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Acknowledgments for First Edition (1962)

Abstracts of the Records of the Society of Friends in Indiana

In 1923 Edna Harvey Joseph introduced William Wade Hinshaw, an opera singer, to the possibilities of research in records kept by the monthly meetings of the Religious Society of Friends. Hinshaw, a native of Iowa and a descendant of a long line of Quakers, had an interest in his forebears but did not know how to go about tracing his family history. Mrs. Joseph (then Miss Harvey) was able to fan that small flame of interest into a raging fire.

Hinshaw engaged Mrs. Joseph to supply him with all the data about his ancestors that she could find in the various Quaker meetings to which they had belonged. It soon became obvious to Mrs. Joseph, and she suggested to Hinshaw, that with the money being spent to search scattered material, the entire meeting records could be copied. This suggestion opened a plan of action to Hinshaw. He set out to have *all* the records of *all* the monthly meetings copied with the view of publishing abstracts of the copied records. Not all the records were copied, but hundreds of meetings from the east coast to the plains of Iowa and Kansas were copied and sent to Hinshaw.

Thomas W. Marshall shared Hinshaw's interest in publishing Quaker records and in his "spare time" worked tirelessly editing and preparing copy for the printer. The first volume of their monumental work *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, was published in 1936. It contained the records of the meetings in North Carolina. Up to the time of his death in 1947, Hinshaw published four additional volumes. The Virginia volume, completed after his death, was published by his widow. The Indiana volumes were scheduled to be next in the series, but Mrs. Hinshaw did not feel inclined to proceed with the project. In 1948 the Indiana Historical Society corresponded with Thomas W. Marshall and Mrs. Hinshaw, exploring the possible publication of the Indiana material by the Society, but after considerable deliberation the matter was dropped. In time, the compiled Indiana material was sent to the Friends Historical Library of

Swarthmore College and placed in the William Wade Hinshaw index to Quaker Meeting Records. This collection consists of Hinshaw's unpublished material.

In the winter of 1960 the Genealogical Section of the Indiana Historical Society became interested in the project again. The Society decided to publish abstracts of Indiana records. The Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College has cooperated in making the Hinshaw Indiana abstracts available to the Society. The guidance and suggestions of Dr. Frederick Tolles, Director of the Swarthmore College Library, and Dorothy Harris, Assistant Director, have been invaluable.

Acknowledgment must be given to Mrs. J. E. McMullan, Huntington, Indiana, who did so much work in copying Indiana material for Hinshaw. Many others whose names are unknown to the editor also gave their time.

Indiana and Western Yearly Meetings (Five Years), the Whitewater Quarter of Indiana Yearly Meeting (General Conference), Western Yearly Meeting (Conservative), as well as individual monthly meetings have unhesitatingly made records available for consultation. Without this cooperation, the project would have been seriously hampered. The various custodians of the record repositories have been most helpful.

Thanks must be given to Hubert H. Hawkins, Secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, who has been tireless in his efforts to promote the project and carry it to completion. Mrs. Irene M. Strieby, Nell W. Reeser, Dorothy Riker, and Carolynne Wendel of the Indiana Historical Society's Genealogical Section have given suggestions and advice on editorial problems. Cecil Beeson, Hartford City, has been of great assistance in supplying materials. Also, without the untiring efforts and diligence of Imogene Brown and particularly Ruth Slevin in searching the original records, the editor would have been helpless. Brenda Bowles, with the patience of Job, was able to interpret our scribbles and jottings and set the copy.

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Lastly, I have heartfelt thanks for the understanding of my wife and the help of my son, which has made this task easier.

— Willard C. Heiss, Indianapolis, Eighth month, 1962