



DARBY MEETING HOUSE
Erected 1805

1805

1905



Proceedings
Centennial Anniversary



Friends' Meeting House
Darby, Pa.

Committee of Arrangements

JOSEPH T. BUNTING

ISAAC L. BARTRAM

ANNA MILLER BUNTING

MARY L. YARNALL

REBECCA C. LONGSTRETH

MARY McALLISTER

MATILDA GARRIGUES

MORGAN BUNTING

Preliminary.

“At Darby Monthly Meeting of Friends held the 19th of the 12th Mo., 1904: The attention of the meeting was called to the fact that it is now nearly a century since this Meeting-house was built and first occupied by our forefathers as a place of worship, and a suggestion was offered that some arrangements should be made to suitably commemorate the event. The Meeting entered into the concern sufficiently to appoint a committee to bring forward the names of Friends to serve as a committee to arrange suitable exercises for the occasion.”

“At Darby Monthly Meeting of Friends held the 23rd of the 1st Mo., 1905: The Friends appointed to nominate a committee to make arrangements for some suitable exercises to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the occupancy of our Meeting-house as a place of worship, presented the names of the following Friends, who were united with by the Meeting and appointed to the service:—Morgan Bunting, Joseph T. Bunting, Isaac L. Bartram, Anna Miller Bunting, Mary L. Yarnall and Rebecca C. Longstreth. Mary McAllister and Matilda Garrigues were added to the Committee by the Meeting.”

Pursuant to its appointment, this committee held several meetings. It was decided that the anniversary should be held on First-day afternoon, the 10th of the 12th Mo., 1905 (the Meeting-house having first been used on First-day, the 8th of 12th Mo., 1805), and that the exercises should be of a simple character.

A general invitation was extended through the *Friends' Intelligencer* and the newspapers. The members of Darby Monthly Meeting received a special invitation and information was sent to each of the Monthly Meetings of Concord Quarter. On the day appointed, before the hour, the Meeting-house was well filled. The weather was propitious and deep interest was shown in the exercises as arranged by the committee, and the occasion was felt to have been one of great satisfaction.

At 2 o'clock the Meeting was opened by the reading of the 91st Psalm, by Jos. T. Bunting, who acted as chairman for the Committee.

After a brief silence the programme as arranged was presented in the order in which it is now printed.

Introductory Address.

JOSEPH T. BUNTING.

FRIENDS :

On behalf of Darby Monthly Meeting of Friends, I extend a cordial greeting to you who have come to join us in celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of our Meeting House.

For more than a hundred years after the Holy Experiment of William Penn had been rooted in the soil of Pennsylvania, the Friends of Darby had their Meeting House on the hill to the north of this House, in the midst of what is now the burial ground of this Meeting. The resting places of the dead were fitly chosen around the Meeting House in which in this life they had received spiritual impressions of the life to come.

The Monthly Meeting held in that House on the thirtieth of the Fourth Month, 1772, was distinguished by the presence of John Woolman. It was probably the last Meeting for worship attended by him in his native land. On the following day, he took ship at Chester for England on the last religious pilgrimage of his life. That pilgrimage was ended by his death at York, England, on the seventh of the Tenth Month of the same year. It may have been that at that Monthly Meeting was heard his last public testimony against the institution of slavery spoken on American soil.

In that Meeting House had been read the testimony of disownment of one of its most distinguished members, John Bartram, the botanist, for the expression of religious views too broad for his time, but which seventy years later were to be expounded in this Meeting House by Elias Hicks, with the approval of most of those assembled here.

On the eighth day of the Twelfth Month, 1805, the first meeting for worship was held in this House. It was the second First-day of that month. On this second First-day of the same month of the year 1905, we have assembled to commemorate the completion of the century of service which this Meeting House has rendered to the Society of Friends and to those who have worshipped here.

Little change has been made in the House since it was constructed. The movable shutters which formerly divided the house when the business meetings of men and women were separately held have been removed. How interesting to us as children was the scene after the announcement came from the Friend who sat at the head of the men's gallery, "Friends will please close the shutters," and the great wooden partitions with the communicating door therein, which ordinarily hung in mid-air, were gently dropped to the floor.

Gas lights have recently been introduced so that we may have evening meetings. The open fire-places and heaters in the cellar have taken the places of the ancient stoves with their lofty elbows of pipes which led to the chimneys. The oaken floors, which are so difficult to saw through, and the interior finish of pine have never been disturbed.

The generation of men who founded this Meeting House lived simple lives. The simplicity of their lives and character has found its expression in the architecture of this house. They did not have the steamship, the railroad, the telegraph, the telephone, or the automobile to multiply and hurry on the events of their lives. While they lived among simple conditions, they had also lived in stirring times. On the Fourth day of the Tenth Month, 1777, at the yearly meeting which was then being held in Philadelphia, a testimony concerning the peace principles of the Society was written by the clerk, while the roar of the cannon from Germantown shook the Meeting House. A few weeks only had then elapsed since they might have heard the distant murmur of the same sounds from the Fords of the Brandywine.

The peace principles of the Society, its loyalty to established government, and affection for the Mother Country flowing from close ties with Friends in England, had kept the body from sympathy with the Revolutionary War. Our ancestors believed that unto Cæsar should be rendered the things which are Cæsar's. What did or did not belong to Cæsar did not move them so much as it did the descendants of their Puritan oppressors in Massachusetts. The ancient charter granted by Charles II. to William

Penn had reserved to the Crown the right of taxation by Act of Parliament. The Province of Pennsylvania had accepted the rights and obligations of that charter for nearly one hundred years, and under it had prospered more than any other of the American Colonies. There was good ground for the position that the principle of no taxation without representation, on which the American Revolution rested, could not be justified under the immortal charter granted to William Penn.

In the century which has passed, how vast has been the sum of the uplifting spiritual and moral influences which have had their birth within these walls. In the struggle for mastery between the best and the worst within us, what mighty influences have here come to the rescue of the struggling soul. How often within these walls has the scale been turned for the peace and happiness not only of the individual worshipper, but also for the peace and happiness of generations yet to come!

The words of the mouth which have been heard in this House, and the meditations of the heart of those who have never broken its silence, have consecrated it for us who have received the heritage of them.



GRAVE YARD AND OLD STABLE

Early Darby Meeting Houses.

MORGAN BUNTING.

While gathered here to commemorate the opening of this house, one hundred years ago, it may be of interest to revert to that time, one hundred and twenty-three years before, when Darby Meeting was first established, and to trace, as far as possible, the history of those earlier buildings which served, from time to time, as its place of worship, until the erection, in 1805, of the present house.

In 1682, prior to the coming of William Penn to his new Province, there had settled in this place eight Friends from England (three of them with families).

These early settlers were Samuel Bradshaw and Thomas Worth from Oxton, county of Nottingham, John Blunston, Michael Blunston, George Wood, Joshua Fearn, Henry Gibbins and Samuel Sellers, from the county of Derby.

With the exception of that of Samuel Sellers, the Certificates of all these Friends from their Monthly Meetings in England are recorded upon our minutes; the two from Nottinghamshire bearing date the 20th of the 1st Month, 1682, and those from the Meetings in Derbyshire being all dated in the 5th Mo., 1682.

In the next year came Richard Bonsall, Edmund Cartlidge, Thomas Hood, John Bartram, and Robert Naylor from Derbyshire; John Hallowell, William Wood and Thomas Bradshaw from Nottinghamshire, and Richard Tucker from the county of Wilts.

It is not unnatural that this little body of people, severing ties in the old world to begin life again in the new, and coming, as they did, from almost the same neighborhood, should desire to give to their new home a name which would recall to them the old.

For this reason, no doubt, they gave to the new settlement the name of Darby.

As most of the early settlers were Friends by conviction, some of them having suffered persecution for their faith, it is not likely that their religious meetings were suspended during their

voyage, much less after their arrival. And yet it was not until 1684 that these Friends of Darby met together in a Monthly Meeting capacity.

The first minute, dated the 2d of the 5th Mo., 1684, is to the effect that "Samuel Sellers and Anna Gibens of Darby, declared their intentions of taking each other in Marriage, it being first tyme."

This first volume of minutes was transcribed at a later period and doubtless the minutes of some earlier sessions have been lost.

The Meetings were held at the house of John Blunston, which is said to have stood nearly opposite this present Meeting House, near the Mill-race.

In a letter to Friends in England, dated from Philadelphia the 17th of the 1st Month, 1683, and signed by William Penn, Samuel Jennings, Christopher Taylor, John Blunston and many others, we read, "For our meetings, more especially for worship, there are * * * * in Pennsylvania, one at the Falls, one at the Governor's House, one at Colchester river, all in the County of Bucks; one at Tawcony, one at Philadelphia, both in that county, one at Darby at John Blunston's, one at Chester, one at Ridley at John Simcock's, and one at William Ruse's at Chichester in Cheshire. There be three monthly meetings of men and women for truth's service; in the county of Chester, one; in the County of Philadelphia, another, and in the county of Bucks, another. And we intend a Yearly Meeting in the 3rd Month next. Here our concern is, as it was in our native land, that we may serve the Lord's truth and People."

That the neglect of holding a Monthly Meeting at Darby was a source of concern to the Friends at Chester, may be inferred from the following minutes: "At a Monthly Meeting held at Robert Wade's house ye 5th, of 12th. mo. 168¹; It is concluded by ye sd Meeting yt Thos. Brassey and James Kennerly speake to John Blunston or some of Darby Meeting to joyne with us in our Months Meeting to consider of & order ye necessary affaires belonging to ye same." "At a Monthly Meeting held at the house of Robert Wade the 5th. of 1st. month 168¹; it was agreed

yt Thomas Brassey and Robert Wade should speake with some of ye members of Darby Meeting yt they would according to ye good order of Friends joyne with us in our Monthly Meeting."

Doubtless these concerns were not without effect, but there is no evidence that the Darby Friends ever joined themselves with the Meeting at Chester. It is probable, however, that they were represented at the Quarterly Meeting held at Chester the 4th. of the 12th. mo., 168 $\frac{1}{2}$, at which it was "ordered yt Chester Monthly Meeting be held on ye first weekly 2nd. day every month and Chichester Monthly Meeting to be ye second weekly 2nd. day every month and Darby Monthly Meeting be ye first weekly 4th. day in each month."

This is the first mention of a Monthly Meeting at Darby and it is not unreasonable to suppose that, between this date, 12th. mo. 4th. 168 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5th. mo. 2nd. 1684, the date of our first minute, there were several Monthly Meetings held.

Each succeeding year added to the Settlement; new arrivals came from England, marriages were consummated, children were born; Death, too, early invaded their midst. "George Wood, sonne of George Wood and Anne his wife, deceased the 7th. day of ye 10th. Month 1682 and was buried in ye buringe place in Darby" and again, "Humphrey Exton, servant to John Blunston deceased the 21st. day of the 8th. Month 1684 and was buried in ye buringe place in Darby."

That this "Buringe place" so early made necessary, was within the limits of our present Grave Yard, is without question, and that it was used as the burial place for all, whether Friends or not, seems probable from the following on the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held the 6th. day of the 9th. mo. 1706.

"It being layd before the yearly meeting by the Quarterly Meeting of Philadelphia how much they are Grieved and dissatisfied with Grave Stones and monuments over or about the Graves in ffriends Buring Grounds, this meeting takeing the matter into there Consideration doo find it as there sence and Judgment that it is all together wrong and of evil Tendency for to have any Grave stone or any other sort

of monument over or about the Graves in any of Friends Buringe Grounds and further that those monuments that are already in the Buringe Grounds Either of Wood or Stone shall be taken away and no new put up. But to be as sparing as Friends well can for those who were not Friends and put up before the Buringe Ground was solely confined to Friends."

As has already been stated, the settlement at Darby rapidly increased in numbers, and by 1687 the time had arrived when it was no longer desirable or convenient to hold the Meetings in a private house. In this year steps were taken towards the building of a Meeting House. At the Court held at Chester the 7th. of the 4th. mo., 1687, "John Blunston made over a Deed for one acre of land, in the township of Darby to build a Meeting House thereon to the use of the said township forever to exercise the true worship of God therein."

The building of the Meeting house had evidently been begun sometime before, as a minute of the Monthly Meeting held the following day, viz. the 8th. of the 4th. mo., 1687, "ordered yt George Wood is to keep ye Door of ye Meetinge house until further order."

This earliest Meeting House of the Darby Friends was in all probability built of logs and stood within the limits of, or was adjoining the "Buringe Place" to which reference has already been made, for by deed dated the 5th day of the 6th mo., 1702, John Blunston, for a Consideration of £3 lawful silver money, conveyed to Edmund Cartlidge, Thomas Worth, Michael Blunston, and John Wood, for the use of Friends, a tract of $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land, and this has been handed down by successive trustees to the present time, and is the tract now occupied by our Grave Yard and School House.

Of this first Meeting House very little is known, but from the minutes it would seem that Friends were a long time in its completion.

More than a year after the first mention, it was agreed, on the 8th of 6th mo., 1688, "that the Meeting House be lined

within," and again on the 10th of the 8th mo., 1688, "Thomas Hood and John Bartram ordered to gather the money for ye Glase and Speake for it." Here on the 19th of the 10th mo. 1688, John Marshall and Sarah Smith were married.

Dr. Smith, in his History of Delaware County, has stated that this was the first marriage accomplished in the New Meeting House; a statement unwarranted I think, for during the years 1687 and 1688, from the time of the first mention of this building to that of the above mentioned marriage, it appears from our minutes there were married the following couples, Thomas Bradshaw and Sarah Levis, John Wood and Jane Bevan, John Kirk and Joan Elliott, Nathaniel Park and Elizabeth Cook, but none of their certificates have been recorded. Had they been, it is more than likely that some or all of them would have mentioned the ceremony as having taken place, as did that of John Marshall, "at ye Meeting House in Darby." Doubtless some of these certificates are still in existence, in the hands of descendants.

Upon the 9th of the 8th mo., 1689, it was "ordered that all belonging to ye meeting shall come everyone a day to worke at ye meeting house and that four come of a day until ye worke bee done."

Either there was much to be done or else Friends were negligent of their duty, probably both, for more than a year later, on the 12th of the 9th mo., 1690, it was "ordered that George Wood shall give notice at ye next first-day to those that are behind in worke at ye meeting house that ye come to do the same as soon as Possible they can."

In this connection it may be of interest to note that on the fly leaf of the first volume of our minutes there appears two lists of names, one with the heading, "an account of those yt hath wrought at ye Meeting House beginning in ye 9th mo. 1694;" the date of the other list is obliterated.

Under date of 5th of 10th mo., 1694, is this interesting entry,

" Laid out since last account

Hinges,	00	04	08
A dial,	00	05	02
Binding this book,	00	06	00
Two pd. of neals,	00	02	06
Siting up ye dial,			
one day work,	00	02	06 "

Rather curious, is it not, that one day's work is valued the same as 2 pounds of nails? I think, too, that some of us would now value that old dial at a little above its cost, 5s. 2d.

That the Meeting House was also used as the Town Hall, is shown from the following heading of a minute from the Town Records—"Agreed by the Towns men of Darby mett at the Meeting House upon the 26th day of the 12th month, 1693-4" Upon more than one occasion we find upon the monthly meeting minutes a statement of the adjournment or omission of a monthly meeting on account of the "publique meeting."

There is but one other mention of this first Meeting House, as follows, 7th of 6th mo., 1695, "agreed at this Meeting that a Loft be made in the Meeting house."

Possibly with this accomplished, the Meeting house, after eight years labor, was completed. If so, it did not serve its purpose long, for within the next three years the necessity for a larger and more commodious building claimed the attention of the Meeting and on the 1st of 12th mo., 1698, "Richard Parker, John Bethel, John Wood and Thomas Worth were ordered to take care of maniging the Concern Relating to the building of the meeting house until further order."

The subject evidently claimed the careful consideration of Friends, as some six months later, on the 2nd day of 6th mo. 1699, it was "agreed at this meeting that a Meeting House sixty foot one way & twenty foot added to the side 21 feet wide in the cleare be built; John Bethel, John Hood, Michael Blunston, John Wood and Thomas Worth ordered to so Manige the concern about the said house until furdur order."

By the 6th of the 10th mo., 1699, the work had so far progressed that it was "agreed that one fourth part of the Subscriptions for the meeting house is to be brought in at the next monthly meeting."

This doubtless was done and the work continued,—slowly it must have been, for more than a year later, on the 5th. of 12th. mo., 1700, it was "ordered yt ye Collection money should be disbursed towards the finishing of the New Meeting house And

what is wanting shall be borrowed upon Interest And John Blunston and Edmund Cartlidge is to stand bound for the money in the Behalfe of the Meeting."

Even with this impetus, almost another year elapsed before the house neared completion. In 1701, on the 2nd. of 2nd. month, "John Bethel, John Wood, & Thomas Worth were appointed to continue ye carrying on of the worke which is to be done at the new meeting house in order to finish the same And to take money upon Interest ffor which money John Blunston and Richard Parker (in place of the forementioned Edmund Cartlidge) is to stand bound in Behalfe of the Meeting."

Within the next three months it would seem that the building, begun nearly two and one half years before, had been finished, for on the 3rd. of 5th. mo., 1701, it was "ordered that Benjamin Clif Take care that the doors and windows be opened and shut as ocaation may serve for one whole year, for which he is to have two pounds out of the Collection."

On the 5th. of 6th. mo., in the following year it was "agreed that Benjamin Clife continue his service at the Meeting house for one year for which he is to have 2-10-0";—and in the following Month (2nd. of the 7th. mo., 1702) it was ordered that "Michael Blunston keep the door of the Meeting house til further order."

Why this change, or was it possibly, another office which Michael Blunston assumed under this appointment?

The second Meeting house at Darby was completed, then, in the early part of 1701 and was destined to serve its purpose for more than one hundred years.

Unfortunately we have no record of the location of either the first or second Meeting House, except that they were within the limits of the "Buringe Place" and the acre of land granted by John Blunston in 1687.

Even of this we cannot be certain, for it is more than likely that the Old House stood and was in use during the building of the New; and it is quite possible that the New house was upon adjoining ground of John Blunston, for it was in the year following its completion that the Friends received from him the Deed

of 1702 already mentioned, conveying the $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land now included in the Grave Yard.

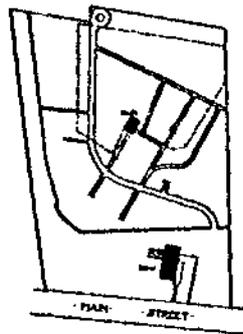
It has been stated that the marriage of Josiah Fearne and Sarah Blunston, the 12th. of the 12th. mo. 1700, took place in the new meeting house, but of this I can find no evidence for if the old Meeting house was standing and in use during the building of the new, it is far more likely that the marriage was accomplished there.

It is an interesting fact that William Penn's daughter Letitia was present at this marriage and signed the Certificate.

The minutes are silent as to the material used in the construction of the second Meeting House, whether of wood, brick, or stone is not mentioned, and as I have said above, even its location is unknown.*

Had David Sellers been more explicit in the entry in his diary of Sept. 7th. 1808, this knowledge might have been preserved to us. He writes, "This morning at Darby I saw the foundations of the old Meeting House laid bare, that my forefathers had helped to lay perhaps near one hundred years back, the work I fear of strangers."

After the completion of the Meeting House in 1701 there is no further mention thereof on the minutes until the 3rd. of the 11th. mo., 1738, when "it being found by experience that there is a necessity to Inlarge the Meeting house. Therefore Nathan Gibson, Joseph Bonsal, Samuel Bunting, and John Davis are



Friends' Burying Ground at Darby

Dotted lines show plotting of 1835
 ★ shows approximate position of Meeting House from 1701-1805

* Since writing the above, there has come to my notice a plotting of the Grave Yard made in 1835.

As then enclosed, it remained for many years, until 1850 when the vault was built or even it may be down to 1864 when the present arrangement of walls, paths, etc., was perfected. Many of our older members can recall the enclosure of the Grave Yard as shown in the plotting of 1835.

This draught is of peculiar value as therefrom it would seem possible to locate the position occupied by the second Meeting House (1701-1805).

Just within the gateway in the stone wall of the old enclosure is an open space unoccupied by graves, while all around are shown rows bearing names of many of the earlier families of our Meeting.

In further confirmation of this being the spot whereon the Meeting House stood, there are found, even to the present day, traces of masonry walls, when digging in this locality. In view of this data, it would now seem possible to approximate at least the site of the old Meeting House in which our ancestors worshiped for more than one hundred years.

appointed as undertakers to look after the said Inlargement and set the Work."

Of the nature of this "Inlargement" we know but little; that plastering entered into it is shown by the following minute made in the Women's Meeting the 7th. of the 9th. mo., 1739; "The Seats and floors of the Meeting House having been daubed by the plasterer upon the the Inlargement of the house. Therefore the Meeting orders 10 shillings to be disbursed for the cleaning thereof."

There is on file a statement of Samuel Bunting the Treasurer of the Monthly Meeting, from which the following items relating to this addition are taken:—

10-19-1737	Paid Sam'l Bryan for 1200 shingles for the Meeting House	2-8-0
12-1-1737	Paid David Thomas for haul- ing the said shingles to the Meeting House	0-2-0
8-5-1738	To 1 lb nails to repair the gutters of the Meeting House	1-3
12-26-1738	Paid Joseph Bonsall for sleepers and plank for Meet- ing House floor	2-0-4

That there was no basement under the old Meeting House, is evident from this last item.

The following minute of the 7th. of the 10th. mo., 1748 "John Marshall, Nathan Gibson, William Horne and John Davis are appointed to get the Hearse Repaired & also procure a convenient building to put it in," is of no particular interest, except that there are on file two subscription lists for the "Building of a Stable Building 40 feet long by 20 feet wide" on the Meeting House lot. There seems to have been a difference of opinion as to whether the stable should be erected on top of the hill or on the lot below the hill. One of the lists has two columns, one for the amount subscribed towards the building if erected on top; the other for an alternate subscription if erected below the hill.

This subscription paper was evidently abandoned as there are but few subscriptions entered. The other paper, however, is well filled up, over £40 being subscribed for the building of the stable below the hill. Unfortunately both these papers are without date, but a comparison of the list of subscribers with the Record of Deaths, shows it to have been made prior to 1749; or about the time of the minute just cited regarding the hearse.

However there is nothing to show whether or not this stable was ever erected.

In 1752, the meeting was informed that Job Harvey, who had died 12-31-175^o, had left in his will a bequest of £30 to be appropriated towards the building of a brick wall about the grave yard and to no other purpose whatever; and also that there was an additional bequest of £20 to be held in trust, and the income used towards the repairs of the Meeting House or any other necessary uses of the Meeting.

It is not improbable that the brick wall on the upper South-eastern boundry of the Grave Yard dates from that time.

I cannot resist the temptation to quote a few minutes of the Monthly Meeting made about the same time. 6th. of the 12th. mo., 1752, "Agreeable with the request of last Quarterly Meeting Samuel Bunting, Joseph Bonsall, William Horne, Benjamin Lobb and Samuel Sellers are appointed to assist the Clerk to collect the best account that they can of the time and manner of Establishing of our Meeting and make report of their proceedings at our next Monthly Meeting." 3rd. of 1st. mo., 1753, "The Friends Appointed to assist the Clerk to collect an account of the time and manner of the settlement of our Meeting made report of their proceedings in writing which is left to the consideration of next Monthly Meeting." 7th. of 2nd. mo., 1753, "The Report made at last Monthly Meeting Relating to the settlement of our particular meeting is agreed too and ordered to be signed by the Clerk and to be sent to the Quarterly Meeting by our Representatives."

It is much to be regretted that this information which was obtained at the request of Samuel Smith, who was then compiling

his History of Pennsylvania, has not been preserved either upon our minutes or those of the Quarterly Meeting. Considerable effort has been made to ascertain if these papers are yet in existence, but so far without result.

During the next twenty-five years, the minutes are silent regarding the Meeting House, but among the old papers to which reference has already been made, we find a subscription paper for amounts aggregating £12-7s-3d. with this heading, "Whereas it appears to be necessary to have a new stove and some small repairs for the Meeting House in Darby and as there is not a sufficiency of money in the treasurer's hands, a subscription is thought to be most Equitable, now we whose names are hereunder written do agree to Pay unto the Treasurer appointed by the said Meeting, the several sums to our names affixed for the uses aforesaid. Dated the 7th. day of 11. mo., 1768."

There is another paper, the report of the Stove Committee to the Monthly Meeting dated 1769, showing the amount subscribed as above £12-7s-3d. and the expenses for repairs, stove, etc. to the amount of 10-2-10- $\frac{3}{4}$ s, the cost of the stove being £3-10s-0d.

Referring to the minutes again, we find that on the 30th. of 1st. mo., 1777, "David Gibson, Josiah Bunting, Abram Bonsall, Philip Price, John Horne and Benjamin Lobb are appointed a committee to examine what repairs are necessary about the Meeting house and Grave Yard and also to confer with those who have the care of the Grave Yard concerning what limitations and Restrictions are necessary relating to Burials, and report thereon to next Meeting."

This Committee reported at the next two meetings and were continued to repair the Meeting house and grave yard fence. No further reference is made to these matters.

In 1786, the lot upon which the present Meeting House stands being offered for sale, was purchased on behalf of the Meeting and "paid for", as stated in a minute, "out of Michael Blunston's and John Smith's Legacies left to charitable uses and to the Disposal of this Meeting."

A number of small legacies having been lost in the troubles incident to the Revolution, it was thought wise to safe guard these other sums by investing them in this property.*

After more than a hundred years of service this "Second" Meeting house was beginning to show the ravages of time, so much so, that on the 12th. of 1st. mo., 1803 "the Meeting, in deliberating on the decayed and shattered situation of our Meeting House", appointed a committee "to take into consideration the subject of Building a new one if necessary or repairing the old one, who are directed to confer together and unite in making choice of a suitable place for that purpose. Estimate what a House will cost for the convenient accomodation of friends, promote and endeavor to obtain subscriptions to Defray the expense and report of their progress therein to next Meeting." This committee, probably the largest ever appointed in the history of this Meeting, consisted of thirty Friends (Josiah Bunting, Thos. Garrett, John Hunt, John Hibbert, John Humphreys, Nathaniel Newlin, Edward Garrigues, Aaron Oakford, Benjamin Bartram, Jonathan Heacock, John Ball, Halliday Jackson, John Clement, Joseph Waln, Nathan Garrett, David Ware, Isaac Oakford, James Bartram, Israel Roberts, John Rively, Jonathan Owen, John Bartram, Philip Price, Joseph Ball, Joseph Heacock, Samuel Rhoads, Benjamin Lobb, Joseph Rhoads, Joseph Bunting, and Amos Sharpless) and, the matter being a very weighty one, the minute continues, "at the same time inviting all other members of this Meeting to attend."

At the next Monthly Meeting the 29th. of the 12th. mo., 1803, the Committee reported "that they had several times met and were in a good measure united in Building one on what is called the lower lot and were of the opinion that a House Built 45 feet by 60 will cost 3300 Dollars which is so far concurred with as to appoint the following friends to endeavor to obtain sub-

* In 1792 the balance of these Legacies with their accumulated income was expended in assisting to build the older portion of the stone house now standing on the front part of this lot. This was intended for the teacher's residence, and the use and rentals of this property have been at the disposal of the School Committee, since that time. In 1815 an addition (since torn down) was built and used for a Girls School and known as Willow Hall.

scriptions for accomplishing same and report thereon to next meeting (to wit). Joseph Waln, Thomas Garrett, John Hunt, Nathaniel Newlin, Joseph Ball, David Ware, and Israel Roberts."

At the meeting in the 2nd. month, 1804, the committee reported attention to the service "but the subscription not being filled up they are therefore continued and directed to provide such materials as to them may appear immediately necessary for advancing the work the ensuing season." Thus was begun the "Third" Darby Meeting house; the work progressed during the years 1804 and 1805, the committee from time to time being urged in regard to the subscription.

On the 28th. of the 11th. Month, 1805, "the Committee appointed to superintend Building a new Meeting House made report that it was nearly completed and is now agreed the holding Meeting there shall take Place first-day the 8th. of next month. Josiah Bunting is desired to give notice thereof at the close of the meeting for worship on First-day next."

In bringing this sketch of our early meeting houses to a close, I will read a few verses written by George Sellers at the time of the deliberations of this large Committee, which proposed the building on the lower lot. Their report, it may be remembered, spoke of a "good measure of unity." The feelings of the minority were doubtless voiced in these lines:—

TO THE MEMBERS OF DARBY MONTHLY MEETING

My dear unthinking friends, ah! why forsake,
This ancient spot by time and use endear'd,
If by this scheme foul jealousies you awake,
Is not a dangerous scism to be fear'd?

In early time the pious doner left
This pleasant hill expressly for this use,
If thus you slight the generous doner's gift
By numbers 'twill be thought a gross abuse.

Our Worthy ancestors assembled here
In holy love, and held communion sweet;
Their friendship firm, united and sincere,
Preserved the bond of social love complete.

Their faith was founded on th' unshaken rock,
In holy fear, with upright hearts they met,
Hence we descended from this little flock,
Will leave this hill with heart-felt keen regret.

E'er since our fathers settled in this clime,
This sacred spot has been the rallying place,
Where social, and where holy love sublime,
Have met and mingled in one common race.

And will you leave this much endeared spot?
Forbid it heaven, each feeling heart forbid,
Is every tender local tie forgot?
Are all our generous warm affections dead?

And will you listen to the strangers' voice
Whose hearts feel nought of this endearing tie,
Tamely accede to their unfeeling choice,
And leave this hill where sires and brethern lie?

The hill so long applied to sacred use,
Feels as a bond of union, peace and love,
A covenant between our sires and us,
A spur to virtue which each heart should move.

If when assembled you would feel at home
Leave not, for smoke and noise, this quiet hill,
If necessary, here erect your dome,
And rally round your fathers' ashes still.

There are affections in each feeling breast,
Which yearn towards the ashes of the dead,
Which by cold forms can never be suppress'd
For they from heaven's exhaustless source are fed.

For dear departed friends this kind respect,
Softens each feeling and each heart amends,
Hence those who leave their dead in cold neglect,
Feel small affection for their living friends.

The good patriarch Jacob, near his death,
Conven'd his mournful sons around his bed,
And strict enjoin'd them with his latest breath,
To see his bones laid with his kindred dead.

“There where they burned Abram and his spouse,
Where Isaac and his wife Rebecca rest,
And where my Leah sleeps, let me repose,”
These good old feelings still should warm each breast.

I fondly would believe there is not one,
Descended from the ancient settlers round,
But, unfluenc'd candidly would own,
That they preferr'd to build upon this ground.

Then firm oppose this boundless rage for change,
Which all our better feelings disapprove,
No stranger's voice should e'er our hearts estrange,
And wean affection from the spot we love.

When innovation has destroy'd around,
That old simplicity we should revere:
May this dear spot in ancient faith abound,
And virtue be perpetuated here.

ELEAZAR DARBY
(George Sellers)

12th. mo. 16th. 1803.

A Letter

received from our friend and former member

GEORGE S. TRUMAN,

read by

SARAH SELLERS BUNTING.

Box 4 R. 1, Genoa, Nance Co.,
Nebraska, 12, 7, '05.

My Much Esteemed Friend,

Thine of the 3rd is just received and though I may not be able to reach thee with this in time for your gathering, yet I cannot refrain from adding a word of encouragement from this, my distant home; my mind is carried back to the day when I first came to reside within the precincts of your Meeting. I was then a boy of fourteen years and of those who then occupied the seats in that house, so far as I know, all have passed to the beyond, except it may be Sarah W. Bunting, if she has been spared to meet with you. I know we are told by the wise man that we should not think the former days were better than these, but the preciousness of the feelings which I have experienced in the old house remains with me as nails fastened in a sure place, and a retrospect of them often proves as a brook by the wayside, now that I may be said to be standing on the brink of the river of time, yet I can look back over 70 years of my life to those days with great pleasure.

I hope you may be favored to have a satisfactory re-union and that you may experience renewed vigor to carry forward your day's work in exalting the testimonies which bore such an important part in the reverberations from the walls of the old Meeting House. With best wishes for you all,

I am your friend,

GEORGE S. TRUMAN.

Poem.

Written by ALICE POWELL SELLERS.

Read by MARY McALLISTER.

The glory of its hundred years rests on this house to-day
And crowns with hallowed memories the quaint old walls of gray.
Oh! plain and simple structure! we love thy every part,
Thy old associations cling close around the heart.
So many loved and cherished are now among the blest:
Their presence lingers with us from their eternal rest.
They speak to us in silent tones from out the fading past:
Prize well your noble Heritage and for its Truth stand fast.
Our fathers in this chosen spot built here unto the Lord,
That they in silence at His feet might wait upon His Word;
And still within these sacred walls the Lord comes to His own,
And by His faithful laborers the seed of Christ is sown.
Oh Faith! that in the olden time burned pure and clear and bright,
Be with us that we too may shine as children of the Light,
And emulate their noble lives and labor with their zeal,
To call away from all the false and build upon the real.
And may the stones with which we build, be chosen with such care,
That our own lives be strong and true as this old house of prayer.
Then let us hold our standard high above the taint of earth;
Our fathers bore it to the world and suffered for its worth.
And this old house, a stronghold true, a monument shall be,
To good old Quaker customs and sweet simplicity.
And as we meet together here to celebrate the past,
Behold! the glory of the Lord is o'er the future cast:
The harvest still is plentious, the laborers are few,
Then hasten to His vineyard, there is work for us to do.
And when the wheels of Time have rolled our years on earth around
And we are gathered to that Home where Peace and Love abound;
Then may the fragrance of our lives within these walls remain,
And help perpetuate the Truth in God's most Holy name.
And while upon the threshold of another century's dawn,
See, through the vista of the years, the Truth still marching on.

Recitation.

By a CLASS OF DARBY FIRST-DAY SCHOOL.

Twenty Third Psalm.

The following lines, written for the First-day School many years ago by its first Superintendent, Sarah W. Bunting, were then recited by the class :—

If dangers threaten, or if friends grow cold,
Let's seek to enter this true shepherd's fold.
There mid green pastures and still waters rest,
Cast all our sorrows on a Saviour's breast.
May this our certain place of refuge be
Thro' all the perils of time's troubled sea.
And when this scene of toil and doubt is o'er
And we are trembling on life's farthest shore,
May this sweet language fill each trusting breast,
And point us to a state of endless rest.
May all our earthly ties be gently riven,
And all our treasures garnered up in Heaven.

Reminiscences of the Early Part of Last Century.

MATILDA GARRIGUES.

This, being the First-day corresponding to the one on which the first meeting for worship was held in this house, has been chosen for a gathering of Friends, and others, descendants of those who occupied it then, to commemorate its one hundredth anniversary. Time slips by on golden wings and all those who were then active in the affairs of life in this community, and many born long since that time have been gathered to their fathers and lie upon yonder hill, where the former Meeting House stood. It becomes to us, who are left here a little longer, a matter of intense interest to look back over the past and gather from our Records and other sources, glimpses of the characteristics and doings of the men and women who were connected with Darby Meeting during the past century.

Within these walls Elias Hicks, "whose communications," some one has said, "were accompanied with a power and an authority which demonstrated the purity of the source from whence they were derived," often preached. On the 15th of the Eleventh month, 1826, he stood in this gallery and commenced his sermon with these words: "We have no new doctrine, nor new gospel to preach, but the same that was preached at the beginning of the world, to every rational creature from the foundation of it." Seventy-nine years ago, on last Fifth-day, he was again at Darby Meeting, and on that occasion concluded his discourse with the following sentence exemplifying the simplicity of his doctrine, "When we turn inward to the Light, and mind it, and obey it, fear is removed, because we come unto God who is love, and this perfect love casts out fear."

Jesse Kersey, a very eloquent speaker, John Comly, Edward Stabler, Deborah F. Wharton and many other worthies were frequent visitors at this Meeting in those days.

A life-long member of Darby Monthly Meeting has left this record. He says, "About the time of the unhappy separation in

the Society of Friends our galleries were almost wholly filled with men and women to whom my childish eyes were directed as to a superior order of beings, exempted from the weaknesses of our common humanity. Our ministers among the men were Samuel Rhoads and Joseph Waln. The former went with those who left us in 1827." Of Joseph Waln he says, "He was an amiable, tender-spirited man, whose religion was manifested in sunshine. Our women ministers at that time were Rachel Hunt, Letitia Ware and Hannah Oakford. The Elders, and those who occupied the upper seats were John Hunt, Edward Garrigues, Nathaniel Newlin, Halliday Jackson, John H. Bunting and Nathan Garrett. Two of these went with our Orthodox Friends. In the women's gallery, in addition to the ministers, sat Ann Lloyd, Martha Andrews, Mary Newlin, Sarah Rhoads, Elizabeth Waln, and it is believed, Martha Humphries. This is the order in which they were seated.

"John and Rachel Hunt were the parents of Gibbons Hunt, Rachel Longstreth and John Hunt, who at a subsequent period were recorded as ministers. Under the men's gallery sat Benjamin Bartram, son of John Bartram the Botanist, Thomas Garrett, Isaac Oakford, David Ware, with a leather strap buckled around him, Jonathan Heacock, (grandfather of the friend of the same name who at a later period was recorded as a minister,) and Dell Pennell, upon whom my childish eyes gazed in wonder as the owner of the longest cane I had ever seen.

"On what is known as the side benches, seated together, were our old friends Samuel Gibson and John Sellers, (father of our late friend of that name.) After meeting one day it is said that one of these worthies addressed the other with, 'Well, Cousin, I got to sleep first, but thee slept the longest.'

"Facing the gallery on the front bench sat Judge Lloyd, a very old man, father of Hugh P. Lloyd who died in 1876 at an advanced age, William Hill and John Lodge, (Kingsessing friends,) John Bartram (father of the late Isaac L. and John B. Bartram) and John Rively, 'Uncle John' as we called him, a humorist of the John Roberts order, who keenly appreciated a joke. On

the second bench sat Isaac Bartram, father of Thomas L. Bartram, and Clerk of the Monthly Meeting in 1827,—subsequently an Elder.

“Under the gallery on the Women’s side sat ‘Aunt Betsey’ Bonsall who was noted for her eccentricities, and lived to a very advanced age, ‘Aunt Betsey’ Bunting, who with much kindness of heart also had her singularities, Sarah Rively,—‘Aunt Sally’ to many of us,—Ann P. Paschall, subsequently Ann P. Jackson and a minister, and Ann Pusey, the mother of Elizabeth, Ann and William P. Pusey.

“Sarah Garrett, Mary Davis and Mary Owen were prominent members who went with our Orthodox Friends. ‘Aunt Polly Owen’ lived to an advanced age, and died at a comparatively recent period.

“Martha Humphries and Sarah Rively belonged to a class of women, now believed to be extinct, who were ministering spirits among their sick and suffering neighbors without distinction in regard to wealth or social position.

“Two old Friends standing in the relation of aunt and niece to each other, ‘Aunt Sally Fordum’ and ‘Aunt Sally Bonsall,’—attracted my childish notice in their travels to and from Meeting on account of their primitive appearance, and the peculiarly antiquated umbrellas, which, under all circumstances they invariably carried.

“Elias Hicks was a frequent visitor at the house of my father. In the largest room chairs were set, frequently two rows in depth, for the accomodation of friends and neighbors who came to spend the evening with him and enjoy his company.”

The same Friend continues:—“In the war of 1812-14 the rights of Friends were not perhaps so much invaded as during that of the Revolution, though seizures of property were continually made on account of their non-compliance with military requisitions, and two of the members of Darby Monthly Meeting, John H. Andrews and William P. Pusey were imprisoned on that account.

“Apprehensions were entertained of an over-land invasion of Philadelphia as during the war of the Revolution, and soldiers

were quartered in Friends' Meeting House at Darby, and also in the Swedes' Church in Kingsessing. Many years afterward in recurring to the termination of the the war, an old friend of the writer informed him that the most delightful music she had ever heard was the refrain of the disbanded soldiers on that occasion :—

‘ Don't you hear the General say
Strike your tents and march away? ’”

We have thus quoted largely from these personal recollections of one whose memory extended back into the early half of the last century, thinking they may be of interest to many, and serve to show that there existed among Friends in old times a feeling almost akin to family relationship.

Friends in this place, as elsewhere, were strongly anti-slavery in sentiment, and the grocers were obliged to keep a supply of “*free*” sugar on hand for the accomodation of many who kept themselves clear of the produce of slave labor.

Education was another important matter which claimed earnest attention, and two schools, one for boys—“*Buttonwood Hall*”—and another for girls—“*Willow Hall*,”—which latter adjoined the stone house in front of the Meeting House, were kept up for years under the care of a Committee of the Monthly Meeting. In the year 1854, John H. Bunting gave \$10,000, under certain conditions, which enabled the Meeting to offer free schooling to the children of its members for the past fifty years. As a recipient of this favor we shall not cease to be grateful.

Our own very earliest recollection in connection with Darby Meeting is of religious visits to families. These always brought to us feelings of awe, not to say fear. There was no cause for this, for they were made in gospel love, although we did not quite understand it then, but rather felt that if we had not been so good as we ought, it would somehow come out at that time. The one whose family visits were the most frequent was Ann P. Jackson, the widow of Halliday Jackson. She was a quaint old Friend, crowned with humility and love. It was her custom to carry around with her a large bag in which were deposited many things, apples, ginger cakes, etc., which she ate on her journey, and perhaps sometimes gave away.

John Jackson, Jonathan Heacock and John Hunt ministered here then. They were men who left their impress upon the community. On one occasion, the last named friend came late of a very wet evening to one of the city meetings, and being unable to open the gate, knocked loudly with his cane. Upon entering the house he walked to the head of the gallery and taking off his hat, shook the rain from the brim, and without sitting down, commenced with the words "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." From this he preached a powerful sermon. Well do we recall the natural eloquence of this man, who in his old age, after leaving this vicinity for his new home "on the banks of the Rancocas" was often drawn to attend Darby Meeting, the meeting of his early days; and how on these occasions even the people of other denominations, particularly our Methodist friends, flocked to hear him; how he told us of his spiritual struggles, often citing himself as "a brand plucked from the burning," and how he pleaded with his hearers to "come home" to that gift within, which alone can rescue the erring.

It would seem invidious to make mention of a few out of the many dear friends who within our memory occupied these benches, in whose homes we have broken bread, and with whose children we were on terms of loving intimacy, and of others who in the strength of manhood and womanhood more recently passed from this life, leaving us stripped and weakened:

"The flood of time is rolling on,
We stand upon the brink while they are gone
To glide in peace down Death's mysterious stream."

We know that God dwells not in "houses made with hands" yet are we bound to this dear old house by sacred memories. Here our forefathers worshipped. Ministry from inspired lips fell, some it may be on stony or thorny places, but doubtless some on good ground which has brought forth fruit. Many a prayer has been voiced in this house, and many more silent aspirations have ascended from tendered hearts. Here we sat by the side of our parents when too young to understand the meaning of the silence, albeit we were awed thereby. Here numerous marriages were

accomplished, and here too sad hearts have gathered around the remains of loved ones;—and here today within these walls hallowed by tender associations, we, their descendants, stand on the threshold of a new century looking backward over the past, it may be with tear-dimmed vision, yet into the future with hope, endeavoring, in our weakness, to walk in the Light by which our fore-fathers were led, and trusting in that Infinite Power which is “the same yesterday, today, and forever.”



BUTTONWOOD HALL

Recollections.

ISRAEL H. LLOYD.

Let us divide the century into two parts of fifty years each. There are persons present who can remember the latter half, for they were boys and girls then, and went to school at the old school-house near the grave-yard.

We can recall the ministers who used to preach in this house. Prominent among them was John Jackson, who kept "Sharon Boarding School" for girls. These walked from Sharon to this house with their teachers on First-days, two by two.

John Jackson was a small, slender man, and at that time was in his prime; a ripe scholar, a writer, a preacher, and an astronomer. But it is as a preacher we remember him best. His sermons were practical discourses upon every day life.

In those days this house was well filled on First-days. Sometimes a sermon was condensed into one sentence, as this "Let us think that God is our teacher, and eternity is the term of our tuition." At another time he said "I would much rather be known as an honest man, than be called a religious man." He would repeat verses of poetry, and comment upon them—Gray's Elogy, or some other poem. He was familiar with Scripture, and quoting the words,—“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?,” he would add, “an undevout astronomer is mad.”

In speaking, he seemed to be continually repressing his feelings, and appealed to the reasoning power of his hearers in a quiet and earnest manner.

“Though deep, yet clear; tho' gentle, yet not dull,
Strong without rage: without o'erflowing full.”

Against the evils of his day he spoke fearlessly, saying “And against these will I exert myself until this frail tabernacle slumbers in the dust, and this voice is hushed in the stillness of death.” He loved astronomy, and when weak and feeble was helped to his telescope to verify a calculation which he had made. His health

failed early in the Fifties, and a hacking cough gave evidence of decline. Still he kept faithfully at his post—"The spirit indeed was willing, but the flesh was weak." He died of consumption on the fourteenth of Fourth Month, 1855.

In contrast with him was Jonathan Heacock, also of Sharon Hill; a large man, a farmer, who frequently used the words "Yea verily" in his speaking,—a very earnest man.

Dear Uncle John Hunt with a green patch over one eye would stir our hearts to their very depths. In warm weather he would lay off his coat, neck-tie and waist-coat, and his entire frame quivering with emotion, he would call us to "Come home to the Father's house." He said of himself, "I am a brand taken from the burning." Possibly the greatest effort of his ministry was at the funeral of his brother-in-law, Levis Passmore. Later he moved to Rancocas, New Jersey.

There were many Friends traveling in the ministry in that day, of whom Henry W. Ridgway of Crosswicks, N. J., a most remarkable speaker, was one. He kept a school for boys in that place, was a friend of John Jackson, and very much resembled him in size and appearance.

Along in the Fifties, Mary Child, a sister of John Jackson, came to Darby to live, and was an acceptable speaker; dignified and impressive in her manner, of few words, but direct and well chosen. She and her husband, John Child, lived in Darby at Ninth and Ridge Avenue about twenty years, where she died one summer afternoon, sitting on the porch with the family.

About this time there were several men and women who dressed in plain clothes, broad-brimmed hats, and brown coats,—plain bonnets and shawls. Some of the customs of that day have passed away too. It was usual when a prayer was offered for all the men to rise and turn their backs to the speaker; the women arose, but did not turn.

There was a movable partition in the centre of this room. Men sat on the west side, and the women on the east side; and when it was lowered there were two rooms, and the monthly meetings were held separately. This partition was taken away in

1896, our meetings having been held jointly since 1892. The clerk's table was made of a part of this partition.

There were changes outside, too. The old horse blocks were taken away some years before. The tall Lombardy poplar trees being old and decayed were cut down, and the present trees took their places. One row of sheds has been removed, being no longer needed.

The old beech tree which stood in the grave yard should be mentioned on account of the many names carved on it by the pupils at "Buttonwood Hall."

Oh! how dear to our hearts are the scenes of our childhood,
When fond recollection recalls them to view:
The school-house, the grave-yard, the creek and the wildwood,
And every loved spot that our school-boy days knew.

The Meeting, the play-ground, the lectures, the lessons,
And he who was Teacher, were loved by us all:—
That plain little teacher, that excellent teacher—
Dear Halliday Jackson of "Buttonwood Hall."

Here and there have been notable friends who were loved and respected for their many good qualities. Among others was William Pusey, who with his two sisters were constant attenders. One day in speaking of our Society he said with quiet humor,—
"It takes rather a thin soil to grow a good Quaker."

It has been our custom at time of Quarterly Meeting to appoint a few Friends to preserve order and add to the comfort of the Meeting. On one occasion William Pusey being one of this committee, and seeing two Friends talking outside near the door after the meeting had begun, went to them and in a whisper invited them to go inside. They said "yes" but continued talking. In a minute or two he again urged them to go inside, when one of them throwing his arm around William said laughingly, "We will *all* go in." William struggling to get free, exclaimed half aloud, "I'm app'inted—I'm app'inted."

Coming more to our own time, among our ministers, has been Joseph Powell, who for twenty years, has been a frequent

speaker. In close connection with him was Peter Smedley (now deceased) who moved to West Chester. It is well known that our ministers are not trained for the service; they have their occupations, and preach from a sense of duty. "Freely ye have received, freely give," is their motto.

We must not forget our silent ministers, for we have had many who never spoke in meeting. We may be excused for mentioning their surnames, Andrews, Bunting, Bartram, Dodgson, Brooks, Hibberd, Rhoads, Maris, Sellers, Kester, Longstreth, Conard, Garrigues, Biddle, Gibson. Their careful, consistent and exemplary lives are fixed in our memory, and they may safely be called our *silent ministers*.

Still there is another class, our First-day School teachers,—each one is a minister, each class is a little meeting, and every lesson is a sermon. They may feel unworthy to be called *ministers*, and cry "*unclean, unclean,*" but they are to-day our *living ministers*.

Closing Exercise.

Recitation by Members of Darby Monthly Meeting.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW.

Earth's empires rise and fall. Time! like breakers on thy shore
They rush upon thy rocks of doom, go down, and are no more.
The starry wilderness of worlds that gem night's radiant brow
Will light the skies for other eyes a hundred years from now.

Our Father, to whose sleepless eyes the past and future stand
An open page, like babes we cling to thy protecting hand;
Change, sorrow, death are naught to us if we may safely bow
Beneath the shadow of thy throne a hundred years from now.

1805—DARBY MEETING HOUSE—1905

(An Acrostic)*

ANNA MILLER BUNTING

Dear time-worn house! One hundred years have come and gone,
And thou remainest still to mark another century's dawn.
Reverent and hushed, we tread the aisles our fathers' feet have trod,
Beneath thy roof in silent prayer we seek our fathers' God.
Youth, manhood's prime, old age, alike are gathered here;

Made one by kindly purpose, good-will and friendly cheer.
Endeared by cherished memories are thy dim walls, thy latched doors;
Engraved and worn thy benches rude, stained are thy rough hewn floors.
The dear familiar forms that gathered here to hold communion sweet,
In their accustomed places are no more. For them 'tis meet
No eulogy be said; pure lives, kind deeds, thro' all the years live on.
God has His own reward for such as these, and when a brighter dawn

His mercy crowns, their influence, like ripples made by stones on water
cast,

Onward will spread and outward in ever widening circles, and will last
Until the close of time. Old House! thy mission is not ended, 'tis for
thee and us,

Sure in His promises, to do the work His hand appoints, with faith that
thus

Each hour will bring it's needed strength, each day it's needed grace.

*The above was suitably engrossed and hung upon the walls
of the Meeting House at the time of the anniversary.



*** yonder hillside, where we all so often
Have struggled upward through our blinding tears **

1805

Darby Meeting

1905

ANNA MOORE BUNTING

One hundred years ago!—Through these quaint portals
 What thronging phantoms gather here to-day—
 Souls that have dwelt so long with the immortals
 We wonder how their shadows found the way.

With quiet step, and calm, enduring faces,
 Slowly they enter through the open door,
 Then moving softly to their old time places,
 Speak to our hearts of days that are no more.

Strong sturdy men—a hardy vigor bearing—
 Telling of days spent near to Nature's heart—
 And clear-eyed women, on their features wearing
 Some subtile essence of the world apart.

The antique garb—the dear old Quaker bonnet—
 There's not one left to grace our benches now—
 What steadfast glow of "inward peace" gleams on it,
 And "pure in spirit" hovers o'er each brow.

Yet from their eyes comes no familiar greeting—
 One hundred years! How far away it seems
 Since they fore-gathered near this Darby Meeting,
 Lived out their lives, and dreamed their quiet dreams.

But other forms come pressing near and nearer,
 They, too, have heard the murmur of to-day—
 Here are our loved ones, closer still and dearer,
 We scarce dare breathe, lest they should fade away.

From yonder hillside—where we all so often
 Have struggled upward through our blinding tears,
 They come—and with their presence fain would soften
 The aching memory of those long, lost, years.

A sacred stillness hovers o'er the Meeting,
 The sunset lingers in a golden glow,
 The "Peace of God" descends in silent greeting,
 Just as it did—one hundred years ago!

The above poem was not completed in time to be read as
 a part of the Anniversary exercises, and is printed by request.

A List of the Members of Darby Monthly Meeting
12th Month 1st, 1805

<p>Andrews, Martha (Bunting) widow of James Hannah W. Josiah John H. James Sarah Rebecca</p> <p>Ash, Mary (Gibbons) wife of Matthew Jane Sarah Hannah Mary Elizabeth Charles, son of Joshua Elizabeth (Pearson) wife of John Abigail Ann E.</p> <p>Attmore, John Sarah, his wife Mary Charles Marshall John</p> <p>Bail, John (son of John and Sarah) Joseph (son of John and Sarah) Elizabeth (dau. of John and Sarah)</p> <p>Bartram, James (son of the Botanist) Ann (his daughter) William (son of the Botanist) Benjamin (son of the Botanist) Elizabeth William Benjamin John (son of Benjamin and Elizabeth) Phebe (Lobb) his wife Samuel Elizabeth H. Isaac (son of Benjamin and Elizabeth) Martha (Laycock) his wife Thomas L. James (son of John and Eliza) Ann (dau. of John and Eliza)</p> <p>Bonsall, Mary (Bartram) dau. of the Botanist and widow of Benjamin Ruth (Fordham) widow of Jesse Sarah James B. (son of Benjamin and Mary) Elizabeth (Lummis) his wife Benjamin Say Henry Lummis Margaret (Hall) wife of Joshua Joshua Joel Sidney Hannah</p>	<p>Bonsall, Benjamin (son of Enoch and Ann) Elizabeth (Hibberd) his wife Esther Benjamin (son of Benj. and Elizabeth) Elizabeth (Cripps) his wife Benjamin C. Elizabeth (wife of James, the Miller) Sarah (Laycock) wife of Vincent William Catharine H. Thomas L. Ann (dau. of Enoch and Rachel) Reuben (son of Jonathan and Elizabeth)</p> <p>Brooks, Hannah, widow of Isaac John (son of Isaac and Hannah) Elizabeth (Humphreys) his wife Daniel H. Hannah Isaac Richard Rebecca John Humphreys William Elizabeth</p> <p>Bunting, Josiah (son of Samuel and Sarah) Elizabeth Hannah Anne Joseph John H. Sarah (Smith-Worrell, wife of Samuel) John (son of Samuel and Hannah) Samuel (son of Samuel and Hannah) Samuel (son of Josiah and Sarah) Mary (Busby) his wife Sarah Martha Jabez Grace Ann</p> <p>Clark, Rebecca (at John Williams in 1808)</p> <p>Clement, John (son of Joseph and Ann) Elizabeth (Oakford) his wife Isaac Aaron Oakford Ann John Elizabeth</p> <p>Cowgill, Joshua C (son of Henry and Elizabeth)</p> <p>Craig, Sarah (dau. of Letitia Ware) Ann (dau. of Letitia Ware)</p> <p>Davis, Samuel (son of Nathan and Hannah) Eliza (Maris) his wife Hannah Elizabeth (Hibberd) widow of Nathan</p>
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Davis, Hannah (Lloyd [Sellers]) widow of Lewis
 John (son of Nathan and Hannah)
 Mary (dau. of Nathan and Hannah)

Evans, William
 Lydia (Hoopes) his wife
 Phebe

Fentham, Priscilla (at Edward Garrigues in 1808)

Fordham, Sarah

Garrett, Nathan (son of Nathan and Ann)
 Elizabeth (Dunn) his wife
 Nathan (son of Nathan and Hannah)
 James (son of Nathan and Hannah)
 Thomas (son of Nathan and Ann)
 Sarah (Price) his wife
 Charles S.
 Margaret
 Thomas
 Benjamin
 John Knowles
 Isaac
 Ann
 Edward
 Samuel (son of Thomas and Margaret)
 Hannah (Davis) his wife
 Mary

Garrigues, Edward (son of Samuel and Mary)
 Margaret (Price) his wife
 Mary Ralph
 Benjamin

Gibson, Samuel (son of David and Mary)
 Mary (Price) his wife
 John
 Ann P.

Harris, Elizabeth

Hatfield, George (at Edw'd Garrigues in 1808)

Hayes, Phebe (wife of Richard)

Heacock, Jonathan (son of John and Sarah)
 Hannah (Pyle) his wife
 Hannah
 John
 Ann
 Phebe
 Joseph (son of Jonathan and Hannah)
 Mary (Humphreys) his wife
 Rebecca
 Jonathan
 Daniel H.
 Israel (son of Jonathan and Hannah)
 Benjamin " "
 Jonathan, Jr. " "

Hibberd, Hezekiah (son of Joseph and Elizabeth)
 John (son of Jacob and Sarah) ?
 Joseph (son of Hezekiah and Mary)
 Hannah (Bonsall) his wife
 Mary
 John
 Elizabeth

Hibberd, Rebecca
 Ann (Hill) widow of Isaac
 Norris
 Mary
 Hannah
 Isaac
 Ann
 Elizabeth (sister of Joseph)

Hill, William (son of John and Mary)
 Anna (Gibson) his wife
 Mary
 John
 Samuel G.
 William
 Humphrey

Horne, Phebe, (Swayne) wife of William
 Benjamin
 George
 Edward
 Sarah
 Thomas (son of William and Phebe)
 Mary (wife of Edward)
 John
 Davis
 Elizabeth Sermon
 Henry H.
 Martha
 Mary (Pearson) wife of John
 Martha (dau. of John and Mary)

Humphreys, Rebecca (Hunt) widow of Daniel
 John
 Martha
 Solomon (son of John and Mary)
 Mary dau. " "
 Elizabeth " " "
 Daniel son " "
 Susanna dau. " "
 John son " "
 William

Hunt, John (son of John and Elizabeth)
 Rachel (Gibbons) his wife
 John
 Rachel
 Abram G.
 Hannah
 Naomi
 Joseph
 Gibbons (son of John and Rachel)
 Hannah (Oakford) his wife
 Jamea (son of John and Rachel)
 Mary W. (Carpenter) his wife
 Elizabeth
 Rachel

Hutton, Moses
 Samuel } children of John
 John }
 Sarah }

Jackson, Halliday (son of Isaac and Phebe)
 Jane (Hough) his wife
 Jacob
 Mary Hough

Jones,	Sarah William Martha	} children of Gibson Jones	Newlin,	Mary Martha Ann Parker Nathaniel	} children of Nathaniel and Martha (Parker)
Johnson,	Mary		Oakford,	Aaron (son of Isaac and Elizabeth) Anne (Busby) his wife Isaac (son of Aaron and Ann) Hannah (Lloyd) his wife	
Laycock,	Mary (dau. of Thomas) William (son of Thomas)			Richard Aaron Joseph L. Isaac L. Benjamin Benjamin W. Grace (his wife)	
Levis,	Elizabeth (Garrett) wife of Samuel Margaret Sarah Oborn Henrietta William Esther (Pancoast) his wife Anna P. Seth Pancoast Elizabeth G. Mary (Levis) wife of John Rebecca (wife of Samuel, Jr.)			John Joseph Ann William Elizabeth Mary Charles Deborah	
Lloyd,	Ann (Gibbons) widow of Isaac James (her son) Susanna (Pearson) wife of Hugh Hugh P. Samuel Richard Charles (son of Hugh and Susanna) Frances (Paschall) his wife Paschall Charles Washington Hannah Frances Mary (Wood) wife of Thomas George Charles Pearson Susanna Thomas Wood Samuel		Ogden,	Stephen (son of Aaron and Esther) Hannah (Bartram) his wife	
			Owen,	Jonathan (son of Benjamin and Elizabeth)	
				Mary (Bonsall) his wife Abraham Elizabeth Benjamin Martha Jonathan Ether (wife of Edward) Norris (at George Serrill's in 1808) Ann (Garrett) wife of Henry Margaret Mary Ann Sarah Martha Beulah Thomas G. John	
Lobb,	Benjamin (son of Benjamin and Mary)		Palmer, Paschall,	Ann (Gibson) widow of Stephen Abigail (widow of Seth) Hannah Esther Stephen Ann	
	Mary (Ball) his wife Jesse Martha Thomas John James Benjamin Isaac Rebecca (Thomas) his wife Ether (Hibberd) widow of Isaac Ann Ether Asher } children of Dinah } Abraham and Dinah		Pancoast,	Lydia (Fordham) widow of Isaac Elizabeth (Lewis) widow of Joseph Susanna Jonathan (son of John and Sarah) Clement John Ezra	
Marshall,	Susanna (at Jas. Steele's in 1808)		Pearson,	Dell (son of William and Mary) Hannah (Hill) his wife Sidney Hill Mary Dell	
Morgan,	Mary (Butcher) w/e of Joseph Mary dau. of Joseph and Mary (Evans) Elizabeth d.u. of Jos. and Mary " Sarah " " " "		Pennell,	Hannah	
Newlin,	Nathaniel (son of Nathaniel and Esther) Mary (Stokes) his wife (and)		Polling,		

Powell,	Abram	Speakman,	Phebe
Price,	Philip, (son of Isaac and Margaret)	Steel,	James
	Mary (wife of Isaac)		Robert (his son)
	Ann		Margaret (his niece)
	Henry		Thomas
Roberts,	Israel		Mary (his wife)
Rhoades,	Sarah (wife of Adam)		Anna
	Hannah		Massey
Rhoades,	Samuel (son of Adam and Sarah)	Stokes,	Elizabeth II.
	Sarah (Garrett) his wife		Esther (Newlin) widow of Joseph
	Joseph		John
	Daniel Jeanes		Nathaniel Newlin
Rively,	John (son of John and Dorothy)		Mary
	Sarah (Corlies) his wife	Suplee,	Hannah
	Mary P.	Sullender,	Hope
	Sarah C.	Swayne,	George (son of Thomas and Mary)
Sellers,	John (son of John and Mary)		Miriam, (Foreman) his wife
	Elizabeth dau. " "		Moses
	Ann " "		Aaron
Serrill,	Hannah (Pearson) wife of Jacob		Sarah
	Benjamin		Miriam
	Henry	Thatcher,	Enos (at Sam'l Garrett's in 1808)
	George		Thomas
	Pearson	Thomas,	Samuel
	Thomas		Robert
	John (son of Jacob and Hannah)		Elijah
	Martha (Humphreys) his wife	Thompson,	Rebecca (at Jas. B. Bonsall's in 1808)
	Hannah		Deborah (at Aaron Oakford's in 1808)
Shallcross,	Catharine	Tyson,	Mary
Sharples,	Amos (son of Joseph and Mary)	Waln,	Joseph (son of Richard and Elizabeth)
	Lydia (Hill) his wife		Elizabeth (Stokes) his wife
	Emily	Ware,	David
	Naomi		Letitia (Murphy) his wife
	Hill		Sarah (dau. David and Sarah)
	Rachel T.	Warner,	Susanna
Simmons,	John		Mary (sister to Susan)
	Hannah (his wife)		Joseph (son of Charles and Martha)
Smith,	Samuel		Hannah (Paschall) his wife
	Elizabeth (his wife)	Williamson,	Alice
	Jemima (wife of James E.)		Grace
	Lydia (wife of William)		
	Tacy (dau. of Samuel and Elizabeth)		
	Ann		

A List of the Members of Darby Monthly Meeting 12th Month 1st, 1905

Andrews,	Martha B. James David B. J. Charles	Heacock,	Ethel Albert Henry Abner Raymond	Powell,	{ Joseph Margaret S. Robert E. Elizabeth H. Charles Henry George Ellwood George Roberts Edward R. W. Harry Ellen H. Mary D. Marietta Ridgway (Kirk)	
Angier, Bartram,	Laura Bunting Joseph D. George Edward { Isaac L. Emma K. Maris E. T. Ellwood John Henry * Anna Ellis Deborah W.	Hibberd,	{ Isaac H. Elizabeth A. Isaac Norris James A. Frederick F. James B. John Lewis Harvey Mary J. William Mary L.	Rhoads,	Elizabeth B. James D. Samuel D. * Mary B. Isaac H. Martha Sarah P.	
Biddle,	Lydia C. Lydia { Robert Helen C. C. * Mary C. * Helen { Clement M. Graceanna Brosius * Elizabeth Brosius	Hill,	Jones, Kelley, Kester,	Mary L. Bertha L. (Hall) Townsend Annie J. Catherine J. Joshua P. Morris Paul George Ridgway Frances Serrill Samuel Edgar Margaret D. Sidney B.	Schofield, Shreiner, Sellers,	{ Alfred L. Alice P. Joseph P. * Margaret Frances P. Wm. J. Ellison Ellison D. Mary Shaw Martha H. Rebecca Richard Henry Anna Hunt * Sidney S. H. * Anna H.
Bonsall, Boyd,	Sarah A. Elizabeth J. (Longstreth)	Kirk,	Knowles, Lewis,	George Ridgway Frances Serrill Samuel Edgar Margaret D. Sidney B. { Henry Bonsall Martha Elizabeth * Ida Boyd * Ella Verlenden * Thomas Boyd	Serrill,	Wm. J. Ellison Ellison D. Mary Shaw Martha H. Rebecca Richard Henry Anna Hunt * Sidney S. H. * Anna H.
Bunting,	{ Joseph, Jr. Sarah K. Morgan Anne H. Joseph T. Anna B. Elizabeth M. Mary G. George M. Anna Miller Lewis	Lloyd,	Lewis, Longstreth,	Rebecca C. Mary C. Maconachy, Anna L. (Powell) Malone, * Alice P. * Helen B.	Stackhouse, Sweeney, Thatcher, Thomas,	Sarah E. Cynthia D. K. (Kester) Mary H. P. (Powell) Mary P. { Davis Hannah T. Lewis W. Mary L. Sarah G. Albert T. { William D. Mary A. * Meta D. * Gertrude B.
Conard,	Mary B. Francis P. Sarah E.	Longstreth,	Malone,	Rebecca C. Mary C. Maconachy, Anna L. (Powell) Malone, * Alice P. * Helen B.	Trueblood, Webster,	Sarah E. Cynthia D. K. (Kester)
Doane, Garrett,	Eliza Martha L. Elizabeth B. Anna L.	Maris,	Maris, McAllister,	Joseph P. George E. Ellis John L. Mary * W. Lane V.	Welsh, Wilson, Yarnall,	Mary H. P. (Powell) Mary P. { Davis Hannah T. Lewis W. Mary L. Sarah G. Albert T. { William D. Mary A. * Meta D. * Gertrude B.
Garrigues, Gibson,	Matilda John Elizabeth Martin	McCracken,	Middleton, Morrison, Nowlin,	* W. Lane V. Edwin Charles Eleanor B. (Serrill) Elizabeth F. Charles S. Howard McCall Anna Mary Wm. P. (M. D.) * Rosalie M. Ellen B. (Bonsall)	Young,	Rachel T. (Yarnall)
Good,	Alice W. Jane P.	Morrison,	Nowlin,	Eleanor B. (Serrill) Elizabeth F. Charles S. Howard McCall Anna Mary Wm. P. (M. D.) * Rosalie M. Ellen B. (Bonsall)		
Hall,	Samuel H. Lloyd Norris Mery H.	Painter,	Patterson,	Wm. P. (M. D.) * Rosalie M. Ellen B. (Bonsall)		
Harkinson, Heacock,	Hannah A. (Hibberd) James H. Samuel John	Patterson,				

* Minor