

“Meetings Settled, Discontinued or United.”
A Summary of Reports to London Yearly
Meeting, 1834-1890

FROM the late seventeenth century until 1791 Yearly Meeting received annually from each Quarterly Meeting information on “meeting houses built and meetings new settled,” and from 1792 until 1833 on “meeting settled, discontinued or united.” This information was contained in the answers to the queries. In 1833 it was decided to discontinue the query on this subject and to replace it by the following minute in the Book of Discipline:

The several quarterly meetings are to transmit annually in the Spring to the meeting for sufferings, information of any meetings which have been settled, discontinued or united in the course of the year, in order that such information may be duly communicated to this meeting.¹

The information so transmitted appears annually in Meeting for Sufferings minutes in Fifth Month and in Yearly Meeting MS. minutes. It is reprinted in *Y.M. Proceedings* in 1857 and 1870-1890, and in 1869 is printed there in the report on the tabular statement. From 1891 onwards (significantly concurrent with the appointment of Isaac Sharp as Recording Clerk) it is systematically printed in *Y.M. Proceedings* as part of the summary of the tabular statement.² The information for the previous two generations is not readily accessible, and it is therefore felt worth gathering the material into the following summary.

The spelling of names is that given in the source quoted and the remainder of the wording of each entry, while not an exact transcript of the original, reflects the terms used in it.

The list gives the year date; the Quarterly Meeting concerned, and the alteration of the particular meeting recorded. References appear at the end of the list.

¹ *Rules of Discipline*, 1834, p. 129; *Christian Doctrine, Practice and Discipline*, 1861, 4to ed. p. 155, 8vo. ed. pp. 172-3; *Book of Christian Discipline*, 1883, p. 189.

² In the 1906 revision of *Church Government* the instruction to report on meetings settled or discontinued was included as a subsidiary to the instruction to prepare the tabular statement.

| 98 "MEETINGS SETTLED, DISCONTINUED OR UNITED" | | |
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| 1834 | Bristol & Somerset Northamptonshire Sussex & Surrey | Illminster discontinued Wellingborough M.M. of ministers and elders dissolved Meeting settled at Hastings and constituted a P.M. |
| 1835, 1836 | None | |
| 1837 | Buckinghamshire Durham Lincolnshire Sussex & Surrey | Aylesbury discontinued Norton discontinued Boston discontinued Hastings discontinued |
| 1838 | Warwick, Leicester & Rutland Lincolnshire | Warwickshire Middle M.M. discontinued and united with Warwickshire North M.M. Berkswell Annual Meeting discontinued. Leak discontinued |
| 1839 | Northamptonshire | Raunds discontinued |
| 1840, 1841 | None | |
| 1842 | Warwick, Leicester & Rutland | Hinckley discontinued |
| 1843 | Yorkshire | Knapton discontinued |
| 1844 | Hereford, Worcester & Wales | New Dale discontinued |
| 1845, 1846 | None | |
| 1847 | Durham Lancashire Warwick, Leicester & Rutland | Middlesbro' settled Birkenhead settled Hartshill discontinued |
| 1848 | Lancashire Durham Gloucester & Wilts Yorkshire Warwick, Leicester & Rutland | Liscard settled New Shildon settled Thornbury discontinued Lumbroyd discontinued Baddesley discontinued |
| 1849, 1850 | None | |
| 1851 | London & Middlesex Yorkshire | Gracechurch St. M.M. united to Devonshire House M.M. Hammersmith discontinued Guisbro' M.M. united to Durham Q.M. |
| 1852 | Devonshire Warwick, Leicester & Rutland | Torquay established Stow discontinued Campden discontinued Radway discontinued |
| 1853 | Bucks & Northants Bucks & Northants Hereford, Worcester & Wales Kent Warwick, Leicester & Rutland | Olney discontinued Bugbrook discontinued Bromyard discontinued Sittingbourne established Tamworth discontinued |

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| 1854 | Lancashire Yorkshire | Leigh established Knaresboro' and Settle M.M.s united with Brighouse, except Darley which has been transferred to York M.M. |
| | Gloucester & Wilts | Devizes settled Union of Gloucester and Nails- worth M.M.s |
| 1855 | Berks & Oxon | Burford discontinued Wallingford discontinued |
| | Bucks & Northants Cumberland & Northumberland | Buckingham discontinued Kirkbride discontinued |
| 1856 | Bristol, Somerset & Dorset | Milverton discontinued |
| | Durham | Crathorne near Yarm settled (see the minute) [†] |
| | Yorks | Newton discontinued Thornton - in - Craven estab- lished |
| 1857 | Bristol, Somerset & Dorset | Mere established within Shaftesbury and Sherborne M.M. |
| | Bucks & Northants Cornwall | Chesham discontinued Looe discontinued |
| 1858 | Bucks & Northants | Junction of Upperside and Leighton M.M.s |
| 1859 | London & Middlesex Devonshire Yorkshire | Holloway established Modbury discontinued Pickering & Hull M.M.s joined |
| 1860 | Devonshire Durham Hereford, Worcester & Wales Westmorland | Barnstaple discontinued Durham discontinued Worcestershire and Shropshire M.M.s joined Cartmel settled every alternate week forming with Height a Preparative Meeting. |
| 1861 | Durham Lancashire & Cheshire London & Middlesex | Reeth discontinued Ashton-on-Mersey settled Southwark discontinued Peel M.M. discontinued and area divided between Devon- shire House and West- minster M.M.s |
| | Norfolk, Cambs & Hunts Westmorland | Ives discontinued Huntingdon discontinued Terril discontinued |

[†] No minute of the Q.M. has been traced in the Meeting for Sufferings Minute Book.

100 "MEETINGS SETTLED, DISCONTINUED OR UNITED"

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1862 | Cornwall | Tideford discontinued Camborne discontinued |
| | Durham | Crathorne discontinued |
| | Hereford, Worcester & Wales | Cardiff discontinued |
| | Yorkshire | Addingham discontinued Thornton in the Clay dis- continued |
| | | Harrogate settled |
| 1863 | Lincolnshire | Sturton settled as an allowed meeting |
| | Warwick, Leicester & Stafford | Brails discontinued |
| 1864 | Derby & Notts | Nottingham and Mansfield M.M.s united |
| 1865 | Beds & Herts | Ware meeting united to Hert- ford |
| | Cumberland & Northumberland | Mosedale discontinued |
| | Norfolk, Cambs & Hunts | Tasburgh discontinued and its remaining members united to Tivetshall |
| 1866 | Beds & Herts Q.M. and Bucks & Northants Q.M. united Derby & Notts Q.M. and Lincolnshire Q.M. united Westminster and Longford M.M.s united Yorkshire | Newhill discontinued North Cave discontinued |
| 1867 | Bristol & Somerset Gloucester & Wilts | Yeovil discontinued Frome discontinued |
| 1868 | Hereford, Worcester & Wales | Bewdley regular meeting discontinued; intended occasionally to hold one there |
| | Westmorland | Garsdale re-opened on First day morning |
| 1869 ¹ | Bedfordshire Bristol & Somerset Sussex, Surrey & Hants | Eydon discontinued Yeovil re-opened Godalming discontinued |
| 1870 | Bedfordshire Bristol & Somerset | Eydon discontinued Yeovil re-closed Junction of Bristol & Frenchay M.M.s |
| 1871 | Bristol & Somerset Sussex, Surrey & Hants Warwick, Leicester & Stafford | Sodbury discontinued Alton and Poole & Southamp- ton M.M.s united Ridlington Park discontinued |

¹ In the Yearly Meeting minute book this information occurs in the report on the Tabular Statement, the names of the Quarterly Meetings being omitted.

“MEETINGS SETTLED, DISCONTINUED OR UNITED” 101

| | | |
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| | Westmorland | Barrow allowed meeting opened |
| | Yorkshire | Thornton near Pickering discontinued |
| 1872 | Cumberland & Northumberland | Greysouthen discontinued |
| | Devon & Cornwall | Kingsbridge discontinued |
| 1873 | Bristol & Somerset | Olveston discontinued |
| | Derby, Lincoln & Notts | Gedney discontinued |
| | | Junction of Broughton & Gainsbro' and Spalding & Wainfleet M.M.s |
| | | Transfer of Retford allowed meeting to the M.M. of Balby |
| | Kent | Folkestone discontinued “except when required by Friends visiting during the Season” |
| | Norfolk, Cambs & Hunts | Downham discontinued |
| | Western | Hunstanton allowed meeting |
| | Yorkshire | Cardiff re-opened |
| | | Ilkley meeting for worship settled |
| | | Scholes near Cleckheaton Meeting for worship settled |
| 1874 | Bedfordshire | Hogsty End discontinued |
| | Suffolk | Haverhill discontinued |
| 1875 | Bristol & Somerset | Marnhull discontinued |
| | Kent | Rochester and Folkestone M.M.s united |
| | Norfolk, Cambs & Hunts | Wymondham discontinued |
| | | Downham re-opened |
| 1876 | Devon & Cornwall | Tavistock discontinued |
| | Western | Newport (Mon.) meeting for worship established |
| | Yorkshire | Keighley recognized as a settled meeting for worship |
| 1877 | Bristol & Somerset | Junction of North Somerset M.M. and Wiltshire M.M. |
| | | Somerton meeting for worship established |
| | | Redland near Bristol allowed meeting on First-day evenings established |
| | Devon & Cornwall | Penzance discontinued |
| | Lancashire & Cheshire | Eccles opened |
| | London and Middlesex | Hammersmith established as a settled meeting |
| | Yorkshire | Selby allowed meeting recognized |

102 "MEETINGS SETTLED, DISCONTINUED OR UNITED"

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1878 | Kent Yorkshire | Sittingbourne discontinued Selby discontinued |
| 1879 | Bristol & Somerset | Devizes discontinued, the Friends there now meeting with those of Melksham |
| 1880 | Derby, Lincoln & Notts | Sturton discontinued |
| 1881 | Bedfordshire Warwick, Leicester & Stafford | Amphill discontinued Leek re-opened |
| 1882 | None | |
| 1883 | Warwick, Leicester & Stafford | Longbridge settled |
| 1884 | Durham Bristol & Somerset Warwick, Leicester & Stafford | Laskill opened, once monthly Wilton settled Uttoxeter discontinued ¹ |
| 1885 | Essex & Suffolk | Stebbing discontinued, no Friends being now resident there |
| 1886 | Bristol & Somerset Devon & Cornwall | Chipping Sodbury re-opened Spiceland discontinued |
| 1887, 1888 | None | |
| 1889 ² | London & Middlesex | Bunhill Friends meeting recog- nized by Devonshire House M.M. |
| 1890 ³ | [London & Middlesex] [Durham] | Bunhill Friends meeting opened South Shields opened Staindrop meeting closed |

REFERENCES

The sources of information for the various years are as follows:

Meeting for Sufferings minutes. Vol. 44, p. 198 (1834), pp. 388-9 (1837), p. 511 (1838), pp. 574-5 (1839); vol. 45, p. 161 (1842), p. 227 (1843), p. 282 (1844), p. 509 (1847), pp. 575-6 (1848); vol. 46, pp. 173-4 (1851), p. 257 (1852), p. 330 (1853), p. 413 (1854), pp. 473-4 (1855), pp. 542-3 (1856); vol. 47, pp. 2-3 (1857), pp. 79-80 (1858), p. 195 (1859), pp. 258-9 (1860), p. 348 (1861), p. 426 (1862), p. 503 (1863), p. 567 (1864), p. 514 (1863, Brailes), p. 623 (1865); vol. 48, p. 40 (1866), p. 110 (1867), pp. 180-1 (1868), p. 230 (1869), p. 312 (1870), pp. 371-2 (1871), p. 443 (1872), pp. 522-3 (1873), p. 588 (1874), p. 659 (1875); vol. 49, p. 83 (1876), p. 174 (1877), p. 246 (1878), p. 318 (1879), p. 382 (1880), p. 434 (1881), p. 540 (1883), p. 603 (1884), p. 658 (1885).

¹ The entry concerning Uttoxeter does not appear in the Meeting for Sufferings minute book.

² The report for these years has not been traced in the Meeting for Sufferings minute book.

³ Information contained in the Summary of Tabular Statements; no record in Meeting for Sufferings minutes.

Yearly Meeting minutes. Vol. 26, p. 625 (1856); vol. 27, p. 75 (1857), p. 124 (1858), pp. 523-4 (1862), p. 573 (1863), p. 652 (1864), p. 718 (1865); vol. 28, p. 100 (1867), pp. 174-5 (1869), pp. 243-4 (1870), pp. 319-20 (1871), p. 369 (1872), p. 429 (1873), pp. 492-3 (1874), p. 613 (1876), pp. 664-5 (1877); vol. 29, pp. 61-2 (1878), p. 141 (1879), p. 234 (1880), p. 307 (1881), pp. 593-4 (1885), pp. 657-8 (1886); vol. 30, p. 153 (1889), p. 176 (1890).

Yearly Meeting Proceedings. 1857, p. 27; 1869, p. 9; 1870, p. 16; 1871, p. 29; 1872, p. 24; 1873, p. 30; 1874, p. 32; 1875, p. 69; 1876, p. 33; 1877, p. 25; 1878, p. 29; 1879, p. 32; 1880, p. 32; 1881, p. 29; 1883, p. 74; 1884, p. 79; 1885, p. 23; 1886, p. 28; 1889, p. 34; 1890, p. 7.

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I Have Called You Friends: the Story of Quakerism in North Carolina. By Francis C. Anscombe, Ph.D. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston, U.S.A. 1959. Pp. 407; 12 plates.

This book is most valuable as a comprehensive record of Friends in North Carolina from the seventeenth century to the present day; the Index contains nearly 700 individual names. Some of these are only referred to incidentally, but in a great many cases there is a substantial biographical notice of the Friend concerned, mostly in connection with the account of the Quarterly Meeting of which he or she was a member. The "Conservative" and "Independent" bodies of Friends in North Carolina receive some mention, and also the interesting group of "near-Friends" known as the Nicholites, or New Quakers.

Among the bibliographies and theses accepted in 1959 at the University of London School of Librarianship and Archives (University College) are the following:

Sherriff, Peggy. *The Doukhobors*.

Newton, S. C. *Calendar of the Bright Papers*.

The William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd series, vol. 16, no. 4 (October, 1959), includes "The concept of democracy in colonial political thought", by Roy N. Lokken. The author shows how Pennsylvania as well as the other colonies, with whatever forms of government they began, tended to approximate to the English pattern—and to claim for their legislatures the rights of the Parliament at Westminster.