

REFLECTIONS

by
LUCRETIA M. FRANKLIN

The
1969 JONATHAN PLUMMER LECTURE

Presented at
ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY of FRIENDS

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Campers at Illinois Yearly Meeting - 1968

Editorial Comment

I talked with Lucretia immediately after her talk and discussed this booklet with her. It was agreed that I would take the tape of her talk, and her manuscript, and coordinate them. She would then review the document and make corrections as needed.

But Lucretia passed away before this got to her, so she had no chance to go over it for errors. The manuscript itself was designed for oral presentation, and I am sure she would have wanted to make changes here and there, to make it more suitable for the written presentation.

So here is the manuscript, plus items she added as she talked. Items that she added verbally were taken from the tape recording of her talk. Such additions are enclosed in brackets [] .

Tom Jones made an excellent tape of the talk. If you would like one, get in touch with him. It is quite clear and distinct; Lucretia had a good recording voice.

We hope you find this as delightful to read as we did to produce.

Clifford L. Haworth

Pictures of Campers, Front view of Meeting House, Rear view of Grounds.
taken by Lewis B. Walton in 1968

REFLECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Marvin Fridley
(St. Louis)

Our speaker tonight, Lucretia Mott Smith Franklin, was born the same year that Illinois Yearly Meeting was formed. Now that's as much disclosure as you're going to get. She says you don't need the new math to figure that one out.

She taught school for some 8 years and married and moved away from the community for some 25 years. She has 1 daughter - no grandchildren - not even a cat.

Well, what kind of a woman is she? Well I think she has a sense of humor that can't be topped. But let's take a look at the vital statistics again.

I don't know how many of you know this, but her husband was an engineer who pioneered in quick freezing and all these cherry pies and pizzas and fish and what have you that you see being shipped across the country back and forth ending up on your table were in no small part due to his engineering know how. Now certainly he found something there, don't you think?

What about her daughter? Again, I don't know how many of you know this, but she's a technical writer in the space age. What kind of progeny is that? What kind of woman would foster that kind of child?

When I first got to know her she was in her 80's, and blasting around in her little black Chevy with great aplomb - and at 90 the insurance company got scared and they wouldn't let her drive any more - I don't know - seems to me they had a safe income.

I asked her how'd she account for this you know, what shall we say, this "joie-de-vivre"? And she didn't think she had any, and she sort of denied the whole thing, but I haven't found her that way at all. Anybody who can flip off the new math and that sort of thing, surely must be doing something other than crocheting and knitting.

But enough of vital statistics. My own personal reaction to this woman is one of frank admiration, and if I may confess it before all - love. She turns me on. She sort of makes my heart pump a little faster and I frankly enjoy conversation with her.

And I guess that's about the truest test in reaction to a person you can have, is how she affects you.

Lucretia-----

[Above introduction taken from the tape recording of the program]



LUCRETIA MOTT (SMITH) FRANKLIN

Born August 29 1874.
Died October 30 1969

Picture by Alfred DuPree - 1966

During the late 40's Aunt Lu told Margaret Haworth that she had attended every session of Illinois Yearly Meeting (with the possible exception of the year spent in Canada); the first year in her mother's arms.

She attended every session since that talk.

The 1970 sessions will miss her cheerful presence.

REFLECTIONS

LUCRETIA FRANKLIN

[Friends and neighbors,] I come before you feeling very humble and inadequate. There have been so many scholarly addresses before me, in honor of Jonathan Plummer, from those who have been masters in their fields, while I am authority in nothing. But since the Program Committee thought I might have a contribution to make to the Yearly Meeting, and so feeling, in a way that, it was also a personal honor to me for my long years of membership in Illinois Yearly Meeting, I consented.

I chose "Reflections" for my topic, as I might want to change the subject often and this covered the most of the things I want to talk about and I hope you bear with me and my infirmities. [I am remembering a great many things that others may have forgotten, and perhaps I should.]

First of all, since I have been requested, several times, to review again the history and background of the founding of this Quaker Community out of the wilderness, in Putnam County, Illinois, I'll start there.

[I don't know how many of you have read Jessamyn West's new book about the Birdwells of "The Friendly Persuasion". She has a new book, "Except for Me and Thee", and they migrated with this same bunch of people who came so miraculously from western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio--just came in scores between the 30's and 40's. I don't know what brought them here, or why they came in such numbers.]

[They came as far as Indiana, he even went as far as "Ioway" and Illinois, but he didn't like the prairie in Illinois, and he didn't like the climate in Iowa and this new book of hers is more of a prologue rather than a sequel, and I think you'll enjoy it.]

[But I thought you might be interested to know it is this same migration that brought these people from the east to the west.]

It was at the time in the history of the migration of peoples moving from here to there - for all sorts of reasons, but mostly it was that new [Northwest] territory was being gradually opened up by the government which urged those from the crowded Eastern Seaboard to get cheap land in a new location, available to industrious forward looking people who could form new communities in newly opened sections of the territories.

Joseph and William Hoyle, brothers and English Quakers, ancestor of our McNabb banker, Benjamin Hoyle, [and Virginia Hayward,]

came to America some years after the great influx of Friends that arrived in the 1780's and settled in and around the Philadelphia area; the Jerseys, Delaware, Virginia to N. Carolina.

These brothers, when they reached America, had gone on farther west into Ohio, near Mt. Pleasant where the Ohio Yearly Meeting had been established, but even here they were not satisfied for long, and were lured into going still farther west into the Central Illinois territory, which had then become a state (in 1818).

In 1832 they came to St. Louis by boat from St. Clairsville, Ohio, then transferred to a smaller craft which came up the Illinois River to Chillicothe. There they disembarked, bought horses and rode north along the uplands bordering the river. They got into Putnam County (then the largest county in the state) noted for its good soil, but were advised not to go farther north, as the Black Hawk War was in progress and there was some fighting around Ottawa and on North to the Wisconsin line, where Black Hawk had collected some of his followers in protest to a new law that the Indians in Illinois and Wisconsin must move west across the Mississippi River.

Joseph Hoyle wrote in his diary while riding north along the river they were "looking for good fertile land, a salubrious climate for our families, and a way to get our produce to market." They found the kind of land they were seeking and knew the Illinois River would take their farm produce to market; so decided they would look no farther but bring their families to Putnam County; then they turned toward the East and rode back to Ohio overland. As they came to the Bloomington area they were pleased by the climate, the land, [McLean County is about as good as Putnam County] and the promising, newly incorporated town, but there was no waterway to carry the farm produce, [and of course we had no railroads then] so their minds didn't change and they went on toward Ohio still thinking Putnam County would be their destination. It was rather late in the spring by then, but they could put in a crop on their Ohio farms, harvest it and bring their families west the next year, which they did. They must have been very persuasive with all their friends. For the next 20 years Quaker families came into Putnam County by the scores and became a part of the new community these men had started.

When these brothers returned in 1833, George Griffith (Kathryn Mills' ancestor) from Selma, Ohio and a man helper came also. George wanted to build a saw mill on Clear Creek as his contribution to the new community and he and his man spent most of the summer searching for a good place to build a dam on the Creek. Clear Creek meanders in a westerly direction curving around the bluffs, but Illinois is a very flat state. The surveyors later found that the Illinois river had a fall of only 4 feet between

Chicago and Alton where it enters the Mississippi River. They finally located a spot about 6 miles west of his new cabin and acreage he had bought across from the present cemetery lot. George left his man to build the dam, buy what equipment he needed in Peru and have the mill ready for operation the following year. Then George returned to Ohio, put in a crop on his farm there, then after harvest returned with his wife, Sara Kirk Griffith, two daughters and four sons. They lived for a time in the log cabin on the acreage he had bought near Joseph Hoyle's place (where the Ashdowns live now) then later he made the bricks and mortar on the farm to build his larger homestead [the house that stands there now].

Eli Mills, [he had married out of meeting] eldest son of Joseph and Sarah Railey Mills of Westland Meeting near Washington, Western Pennsylvania, had come west earlier with his wife's brother and father, Isaac and Benjamin Kimber, [and William Price who had also married one of the daughters]. Their father had financed a steamboat company and had several passenger boats on the Illinois River. Eli finally persuaded his father and the family to come west in 1838. [His place was on 89, halfway to Wolf Road]. There were four sons and two daughters and Eli promised to get each one a farm. Henry was already married and he was settled on the farm just west of the Meeting House. Pusey was soon married to Lydia Hartley, his farm was this land where the Meeting House stands and is of interest to us. Joshua later married a daughter of Joseph Hoyle, Hannah, and his farm was 1/2 miles north of the 4-corners east of the Meeting House. Abel was only 18 and stayed at home to help run his fathers farm just north of Magnolia. [Joseph Mills was Albert Mills grandfather.]

With the Mills family came some of the Railey's, Joseph's wives' people, a widowed daughter and her three sons, John, David and Barnard Swaney. John was acting clerk on the Mills-Price-Kimber River Boat Company and served them several years. He was later in the civil War as a gunboat captain in the capture of Vicksburg campaign.

John Swaney was a familiar, beloved character in the community for years. His mind was brilliant and he was a born story teller. His father had been a Catholic and he himself had been partly educated for the priesthood, but he was truly a part of the Quaker Community and took a prominent part in its formation. He never joined the Meeting saying whimsically, "I keep my religion in my wife's name"; she was a valuable member of the Society of Friends.

Sarah Wierman, with three daughters and one son, his wife, Susan Lundy Wierman, and two small daughters came to the community in 1839, from York Springs, Pa. (Susan Lundy was the eldest daughter of Benjamin Lundy [of anti-slavery fame]). Sarah Wierman

was a recognized minister in the Society and was welcomed by the Clear Creek Friends, who had for several years been holding meeting in the homes of Friends. [The first meeting house, the little brick meeting house, wasn't built on the cemetery lot until 1841, after the Meeting became a recognised Monthly Meeting. George Griffith had given the burial lot to the community after his first wife died.] The eldest daughter, Amy Wierman and the youngest, Eliza, were teachers and taught in the community schools of that day. Friends used vacant buildings and started schools for their children almost before the chinking in their cabins was dry. These were mostly subscription schools, a certain amount paid by the parents for each pupil, and housed where ever there was a room available. There was the Tanyard school and a Blockhouse School three miles west of Clear Creek settlement. Some children walked two or three miles to school, for several years. [So they got their education the hard way.] The first real school house built for school purposes [in Putnam County] was made of logs, 18 x 21 ft., built by the few scattered non-Quakers in the Clear Creek area, opened for business in 1831 without a floor or a window, only a hole sawed out of logs to let in the light. It was situated at the northwest corner of the Swaney campus, the site now marked by a large boulder. The teachers boarded around. [Many of the schools were so far away - there was one down at what they called Caledonia, about 10 miles west on Magnolia road. It was in a block house that had been put up there back prior to the Black Hawk War, so that people could go there in case of an uprising and that was called the Block House School.]

Eliza Wierman left a diary of the family's trip to Putnam County. She was a young woman and saddened by leaving all her friends in Pennsylvania. [She had quite an interesting trip west, because she left York Springs, Pennsylvania in a carriage and went to Harrisburg, then they got on a canal boat and went a few miles, then they got off and got on the new steam cars and went a ways on that and then another canal boat before they reached Pittsburg where they had to wait until their goods caught up with them, to take the boat out here.]

[In this diary you can see that she was a young woman that was leaving all her friends behind her and she got very lonely on the boat, and she got to be anxious about what kind of a home she was going to have when she got here. She evidently had lived in a big house and had lots of room and probably fairly spacious. She felt it was kind of a come down to be a pioneer.]

It was clear that Eliza was a little fearful of the kind of home she would live in when she reached Putnam County, writing, "I hope we don't have to live in a little log cabin like the one I saw today as we passed it on the river bank." As a matter of fact, she did live in a log house but it was split logs [plastered on the outside] and 1 1/2 stories in height, quite sumptuous

and roomy for those days. I still remember it. It stood vacant for years by the road just east of the Swaney school. She later married my paternal grandfather as a second wife and mothered his three young children and had two of her own who died in their early teens of TB which was a scourge the pioneers were subject to for years. [He built down just beyond the boundary; where the Edgewood is now, was his farm.] There were sieges also of typhoid fever and malaria and ague was one of the common ailments of the early settlers; many of the families lost members in those epidemics. No doctors and fewer medicines, but Lydia Mills, [Pusey Mills wife,] and Mary Ann Tomlinson [who lived west of us on the other side of the road,] were skilled in nursing and often took over in an emergency when anxiety and grief struck a family. They were the "Angels of Mercy" of the new Quaker community.

William and Jehu Lewis of St. Clairsville, Ohio came in the later 30's. They were brother and uncle of Elizabeth Lewis Lundy, wife of Benjamin Lundy. [They lived 1 mile west of here.]

The Lewises operated stations on the "Underground Railway", which came through Fulton and Marshall county to Clear Creek area then on to Ottawa, the next station on the trip to Canada for the "runaway" slaves from the south to freedom in Canada. Jehu later moved to the Grand Ridge area, LaSalle County and manned the station near Ottawa.

After Lundy's wife's death in Baltimore, while he was on a trip to Haiti to find a place where freed slaves could go when released, Benjamin Lundy's children came to Putnam County and lived with relatives here. A few months later, after a mob in Philadelphia burned the building where the Anti-Slavery Societies met, Benjamin Lundy lost all his possessions and since, his friend and anti-slavery advocate, Owen Lovejoy, had just been murdered, and his newspaper confiscated in St. Louis, there was no other anti-slavery voice left in the midwest. This was critical because at that time the congress was discussing whether Kansas was to be admitted to the union as free territory or a slave state. In 1838, Benjamin Lundy came to Putnam County to see his children and establish a news sheet for the Anti-Slavery forces. He finally bought a farm near Lowell in LaSalle County and his paper, "The Emancipator", was published in Ottawa. He lived only a year after his arrival and is buried in our cemetery here. His was the voice, crying in the "wilderness", stilled in its prime, but Kansas became a state without slaves.

In 1841 Clear Creek Friends felt they should be a Monthly Meeting, so, in February of that year they sent a committee of two men on horseback to petition Indiana Yearly Meeting for Monthly Meeting status. These men encountered a fierce storm enroute, so fierce they almost perished. One felt he should return home,

the other, Abel Mills, went on and completed the mission and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting was attached to Blue River Quarterly Meeting, with the Hicksite Meeting at Salem, Indiana, in 1841. [William Lewis was the first Clerk.]

Amos Wilson, my own maternal ancestor, came from St. Clairsville, Ohio, in 1852. [By the way, those two monthly meetings in Pennsylvania, Westland Meeting and Redstone Meeting, were up the river from Pittsburg, near Washington, Pennsylvania, and so many people came out at that time during the 30's, 40's and 50's that they had to close down the meetings. There wasn't anybody left; everybody left the country.] He, his second wife, Anna Morris Wilson and his five children by his first wife, Hannah Brown, all born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He came from Doylestown, Pennsylvania to Ohio in the 30's where his first wife died. Amos married Anna Morris as a second wife to look after his small family then she had eight children of her own. Most of them all came west into Illinois when the father did and while the five older children were all married he settled them on farms of their own in Illinois.

Two of my uncles stayed behind for a year, one was a harness maker and the other a wagon-maker. They wanted to make two wagons and two sets of harness to bring west with them the next year, but all were stolen before they were ready to put them aboard a boat for transportation. [One of them was Gynetha Hawks' ancestor - grandfather. When the rest of them came to Illinois, grandfather settled all the married ones on farms immediately and bought farms for the rest of them as they grew to manhood and married and wanted a home of their own.]

Most of the men had a trade and brought their skills with them; all helped newcomers get started in the new community. [They helped everybody get settled, it was the thing to do, to help build a house and needed outbuildings and get them started in the way to farm.] There were carpenters, masons, millers, etc., some set up shops here. There was a tanner, a coopershop where barrels were made to ship farm products to market by river boat. There was a freight landing directly west of here on the river, 8 miles away and a warehouse where goods were stored awaiting shipment and there was always Hennepin, 12 miles away. [There was a warehouse there at Halls Landing and they had a caretaker there and they could take goods down there and store them until there was a boat that came along to take them away. That was better than driving 12 miles to Hennepin.]

Joseph Hoyle took it upon himself, personally, to welcome all new coming families to the community. He met the boat in Hennepin that brought them to Putnam County; saw to it that there were wagons ready to deliver the goods and chattels of each family to

the acquired homesite; and kept the wife and small children in his own home until the others had a habitable place to live in, [and that was the way the community was started.] In building a log house, they often built the fireplace and chimney first, then if it drew the smoke off properly they built the house around the fireplace. A few of the later comers built frame houses, though all the dressed lumber came from Chicago in exchange for loads of wheat. Others made their own brick and built brick homes. A[And they made the brick on their own farms and had their own masons to put them up and got their bigger homes built when they needed them.]

The one room cabins usually had a loft reached by an outside ladder which was the sleeping room for the older children, [and sometimes in the wintertime it was a little bit chilly and they'd have a blanket of snow beside their comforters in the morning.] The younger ones were in a trundle bed that could be rolled under the high four poster bed in the living room in the daytime, out of the way of the family living. The family cooking was done at the fireplace. The big jobs, like washing, soapmaking, candle making and applebutter were done in large iron kettles over a fire out of doors.

Some of you, when you learn that Illinois is the "Prairie" state may wonder where the "prairie" is now. In the days of the early settlers it was a very present and formidable thing. It began at Galena, the northwest corner of the state and ran about 40 miles wide to the southeast corner of the state to the Indiana state line on the Ohio River, [and there was not a tree or a house or a building of any kind in sight]. It was covered with tall grasses as high as a horse's back, that would wave in the fierce wind as the waves of the sea, [and there were fierce winds on the prairie in those days.] In the spring it had many beautiful flowers, too, of vivid colors and was the home of a few deer and small game, with lots of quail and prairie chickens everywhere. The young people often had horseback riding parties as recreation of a Sunday afternoon, if one had a good guide. With not a tree or building in sight for a land mark one easily became lost and wandered around in circles until one came to something or place that was recognized and from which he got his bearings.

Sometimes there were mirages on the prairie to confuse one. The heat waves of summer reflecting places miles distant. Sounds carried far on the prairie. A gunshot could be heard 3 miles away; a Halloo! could be heard a mile or more distant, while two people could converse 1/2 miles apart.

In the fall of the year the dried grasses would get on fire and it would sweep across the prairie as fast as a freight train could travel. Homesteaders learned to fight with back-fire or beat out the flames with wet grain sacks to save their homes and

crops. Occasionally a newcomer driving to his new home in a covered wagon would encounter a prairie fire, whip up his horses to a dead run and drive through the flames unhurt with only the memory of the danger in the mind after it was all over.

Jesse Roberts, who lived a few miles south of Magnolia in the 30's ran a caravan to Chicago and brought back supplies needed by the settlers nearby, said there wasn't a tree, a building or even a light between Magnolia and Ottawa - a lonely drive over the prairie in the earliest days.

Most of the settlers who came wanted to buy timberland, which the government or earlier owners had for sale. They wanted a living spring of water and the timber furnished some shelter from the fierce prairie winds and they had wood for fuel and to build their cabins. This timber land sold for \$40.00 per acre and the government wanted each land owner to buy 50 or 80 acres of prairie land at 50¢ - \$1.00 per acre for each 50 acres of timberland they bought. Some took advantage of this offer and it eventually proved profitable even tho' at the time there was not a farm implement made that could break the heavy prairie sod. A bit later a local blacksmith made a plowshare that would do the job and tho' it was back breaking work to hold the plow in the furrow and drive the team of horses or oxen, it was a long hard day's work to break even 2 or 3 acres a day. As the plowshare cut through the strong tough grass roots with a twang [snap], the plow was apt to jump out of the furrow, but once it was planted to grain it proved the richest soil in the world and land values tripled in a few years. Most of the land in Putnam County had been granted to veterans of the Mexican War, but since they wanted money instead of land for their service in the army the most was turned back to the government and at first even the government feared they would never get rid of it.

The pioneer settlers soon learned that they owed a social as well as a material debt to the community. They realized it was completely rural. There was no nearby town with any entertainment or culture that the community could take advantage of. So, some of the better educated of the community started all kinds of projects for local people of all ages; literary societies, singing schools, spelling bees and writing schools in which young and old took part. There was no generation gap; from the baby in his basket to the teenager in school each participated in whatever was offered. In the literary societies sometimes every member had to take part or pay a fine. There were readings and dialogs, debates and short plays. Always a sharp critic was appointed to give criticism at every meeting on enunciation, posture, pronunciation, anything that would improve the performance. At one time they held "Book Meetings" once a month, when each family brought

a new book he had purchased and they exchanged books with others at this meeting, giving them a lending library as well, when no library was available. Also there was planned entertainment which children enjoyed as well as adults.

These older people left us a heritage that we younger folk were proud to inherit and gave the community a reputation of integrity and discipline as law-abiding citizens and we did our share with other concerned people in those crises where ever or to whom disaster fell. [It has hurt some of us sometimes when some of the people have come in from outside and made some derogatory remarks or something, to sort of degrade our townspeople.] So-- we are a little resentful when others coming into the community are disagreeable or try to degrade our fellow townspeople and neighbors with disourteous remarks or actions that lead some to say, "If these are Quakers, I want none of them." This is not a resort area and while casual clothes are acceptable at Yearly Meeting time, the acme of casual dress is rudeness [to other people that don't understand]. Rufus Jones used to say, "let our lives speak our faith". [He used to say that nobody need to ask a Quaker if he was a Quaker. He should know it by his actions. And sometimes I think he was right.]

In the early years of Yearly Meeting we had many honored guests from other Yearly Meetings. We kept all guests in our homes and got to know, intimately, many of them. [Now we feel like we are almost strangers in our own Yearly Meeting, because the people who come and stay in the dormitory and on the grounds here get to know each other better than they used to when they were housed around about the neighborhood, but we don't get to know you as well as we used to do. Sometimes we feel like we are almost strangers in our own Yearly Meeting.]

The longer I live the more I realize how much I owe to that heritage that nourished me during all my years. The contacts I had with great souls like Rufus Jones, Jonathan Plummer, Barnard Walton, Dr. Ed. Janney, Isaac Wilson and others at Yearly Meeting or other gatherings have given me an outlook on life, a philosophy for living that has been my comfort in later years. As the leaves that fall each autumn give nourishment to the flowers that bloom in the spring, with their delicious perfume and vivid colors, so my life has been blessed and enriched by those who have gone before. The nurture of the spiritual side of life is every child's right. There is that of God in every human being as in every other form of creation, and it is through this medium that we can reach the divine or spiritual side of each other and communicate as can all kindred souls. Here, now and hereafter make of us an entity when we shall enter the Kingdom and "know as we are known" and "loved as we have loved", through the light and spirit that cometh to all men from the Creator of our marvelous universe.

We all know that the morrow will come and that the sun will shine, and life grows and renews itself as the world whirls on in space to the end of time; that death is a part of life as its birth and is just as meaningful, and our hope is to leave the world a little better and brighter because of our having lived in it. There must also be suffering and chaos at times in our own lives - as there are upheavals in nature - only thru crises are the crooked made straight and the rough places smooth and sensitive. I feel that we of my generation have as much obligation to leave as worthy a heritage to the next one, as we have had from our forefathers. There must be a living thing bequeathed to our children. A living, active community is a must if this Quaker atmosphere is to survive. It must have the love of human kindness, the sympathy of all in any crisis; the sharing of pleasures and sorrows; help in economic survival; in a word - a living, breathing sensitive community that really cares. No one may lay down the chisel when he carves out what he has to give from his heritage - because it takes many kinds of people to make a world and many special kinds to make a good world - each leaves an image that he has carved out of his life and example, and we all want it to be something the next generation can care for and be proud to inherit - partake of its benefits as we are proud and jealous of our heritage.

I think I inherited my love and understanding of nature and the out-of-doors from my father. I was with him a great deal as he drove around the countryside. He was very observing and could see beauty and wonder everywhere. I need often to be alone, to view majestic surroundings, the craggy mountainside, the gurgling brook or vast flood of great rivers or the musical rhythm of the waves of the sea. It does something to my soul and always teaches me humility. The rhythmic throbbing of living creation, things surrounding my life, give it meaning. I feel as if I had partaken of the Lord's Supper in these majestic moments of grandeur without a word being spoken.

JONATHAN PLUMMER

I feel that at least for every generation or oftener, we must bring to the minds and hearts of our membership the great honor it is to review the life and personality of the man I have been asked to honor tonight, Jonathan Plummer. To make him live and seem real to everyone, young and old, and what his life and efforts did for Illinois Yearly Meeting the first quarter of a century. His was the guiding hand and spirit of its existence and then its growth.

Jonathan Plummer was, first of all, a kindly, sweet character, a gentle man in every sense of the word. He knew and loved every

one who attended Yearly Meeting, even the children; could call them by name and have a kindly word for each, and as the new Meeting's clerk his was the guiding hand in all business that came before it. He truly was a Quaker Torchbearer, as Albert Mills' biography of his life, depicted in that series, "Quaker Torchbearers" published by the General Conference a few years ago. In fact, that organization owes its existence, also, to his constructive ideas and executive ability as does our own Yearly Meeting. In casting about for things our own social action groups to work on, he organized our first "Philanthropic Committee" with departments for almost any concern Friends wanted to work with. Seperate Meetings and groups could interest themselves and work in their own areas: Prison Reform, Indian affairs, Proper literature, for the Negro race, against gambling, or for temperance and when the General Conference of the seven Hicksite Yearly Meetings was conceived they adopted the same fields of service in which all Yearly Meetings participated.

I can do no better than to use some of Albert Mills' biography of Jonathan Plummer [much of this was loosely taken from the 1960 Yearly Meeting Minutes - Editor] as a Quaker Torchbearer. Jonathan Plummer was born in 1835 at Richmond, Indiana. He died in 1928 at 83 years of age and is buried in Graceland Cemetary in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1855, he married Harriet Ballard, a teacher in Greenmont Seminary in Ohio and she proved as acceptable in Meeting activities as her husband. To them were born three sons and three daughters. He was a pharmacist by profession. Richmond doctors liked his prescriptions, as they were clean and pure and free from dregs.

When 39, our Richmond druggist migrated to Chicago, that growing city on Lake Michigan, which was slowly emerging from the swamps that even the Potawatomie Indians avoided. He established his family and business there. As fortune smiled and he had time to commute he moved to the suburb of Glencoe, where they were as near to the country as they could get in those days, yet get into the city for business. With lots of trees, the bluffs and the lake and winding roads. Here he built the family home. The Quaker families of the locality, then called "The Chicago Executive Meeting", were frequent visitors for get-together picnics and discussion groups. He attended Meeting regularly, held in an office building on Michigan Avenue. As a Chicago businessman now, J. W. Plummer was first with the E. R. Burnham & Son wholesale druggists. Later he formed the Morrison-Plummer Drug, Co. He kept the name unchanged after Mr. Morrison died, [Some 30 years after death had also removed the Plummer half of the partnership, its successor, McKesson & Robbins, was still carrying the line 'Formerly the Morrison-Plummer Company' in large letters as a subtitle on the great pharmaceutical house facing the Chicago & North Western railway terminal at Clinton and Randolph streets near Chicago's loop -

Harold W. Flitcraft].

Jonathan Plummer in appearance was a small man, 5ft. 6 or 7 in. tall. Skin white and smooth, with thinish beard and mustache. His eyes were black and he wore conventional dress. He was a quiet forceful speaker in Meeting. Jonathan was neither a conservative nor a radical, each denies the eternal law of change. One combats the dynamic - the other would spring at a bound into utopia. He was a total abstainer, but he was unwilling for Illinois Yearly Meeting to declare against the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors; as medicine, he felt they had their definite uses. This tangle with the Prohibitionists is the only one found in the record. He stopped smoking because he felt it was a bad example.

Jonathan did not speculate, so his business withstood the panics of 1873 and 1895. His ambitions were tempered by a desire to help his employees. Early he introduced profit-sharing, which is one recommended way to prevent strikes, even Haymarket riots. He practised "Tithing", giving 1/10th of his private income as well as 1/10 of the income from business to his religious interests. He loaned freely to those who could give no security. He had a devotion to Prison Reform. He was charitable to prisoner's wives and children upon whose lives and hearts the weight of prison sentences fell.

He encouraged an education that would protect youth from the garish and corrupt. To this end in 1873, when chairman of the Education Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting he investigated the small Miami College at Springboro, Ohio as to its suitability for a guarded training school for Midwestern Youth. He knew it affectionately, for, as a child he had played there in the mill race and watched in serious awe the operation of flour and woolen mills.

Jonathan reached decisions easily. He needed no "fasts" or "retreats". He did go regularly to Meeting, headed countless committees of action and wrote fabulous letters which were the albatrosses about the necks of pious epistolary correspondence.

In 1874, he helped to organize Illinois Yearly Meeting thru its formatory years, the ten Meetings in neighborhoods in Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and Indiana. He acted as its first clerk [25 years] and came every year by train to meet, along with other spiritual leaders from other Yearly Meetings.

In 1878, he came with a project as clear as a blueprint. Its framework was a conference and its aim to coordinate widely scattered Quaker activities and concerns. The idea of a general Conference first had taken tangible form in 1868 when a conference of First-day Schools was organized by the seven Hicksite Yearly Meetings. This was good, but Jonathan desired a conference that

would consider all testimonies of Friends. As a result, Minute 52 of Illinois proceedings in 1878 set him at liberty to prepare an address of invitation to several Yearly Meetings for holding a General Conference once in 5 years or oftener. The seed found some responsive soil and at the 1879 sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting, Jonathan Plummer's report spelled General Conference in capital letters, as Ohio and Baltimore Yearly Meetings accepted the challenge. There were some reservations and objections raised at first, fearing, the General Conference might want to change some doctrinal matters, but they were reassured that these would remain the province of the individual meetings. Soon the conferences on special subjects came and in 1900 all were united in our present General Conference.

Jonathan Plummer was selected to give the opening address at the World's Parliament of Religion held during the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, expressing hope "for greater helpfulness and cooperation among all faiths".

He was not a pronounced mystic as were many of the earlier Quakers, tho' he referred often to the "still small voice within". [This is my opinion, that no Quaker who was as helpful and hopeful as he was, and referred so often to the still small voice had to be a mystic. Maybe it's just the definition that bars him.] His receiving mind was a seasoned one, like the sprucewood sounding board of the Masters violin. The medium was tempered by life's stresses and strains. The heavenly and the earthly came into accord. His messages of farewell at the close of the sessions were unforgettable to those who heard them. He measured up to that test of greatness set by Goethe, in that he expressed clearly, what others thought, but were unable to put into words. He lived in the midst of what shall not pass away, and ws, to date, I feel the most constructive and lovable member of Illinois Yearly Meeting. We do well to keep his memory alive, use his character as a lodestone or pattern to live by. Like John Woolman and his "openings", Jonathan Plummer lived his faith and carried his points by quiet loving and gentle persuasion, not by pressure and revolution.

I share our clerk's concern expressed in his letter in the spring issue of "Among Friends", that Illinois Yearly Meeting has recently not been carrying out the business before it in the spirit of love and unity. Sometimes it sounds like an open debating forum. There is that of God in every Quaker - We know to whom to go and that we must enter the presence in love and humility - present our concern and our petition; and if it is acceptable, [to God], then we come back to the world and carry out our concern in love and tenderness to all.

[Thank you.]

[Aunt Lu then turned to the large map she had had made (see reduced copy on pages 16-17)] [This is a map of the community in 1860. You can find out where some people lived and where the buildings were and where all the creeks were. And I will say that the new golf course that has been built down below on 89 is on my grandfather Smith's place and that the spring that was by his first log cabin has been dammed for the first water hole of the golf course.]

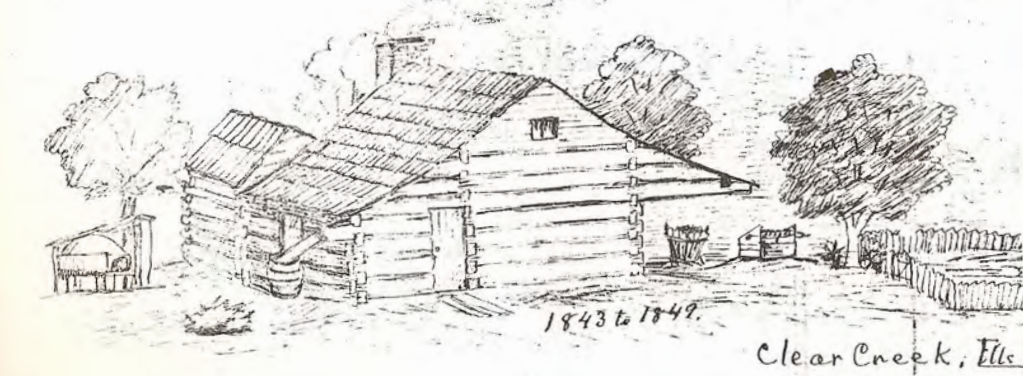
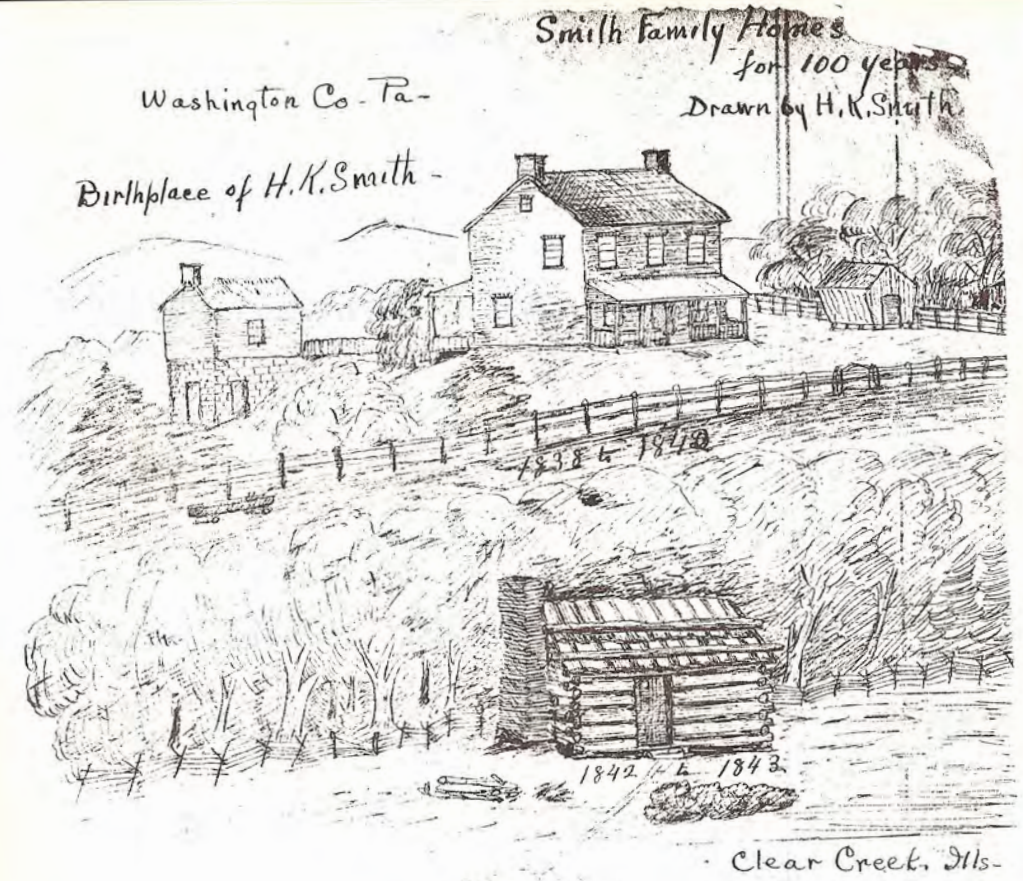


Aunt Lu
August 1969
Still Young at 95

Picture by John Curtis Wood



ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING-HOUSE
OF FRIENDS





1868 to 1896 and on to 1907

Quaker Lane



1912

Account Book dating from 1835, Chester, Pa.

Used by: Henry Smith, Jesse Smith, H. K. Smith
F. E. Smith

Loaned by: Walter G. Griffith

Autobiography of Abel Mills

Reprinted from the Journal of the Illinois State
Historical Society

Vol. 19, Nos. 1-2, April-July, 1926

We being members of Indiana Yearly Meeting, father started to attend it. It was held that fall at Waynesville, Ohio. He took boat here on the Illinois River. The Ohio River was very low. His way was by Cincinnati. They were many times delayed by sandbars. Leaving Cincinnati, he went up the Little Miami bottom, I think, by stage. He reached Corwin, less than a mile from the meeting-house, with a steep hill to climb. He arrived at the meeting-house as the last session of the Yearly Meeting closed. This experi-

At the time and before our arrival in Illinois, quite a number of Friends had located here, in the neighborhood of Clear Creek: the Lewis', Hoyle's, Griffith's, Wierman's, Lundy's,¹² Newbern's, and Potts'.

They had been and were holding meetings at private houses. My parents used their influence to have an organized meeting. Our certificates had been forwarded to Honey Creek Monthly Meeting, held near Prairieton, Vego County, Indiana, and had been accepted.

In second month, 1841, Uncle Jehu Lewis and my father were appointed to attend Blue River Monthly Meeting to be held at Honey Creek for the purpose of requesting the Quarterly to establish a meeting for worship, a preparative and a monthly meeting at Clear Creek, Putnam County, Illinois. When the time came to start, Uncle Jehu declined to go. The distance was about two hundred miles. They were to go on horseback in second month, the most inclement month of the year.

Father started alone. He rode the horse "Dave," one of the two that brother Henry drove to Illinois, a horse well built and with fine spirit. He moved in a canter under the saddle, which was not a hard gait on the rider. On the way, father fell in company with a stranger who was also on horseback. They arrived at the edge of an eight-mile prairie without a dwelling thereon. The day was very cold, which made it necessary for the travelers to ride lively. They passed over the eight miles in forty-five minutes. The stranger's ears were frozen. Father was favored to continue his journey to the end in safety. He attended the meeting at which there was a committee appointed in accordance with the request sent, father returning safely.

That journey under the circumstances indicated at a glance that there was an interest, and a will power that overbalanced all obstacles.

The committee appointed, or members of it, came in the fall of 1841 and formally established the meeting under disciplinary custom, eleventh month 4th, 1841. We had been holding our meetings in a log school-house across the road east of the meeting-house grounds and continued until a brick meeting-house¹³ was built in 1841-2 near the southwest corner of the lot owned by Friends. This lot was bought of George Griffith for the sum of fifteen dollars. A committee was appointed of which my father was a member to obtain a deed of conveyance for the lot, also to make out a list of apportionment for the purpose of raising the money. My father was appointed one of the trustees, also to collect the money for the meeting-house lot and pay the same to George Griffith; likewise to receive the deed, attend to having it recorded, and

In the spring of 1875, a committee was appointed to build a meeting-house of the following dimensions: 70 by 48 ft., and which would comfortably seat 700 persons. This was for the purpose of accommodating the Friends composing Illinois Yearly Meeting. Amos B. Wilson, Pusey Mills, myself, and others were appointed. I was assigned the duty of Recording Secretary and Amos B. Wilson, Treasurer. The building, including two acres, purchased of brother Pusey Mills, cost \$5461.89. It was completed and the first session of Illinois Yearly Meeting was opened the 13th of 9th mo., 1875, with a very large attendance.

The proposition to compensate the active members of the building committee for their labor in the erection of the Yearly Meeting House caused a committee to be appointed. The following year they reported as follows: "Believing they have faithfully discharged their duty as a building committee they are deserving the thanks of the Meeting; in addition to which we recommend that they be allowed the sum of \$100.00, to be divided among themselves as they think proper." This report was united with.



Thomas Flowers is standing on the lawn, Edna Wilson Wolf is in the picture with her father and mother, Amos and Anna Wilson.

The present building is the same Illinois Yearly Meeting House with

38 *Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends.*

BLUE RIVER MONTHLY MEETING was re-organized or continued at the time of division in society, under date of Fifth Month, 3d, 1828.

Its minutes prior to that date remained in the hands of the other branch of society. Since that date they are supposed to be complete and recorded to the present year, with the exception of those between Fourth Month, 26th, 1856, and Second Month, 2d, 1868, which are in the hands of a former recorder, but not entered upon the record book. Deeds are copied upon the county records and the originals are in proper keeping.

The total membership of this meeting appears to be 129, divided as follows: Male adults, 33; female adults, 42; male minors, 34; female minors, 20. The residence of each family is known.

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING was established under the authority of Blue River Quarterly Meeting in the Eleventh Month, 1841.

Its minutes are complete and recorded up to the present year, except a portion of those for Ninth Month, 1872.

Its papers, deeds, etc., seem to be in proper custody. Three indulged meetings are held under the care of this Meeting, as follows: At Seneca, LaSalle County, Illinois, established First Month, 6th, 1872; in Fulton County, Illinois, established Eighth Month, 1872; in Bureau County, Illinois, at West Bureau, established Twelfth Month, 1877.

The total membership is 188; men, 82; women, 73; male minors, 17; female minors, 16; residence of nearly all being known.

BENJAMINVILLE MONTHLY MEETING was established Eleventh Month, 1867, under authority of Blue River Quarterly Meeting.

Its record of minutes is complete up to the present year.

The total membership is 208, divided as follows: Male adults, 75; female adults, 74; male minors, 30; female minors, 29. Residence of ten unknown.

Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends. 39

EAST JORDAN MONTHLY MEETING was established Fourth Month, 19th, 1873, under authority of Blue River Quarterly Meeting.

Its minutes are complete and recorded to present year. The total membership is 44, divided as follows: Male adults, 15; female adults, 15; male minors, 10; female minors, 4. Residence of one member doubtful.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE MEETING, Chicago, was established Fourth Month, 27th, 1879, under authority of Blue River Quarterly Meeting.

Its minutes are complete and in the hands of the clerk. The total membership is estimated at 38, divided as follows: Male adults, 10; female adults, 16; male minors, 5; female minors, 7. Residence of all known.

The membership of this meeting cannot be accurately stated, as one Monthly Meeting has not yet sent a transfer of membership for those of its members who reside in Chicago, and certificates of removal applied for, have not been received for all whose rights are within the limits of other Yearly Meetings.

Total membership in Blue River Quarterly Meeting 607, as follows: Male adults, 215; female adults, 220; male minors, 96; female minors, 76. Residence unknown, perhaps 20.

PRAIRIE GROVE MONTHLY MEETING was established Twelfth Month, 6th, 1856, under authority from ——— Quarterly Meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Its minutes are complete and recorded up to those yet in the Clerk's books. All records are in the Recorder's care, and no documents appear to be missing.

Total membership, 168. Male adults, 59; female adults, 58; male minors, 28; female minors, 20. Of the membership, 26 live beyond reach of the Meeting—distant 25 miles or more, and the residence of 20 is unknown.

WAPESINOC MONTHLY MEETING was established

Genoa Monthly Meeting
Marietta Monthly Meeting
were listed on page 40
Illinois Yearly Meeting Minutes 1879

The following report, to wit: The Committee having attended to our appointment, and friends having met twice to confer upon the subject in relation thereto, the Committee ~~are~~ ^{is} of the judgment that to build a Meeting House at the North West corner of Pusey Mills Land about one and one ^{half} miles East from this house will contribute to the benefit of Society and that it is as near the center of the settlement of Friends in this neighborhood as a desirable building place can be obtained, (the amount of funds subscribed for the purpose, having been reported to a previous meeting) With which this meeting unites, To purchase the lot of Ground chosen by this meeting, containing one acre on which to build a meeting house, and receive a title thereto, we appoint as Trustees Morris A. Wilson, Abel Mills, and William M. Price, Said lot of Ground lays in the North West corner of Pusey Mills Farm, on section (14) fourteen Township Thirty one.

The meeting concludes

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting held 8th mo 5th 1865
The Committee appointed as Trustees to receive a title for the lot of Ground chosen by the monthly meeting upon which to build a Meeting House report, that they have contracted for the purchase thereof for the sum of \$50.00; and that Pusey Mills and wife have executed a

The subject of deeding the lot purchased of Pusey Mills (by this meeting in the year 1865) to the building committee appointed by Blue River Quarterly Meeting, being introduced the meeting is united in requesting Pusey Mills to send the building committee a bond for a deed to be made to Illinois Yearly Meeting, which done, the meeting will release all claims to said lot.

This meeting appoints the following committee, to take into consideration what further improvements, if any, are necessary on the grounds to be occupied by the new Yearly assembly house; David Wilson, William M. Price & Joshua Mills who are requested to report to our next meeting.

This meeting concludes

4th mo. 3rd, 1875

There being an omission in our last Monthly Meeting minutes in specifying the sum which Pusey Mills was to require of the building committee for the acre of land belonging to this meeting, The omission is hereby corrected, the sum is \$16.00
This meeting concludes.

My father was a thrifty farmer; did his farm work thoroughly and in season, took a special pride in neatly trimmed hedges, and in keeping his farm free from weeds and litter.

Yet my father would unhitch from a corn plow at 10 o'clock to go to mid-week meeting where he would sit in the quiet for an hour with members of his family and country neighbors religiously inclined.

Albert T. Mills
"Homewood"
By Lake Decatur, Illinois
8-14, 1926

Which has been paid out as follows

For two acres of Land. as per Deed dated 4th mo. 21st 1875	\$ 175.00
For 11 cords of Stone for Foundation	85.00
Hauling of the same	27.00
Basins & Well	6.05
Pump for the same	
Brick for Chimneys. Foundation under Porch & dressing rooms	40.00
do. Barrel of Brine at Henry	45.40
47 Bushels " " " " " " " " " " " "	12.00
Hauling of the same	11.50
For hauling sand	25.50
Bill of Lumber bought of Gifford Buddock & Co. Chicago. All 45 mo. 25th 1875 By Edward Spencer our Fireman Carpenter agreeable to our order 57,445 feet	550.00
Fourty thousand Shingles	120.00
Gen " " Bath	20.00
16.00	
For 250 feet of moulding	4.00
Expense of the trip for said Lumber	4.00
Fright on the above Bill & Carloads	229.05
Agent of D. C. R. returned to us on account of competing Roads	62.49
For Lumber from other sources	103.05
Shingles " " " " " " " " " " " "	20.40
Doth " " " " " " " " " " " "	11.25
12.41	
52.85	
1460 feet of moulding	
Hauling of the above materials	
At Chicago Bill bearing date of 5th mo. 27th 1875 of saw bolts and 40 washers weighing 145 lbs for turning hubs	67.57
5th mo 27th Freight on same	3.35
At Chicago Bill of 65 cords of white sand	91.65

For Freight on the above Bill	\$ 3.10
White Lead from other sources	27.31
Paint Bought of Jack & Green. Henry	54.25
from other sources	135.2
unloading 4 cars of Lumber	5.00
Weapon Wash	128.37
For Plastering	201.60
Painting inside including seats	125.00
" " out side	75.00
Bill of Hedge & Co. Verona N.Y. for mo. 30th 1875 Moulding 2 Pair Blinds	
W. S. Steps 2 windows Slazed Lumber	
Moulding Bed Moulding Door	
Framer Panel work for Porticoes	575.87
Seats	
Carpenter work up to date	1005.23
Hard Ware	15.13
Cost of weights for windows & Partitions	33.17
Amount of Lime sold	10.37
Amount recd in Cash	2452.33
Amount Paid out	4302.67
Balance on Hand	11966
Clear Creek Putnom Co	

10th mo 2nd 1875

Abel. Mills Secretary of Committee

Johnathan W. Plemer is appointed to audit the account and present them to the ensuing business quarterly meeting and the Com continued

The Com consist of the additional improvements we in progress and the above report is satisfactory to this meeting

In witness whereof

Illinois Yearly Meeting Minutes 1875

In Ac't. With, CASH.		
Amount received from Finance Committee, and other sources,	\$4,409 50	
To Labor donated,	258 25	
	\$4,667 75	
By Cash paid for 2 acres of Land,	\$ 175 00	
do do Lumber, doors, sash, &c.,	1,377 16	
do do Hardware,	186 67	
do do Paints, Oils, etc.,	118 99	
do do Stone and Brick,	128 00	
do do Lime,	47 06	
do do Seating,	381 85	
do do Carpenter Work,	1,005 23	
do do Plastering,	201 60	
do do Painting,	200 00	
do do Masonry,	128 37	
do do Boring Well and Placing Pump,	33 05	
do do Freight, Hauling, etc.,	284 86	
do do Labor,	8 00	
do do Traveling Expenses of Foreman,	14 00	
Labor expended, donated,	258 25	4,548 09
Unexpended Balance,		\$119 66

26. The proposition to compensate the active members of the building committee for their labor in the erection of the Yearly Meeting house, was referred to George F. Hollingshead, William Lamborn and Henry Mills, who are to report to the Meeting next year, what in their judgment would be the most and proper compensation.

31. The Committee to name Trustees to hold Deeds, Papers, etc., belonging to the meeting, made the following report, which was satisfactory, and Joshua L. Mills, Morris A. Wilson and Henry H. Smith were appointed Trustees for the Meeting.

Illinois Yearly Meeting Minutes 1876

REPORT.

9th mo., 14th, 1876.

We the committee appointed to settle with the Building committee respectfully submit the following:

Total cost of building and grounds, \$5,461.89.

Received by committee from Quarterly Meetings a total of \$5,461.89.

Leaving at this time no indebtedness.

We find also that in auditing the accounts of the Committee one year ago an item of \$258.25 was omitted, which left an indebtedness of \$118.59 instead of a balance on hand of \$119.66, as shown by the report, which accounts for the fact that a larger amount seemed to be required to pay all indebtedness than the former report would indicate.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

BENJAMIN F. NICHOLS
THEODORE MARSH.

9th mo. 13th, 1876.

The Committee appointed to settle with the Yearly Meetings' Treasurer after a careful examination, report that there has been received from all sources the sum of \$205; total expenditures, \$112.50; balance in Treasurers hands, \$92.50. In addition to the balance remaining on hand we recommend that there be raised the sum of \$300. And also propose the name of Amos B. Wilson to serve as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the Committee by

BENJAMIN F. NICHOLS.

Revenue Stamp.
Duties on Conveyances
of Real Estate.
When the consideration is not over
\$500..... \$60
\$500 to \$1,000..... 1 00
For every additional \$500 or fractional part..... 50

This Indenture, Made this Second day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy five BETWEEN Josey Mills and Sydia Mills his wife, of the County of Putnam and State of Illinois of the first part, and Joshua L. Mills, Morris A. Wilson and Henry H. Smith Trustees of the Religious Society of Friends of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and Seventy five Dollars in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have GRANTED, BARGAINED AND SOLD, and by these presents do GRANT, BARGAIN AND SELL, unto the said party of the second part, to their successors and assigns, all the following described lot, piece, or parcel of land, situated in Magnolia Township in the County of Putnam and State of Illinois, to-wit:

Commencing at the North West corner of the East half of the East half of the South West quarter of Section No. fourteen, running South Sixteen rods, thence East Twenty (20) rods, thence North Sixteen (16) rods, thence West Twenty (20) rods, to the place of beginning containing two acres, in Township No. thirty one (31) North of Range One West of the Third Principal Meridian. It is covenanted by both parties, that the above described premises, is to be used by the party of the second part, for Religious, and School purposes.

TOGETHER with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever, of the said party of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, to their successors and assigns Forever. And the said Josey Mills and Sydia Mills party of the first part, hereby expressly waive, release and relinquish unto the said party of the second part, to their successors, administrators, executors and assigns, all right, title, claim, interest and benefit whatsoever in and to the above described premises, and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State pertaining to the exemption of homesteads.

And the said Josey Mills and Sydia Mills his wife party of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain and agree to and with the said party of the second part, to their successors, administrators, executors and assigns, that at the time of the enrolling and delivery of these presents, they were well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law, and in fee simple, and have good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, liens, taxes, assessments and encumbrances, of what kind and nature soever, and the above bargained premises, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, to their successors, administrators, executors and assigns, against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said party of the first part shall and will WARRANT AND FOREVER DEFEND.

In Testimony Whereof, The said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of
Josey Mills
Sydia Mills

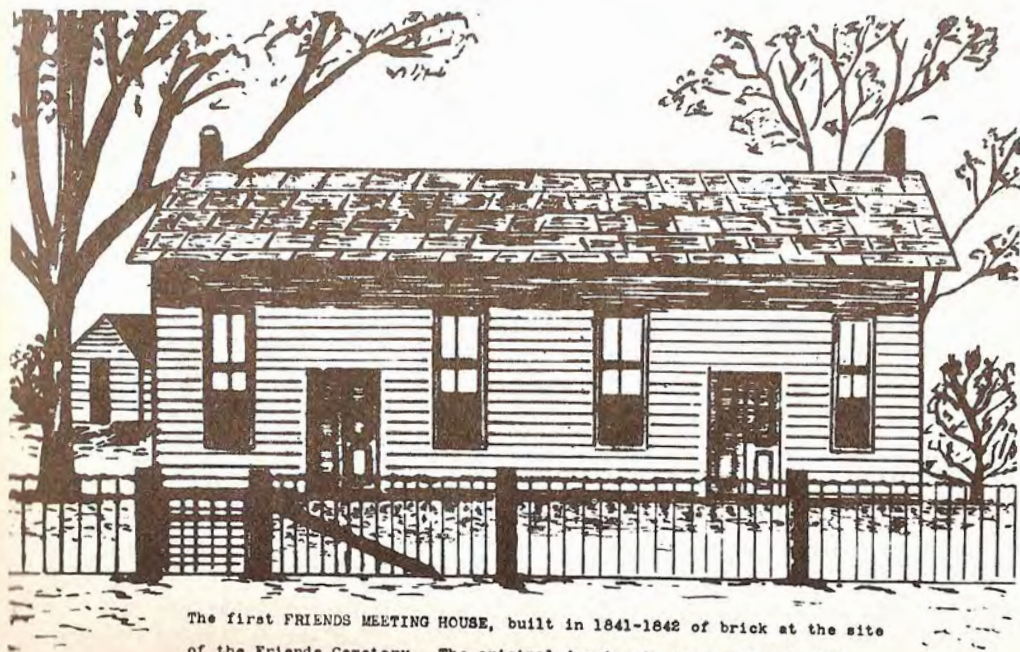
State of Illinois
County of Cook

I, Jonathan W. Plummer, do solemnly affirm that at a Session of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, held near Mt. Pleasant, Putnam Co. Illinois, on the Sixteenth day of Ninth Month A.D. 1875 The following named Members of said Meeting were appointed as its Trustees:

To Wit Joshua S. Mills,
Morris A. Wilson and Henry K. Smith
To hold in trust its Papers,
Deeds and titles to property and to execute deeds
and transfer property in its behalf, whenever
so directed and empowered by a written min-
ute of that body.

I also affirm that the said Meeting was duly organized by members of the religious Society of Friends, in accordance with the rules and usages of said Society and that it assumed at its organization the Official title & name of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, and that I was at said organization its duly appointed Clerk (or Secretary)

In witness whereof I append my
Name and Seal Jonathan W. Plummer,
Clerk



The first FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, built in 1841-1842 of brick at the site of the Friends Cemetery. The original drawing in pen and ink by H.K. Smith, father of Fannie G. Griffith. Henry K. Smith and Mary Wilson were married by Friends' Ceremony in this Meeting House 4th mo. 12, 1866, the last large gathering held in the Meeting House.

W.F. 1959

Having outgrown the brick Meeting House, a frame building was built near the same location about 1866-1867. This building was used by



1875

Autographs & address of
Friends attending the open-
ing of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Jonathan W. Plummer 40
52 & 54 Lake St
Chicago Ill.

x James M Walker & 57
+ Eliza H Walker 56
Waterford
Landon Co Va

Mary Ann Updegraff 79
Colerain P.O.
Belmont Co Ohio

Rachel K Cook 65
Delavan
Fuzwell Co
Illinois

MINUTES

—OF—

Illinois Yearly Meeting

—OF THE—

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,

HELD NEAR

MT. PALATINE, PUTNAM CO., ILL.

—IN—

NINTH MONTH,

1875.

RICHMOND, IND.
A. M. REEVES STEAM PRINTING COMPANY.
1875.