

The Quakers —(Religious Society of Friends)

~ Chronology, before 1900 ~

- 1647 George Fox, 1624-1691, founder of the Society, began preaching in England in 1647. The Quaker movement originated in England at Leicestershire, then spread on to most other English counties and into Ireland and Scotland.
- 1656 The first Quakers to arrive in America came from Barbados to Boston.
- 1659 A large group of persons sailed from colonial Massachusetts to Nantucket and started a new settlement there. Most were Quakers.
- 1661 Rhode Island held the first Yearly Meeting in America. Many Quakers had moved there when banished from Massachusetts; others went to the Oyster Bay and Flushing areas of New York.
- 1671 George Fox and missionary William Edmundson traveled to Virginia and stayed until 1672, trying to negotiate with Governor Berkeley for better treatment.
- 1682 William Penn, a Quaker, opened up Pennsylvania. 23 ships sailed into Delaware Bay with more than 2,000 emigrants.
- 1725 Quaker families from Pennsylvania and New Jersey went south through the Monocacy region of Maryland, crossed the Potomac River, reaching Hopewell in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1732. Another wave passed from Maryland into Virginia's Loudon and Fairfax counties, then went on south. The migration continued into North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Later, many Quakers migrated to Ohio and Indiana.
- 1754 Between 1754 and 1776, Quakers in America strengthened their commitment to pacifism. They also began to renounce slavery and participate in a variety of reform movements.
- 1776 During and after the Revolutionary War, many Quaker Loyalists went to Canada.
- 1827 The Society underwent a series of schisms out of which came the formation of three major sub-groups: Hicksites (liberal), Orthodox (evangelical), and Conservative (quietist).

~ Records, Resources ~

George Fox devised a record-keeping system in 1675 for the group he had founded. The meticulous "Monthly Meeting" records provide family names, dates, and locations.

The Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, is the repository for a large quantity of abstracted Quaker records which have not been published.

Many Quaker records have been microfilmed by the LDS Church and are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City or can be rented by patrons for use at Family History Libraries closer to home.

The Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, IN, has a sizable Quaker collection, including much of the work of Willard Heiss. Some of the Heiss research is housed at East Earlham College, Richmond, IN.

Other repositories of Quaker records include:

- Friends University Library, Wichita, KS.
- Guilford College, Greensboro, NC.
- Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA.
- Haviland Records Room, New York, NY.
- Library of the Historical & Genealogical Society of PA, Philadelphia, PA.
- Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, MD.
- Rhode Island Historical Society Library, Providence, RI.
- Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH.

Quaker Queries, published by Ruby Simonson McNeill, Napavine, WA, contains both queries and book reviews. *Quaker Yeoman*, is a quarterly newsletter, published by Yeoman Genealogy Services.

The National Society Descendants of Early Quakers was founded in 1980.

~ Bibliography ~

Berry, Ellen Thomas and David Allen. *Our Quaker Ancestors: Finding Them in Quaker Records*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987. This book includes an entire chapter about various Quaker repositories.

Hinshaw, William Wade. *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*. 6 volumes. The reprinted series is available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore.