hav­
ing taken hould of this meeting to Supres pride and it Seems to appear
somewhat in women wareing of hoopes pettecoats which is a grate
truble to many fierends minds and it is the unanimous Sence of this meet­
ing that none amongst us be in the practis thereof that all our Over­
seers and other Solled friends do inspect into their members and where
any apears to be guilty do deal with tham and Discharge them either
in that of hoops or other indecent dresses." 1st mo. 3rd, 1739/40 "Con­
cord and Burmingham Preparative Meetings complains against sum of
Thomas Ives John Painter and Joseph Brinton Jur Mary Gilpin Ruth
Gilpin Esther Gilpin and Rebecca Scot for assenting and assisting to a
forward and unadvised action in going to Correct a man for beating his
wife which practis is Contrary to our principles for which the said per­
sions have offered their acknowledgments for their offences which is
accepted and is ordered to be read at the braking up of a first day meet­
ing at Concord and Burmingham." 4th mo. 1st, 1741 "Joseph Town­
send and William Seale to use Som method in order to raise Sum money
for the relief of the poor destred Inhabitants of South Carroline by the
reason of a grate fire there." 6th mo. 3rd, 1741 "Birmingham complains
of Joseph Webb for going with a sister of his who. was married out of
the unity of friends."

On the minute books the date 10th mo. 2nd, 1751 was succeeded by
the next entry 1st mo. 6th, 1752 with the following explanation: (men's
minutes) "according to tthe alteration of time"; and on the women's
minutes: "according to ye new Alteration of ye Date of ye months."
This was occasioned by the advice of the Philadelphia Yearly Meet­
ing which had followed the advice from London Yearly Meeting. Hence­
forth 12 month will mean what it means to us now—the 12th month.

In 1758 the western monthly meetings of the Chester Quarterly
Meeting were taken from the latter and formed into the "Western Quar­ter." Concord Monthly, with its constituent, Birmingham, remained as before, members of Chester Quarterly Meeting.

About this time the Birmingham Friends appear to be lax in their duties, for in 4th mo. 4th, 1757 "Concord and Chichester likely to raise part for collection (a collection recommended by the Yearly Meeting, propation of L1000) but 'Burmingham seems backward in reasing any part' A committee was appointed to visit them." And in 2nd mo. 5th, 1759 "Burmingham meeting refuses to answer the queries in writing although the committee laboured in love with them but could not pre­vale on them to come into the practice." This had been preceded by the minute from Chester Quarterly Meeting of 11th mo. 13th, 1758: "And Concord Monthly Meeting is desired to takecare that Burmingham Preparative Meeting do come up in the practice of Reading and an­swering the Queries as directed by the Yearly Meeting." And again 2nd mo. 12th, 1759 "... are appointed to assist Concord Monthly Meet­ing in labouring with Burmingham Preparative Meeting in order that they may be prevailed upon to come up in the practice of reading and answering the Queries according to the direction to our Yearly Meet­ing. The Committee agree to meet at Burmingham preparative meeting next but one & they are desired to report of their service therein to our next Quarterly Meeting." And continuing with the Monthly Meeting report of 1st mo. 1st, 1759 "The Last Quarterly Meeting Recommends Down to this meeting the necessity of Laboring with Birmingham pre­parative meeting in Order to Excite them to the answering the Queries this meeting appoints Jacob Dingey Henry Reynolds Wm Petter Saml Mendenhall and John Peirce to attend their next preparative meeting in order to perform that service." 2nd mo. 5th, 1759: "Report is made that several friends appointed to visit Birmingham preparative meeting in order to Excite them to answering the Queries met accordingly and Laboured in Love with them but Could not prevale on them to come into the practice though they were Read this meeting agrees to Desire the farther advice and assistance of the Quarterly Meeting therein." 3rd mo. 5th, 1759: "but Birmingham acquaints this meeting with an objection amongst them against Reasing the money as Desired There­fore this meeting appoints John Reynolds Christopher Dingey Wm Peter John Townsend and micajah Speakman to visit them at their next preparative meeting in order to excite them thereto and report to next monthly meeting." 4th mo. 2nd, 1759: "The friends appointed to visit Birmingham preparative meeting Concerning their neglect of Reasing their quota for the Relief of the poor are continued. The friends appointed to visit Birmingham preparative meeting respecting their
neglect of answering the Queries are continued." 5th mo. 7th, 1759: "Birmingham preparative meeting have paid in the Remender of their Quota (to wit) L2:0:0 The friends appointed to visit Birmingham in order to Excite them to answer the Queries in writing report they have complyed therewith."

In the following Quarterly Meeting report is found 5th mo. 14th, 1759: "The Friends appointed to assist Concord Monthly Meeting in labouring with Birmingham preparative meeting report that most of them met according to direction and the end of their appointment appears to be answered, which is satisfactory to this meeting."

On 11th mo, 14th, 1763 it was decided to change the day of Concord Monthly Meeting and on those days Chichester and Birmingham Meetings were allowed to drop their week day meetings.

About this time some of the members were disowned for refusing to manumit their slaves, and for going with the army, either as smith or "for being concerned in military acts", or "entering mailitary service (tis said) by compulsion." However, several members were reported as having manumitted their slaves.

Again we find Friends were concerned with the actions of their members for in the minute of 7th mo. 6th, 1774 "This meeting taking into consideration the practice too much now in use at friends marriages of the unnecessary formality of attendance by those called Grooms Man and Brides Maid whereof it is the sence of this meeting that for the future all friends discourage the same Perticularly those appointed to attend and see the orderly accomplishment thereof." And 10th mo. 5th, 1774: "A minute from the meeting of Sufferings recommending friends to be aware of there mixing with the People in their Human Pollicies and Contrivencies respecting the present troublous times."

As the Revolutionary War and its reverberations came nearer and nearer, we find little mention on the minutes except the dealing with those who were "concerned with military affairs", or "taking the oath of allegiance to the new government." As before stated, some of these were disowned, but some after making an acknowledgment, were forgiven, as follows on 8th mo. 9th, 1780: "Caleb Dilworth's acknowledgment recorded for paying tax to support war and mentions that some time before the battle of Brandywine his grandfather's team being pressed into the Continental service he had gone along to take care of the horses." This is the only mention found on the minutes of the Battle of Brandywine. (See The Townsend Account of the Battle of Brandywine page 99.) However, the Birmingham Friends must have been greatly concerned to have their Meeting House the center of a bloody conflict. We soon find a committee to take account of suffering cases
(those from whom the government took property for refusing to pay tax for war) was appointed who kept strict account and reported from time to time to the Quarterly Meeting.

Temperance sentiment was growing. In 1778 in answering the 7th query, the Quarterly Meeting reported: "Few instances of slaves being held. Some friends who keep public house and stills have been visited. Some used spirituous liquors sparingly in time of harvest others with great satisfaction used none at all."

At this time two day sessions were held, both of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings.

In 1778 an active interest was taken in education. This was influenced by the session of the Yearly Meeting in 1778 when attention to the need of religious education was recommended to all meetings. Although school committees were appointed there seems to have been no literal compliance with the "edict", for a school had already been established in the Birmingham neighborhood. While not under the care of the meeting, it was under the care of Friends. (See account of Schools at Birmingham page 77.)

In 7th mo. 4th, 1781 an interesting case is found on the minutes in regard to Birmingham Meeting. "A query came from Birmingham Meeting, whether, if an applicant for membership is known or believed to be sincere, he or she should be rejected on account of colour. This was referred to a committee of men and women.

"At the next monthly meeting it was decided to refer the question to the Quarterly Meeting.

"At Chester Quarterly Meeting, held at Concord 12th of 11th Mo., 1781: Concord Monthly Meeting queries whether person making application to be joined in membership with us as a religious Society and Friends being satisfied with respect to the sincerity of the one so applying, should be rejected on account of the color? Which, being considered brought a weighty exercise on this meeting, and divers just observations were made thereon, which being considered is left under consideration, and George Miller, Jesse Maris, John Sharpless, Thomas Garrett, Isaac Thomas, Amos Yarnall Jun, Josiah Bunting, Aaron Oakford, John Humphries, Jacob Starr, Joseph West, Caleb Seal and Thomas Lightfoot, who were appointed last meeting to the assistance of Concord Meeting in this case, and Eli Yarnall, Thomas Massey Jun, John Hibberd, Samuel Trimble, Hugh Judge, Richard Strode, Joshua Sharples, Daniel Byrne, Cadwallader Jones and William Lightfoot are now added to them and desired to meet together and consider of this subject, and also to inquire more minutely into the disposition, color and circum-
stances of the individual on whose account the application took its rise; and report their sense thereof to our next meeting.'

"11th of 2nd mo. 1782: The committee appointed to weigh and consider the query proposed to last meeting by Concord Monthly Meeting, produced a report which was read, being as follows: 'We of the Committee appointed on the application from Concord Monthly Meeting Report, That we have generally met and deliberately considered the subject matter committed to us; also appointed some of our number to visit the person upon whose account the application was made, some of whom reported to this Committee at a second meeting that they had taken an opportunity with the young woman, which was in a good degree to their satisfaction, and her disposition they apprehended to be worthy of Friends notice; and her color appeared to them not darker than some who are esteemed white; and we find by inquiry her great-grandfather was an African Negro and her great-grandmother an American Indian; her grandfather a descendant of them and her grandmother an Indian; her father a descendant of them and the mother a white woman.'

'Signed this 8th day of 1st Month 1782 by nineteen Friends.' (names not given.)

"The case becoming as heretofore the subject of weighty and edifying deliberations and a spirit of condescension prevailing it is with a good degree of unanimity agreed that it be laid before our Next Yearly Meeting for their consideration and advice; and Joseph West, Eli Yarnall, William Lightfoot and Joshua Sharples are appointed to pay her a visit for her information and encouragement in the way of Truth.

"No further notice in relation to this subject appears on the minutes of Chester Quarterly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting minute dated 10th mo. 1st, 1783 is as follows: 'The request of Chester Quarter last year respecting the application of a woman to Concord Monthly Meeting to be received into membership, and which was referred for further consideration to this of a future meeting, being now revived, the subject opening with weight, It is the sense and judgment of the meeting that Concord Monthly Meeting may safely consider the application of the person on the same ground in common with other applications for admission into membership.'

"Thus far, there is no evidence of decided opposition to the proposed admission to membership of a person who was half white, three-eighths Indian and one-eighth Negro; but four days after the decision of the Yearly Meeting, Ann Emlen, of Philadelphia, wrote to her friend, Hannah Townsend, wife of Joseph Townsend of East Bradford, and daughter of Samuel Painter of Concord, as follows: 'Perhaps, as I heard
our Frd. Abigail Franks say thee wished her to come & live with thee, it may be her circumstance in future, if there were no obstruction in the way, in her mind or otherwise, to spend some time with thee after becoming a Member of Society, which I expect will now be the Case; believing her more worthy than many scores, yet Hundreds in it, of an allotment amongst the Saints; that her light will yet shine with increase of & steady brightness; & that there is cause of thankfulness on her part & on her acc't that the mountains of opposition are leveled before her. I hope her right direction in all her goings, as well as thee & I & and all of us; being with much regard & good wishes, they loving Friend Ann Emlen.'

"On the 7th of 4th Month 1784, Birmingham Meeting presented the application of Abigail Franks for membership, and her admission followed on the 5th of the next month."

The quotas in 1785 were: Chichester, 1; Concord, 3; Birmingham, 2 while in 1738 they were: Chichester, 0-15-0; Concord, 1-15-0; Birmingham, 1-0-0.

In the Concord Monthly Meeting minutes under date of 2nd mo. 6th, 1788 held at Birmingham, we find: "Concord meeting house being burnt the meeting to be held next time at Chichester and so alternately with Birmingham while the house is rebuilding." The Monthly Meeting was held at Birmingham in the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th months but by 1st mo. 7th, 1789 it had returned to Concord. In 1789 Philip Price, a member of Birmingham Meeting, was the treasurer of Chester Quarterly Meeting.

In 1793 the Quarterly Meeting school committee reported that "the school at Birmingham does not wholly belong to Friends." At Birmingham the subscription to be raised for the schooling of poor children amounted to L80:0:0.

Concord Monthly Meeting minutes of 5th mo. 9th, 1792 report that "all the feoees in trust of Birmingham meeting and lot of ground being long since deceased the following are appointed trustees—Edward Darlington James Carter Abraham Darlington Philip Price Cheyney Jefferis Benjamin Sharples."

After 1796 many "concerns" are expressed by members for various religious visits; for instance: 3rd mo. 9th, 1796: "Richard Strode solidly informed this meeting that he had felt an engagement on his mind to pay a religious visit to those who stand disowned and reside within the compass of Birmingham Preparative Meeting, which being weightly considered was united with, but the appointing of some friends to bear him company in the service is left until next meeting." At the next meeting Jacob Kerkner and Philip Price expressed a "freedom" to go
with him. And the visit was performed "as far as way opened to the peace of their minds." Richard Strode and Philip Price appear to be active in inter-visitation, visiting Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Richard Strode visited families of Goshen Monthly Meeting and Joshua Sharpless in connection with other members of the Yearly Meeting went to upper Canada.

In 1798 efforts were made to exercise a Christian care towards the black people and Richard Strode and John Forsythe were appointed to "extend such care toward them, either in visiting or otherwise, as they may apprehend best, for their general improvement and welfare." In the same year Joseph Talbot and Richard Strode expressed a freedom to accompany Sarah Newlin, from Concord, in visiting families of Birmingham Meeting which was done to a "good degree of satisfaction." In the same year Ennion Cook brought his certificate from Goshen.

The following is a summary of the vast amount of business conducted at a monthly meeting about this time: on 5th mo. 8th, 1799, seven acknowledgments were read, fifteen certificates produced, eleven certificates asked for, two couples appeared "the second time" for approbation of marriage, and two certificates were signed.

11th mo. 7th, 1798 John Forsythe was appointed to draw or inspect and read marriage certificates in Birmingham. He was succeeded on 10th mo. 9th, 1799 by Joseph Painter and the latter was replaced in 1800 by William Townsend.

In 1800 Chester Quarterly Meeting changed its name to Concord Quarterly Meeting. In that year Philip Price accompanied John Hall, an English Friend, on a religious visit to the meetings belonging to Muncey and Cattawessy Monthly Meeting; and again in 1801 he accompanied the same Friend to Abington and Bucks Quarters, "he being an elder in good esteem."

In 1800 the minutes report "a difficulty at Birmingham appeals to the Monthly Meeting" but neglects to tell us what the difficulty was. However, by 2nd mo. 4th, 1801 the trouble had subsided and "the difficult case concluded." But not for long, however, for by the 5th month 1801 Birmingham was again on the minutes: "It appearing in Birmingham report in answer to the 2nd query there is a sorrowful want of Love and Unity amongst some of their members, which bringing an exercise over this Meeting, & concern for the removal of the cause, the following Friends are therefore appointed to extend such care and advice as they may be favoured with in order if possible to have the obstruction removed: viz Samuel Trimble, Stephen Mendenhall, Charles Dinge, Thomas Speakman, John Talbot, John Peirce, and Joseph Trimble." The committee appointed "to extend care" was continued from
month to month until the 10th month, when they were released, "not apprehending they can be of further service." But evidently the cure did not last long for by the 11th month Birmingham was again a "subject of exercise." This time a Quarterly Meeting committee was appointed to consider the difficulty. And by 1st mo. 6th, 1802 they reported that "It is a satisfaction to us to inform you that the causes of this difficulty are so far removed that we think it will be safe and proper to discontinue the case on your minute."

In 1801 Rachel Price and Sarah Newlin had visited most of the families belonging to Duck Creek Monthly Meeting and returned with a minute expressing appreciation of their visit. In 1802 Rachel Price became an approved minister.

Again (1802) Philip Price, Richard Strode, John Forsythe, and others were appointed to "extend religious care to the black People" and they later reported "they had meetings with them at each of our meeting houses to a good degree of satisfaction but apprehended there may be some further service." Richard Strode felt a concern to visit families of Kennett Monthly Meeting and especially those of Marlborough and some not in membership.

In 1803 a committee on spirituous liquors became active. Rachel Price, accompanied by Hannah Trimble, visited some of the families of Cecil Monthly Meeting.

In 1804 Birmingham raised $172 toward discharging the debt of the boarding school at Westtown.

2nd mo. 8th, 1804: "An exercise attending this meeting on account of the lowness of the answer to the 2nd query in Birmingham's report, wherein Love and Unity appears to be much obstructed amongst some of the members thereof, and a weighty concern being felt, to endeavour to remove the cause, the following Friends are appointed to take the subject under their care and labour therein as they may be strengthened: Stephen Mendenhall, John Peirce, Joseph Trimble, Caleb Peirce, Enoch Lewis, Joshua Sharples." Finally, such minutes are closed once and for all by 3rd mo. 6th, 1305: "The committee appointed in 2nd month last year, on account of the obstruction to Love and unity at Birmingham, now report, they have paid attention to the subject from time to time and now think it right for them to be released, which is granted."

In the meantime Rachel Price had been on a religious visit to Shrewsbury, Rahway and Burlington Meetings and to the Yearly Meeting at Baltimore. In 1805 she visited Salem and Haddonfield Quarterly Meetings. Richard Strode had also been visiting meetings in New Jersey.

In 6th mo. 4th, 1806 began a series of charges against Dr. William Darlington for "accepting the office of surgeon to the Militia and act-
ing therein." Efforts were made "to convince him of the inconsistency of his conduct with our religious testimony against War," but without much apparent effect. The Friends appointed to visit him reported they had several "opportunities with him, and unless they find cause to forbear, will prepare a testimony against him." This committee could not get in touch with him because he had already gone away, but a letter was received from him telling of his intention of being away for a considerable time and left Friends at liberty to proceed as they thought fit. Finally, this minute closed the case: 11th mo. 5th, 1806: "The Friends in William Darlington's case, report, they cou'd not furnish him with a copy of the testimony he having embark'd for a distant country, previously to our last Monthly Meeting. They have returned the testimony which is directed to be recorded. The testimony of Concord Monthly Meeting against the conduct of William Darlington, who hath had a birthright and education amongst friends, but hath so far deviated from our known principles respecting War, as to accept and act under an appointment to the office of Surgeon in the Militia, for which he hath been tenderly visited, in order to convince him of the inconsistency of his conduct with our peaceable principles, but the labour of friends not having the desired effect, we declare him no member of our religious society, until he condemn his said conduct to the satisfaction of this meeting, which is our desire for him. Given forth at Concord Monthly Meeting held the 8th day of the 10th month 1806 and signed by order of the same, by Philip Price Jr. Clk." Thus one of the illustrious sons of Chester County was "turned out of meeting."

Again in 1807 concern was expressed relative to the practice of taking fruit to distillers "and a considerable number continues in the practice."

A great amount of visiting among the meetings and families is found in the records. In 1808 Rachel Price and Sarah Talbot visited families of Chichester and of Birmingham and also Concord Preparative Meetings. Rachel again attended Baltimore Yearly Meeting. In that same year Abraham Sharpless of Birmingham was appointed clerk of Concord Monthly Meeting and Isaac Sharpless, the assistant. In 1809 Rachel Price and Sarah Talbot went to Virginia and Maryland, accompanied by Abel Otley. Rebecca Scarlet of Robinson Monthly Meeting (Berks Co.) produced a minute to visit the families of Birmingham Meeting. Philip Price and Benjamin Sharpless bore her company. In 1810 Rachel Price visited all the meetings constituting the Western Quarter, accompanied by Abraham Sharpless, "a friend in good esteem." Again in that year Friends were encouraged to support the testimony against distilleries and the use of spirituous liquors.
Birmingham Preparative Meeting was now about to lose some of her members. In the Monthly Meeting minute of 7th mo. 4th, 1810 we find the following: "Birmingham Preparative Meeting informs that a number of friends in and near the borough of West Chester members of Goshen, Bradford and Birmingham particular meetings, having a prospect of building a meeting house in or near that place, which they have agreed to lay before their respective monthly meetings for their approbation and concurrence, etc." Committees were appointed in each of the monthly meetings mentioned but permission was not granted for the building of the house. So in the 11th month they tried from another angle: 11th mo. 6th, 1810: "Birmingham Preparative Meeting informs that a number of Friends inhabitants of West Chester and its vicinity request leave to hold a meeting by indulgence in the stone school house in East Bradford near that place, etc." Similar committees were again appointed by the Monthly Meeting concerned and permission was given, as it was believed "safe to do so." Cheyney Jefferis and Benjamin Sharpless were appointed to attend the opening meeting which was on the 16th of 12th month, 1810. Some of the Birmingham members, besides attending to their own meeting, were appointed to have the care of the indulged meeting too. The indulgence was continued until 1813, when the Concord Quarterly Meeting in its minute of the 8th month 10th, agreed to the establishment of the West Chester Meeting, after receiving the approval of Caln Quarter also, "notwithstanding all do not unite with the proposal, yet much brotherly love was evident." But it was not until the establishment of West Chester Preparative Meeting in 1814 that the loss of the members spoken of in this paragraph became a fact. Those members of Birmingham Preparative Meeting living near or in West Chester became members of the newly organized West Chester Preparative, but they were still members of Concord Monthly Meeting. Times were getting easier and more people were moving to the town.

In the meantime Rachel Price carried out her concern to visit the Yearly Meeting in New York and also the families of Chichester and Concord Meetings. Accompanied by Joshua Sharpless, she visited families of Birmingham and West Chester meetings. All of which was done to the satisfaction of her mind.

Because of the fact that the Birmingham and West Chester Friends had so far to travel to Concord once a month to attend the Monthly Meeting, on 6th mo. 29th, 1815 they began to suggest the establishment of a monthly meeting to be composed of the aforesaid Preparative Meetings. The subject was considered from month to month, and in 9th mo. 28th, 1815, we find the Concord Monthly Meeting agreeing, as
follows: "The committee appointed two months ago on the proposal brought up from Birmingham and West Chester Meetings, that it would tend to the advantage of society if a new monthly meeting were established, composed of those preparative meetings, report, that in company with a committee of women's meetings, they have had another solid conference on the subject and were much united in sentiment that it would be right if such an establishment were to take place, which claiming our weighty attention it is united with, and it is proposed that it be known by the name of Birmingham Monthly Meeting, that it be held alternately at Birmingham and West Chester, at West Chester in the first month, Birmingham in the 2nd month, etc., but until the house at Birmingham be made suitable to hold a monthly meeting in, that it be held altogether at West Chester and that it be held on the 5th day following the first second day in each month and if the quarterly meeting approved thereof it is proposed that it be opened in the 12th month next, etc." This was approved at the following Quarterly Meeting and the first session of Birmingham Monthly Meeting was held at West Chester on 12th mo. 15th, 1815. The first clerk of the Monthly Meeting was Isaac Sharpless of Birmingham Meeting. The elders appointed for Birmingham were Joshua Sharpless, Philip Price, Ann Sharpless and Lydia Darlington. The overseers were George Darlington, Ennion Cook, and Isaac Sharpless. Birmingham paid 55% of the quota. The list of members of Birmingham at the time of the establishment of the Monthly Meeting appears at the end of this chapter.

Friends were still visiting. In 1816 Joshua Sharples received a minute to visit New York and Rhode Island Yearly Meetings. In 1817 Rachel Price, an approved minister, was given a minute to visit Wuchlan, Nantmeal and Pikeland Meetings.

10th mo. 5th, 1820 Birmingham Preparative Meeting proposed to discontinue the meeting held on the 5th day of the week in which the Quarterly Meeting was held. But although the Monthly Meeting said "yes", the Quarterly Meeting said "no", so no change was made at that time. By 1823 Friends were beginning to be neglectful of business sessions, for they reported, "religious meetings generally attended; midweek meetings and some for worship are neglected by many; few instances of sleeping." James Mott was a visitor among the Birmingham Friends of that year; also Anna Braithwaite of England. In 1824 Friends in Birmingham were treated to a religious visit from John Parker of Kennett Monthly Meeting, accompanied by Ennion Cook and Philip Price. Much time was consumed by these early Friends in religious visits. Ann Sharpless, accompanied by Sarah Talbot, of Concord, visited meetings in several Quarters in New Jersey, Abington, Bucks and Caln.
In 1820 the question was raised whether Birmingham Monthly Meeting should join with Concord, Wilmington and Center Monthly Meetings to form a new Quarterly Meeting separate from Darby, Goshen, etc. After much discussion, it was decided to continue as had been the custom.

This brings us to the Separation of 1828, that dark blot on the history of Friends. The subsequent history of the two Birmingham Meetings will be treated under separate headings.

**List of Members of Birmingham Preparative Meeting 1815**

(Listed by families)

Caleb Brinton (h)  
Mary Brinton (w)  
Ann Crosby  
Sarah Brinton  
Deborah Brinton  
Hannah Darlington (w)  
  Thomas Darlington  
  Edward Darlington  
  Jane Darlington  
  Elizabeth Branson, Jur  
Jacob Bennett (h)  
Judith Bennett (w)  
  Thomas Bennett  
  John Bennett  
  Ruth Bennett  
  Lydia Bennett  
  Rebecca Bennett  
Caleb Dilworth (h)  
  Nathan Dilworth  
  Martha Dilworth  
  Ann Dilworth  
Abraham Darlington (h)  
Susanna Darlington (w)  
  Abraham Darlington, Jur  
  Chandler Darlington  
  William Darlington  
  Eliza Darlington  
  Sidney Darlington  
Mary Jones  
Lydia Jones  
William Seal (h)  
  Mary Seal (w)  
  Benjamin Seal  
  Elizabeth Jones  
  Benjamin Jones, Jr (h)  
  Ann Jones (w)  
  Jesse Jones  
  Joseph Jones  
  Benjamin Jones  
  Esther P. Jones  
  Joseph Painter (h)  
  Lydia Painter (w)  
  Samuel M. Painter  
  Rachel N. Painter  
  Elizabeth Painter  
  Lydia S. Painter  
  Thomas Jenkinson  
  William Embree (h)  
  Elizabeth Taylor (w)  
  Thomas Taylor  
  Isaac Taylor, Jur  
  Joseph Taylor  
  Brinton Taylor  
  Samuel Taylor  
  Hannah Taylor  
  Eliza Taylor  
  Rebecca Taylor  
  George Darlington (h)  
  Lydia Darlington (w)  
  Richard Darlington
Stephen Darlington
Cyrus Darlington
George Darlington, Jr.
Joseph B. Darlington
Hannah Darlington
Lydia Darlington, Jr.
Eliza Darlington
Henry Hoopes (h)
Hannah Hoopes (w)
William L. Hoopes
Sarah Walters
Isaac Dixon (h)
Margaret Dixon (w)
Edwin Sanders Dixon
William Hirons Dixon
Amy Dixon
Mary Dixon
John Hadley Dixon
Elizabeth Webb
James Gibbons (h)
Lydia Gibbons (w)
William A. Gibbons
Joseph G. Gibbons
John Forsythe (h)
Hannah Forsythe (w)
James Forsythe (h)
Ann Forsythe (w)
William Forsythe
Susanna Forsythe
Hannah Carter
Caleb Carter
James Painter (h)
Jane Painter (w)
John Carter
Elizabeth Painter
Hannah Painter
Phebe Painter
Joseph Webster (h)
Charles Webster
Aaron Webster
Joseph Webster
Rebecca Webster
Susanna Webster
Lydia Webster
Joshua Hunt (h)
William Hunt
Sarah Hunt
Phebe Hunt
Ann Hunt
Lydia Hunt
Aaron Davis (h)
Mary Davis (w)
Samuel Davis
James Davis
Hibbard Davis
William Davis
Aaron Davis, Jr.
Mary Davis, Jr.
Deborah Davis
Susanna Davis
Benjamin Sharples (h)
Abigail Sharples (w)
Hannah P. Baily
Joshua Sharples (h)
Ann Sharples (w)
Phebe Sharples
Isaac Sharpless (h)
Sarah Sharpless (w)
Aaron Sharpless
Benjamin Sharpless
Abigail Sharpless, Jr.
Edith Sharpless
Sarah Strode
Philip Price (h)
Rachel Price (w)
Benjamin Price
Isaac Price
Philip Price, Jr.
Hannah Price
Margaret Price
Sarah Price
Asa Davis
William Davis (h)
Mary H. Davis (w)
Emmor Davis
John Davis
Elizabeth Davis
Sarah Davis
Deborah Davis
Phebe Dilworth
Mary Jefferis
Emmor Jefferis
Elizabeth Jefferis
Caleb Entriken (h)
Ann Entriken (w)
John Entriken
Emmor Entriken
Sarah Entriken
Hannah Entriken
Phebe Entriken
Mary Ann Entriken
Ruth Entriken
Mary Entriken
Mary Entriken, Jr.
Emmor Entriken (h)
Anna Entriken (w)
Samuel Entriken
Hannah Ann Entriken
Sarah Maria Entriken
Sibilla Entriken
Emmanuel Darlington (h)
Martha Darlington (w)
Amos H. Darlington
Sarah Darlington
Hannah Darlington
Phebe Darlington
Mary Darlington
Job Darlington (h)
Rebecca Darlington (w)
Joshua Darlington
Garrett Darlington
Job Darlington
John T. Darlington
Jacob E. Darlington

Esther Darlington
Benedict Darlington
Jesse Mercer (h)
Betty Mercer (w)
Thomas Mercer
Samuel Mercer
Lydia Mercer
Jane Mercer
Hannah Mercer
Sarah Mercer
Abel Otley
Benjamin Jones (h)
Rebecca Jones (w)
John Jones
Reese Jones
Rebecca Jones, Jr.
Benjamin Cox (h)
Mary Cox (w)
John James (h)
Hannah James (w)
William Reed (h)
Mary Reed (w)
David Reed
Joseph Reed
Branson Reed
William Reed, Jr.
Ruth Reed
Eliza Reed
Ruth Price
William Price
Elizabeth Price
Rachel Simcock
Huldah Simcock
Charles Osborne

OVERSEERS OF THE BIRMINGHAM PREPARATIVE MEETING

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<th>1731-1732</th>
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<td>Mary Branton</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Jaffaryes Sen</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Darlington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Brinton</td>
<td>Mary Grubb</td>
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<td>Samuel Bettle</td>
<td>Sarah Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo Townsend</td>
<td>Martha Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abraham Darlington</td>
<td>Mary Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saml Grubb</td>
<td>Martha Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Entriken</td>
<td>Hannah Ryon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Osborn</td>
<td>Hannah Carter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis Townsend</td>
<td>Johanna Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Townsend</td>
<td>Rachel Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Painter</td>
<td>Hannah Darlington</td>
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<td>Thomas Metteur</td>
<td>Eliz. Chads</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Sharpless</td>
<td>Esther Trimble</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rachel Sharpless</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ann Carter</td>
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<tr>
<td>(None appear to be named until 1815)</td>
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**OVERSEERS UNDER BIRMINGHAM MONTHLY MEETING**

| George Darlington                      | Abigail Sharpless                         |
| Ennion Cook                             | Sarah Sharpless                           |
| Isaac Sharpless                         | Martha Darlington                         |
| Wm. Davis                               | Elizabeth Taylor                          |
| Isaac Taylor                            | Mary H. Davis                             |
| Abraham Sharples                        | Ann Forsythe                              |
| James Forsythe                          |                                           |
| Joshua Sharples Jr.                     |                                           |
1. Marker of the Site of the Log Meeting House
2. Marker on West Wall of Present Meeting House
3. Marker Describing the Site of the First School House
4. Octagonal School House Built in 1819
WHEN the Separation occurred in 1827, at first Friends at Birmingham held their meetings for worship together, except the mid-week meeting, and continued to do so, until 1828. Later they held separate sessions—the Orthodox Friends worshipping in the east end of the house and the Hicksite Friends in the west end. The Birmingham Monthly Meeting continued to be held alternately at Birmingham and West Chester until 7th mo. 2nd, 1828 when it was decided that the Monthly Meeting should be held exclusively at Birmingham. This was the custom until 1852 when the subject of holding all sessions at West Chester was introduced. The suggestion was not approved but was continued from time to time until 1859 when it was decided to hold all sessions at West Chester. During its history several clerks of the Monthly Meeting were from Birmingham—James Forsythe, Aaron Sharpless, William Kite, David Garrett, William Forsythe, John Forsythe, Ann Forsythe and Phebe Sharpless. By 1869 the clerkship was assumed by members from West Chester who held the office continuously until 1896. Charles S. Carter, of Birmingham, served as clerk during 1896-7. Jonathan Eldridge held this position in 1897-1911; Wm. T. Sharpless held it in 1921-1933. As a matter of history it is interesting to note that when Birmingham Preparative Meeting was discontinued in 1923, Jonathan Eldridge had been clerk for thirty-four years. At this time his membership was transferred to West Chester where he became clerk of West Chester Preparative Meeting and served twelve years, making a continuous service in the capacity of clerk for forty-seven years. In addition to this he served as clerk of Birmingham Monthly Meeting for eleven years.

Evidently there was not as much animosity at Birmingham as in some of the meetings as they met on different sides of the same house. However, they met on different days for their mid-week meetings. Under date of 7th mo. 30th, 1828 we find: “It is concluded that the meeting for worship at Birmingham of the weeks including the first second day of the even months be hereafter held on the 4th instead of the fifthday of said week.” This was done until 2nd mo. 29th, 1832: “It was decided to hold all midweek meetings at Birmingham on fifthday because the reason for the previous change do not now exist.” And again another change in 1st mo. 29th, 1840: “The midweek meeting
at Birmingham: to be held on fourth day instead of fifthday. The Pre-
parative meeting to be held two weeks previous to the monthly meet-
ing as heretofore. The midweek meeting at Birmingham to be discon-
tinued the week of the Yearly Meeting."

It seems strange that there is no mention on the monthly meeting
minutes of anticipated plans to build a new meeting house, but 11th
mo. 27th, 1844 the minutes record: "Birmingham Preparative Meet-
ing informs that it has appointed James Forsythe, Edward Brinton,
Aaron Sharpless and Chalkley Bell trustees for the lot of ground on which
they are about to build a meeting house." Unfortunately, the minutes
of the Preparative Meeting for this date are lost. The old house needed
repairs, and when part of the floor gave way, it was decided to sever
connections and build another meeting house. The new meeting house
was built in 1845. In several other sections of the county about this
time new meeting houses were being erected by the Orthodox Friends.

During this time Edith Jefferis, Mary Kite and William Kite were
ministers at Birmingham. Mary Kite travelled much in the ministry,
visiting in 1847 "families of those who were in the habit of attending
Birmingham meeting but not in membership with us." She also visited
some particular meetings in Caln Quarter, Western Quarter, Robeson
Monthly Meeting (Berks Co.), Baltimore Yearly Meeting and meetings
in North Carolina. James Forsythe "rendered such assistance as may
be needful."

7th mo. 2nd, 1851 the time of holding the Preparative Meeting was
changed to the week before the Monthly Meeting, instead of two weeks
before.

In 1854 "Care was expressed over the disregard of our testimonies
against erecting monuments of wood or stone in our burying ground." A
committee was appointed to look after it. The final minute in regard
to it: 12th mo. 27th, 1854: "the committee gave attention thereto and
endeavoured to carry out the views of the Yearly Meeting and believe
our burying grounds are now in a good degree in accordance with our
discipline in relation to monuments of wood and stone erected to the
graves."

During the Civil War no mention of the war activities is found
except in 1864, we find that in common with the Hicksite Friends, those
members who had violated the discipline in regard to war were not dis-
owned after they had made an acknowledgment of their transgression
and had asked to be retained as members.

After the Orthodox Friends had moved their meeting to the new
house, they continued to use the old graveyard. 10th month 1st, 1873
a committee was appointed to consider the "graveyard under the care
of Birmingham Friends being almost full." Also from the minutes we learn that in 1858 they repaired the graveyard wall at a cost of $274.23. The yard was full of underbrush, so in 1872 Benjamin Sharpless and John Forsythe were appointed to have "the graveyard cleared of bushes and put in near repair." Evidently the condition of the graveyard was a vital concern, for a year later, 9th mo. 24th, 1873 we find "Aaron Sharpless and Joseph R. Cheyney are appointed to confer with a committee of West Chester Preparative Meeting in regard to the propriety of using a portion of the ground belonging to this meeting as a burying ground for the monthly meeting." This was considered but two months later the report was given "that way did not open" for this to be done. However, the subject was to be further considered. On 1st mo. 21st, 1874 it was entrusted to a larger committee "to take into consideration the subject of providing a burial ground for the future use of the meeting." And the result of this committee's activities is as follows: "To Birmingham Preparative Meeting. The committee to whom was referred the subject of procuring a graveyard, report they have given attention to their appointment, and find there can be a lot obtained of Jesse Garrett adjoining the south side of the meeting house, about 20 feet in width, at a cost of about $15.00 the meeting paying the cost of the fencing; which being taken with a part of the present meeting house lot will we think make a suitable burial place. Signed on behalf of the committee John Forsythe Charles S. Carter." This was in 3rd month 1874. This contemplated action was agreeable to the meeting as we find from the final minute in regard to it: 12th mo. 23rd, 1874: "The committee report they have purchased of Jesse Garrett a lot containing about one-eighth acre for the sum of $15.00 and the obligation to keep it fenced and vested the title in the trustees for the meeting property. This lot together with a part of the meeting house yard they had enclosed for a burying ground by an iron fence at an expense of $562.50."

In 1866 the Orthodox Friends recorded that at the time of the Separation the estimated value of the Birmingham property, all of which was held by the Hicksites, was $1600. In 1874 the Hicksites, desiring to make an equitable adjustment of the property, deeded to the Orthodox Friends the seventeen acres and 120 perches of land located south of the old Meeting House and on the east of the Birmingham road. William Kite, Joseph R. Cheyney, William Forsythe and John Forsythe, as trustees for the Meeting, took title to this additional land.

The acquired seventeen acres were rented until 1885. On 3rd mo. 25th of this year we find recorded on the minutes: "The subject of selling most of the real estate belonging to this meeting east of the Bir-
mingham road, having claimed the attention of this meeting, it was thought desirable that it would be advisable to do so, provided a satisfactory price can be obtained. Provided the sanction of the monthly meeting is obtained, the committee on property is authorized to sell the aforesaid real estate for not less than $75 per acre have it surveyed and have the necessary transfer papers made out, to be signed by the trustees of this meeting. They are also directed to pay over the net proceeds of such sale to the treasurer of this meeting." In the Fifth month they reported that the property had been disposed of for $1397.50.

In 1866 David Garrett offered $20.00 for "the tenement standing on the property and to remove it. His offer is accepted by the meeting, the house having become uninhabitable." This tenement house was located on the original property near which the horse sheds were later erected.

After the school was discontinued the building was used as a dwelling. (See under Schools at Birmingham, page 85.) In 1891 the committee having charge of the meeting house property asked permission to raise and enlarge the school house to better adapt it for a dwelling. This authorization was given and a year later the report was given that there had been made "an addition of four rooms, together with attic and cellar at a cost of $840 and had the old part repaired at an expense of $13.97."

During the next quarter of a century the membership was decreasing and there was little of historical importance because members had moved from the neighborhood. In 1916 permission was given for the Preparative Meetings of men and women Friends to meet in joint session. Later, 9th mo. 29th, 1920, we find that the Preparative Meeting had reported that it had "decided to ask the monthly meeting for permission to hold first day meetings at the home of Benjamin Sharpless from 11.1.1920 to 5.1.1921, the midweek meeting to be discontinued except on the day of preparative meeting." This was granted and the next year the same permission was granted for an indefinite period. Evidently the membership was a matter of great concern to the Monthly Meeting, for in 4th mo. 5th, 1922 we find this on the minutes of the Monthly Meeting: "The membership and attendance at Birmingham particular meeting having become very much reduced a committee was appointed to take the condition of this meeting into its consideration and report what is our duty to this meeting and to the people of that neighborhood appears to be, etc." This concern was studied and a large committee was appointed to take turns in holding meetings at Birmingham. The final report of that committee was given 6th mo. 28th, 1922 as follows: "The subject of the duty of this meeting to the
Two Hundred Fifty Years of Quakerism at Birmingham

Community residing near Birmingham was introduced. It was thought that there is a large opportunity for Friends to render a real service to the people of that neighborhood which was at one time almost entirely composed of Friends. The committee of the Birmingham Meeting now under appointment by this meeting was requested to confer with the various agencies afforded by the society to gain the cooperation in carrying on the concern of this meeting. They were also authorized to hold appointed meetings at Birmingham if thought best." This seemed to be a good plan. The committee gave its reaction to the summer's activities in the following minute in 11th mo. 1922: "The committee felt the work of the committee had been useful in stimulating an interest in the meeting at that place and in providing a place of worship for our members and possibly some others living in the neighborhood. (An average attendance of 20 or more. One neighborhood meeting was held under the auspices of this committee, 150 persons in attendance and a number of interesting and helpful addresses were made.) The committee feels that its work has been well worth while. We suggest this monthly meeting take such action that if Birmingham Preparative Meeting is laid down a number of indulged meetings might be held at Birmingham during the summer of 1923 under the care of a committee. We ask to be released. The following minute of Birmingham Preparative Meeting was read: 10.25.1922 The following minute was adopted and directed to be forwarded to the monthly meeting viz: Owing to our reduced and scattered membership it was concluded to ask the monthly meeting to join us to West Chester Preparative Meeting and that hereafter meetings for divine worship be held in this house only at such times as the monthly meeting may direct. Pending the decision of the superior meeting we would suggest that meetings be omitted after the 29th of 10th month, 1922. Jonathan Eldridge, clerk." The Monthly Meeting's reply to this request was: "This meeting concurs with the belief that Birmingham Preparative Meeting may properly be discontinued and its members joined to West Chester Preparative Meeting. It is directed that a copy of this minute be sent to the Quarterly Meeting for their action. It is also directed that the two meetings occurring on firstday between this time and Quarterly Meeting be held as during the summer. This meeting requests of the Quarterly Meeting permission to hold indulged meetings at Birmingham as the monthly meeting deems best."

From the minutes of the Hicksite Friends (page 39), we learn that they issued an invitation for the two meetings to meet together during the summer of 1923. This proposal was happily carried out and proved a source of help and inspiration. It was continued until 1938 when the
Meeting House and land, excepting the burial ground, were sold to William Phillips, who converted the Meeting House into a dwelling.

Unfortunately no list of the members appears on the minutes. A list of the overseers follows:

### Overseers of the Orthodox Birmingham Preparative Meeting

#### Men's Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overseer</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Sharples</td>
<td>1828-1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Sharples</td>
<td>1828-1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Forsythe</td>
<td>1828-1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Taylor</td>
<td>1831-1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ennion Cook</td>
<td>1834-1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Sharpless</td>
<td>1840-1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Garrett</td>
<td>1846-1870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abner Eldridge</td>
<td>1852-1855</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Forsythe Jr.</td>
<td>1867-1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Sharpless</td>
<td>1870-1875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jos. R. Cheyney</td>
<td>1875-1879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles S. Carter</td>
<td>1879-1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesse H. Garrett</td>
<td>1891-1897</td>
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<td>Josiah W. Leeds</td>
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No overseers mentioned after 1915

#### Women's Meeting

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<tr>
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<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Forsythe</td>
<td>1828-1849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Taylor</td>
<td>1828-1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phebe Sharpless</td>
<td>1828-1838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lydia Jones</td>
<td>1831-1852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidney Sharpless</td>
<td>1838-1858</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary F. Kite</td>
<td>1849-1868</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susanna F. Sharpless</td>
<td>1858-1870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lavinia Garrett</td>
<td>1868-1873</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Conard</td>
<td>1868-1875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth P. Forsythe</td>
<td>1870-1875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Yarnall</td>
<td>1875-1883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lavinia Garrett</td>
<td>1875-1880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca M. Forsythe</td>
<td>1880-1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan C. Garrett</td>
<td>1892-1895</td>
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<td>Elizabeth C. Carter</td>
<td>1895-1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Forsythe</td>
<td>1901-</td>
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</table>

No overseers mentioned after 1907
CHAPTER III

THE HICKSITE MEETING AFTER 1828

In 1827 there was no mention on the minutes of the controversy which resulted in the division of the Society except that on 12th mo. 6th, 1827: "Birmingham Preparative Meeting proposes to hold Preparative Meeting on the 5th day preceding the last 2nd day in each month," in order that the two meetings would not conflict. This was done but was changed back again to the former time on 1st mo. 8th, 1829. On 6th mo. 4th, 1829 it was decided to hold the Select Preparative Meeting (Ministers and Elders) at West Chester instead of alternating with Birmingham. At that same meeting the committee who had been appointed to make a list of the members at the time of the Separation reported as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE ADULTS</th>
<th>FEMALE ADULTS</th>
<th>CHILDREN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>218</td>
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Those who have not attended any meetings for discipline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>CHILDREN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
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</table>

In 1834 Benjamin Price, Jr. accompanied John Comly to Ohio and Indiana Yearly Meetings. In 1841 Birmingham paid 40% of the Monthly Meeting quota. Evidently at the time of the Separation the Orthodox Friends retained the use of the graveyard, for in 1844 we find the following minute: "The burial grounds at Birmingham M'tg house is in charge of Orthodox Friends There is a neighborhood Graveyard adjoining in which our Friends have a share." This was called the new burying ground, later Birmingham Lafayette Cemetery, started in 1842.

9th mo. 27th, 1856 Birmingham Preparative Meeting proposed changing the hour of gathering in the winter season from 11 o'clock to 10 o'clock to which concurrence was given. Stephen Darlington and Clement Biddle are new names found on the minutes at this time. The latter was recommended as a minister in 1857 and was appointed clerk of the Monthly Meeting in 1859. Complaint was given that meetings for discipline, i.e. business meetings, were poorly attended. In 1858
Birmingham paid 25% of the Monthly Meeting quota. Evidently its membership was decreasing. At this time Jane Price, a minister and a member of Birmingham Meeting, visited many other meetings accompanied by her husband, Benjamin.

The relative strength of Birmingham Preparative Meeting in 1862 is evidenced by the following figures: men 27; women 34; children 37; total 98. The figures for the entire membership of Birmingham Monthly Meeting are: men 101; women 169; children 136; total 406.

While the Civil War was not specifically mentioned in the minutes of this period, nevertheless, its existence is evident. "Friends mostly maintain our testimonies, . . . except bearing arms, training and other military services, which testimony some of our members have violated, but have not yet been treated with." Evidently, Friends were becoming more lenient to transgressors. Perhaps they were becoming aware of the fact that by disowning so many of their members the membership had declined. In 1865 they still report: "Offenders dealt with except those who have transgressed our testimony against war." And finally, in 1866, we find a Monthly Meeting minute stating that seventeen men desired to be retained in membership in spite of the fact that they had been in the army, had employed substitutes, paid bounty money, or given aid, etc. Of these seventeen, some were members of Birmingham Preparative Meeting. They were not disowned.

As was customary at this time the women held their Monthly and Preparative Meetings separate from the men. In 1833 Susan Darlington became assistant clerk. In 1834 the women began to express concern about the state of the schools and in that same year began to talk about building a school at West Chester. Jane Price became a recommended minister that year and began a series of visits similar to those of her mother-in-law. The next year she visited the members of the Whitehead Meeting, especially some of the members who had been disowned. This was accomplished "to the peace of her mind." As the years rolled by she visited in Christian love the Friends constituting Sadsbury Monthly Meeting, members of Germantown Meeting, members of Birmingham Preparative, Abington, Salem, Burlington, Haddonfield, Bucks Quarter, West Chester Preparative, Byberry Monthly Meeting, Ohio and Indiana, etc.

In 1835 Susan H. Darlington became clerk, with Hannah Darlington as her assistant. In 1837 the men Friends showed concern over the condition of the colored people, but (strange to say) the women Friends did not see their way clear to join them, although later a committee was named to do so. By 1844 the Meeting became concerned over the non-attendance of so many of its members and committees were ap-
pointed to "extend care to those who are deficient in this important duty." Susan H. Darlington and Margaret (Price) Paxson were appointed to this service and visited these Friends. In 1845 Susan Roberts became assistant clerk. Also in 1845 Birmingham Friends became interested in raising a fund to assist young women to become qualified teachers in our country schools. Margaret Paxson became a very active member of this committee, as well as one to raise money for enlarging the library. She reports: "We teach children to read and neglect to supply them with food of the proper kind. We do not expect to confine ourselves to books published by friends, etc. Periodicals are being established, old works revised, new ones written, let us not be the last to benefit from the change."

While Jane Price was on a religious visit to Buckingham Monthly Meeting she did not feel clear about further service in that section of the country. She immediately returned and upon visiting the prison "did not meet with any obstruction."

In 1865 Birmingham Friends became interested in the Friends' Association for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedman, and in the next year raised $50.00 for it. Clement Biddle became a visiting Friend at this time and obtained a minute to visit the Western Quarter. He served on a committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting to visit President Johnson after the assassination of President Lincoln. Fenelon Darlington was appointed assistant clerk of the Monthly Meeting in 1867.

In 1870 Benjamin Price and his wife felt a concern to visit some of the meetings within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. They were given permission to do so and to appoint meetings and visit families. Three years later Jane Price having gone to make a social visit to relatives in and near St. Louis, Mo., asked in writing for a minute to appoint some meetings in that vicinity, which she did. Clement Biddle was given permission, in 1873, to visit Salem, Burlington and Haddonfield Quarterly Meetings and some of their constituents, as well as to appoint meetings within their limits.

At this time Fenelon Darlington was a member of the Monthly Meeting school committee. But in 1874 the Birmingham Friends desired to be released from the support of the school, which was located adjacent to the High Street Meeting House in West Chester.

At this time the number of Friends conducting the business sessions of the Meeting was very small. So, in 1886, we are not surprised to hear of the request to hold the Preparative Meetings of men and women in joint session. This request was granted.

A concern relative to members who were neglecting to attend meeting, not only at Birmingham but in the whole Yearly Meeting, prompted
the inauguration of "Circular Meetings." These were special meetings held in various places where meetings were weak or in need of encouragement. The first one held at Birmingham was in the 10th month, 1869. From the minutes kept by the committee we learn that these meetings at Birmingham were usually large and were attended by many people of the neighborhood who were not members. These were occasions of deep spiritual insight. With few interruptions these Circular Meetings were held once a year in the 10th month at Birmingham until 1926 when they were discontinued "because conditions in various neighborhoods seem to have changed, affecting attendance." The minutes for the 10th mo. 4th, 1908 Meeting, among other things say: "The meeting was well attended by Friends from other meetings and from the neighborhood who are not members. A short time ago Birmingham Preparative Meeting united in granting the use of the meeting house for any good purpose, provided Friends meetings were not interfered with. Funerals were permitted to use it without any restriction in regard to religious services they use. It is believed this action has promoted in the neighborhood a friendly and kindly feeling toward our meeting and a desire to see the meeting kept up."

Among the new names on the minutes of this period are Susan W. Biddle, Sarah A. Darlington, Lamartine Darlington, Lucy Darlington and Elizabeth B. Steele.

In 1895 Birmingham Preparative Meeting was given permission to discontinue the midweek meeting and to hold the Preparative Meeting on the Firstday preceding Monthly Meeting at the close of the meeting for worship. Also in 1895 it was decided to place the school at West Chester under the care of the Monthly Meeting, with the provision that the Birmingham Preparative Meeting would not be called upon to defray the expenses relative to the care of the building or the maintenance of the school. In this year it was decided to hold the Monthly Meetings in joint session as this was becoming the custom in nearly all the Monthly Meetings.

Due to the limited number of members at Birmingham, the Monthly Meetings ceased to meet there alternately in about 1831. Soon after the beginning of the twentieth century interest at Birmingham was increasing. Young members were becoming interested in the Meeting. In 1904 the Monthly Meeting was invited to meet there in the 5th month. This was done and a short history of the meeting was read at that gathering. In 12th mo. 24th, 1905 the "propriety of allowing the use of the meeting house for the holding of funerals of those not in membership with Friends having claimed the attention of this meeting, the matter was left with the property committee to act as they saw fit." As
already seen from a report at one of the Circular Meetings, this was allowed.

In 1907 the Meeting House needed repairs, so application for money to make the improvements was made to the "Jeanes Fund for Repairing Old Meeting Houses."

11th mo. 26th, 1908 an adjourned meeting was held at the home of Lucy and Jennie Darlington to consider the attendance of the meetings for worship during the winter months. At this meeting it was decided to hold all meetings for worship during the 12th, 1st, 2nd and 3rd months at the homes of members. The Meeting House was difficult to heat during the cold weather. This custom was continued for only one year when it was decided to discontinue all meetings for worship during these months. However, once a month during the winter, the Preparative Meeting was held, as heretofore, at the home of some member. In 1910 and again in 1915 further repairs were made to the Meeting House and to the old graveyard wall.

In 1915 permission was given to the Chester County Historical Society and the Delaware County Historical Society to place a bronze marker on the west wall of the Meeting House and one adjacent to the southwest corner of the old burying ground. An historical celebration was held on the grounds at which time these markers were dedicated.

During the trying days of 1917 the Meeting opposed our country entering the war against Germany and became interested in raising money for the American Friends Service Committee. In that year, it agreed to raise $10 each month for six months for the use of that committee, and in addition a sewing group was organized.

Again in 1919 a sewing group, under the supervision of Marian Passmore Cope, was organized to sew for the relief of the war sufferers in Europe.

On 5th mo. 20th, 1923 Emlen Darlington and Hugh E. Steele were appointed to invite the Orthodox Friends (since their Preparative Meeting had been discontinued) to meet in joint sessions for the meetings for worship. In the following meeting they reported that the invitation had been accepted and that the two would meet together for the summer, meeting alternately at the two houses. Meetings were held in the Orthodox Meeting House from fifth to seventh months and in the Hicksite Meeting House eighth to tenth months inclusive. This resulted in increased attendance and interest and was continued until 1938 when the Orthodox Meeting House was sold. Since then the Orthodox Monthly Meeting has appointed representatives to attend meeting at Birmingham each week during the summer. This has proved to be a source of mutual benefit and satisfaction.
Birmingham Meeting continued its humanitarian work through the American Friends Service Committee, contributing $117.00 for Polish relief in 1923 and in the following year $201.00 for aid to the starving children in Germany. In 1927, $189.11 was given to the Service Fund.

Again in 1930 repairs, costing $250.00, were made to the Meeting House. In 1932, through the efforts of Jennie Darlington, electric lights were installed in the House. During 1937 a "hood" or "bonnet" was built over the doorway of the southeast door, thus giving the front a balanced appearance. In 1940 a small addition, 12 x 18, was erected to the east end at a cost of $600.00 made available through the income of the Jeanes Fund. At the same time a new rag carpet replaced the old one. The latter had been in use for 60 years and the rags had been sewed by Joseph Darlington, the father of Lena D. Williamson, who is now a member of the Meeting.

In 1937 the Meeting rolls showed a majority of its members were under the age of 35 years. Since our meeting activities consisted of the Preparative Meeting only once a month from 10th month to 5th month, it became a concern of the Meeting to provide more frequent Christian Fellowship for its members during these lean months. Through the combined efforts of the Meeting and the guiding hand of Patrick Lloyd (a full time worker among young Friends of Western Quarter at that time) the Birmingham Forum was organized in 1st month 1937. Dr. Horace F. Darlington was the first president. This organization meets monthly at the homes of members and provides ample time for the discussion of current topics, appreciation of music, and other allied fine arts. Social meetings are occasionally held. In 1938 the Birmingham Messenger was instituted by Dr. Horace F. Darlington and Frances R. Darlington. This is a leaflet which is published each month to circulate information on meeting activities.

It is indeed heartening to observe and record the increased interest which is being shown both in the Meeting and in the Firstday School during recent years. The increased vitality in this Meeting, which has behind it 250 years of such rich history, is surely a source of genuine satisfaction. May we cultivate the hope that this Meeting will continue to be a source of spiritual strength to the Birmingham community during the centuries before us.

Members of Birmingham Preparative Meeting (Hicksite) in 1844

Susanna Darlington
Sidney Darlington
George Darlington
Susan P. Darlington

Eleanor Darlington
Lydia Ann Darlington
Sarah Maria Darlington
Hannah Darlington
Susan R. Darlington
Joseph B. Darlington
Mary Jane Darlington
George Darlington
Elisha Darlington
Stephen Darlington
Ann Darlington
Fenelon Darlington
Louisa Darlington
Sarah Darlington
Emma Darlington
Esther Roberts
Susan Roberts
Mary Roberts
Eliza Roberts
James Roberts
Benedict Darlington
Rachel Darlington
Abraham Darlington
Susan H. Darlington
Emeline Darlington
Howard Darlington
Wm. P. Darlington
Francis Darlington
Anna Darlington
Susan Darlington
Benjamin Price, Jr.
Jane Price
Isaiah Price
Philip P. Price
Jacob Price
Paxson Price
Jane J. Price
Halliday J. Price
Jonathan Paxson
Margaret Paxson
Philip Paxson
Henry Paxson
Hannah Paxson
Rachel Paxson
Caleb Entriiken
Mary Entriiken
Ruth Ann Entriiken
Ann Entriiken
Hannah Ann Entriiken
Isaiah Entriiken
Samuel S. Entriiken
Minerva Entriiken
Anna Mary Entriiken
George M. Entriiken
Emmor W. Entriiken
Llewellyn Entriiken
James Painter
Betsy G. Painter
Wm. T. Painter
Hannah Painter
Minchel Painter
Mary Painter
Esther Baily
Lydia Ann Baily
Thomas Baily
Jesse J. Baily
Elizabeth J. Baily
Anna Baily
Esther Baily
Mary Baily
Joseph H. Baily
James Baily
Clement Biddle Jr
Wm. Walton Biddle
Ruth Maris
George Maris
Hannah Taylor
Urshula Register
Alice Chamberlain
Elizabeth Hickman
Lydia Ann Hickman
Joseph B. Marsh
Halliday Jackson
Caleb H. Cox
Hannah Cox
Hannah S. Darlington
MEMBERS OF BIRMINGHAM PREPARATIVE MEETING (HICKSITE) IN 1861

Abraham Darlington
Susan H. Darlington
William P. Darlington
Ann Darlington
Stephen Darlington
Ann Darlington
Sarah Darlington
Louisa Darlington
Emma Darlington
Lamartine Darlington
George Darlington
Susanna P. Darlington
Eleanor Darlington
Lydia Ann Darlington
Sarah Maria Darlington
Hannah Darlington
Susan R. Darlington
Mary Jane Darlington
George W. Darlington
Joseph B. Darlington
Mary Jane Darlington
Elisha Darlington
George Darlington
Joseph B. Darlington
Benjamin Price
Jane Price
Philip Price
Samuel S. Entriken
Minerva Entriken
Llewellyn Entriken
Hannah M. Entriken
Sarah B. Entriken
Janetta Entriken
Ellen M. Entriken
Fanny S. Entriken
James Painter
Betsy Painter
William T. Painter
Hannah Painter
Minshall Painter
Mary Painter
Anne Painter
Philip Paxson
Phebe Paxson
Howard S. Paxson
Helen F. Paxson
Edward S. Paxson
Alfred Paxson
Fenelon Darlington
Hannah G. Darlington
Lucy Darlington
Jane Darlington
Emmor W. Entriken
Phebe Entriken
George M. Entriken
Paxson Price
Jane J. Price
Halliday J. Price
Sarah J. Price
Mary W. Price
Rachel L. Price
Clement Biddle
Susan W. Biddle
William W. Biddle
Francis C. Biddle
Anne Biddle
Samuel P. Baily
Mary W. Baily
Emily W. Baily
Anna T. Baily
Elizabeth Baily
David R. Hoopes
Susanna E. Hoopes
Samuel E. Hoopes
Ellis M. Hoopes
Ann Entriken
Elizabeth M. Strode
Henry Paxson
Lydia Ann Baker
Elizabeth J. Baily
Mary Baily
Hannah S. Darlington
Joseph H. Baily
James Baily
Caleb H. Cox
Louisa W. Hays
Sarah Palmer
Robert P. Chamberlain
Jane H. Strode
Elwood Hoopes
MEMBERS OF BIRMINGHAM PREPARATIVE MEETING (HICKSITE) IN 1940

| Baily, Ida (Barnard) | McCarde, Lee Elwood |
| Baily, Eusebius B. | McCarde, Laura Ann |
| Baily, Leon D. | Michener, Jennie L. |
| Baily, Suellen L. | Michener, Marguerite R. |
| Baily, James W. | Michener, J. Lewis |
| Baily, Madeline C. (Lloyd) | Passmore, Annie (Darlington) |
| Bittle, Delmont K. | Passmore, S. Ralph |
| Bittle, Alta J. (Baily) | Passmore, Mary (Comfort) |
| Childs, Harold T. | Passmore, Ruth Ann |
| Childs, Emaline (Passmore) | Passmore, Isaac Andrew, II |
| Childs, William Isaac | Passmore, Robert Comfort |
| Childs, Samuel Harold | Pratt, Wilmer J. |
| Childs, Mary Anne | Pratt, William |
| Cope, William T., Jr. | Pratt, Richard LeRoy |
| Cope, Andrew P. | Reynolds, Mary (Cloud) |
| Cope, Anna D. | Reynolds, Martin Cloud |
| Cope, Dorothy S. | Reynolds, Anna N. |
| Darlington, Emlen | Reynolds, Elizabeth C. |
| Darlington, Frances R. | Roberts, Ruth C. M. |
| Darlington, William E. | Sheffield, Ann |
| Darlington, Thelma (Walker) | Steele, Hugh E. |
| Darlington, David W. | Steele, Mary |
| Darlington, Janet Mae | Steele, George |
| Darlington, Horace F., M.D. | Swayne, Shirley T. |
| Darlington, Pauline (Calhoun) | Swayne, Laura (Williamson) |
| Darlington, Robin Lou | Swayne, Samuel W. |
| Darlington, Lucy | Tanguay, Charles H. |
| Hatton, Edith J. | Taylor, Elizabeth (Williamson) |
| Hutchinson, Amory Hare | Williamson, Lena (Darlington) |
| Jones, Jessie M. | Williamson, Samuel A. |
| Jones, Esther M. | Williamson, Horace S. |
| Jones, Hugh A. | Williamson, Joseph P. |
| McCardle, Clarence | Williamson, John Jr. |
| McCardle, Lena (Williamson) | Woolard, Minnie D. |

OVERSEERS OF BIRMINGHAM PREPARATIVE MEETING (HICKSITE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Price .......... 1828–1834</td>
<td>Rebecca Jones .......... 1828–1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement Biddle .......... 1857–1867</td>
<td>Margaret Paxson .......... 1837–1854</td>
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Men
Fenelon Darlington .......... 1870-1879
Lamartine Darlington .......... 1879-1897
Enos P. Barnard .......... 1897-1921
Hugh E. Steele .......... 1921-
William T. Cope .......... 1921-1930
Emlen Darlington .......... 1934-

Women
Susan W. Biddle .......... 1854-1877
Hannah C. Darlington .......... 1877-1892
Phebe S. Paxson .......... 1877-1883
Lydia Ann Baker .......... 1883-1889
Elizabeth B. Steele .......... 1889-1892
Sarah A. Darlington .......... 1892-1897
Phebe S. Paxson .......... 1897-1916
Lucy Darlington .......... 1897-1904
Jennie T. Darlington .......... 1904-1933
Abigail Barnard .......... 1904-1921
Minerva M. Jones .......... 1917-1930
Ida Barnard Baily .......... 1930-
Jessie M. Jones .......... 1933-1934
Frances R. Darlington .......... 1933-

Clerks and Committees of Birmingham Preparative Meeting in 1940

Clerk
Alta Baily Bittle

Assistant Clerk
Frances R. Darlington

Treasurer
Emlen Darlington

Trustees
Emlen Darlington
Horace F. Darlington, M.D.
S. Ralph Passmore
Hugh E. Steele

Property Committee
Ida B. Baily
Horace F. Darlington, M.D.
S. Ralph Passmore
Mary C. Reynolds
George Steele

Birmingham Friends on Monthly Meeting Committees in 1940

Funerals
Emlen Darlington

Finance
Annie D. Passmore

Visiting and Correspondence
Ida B. Baily
Horace F. Darlington, M.D.
Mary C. Passmore
Hugh E. Steele

Overseers
Ida B. Baily
Emlen Darlington
Frances R. Darlington
Hugh E. Steele

Ministry and Counsel
Emlen Darlington
Horace F. Darlington, M.D.
S. Ralph Passmore
Annie D. Passmore
Hugh E. Steele
CHAPTER IV

THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE WHO SETTLED CHESTER COUNTY*

BY DR. WILLIAM T. SHARPLESS

WILLIAM PENN said that among the very early settlers in his colony "there were French, Dutch, German, Swedes, Danes, Finns, Scotch, Irish, Welsh and English and of the last more than all the rest." He probably meant more English than all the rest combined. This gave to Pennsylvania a more diversified population than there was in any of the other American Colonies so far as nationality is concerned. And yet in most respects they constituted a homogeneous group, for most of them were moved by the same reason in coming to Pennsylvania—namely, to escape religious persecution and to find a place where they could live without molestation, make their own laws and practice the form of worship that their conscience dictated.

They were mostly an intelligent but not a cultured people, that came to Chester County. There were some university graduates and men of fine education among the immigrants, but most of these settled in Philadelphia. Among these were William Penn himself, Thomas Lloyd, James Logan, Edward Shippen, and George Keith. Some of the immigrants (more frequently the women) could not write their names, but in general education they compared favorably with the Pilgrims who came in the Mayflower, or with the Scotch Irish who settled the western part of the county. As a group the Welsh, who settled on the south side of the Schuylkill in Chester County, probably had more education, more money, and were of better social position than any of the others. Some of these were classed as "gentlemen." Marriages frequently occurred, however, between the Welsh and their less aristocratic neighbors, the English, as shown by the number of Welsh names still found in Chester County. The names of Evans, Williams, Lewis, Roberts, Philips, and Thomas indicate the Welsh ancestry. Most of the Welsh were also Quakers. Almost as soon as a Quaker meeting was established, beside the meeting house a school was built where the rudi-

*An excerpt from this chapter was read by Dr. Sharpless at the 250th anniversary of the founding of Birmingham Meeting on 10th month 6th, 1940.
ments of an English education might be obtained, where to use George Fox's phrase they were instructed in "all things honest and useful." These rudiments they considered to be reading, writing and enough arithmetic to carry on ordinary business and keep accounts. More than that was by many regarded with suspicion as tending to cultivate intellectual pride, and to lead away from the contemplation of those heavenly mysteries on which their hearts were fixed, and which were more to them than gold or human learning or life itself. Thus we find that William Penn, a man of fine education, who was familiar with the philosophy of the ancients, in his testimony concerning George Fox says, "I thank thee, oh Father, Lord of heaven and earth that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent of this world and hast revealed them unto babes, for many times hath my soul bowed in humble thankfulness to the Lord that he did not choose any of the wise and learned of this world to be the first messengers in this age of his blessed truth to men but that he took one that was not of high degree or elegant in speech or learned after the way of this world that his message and work that he sent him to do might come with less suspicion or jealousy of human wisdom and interest and more force and clearness upon the conscience of those who sincerely sought the way of truth in the love of it."

The belief of the early Friends is so well known that it seems unnecessary to go into any detailed account of it at this time and place. But as it was this belief and the practices that grew out of it that brought great persecution to Friends which persecution was the chief cause of their coming to this country and as they brought this faith with them it seems necessary briefly to refer to it.

In a general way the belief of the Quakers in the fundamental principles of Christianity is the same as that of the other evangelical sects, but the emphasis they place on the offices of the Holy Spirit and the practices which grow out of this feature, separate them very distinctly from other Christian denominations. George Fox found after much searching and study and consulting many teachers and preachers that it was Jesus Christ only who could "speak to his condition." The Quakers believe that there is a principle, a seed, an inner light in every man which if sought in humility and prayer will guide him into the truth, show him God's will, give him strength to do it, cleanse his heart of selfishness and all evil passions and fill him with love for all mankind. This belief made them a kindly and helpful people and it forms the basis of their conception of worship and the ministry. They also believed that God has not ceased to reveal his will to man, but that this
revelation is continuous and that new requirements may be made from time to time of those who are attentive to his voice.

The Quaker had grown up at a time when the Puritan influence was in ascendancy in England and they had imbibed some of the practices and way of life of this austere group. They considered life too serious a matter to indulge in any form of amusement although these amusements might be innocent in themselves. MaCauley says of the Puritans: "They were men whose minds had derived a peculiar character from the daily contemplation of superior beings and eternal interests. Not content with acknowledging in general terms an over-ruling providence they habitually ascribed every event to the will of the Great Being for whose power nothing was too vast, for whose inspection nothing was too minute. To know him, to serve him, to enjoy him was with them the great end of existence." These characteristics of the Puritans remind us of the early Quakers. Many of the Quakers had been members of the puritan party and had fought beside Oliver Cromwell as officers or common soldiers at Dunbar, and Worcester, and Marston Moor. When they became Quakers they changed carnal weapons for spiritual weapons. They changed force and violence for love and good will. They believed they were fighting for human freedom in both instances, and were good soldiers in both.

Because they believed only in the direct guidance of God's spirit in their worship they refused to accept any sort of ecclesiastical domination whatever. They rejected all ritual and ceremony, they refused to pay taxes or tithes for the support of such churches. They refused to bear arms or fight as contrary to the teachings of Christ and they refused to take judicial oaths because their Bibles told them to "swear not at all." This brought them into conflict with both the church and state and they were fined, imprisoned, denied their civil rights, given corporal punishment and had their property taken from them. And when William Penn opened up to them a home in a land dedicated to religious and political liberty and established upon a basis of universal peace, they came to it in great numbers.

The historian loves to linger on these earliest days of Pennsylvania history. The proprietor was young, handsome and wealthy—of good social position and with large political influence. He was filled with the generous purpose of building on the banks of the Delaware a state where the people themselves should rule, where justice and liberty should prevail and where the oppressed of all nations and of every creed should find a safe retreat. "I wanted," Penn said, "to afford an asylum to the good oppressed of every nation which might be an example. My God that has given it to me through many difficulties will, I believe,
bless and make it the seed of a nation.” The settlers cooperated with his desires. Though they had many inconveniences and some hardships their labor yielded them a living and they were contented for they were free—free from the cruel treatment they had received in their home countries—free to worship in their own way, to make their own laws and to participate in every function of government—a government that was possibly as near to an ideal democracy as any that the world had ever seen.

William Penn took considerable satisfaction in the fact that of the early immigrants five hundred of them were yeomen (we would call them farmers) a class that stood in a social position between the nobility and squires on one side who usually owned the land often in large tracts, and the farm laborer on the other. Sometimes these yeomen owned their farms in England and had some property, as shown by the fact that they brought with them household goods (sometimes plate) of considerable value. They usually had enough cash to pay for the land they acquired in Pennsylvania for which the usual price was twenty pounds for one thousand acres or in our money about ten cents an acre. This carried with it the obligation to pay yearly a shilling for each hundred acres as “quit rent.” This “quit rent” led to much trouble at a later time. The land was often bought and paid for in England before the country here had been surveyed. In such case a right to a specified amount of land was sold and the land selected after arrival in Pennsylvania. There were none of the very large land owners such as constituted the aristocracy in Maryland and Virginia. The farmers were the influential class and established the social customs and the way of life of the neighborhood. The mechanic worked for the farmer.

One of the few articles of consumption not raised on the farm was rum which was imported from the West Indies, and was considered a necessary article of domestic use. It was freely supplied to the laborers on the farms as part of their pay. We find on the Minutes of the Yearly and other Meetings, however, many cautions against the excessive use of intoxicating liquors. Whiskey, the vile congener of rum, and which is now such a devastating agent everywhere, did not come into common use in Pennsylvania until a much later time, though spirits distilled from grain had been used in Scotland and Ireland for hundreds of years.

Albert Cook Myers, in his account of the settlement of this county by Irish Quakers, says that on arrival usually at Chester or New Castle, the women and children with most of their household goods were left with friends at the port of entry, while the men procured pack horses and rude carts and with the necessary implements went into the wilderness to locate their homes. Having found their allotment they built a
log house after a plan furnished them by Penn and when completed moved the rest of the family in and were prepared to set up an independent existence. For in these cases every home was a microcosm. They soon were able to supply from their farms and from the forests and rivers their own food. They raised their own wool and hemp which they spun and often made it into clothing. The woods supplied them with fuel. The Indians were friendly and helpful. They supplied food, if needed—a turkey for a shilling and a deer for two shillings. The basis of their stock of farm animals was supplied by the Swedes.

Thousands of Friends' Meetings were held during the one hundred years that constituted the Colonial period and the minutes in most instances have been preserved and are available to any one interested in studying the history of that time. I have not been able to find many letters that refer to that period. I suppose that such letters were sent by the settlers to their relatives and friends in England. In Albert Cook Myer's account there is a long letter written by Robert Parke (who lived in Downingtown) in 1725 to his relatives in Ireland which gives very valuable information of the time. Dr. William I. Hull quotes such letters written by the settlers of Germantown at an earlier period. All of these letters are enthusiastic in their praise of conditions here and advise their friends to come. They speak of the fertility of the soil, the ease of making a comfortable living, the freedom from onerous taxes, the benefits of the free government, and their opportunity to practice their worship and attend to their religious duties unmolested—a welcome relief from the burdensome requirements in England.

To give an idea of the conduct of the members of the meetings we must quote from the minutes of the various monthly meetings. At Concord Monthly Meeting 1st month, 4th, 1684. "Considered and agreed upon by the hearing of a difference between Joseph Richards and Charles Ascham about the admeasure of land—that the said Joseph shall pay Charles for the same without any further disturbance. The same is ended between them and the money is paid in the presence of the meeting."

Sixth month 3rd, 1685: "It was agreed that Thomas Brassey and John Hastings according to their own freeness do speak with John Gibbons and his wife and if possible to persuade them and work upon them to come again to meetings endeavoring also to make them sensible of the love and care of Friends toward them." That this "love and care" were effectual is shown by the minute of 9th month 5th, 1685: "The meeting to be held alternately at John Gibbons and Nicholas Newlin"; 6th month 1st, 1687: "A committee of Friends was sent to Margery Gibbons to request her to be silent in meetings until she have given
satisfaction to this meeting. Margery agreed to consider this but was later disowned as her friends had no unity with her service."

What Honor Brown's offense was does not appear until later in the minutes but on 2nd month 4th, 1688 she was treated with by a committee of the women and "doth acknowledge her fault tenderly as sorry." She was restored to membership.

On the same date, William Brinton, the ancestor of all the illustrious families of that name, confessed to the meeting that he had been "led forth by a wrong spirit into such a passion, speaking words to the dishonor of truth and to the dishonor of God's people and he promised to give satisfaction openly." It was supposed that this was an acknowledgment of his attending the meetings of George Keith who had been an earnest and influential advocate of the Quaker faith and had travelled on the continent and elsewhere with Barclay and Penn and others but who soon after coming to Pennsylvania in 1689 became dissatisfied with some of the Quaker beliefs and practice, especially because he said the Quaker exalted the "inner light" above the belief in the historic Christ and the Scriptures and he led a considerable number of Friends away with him to form another sect most of whom joined the Episcopal Church (as Keith did later) or who acknowledged their error and rejoined the Quakers. William Brinton was one of the latter group, but he seems afterward to have been a member of the meeting in good standing and he died in the "full order of sanctity." As this minute is dated 1687 and as Keith did not come to Pennsylvania until 1689, the acknowledgment above referred to must have been for some other offense, as William though a good business man and a large landowner and an influential citizen, seems to have been quick tempered, impulsive and apt to fall out with his neighbors, as we find that in 1689 and running through the minutes for several months there is a record of a quarrel between William Brinton and Hugh Durborrow. The cause of the difference is not stated and the case finally disappears from the minutes, probably having been settled outside the meeting. (Nicholas Newlin, Robert Pile, Richard Chandler, John Kerysman, and John Radley.)

Fifth month 13th, 1688: Here is a record of the first petting party in Pennsylvania. "It is the sense of this meeting that Honour Brown is guilty of unseemly behaviour in suffering John Bradshaw to be too familiar with her without reproof which is to the dishonour of the blessed truth she professeth and it is the sense of the meeting that Honour Brown subscribe to a paper of condemnation." This Honour declined to do. There we lose sight of the case.

Twelfth month 14th, 1686 This is the way they handled a case of libel. "This is to certify to Friends and others that we Deborah Hous
and Elinore Parke have spoken and repeated things of Jacob Chandler which were false as we are truly satisfied in our own 'harts,' therefore in sympathy unto all that we have done them 'rong' and are sorry for it—judging ourselves that we have done contrary to the truth as we would have others do by us. This is given under our hands believing we have abused an innocent man. Signed Deborah Haus. Elinore Parke. Witness Nicholas Newlin, William Brinton, and others.” Perhaps there was something in the charges that these women brought against Jacob Chandler for we find that in 10th month 12th, 1698 this minute which seems to give some warrant to the charges of Deborah Hous and Elinore Parke.

“Whereas Jacob Chandler hath walked among us for many years and hath made profession and hath confessed to the truth as it is in Jesus and now of late hath separated from the peaceable spirit of truth that is in Jesus Christ our Lord and hath grieved the spirit of God in others which hath bin a great exercise to this meeting having been litigious and troublesome endeavouring to “spoyle” us by his rending this unruly spirit, charging the meeting to be Babel. Now after much travail and labor to bring him to a sight and sense of his condition from meeting to meeting, this meeting understanding that he was inclined to separatists (though he would not own it) thought fit to desire him to syn the paper that the yearly meeting gave forth against George Keith.” This finally resulted in Jacob being expelled from the meeting.

Most of the foregoing notes have been taken from the minutes of Concord Monthly Meeting (to which Birmingham was subordinate), one of the first established and giving the attitudes of the Friends of that time toward alleged offenses. Goshen Monthly Meeting established nearly forty years later gives a somewhat different picture. The minutes of Concord Meeting show not only the character of the delinquencies complained of but the care that the meeting exercised over the offenders. We are impressed with the patience and loving care extended by the committee to these. They labored with them sometimes for months endeavouring to convince them of their error and to restore them whenever possible to full membership in the Society. They considered every complaint made against them no matter who the offender was nor the character of the alleged offense in the light of justice and fairness and made every possible allowance for ignorance and misunderstanding. They did “nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice” and when they were obliged to disown a member they did it reluctantly and always with information of his right to appeal to a higher meeting and held the door open for the return of the member, if he came to desire it—which he not infrequently did.
Goshen Monthly Meeting was established in 1722 and the original minutes are still kept in the safe at Willistown Meeting house. The custodian of these minutes, Thomas Smedley, has been so obliging as to allow me to have these minutes in my possession and I have been able to make many notes. I think these minutes have not received the publicity of those of some other meetings. By 1722 the Friends in Chester County had become numerous, influential, and prosperous. Their predecessors had been chastened by persecution and by the loss of their personal and religious liberty. They had given up much for their convictions and the cause for which they suffered was very dear to them. The next generation was not called upon to make such sacrifices for their faith and became more worldly. While they enforced the requirements of the Quaker discipline rigorously they had lost some of their charity for human weakness and a measure of their spiritual power. The spiritual life of the body as a whole declined. Offenses against honesty, sobriety and good conduct generally appear more frequently in the minutes of the meeting: “Joseph Williamson absconded leaving debts behind him and he hath not taken any care to protect his creditors.” He was disowned.

Richard Pritchard of Newtown was reported to the meeting as addicted to “cursing and swearing.” He desired to have another “tryal” which was granted.

James Norris was reported as being guilty of using intoxicating liquors to excess which he admitted to be true. The meeting continued his case and extended to him great care and concern for many months and finally he made an acknowledgment to the meeting and asked their help in overcoming the habit.

The use of intoxicating liquors was general among Friends at that time, especially at weddings and funerals, though the excessive use was condemned.

Eighth month 4th, 1723: “Newtown Meeting having informed this meeting that Edward Thomas hath done damage to a creature of his neighbor Evan Jones by fastening some straw to its ‘tayle’ and putting fire to the same and the said Edward acknowledges his fault and this meeting satisfied that he hath satisfied the owner his statement is recorded as satisfactory.”

“William Williams son of Robert and Joan daughter of James Pugh declared their intention of marriage with each other before this meeting and he acknowledged his miss-step in proposing his mind to the young woman before he had her father’s consent but is allowed to proceed.”
John Hagan was disowned because he married a member of the meeting when he had already promised to marry another.

Nathan Phipps was disowned because of an "evil tendency" to marry some one not a member of the meeting contrary to the advice of his parents, and the known rules of Friends' discipline.

Tenth month 4th, 1724: "On account of the great number of people attending marriages and the necessary preparation for them and occasional disorder it is directed that only those especially invited shall attend and that the mere announcement of a marriage and dinner (after serious consideration by the meeting) shall not be considered an invitation to attend—also at burials."

Tenth month 3rd, 1725: "A motion was made that this meeting would take into consideration the distressed case of John Hanson a Friend inhabitant of the eastern part of New England who had his wife and four children and a servant woman carried away captive by the Indians and all save one of his children returned, at a charge too heavy for the said Friend to bear alone."

The meeting was also asked to contribute to a fund to relieve John Hanson and Goshen gave three pounds, fourteen shillings and six pence. At another time they were asked to contribute to the needs of New England Friends who were suffering from failure of crops due to drought and from Indian raids. Of Indian raids Friends of Pennsylvania were singularly free. At one time they were asked to pay for some Friends who had been captured on the seas by Turkish pirates and taken to Algiers.

Tenth month 19th, 1739. A collection is directed to be taken up for the relief of Sheik Scheide said to be a nobleman and a Friend of the city of Borgatus near Mt. Lebanon situated in Phoenicia who has suffered great persecution by the Turks on account of his Christian religion and is recommended by the king and council to all well disposed Christians as an object of charity.

Sixth month 19th, 1731. "This meeting being informed that Samuel Taylor is like to be reduced to a necessitous condition so that his family is like to suffer want and the said Samuel and his wife being present signify that they are willing to put their two older children away that live with them. Therefore this meeting appoints William Lewis and Richard Jones to advise and assist them."

Uwchlan Meeting brings a complaint against "John Evans (who has been several times complained of) for being frequently overcome by strong liquor and using light and unseemly behaviour and having too little regard for speaking the truth." John later appeared before the meeting and admitted that when under the influence of strong drink he
took a "light and airy carriage with the maid servant but he is willing fully to condemn his misdemeanor and the meeting deferred testifying against him."

Stephen Beakes was charged with being "disguised" by strong drink at a fair at Chester. He denied this at first but afterward confessed that he was asleep in a chair at the fair and in "something of a disorder." He stated "that he was sorry and it was received as satisfaction."

Third month 30th, 1739. Uwchlan Meeting reported that Joseph Jackson encouraged and allowed a shooting match at his own dwelling. Noble Butler was appointed to see him. He was disowned.

Some of the acknowledgments are very touching in their simplicity and evident sincerity. Sarah Calvert who was accused of a serious offense against good morals and the good order of the Society which she admitted to be true, made the following statement:

"Dear Friends—I have disregarded the teaching of grace and good counsel of my exercised parents and have given way to undue liberty which is a great sin against my maker and a grief to my parents and friends for all which I have been and still remain under great trouble of mind desiring the Lord to forgive me my sins and I entreat Friends to pass by my offenses so far as in them lieth, desiring though unworthy to be continued in some degree under their care and desiring through the help of grace to walk humbly all the days of my life, taking the blame and shame to myself."

Seventh month 9th, 1741: "Uwchlan Meeting complains that John Phipps assaulted another person with blows at a public house they being playing a game called 'hustle cap' and on 2nd month 20th, 1742 John was informed that his meeting expected him to make a public acknowledgment concerning that game of 'hustle cap' or they would disown him. This John refused to do, stating that he was 'minded to be at his liberty.' He was disowned."

Seventh month 15th, 1742: "David Haines hath so far given way to his own licentious will as to be married by the assistance of a priest to a young woman not of our religious society which procedure is repugnant and altogether disagreeable to the known rules of our church discipline." He was disowned.

Ninth month 18th, 1745: "Goshen Meeting reports that John Trego had gone a privateering." Later what was called his "sorrowful case" was considered and he was disowned.

"John Chamberlain appeared here desiring to propose his intention of marriage with a young woman a respected member among us which application very solemnly weighed and considered the meeting considering the circumstances he hath subjected himself to by being so deeply
concerned in the iniquitous practice of trafficking in slaves cannot have freedom to suffer his proposal to pass this meeting. Yet being tenderly touched in the concern for the young woman's situation we appoint a committee to visit on the occasion in order for her help."

Sixth month 10th, 1763: "Olive Mercer hath so far misconducted herself as to accompany a disorderly marriage and joined a dance where music was playing. She declined to condemn this and was disowned."

Tenth month 5th, 1765: "John Yarnall was disowned because he hath given way to a libertine spirit as to strip off his shirt in order to fight with another man and when dealt with in the occasion he erred from the truth and he declined to condemn it."

Thomas Malin was under the care of the meeting because he had a difference with two men and he fought them both and he declined to apologize. We are afraid that this courageous Quaker was disowned.

Tenth month 11th, 1765: Goshen Meeting brought complaint against John Griffith for abusing his neighbor throwing him down and rubbing dirt in his mouth several times.

Eighth month 1st, 1769: Goshen Meeting brought a complaint against Ezekiel Griffith for laying a wager and running a race and the said Ezekiel seemed fully convicted of his misconduct.

Though these offenses seem to be frequent and serious they were collected from the minutes covering fifty years from a very large membership and the proportion of offenders was actually small. We believe while complaints of the kind mentioned were much more frequent in the forty years following 1720 than in the forty years preceding, when we consider the conditions just stated, we may claim that Friends in the 18th century were a relatively well behaved group, good citizens and faithful friends.

The Quakers do not seem to have taken much interest in politics. In fact it was said of them that they did not know enough about public affairs to act intelligently and so might be led by some unscrupulous leader into a course that their judgment would not approve if they had considered the matter carefully. The case was this. Under the bicameral plan of government set up by William Penn, the upper house or Council had most of the authority. It only could initiate legislation and determine the time of adjournment. The lower house or assembly which was elected directly by the people and had the right of passing on any act of the council before it became law could not introduce any new measure. There was a leader in the assembly, a good lawyer and an able man, David Lloyd, who thought that the ends of justice and of democratic government would be better served if the assembly had the right to initiate legislation. He was probably right in this, but it was charged
that he was unfair and unscrupulous in his methods and treated Penn, who had done him great favor, with disrespect and even contempt. After several years of agitation with varying fortunes, the constitution of the colony was changed in 1701, giving to the assembly everything for which Lloyd contended and made the council not much more than an advisory body. This gave the colony a more democratic government and placed it more directly in the hands of the people. This was brought about by the leadership of Lloyd and the votes of the assembly, especially of the country members. The ancestors of many people here today participated in this legislation as members of the assembly and so helped to establish a more representative government, a more democratic commonwealth, a government more in accord with the present ideas than anything the world had previously known.

The attitude of Friends toward astrology, chiromancy, Rhabdomancy, divining with a staff, witchcraft and superstitious beliefs in general is admirable. At a time, when in New England men and women in considerable numbers were being punished or even executed for alleged witchcraft, there was but one trial of that sort in Pennsylvania, held at Chester and presided over by William Penn himself, which resulted in the triumphant acquittal of the person accused, and on the third of the 12th month 1695 at a Quarterly Meeting held at Joseph Steedman's a paper was issued which for clear statement, good sense and sound reasoning, could not be improved upon at the present time.

"Whereas. This Meeting being acquainted that some persons under the Profession of Truth and belonging to this meeting who professing the art of Astrology have undertook thereby to give answers to Questions and give Astrological judgments concerning persons and things tending to the dishonor of God, the reproach of Truth, and the great hurt both of themselves and those who so come to inquire of them—and whereas it is reported that some professing Truth among us seems too much inclined to use and practice Rhabdomancy or Consulting with a Staff, and such like things—All which have brought a weighty exercise and concern upon this meeting as well as because of the reproach that is already brought upon the Truth thereby, as also to prevent as much as in us lies its being further reproached by any among us that may attempt to follow the like practice for time to come—

We therefore being met together in the fear of the Lord to consider not only of the affairs of Truth in general, but also that it may be kept clear of all scandal and reproach by all that profess it in the particular, as also to recover if possible any, who for want of diligence and watchfulness therein, have not only brought reproach thereto, but have also hurt their own Souls, darkened their own understandings, hindered themselves as to their inward Exercise and Spiritual Travel towards the Land of Rest and Peace—which as we all come in measure to be possessors of shall feel great satisfaction and sweet content in our conditions, as God by his good hand of Providence
shall be pleased to order it, whether we have much of this world or not, whether we get of it, or not get, whether we lose or not lose, everyone being in his place, using his or her honest Christian endeavor, here we shall be content with the success of our labors without such unlawful seeking of what the event of this, that or the other thing may be, by running to inquire of the Astrologers. Magicians, Soothsayers, Stargazers or Monthly Prognosticators, which of old could not tell their own events (neither can they at this day)."

This address is the more remarkable when we consider the extent to which astrology and similar alleged sciences entered into the lives of the people of that time. Horoscopes were cast, crops were planted, journeys undertaken and remedies prescribed only after careful observation of the indications furnished by the position and relations of the planets and other heavenly bodies. A book used as a guide in administering remedies in family ailments and which shows many signs of frequent and prolonged use is still in the possession of the Marshall family. It contains the signature of Mary Marshall, 1746. I believe, she was the mother of Humphrey Marshall, the botanist who wrote the first American botany, the Arbustum Americanum. The family which owned it, and presumably used it, represented the best in intelligence and education that the times produced. The author was Nicholas Culpepper who signs himself "Physician and Astrologer." Extravagant claims are made for the value of many herbs which we now believe to be inert and as Kipling says "every plant had its star bespoke." While the death rate, especially among babies, was appalling, the birth rate was high and large families were the rule. As for instance in 1735 Benjamin Sharpless married Edith Broome who died in 1744, leaving three children, whereupon Benjamin married Martha Pennell in 1746 and they had sixteen more, most of whom lived to adult age and one lived to ninety-eight. This sort of thing brought about a rapid increase in the population and compensated for the high infant mortality.

The record of the Society of Friends with regard to slavery is very creditable. The first formal action of the Quakers was in 1688 when a group of German friends led by Francis Daniel Pastorius presented a memorial on the subject to the Yearly Meeting. Not much notice was taken of this. While that meeting during several years sent rather mild minutes to their subordinate meetings advising against participating in the importation and traffic in slaves, it did not meet the approval of some of the more radical of those who believed that slavery was wicked and who wished it forbidden to Friends. Whittier says in his life of John Woolman, "The Chester Quarterly Meeting which had taken a higher and clearer view of the matter continued to press the Yearly
Meeting to adopt some needed measure against any traffic in human beings." It is believed that it was Robert Pyle of Chester Quarterly Meeting who insisted month after month and year after year that Friends take a more decided stand in the matter. Robert Pyle, I think, was a member of Chichester Meeting and was a man useful in the affairs of the meeting and prominent in the public life of the community. Indeed, it was complained of him that he had too much influence in his particular meeting and that he "doth sway the meeting."

Two other early advocates of freedom for the slaves were Benjamin Lay and Anthony Benezet, both Quakers, but the greatest influence in the Antislavery movement was that Quaker saint, John Woolman, born in 1720, a tailor of Mt. Holly, New Jersey. He labored in the cause from youth to his death in 1772. He travelled, wrote, and preached in the cause, mostly going on foot, often accompanied by John Churchman of Nottingham, visiting the holders of slaves, remonstrating against the practice, gaining an adherent here and another there, gradually acquiring support and finally the Yearly Meeting of Friends in 1758, moved by his solemn eloquence, recommended its members to set all slaves at liberty and to make adequate provision for their support. In 1773 the Yearly Meeting agreed that all Friends who still held slaves and refused to liberate them should be disowned. By the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783, there were practically no slaves held by Quakers in Pennsylvania.

While there was much that was narrow, unattractive and at times fanatical in the life and creed of the Quakers of the 17th century, when we remember the character of the Gospel message which they revived and gave to the world, when we remember that they were willing with patient endurance to sacrifice property, personal liberty and life itself and to go to foul prisons among felons for the support of their convictions and that when these prisoners became weak and sick and near dying from the intolerable treatment they received that those Friends who were still free offered the authorities to take their places and serve their sentences for them (which was refused) and when we consider the upright and godly lives of these humble people and the brave struggle for freedom of speech and of belief that they made, we can understand the claim of the historian, John Fiske (who may have been biased by his Quaker ancestry), "There can be very little doubt that the Christian ideal has been more nearly realized by the Quakers than by any other sect of Christians." These were the men and women who established the social and religious life of the people of Chester County.
CHAPTER V

THE MEETING HOUSES

A MEETING house was erected on the original Webb acre within the confines of the present graveyard. Tradition says this was a house of red cedar logs, with no chimney or stove. It was heated by burning charcoal on a flintstone in the center of the building.

This first meeting house was used until 1763 when the western part of the present building was erected on the eastern corner of the original acre. It is not definite when the house was built but it appears probable that it was the year 1763 from the following fact: Benjamin Hawley, who lived across the road and taught the Birmingham School recorded in his diary, under date of 6th mo. 13th, 1763: "P. S. Went to the raising of ye meeting house." This building was a stone structure, facing south, with one large double door on the south, one smaller double door on the west, and one on the north, opening directly into the graveyard. Two windows were built on the south, two on the west and two on the north. The building was 38 x 41 feet in size. There were two divisions; one side for the women, the other for the men, and the front door opened into the eastern end. It is not known when the door into the graveyard was closed but its location is still evident both inside and outside.

In 1815 when Birmingham Monthly Meeting was organized it was found that the Birmingham Meeting House either was too small or in such poor condition that it was not feasible to hold the sessions of the Monthly Meeting there. The Monthly Meeting had decreed that its sessions would be held alternately at the two places, after the Meeting House at Birmingham was put in proper condition. This conditioning was completed in 1818 and consisted of removing the east wall and making the house 17½ feet longer. Similar stone was used in the new addition, a door and a window to the south, one window on the north and a door to the east, opening out on to a porch, were included. The partition in the original building was removed and one erected in the center of the enlarged structure. The position of the former partition can still be seen in the ceiling of the west end and the eastern boundary of the original building can also be seen in the floor of the east end.

The following minute tells how the new building was financed: "Subscriptions for raising money for defraying the expenses of making
Tu·o Hundred Fifty Years of Quakerism at Birmingham

an addition to the Meeting house as directed by the preparative meeting 3rd mo. 28th, 1816."

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A few of these are marked as paying less (in one case not at all) but nearly all are checked off as having paid. William Davis was one of the collectors for his receipts show he had paid Benjamin Sharples certain amounts, some as late as 1818. He was a carpenter and likely had charge of the work.

It is likely that the door to the graveyard was closed at this time but it may have been done after the Separation, when the graveyard was retained by the Orthodox Friends. The flooring was of heavy oak boards with numbers cut into them to match the numbers in the benches which stood above them. A rag carpet was laid in the west end about 1870 and another one in 1940. Several floors have been laid during the life of this building, so there is no truth in the story of bloodstains on the present floor—grim reminders of its hospital activities. The "hoods" (Bonnets) over the front doors, which serve as a protection during storms, are distinguishing features.

During the middle of the last century the place presented a gloomy appearance, until repairs were made and trees were trimmed. Many
1. Orthodox School House Built in 1854
2. Birmingham Meeting House before 1818
3. Daguerreotype of Meeting House prior to 1846 (Courtesy of Pennsylvania Historical Society)
4. Orthodox Meeting House Built in 1845
5. The 1704 House (Home of William Brinton)
of the evergreen trees in the old cemetery were planted by Frances Biddle and Philip P. Sharpless. One of the present trees of particular interest is a Kentucky Coffee tree. The original oak trees are all gone, as well as a grove of walnut trees which stood near the octagonal school house. A graveyard for the use of the colored people of the neighborhood was near this location.

To the east of the Meeting House was a row of sheds for the protection of the horses. The property all belonged to the Meeting except 165.6 square feet and the shed standing on it which belonged to Samuel Jones, who, when he deeded the property to the Meeting, reserved this land for the accommodation of himself and his family. These sheds were torn down in 1895. William Jones, the grandson of Samuel Jones, the donor of the land, presented this small lot to the Meeting. The sheds directly in front of the Meeting House were erected in about 1875 and were removed in 1940, since they, too, were no longer needed.

The horseblock or "upping block" in front of the present building is much prized for its association with the past.

A slate roof was put on the house in 1864 by Lamartine Darlington, a member of meeting, who was a slater. Various repairs have been made from time to time as mentioned in Chapter III. The final addition was the room, 12 x 18, to the right, already mentioned, erected in 1940.

When the Orthodox Meeting House was erected in 1845, there was no meeting fund and the members met the expense by voluntary contributions, assisted somewhat by Philadelphia Friends. Some members also gave time and labor and contributed material. Chalkley Bell gave the serpentine stone from his quarries in Westtown Township. Edward Brinton gave lumber for roofing material. The large slabs of stone at the eastern doors were from the Woodward quarries located one mile to the east. The inside finish was of northern Pennsylvania pine.

The following minute and list are copied from The Subscription Book for the Orthodox Meeting House. "The subject of providing a more convenient house for holding our religious meetings in, also sheds, etc. was introduced into Birmingham Preparative Meeting held the 14th day of the eighth month 1844 and Benjamin Sharpless and James Forsythe were appointed to procure subscriptions for that purpose also ground to build on. And it is expected the sum of fifteen hundred dollars will be wanted. Now therefore we whose names are hereunto subscribed members of the religious society of Friends promise and agree that we our Executors or Administrators do respectively by these presents pay to Aaron Sharpless Treasurer of said Preparative meeting or to his successor in office the sum respectively subscribed by us and set oppo-
site our names for the use and purpose aforsaid whenever the same
Shall be called for by said preparative meeting or its Treasurer

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<td>David Garrett—</td>
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<td>Jasper Cope</td>
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<td>one acre of ground</td>
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<td>Israel Cope</td>
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<td>corner of the field</td>
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<td>in front of my house</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5.00</td>
<td>Isaac Baily</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Middleton</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>James Forsythe</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Darlington</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>William Kite</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phebe Huey</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(All subscriptions were marked "paid").

DRS.

1844 Aaron Sharpless treasurer of Birmingham Preparative Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 mo 20</td>
<td>To cash received of Lydia Jones her subscription</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 mo 25</td>
<td>do Benj Sharples subscription in part</td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>do do do</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 mo 29</td>
<td>do Thomas Darlington subscription</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 mo 25</td>
<td>do James R. Greeves do</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 mo 5</td>
<td>do of Benjn Sharples balance</td>
<td>185.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 mo 14</td>
<td>do of George Brinton Jr a donation</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 mo 13</td>
<td>do James Forsythe</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 mo 14</td>
<td>do Rebecca Kite</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 mo 11</td>
<td>do Caleb Brinton jr a donation</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>do Thomas P Cope his subscription</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 mo 30</td>
<td>do Phebe Huey per B Sharples</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 mo 18</td>
<td>do Thomas Sharpless per D Garrett</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 mo 3</td>
<td>do Elizabeth Taylor per B Sharples</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>do Ziba Darlington a donation</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>do John Bennett subscription</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 mo 7</td>
<td>do James Forsythe</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>do John Woodward a donation</td>
<td>40.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>do Aaron Sharpless subscription</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>To cash received of</td>
<td>Edward Brinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Jas. Forsythe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Nathan Middleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>11 mo 17th</td>
<td>Wm Kite subscription</td>
</tr>
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<td>12 ... 23</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>David Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Benjn Sharples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Jasper Cope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>George Brinton senr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Israel Cope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Samuel Be~tle Jr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>John Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Edward Brinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Martha Jefferis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Aaron Sharpless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>James Forsythe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Isaac Baily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount of receipts: $2311.81

Expenditures for New Meeting House &c Sheds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By cash paid for 17450 shingles.</td>
<td>$211.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$338.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$122.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$558.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$104.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$26.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>$98.71/4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total paid away: $2310.83

"At Birmingham preparative meeting held according to adjournment 24th of 12 mo 1845. The accounts for building our meeting house having been produced and read were approved and the clerk is directed to transcribe and sign on behalf of this meeting a copy of this minute to be attached to the account, which is directed to be copied in to the book of subscriptions

David Garrett Clerk"

The seating capacity was about 200. The large maple trees surrounding the house were planted by Aaron Sharpless and stand as a monument to his judgment and good taste.
THE BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY

The following account written by Gilbert Cope appeared in the Daily Local News of 2nd mo. 5th, 1890, page 1, column 6-7.

"The Birmingham Library Company, the oldest association of its kind in Chester County, owed its inception to such men as Edward Darlington, father of Dr. William Darlington; his brother Abraham, father of Judge Isaac Darlington; Philip Price, father of the late Eli K. Price; John Forsythe, the veteran teacher; Caspar Wistar; Titus Taylor and Gideon Gilpin.

"From the minutes of the company, we are enabled to give a pretty full history of this institution, including the names of many long since passed away, yet familiar to those now living.

"At a meeting of a number of inhabitants of Chester and Delaware counties at Birmingham School House the seventeenth day of the First month, 1795, for the purpose of establishing a library, have come to the following agreement, viz:

"'First, That a library be established; that each subscription for a share shall be six dollars, and the annual payment one dollar,

"'That Amos Brinton, Edward Darlington, Samuel Painter, of Birmingham: Abraham Darlington, Jr., Philip Price, John Forsythe, are authorized and requested to solicit subscribers and receive subscriptions for said library, to draft rules and regulations for the government thereof, and produce them, together with the subscriptions, to a meeting to be held on Fourth-day, the 24th instant, at the school house afore-said, at 10 o'clock a. m.; that each subscriber be prepared at said meeting to vote by person or proxy for a Treasurer and a committee as Directors of said library.

"'At a meeting of the Birmingham Library Company; met at Birmingham School House the 24th of 1st-mo., 1795, the Directors chosen are Caspar Wistar, Philip Price, Isaac G. Gilpin, Edward Darlington, Richard Strode, Amos Brinton, Titus Taylor; and Abraham Darlington, Jr., Treasurer.'

"Lengthy rules and regulations were read and adopted, providing for an annual election on the first Seventh-day (Saturday) in the First-month, at which the members should vote in person or by proxy for a Treasurer and seven Directors. The Directors were required to choose a Secretary, who should preside at elections and keep a record thereof.
The Treasurer was to give security in double the amount likely to come into his hands. The Directors were to meet once in three months, five of their number forming a quorum. It was agreed that the annual payment on each share should be 'seven shillings and six pence in gold or silver coin, on the first Seventh-day in the First-month,' and for neglect of payment when due a fine of 'one quarter of a silver dollar' for each three months of default was imposed. Any member neglecting two annual payments for one month after the second became due, and being notified thereof, forfeited his share. The librarian was required to give his attendance on Seventh-days from 3 to 5 in the winter and from 5 to 7 in summer.

"These rules and regulations were subscribed to by John Townsend, Isaac G. Gilpin, Abraham Darlington, Amos Brinton, Edward Darlington, Abel Otley, Richard Strode, Titus Taylor, Jonathan Thatcher, William Thatcher, Jr., Jesse Mercer, Joshua Sharpless, Jacob Yearsley, William Brinton, Joseph Way, James Painter, William Bennett, James Gibbons, Joseph Hemphill, Philip Price, Jr., John Forsythe, Samuel Painter, Jr., Thomas H. Brinton, and Ennion Cook. Some of these were not members at the first organization of the company.

"The first election held at the house of Abraham Darlington, 1st mo. 2nd, 1796, resulted in the choice of John Townsend, Richard Strode, Philip Price, Isaac G. Gilpin, Edward Darlington, Amos Brinton and Abel Otley as Directors, and of Abraham Darlington as Treasurer and librarian. Isaac G. Gilpin appears to have been the first Secretary. The library was kept at the house of Abraham Darlington (later the residence of his son Abraham until 1879), during which time he served as Treasurer and librarian.

"Stephen Taylor became a subscriber 7th mo. 22nd, 1797, and Joseph Hemphill, Esq., 9th mo. 30th, 1797, and in the same year Jacob Bennett's share passed to James Gibbons. The share of Jonathan Thatcher, deceased, was transferred 1st mo. 6th, 1798 to Thomas Furnis.

"It was resolved 1st mo. 19th, 1799, that no allowance should be made to any Director for trouble or expense in procuring books, and that the librarian should be allowed three dollars per annum for his trouble.

"Thomas H. Brinton became a subscriber 8th mo. 20th, 1798; William Darlington, 2nd mo. 10th, 1799; Ennion Cook, 4th mo. 27th, 1799; and Jesse Mercer's share was transferred to Nathan Sharples 7th mo. 24th, 1799.

"In 1800 the Directors were John Townsend, Joshua Sharpless, Philip Price, Titus Taylor, Amos Brinton, Samuel Painter (Birmingham), and Ennion Cook, the latter being also the Secretary."
"Thomas Wistar's share was transferred to Cheyney Jefferis, in 1801, and Joseph Hemphill's to Isaac Darlington, 5th mo. 7th, 1802. The last named was elected a Director in 1805, and was appointed, with Nathan Sharples, on a committee to revise some of the rules. On 3rd mo. 9th, 1805, all the members except three appeared in person or by proxy, at Birmingham School House, and subscribed to the new rules, of which the most important were that all borrowers were placed under a penalty of double the value of the book or set of books to which they belonged, and new subscribers were required to pay twelve dollars. Forty-nine names are appended to these rules, but several of them were written at a later date.

"In this year the first printed catalogue was issued, fifty copies being received 10th mo. 5th, 1805. Gideon Gilpin was elected a Director 1st mo. 4th, 1806, and Isaac Darlington appointed Secretary. Edward Darlington, Nathan Sharples and Isaac Darlington were appointed 2nd mo. 1st, 1806 to purchase books. Thomas H. Brinton and John Painter were elected Directors 1st mo. 3rd, 1808, and we now find the first mention of a President, Gideon Gilpin being chosen by the board for that position, and Nathan Sharples as Secretary.

"Agreed by a majority of the Directors that Ennion Cook be appointed librarian, and Philip Price and Thomas Brinton are requested to assist in the removal of the company's books, papers, etc., on next Second-day week.'

"Ennion Cook lived close to the meeting house . . . and was for a considerable time the teacher of the Birmingham School. His name was generally pronounced as if written 'Inyun'.

"In 1808, John Forsythe was chosen President and Nathan Sharples, Secretary. William Darlington was elected a Director in 1809. In this year Isaac G. Gilpin, Charles Dilworth, James Painter and Richard Strode, having neglected their annual payments, their shares were declared forfeited; also for the same reason, the share of Joseph Brinton, deceased.

"On motion of Philip Price, seconded by Edward Darlington, it was decided 2nd mo. 18th, 1809, to reduce the price of stock to $6.00 per share. Benjamin Davis assigned his share to his daughter, Hannah Davis, 12th mo. 21st, 1808; and she to Joseph Painter 10th mo. 2nd, 1810. Benjamin Sharples was elected a Director 1st mo. 5th, 1811. Joseph Strode became a subscriber 2nd mo. 2nd, 1811. James Davis was elected a Director 1st mo. 4th, 1812; also chosen Secretary. William Reed assigned his share to John Forsythe, Jr., 7th mo. 30th, 1811. Committees are now appointed annually to purchase books. In 1814 a proposition was made to divide the library, but for what reason does
not appear. John Forsythe and Abraham Darlington were directed to get a new edition of the catalogue printed.

"Jacob Bennett became a subscriber 2nd mo. 5th, 1814, and William Darlington assigned his share to George Darlington 3rd mo. 25th, 1814. In 1815 Samuel Jones and Joseph Painter were elected Directors, and as new subscribers we find Isaac Dixon, William Levis, Joseph Frame, Aaron Davis, Isaac Taylor, and Joseph H. Brinton. Caleb Dilworth assigned his share to his brother William.

"In 1816 it was agreed to allow the librarian $10 per annum. William Bennett's share was forfeited. In 1818 William Townsend's share was forfeited by neglect, and Nathan H. Sharpless assigned to Lewis Sharples. In 1820 the Directors were John Forsythe, Abraham Darlington, Aaron Davis, George Darlington, Cheyney Jefferis, Jacob Bennett and Benjamin Sharples. Of these Cheyney Jefferis was chosen President and Benjamin Sharples Secretary.

"Sarah Pennock transferred her share to Benjamin Price, Jr., 12th mo. 12th, 1821, and Joshua Sharples to his son Isaac 1st mo. 5th, 1822. Isaac Darlington, of West Chester, assigned to Thomas Darlington, of Westtown, 4th mo. 17th, 1822, and Gideon Gilpin to his grandson, Gideon G. Palmer, 12th mo. 27th, 1823; Isaac Dixon to Caleb Strode 6th mo. 26th, 1824, and the latter to Emanuel Darlington 7th mo. 2nd, 1824. The share of Titus Taylor, deceased, was transferred to his son, William H. Taylor, 12th mo. 24th, 1825. Joseph Painter's share was transferred to George Hoopes 3d mo. 13th, 1826, Lewis Sharples assigned to Abraham Sharples 1st mo. 4th, 1827, and Gideon G. Palmer to Isaac Mendenhall 3d mo. 21st, 1827. George Brinton, Jr., subscribed $6 for a share 2d mo. 3rd, 1827. Samuel Jones assigned to Thomas Bennett 3d mo. 2d, 1828. John Forsythe and Ennion Cook attended to the reprinting of the catalogues in 1828, at a cost of $7.50. The share of William Dilworth, deceased, was transferred to Rowland Parry, 2d mo. 29th, 1828, and that of Jacob Bennett, deceased, to his son John 1st mo. 4th, 1829. James Painter and Joseph Morris were new Subscribers in 1828, and Joseph Pennock in 1829. The share of Aaron Davis, deceased, was transferred to Hibbard Davis, 4th mo. 11th, 1829.

"New subscribers: Nathan Y. Jester, 1830; Hill Brinton, 1832; Gilpin Bennett, 1833; Guliealma Maria Thomas, 1838; Cyrus Darlington, 1839.

"Assignments and transfers: Abel Otley to Otley and Abel Darlington, Isaac Sharpless, deceased, to son Aaron, 1830; Abraham Sharples to Moses Taylor, Isaac Mendenhall to Stephen and Joseph B. Darlington, 1831; John Forsythe to son James, 1832; Joseph H. Brinton to son Lewis, Joseph Morris, of West Chester, to John James, Wm. Brin-
ton, deceased, to Caleb Brinton, of Thornbury, James Davis to Joseph Baily, 1835; Emanuel Darlington, deceased, to Ziba Darlington, Cheyney Jefferis, deceased, to Nathan Middleton, Jesse Mercer, deceased, to James Baily, James Gibbons to Israel H. Walter, 1838; Abraham Darlington to son Abraham, 1839.

"We do hereby assign and set over unto David Garrett of the township of Birmingham, all the right, title and interest of Ennion Cook, deceased, to one share in the Birmingham Library, for value received.

Benjamin Sharples,  
James Forsythe,  
Aaron Sharpless,
Admr's pendente lite

Witness present, Rebecca Hawley.  
12th mo. 27th, 1841.'

"The share of Isaac Taylor, deceased, was assigned to Clement Biddle, 1842; of Philip Price, deceased, to Paxson Price; of Edward Darlington, deceased, to Edward B. Darlington, 1843; Stephen Taylor to Thomas Darlington, of Birmingham; Paxson Price to Benjamin Price, Jr., 1845; Israel H. Walter to William Walter, 1846; Nathan Middleton to William Kite, Joseph Strode, deceased, to Lewis Levis, George Hoopes, deceased, to John and James Forsythe, Jr., Joseph Baily, of Pine Iron Works, to Isaac Hayes and Isaac Hayes to Brinton Jones, 1848; Wm. Levis, deceased, to Alban Seal, Gilpin Bennett, deceased, to Alvan Webb, 1849; Guliealma M. Cope to Enos Thomas, Jr., Benjamin Price to Josiah Wilson, 1850.

"Shares forfeited by neglect: Elizabeth Painter, 1830; Benjamin Price, 1831; Rowland D. Parry, 1835; Hill Brinton, 1841; Joseph Frame, deceased, 1844; Moses Taylor, 1846.

"In 1840 the Directors were Benjamin Sharples, John Forsythe, Ziba Darlington, Abraham Darlington, Jr., John James and George Brinton, Jr. Benjamin Sharples was chosen President, and Ennion Cook, librarian, Secretary and Treasurer. David Garrett having purchased the property of Ennion Cook, deceased, was appointed Secretary and librarian, 1st mo. 1st, 1842. In that year a committee was directed to prepare a new catalogue.

"1st mo. 6th, 1844: 'The following proposition was unanimously adopted, viz: That any person paying into the hands of the Treasurer of the company one dollar be entitled to the use of one share in the library for six months; or on paying one dollar and fifty cents, they will be entitled to the use of one share for one year.'
"2d mo. 3d, 1844: 'The Directors have agreed that the library shall not be opened on the first day of the week hereafter.'

"The library was kept in the second story of the residence of David Garrett, and he having a large family it is probable that the room was desired for other purposes. At the annual meeting in 1849, a committee was appointed to solicit Subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a building for its accommodation. They reported some progress, 2d mo. 3d, 1849 together with an estimate of the cost of the proposed structure, 'and at this time it is concluded to erect said building on the property of Jesse Seal, in such manner as that it may be removed if necessary. The committee are now continued to solicit further subscriptions and to proceed to have the building put up and finished as soon as convenient and have the books of the company removed to it.' 1st mo. 5th, 1850, Directors elected: Thomas Darlington, James Forsythe, Aaron Sharpless, Clement Biddle, Caleb Brinton, Abram Darlington, and Ziba Darlington; Treasurer, Alban Seal. On motion Abram Darlington was appointed President, Aaron Sharpless, Secretary, and Alban Seal, librarian.

"The committee now report that the books and papers of the company were removed in the 4th month last to the new building, which cost $101.21. The subscription paper being entered on the minutes shows that the subscribers agreed to pay Thomas Darlington of Birmingham, for the intended purpose, the following sums:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thos. Darlington,</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jas. Forsythe,</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thos. Darlington, Westtown,</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziba Darlington,</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abram Darlington,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed. B. Darlington,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Sharpless,</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. &amp; J. Darlington,</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement Biddle,</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis Levis,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Y. Jester,</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Garrett,</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. Lewis,</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Brinton,</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis Brinton,</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brinton,</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Bennett,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benj. Sharples,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hibberd Davis,</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Painter,</td>
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<tr>
<td>David H. Taylor,</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<td>John James,</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brinton Jones,</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Forsythe,</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jno &amp; Jas. Forsythe,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Ellw'd Bennett,</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Pennock,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geo. Darlington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. Walter</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alban Webb,</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Brinton,</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Whole amount subscribed, $112.00. This being more than the cost of the building, the balance was appropriated to the purchase of books.
This building of which we give an illustration, has stood for more than forty years in its present location, close to the northwest end of the store and residence* of Alban Seal (son of Jesse). It measures nine by sixteen feet in the outside, and nine feet in height, has one window, and a door opening from the adjoining store porch."

When the library was under the care of the Seals the key was accessible to all. Each person wrote down the name of the book taken out and locked the door.

This building in which the Birmingham Library was housed was moved to the farm of Harvey Darlington (across from the old graveyard at the meeting house) about 1884 and stood there until the spring of 1940 when it was torn down.

About 1884 the books were moved to the Meeting House on Chestnut Street in West Chester where they remained until about 1920 when some of them were given to the West Chester Public Library in return for the privilege by the stockholders of the former library to use the books of the West Chester library. Some of the books are in the possession of George Forsythe, Westtown. A catalogue of the books for the year 1843 is in the Chester County Historical Society.

This Birmingham Library was a great institution and served an unique position in Chester County history.

*Now the property of Walter Sheffield.
ACCORDING to the following account a Firstday School was organized at Birmingham in 1860. "A few Friends, feeling the importance of Friends' children having a more religious education in the order of the Society, and knowing the difficulties of bestowing such when children are exposed to promiscuous intercourse with others of different persuasions, have united in endeavoring to plan some measure in which pleasant and profitable instruction may be given on the First-day of the week. For this purpose they met with the children, first at the schoolhouse and afterwards at the Meeting House. The Friends engaged in the service feel that it should not be entered into lightly; there are many difficulties attending it, which will require patient perseverance and industry to overcome... The teachers (in this school) being untried and new at their work, feel themselves obliged to walk cautiously... hoping to be of some service to the little ones, whom it is their earnest desire to benefit, though they are fully persuaded that the effort which can be made will fall short of that instruction which the rightly concerned parent should give at home, and they have no desire or design that such instruction should be superseded, but only offer their assistance towards the great end which all should labor to attain." Such was the explanation of the organization of Birmingham Firstday School given by Ann S. Päschall in the Friends' Intelligencer for 2nd mo. 9th, 1861.

In an article "Fifty Years of Firstday School Work" prepared by the Central Bureau, Philadelphia, Birmingham was the third Firstday School organized in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Reading was the first in 1859; Germantown in the spring of 1860 and Birmingham in the fall of the same year.

It is not known how long this Firstday School continued but it is assumed it lasted for a year or two.

The minutes of the Concord Firstday School Union (an organization composed of the Firstday Schools of Concord Quarterly Meeting) at the 4th mo. 20th, 1889 session, the following report was read: "Birmingham had started a school during the past year and feeling the need of that strength which comes from the sympathy of co-workers in the same field, the school desired to become a member of the Union." George Steele was one of the active workers at that time. In 1895 the school
was large enough to entertain the Union at the fall meeting. Sarah A. Darlington was the superintendent. Lunch was served in the east end of the Meeting House and commendation was given for the able handling of such a large crowd.

The first mention on the Monthly Meeting minutes of a Firstday School at Birmingham was in 1895 when the report was given "there is a Firstday School there in connection with the Meeting but not under the care of the Preparative or Monthly Meeting but conducted in accordance with our principles and testimonies."

In 1907 the Preparative Meeting assumed the expenses of the school and in 1908 appointed a committee of oversight.

By 1900 Isaac A. Passmore, Jennie Darlington and Mary Sharpless were those responsible for the success of the school. At the session of the Union held at Birmingham in 1902 visitors were met at the trains, driven to the Meeting House and were served lunch.

Isaac A. Passmore was the superintendent in 1907 and served in that capacity for about ten years. His family, the Darlingtons and the Steeles were the moving forces of the school. In 1910 and again in 1914 the school tried the unique plan of having the position of superintendent taken by a different Friend each Firstday, thus distributing the responsibility among the various members. In 1912 Birmingham Firstday school included singing in its exercises.

In 1914 Jennie Darlington became the superintendent. Much can be said of the value of her work and the interest she engendered. Other superintendents have been Marian Passmore Cope (1921-26), Frances R. Darlington (1926-30), Horace F. Darlington (1930-31), Alta J. Baily (Bittle) (1931-36), at present Helen W. Shortlidge (1936—).

The sessions were held in the west end of the Meeting House until 1936 when the east end was prepared for the service of the school and the primary department moved to the octagonal school house. This department is now under the capable leadership of Jessie M. Jones. The addition to the Meeting House erected in 1940 is being used as a classroom. For several years the custom was tried of having all the pupils attend part of the meeting for worship but that was exchanged for a meeting held entirely by the children in the school house under the leadership of Mary Comfort Passmore.

During the season of 1940 the teachers were: Adult Class, S. Ralph Passmore; Forum Class, George Steele; High School Class, Mary C. Passmore; Junior Girls, Mary Steele; Junior Boys, Horace F. Darlington; Primary, Jessie M. Jones, Pauline C. Darlington and Esther Chambers Pratt. The enrollment numbered about 70.
CHAPTER VIII

SCHOOLS AT BIRMINGHAM

ONE of the very early schools in Chester County was at Birmingham. The ground for this school was secured from Charles Turner 5th mo. 20th, 1756 and consisted of a half acre directly across the road west of the Meeting House. The property was leased for a period of 999 years and the terms of the lease call for the “Yeilding & Paying therefore for the first year the sum of one pound lawful Mony of Pennsylvania on the sixteenth Day of November next Ensuing the date hereof & from thence Yeilding and Paying Yearly during the sd Term unto the sd Charles Turner, his Heirs and Assigns, the Yearly Rent or Consideration of one Ear of Indian Corn, i. e. if Demanded, at or upon the Term of Payment aforesd . . .”

This tract could be used for school purposes only. The Trustees executing the lease were James Dilworth, William Jones, and William Seal. Benjamin Hawley began teaching at this school in 1761 and according to his diary was still teaching there in 1763.

The following notes concerning Birmingham School are taken from Ennion Cook’s notebook: “At a meeting of the subscribers held at Birmingham school house, the 2nd of the 4th month 1810, it was unanimously resulted & agreed that the restrictions respecting Boarders be entirely removed.

“At the same time & place it was also unanimously agreed that all necessary repairs together with the Expense of finding Ink a bucket etc for the use of the school be charged to each employer’s accompt (as proportioned by the school committee) at the end of the year.

“It was further agreed that the Master procure firewood ready Cut for the stove & charge a proportionable part to each Scholar who shall be at school during the winter.”

In 1817 “the price of schooling was raised to twelve Dollars a year. “Birmingham School ought to be conducted with Spirit & Perseverance few schools have received the same advantage from a qualified experienced & Prudent committee, & many of the Subscribers uniting heartily with them is perhaps the greatest cause why the school has been so long continued under the care of two Teachers.

“10th month 2nd 1817 The school has been very large this some weeks, often more than sixty scholars.

“9 mo. 14th, 1818. The weather is very warm, the school large and most of the Girls lazy.”
The following is an account of the school as written by one who signs himself "D" taken from the West Chester, Penna., Village Record of 3rd mo. 17th, 1874. The article is entitled "Reminiscences of Birmingham School House."

"The first school at Birmingham was quite an institution in its time. It was built, as far as can be ascertained, soon after the Revolution. It was a plain, square building, of small size, with a low ceiling, on the joists of which the scholars hung their dinner baskets. It was taught by John Forsythe for many years; he came from Ireland when a young man, and after teaching elsewhere a short time he settled down at Birmingham, and became a member of Friends' meeting. He was a good scholar for those days, and taught the classics as well as the English branches of learning. His salary was made up by the neighbors, who agreed each to furnish one or more scholars at the rate of $8 per year. Nearly fifty years afterwards the price of teaching rose to $10 and $12 per year. The usual number of pupils in Forsythe's time was about twenty, nearly all of whom were boys. It was not thought worth while to educate girls in those days except in household matters. The scholars often came from a distance of four or five miles, as there were no other schools within convenient distance. Some time before the close of the last century Forsythe made up a class in grammar, which was a rare thing and was generally thought quite unnecessary. This class consisted of Edward Brinton, James Gibbons, Joseph Gilpin, Isaac Darlington and Dr. William Darlington. Next day when Edward Brinton came to school he told the master that 'daddy said he needn't learn grammar.' But Forsythe insisted, and the unwilling boy had to go on with the unaccustomed lesson. The master lived on what has since been known as the Jesse Seal farm, half a mile east of the meeting house, where he worked mornings and evenings, and often during the noon recess. He taught until about 1802, when he was succeeded by Ennion Cook.

"The old school was found to be too small, and the new one was decided upon because it was more distant from the farm buildings on the 'Garrett property,' then occupied by Ennion Cook.

". . . The white oak timber for the joists and floor was furnished by Ziba Darlington, who cut the trees and hauled the logs to the saw mill himself.

"Richard Darlington, who began in 1823, taught about ten years apparently to the satisfaction of the committee and the public. He was succeeded by Simpson Preston, Robert Guy and John D. Pierce, each of whom remained several years. Caleb Wickersham began to teach about 1838. Up to this date there had been no female teachers; and the people began to propose that a 'mistress' be employed in the summer
months. Susan Bailey was the first mistress, and she kept school several summers. Ann B. Cresson was there one summer. For a long period the school was taught by men in winter and women in summer. In winter few or no girls attended, in summer the girls were in the majority, the boys over twelve years old had to remain at home to help on the farm. Among the teachers from 1840 to 1855 were Franklin Darlington, James Wilson, Elias Clark, Evan T. Swayne, Brinton W. Woodward, William Dotts and B. F. Tillum, among the men; Rebecca Smart, Matilda Pyle, Hannah Martin, Rebecca Hawley, Sallie Gause, and Ruth Anna Woodward, among the women. About 1852 a new school house was built near Dilworthtown, and soon thereafter the old octagon was abandoned. It has been occupied since by a neighborhood lyceum, which met there for several winters.

"Closely adjoining the school house is an old colored grave-yard. Half an acre of land was given for the burial of colored people in this spot by James Dilworth, who had a blacksmith shop near 'Sandy Hollow,' on the Dilworthtown road . . . Only a part of it was enclosed, the remainder extending westward toward the road, when I first remember the place, the colored graveyard was pretty well filled up, and it was enclosed with a post and rail fence. The scholars shunned it as much as possible, and only got over the fence to recover the ball or for some object of that kind. Very few interments have been made there since 1840, one of them being that of a colored man who was murdered in the spring of 1841, and who lived with my father. Two or three white persons who had committed suicide were buried in that ground. The fence has now entirely disappeared, and the yard lies open with the common adjacent to the school house and meeting house. Thirty years ago there was a fine row of walnut trees and one large oak tree just west of the school house. The oak has gone and left no sign, and the walnut trees that remain are rapidly failing. There was a well dug by subscription, on the school house lot, because of a difficulty in getting water at the neighboring houses. The water was never very good, and the well little used, although the pump and curb still remain."

The Birmingham Octagonal School

Ennion Cook records in his notebook that on 5th mo. 15th, 1819 the stockholders of the first Birmingham School decided to build a new school house. This is the new building referred to by "D" later known as Harmony Hall and is the present Octagonal School House now standing at Birmingham. Originally the door of this building opened to the South but at some time that entrance was closed and another door opened on the west. Old backless benches in this school house show
the type of school furniture used in that day. Sheets or curtains suspended from hooks still visible in the ceiling were used to prevent echoes.

The ground on which this new school was built contained thirty square perches and was obtained from "William Hawley of Westtown, Edward Darlington of Birmingham, and Philip Price, now or late of East Bradford, Trustees appointed by and in behalf of Birmingham Preparative Meeting of the People called Quakers."

Further quoting from the deed we find the terms as follows: "for the uses hereinafter mentioned and declared and to and for no other Use intent or purpose whatsoever that is to say to and for the use of a school and thereon to erect suitable buildings for said purposes to and for the use of the Neighborhood and the Inhabitants thereof Generally from the day of the date hereof, for and during and to the full end and term of Nine hundred and ninety-nine Years thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended Yielding and paying therefor at the end of each and every Year of said Term unto the said William Hawley, et al The Yearly Rent of One Ear of Indian Corn if then Demanded. And also that the said Isaac Sharples et al further agree that at their proper cost and charges they will keep a reasonable and lawful fence between the said described and the premises adjoining of which this as a part during said term."

The following list and notes also from Ennion Cook's records show the subscribers who financed the new building together with other information concerning the school:

**Subscription Paper**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ennion Cook</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Darlington</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Sharples</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thos. Darlington Westtown</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Forsythe</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Painter</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Painter</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Sharpless</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Osborne</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Osborne</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Brinton Jr.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. H. Taylor</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Forsythe</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Woodward</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Brinton</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Jones</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Davis</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Bennett</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Pennock</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amos Brinton in sawing</td>
<td>11.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Dilworth Jr.</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Dilworth</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel H. Davis</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Hunt in stone</td>
<td>8.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Ottey</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Sharples</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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(Errors excepted done from memory)

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>149.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>485.00</td>
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<td>634.25</td>
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1. George Steele
2. Isaac A. Passmore
3. Birmingham Library Building
4. Jennie Darlington
5. Photograph of Recent Painting of Birmingham Meeting (by Franz de Merlier)
At a meeting of the subscribers of Birmingham School held 13th of 12th mo. 1819. A new house having been built (called Harmony Hall) on a Lot of ground procured for that purpose, which Lot is considered more eligible than that on which the old House stood it was unanimously concluded that the old Lot containing half an Acre might be sold & the proceeds applied for the use of a school it is also agreed that application be made to the Legislature to authorize its being sold. Edward Darlington & Isaac Sharpless are appointed to take the necessary care in accomplishing the same. Attorney advised against it until the trust was renewed.

James Jones renewed the trust the 1st day of the 4th mo. 1820, after many frivolous excuses & getting ten Dollars!!!!!

The first day of the fourth month A. D. 1820 James Jones conveyed the said Lot of half an acre to Edwd Darlington & Isaac Sharples.

The 27th of 3rd month 1820 the price of schooling was lowered to ten Dollars.

The 11th month 13th 1820 No more scholars than four, the least number I have had for twenty years.—if the fault is mine I wish I may be able to see it.

The 4th month 1st 1821 The Price of schooling was lowered to 8 dollars per year.

The 4th month 1st, 1822 the Price of schooling was raised at Birmingham school to 10 dollars per year, that having been the customary price during the last year at Concord, Ashton &c.

On the 12th of the 9th month 1822—Informed the school Committee that I should resign the school in the Spring. In the spring of 1823 I gave up the school to follow Farming etc.

Richard Darlington began to teach school at Birmingham the 4th mo. 1823. Ennion Cook was appointed on the School Committee in the Spring of 1825.

The 6th day of the 1st mo 1826 all the Committee were present viz John Forsythe, N. H. Sharples, David Hoopes, Ezra Cope, Thomas Hoopes, Benjamin Price, A. Darlington Jr, & Ennion Cook.

The 1st month 23rd 1830 was general meeting of the subscribers to the Birmingham School—Ennion Cook was called to the chair & A. Darlington was chosen Secy. On motion resolved that the subscribers
should vote by written tickets for the choice of a master—when upon counting the votes Robert Guy had 20 votes & Gibbons Parry 11 votes 9 majority. At the same time & place it was agreed that the Scholars should not be compel'd to attend week day meetings.

"In the 3rd mo 20th 1833 The Subscribers met to consider whether a change of the Master would not be salutary, but two or three of the principal complainants quitting their former side of the question and going for the master in full it was thought best not to take the vote at that time. The 1st of the 4th mo 1834 A. Darlington & Ennion Cook informed R. Guy that many of the subscribers would like to have a mistress in the summer, &c The 5th month 12th 1835 Robert Guy had written notice given him signed by nearly thirty Stockholders in the school requesting him to give up the House at Harvest vacation but he not being willing to give up the House thirteen of the Stockholders met the 4 of 7th month 1835 and took the Key &c.

"The 7th month 14th 1835 John D. Pierce commenced teaching School at Harmony Hall.

"The 4 mo. 20th 1836 Caleb Wickersham commenced teaching.

"In the summer of 1837 Susanna P. Baily commenced teaching.

"In the fall of 1837 Simpson Preston commenced teaching and taught for 18 months ending the 1st of the 4th mo. 1839.

"Susanna P. Baily commenced teaching fourth of 3rd month Ending in the 7th mo. Then continued nearly 3 mo & Caleb Wickersham commenced 6 months or more."

Interesting entries in Ennion Cook's Ledger, as follows, tell concisely prices, etc. of those early schools. Ennion Cook, and perhaps his predecessors, boarded some of the pupils as the bills bear witness. The commissioners of Chester County paid tuition for those pupils whose parents could not afford to pay the rate charged. A bill presented to the commissioners and signed by a committee of the school also follows:

From Ennion Cook's Ledger

Edward Darlington

1809

1810

1811

To 1 scholar 1 year at 8$ 8 00
To 8 Weeks firewood at 3 Cts 24
To 1 Scholar 1 year at 8$ 8 00
To 12 Weeks firewood at 4 Cts 48
To 1 scholar 1 year at 8$ 8 00
To 12 Weeks firewood at 4 Cts 48
To new Benches and repairs 25
To Ink 06
### John Bettle Dr
#### 1812

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 mo 13th</td>
<td>To 1 scholar at 8 Dols</td>
<td>8 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 11 Weeks firewood at 4 Cts.</td>
<td>4 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To repairing Windows &amp;c</td>
<td>0 09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To Ink</td>
<td>0 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 mo 20th</td>
<td>To 1 scholar at 8$</td>
<td>8 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 18 weeks firewood at 4 Cts.</td>
<td>7 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To repairing the Stove &amp; windows &amp;c</td>
<td>0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To Ink</td>
<td>0 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 mo 26</td>
<td>To Cash paid him in full</td>
<td>5 57</td>
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</table>

#### Samuel E. Howell Dr
#### 1812

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 mo 6th</td>
<td>To 30 Weeks boarding son Saml at 1.50</td>
<td>45 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 6¾ month schooling at 2$ pqt</td>
<td>4 50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 20 Weeks firewood at 4 Cts.</td>
<td>8 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To Ink</td>
<td>0 06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 5 quires of Paper</td>
<td>1 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 1 Dozen clarified quills</td>
<td>1 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 8½ Dozen Quills at 4 Cts.</td>
<td>3 34</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To 3 Slate pencils</td>
<td>0 03</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To Cash paid Shoemaker</td>
<td>5 00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ditto to Buy English Reader</td>
<td>7 75</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ditto to do Slate</td>
<td>2 25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ditto to buy a bible</td>
<td>1 00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ditto to ditto suspenders</td>
<td>0 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ditto to ditto a Knife</td>
<td>3 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ditto given him going to W. C.</td>
<td>1 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To ditto given him going Home</td>
<td>6 28</td>
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#### 11 mo 1st To Cash paid Dr. Jacob Ehrenzeller for Consultation and visit | 6 50
Jeremiah Carter  
1814

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 mo 25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To 10 Weeks boarding at 1.25 p w.</td>
<td>12.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 11 Weeks firewood at 4 p w.</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 2 months schooling</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To Learning him ½ Surveying at 6$ p Rule</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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17.60

to Ennion Cook

Commissioners of Chester County Dr  
1814

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5th month 14th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To 223 days schooling Ephraim Peirce at 10 p. y.</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 166 days ditto Dianna Peirce at 10$ pr year</td>
<td>5.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 110 days ditto John Way at 10 pr year</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 65 days ditto Martha Way at Do</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 72 days ditto Rebecca Way at Do</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 133 days ditto Jesse Slack at Do</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 209 days ditto William Marshaman Do</td>
<td>7.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 30 days ditto Rebecca Marshman</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 90 days ditto George Althouse at 10 py</td>
<td>3.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 36 days ditto Jane Morgan at 10 py</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 48 days ditto Ann Brown at Do</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 48 days ditto Margaret Brown at Do</td>
<td>1.66</td>
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$43.04

We the subscribers have examined the above accompt, Which we believe to be correct.

JOHN FORSYTHE  
ISAAC SHARPLESS  
Joseph Painter

Birmingham 10 mo. 28th 1824

To Richard Darlington Dr.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To 18½ days tuition of John Davis at $2.50 per qr of 69 days</td>
<td>$4.29½</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>To 15 sheets of paper furnished John Davis and quills, ink &amp; firewood</td>
<td>.32</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 84½ days tuition of Abraham Macklin at Do</td>
<td>$3.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>To a Spelling Book and firewood</td>
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<td>To 87½ days tuition of William Sharp at Do</td>
<td>$3.17</td>
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<td>To 9 sheets of paper, quills, ink &amp; firewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 98½ days tuition of Abigail Sharp at Do</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 9 sheets of paper, quills, ink &amp; firewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 50 days tuition of Henry McElhaney at Do</td>
<td>$1.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>To firewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>To 103½ days tuition of Mahlon G. Langley at Do</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>To firewood</td>
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</table>
To 67½ days tuition of Edith Wright at Do............................... $2.44½
To firewood.......................................................... .02½

We have examined the Day Book of Richard Darlington and Certify that the above Account is a correct transcript therefrom and also that the Charges are at the same rate as those for other Children in our School.

Affirmed to this 6 day of 11th mo 1824 Before me the
Subscribers by Richard Darlington

Afram Darlington J. P.                      Trustees of Birmingham School"

The introduction of the public school system made many changes in Friends' Schools. About 1845 when Birmingham Township in Chester County was made larger a school building erected by it north of the Street Road, on what was then called "Forsythe Lane," decreased the attendance at the Octagonal School. In 1895 the school directors had a public school in the Octagonal Building which continued about ten years. In that same year the school directors discovered that there were no trustees for the property and Judge Hemphill, in 1898, appointed William T. Sharpless, Emlen Faucett, Emlen Darlington and Hugh E. Steele, who still serve in that capacity. The building is now used for township elections and for Firstday School classes. During the Sesqui Centennial celebration in 1927 of the Battle of Brandywine, a tea room to accommodate visitors at these historic locations was operated in this building.

**The Orthodox Friends' School at Birmingham 1854-1872**

This article copied from the *Daily Local News* of 6th mo. 28th, 1910 was written by Walter Brinton, District Surveyor of Philadelphia, and was read at a reunion held at Birmingham, 6th mo. 22nd, 1910.

"The first entry in the Monthly Meeting minutes touching school matters is under date of 5th mo. 25th, 1853 and it is as follows: 'To take into consideration the situation of this meeting in relation to the establishing a school according to the design of the Yearly Meeting, David Garrett, Aaron Sharpless, William Kite, and Joseph R. Cheyney are appointed and directed to report at a future meeting.'

"This committee made a partial report at the next meeting, but being uncertain whether certain moneys in the possession of the meeting could be used for school purposes, they were directed to consult the Meeting for Sufferings and to obtain its judgment on the matter. Abram Gibbons and Samuel Cope, on behalf of the Meeting for Sufferings, replied that 'they were united in leaving this meeting at liberty to pro-
ceed as it thought best in the expenditures of the income of the fund.'

"As to the necessity for a school the committee states that 'there are 12 children of suitable age, some of whom would be likely to receive most of their future instruction at Westtown. There were some other children in the neighborhood not members that might be expected to attend.' The committee also thought there was enough material on hand to 'keep the school open most of the year if Friends were willing to make such effort as the importance of the subject required, to give their children a guarded education apart from the influence of the District Schools.'

"Ninth month 21st, 1853, a committee was appointed to collect money for a school building and contract for its erection.

"The first committee to attend the opening of the school and to have the oversight of the same was composed of the following: David Garrett, Wm. Forsythe, Wm. Kite, Elizabeth P. Forsythe, Susanna F. Sharpless and Mary F. Kite. Women Friends united with these appointments.

"Third month 22nd, 1854, 'The committee on Building reported as follows: The committee appointed to secure subscriptions and have a school house erected report they obtained subscriptions to the amount of $610. They have contracted for the erection of a building 21 x 28 feet with an enclosed woodshed adjoining for the sum of $580.37. Owing to some alterations in the plan and additions not included, the expense was increased $24.76, making the whole cost of the house exclusive of 1433 feet of boards, $605.13. The boards were used as scaffold and intended to be used afterwards for fencing, the expense of which it is proposed should be defrayed out of the ordinary funds of the meeting. The desks, benches, stove, chairs, and other appendages cost $84.63, which added to the cost of the house makes the sum $689.76. The building is completed with the exception of painting and dashing the stone work, the expense of which is included in the above amount, and the school was opened on the 5th of last month.'

"This report was signed by Aaron Sharpless, Wm. Kite and David Garrett. It is commendable because it is concise and full as to detail and contains just such information as interests their children and great-grand children today.

"The first annual report of the School Committee is of like texture, and I have copied it in full: 'The School was opened 2d mo. 6th, 1854, and has continued in operation since that time. Early after their appointment the committee made such arrangement that a portion of their number visit the school monthly, in doing which they have been gratified with observing the commendable advancement of the pupils in their
studies, and also with believing their conduct has generally been satisfactory to their teacher. The school is at present under the charge of a female Friend, a member of our Religious Society, whose care in training the children has been satisfactory to the committee.

"We have furnished the school room with such class books as seemed to be desirable, as also maps, a globe and a few books of reference, designed to aid the teacher in the discharge of her duties. The average attendance of children since the opening of school to 11th mo. 1st, has been 11. The price of tuition has been fixed at $3 per quarter.'

"In the following year, 1856, the committee again reported the school in a satisfactory condition. The average attendance has now increased to 12½ and the children are still advancing in their studies...

"During the next three years the School Committee was more faithful to its studies than the Clerk of the meeting, for he failed to enter the reports which were regularly submitted.

"He chronicles the item that a new stove has been purchased for the meeting house, but it does not warm him up to the idea that future generations might be interested in a complete record of the school.

"In the year 1859 there is a note of discouragement from the committee in the fear that the little school may not be able to hold together. The average attendance was now 13 and a fraction, and Friends are enjoined to lend their united efforts towards the support of the school.

"1860—The attendance has dropped to 10. There is a deficiency of $130 in the financial statement, and the committee suggests that the school should take a vacation for at least two months, commencing about the first of the year 1861.

"On the 12th mo. 25th, 1861—mark the date Christmas day, and the nation in the throes of Civil War. William and Mary Kite, on behalf of the School Committee, report that 'the school was again opened on the 28th of 3rd mo., last; there had been a vacation of a few weeks during the warm weather. The attendance had been about 16 and the treasury deficit was only $22.72 but owing to inclement weather and the smallness of some of the pupils, the school is again closed for a time.'

"This report is of historic value, because it is the last detailed record of the operations of the school. The committee reports were not copied from the year 1862 to 1871, inclusive.

"In 1871 the following Friends were in charge of the school: William Forsythe, John Forsythe, Edward G. Smedley, Rebecca M. Forsythe, Deborah G. Brinton and Elizabeth Smedley.

"This committee appears to have submitted a statement of the condition of the school on 5th mo. 22d, 1872, and here the official record
closes. The consensus is that the school was not opened after the summer recess of 1872.

"During the Winter of 1867-68 the school was held at the home of John Forsythe, with Edith Sharples as teacher. It was also held for a short time at my own home* on the Brandywine, probably about the year 1870. Perhaps the pressure of farm duties at that time prevented me from making any memoranda of the exact date.

"A list of the names of those who were teachers at the school has been furnished. They appear in the following order: Martha Sankey, Elizabeth Sankey, Elizabeth S. Smedley, Susanna S. Kite, Mary Anna Forsythe, Anna R. Cooper, Ruthanna Thomas, Rachel Griffith, Sidney S. Yarnall, Anna G. Cope and Edith Sharpless.

"The history of this school, covering a period of eighteen years, presents no unusual features. It was but one of a considerable number of schools within the limits of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, which were established when conditions demanded it.

"They were watched over by little bands of sober-minded men and women, and when, owing to the migration of Friends, or to the neglect of young people to marry, it became necessary to close them, it was done with the thought that the schools had fulfilled their mission by giving the children in their several communities the rudiments of a guarded education."

*Editor's Note: Walter Brinton's home referred to here was located near Brinton's Bridge. Today, 1940, it is the residence of William A. Hoffman.
MANY of the early visitors at Birmingham Meeting helped to inspire the regular attenders and assisted in making history. The following excerpts from the Memorandum Book* of Ennion Cook tell of these visitors.

"Edward Hicks of Wrightstown monthly in Bucks County was at Birmingham Meeting the 1st mo. 16th 1816, a Pritty Gift in the ministry, he touched sharply on the carpeting. David Coope and Levi Coates were in Company."

"E. Hicks attended Birmingham Mtg 1st mo. 2nd 1824 a very large Meeting."

"Hinchman Haines attended Birmingham Meeting the 3rd month 11th 1821. He appeared to be much favoured but had very close doctrine to communicate, he thought some of us were sticking to the Lamp, but had lost the oil; a lamentable state indeed."

"1821 Hinchman Haines attended Birmingham Monthly Meeting the 8 mo. 31st in company with the committee from the Yearly Meeting he spoke very plainly of the lappel coats and the Hair turned the contrary way to nature etc."

"Charles Osborne from the State of Tenesse was at Birmingham Meeting in the 10th month 1816 a very large silent Meeting many Neighbours were much disappointed."

"Mildred Ratcliff attended Birmingham meeting the 18th of 2nd month 1820, from short Creek monthly meeting (state of Ohio) and was largely opened in Gospel Ministry, she said some of us had much to do, and but a Short time to do it in, I much wish I may double my diligence. John Lloyd and Mary Steer were her companions."

"Ann Alexander from England attended Birmingham meeting the 21st of 2nd mo. 1805 she said it was a low time with us. But further

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*The original Memorandum Book of Ennion |Cook is in the possession of Ann Sharpless, West Chester, Pa. A micro-film reproduction is in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.
said whatever we found to do, to do it with our might, and then she believed it would be better times with some of us."

"Jesse Haines attended Birmingham meeting the 13th of 4th mo 1806. He said the impressions were renewed on his mind that there was a State of Rottenness amongst us, 't caused much weeping & I hope it may be remembered by many of us. Jesse Haines visited the families of Friends belonging to Birmingham monthly meeting in the fall of year 1819."

"Ebenezer Roberts from New Jersey attended Birmingham Meeting the 4th day of the 2nd Month 1821, the meeting being small occasioned in part from wet weather and Brandywine high and impassable both Bridges being washed away, tho' I think in the end it was a favoured meeting."

"George Withy (from England) attended Birmingham meeting the 28th of 3rd mo 1822 remarkably qualified for his Master's service very close on the Lukewarm and the Indifferent and truly honest to his feelings with the Loungers on their elbows, and with the careless sons and inattentive daughters who were occasionally picking their Noses and nails, and more severe on the abominable practice of spitting on the floor in meetings!!! I much desire that his labours of love amongst us may be remembered and attended to."

"John Kinnard son of John Kinnard formerly of Dilworths Town Chester County now from Tennessee an Itinerant preacher attended Birmingham meeting the 16th of the 3d month 1823 he dined at my House on his way to John Gibbon's, 'he says in his country, they don't mind much what society they belong to, so they are good men' he also informed me it was his custom to speak to all Societies where they allowed him Liberty, but in the City the frds would not allow him Liberty to be in their meetings without he would set in Silence—he also says he cannot conform to the frds rules with respect to the plain language, I told him his coat did not look like a frds, he smiled and said that was given him, I also questioned him with respect to his Testimony against war, he said he thought defensive war might be right—I expect he is wrong in his mind."

"Anna Braithwaite from Kendal Monthly Meeting (Old England) (and Worcester Quarterly Meeting) attended Birmingham Meeting, by appointment the 9th day of 9th month 1823, a valuable friend, and Eloquent in her Gift. But remarkably particular in her dress."

"John Comly (a Minister of the Gospel) from Byberry attended Birmingham Meeting the 26th of the 2nd month 1824. On a General Visit to the meetings in these parts, he being a man much favoured with a clear voice and very Eloquent. he had meetings at a number of
School Houses and in some places where meetings have not been heretofore Held. One of the Separatists."

"On the 4th month 8th 1824. Our ancient friend John Parker laid before our monthly meeting a concern to pay a religious visit to the families of friends belonging to Birmingham particular meeting, with some not in membership; which was approved of by said meeting, and Philip Price Rachel Price Martha Jefferis and Ennion Cook were appointed by said Meeting to accompany him in said visit. which was commenced on the 26th of the 4th 1824. to all the members of Birmingham Preparative Meeting and to the 14 families who were not in membership (viz)

Ennion Cook  Caleb Dilworth  Widow Jones & family  
Edward Brinton  Abraham Darlington  Isaiah Paxson & family  
Deborah Brinton  Abraham Darlington Jr  Mary Sankey  
Edw Darlington & family Benedict Darlington  Thomas Williamson  
Aaron Davis  Jane Logan  Pennock Passmore  
Elizabeth Jones  Jesse Mercer  Philip Price  
Mary Seal & family  Abel Otley  Isaac Bailey  
Elizabeth James  Job Taylor  Joshua Sharples  
Benjamin Price  Widow Dilworth  Joshua Sharples Jur  
John James*  Isaac Price  Job Darlington  
Emmanuel Darlington  Emmor Entriken  Mary Entriken  
Caleb Entriken  Mary Davis  Samuel Jones  
Joshua Hunt  Jacob Perdue  Jacob Bennett  
Joseph Painter  James Painter  Elizabeth Yarnall  
John Forsythe  James Forsythe  James Gibbons  
Hannah Gheen  Abraham Sharples  Isaac Dixon  
George Darlington  Isaac Taylor  Benjamin Sharples & family  
William Reed  

52 Families or parts of Families (which were member)

Attenders of Birmingham Meeting who were visited

Joseph Pennock  William Levis  John Gibbons (family)  
William Osborne  Joseph Osborne  Richd Strode  
Jacob Jefferis  John Chamberlain  William Gibbons  
Joseph Frame  Francis Hickman  John Cobourn  
Henry Faucet  George Hoopes  Joseph H. Brinton  
Joseph Strode"

"Gibbons Hunt attended Birmingham Meeting the 27th of the 11th month 1825. and was much favoured in his communication as many

*West Chester meeting
present acknowledged he came all the way from Darby & returned the same evening. One of the Separatists."

"12th month 17th 1826 John Parker aged 76 years attended Birmingham Meeting in his Gospel communication he advised us to stick together as the sheep did when their enemy the Dog was near; which I thought was very applicable there being so much division and foolish reasoning amongst friends."

"The 10th month 11th 1827. Thomas Shelletow from England attended Birmingham meeting and was remarkably qualified for his master's service being 74 years of Age strong Lungs etc. clear voice, spoke much of the sifting time amongst us of the promoters, instigators, and carriers on of the Strife and Division among friends and appeared confident in the belief that when the storm was a little over, the sun would shine brighter than it had done of Latter time as much of the chaff would be blown away, etc. James Brown a goodly looking friend from New York state was his companion who had a few words to drop in religious meeting to satisfaction."

"Hannah Warrington Jr from Chester monthly Meeting New Jersey attended Birmingham by appointment the 23 day of the 11th AD 1833, very acceptably to many having a very Pritty Gift for Blowing the Gospel Trumpet—which has been frequently sounded in this vicinity of latter time."

Among the other visitors at Birmingham Meeting between the dates of 1801 and 1833 were Charity Cook, minister from Carolina; Nathan Hunt, from Carolina; Micajah Collins; Caleb M. Comber; Abel Thomas, York Co.; Lydia Phillip and Mary Lukens; Maria Imley from Trenton; Edward Jones from York Co.; Joseph Hoag; Huldah Hoag; Rachel Bernard of Marlborough; Jesse Kersey; Benjamin Sweat; Jacob Ritter, Bucks Co., an old soldier in the Battle of Brandywine; John Mott of New York; David Cope of Bradford; Sarah Cresson; Robert Comfort of Rochester; Ezra Comfort of Rochester; and Sarah Emlen.

**CONDENSED ACCOUNT OF ENNION COOK'S SEXTON BOOK**

"Ennion Cook was chosen principal sexton for Birmingham Grave Yard 3 mo. 1809.

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Two Hundred Fifty Years of Quakerism at Birmingham

6 Jesse Pitt (child) . . . . . . . . 1.00
10 Nathan Holstein (self) . . . . 2.00
2.13 Valentine Wiser (self) . . . . 2.00
3.13 Sarah Chamberlain (self) . . . 2.00
4.10 George Heybourn (child) . . . 1.00
11 Jesse Slack (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
13 James Dilworth (self) Pitt . . . 2.00
5.5 William Mahony (self) . . . . 2.00
23 John Matlack (child) . . . . . . . . 1.00
7.14 Hannah Tempe (child) . . . . 2.00
9.3 Maria Morris (self) . . . . 2.00
7 Ann Wallace (child) . . . . . . . . 1.00
14 William M. Davis (child) . . . . 1.00
10.9 Ziba Darlington (child) . . . . 1.00
17 Maria Wallace (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
11.12 John Davis (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
12.30 Benjamin Price (child) . . . . 1.00

1834
1.1 Caleb Ring (child) . . . . . . . . 1.00
1.13 Benjamin Price (child) . . . . 1.25
2.22 Harlan Mercer (child) . . . . 1.12½
3.24 Saml B. Armer's Grave . . . . . 2.00
4.11 Jesse Thompson (wife) . . . . 2.00
26 Jonathan McCune for Grave . . . . . . . . 2.00
7.10 Edw Devin (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
28 Parry Hurtle's (wife) . . . . . . . . 2.00
7.28 Mary Davis (self) Pitt . . . . . . . . 4.00
8.29 John Benson (child) . . . . . . . . 1.00

1835
15 Moses Pyle (child) . . . . . . . . 1.00
18.34
9.3 Francis Hickman (self) . . . . 2.00
4.10 Joel Darling (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
10.1 Andrew Henry (wife) . . . . 2.00
24 Sarah Chaffant (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
27 John S. Matlack (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
19.9 Titus Chamberlain (self) . . . . 2.00
12.21 John Parry (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00
27 Peter Bye (child) . . . . . . . . 1.00
29 John Williams (self) . . . . . . . . 2.00

REFERENCES IN DOCUMENTS TO BIRMINGHAM

"On fourth-day, the 14th of the second month, (1759) I had a meeting at Birmingham. I felt the Lord was with us, helping and making way by his power; praises be to his great Name for ever! After meeting, we crossed the river called Brandywine, and went to my kind friend William Harvey's, where I was kindly entertained." 1

"The night before this meeting (the funeral of Benjamin Mendenhall of Concord) I lodged at the widow Gilpin's, whose husband, Joseph Gilpin, was lately deceased. There was true Christian love and friendship between us for fifty years. When first I saw Joseph in Pennsylvania, he lived in a cave in the earth, where we enjoyed each other's company in the love and fear of God. This Friend had fifteen children, whom he lived to see brought up to the state of men and women, and all but two married well, and to his mind." 2 Thomas Chalkley visited Birmingham 9th mo. 1736.

"10 mo. 18 1827 Fifthday morning, this being the day in which the

1 Life of William Reckitt, Vol. 9, p. 70. The Friends' Library.
midweek meeting is held in this establishment (Westtown School), a meeting being also held at the same time at Birmingham a few miles from the school, and believing that Truth pointed to Birmingham meeting this morning, and afterwards to have a meeting with the family of this establishment, with such as usually attended, I left the family to conclude on the time, and rode to Birmingham. This meeting was an exercising time to me; yet I felt thankful in believing it proved a solid, satisfactory opportunity to most."

"1763 6th Mo. 13th Second Day Small Rain Cloudy began the 3rd Quarter Schooling Daniel Davis came & drawed 5 loads of wood. P. S. went to the Raising of ye Meeting house." Benjamin Hawley's Diary.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Townsend Haines (1792-1865) to Francis James, then representing this county at Harrisburg. (The original is in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.)

West Chester, March 7, 1837

Dear Sir

. . . . . Philip Price was buried on monthly meeting day—well—it was the desire of the family that after the body had been deposited in the grave a meeting should be held; and the orthodox friends were spoken to on the subject—they agreed to it—as soon, therefore, as the grave was covered, the family repaired to the meeting house (Birmingham) and took their seats—after waiting some time they discovered orthodox friends driving away—they, it appears, having got together and concluded that it would not do for them to set with the infidels, had started home. Poor Rachel—heart-stricken as she was with her loss; felt deeply this slight—and could not but think, that for his sake who had been an elder for 40 years among them, they might have indulged her feelings so far, without injury to themselves.

. . . . .

Very respectfully

Townsend Haines

The following interesting incident is taken from "History of Chester County," page 692, written by Eli K. Price: "Since my memory, which reaches to A. D. 1800, my parents were constant attendants of meetings for discipline and worship; my father acted much as clerk, was an elder, and my mother a recommended minister of the gospel back into the last century. They took me with them to Birmingham Meeting; and as probably my memory extends farther back than that

of nearly all others, I think it would now interest many descendants to record the names of those who sat facing that meeting when its bounds included West Chester and vicinity, before the end of the first decade of this century. If an artist, I could portray their venerable faces and forms. Joshua Sharples would have been there, but was absent as superintendent of Westtown School. At the head of the higher bench sat Richard Strode, then came John Forsythe, Philip Price, Cheyney Jefferis, William Sharples, Abraham Sharpless. On the second bench were James Painter, Abraham Darlington, William Townsend, Caleb Brinton, Thomas Wistar; the latter an invalid, was carried in and out by Cheyney Jefferis, who was stalwart. My mother was the only member I remember as a minister at that time."

**The Townsend Account of the Battle of Brandywine**

The following is an excerpt from the narrative of Joseph Townsend, an eye-witness of the Battle of Brandywine, taken from "History of Chester County" by Futhey and Cope: . . . "As the object of these memoranda is to recite some particulars of the transactions of that day, I shall now turn to the early part of it and relate some circumstances leading thereto. On the arrival of Gen. Washington's army from the eastward, in order to impede the progress of the British after their landing on the shores of the Chesapeake, a considerable number of the soldiers were sick, in consequences of their long marches through the excessive heat of that season of the year. On that account the commissaries, and those who had the charge of the disordered persons, were obliged to take possession of the meeting-houses and other public buildings as hospitals to accommodate them. Among the number thus designated Birmingham Meeting-house was to be one, and preparations were being made therein for that purpose. First-day morning arrived. Friends assembled as usual, from an expectation that the meeting might be held in the house even if it should be taken possession of afterwards; but, from the situation of it, their request could not be granted. They, therefore got permission to take some of the benches out of the house, and placed them under the trees which stood in front thereof, on which they seated themselves in the quiet, as far as was practicable under existing circumstances, inasmuch as the officers and workmen were moving about, and engaged in making preparation to receive the sick, to be brought there as soon as the premises could be got in readiness . . . Under these circumstances it became necessary that some other building should be provided to accommodate the meeting in future until the meeting-house should be cleared and put in order for the purpose; and how soon that would be the case was uncertain from the present gloomy
appearances. Several houses and rooms were talked of, but it was finally concluded to hold the next meeting in a large wheelwright shop, which stood on the eminence north of the dwelling-house owned by Philip Price (at the date of the writing of this sketch), at a place then in existence, and called Sconneltown. The next meeting day was on the 11th of the month, which proved to be a memorable day.

"... Possessed with curiosity, and fond of new things, my brother, William Townsend, myself, and some others rode alongside of the Brandywine for some distance to discover the approach of the British army, in case they should attempt to cross at any of the fords on the creek between Jefferis' and Chad's. We fell in with many like ourselves, but no intelligence could be obtained. We then returned to the aforesaid wheelwright shop, to assemble with Friends in holding our week-day meeting, it being near the hour appointed. While we were sitting therein some disturbance was discovered near the house and about the door, which occasioned some individuals to go out to know the cause, and the uneasiness not subsiding, suspicions arose that something serious was taking place, and the meeting accordingly closed. On our coming out of the house and making some inquiry of what had happened, found it to be an alarm among some of the neighboring women that the English were coming, and that they murdered all before them, young and old. Some of us endeavored to quiet their fears by telling them it was not likely to be the case, and that they had better compose themselves instead of making further disturbance; and while we were reasoning with them our eyes were caught on a sudden by the appearance of the army coming out of the woods into the fields belonging to Emmor Jefferis, on the west side of the creek, above the fording-place. In a few minutes the fields were literally covered with them, and they were hastening towards us. Their arms and bayonets, being raised, shone as bright as silver, the sky being clear and the day exceedingly warm. Recollecting that there was no one at our dwelling except some of our sisters, we concluded it advisable to return home as expeditiously as possible, as we had no doubt that they were marching direct to Philadelphia, and would pass by the house and over the farm . . .

"... and having waited some time, we ventured down the road towards them, and when in sight of Jefferis' Ford we discovered that they had turned their course towards Birmingham, and were passing by where the meeting on that day had been held.

"... We remained on the hill for some time, and when the engagement seemed to be nearly over, or at least that part of it which was in view, and the day being far on the decline, we were about retiring; but, as admiration and curiosity had been the order of the day, I proposed
to some of my companions that we should go over to the field of battle and take a view of the dead and wounded, inasmuch as we might never have such another opportunity. Some of us consented, and others with reluctance yielded. We hastened thither, and awful was the scene,—to behold such a number of fellow-beings lying near each other, severely injured, and some of them mortally; a few dead, but a small proportion, considering the quantity of powder and balls that had been used. It was now the time for the surgeons to exert themselves, and divers of them were busily employed. Some of the doors of the meeting-house were torn off, and the wounded carried thereon into the house, which was now occupied as a British hospital, instead of the American sick, for whom it had been preparing some days previous.

"... The British army remained on the ground of encampment at Birmingham until the third day of the week following, being the sixteenth of the month ...

"The ground which they had lately occupied at Birmingham, being now cleared and left in a desolate condition, exhibited a scene of destruction and waste. Some few of the inhabitants who remained thereon and some others who were returning to the places of abode, found it necessary to call in the assistance of their neighbors to rebury many of the dead, who lay exposed to the open air and ravages of beasts and wild-fowls, having, in consequence of the late heavy rains, been washed bare and some few of them had never been interred. I was one among a number who attended and performed that duty.

"It would be difficult to describe the many cases of horror and destruction of human beings that came under our notice in this undertaking, but we accomplished it, though in many instances of a most disagreeable and unpleasant nature. During the performance of it we had a full opportunity of beholding the destruction and wanton waste committed on the property of the peaceable inhabitants of the neighborhood, and on the ground of the encampment. Those who were obliged to remain thereon had their stock of cattle destroyed for the use of the army, their horses taken away, and their household furniture, bedding, etc., wantonly wasted and burned. It was not uncommon to see heaps of feathers lying about the farms, the ticks having been stripped off and made use of, and the remains of small pieces of valuable furniture lying about their places, in the fields, unconsumed, when there was no want of timber and fence-rails, which might have been used for their cooking, etc., but being in an enemy's country, inhabited by rebels, there was no restraint on the soldiery or rabble which accompanied them.

"Having made mention that the meeting-house at Birmingham had
been taken out of our possession by the Americans in order to accommodate their sick soldiers, it so turned out that before it could be occupied for that purpose, Gen. Howe had the control of it for the use of his wounded officers; and when vacated, and the army removed, friends were at liberty to cleanse and purify it, which was so far done that we held our meeting therein on First-day (Sunday) succeeding their departure; but considerable repairs were necessary afterwards to put it in the condition it was previous to their being deprived of it; During their occupancy of it several of their principal officers died, and were interred in the bury-ground adjoining."

Bayard Taylor's Account of a Visit to the Battle Ground of Brandywine

The original of this manuscript by James Bayard Taylor is in the possession of the Chester County Historical Society. A copy of the entire letter can be seen in the January, 1938 issue of the "Chester County Collections."

"Having long desired to see this place, celebrated in the annals of our revolution as having been the scene of a sanguinary conflict, I, in company with several others determined to pay it a visit . . . What was then a thicket of small trees is now a fine lofty wood being the same which the Americans cut down to afford a passage in their rapid retreat. To the north-west was a high hill on the top of which the American cannon were planted by Gen. Greene to check the British on their approach. On arriving at the summit we were both astonished and delighted, at the extended and beautiful prospect which burst upon our view. To the west it was unconfined for upwards of eight miles, presenting one of the most beautiful landscapes we had ever beheld. It was here that Gen. Greene first made a stand when they were aware of the approach of the British, but were obliged, after a short resistance, to retreat, owing to the superior force of the enemy. After we had viewed the surrounding landscape for some time, we resolved to proceed to Birmingham Meeting House a short distance to the north. Arriving there we were conducted by Mr. E. Cook, into the meeting house which was used at that time as a hospital for the wounded. It has been somewhat enlarged since the battle but is, in many respects, unchanged. At one end we observed stains upon the floor said to have been caused by the blood of wounded and dying who were carried thither. A bloodstain near the stove, is supposed to be the place where the noble and high-born but unfortunate Percy's breathed his last. We could not look upon it without a sigh, when we reflected that one so young, so noble, so gifted, should be buried here, far from his friends, his home,
and his country and the object of his love who was probably rendered heartbroken by his death.

"Burial ground adjoining the meeting house was the stand of a small body of troops commanded by Gen. Sullivan placed there to annoy the British and retard their progress. They took shelter behind the walls but the main body of the British army, coming suddenly upon them, they were surrounded, many being killed and the remainder were forced to fly. The graveyard has been enlarged since but the spot where our unfortunate countrymen were buried, is distinctly visible. We almost deemed it sacrilege, to walk over and tread upon, the graves of 'our country's brave defender's. Near the middle is the grave of Lord Percy mentioned by Miss E. M. Chandler in her 'Legend of the Brandywine'. About one hundred yards from the burial ground is the spot where he was struck by the ball which terminated his life."

J. B. T.

Unionville April 5th 1840
APPENDIX

MARRIAGES AT BIRMINGHAM MEETING 1690 TO 1940

10.9.1690  WILLIAM BRINTON, JUNER, of Birmingham, son of William and Ann
           (Bagley)
          JANE THATCHER, JUNR, of Birmingham Township, daughter of Richard
           and Jane (Steven)
          Married "at a meeting in Bumingham".

4.22.1721  JOHN WILLIS, son of Henry
          MARY BROWN
          Married "at Bunring Meeting".

7.13.1722  JOSEPH WEBB, son of Richard and Elizabeth
          ANN WILLIS, daughter of Henry

9.29.1722  JOHN COLOUR, or COULAR (Collier)
          MARY DAVIS, the younger

4.9.1724  WILLIAM BRINTON, son of William and Jane
          AZAURAH TOWNSEND, daughter of James

1.18.1724-5 WILLIAM TEMPLE, son of Thomas and Susanne (Atherton)
          HANNAH TAYLOR, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth, of Kennett

9.27.1729  JOHN TAYLOR, son of Philip of Thornbury, yeoman
          PHEBE TOWNSEND, daughter of John, of Westtown, yeoman

10.11.1729 THOMAS THORNBURY, of Thornbury Township, weaver
           CHARITY DAVIS, of same township, spinster

10.11.1729 ROBERT THORNBURY, of Thornbury township, sawyer
           SUSANNA DAVIS, of same township, spinster

3.21.1730  WILLIAM BENNETT, son of Edward of Thornbury, (dec'd.), yeoman, and
           Sarah
           DEBORAH WOODWARD, daughter of Richard and Mary, of Bradford

11.27.1730 DANIEL HOOPES, son of Daniel, of Westtown, yeoman
           ALICE TAYLOR, daughter of Abiah Taylor, of Bradford, yeoman

2.29.1731  JONATHAN PARKE, son of Thomas, of East Caln
           DEBORAH, daughter of Abiah Taylor, of Bradford

2.29.1731  SAMUEL BITTLE OR BETTLE, of Birmingham
           ANN BRINTON, daughter of William, of Birmingham

3.20.1731  HENRY WOODWARD, son of Richard and Mary, of Bradford
           MARY TOWNSEND, daughter of Joseph and Martha

9.25.1731  BENJAMIN COCK, of Thornbury, son of Henry, of Long Island
           ANN BRINTON, daughter of Joseph, of same township

5.5.1733  BENJAMIN TAYLOR, son of Joseph, of Kennett
           SARAH NOOKS, daughter of William, of Middletown

9.13.1734  ROBERT MENDINGHALL, son of Benjamin, of Concord
           PHEBE TAYLOR, daughter of Philip (deceased), of Thornbury

9.20.1735  DANIEL MERCER, son of Thomas, of Westtown, yeoman
           REBEKAH TOWNSEND, daughter of John, of Westtown, yeoman

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Two Hundred Fifty Years of Quakerism at Birmingham

Moses Pyle, son of John, of Thornbury, joiner
Mary Darlington, daughter of Abraham, of Birmingham, spinster
Isaac Vernon, son of Isaac, yeoman
Hannah Townsend, daughter of John, yeoman
Jonathan Rumford, son of John, of Plymouth, Philadelphia Co.
Susanna Nooks, daughter of William, of Middletown
Richard Hallett, of Newtown, Queens Co., Long Island, yeoman
Ann Miller, of Birmingham, widow
Daniel Corbett, son of Daniel, of Duck Creek, New Castle Co., Delaware
Mary Brinton, daughter of William and Jane, of Birmingham
Abraham Marshall, son of Abraham, a yeoman, and Mary
Rachel Carter, daughter of George (decd.) and Elizabeth, of East Bradford
John Hannom, son of John, of Concord (decd.) or Hanam
Jane Neal, daughter of John, of Aston (decd.) also written Neald
Nathan Sharples, son of Joseph and Lydia, of W. Caln
Hannah Townsend, daughter of Joseph and Martha, of E. Bradford
Nathaniel Pennock, son of Joseph and Mary, of Marlborough
Ann Bennett, daughter of John and Sarah, of Birmingham
Ellis Lewis, Jr., son of Ellis, of Kennett, yeoman
Ruth Wilson, daughter of John, of Birmingham, yeoman
John Heald, of Kennett, yeoman
Elizabeth Yearsley, of Thornbury
Samuel Worth, son of Samuel, of E. Bradford
Elizabeth Carter, daughter of George, (decd.), yeoman, of same township
Isaac Thomas, son of Peter, of Willistown, yeoman
Mary Townsend, daughter of John, of Westtown
John Bennett, son of John, of Birmingham (decd.) and Sarah
Hannah Seal, daughter of William (decd.) and Hannah, of same township
John Clayton, son of Edward and Ann, of W. Bradford, weaver
Jane Jefferies, daughter of Robert and Eleanor, of E. Bradford
John Dilworth, son of William, of Birmingham
Hannah Woodward, daughter of John, of Thornbury
William Clayton, son of Edward and Jane, of W. Bradford
Abigail Woodward, daughter of Henry and Mary, of E. Bradford
Isaac Pyle, of Marlborough
Elizabeth Darlington, daughter of Abraham
Abraham Vernon, son of Jacob, late of Thornbury, yeoman (decd.)
Mary Bennett, daughter of William, of E. Bradford, yeoman
Thomas Temple, son of William and Hannah, of Kennett
Jane Brinton, daughter of Joseph and Mary, of Thornbury
William Jefferis, Jr., son of William, of E. Bradford, yeoman
Hannah Darlington, daughter of Abraham, of Birmingham, yeoman
3.14.1753  JAMES BROWN, of E. Nottingham
          ELIZABETH ELGAR, of Thornbury
4.26.1753  THOMAS TAYLOR, son of John, of Westtown, yeoman
          MARTHA WOODWARD, daughter of Henry, of E. Bradford
10.25.1753 WILLIAM HUNT, son of Joseph of Westtown, yeoman
          SARAH FRED, daughter of Nicholas, yeoman (decd.) late of Birmingham
4.25.1754  THOMAS DARLINGTON, son of Abraham, of Birmingham, yeoman
          HANNAH BRINTON, daughter of Edward, of same township
5.9.1754   NAYLE WOODWARD, son of John, of Thornbury, yeoman
          LYDIA BRINTON, daughter of John, of Kennett, yeoman (decd.)
5.29.1755 JOHN WEBSTER, son of William (decd.), of E. Marlborough
          JANE BRINTON, daughter of Edward, of Birmingham
11.13.1755 ISAAC TAYLOR, son of Benjamin, of Kennett, yeoman
          HANNAH ARNOLD, daughter of Anthony, of E. Bradford, yeoman,
          (decd.)
2.18.1756  WILLIAM HALL, son of Clement, of Salem, N. J. (decd.) and Elizabeth
          HANNAH BRINTON, daughter of Joseph and Mary, of Thornbury (decd.)
4.13.1758  CHARLES Ryon, yeoman, of Goshen
          HANNAH SHARPLES, widow, of Goshen
4.27.1758  WILLIAM CULLIPHER, son of Benjamin, of Concord (decd.)
          MARY WOODWARD, daughter of Henry, of E. Bradford
5.25.1758  JAMES MILLER, of Sadsbury, yeoman, son of James (decd.), of Kennett
          PHEBE JONES, daughter of William and Mary, of Birmingham
11.24.1759 SAMUEL JEFFERIS, son of William and Elizabeth, of E. Bradford
          MARGARET TOWNSEND, daughter of John and Joanna, of same township
4.17.1760  JAMES WILSON, of Birmingham, yeoman
          SARAH WILSON, daughter of James, of London Grove, yeoman (decd.)
5.13.1762  JOHN WALTER, son of William, of Concord, yeoman
          DEBORAH WOODWARD, daughter of Henry, of E. Bradford, cooper
3.16.1763  JOHN WOODWARD, of Thornbury, yeoman
          HANNAH MARTIN, widow of John, of Birmingham (decd.), daughter of
          William Dilworth
4.28.1763  THOMAS HOOPS, son of Nathan, of Bradford
          SARAH BANE, daughter of Nathan, of Goshen, (decd.)
4.20.1763  BENJAMIN HAWLEY, of E. Bradford, yeoman
          CATHERINE HILBORN, of Birmingham
6.15.1763  JOHN PUSEY, son of John and Catharine, of London Grove
          ELIZABETH PAINTER, daughter of Thomas and Grace, of Birmingham
          (decd.)
11.30.1758 JOHN TAYLOR, son of Richard of Kennett, yeoman (decd.)
          ESTHER EVenson, daughter of Richard, of Thornbury, yeoman
12.28.1763 JOHN BRINTON, son of John, of Kennett (decd.)
          REBECCA DARLINGTON, daughter of Abraham, of Birmingham
11.15.1764 WILLIAM HAWLEY, son of Benjamin, of E. Bradford
          HANNAH TAYLOR, daughter of Philip (decd.), late of Newlin
Tu-o Hundred Fifty l'ears of Quakerism al Birmingham

1. 10. 1765 THOMAS METEUR, son of Henry, of Birmingham (decd.) and Margaret
ANN TAYLOR, daughter of Philip (decd.) and Mary, of Thornbury

4. 11. 1765 JOSIAH HAINES, son of Isaac, of Goshen and Catharine
MARY COCK, daughter of Benjamin and Ann, of Thornbury

3. 6. 1766 THOMAS LLOYD, of Moreland, Philadelphia Co.
MARY BINTON, widow of Joseph, of Thornbury

4. 25. 1765 WILLIAM SEAL, of Christiana, New Castle Co.
RACHEL DARLINGTON, daughter of Abraham, of Birmingham

9. 24. 1766 PHINEHAS HARLAN, son of John and Sarah, of Newlin Township
ELIZABETH JONES, daughter of John and Sarah, of E. Bradford

11. 21. 1765 SAMUEL ENTRIKEN, son of George and Mary, of E. Bradford
MARY STRODE, daughter of John, of same place

5. 5. 1768 ISAAC BAILY, son of Joel and Betty, of W. Marlborough
LYDIA PAINTER, daughter of Samuel and Esther, of E. Bradford

4. 23. 1766 SAMUEL SELLERS, son of Samuel, of W. Bradford
MARY TAYLOR, daughter of Samuel, of E. Bradford (decd.)

4. 6. 1769 JOSEPH COPE, son of John, of E. Bradford
ANN TAYLOR, daughter of Benjamin, of Kennett

5. 9. 1771 JAMES PAINTER, son of Samuel and Esther Gilpin, of E. Bradford
JANE CARTER, daughter of John, of same township (decd.)

6. 10. 1773 ROBERT LAMBORN, son of Robert and Ann, of Kennett
MARTHA TOWNSEND, daughter of John and Joanna, of E. Bradford

10. 7. 1773 WILLIAM SHARPLESS, son of Nathan, (decd.), and Hannah of Goshen
ANN HUNT, daughter of William and Sarah (decd.), of Westtown

11. 4. 1773 JOSEPH TEMPLE, son of Thomas and Jane, of Pennsbury
PHEBE GEST, daughter of Daniel and Hannah, of E. Bradford

1. 7. 1773 EZEKIEL WEBB, son of William and Elizabeth, of Kennett
CORDELIA JONES, daughter of John and Sarah, of E. Bradford

6. 16. 1774 WILLIAM HUNT, of Westtown, yeoman
SUSANNAH YEARSLEY, widow of Nathan (decd.), late of Thornbury

11. 9. 1775 JOSHUA PEIRCE, son of Joshua and Ann, of E. Marlborough
SARAH TAYLOR, daughter of Isaac and Hannah, of Pennsbury

10. 16. 1777 JESSE JONES, son of Cadwallader and Mary, of Uwchlan
MARY TOWNSEND, daughter of John and Joanna, of E. Bradford

5. 8. 1777 SAMUEL OSBORN, of Westtown, Chester County
PHEBE YEARSLEY, widow of Isaac (decd.), of Thornbury

10. 9. 1777 LEWIS PUSEY, of London Grove, son of Joshua and Mary (decd.)
REBEKAH TAYLOR, daughter of Isaac and Hannah, of Pennsbury

4. 12. 1781 JOHN FORSYTH, of E. Bradford, schoolmaster
HANNAH CARTER, daughter of John (decd.), of same place

3. 8. 1781 EDWARD DARLINGTON, son of Thomas and Hannah, of E. Bradford
HANNAH TOWNSEND, daughter of John and Joanna, same township

9. 6. 1781 SAMUEL CARTER, son of John, of E. Bradford (decd.)
RUTH TAYLOR, daughter of Philip, of Thornbury (decd.)

6. 6. 1782 JOSEPH TOWNSEND, son of John and Joanna, of E. Bradford
HANNAH PAINTER, daughter of Samuel and Esther, of same township
Tu:o Hundred Fifty Years of Quakerism at Birmingham

11.6.1783  JACOB HAINES, son of Isaac, of Goshen
          MARTHA SHARPLES, daughter of Nathan (decd.), of Goshen

6.10.1784  JOHN PYLE, son of John, of Kennett Township
          SUSANNA GRAVES, daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth, of Birmingham

11.11.1784  ISAAC YEARSLEY, of E. Bradford, son of Thomas (decd.)
          MARY DAVIS, daughter of James (decd.), of same township

11.4.1784  ABNER ROGERS, son of Robert (decd.), of Ridley
          SARAH YEARSLEY, daughter of Nathan, of Thornbury (decd.)

12.9.1784  JOSHUA BROWN, son of Elisha and Rachel, of W. Nottingham, Cecil Co., Md.
          DEBORAH TAYLOR, daughter of John (decd.) and Mary, of Pennsbury

4.14.1785  JOSHUA HOOPES, son of Joshua (decd.) and Hannah, of Thornbury
          HANNAH MARTIN, daughter of John (decd.), and Hannah of same township

6.8.1786  WILLIAM PUSEY, son of Joshua, of London Grove
          ELIZABETH TAYLOR, daughter of Isaac, of Pennsbury

4.19.1787  DAVID LEWIS, son of Jabez (decd.) and Hannah, of W. Bradford
          LEAH DARLINGTON, daughter of John and Esther, of E. Bradford

4.30.1789  RICHARD JACOBs, son of Richard and Margaret, of E. Whiteland
          LYDIA GIBBONS, daughter of William and Susanna, of Birmingham

3.12.1789  AMOS DARLINGTON, of E. Bradford, son of Thomas and Hannah
          ELIZABETH POWELL, same place, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah

4.22.1790  CALEB DILWORTH, of Thornbury, son of John and Hannah (decd.)
          ELIZABETH RYAN, daughter of Charles and Anna (decd.), of Goshen

6.23.1791  JOSEPH PALMER, son of John and Hannah, of Concord
          SARAH KESTER, daughter of Samuel and Susanna, of Birmingham

5.5.1791  JOSHUA HUNT, son of William (decd.), of Westtown
          LYDIA DAVIS, daughter of James (decd.), of E. Bradford

9.13.1792  BENJAMIN COOPE, of E. Bradford, son of Nathan and Ann
          RACHEL SHARPLES, daughter of Joshua and Edith (decd.), Same township

12.11.1794  ISAAC CLOVER GILPIN, of Wilmington, New Castle Co., Del., son of
            George and Ruth, of Birmingham (decd.)
            HAN. of DARLINGTON, daughter of Thomas and Hannah, of E. Bradford

4.21.1796  NATHAN SHARPLES, son of Joshua, of E. Bradford and Edith (decd.)
          LYDIA PAINTER, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth, same township

5.5.1796  ABEL OXLEY, of Westtown
          HANNAH SHARPLES, of Goshen

11.22.1798  AARON MENDENHALL, of Brandywine, son of Joshua and Lydia, same place
            LYDIA YARNALL, of Pennsbury, widow

8.20.1798  ABRAHAM JEFFERIS, of W. Caln
            ANN CARTER, of E. Bradford, widow

3.14.1799  JOHN PENNOCK, of W. Marlborough, widower
            ALICE TEMPLE, of Birmingham, widow
Tu:o J/11ndred Fifty Years of Quakerism al Birminglzam

10.24.1799  ISAAC TAYLOR, son of Isaac and Hannah, of Pennsborough
ELIZABETH DARLINGTON, daughter of Thomas and Hannah, of E. Bradford

10.23.1800  ENNIO• COOK, of Birmingham, son of Stephen and Margaret, of Londongrove
AGNES GARRETT, daughter of Isaac (dec'd.) and Agnes, of Birmingham

5.14.1801  JACOB HAINES, son of Isaac and Mary, of Goshen (dec'd.)
LYDIA THOMSON, daughter of Daniel and Ann, of Thornbury, Del. Co.

9.24.1801  ELY HARVEY, son of Amos and Hannah, of Pennsbury
MARY PAINTER, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth, of E. Bradford

10.14.1802  WILLIAM DAVIS, son of Asa and Elizabeth, of E. Bradford
MARY HIBBERD, daughter of Samuel and Mary, of Willistown (dec'd.)

10.21.1802  THOMAS MASSEY, son of Levi and Catherine (dec'd.), of Willistown
PHEBE JONES, daughter of Benjamin and Rebecca, of Westtown

12.16.1802  ABRAHAM SHARPLES, son of William (dec'd.) and Abigail, of Aston, Del. Co.
CATHARINE F. WISTAR, daughter of Caspar and Mary, of Pennsbury

3.24.1803  RICHARD EVANSON, son of George and Mary, of Thornbury, Chester Co.
LYDIA JONES, daughter of Benjamin and Rebecca, of Westtown

10.11.1804  NATHAN SHARPLES, son of William and Ann, of West Chester
MARTHA PRICE, daughter of Philip and Rachel, of E. Bradford

4.24.1806  JAMES GIBBONS, son of William (dec'd.) and Susanna, of E. Bradford
LYDIA GARRET, daughter of Joseph and Charity (both dec'd.), of Concord

11.20.1806  ISAAC HOOPES, of Chester Co., son of Isaac and Mary, of Delaware Co.
HANNAH JONES, daughter of Benjamin and Rebecca, of Chester Co.

5.17.1807  JONATHAN PEIRCE, son of Jacob (dec'd.) and Hannah, of E. Marlborough
HANNAH DARLINGTON, daughter of Abraham and Susanna, of Thornbury, Chester Co.

5.25.1809  SAMUEL PAINTER, widower, son of Samuel and Esther (both dec'd.), of E. Bradford
ESTHER WILLIAMSON, widow, daughter of Joseph and Hannah James
(both dec'd.) of Thornbury, Delaware Co.

9.14.1809  JOHN WAY, son of James (dec'd.) and Hannah, of Londongrove
SIDNEY JEFFERIS, daughter of Emmor and Rachel (dec'd.), of E. Bradford

3.22.1810  CHEYNEY JEFFERIS, of E. Bradford, son of James (dec'd.) and Ann
MARTHA SHARPLESS, daughter of Joshua and Edith (dec'd.), of Westtown

4.12.1810  JOSEPH JACKSON, of West Chester, son of Samuel (dec'd.) and Mary,
of Reading
REBECCA JEFFERIS, daughter of Emmor and Rachel (dec'd.), of E. Bradford

4.16.1812  DAVID TOWNSEND, son of Samuel and Priscilla
REBECCA SHARPLES, daughter of William and Ann, of West Chester
10.22.1812  JOHN W. TOWNSEND, of West Chester, son of William, of E. Bradford and Grace
SIBILLA K. PRICE, daughter of Philip and Rachel, of same township

5.6.1813  ENOS THOMAS, of Goshen, son of Enos and Sarah (both decd.)
HANNAH FORSYTHE, daughter of John and Hannah, of E. Bradford

6.10.1813  THOMAS KITE, of Philadelphia, bookseller, son of Benjamin and Rebecca
EDITH SHARPLES, daughter of Joshua and Edith (decd.), of E. Bradford

6.10.1813  JOHN EDWARDS, JUNR., of Vincent Township, son of John and Sarah
EDITH HUNT, daughter of Joshua and Lydia, of West Town

10.14.1813  THOMAS GARRETT, JUNR., of Upper Darby, son of Thomas and Sarah
MARY SHARPLES, daughter of Aaron and Mary (both decd.), of New York City

10.13.1814  JAMES EDWARDS, of Vincent, son of John and Sarah
MARY HUNT, daughter of Joshua and Lydia (decd.), of West Town

11.10.1814  JAMES ROBERTS, of Charlestown Township, son of Edward and Mary
ESTHER DARLINGTON, daughter of Abraham and Susanna, of Thornbury, Chester Co.

9.7.1815  TOWNSEND SHARPLES, son of Jesse and Joanna, of Philadelphia
MARY B. JONES, daughter of Samuel and Lydia, of Birmingham

11.16.1815  ISAAC THOMAS LARKE, of Concord, Delaware Co., son of John and Martha
AMY JONES, daughter of Benjamin and Rebecca, of Westtown

5.16.1816  RICHARD FELL, of New London Township, son of John and Sarah (decd.)
SARAH JONES, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth, of Birmingham

11.21.1816  JOSEPH LARKE, son of John and Martha, of Concord, Delaware Co.
REBECCA JONES, daughter of Benjamin and Rebecca, of West Town

11.20.1817  THOMAS HOOPES, son of Jesse and Amy, of West Goshen
ELIZA DARLINGTON, daughter of Abraham and Susanna, of Thornbury

12.11.1817  MARSHALL HOOPES, son of Abner and Sarah, of Thornbury
MARY DAVIS, daughter of Aaron and Deborah (decd.), of East Bradford

9.23.1819  JONATHAN PAXSON, township of Abington, Montgomery Co., Son of Jacob and Mary (decd.)
MARGARET PRICE, daughter of Philip and Rachel, of East Bradford

5.11.1820  ISAAC BAILEY, of Westtown, son of Joshua and Hannah, of same township
SUSANNA SANKEY, same place, daughter of William and Esther, of Fallowfield

11.15.1821  CALEB CARMALT, of Philadelphia, conveyancer, son of Jonathan and Hannah, same place
SARAH PRICE, daughter of Philip and Rachel

1.24.1822  AMOS DARLINGTON, JR., of West Goshen, son of Amos and Elizabeth
JANE MERCER, daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth, of Westtown

9.13.1827  HEZEKIAH LINTON, of Upper Oxford, son of Hezekia (decd), and Esther, same place
Tu•o Hundred Fifty l'ears of Quakerism at Birmingham

ELIZABETH DAVIS, daughter of William, late of East Bradford, and Mary (both decd.)

10.11.1827 SIMON BARNARD, of Newlin, son of Joseph and Mary, same place
SARAH DARLINGTON, daughter of Emmanuel and Martha (decd.), of East Bradford

2.14.1828 ABRAHAM R. COX, of Upper Providence, County of Montgomery, son of Benjamin and Mary
MARY M. TAYLOR, daughter of Job and Catharine, of Westtown

11.7.1833 HARTT G. COATES, of Lower Oxford, son of Warrick and Eleanor, of Londonderry
ELIZA DARLINGTON, daughter of George and Lydia (decd.), of Penns­bury

3.8.1838 JACKSON Woodward, of East Marlborough, son of Thomas and Mary
SIBBILLA P. ENTRIKEN, daughter of Emmor and ANNA (former decd.), of East Bradford

12.3.1840 JOSIAH WILSON, of Christiana hundred, New Castle Co., son of Stephen (decd.), late of Mill Creek hundred, and Alice
MARY S. PRICE, daughter of Benjamin and Jane, of East Bradford

Note: After the above date the custom of holding weddings in private homes became prevalent.

7.31.1933 DELMONT KIRK BITTLE, of Birmingham, son of Edgar D. and May M. (decd.), of East Bradford
ALTA JESSIE BAILY, daughter of Abram W. and Ida Barnard, of Pocopson

9.21.1933 SAMUEL RALPH PASSMORE, of East Bradford, son of Isaac A. and Annie D., same place
MARY BRINTON COMFORT, daughter of George B. and Ruth L., of West Chester

8.24.1940 WILLIAM WISWESSER, of Reading, Pa., son of Louis E. and Hattie J. of Reading, Pa.
KATHERINE CONNELL, of West Chester, Pa., daughter of William F. and Mary M. of West Chester, Pa.

IN THE ORTHODOX MEETING HOUSE

11.5.1845 DAVID GARRETT, of Birmingham, son of Aaron and Jane, late of Willis­town (both decd.)
MARY ANN HOOPES, of East Bradford, daughter of Abram and Sidney, late of Westtown (former decd.)

10.6.1847 AARON SHARPLESS, of East Bradford, son of Isaac and Sarah (both decd.)
SUSANNA FORSYTHE, daughter of James and Ann, of East Bradford

10.10.1849 JOHN PARKER, of Penns­bury, son of John and Hannah (both Decd.)
PHEBE CARPENTER, daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (former decd.)

6.8.1853 EMMOR BRINTON, of Birmingham Township, son of Edward and Susanna, same place (both decd.)
DEBORAH GARRETT, daughter of David and Anna (decd.)
10.14.1863  Samuel Alsop, Jr., Township of Westtown, son of Samuel and Rachel G.
Esther Kite, daughter of William, of Birmingham, and Mary

6.14.1865  Edward G. Smedley, son of William and Rebecca, all of Middletown, Delaware Co., (latter decd.)
Elizabeth Sharpless, daughter of Aaron, of Birmingham, and Susanna (decd.)

10.10.1866  George L. Smedley, of city of Chester, son of George, of Middletown, Delaware Co., and Mary (both decd.)
Jane H. Garrett, daughter of David, of Birmingham, and Anna (decd.)

5.8.1872  Edward S. Yarnall, son of Isaac, of Edgmont, Delaware Co., and Elizabeth T.
Sidney S. Garrett, daughter of David, of Birmingham, and Mary Ann (both decd.)

10.15.1873  Stephen W. Savery, son of Thomas and Hannah H. (former decd.)
Susanna Forsythe, daughter of William and Elizabeth P.

9.18.1889  Joseph Trimble, of Township of Chester, Delaware Co., son of Stephen M. and Lydia, same place (both decd.)
Emma P. Forsythe, daughter of William and Elizabeth P., of Pennsylvania

9.14.1892  Henry Wood Forsythe, son of Truman and Rachel (Hoopes) (decd.), of East Goshen
Anna T. Hutton, daughter of Richard W. and Elizabeth A., of Westtown

3.14.1894  Isaac Forsythe, of Philadelphia, son of James and Emily, of Upper Providence (former decd.)
Sarah C. Garrett, daughter of Jesse H. and Susan C., of Westtown

9.5.1907  George Bacon, of Haddonfield, County of Camden, N. J., son of Samuel A. and Elizabeth
Lucy Margaret Leeds, daughter of Josiah Woodward and Deborah Crenshaw, of Birmingham

6.17.1915  Henry Russell Worthington, of Brewster, Putman Co., N. J., son of Samuel and Sarah C. (both decd.)
Mariella Cheyney, daughter of Wilmer and Ellen H., of Thornbury
**Graveyard Inscriptions**

*Old Graveyard*

Brinton, Joseph H.
D. 11.20.1839 aged 76 years

Carmalt, Jonathan
5.19.1824–9.10.1829

Darlington, George
8.22.1766–8.16.1839

Darlington, Lydia
8.6.1776–5.31.1826

*Davis, Asa*
1743–1821

*Davis, Charles L.*
1844–1855

*Davis, Deborah*
1812–1853

*Davis, Elizabeth Humphrey*
d. 1814

Davis, Hannah Price
3.26.1737–1.10.1861

*Davis, Hibberd Evans*
1838–1842

*Davis, John*
1836–1842

*Davis, Mary Hibberd*
1780–1825

*Davis, William*
1772–1822

Forsythe, Ann Truman
5.9.1784–2.26.1848

Forsythe, Elizabeth H.
3.6.1869–7.28.1869

Forsythe, Hannah Carter
1.29.1754–3.4.1851

Forsythe, James
7.1.1785–3.9.1851

Forsythe, John
6.12.1754–3.3.1840

Forsythe, Mary Parvin

Forsythe, Ruth Truman
5.10.1782–9.3.1847

*These names are on one stone.

Forsythe, Sarah H.
8.3.1837–9.1.1857

Forsythe, William H.
10.29.1866–8.21.1867

Forsythe, William S.
10.9.1862–5.12.1863

Gibbons, M. B.
D. 10.16.1841

Price, Isaac
11.30.1799–8.25.1825

Price, Philip
1.8.1764–2.26.1837

Price, Rachel
4.18.1763–8.6.1847

Price, Rachel, Jr.
10.22.1823–7.2.1849

Price, Susanna M. (afterwards Susanna M. Smith)
1.8.1801–12.19.1838

Sharless, Benjamin
8.24.1769–2.1.1852

Sharless, Sidney
11.13.1792–2.24.1877

Sharles, Susanna Kite, wife of Aaron Sharless
1.17.1809–9.19.1844

On this native stone rested one corner of the first Meeting House at (Birmingham) Built Cedar Logs, with a flint stone in center of it upon which they burnt charcoal to heat the Meeting, Erected 1721.

In Memory of Those Who Fell in the Battl:. of Brandywine Sept. 11, 1777 Back of this in a common grave lay those who fell in this vicinity. Marked by The Brandywine Valley Farmers' Club 1920

*Orthodox Graveyard*

Barnard, Ellen C.
7.14.1873–3.2.1934
Carter, Alice M. 1844–1914
2.26.1878–9.18.1936
Carter, Charles S. 1846–1920
1843–1918
Carter, Elizabeth C. 1811–1889
4.30.1847–6.13.1912
Carter, Sarah F. 1877–1877
D. 7.2.1917 aged 2 yrs. & 9 mos.
Carter, Thomas C. 1881–1881
D. 3.4.1905 aged 5 weeks
Carter, William 1830–1917
(no stone erected yet buried in 1940)
Forsythe, Elizabeth 1804–1882
7.20.1821–7.18.1915
Forsythe, Elizabeth P. 1840–1877
1815–1881
Forsythe, Hannah E. 1890–1877
1855–1889
Forsythe, Hannah J. 1877–1877
2.22.1862–11.9.1932
Forsythe, H. Lea 1830–1917
1852–1937
Forsythe, John 1821–1877
4.29.1817–4.1.1893
Forsythe, Marian E. 1821–1877
1876–1878
Forsythe, Mary A. 1831–1877
1843–1930
Forsythe, Mary Anna 1831–1877
1845–1915
Forsythe, Rebecca M. 1849–1877
Forsythe, Sara Price Wife of Wm. T. 1850–1877
Forsythe, William 1830–1917
8.30.1838–12.21.1914
BIBLIOGRAPHY

CHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL BILLS, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

DIARY OF BENJAMIN HAWLEY, Photostatic copy in Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

FILES OF THE DAILY LOCAL NEWS, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

FILES OF THE VILLAGE RECORD, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

FRIENDS INTELLIGENCER.

FUTHEY AND COPE, "History of Chester County."

LEDGER AND GRAVEYARD ACCOUNT OF ENNION COOK, Original at Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES OF BIRMINGHAM MONTHLY MEETING, Rebecca Savery, 341 W. Barnard St., West Chester, Pa. (Orthodox); High Street Meeting House, West Chester, Pa.


MEMORANDUM BOOK OF ENNION COOK, Original in possession of Ann Sharpless, 100 S. Church St., West Chester, Pa. Microfilm copy in Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

MINUTES OF BIRMINGHAM MONTHLY MEETING, Department of Records, 302 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. (Orthodox); High Street Meeting House, West Chester, Pa. (Hicksite); Beulah D. Pratt, 305 N. High St., West Chester, Pa. (Hicksite).


MINUTES OF CHESTER (now Concord) QUARTERLY MEETING, Original at Department of Records, 302 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. Copy at Friends' Historical Library, Swarthmore, Pa.

MINUTES OF CIRCULAR MEETINGS COMMITTEE, Arletta C. Palmer, Ridley Park, Pennsylvania.

MINUTES OF CONCORD FIRSTDAY SCHOOL UNION, Charles J. Supplee, Jr., 144 Hilldale Rd., Lansdowne, Pa.


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MAP SHOWING THE HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM MEETING PROPERTY

Scale - Perches

1 Perch = 16½ Feet
160.50 Perches = 1 Acre

Heavy Line Indicates the Property of the Meeting at the Present Time - 1940

Data Taken from Deeds

Dr. by A.R. Cone