

**GENEALOGY AT EARLHAM
2008**

Updated by Anne Thomason, Assistant Archivist, September 2008

Earlham's Genealogical Collection housed in the Friends Collection and Archives of Lilly Library emphasizes materials relating to Quaker families. They include abstracts of the records of Friends meetings in the United States and Great Britain, abstracts of state and county records from the eastern U.S., and over 1,200 genealogies of Quaker families. A number of manuscript collections also contain materials useful for family history. Although the collection focuses on Quaker genealogy, much of our material can be used for non-Quaker families as well.

Address: Thomas Hamm, Lilly Library, Earlham College, 801 National Road West, Richmond, Indiana 47374. Phone: 765-983-1511. Email: tomh@earlham.edu. Website:

<http://www.earlham.edu/library/content/friends/index.html>

We can handle specific, limited inquiries by regular mail or email. No telephone genealogical inquiries will be accepted.

Hours: We recommend calling (765-983-1511) or emailing ahead of your visit to make sure there are no changes to the hours.

Academic Year Hours (closed during school breaks, e.g. spring break, mid-semester breaks, etc. see academic calendar

<http://www.earlham.edu/calendars/>

Monday-Thursday: 9am-Noon, 1pm-4pm, 7pm-9pm

Friday: 9am-Noon, 1pm-4pm

Saturday: 1pm-4pm

Sunday: 1pm-4pm

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Summer

Monday-Friday: 9am-Noon, 1pm-4pm

Saturday-Sunday: CLOSED

I. Quaker Organization

A. The most basic unit is the monthly meeting, made up of one or more congregations. Its records of genealogical significance include:

1. Birth and Deaths
2. Marriages
3. Transfers of membership (often called removal certificates)
4. Minutes of business meetings that include records of marriages, membership

transfers, disownment (excommunication), appointment to offices, and occasionally deaths.

B. One or more monthly meetings make up a quarterly meeting. These records rarely contain material of genealogical significance.

C. The highest level of Quaker organization is the yearly meeting. Since the early nineteenth century, yearly meeting minutes have usually been printed. Of special genealogical interest are reports of the deaths of leading Quakers.

II. Published Abstracts of Quaker Records

A. The largest and most ambitious work is William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* v (6 vols. Ann Arbor, 1936-1950. BX 7791 H6.7). Volume I contains records from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. Volume II has records from four of the oldest meetings in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Volume III is made up of records from meetings on Long Island and in New York City. Volume IV contains records from western Pennsylvania and eastern and central Ohio, as well as southeastern Michigan. Volume V contains records from western Ohio. Volume VI is made up of records from Virginia. Using the Hinshaw abstracts is not difficult. Each volume is organized by monthly meeting and has a surname index. In volume I and II, the abstracts of birth and death records are in separate sections from the abstracts of monthly meeting minutes and marriage records. In volumes III-VI they are combined. Keep in mind that the Hinshaw abstracts contain only monthly meeting records, but that these are where almost all information of genealogical value in Quaker records is found.

B. The records of all monthly meetings in Indiana established before 1875 were abstracted and published by Willard C. Heiss in *Abstracts of the Records of the Society of Friends in Indiana* (7 vols. Indianapolis, 1962-1977. BX 7791 H4). Volume I contains records from Wayne and Union counties. Volume II is made up of records from Wayne, Jay, and Randolph counties. Volume III is made up of records from Grant Howard, Miami, Wabash, and Huntington counties. Volume IV comprises records from Wayne, Henry, Madison, and Rush counties. Volume V takes in meetings in Washington, Orange, Bartholomew, Jackson, Vigo, Parke, Morgan, Montgomery, Boone, and Vermillion counties as well as eastern Illinois. Volume VI has records from Hendricks, Morgan, Marion, Hamilton, and Parke counties. Volume VII is an index.

The Heiss abstracts are identical in format to that used for Hinshaw's Volumes I and II. Keep in mind that Heiss abstracted the records of monthly meetings established before 1875 only, and that the records of monthly meetings established at later dates also contain information of genealogical value. The Indiana Historical Society now has underway a new, revised edition of the Heiss abstracts, edited by Thomas D. Hamm and Ruth Dorrel. So far two volumes, covering Wayne and Union counties, have appeared. A number of genealogists have abstracted and published the records of monthly meetings not included in the Hinshaw and Heiss volumes. These include Quaker records from New England, New

York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Michigan and Illinois. These are largely found in the BX7791 range in the Friends Collection.

III. Unpublished Abstracts of Quaker Records

Much of the material from monthly meeting records that researchers for William Wade Hinshaw gathered in the 1930s was never published and eventually was deposited at Swarthmore College. We are fortunate to have typescripts of these abstracts. They are found in the BX 7791 range of the Friends Collection. They include Quaker records from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. They also include abstracts of the records of some monthly meetings in Indiana established after 1875 and not published by Heiss.

We also have some other unpublished abstracts of Quaker records that were part of the library of the late Willard Heiss. These are mainly for meetings in New York and Maryland. They are also found in the BX7791 range in the Friends Collection. Also found here are abstracts of New York Quaker records being prepared at Swarthmore College by James Hazard.

IV. Original Quaker Records, Published and Unpublished

The Friends Collection also includes three major types of Quaker records in their original form. These include the Archives of Indiana Yearly Meeting and Western Yearly Meeting of Friends, the yearly meeting minutes collection, and photoduplicates, typescripts, and microfilms of Quaker records from the U.S. and Great Britain.

Earlham is the repository for two long-established yearly meetings. Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends, includes Quakers in western Ohio, east-central Indiana and parts of Michigan. Western Yearly Meeting includes Friends in central and southern Indiana and parts of Illinois. Most of these records are abstracted by Heiss. Access is only through the Archivist.

The Friends Collection also includes the printed minutes of yearly meetings of Friends from around the world. These can sometimes be useful for shedding light on the activities of a Quaker ancestor, and for their annual lists of the deaths of prominent Friends. They are arranged alphabetically by the name of the yearly meeting in range BX 7608.

Earlham also has a number of copies of Quaker records in their original form. Microfilms include minutes, marriages, and births and deaths from New England, New York, and parts of Ohio and Michigan as well as the registers of births, marriages, and deaths for English Friends from 1650 to 1837 kept at Friends House in London. The Friends Collection also has photocopies or typescripts of records of monthly meetings from all over the U.S. These are found in range BX 7611 and BX 7648 –BX 7649.

V. Quaker Family Histories

We have a collection of over 1,200 Quaker family histories, most of them from the collection of the late Willard Heiss. About a quarter are unpublished works of which he was able to obtain copies. These works are arranged alphabetically for the most part, although it is wise to check the library's catalog for names of interest. They begin with call number CS 71.

Particularly useful is the *Webster Parry - Edna Harvey Joseph Collection* (CS.69.P2). It consists of genealogies of hundreds of Quaker families, arranged alphabetically by family name in 16 volumes. Each volume includes an introduction with instructions for the use of these materials.

The most comprehensive bibliography of Quaker family histories is Willard Heiss and Thomas D. Hamm, *Quaker Genealogies: A Selected List of Books* (CS 49 H4).

VI. Obituaries and Death Notices

The Friends Collection includes complete, or nearly complete, sets of almost every Quaker periodical. Many of these contain obituaries, death notices, and biographical material that are of considerable genealogical interest. Some indexes are available. The most comprehensive is *Quaker Necrology*, 2 vols. compiled by the Haverford College Library (BX 7791 H3.8 Q3). It indexes obituaries in the four chief Philadelphia Quaker periodicals: *The Friend* (1828-1955) (BX 7604 F2), *Friends' Intelligencer* (1844-1955) (BX 7604 F6), *Friends' Review* (1847-1894) (BW 7604 F8), and the *Friends Journal* (1955 - 1960) BX 7604 F6.2.

For the Midwestern Friends, the most important periodicals of the nineteenth century, besides the *Friends' Review*, were the *Christian Worker* (1871-1894) (BX 7604 C5) and the *American Friend* (1894-1960) (BX 7604 A5). We have abstracts of death and marriage notices in the *Christian Worker*, prepared by Jane R. Heiss in 1974. An on-line index of obituaries in the American Friends available at the Friends Collection website and in paper form.

For British Quakers, a useful source is the *Annual Monitor*, which collected and published death notices from 1813 to 1892. We lack a few volumes before 1838. These are indexed in *Quaker Records. Being 20,000 Obituary Notices . . . 1813-1892*, BX 7790 A6.2.

There was a short-lived attempt to publish an American equivalent, the *American Annual Monitor*, from 1858 to 1863. There is no general index but each volume is arranged alphabetically. The call number is BV 7790 A5. Since the seventeenth century, Friends have memorialized prominent Quakers after their deaths. Many of these memorials were collected and published from time to time. They often contain biographical information not found elsewhere. These can be found in the Friends Collection in range BX 7791 F9.

VII Archival Collections

Housed in the Archives is the Friends Pamphlet Group VI, which contains a number of

manuscript genealogies of varying length, biographical sketches, and memorials. A card file index is in the Friends Collection.

VII Genealogical Periodicals

The Friends Collection includes periodicals on Quaker genealogy, *The Quaker Yeoman*, BX 7604 Q35, *Quaker Connections*, CS 410 Q8, and *Quaker Queries*, BX 77911 Q28. The Friends Collection includes a few other genealogical periodicals that focus on areas with large Quaker populations. Periodicals from North Carolina include *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register* (1900-1903), CS 42 N6, *North Carolina-Genealogist* (1955- 1975), CS 42 N6.1; the *Guilford Genealogist*, F 262 G9 G8.8; and *Journal of the Randolph County Genealogical Society*, F 262 R2 G4.6. We also have some Indiana and Ohio genealogical periodicals.

IX. Non-Quaker Genealogical Materials

The genealogy collection also includes a variety of genealogical materials that do not focus specifically on Quakers, although they usually deal with geographical areas in which Friends lived. They include country histories, census records from 1790 to 1860, cemetery records, and abstracts of wills, probates, deeds, tax lists, court minutes, marriages, and similar records. These are found mostly in the Friends Collection under the call letter F.

X. General Guides

The best introduction to Quaker genealogy is the opening section of volume I of Willard Heiss's *Abstracts*. Other works of value include D. A. and Ellen T. Berry, *Our Quaker Ancestors* (CS16 B4) and, for British Friends, Edward H. Milligan and Thomas J. Malcolm, *My Ancestors Were Quakers* (BX 7676.2 M5.5 1983).