

2022-12-11 WQM Support Committee Agenda
3:00 pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

Opening Worship

Updates from monthly meetings

Audit Report - Bob Frye

January Quarterly Meeting at Centre- Stan and Deb

Program

schedule

Committee/group updates

Historic properties - Deb

See survey questions at the end of the agenda

Nominating committee

Report and brainstorming

Coordinator's report - Deb

Grant - Technology and/or Outreach

Program offer - history of Darby Meeting, Friends, and slavery
presentation - see invitation/description at end of the agenda

Next Support Committee date - March 12m 2023 at 3:00pm

From Historic Properties - We are preparing a survey of monthly meetings regarding burial grounds in their care similar to the survey of historic meeting house properties in 2018. We are still preparing and refining our questions.

Questions to ask - WE NEED TO REFINE AND PRIORITIZE THESE:

- 1) What burial grounds are under your care?
- 2) How big – acres and plots;
- 3) how full; an estimate is fine.
- 4) How long has the burial ground been active?
- 5) Is there a plot map that includes areas where there may be unmarked graves?
- 6) Are all burial grounds under your care still making plot sales? Is there a requirement for a connection to the meeting?
- 7) Current state -
 - a) Financial resources
 - b) human resources to tend
 - c) physical condition including headstones, boundary markers, plantings, walls, fences
- 8) What history or memories do meeting members have about the burial grounds? For example are there burials of enslaved people, of individuals of significance beyond the meeting community?
- 9) NEW - has the meeting had any discussions of how else the space might be used, for example as green space with an arboretum or native plant garden?

Invitation for Program

Dear Friend:

My name is Harold Finigan and I am the Historian at the Darby Friends Meeting. For the past 4+ years I have been researching our members and the 340 year history of our meeting. This has led me to research on the Jackson family. As you may know, Halliday Jackson transferred to our Meeting in 1803. His son John Jackson started the first Female Preparatory School in Chester County (Sharon Female Academy) and his daughter Mary was a travelling minister who preached on the topics of Abolition & Womens rights. Her daughter, Martha Schofield, would go to South Carolina after the Civil War and teach the newly freed peoples. Despite immense pushback from the white nationalists, Martha built an amazing school which still survives today.

I have been invited by the Schofield Alumni Association of Aiken SC to come and present my findings, which I will do in February. Since I will have the presentation fine tuned by that time, I am writing to offer to present it to your Meeting, if there is interest. This presentation has grown out of larger research into the Anti Slavery efforts of the Darby Quakers which goes back to at least 1693, a time when 70% of the Quakers were slaveholders. Working through the Chester Quarterly, these early Quakers - John Blunston, Nicholas Fairlamb & Caleb Pusey strove to convince PYM that slaveholding was inconsistent with Q values. At present, I have identified at least 30 members of our meeting which were "Stationmasters" or "Conductors" on the UGRR. Family names that may be familiar, Garretts, Sellers, Pennock, Price, Gibbons, Rhoads, Bonsall, Bartrams & Buntings. The two most famous members were Thomas Garrett jr, who later moved to Wilmington & Isaac T Hopper, who moved to NY.

I recently gave the presentation as a seminar to the Social Studies teachers of our local School District. It was well received.

It was done in two parts, each 120' in duration: about 90' presentation + 30' discussion--with lunch in-between. The first part covers a brief intro to the founding's of the Quaker religion in England, Penn and the Holy Experiment, and the speaking truth concerning slaveholding; efforts of Quakers in Government; and ends with the Declaration of Independence (for some).

Part 2: Q petition on abolition to Congress, the UGRR, efforts to undermine the business of slavery; US Constitutional Convention; Slave breeding; various abolitionist societies: The Hicksite split; the other Civil War, Reconstruction and Freedmen's Schools; White Supremacy; Martha Schofield & her school; Womens rights; and where all this fits in with us today...

I could present one or both parts, if there is interest. I thank you for your time.

With kind regards

Harold Finigan
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