

## HISTORY OF NEW GARDEN MONTHLY MEETING

NOMIPA

New Garden Monthly Meeting, at New Garden, Chester County, Pa. was established as a Monthly Meeting in 1718 to consist of the two Preparative Meetings of New Garden and Nottingham which had formerly been under the care of Newark Monthly Meeting. A group of Friends had settled in New Garden in 1712, and at first held meetings for worship in the various homes. A meeting house was built in 1714 and a Preparative Meeting established in 1715.

Some of the Friends composing New Garden Meeting were John Miller, John Lowdon, Michael Lightfoot, James Starr, Thomas Garnet & others.

A Centennial celebration was held in 1915 to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Preparative Meeting. In an address by Sarah Moore Cooper these extracts are taken:-

"Our earliest records seem to show that the land upon which this meeting house stands, and the neighborhood surrounding it, was patented by William Penn about 1706. He being about to return to England, left it in charge of his attorneys, Griffith Owen, James Logan, and Robert Ashton. The land was immediately taken, and in a few years several families arrived from Ireland, and settling there, gave the name of New Garden to their new home."

"From 1708 to 1712 these farmers attended meeting at one of the meetings under the care of Newark Monthly Meetings, but as their colony

### History, cont.

increased, John Miller offered his home for the holding of First and Fifth day meetings. A request was forwarded through Newark Monthly Meeting to the Quarterly Meeting to that effect. The following is a minute prepared by Chester Quarterly Meeting, third month 4th, 1713:

'This meeting considering the settling of a meeting at or near John Miller's do allow that a first and fifth-day meeting to be kept at John Miller's dwelling house, for this ensuing quarter or until further orders, the said meeting to belong to Kennett Preparative Meeting for the present.'

"In sixth month 1713 they sent another request to the monthly meeting asking permission to build a meeting house, which was forwarded to the quarterly meeting. The following shows the request was granted:

'Newark Monthly Meeting requests that the families of the meeting kept at John Miller's may have the liberty to build a meeting house near Michael Lightfoot's, which this meeting taking into consideration, do allow the same Friends of that meeting to do so, and not to exceed a half mile from the said Michael's.'

"The first meeting house built was of logs which was used until 1743, when the growing population rendered it too small, and it was replaced by a larger brick one, which is now (1915) the south end of the present one. The bricks in this building were said to have been imported from England."

"Until 1758 New Garden was one of the fourteen Monthly Meetings belonging to Chester Quarter. That Quarter being so large it was decided to divide it. So Newark, New Garden, Nottingham, Bradford, Sadsbury, Duck Creek, Hopewell, Fairfax and Warrington were set apart as Western Quarterly Meeting."

The New Garden Monthly Meeting house built by Orthodox friends

History, cont.

is located one quarter of a mile from the old one, and is a neat brick one built in 1830. In 1895 the minute of Western Quarterly Meeting states that for the better accomodation of the members of New Garden and West Grove, to hold all its meetings at West Grove.

New Garden Meeting was instrumental in the establishment of West Grove (organized in 1786 in West Grove township, Chester Co.) London Grove, Chester, Pa. 1793; Doe Run, Londonderry township, Chester Co., Pa. 1805; Pennsgrove near Jennersville, Chester Co. Pa. and others.

Chester Quarterly Meeting Minutes

New Garden and Newark Monthly Meeting Minutes

Michener "a Retrospect of Early Quakerism"

Matlack "Historical Sketches of Friend's Meetings"

Bi-Centennial of New Garden Friends Meeting House

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- Img 580-582: [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2705/images/40586\\_301745-01070?treeid=67013246&personid=42162011615&hintid=83182287645&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=hbW128&\\_phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&ga=2.44466020.1152945640.1595413530-535619041.1559066957&pId=649427&backurl=https%3A%2F%2Fsearch.ancestry.com%2Fcgi-bin%2Fsse.dll%3Ffindiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2705%26h%3D649427%26tid%3D67013246%26pid%3D42162011615%26hid%3D83182287645%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26\\_phsrc%3DhbW128%26\\_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2705/images/40586_301745-01070?treeid=67013246&personid=42162011615&hintid=83182287645&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hbW128&_phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&ga=2.44466020.1152945640.1595413530-535619041.1559066957&pId=649427&backurl=https%3A%2F%2Fsearch.ancestry.com%2Fcgi-bin%2Fsse.dll%3Ffindiv%3D1%26dbid%3D2705%26h%3D649427%26tid%3D67013246%26pid%3D42162011615%26hid%3D83182287645%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DhbW128%26_phstart%3Ddefault%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue) (Accessed 25 July 2020)