

**RECORDS OF THE KINGWOOD
MONTHLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS, HUNTERDON
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

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Records of the Kingwood Monthly Meeting of Friends, Hunterdon County, New Jersey by
James W. Moore

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JAMES W. MOORE

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OF FRIENDS, HUNTERDON
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RECORDS
OF THE
KINGWOOD MONTHLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS,
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

COMPILED FROM THE MINUTES AND OTHER MANUSCRIPTS BEGINNING IN 1744

BY
JAMES W. MOORE,
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE, EASTON, PA.

FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY,
H. E. DEATS.
1900.

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Having had occasion about five years ago to investigate some points in the early history of New Jersey Dr. Henry Race, of Pittstown, directed me to the Kingwood Records. Through the kindness of the Custodian, Mr. Abram R. Vail, of Quakertown, unfortunately recently deceased, free access to them was given me. So much of interest to so many people was discovered that the notes then taken were regarded of sufficient value to publish. Every effort has been used to avoid errors but the nature of the work was such that some minor ones may not have escaped notice. The work has been a labor of love upon the part of both the compiler and publisher.

Jan. 1, 1900.

J. W. M.

A HINT ON DATES.

OLD STYLE.
Before 1752 the
year began March 25th.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| March | 1st month |
| April | 2nd month |
| May | 3rd month |
| June | 4th month |
| July | 5th month |
| August | 6th month |
| September | 7th month |
| October | 8th month |
| November | 9th month |
| December | 10th month |
| January | 11th month |
| February | 12th month |

NEW STYLE.
The Year 1752
began January 1st.

| |
|------------|
| January. |
| February. |
| March. |
| April. |
| May. |
| June. |
| July. |
| August. |
| September. |
| October. |
| November. |
| December. |

GILBERT COPE,
West Chester Pa.

THE region about Quakertown, New Jersey, was settled by Friends at an early date, how early it is impossible now to determine with exactness. A few old deeds which have escaped the ravages of time indicate that some of the families were there about 1726 or 1727. The Friends who were early settlers were members of Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, of Burlington County. In the minutes of that Meeting, under date of 10th. 4, 1729, the following minute is found: "Thomas Williams, Samuel Schooley and others made application to this meeting that, whereas, their settlement being remote from Friends, they request Friends approbation and consent to meet together at one of their houses every First day of the week to worship God; whereupon this meeting, well knowing the advantage the people of God have in meeting together in His name, approve of their so doing until there be an established meeting nearer to them, or until Friends see some inconyeniency in their so doing." This is supposed to be the authority for the establishing of the Bethlehem Monthly Meeting, which afterwards became the Kingwood Meeting, the name of the township having been changed to the latter. In the act itself it will be noticed that the location of the settlement is not given. There is no evidence of the appointment of overseers until 1731, when a proposition was brought out "to appoint overseers for Bethlehem."

In 1733 Samuel Large, Samuel Willson, John Stevenson, Edward Rockhill and Joseph King act as trustees for four acres of land for the use of the meeting, which are deeded by Jacob Doughty. Nothing is known of the date of the erection of the original meeting-house. It is said to have been a log house, and to have stood about thirty yards southwest of the present building*.

The establishment of a business meeting in 1744 is indicated by the following extract from the minutes; John Simecock is supposed to have been the clerk.

* The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness for the preceding information to a paper by Mrs. Mary C. Vail.

BOOK A VOL: the 1st.

Containing

The Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting at Kingwood, formerly called Bethlehem, according to the Minutes here-in-after Recorded At our Monthly Meeting held at Bethlehem the 10th. Day of the 7th. Month 1744 This being our first Monthly Meeting of Friends here, friends think it requisite that the copy of the Last Quarterly Meetings Minutes whereby Liberty was granted that we Should hold a Monthly Meeting here, Should be Entered at large, which is as followeth, vizt. At our Quarterly Meeting held at Burlington the 27th. day of the 6th. Month 1744, This Meeting again considering the application of Friends of Bethlehem Meeting who have again renewed their request, and after deliberate and weighty consideration of the matter, Do now consent and agree that as they live very remote from any Monthly Meeting which must needs be on Several accounts inconvenient to them. They have Liberty to hold a Monthly Meeting among themselves, and it is Agreed that the said meeting be held the Second day in each Mouth: And the Clerk is desired to give them a copy of this Minute.

A true Copy pr. Caleb Raper Clerk.

No better history of Kingwood Meeting can be written than that which is contained in the Minutes. The following quotations, in their quaint language, tell the story:

11 1 1744 | 5. "Jeremiah Williams reports that he carried Seventy shillings which was collected at our last Monthly Meeting to the Quarterly Meeting and paid it to Caleb raper (the Treasurer) towards the Yearly Meetings Stock."

11 12 1744. "This meeting taking into consideration the necessity of Building a new Meetinghouse in this place have Unanimously agreed to lay the necessity thereof before the next Quarterly Meeting in order to their Approbation therein."

11 1 1744 | 5. "Samuel Large & Jeremiah Williams who were appointed to Attend Last Quarterly Meeting Report that Agreeable to the

request of our last Monthly Meeting they made Application for Building a New Meetinghouse here, and they have brought a Copy of the Minute made there on that occasion which is Entred at large as followeth vizt. At our Quarterly Meeting held at Burlington the 25th. day of the 12th. Month 1744. The Monthly Meeting of Friends at Bethlehem having made application for liberty to build a Meetinghouse there, that they already have there not being large enough, this Meeting consents to their proposal, And that the said House be built according to the directions of the said Monthly Meeting. To witt, about thirty Six feet long and twenty Six feet wide.

A Copy of the Minute Cabel Rapor Clk.

And this Meeting agrees that the said Meetinghouse Shall be Built according to the above Dementions in the Clear, and that it Shall be Built of Stone."

13 3 1745. "Friends of the Great Meadows having made Request for holding a Meeting of Worship there, This Meeting leaves it to further Consideration until the next Monthly Meeting."

8th 5 1745. "Friends of Great Meadows renewed their request for holding a Meeting of Worship there every First day of each week which this meeting grants and appoints Samuel Willson Junr. shall serve in the place of an overseer at particular Meeting."

12 6 1745. "This meeting taking into consideration that it would answer much better both in respect of our own affairs and also because our Monthly Meeting interefers with some other adjacent meetings so that both cannot both be so well attended as otherwise they might be if our Monthly Meeting were settled on the Second Fifth day in every month wherefore it is concluded that those Friends who shall be appointed to attend next Quarterly Meeting do make request accordingly and that our request be inserted in our report to the next meeting. This meeting agrees and it is Concluded that our Monthly Meetings and Meetings of Worship both on First days and Week days shall begin at Eleven o'Clock in the morning for the future."

12 7 1745. Upon the Request of our last Monthly Meeting to the Quarterly Meeting for holding our Monthly Meeting on the Second Fifth day in every month which was granted as appears by the Quarterly Meetings minute entred at large as followeth vizt The Friends of Bethlehem Monthly Meeting requested that their Monthly Meeting might be held for the future on the Fifth day of the second week in every month which after due consideration was granted by this meet-

ing Copy per Richard Smith Clark of Q. M. for this time.

'2 12 1746. This Meeting orders the sum of four pounds to be collected in order to send to the next Q. M. to help to defray the charges of the repairing the two meeting houses in Burlington.

14 3 1747. Jeremiah Williams and Daniel Doughty to attend the next Q. M. and to report in addition to the usual matters "We are building our new Meetinghouse here thirty nine feet long & twenty seven feet wide and we expect by computation that the cost will amont to one hundred and fifty pounds and have but yet one hundred pounds subscribed towards discharging the same ;"

16 9 1748. At this meeting Friends at the Great Meadows requested liberty of holding a meeting of worship on the Fourth day of every week which request was granted by this Meeting.

17 7 1749. The Quarterly Meeting at Burlington paid to Jeremiah Williams the sum of three pounds fifteen shillings towards building the meeting house.

8 12 1749. "At the request of Friends at the Meadows for a committee for fixing upon a place for building a Meeting House this Meeting appoints Jeremiah Williams, Joseph King Senior, Joseph Webster, Joseph King Junior, and William King a committee to assist Friends at the Meadows as soon as they conveniently may."

8 1 1750. "The comittee appointed to fix upon a place at the Meadows to set their Meetinghouse desire some more friends of this Meeting be appointed to assist them. John Emley, Peter Schmueck, Jacob Simcock and William Emley are added to the committee for their assistance."

12 2 1750. "The Committee appointed at the last monthly meeting for settling and fixing a place for building a Meetinghouse at the Great Meadows return it as their opinion and judgment that the Meetinghouse shall be built at the same place where the graveyard is made there it being the same place as they agreed upon and subscribed to themselves before this committee was chosen which this Meeting agrees to. Friends of the Great meadows not acquing with the judgment of the committee in affixing the place for building the Meetinghouse request an appeal to the next Q. M. which this meeting granted."

10. 3. 1750. "Those friends that are dissatisfied at the Great Meadows respecting the Committee's setting a place for building a Meetinghouse there continue their request for an appeal to the Q. M. and it is agreed that they have copies of the Minuta."

13 7 1750. "Samuel Stevenson one of the friends appointed to attend the last Q. M. the

other friend being sick could not attend) reports that he attended the same and the Q. M. sent a copy of their minut by him whereby they confirmed the judgment of this Meeting in affixing the place where the Meetinghouse ought to be built at the Great Meadows."

13 2 1752. "This Meeting appoints Jeremiah Williams, Jonathan Robeson, Joseph King Sen. and Thomas Atkinson to agree with suettable workmen to repair the Meetinghouse of Friends in Kingwood (known by the name of Bethlehem Meetinghouse) in such sort manner and form as they think best."

14 5 1752. Samuel Large and John Emley are appointed to carry the report to Q. M. at Chesterfield to which is added the following :

14 5 1752. "We have had under our consideration the visiting of families and tho we are sensible that it is a good work where it is rightly performed yet we are under some difficulty to get such among us as are suettable and willing to undertake it being a small Meeting and few of us looking upon ourselves suitable for that weighty service. And we have likewise considered the proposal for settling a school. but being few of us and so remote from each other and some of us under low circumstances so that it seems unlikely to us that we shall be able to raise a sufficient salary to support such a school. Otherwise we should be very free and heartily join with the proposal believing it would in some degree answer the good purpose intended."

11 4 1754. Samuel Large, Gershom Mott Junior and Robert Large are appointed to visit the families of Friends at Kingwood and elsewhere belonging to that Meeting and Josiah Dyer, Richard Lundy Senior and Samuel Schooley are appointed to the same service for Hardwick Meeting and they are desired to accomplish their visits as soon as they conveniently may and when accomplished to make report to our monthly Meeting.

11 6 1752. "The Clerk is desired to draw an order for John Emley to receive of the Treasurer of the Q. M. at Burlington that money which given by the said Q. M. towards repairing our Meetinghouse in Kingwood and to sign the same in behalf of this Meeting."

21 9 1752. "Pursuant to the order of the last Q. M. held at Burlington the Clerk of the said Meeting sent a copy of a Minute made at the said Meeting which is as followeth vizt. "At a Q. M. held at Burlington the 31st of the 8th month 1752 This meeting observing something slender in the report from Bethlehem and being dissatisfied with it was informed by some Friends not of that Meeting that a difference was among them relat-

ing to the rebuilding the roof of the Meetinghouse this Meeting therefore for the sake of peace and to prevent further contention thought it necessary to consider the conveniency and inconveniency of both proposals and upon the whole is of opinion that the form the roof of the said Meetinghouse was before built in is much the best both as it regards the conveniency of the women friends and the conveniency of galleries and the Clerk is ordered to send a copy of this minute to the said Meeting. By order of the Q. M. Sam^l. Smith Clerk."

21 9 1752 N. S. "Eleven nominal days of this month being omitted between the second and fourteenth days in compliance to the late Act of the Parliament and pursuant to the advise and direction recommended to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends by the London Yearly Meetings epistle of the seventh month 1751."

9 11 1752. "The Clerk is desired to write to the Overseers of Hardwick Meeting and to the Meeting also to let them understand that this Meeting looks upon it that they are remise in their duty in neglecting to make due report of the state of their Meeting and to desire them to be more careful to attend at our Monthly Meeting more frequently, or at least to send a report of the state of their Meeting to the Monthly Meeting next before every Quarterly Meeting.

8 2 1753. Samuel Smith's request for having a meeting of worship settled at his house in Greenwich hath been deliberately considered and forasmuch as he lives very remote from any meeting of Friends it is concluded and agreed on by this Meeting that they shall have privilege to hold a meeting there the Second First day in every month so long as Friends of this Monthly Meeting may see a service in continuing it for the promulgation of the truth.

9, 5, 1754. In addition to the usual report to Chesterfield Q. M. taken by Samuel Large and Jacob Bardsal the following :

We have to general satisfaction finished rebuilding our Meetinghouse according to the former model as we were advised by the Quarterly Meeting so far that we hold our meetings there, it being about as near completion as it was before, it was burnt the whole cost of rebuilding amounts to upwards of one hundred and seven pounds and we fall short in payment about twenty three pounds which is disbursed to the workmen by one of the managers in behalf of this Meeting and we are but a small number and several of us not of ability to pay much more than what they have lately paid towards building and rebuilding of it. We desire that Friends of the Quarterly Meeting will be pleased to help us once more therein.