

Blue River Quarterly Meeting Feb 5, 1949

Held jointly with Chicago Quarter at 57th St

In the business session held at 3 PM Feb 5th, Miriam Brush served as recording clerk, in place of Agnes Hole, who was unable to be present. Albert Mills was presiding clerk.

Representatives were:

Oak Park:	Madison
Jeannette Stetson	John Brush
Martha Chilton	Miriam Brush
Maurice Crew, A part time	
Clear Creek	57 th St
Helen J. and Donald Nelson A	Erna Lowenberg
Ruth and Lawrence Ash A	Eurah Marshall
Edna and Andrew Wolf, Andw A	Garfield, Jeannette and Phyllis Cox
	Harold Flitcraft
	Gertrude Liepe

All were present except as otherwise noted.

Visitors included:

 Philip Fraser
 Merle Davis
 Robert Jones
 Albert Mathers

Russell Reese conducted a few moments of worshipful devotion in memory of Sylvester Jones and Frank Hadley.

After reading the minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting, Albert Mills, custodian of the two quarterly meeting funds, reported that the entire interest on the funds this year had been turned over, as directed, to the Midwest office of the AFSC, \$30.

Richard Eastman, Field Secretary of Illinois and Indiana Yearly Meetings, expressed the hope that Friends, rural and urban, would encourage young people to settle in small rural communities, taking to them skills other than farming. He spoke of the challenge in a small community, that the small town mind might be made an open mind.

Dick announced a Spring Institute for youth of highschool and college age at Quaker Hill the weekend of Mar 13, and the 1949 Young Friends Conference Aug 28 to Sept 3 at William Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa. He also said that FirstDay School letters, according to the New Zealand scheme, would soon be available from the Friends World Committee; one person in each local meeting will add a personal note to the religious material sent.

In a report of the Friends General Meeting in Evanston last October, Weldon Reynolds, chairman, reported that contributions of \$250 left \$57.50 with which to start work on the second general meeting, now tentatively planned for fall in McNabb. Edna Wolf expressed the desire of Clear Creek Friends to provide hospitality for this event. At the suggestion of Weldon Reynolds, a committee was appointed to suggest, at the evening meal, personnel for the General Meeting Planning Committee. This included:

Harold Flitcraft
Edna Wolf
Frank Hollingsworth
Miriam Brush

Russell Reese
Weldon Reynolds
Mary Figgins
Robert McGonigle

In response to a letter from the 57th St Finance Committee Blue River Quarterly Meeting agreed to payment by individuals for their meals at Quarterly Meetings.

Garfield Cox agreed to write a memorial minute for Sylvester Jones, to be included in these records.

The records of Blue River Quarterly Meeting now kept at Clear Creek are not safe there.

A letter from Albert Mills was read and is included in the minutes, in preface to naming a committee to suggest clerks for the Quarterly Meeting for the coming year. On this committee were

Martha Chilton
John Brush

May Jones
John David Wilson

Oak Park extends hospitality for the Spring meeting of Blue River Quarter, the exact date to be decided later.

An account of the activities of the Midwest office of the AFSC was given by Earle Edwards. He told of the suspended sentence and two years probation given Claire Street, non-registrant attender of 57th St, on condition that he work under the AFSC in India. This is surprising in view of the judge's previous actions toward CO's and in comparison to the average sentence of over a year in jail. The letter from 57th St meeting in support of Claire Street had evidently much to do with the decision.

A weekend conference March 5 & 6 at Evanston entitled "Peacemaking Today" will have as speakers Raymond Wilson, Merton Scott, Harold Chance, Russell Branson. Talks, discussion groups and individual conference periods will be arranged.

Clarence Pickett, now in Palestine negotiating with the Egyptian and Palestinian governments, expects to be in Chicago April 21st, to talk on "Quaker Statesmanship in our Time"

AFSC summer projects in Chicago will include a 5-day institute of international relations on the U of Chicago campus and an Interne-in-Industry program.

Albert Mills, Presiding Clerk
Miriam Brush, Recording Clerk

Albert Taylor Mills
255 North Oak Crest Avenue
Decatur 11, Illinois

To Blue River Quarterly Meeting from Its Clerk

As we face the business of selecting a committee to name clerks for the coming year, may I make the following statement?

Including the current year, I have served Blue River Quarterly Meeting as clerk for 15 years, that is, since June 1934. I have been absent three times. On one occasion a minute reads: "Tho absent in New Jersey, the clerk had arranged items of business requiring attention and forwarded same to the assistant clerk in ample time."

I have composed and copied all minuted [*sic*] into the record book, save two which were typed by assistants and made ready for pasting. With this session more than 150 pages will have been added to our permanent records.

Blue River Quarterly Meeting has been taken into four new places and into one new relationship, namely, meeting jointly with Chicago Quarterly Meeting.

In three places our Quarterly Meeting has been discontinued, at least temporarily, all three of them being rural communities. Two of them have weakened thus countering the tradition that Friends thrive in rural communities where association is intimate and the commonweal uppermost.

I have never submitted a bill for stationery, postage, or any other outlay. When I was unemployed, my fare to Salem, Indiana, was twice returned to me from the meeting treasury. This was not continued when I returned to teaching part time at \$50 a month, since the additional earning was thot by the treasurer to be sufficient to keep the wolf from the door of this modest Quaker. And it has been.

In our meetings less time is being given to the consideration of Queries than formerly. But this omission does not imply, may we believe, that we are overlooking our faults or that there is now no need for elders among us.

The clerk has become rather a presiding officer than a recorder of decisions merely. Earlier there was more speaking from the body of the meeting, where concerns often originated. Latterly Friends are likely to let silence imply approval. And scarcely ever is a clerk surprised by an outburst of spontaneity which puts an unexpected minute on the record.

Thanking you for the trust you have so long imposed, I am

Faithfully yours,

Albert T. Mills.

Quarterly Meeting nominators of a planning committee for the 1949 Illinois General Meeting of Friends made the following appointments and so announced them at supper time February 5th after receiving acceptances from these people representing the stated monthly meetings:

Lester Figgins, Chm.....	Watseka
Martha Chilton.....	Oak Park
Russell Rees.....	Chicago
Edna W. Wolf.....	Clear Creek
John D. Wilson.....	Clear Creek
Clifford Haworth.....	57 th Street
Alfred Ames.....	Evanston
Francis Hole.....	Madison

Memorial to Sylvester Jones

In the death of Sylvester Jones in Chicago on January 21, 1949, the Society of Friends has lost one of its finest spirits and wisest counsellors. Both Friends and the wider community have lost a gifted writer of religious essays. Fifty-seventh Street Meeting has lost the person who led the effort for its establishment. The range of Sylvester's interests has been so wide, his concern in each so deep and his labor so fruitful that probably none of us can view his life in adequate perspective.

Sylvester Jones was born on a farm near Tonganoxi, Kansas, February 6, 1875. He studied at the Friends Accademy [*sic*] at Tonganoxie and at Penn College, Oskaloosa, Iowa. There he met May Mather. Shortly after their graduation in 1900 they were married and left for Cuba to undertake the first work Friends in that country. They were the first persons appointed under the newly established American Friends Board of Missions. They landed at Gibara November 14 of that year and labored there for 17 years. Under their leadership were established a Friends meeting, a school and a community center. People of Gibara still celebrate each year the anniversary of the coming of the Quaker message. It was at Gibara that the Joneses' three sons were born and spent their boyhood.

Characteristically Sylvester devoted his leave from the mission field to study. In 1909 he was awarded a degree in divinity by the University of Chicago.

In 1917 the Joneses moved to Havana where Sylvester became Executive Secretary for Cuba of the interdenominational Committee on Cooperation in Latin America. He also became editor of a religious periodical, Heraldo Cristiano, and managed a religious book store and a publishing house. His service in this field did not end until 1927, but it was interrupted by a four-year period of varied staff work and travel for the Five Years Meeting with his headquarters at Richmond, Indiana.

Twenty-one years ago the Joneses left Cuba for Chicago where they located in Hyde Park near the University of Chicago. Sylvester became a representative of the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company. Although he had returned to business for a livelihood, he continued to devote to religious, civic and humanitarian activities an almost matchless combination of vision, sustained energy, good humor, sympathetic understanding, patience and friendliness. Locally he represented Friends in the Church Federation of Greater Chicago and in the Hyde Park-Kenwood Council of Churches. He served as President of the Hyde Park Men's Club.

From the time of his return from Cuba until his death he was an active member of the American Friends Board of Missions, serving with tact, insight and devotion. Three times he visited Mexico on behalf of Friends. He traveled to Central America. He attended several international conferences. In 1936 he went to Spain during its civil war and opened the way for the relief work there by the American Friends Service Committee. During World War II he helped establish and finance the Civilian Public Service Camps for conscientious objectors. His last morning was spent in Federal Court in behalf of a young man in trouble because he had obeyed his conscience.

Sylvester Jones wrote two religious books. One of these, Not by Might, is autobiographical and deeply inspiring. The other, not yet published, is a study of Spanish Monks and Mystics, particularly of the great Spanish missionary Las Casas. He has also written several pamphlets which will continue to inform and encourage Friends and students of Quakerism.

Sylvester's wife, May Mather Jones, and his three sons, Robert, Louis, and Wilfred and their families are all concerned members of Fifty-Seventh Street Meeting and active in matters dear to Sylvester's heart. The best memorial they and we can raise to him is the rededicate ourselves to causes which he served.

Dear Albert Mills:

As the Blue River Quarterly approaches it might be well for you to be informed as to the following facts:

As a committee Martha Chilton, May Jones, Agnes Hold and John David Wilson thought it best for you with your wit and insight to continue as our beloved Clerk.

Time and Place will be May 21, Saturday, at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church.

W. Clyde Allee will be the guest of the evening speaking on "Cooperation Among Animals".

Looking forward to another visit with you and Martha, I remain your friend,

Martha E. Chilton