

4/25/1828. John Barnett requested to be released from the Building Committee.

This is the last reference to the new Meeting House. There are no records of its cost, nor of the subscribers to the fund to cover the expense, which is to be regretted.

At this point it may be of interest to note, that in John Comly's Journal he wrote that in 1828 he was at Providence, and as the Friends were building a new Meeting House the meeting was held at the house of John Barnett, which is the first house above the Meeting House.

The following quotation from the Minutes of Gwynedd Monthly Meeting will be duly appreciated:

11/27/1828. A member from Providence presented a proposition to change the Meeting hour on first & sixth days from tenth to the eleventh hour, referred to a Committee to consider & report.

1/1/1829. The Committee reported . . . were of the mind that it is not advisable to make a change at present, believing that not much advantage would arise therefrom.

Apparently, the Providence Meeting never had at one time a large number of members. We only know the names of those who are mentioned in the minutes of the Preparative Meeting or in those of the Monthly Meeting. No lists of members seem to have been kept in that early period. A list of a number of those who attended this Meeting has been compiled from the Meeting records and will be found elsewhere.

After the separation, the Gwynedd Monthly Meeting appointed a committee to make a list of its members. This committee reported on 12/6/1829, and that report is entered in full and forms part of the minutes of that date. The numbers of each Preparative Meeting is given separately. Providence had at that time 59 members—22 of whom were minors.

Under date of 2/25/1846 we find the result of another enumeration of the membership of Gwynedd Monthly Meeting. A full list of the names of the members at that time is entered on the minutes. The number of members at Providence is noted as 65, the minors not being separately numbered, but as the records will show, they numbered about 30. (These lists will be found attached.)

The records show that the Providence Meeting continued to hold its regular sessions through the succeeding years, but as time progressed there was a gradual loss of members.

The establishment of Uwchlan Monthly Meeting in 1763, and later, of other Preparative Meetings in the nearby sections, west of the Schuylkill, would naturally cause members living in that territory, to withdraw from the Providence Meeting, to connect with more convenient centers. In the Perkiomen region deaths and removals reduced the number of members.

In 1863, a communication was forwarded to the Monthly Meeting, reading as follows—"that in consequence of the decease of a portion of its members and the removal of others—the Preparative Meeting has become very small, they recommend its discontinuance and submit this to the judgment of the Monthly Meeting."

5/28/1863. The Monthly Meeting appointed a committee of 8 men (Alan W. Corson, Thomas P. Baynes, Samuel Caley, Daniel Foulke, Thomas Livezey, Jonathan Jones, Benjamin Borden and Nathan Cleaver, Jr.), and 7 women (Susan Williams, Phoebe Foulke, Mary Lare, Mary Lukens, Susan Foulke, Ann Townsend and Elizabeth Lukens), who, as instructed, visited the Providence Meeting successively on 6/16, 7/23 and 8/20/1863.

9/27/1865. Part of the above-named committee visited the meeting—"after interchange of sentiment and exercise of Judgment the request for the discontinuance of Providence Preparative Meeting and mid-week Meetings, and to be connected with Norristown Preparative Meeting, was united with."

3/22/1866. Four of a committee appointed by the Monthly Meeting were present and formally informed the Providence Preparative Meeting that the request for laying down the Meeting had been granted and approved, leaving the members the liberty of requesting permission to hold an indulged Meeting. Indulged Meetings were held for a few years, they ceased as the number of active friends were removed by death or change of residence.

In recent years, appointed Meetings for worship have been regularly held, twice each year, in the months of June and September, under the care of Gwynedd Monthly Meeting. The meetings are usually attended by an interested group, many of whom are not members of the Society of Friends.

An endeavor is made to keep the building and grounds in good order due in the main to the concern of those whose ancestors and relatives have been laid to rest in the "burial place."