

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, DEER CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF ANTI-SLAVERY FRIENDS MINUTE BOOKS, 1843-1856

Collection #
M 0052

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Processed by
Chris Harter
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 small manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1843-1856

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Roy Dempsey, Marion, IN, and her brother Philip A. Boyd, Marion, IN, through Willard Heiss, 24 November, 1976

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: SC 2593, Society of Friends, Deer Creek Monthly Meeting of Anti-Slavery Friends Papers; F 490, Society of Friends, Deer Creek Anti-Slavery Friends Records

See card catalog under heading: Society of Friends

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1976.1107

NOTES:

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Society of Friends (Quakers) are a Christian sect with roots in England dating to the 1640's. Until the late 19th Century, their beliefs were distinctive from other Christian groups in a number of ways: their repudiation of pastoral ministry, their plain style of living, advocacy of women's equality, and their belief in the "Inward Light."

In the early 1800's, a large number of Quakers migrated from Virginia and North Carolina to Ohio and Indiana. The dispute over the question of slavery resulted in a separation among Indiana Friends beginning in 1842-1843. On February 7, 1843, an Indiana Yearly Meeting of Anti-Slavery Friends was established in Newport, Indiana (Wayne Co.), and some Anti-Slavery Friends established local monthly meetings. By 1857, the Indiana Yearly Meeting of Anti-Slavery Friends was discontinued, and most members rejoined the Orthodox body.

The Deer Creek Anti-Slavery Friends began monthly meetings, located approximately four miles south of Marion, Indiana (Grant Co.), on February 25, 1843 for those "residing within the limits of Mississinewa and Back Creek." The meetings were discontinued in 1857.

Wyllis Davis (fl. 1838-1875) (Wyllis Davis: Whitson, vol. 1, p. 654) settled in Grant County, Indiana, in 1838, along with his wife, Ann, and their children, Clarkson, Ellwood and Lucy. Davis was a teacher in Fairmount Township. By 1844, he was no longer a member of the Deer Creek Anti-Slavery Friends, but was later re-admitted to the Society.

John S. Harris (fl. 1834-1875) owned a farm in Marion, Indiana, in 1834. By the early 1860's, he operated a dry goods and grocery store in Mill Township. Harris laid out land in 1867 for what was to become Harrisburg, Indiana (named after Harris). He was married to Sarah (Thornburgh) of Wayne County, Indiana. The Harris' had at least one son, B.C. Harris (b. 1846).

Nathan Small (1806?-1896) was a native of Highland County, Ohio. He married Polly (Small) of North Carolina, and had four children: Samuel (b. 1831), Martha, Sarah and Anna. Small and his family settled in Grant County, Indiana, in 1836. They moved to Henry County in 1839, but returned to Grant County the following year. Small was an officer in the Grant County Agricultural and Stock Associations, and, in 1857, helped organize the Maple Run Friends Church in that county. He resided in Kokomo, Indiana from 1882 until his death.

John H. Rook (fl. 1868-1886), a native of Ohio, settled in Grant County, Indiana, in 1868. He owned a stave and flax factory in Jonesboro (Grant Co.), and was married to Anna (Shugart). Rook served as a Mill Township Trustee, and was a member of the Jonesboro Masonic Lodge and the Grand Army of the Republic, Wick Spence Post, No. 409.

Sources: Materials in the collection.

Atlas of Grant County, Indiana. (1877) p. 13, 24, 105.

Baldwin, Edgar M. *The Making of a Township.* p. 182.

Biographical Memoirs of Grant County, Indiana. (1901) 305, 395-396.

Edgerton, Walter. *History of the Separation in Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends.* p. 60-66.

The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. p. 1276.

Hinshaw, Gregory P. *Indiana Friends Heritage, 1821-1996.* p. 3-4, 137.

History of Grant County, Indiana. (1974) p. 314, 348, 579-581, 757, 748

Whitson, Rolland Lewis. *Centennial History of Grant County, Indiana.* Vol 1. p. 653-658

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two minute books from the Deer Creek Monthly Meeting of Anti-Slavery Friends. The minutes for the women's meetings date from April 15, 1843, to March 15, 1856, while the minutes for the men's

meetings date from February 25, 1843, to June 16, 1855. The minutes mention marriages, disownments, and activities of the Friends.

The collection also contains a handwritten copy of an indenture, dated 1875, between Wyllis Davis, John S. Harris and Nathan Small, trustees of the property belonging to "Deer Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends," and John H. Rook and his successors, which leases property in Mill Township (Grant Co.) to Rook.

Miscellaneous material, including what appears to be a record of payment listing names of Deer Creek A.S. Friends, and notes pertaining to the men's minutes, complete the collection.

FOLDER LISTING

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Women's Meeting--Minutes, p. 5-74, Folder 1 |
| 2 | Women's Meeting--Minutes, p. 75-141, Folder 2 |
| 3 | Women's Meeting--Minutes, un-numbered pages & back cover, Folder 3 |
| 4 | Men's Meeting--Minutes, front cover, Folder 1 |
| 5 | Men's Meeting--Minutes, p. 1-95, Folder 2 |
| 6 | Men's Meeting--Minutes, p. 96-193, Folder 3 |
| 7 | Indenture Record |
| 8 | Miscellaneous |
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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's [online catalog](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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