



**PARKERSVILLE MEETING**  
(KENNETT PREPARATIVE MEETING)  
A Brief History

This meetinghouse, with a walled cemetery and horse sheds, was constructed in 1830 to provide a place for worship for about 218 Orthodox Friends who became separated from the Kennett Monthly Meeting (Old Kennett) majority Hicksite Friends in 1827.

During the three years before these Orthodox Friends had their own place of worship, they met at the Kennett meeting, during off-hours, then moved temporarily to the 1820 octagonal Parkersville school.

A group of members subscribed to pay \$722.50 for the construction, on land provided by Isaac Bennett and John Parker, Jr. This John Parker, Jr., a mason, and postmaster of Parkersville, built the meetinghouse, carriage sheds and cemetery walls during 1830. The first record of a meeting held there was dated 1/4/1831.

A fire on 11/29/1917, caused by wind-blown sparks from cleared branches and leaves, destroyed the roof and wooden parts of the meetinghouse. The benches and shutters were saved by students from the newer (1860) Parkersville School, across the road, and by neighbors. Reconstruction took until 1919, when the first post-fire service was held June 1<sup>st</sup>.

A decline in meeting attendance led to the meeting being "laid-down" 2/4/1939. Since that time, the property and cemetery have been maintained under the auspices of a committee of trustees. Mary L. Thomas served from 7/5/1936 until her death in 1979, then care was turned-over to Paul Rodebaugh, Mary Sproat and John Parker, Jr. (1908-1988). Upon John's death, his nephew, Wm. B. Parker, Jr., was appointed a trustee. Today (2014) the trustees are John Beer, Dale Frens, Joanie Parker Hadik, Wm. B. Parker, Jr. and Mary Sproat.

The property has been well maintained, and is currently being used by a very small group on a weekly basis. Occasional weddings and memorial services are held there, and burials are still occurring, with about 300 known burials. An annual meeting open to all is held the second Sunday of September, at 2:00 P.M.

A web site is maintained at [www.parkersvillemeeting.org](http://www.parkersvillemeeting.org).

7/7/2014