

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BLUE RIVER
QUARTERLY MEETING OF ILLINOIS YEARLY
MEETING -- held in Champaign, Illinois
Second Month 7, 1953

The Quarterly Meeting of Blue River Quarter, Illinois yearly Meeting, opened with silent worship at 2:05 p.m., Second Month 7, 1953, in the World Friendship Room of McKinley Foundation, Champaign, Illinois. The minutes of the previous quarterly meeting were read by the recording clerk, Francis Weeks, and were approved.

The following representatives were present:

Clear Creek

Lucretia Franklin
Helen Jean Nelson
Anna Mary Wilson
Albert Mills
Martha Mills

St. Louis

Phoebe Anderson
Marcia Bauer
Walter Bauer
Doris Fridley
Marvin Fridley
Jean McClelland
Randolph McClelland
Suzanne Potter
Wolfgang Thron

Peoria

Kenneth DeSelms
Norma DeSelms
Eleanore Harker

Urbana-Champaign

Frances Beer
John Beer
Edna Benesch
Samuel Benesch
Nancy Brewster
Robert Brewster
Grace Fogg
John Fogg
Marion Freeman
Jack Kerridge
Janet Kerridge
Wilbur Luce
Bruce Meserve
Gertrude Meserve
Alice Russell
Elson Sims
Christine Stanfield
Francis Weeks
Rachel Weller

Welcome visitors from Fox Valley Quarterly Meeting were Alice Flitcraft, Harold Flitcraft, Erna Lowenburg, Eurah Marshall, Howard Marshall -- all of 57th Street Meeting, Chicago -- and Luella Flitcraft from Oak Park Monthly Meeting.

State of Society Reports

Urbana-Champaign and St. Louis presented written reports which are attached to these minutes. Clear Creek and Peoria gave their reports orally, summaries of which are attached.

Wolfgang Thron felt that thereports are more useful to the Monthly Meeting than to the Quarterly Meeting, but Grace Fogg pointed out that they are of use to the Quarterly Meeting also. Alice Russell suggested that the principal value of the report lies in the discussion which follows. Erna Lowenburg was concerned over the lack of mention of the problems of conscientious objectors in the reports. (John Beer reported that a C. O. counseling service is available to students at the University of Illinois.)

Bruce Meserve, Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting, asked if State of Society reports should be in writing? Samuel Benesch suggested that it be left up to the Monthly Meeting when and how to prepare reports. Nancy Brewster recommended that Meetings wishing to submit written reports should do so and that the reports should be attached to the minutes. Oral reports should be equally acceptable and should be summarized by the recording clerk and included in the minutes.

The following minute was read and approved:

Blue River Quarterly Meeting welcomes State of Society Reports from its constituent monthly meetings. If these reports are written, they will be attached to the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting. If these reports are presented orally, they will be summarized by the recording clerk, reviewed by the monthly meeting representative making the report, and attached to the minutes.

Minute Book

The clerk requested authorization of payment of \$10.37 for a loose-leaf minute book. The meeting approved.

Martha Mills announced that the treasurer's book of the old Blue River Quarterly Meeting has been presented to Harold Flitcraft.

Next Quarterly Meeting

There was considerable discussion of possible days, dates, and places for the next meeting of the Blue River Quarter. Some suggested the possibility of meeting on Sunday, or Saturday evening with a carryover to Sunday. Others felt that a Sunday meeting would not allow time for discussion periods in addition to business. Both Clear Creek and Peoria Friends offered to be hosts of the next meeting. The two dates discussed were April 25 and May 2. Harold Flitcraft pointed out that Fox Valley Quarter would be meeting April 25, and that we might want to avoid holding our meeting on the same day. It was the final decision of the Meeting to hold the next meeting of Blue River Quarter at Peoria, Illinois, on April 25.

Young Friends Conference

Elson Sims, as convenor of young Friends for Illinois Yearly Meeting, presented a proposal to invite ten young Friends from England and Europe to attend the Young Friends Conference at Guilford College in August. Illinois Yearly Meeting and Western Yearly Meeting are invited to entertain one of these young Friends. The proposal is for the two yearly meetings to provide travel expenses for one young Friend, to appoint two Friends to travel with him throughout the area of the yearly meetings, and to accompany him to Guilford. The estimated cost is \$500.

Eurah Marshall said that Fox Valley Young Friends plan to participate in the project. Nancy Brewster felt that this was a worthwhile project. After discussion the following minute was approved:

Blue River Quarter wishes to express interest in and approval of the proposal of the Friends Fellowship Council and the Friends World Committee to bring several European Friends to the Young Friends Conference at Guilford College, North Carolina, in August. Prior to the Conference each European Young Friend will visit a yearly meeting area under the sponsorship of the yearly meeting's young Friends. The Yearly Meeting will have the responsibility of providing one or two young Friends to accompany the visitor and to provide \$400 for travel expenses. Illinois Yearly Meeting and Western Yearly Meeting will share one visitor.

Blue River Quarter would like Elson Sims to initiate correspondence with Glenn Reece of Western Yearly Meeting to see how cooperation with them can be arranged, then to communicate with the monthly meetings of Illinois Yearly Meeting to find out what might be their contributions to the project.

Senate Cloture Rule

Albert Mills brought before the meeting his concern for the cloture rule in the United States Senate. Wolfgang Thron suggested that the matter was too political for Friends to act on as a meeting and that he would approve individual letters to senators. Grace Fogg felt that such individual action would be more effective, although John Fogg expressed the opinion that our letters should be saved for more important concerns. It was the feeling of the meeting that no official action should be taken by the meeting but that concerned Friends should be urged to write their senators.

Quaker Homes in Vienna

Eleanore Harker presented a request from the International Quakerhilfe for funds to operate two Quaker homes in Vienna. Needed is \$140. The Meeting instructed representatives to carry this concern back to their monthly meetings.

Friends Intelligencer

Martha Mills requested that the meeting authorize the treasurer to send \$5 to the Friends Intelligencer Associates. The Meeting approved. Harold Flitcraft urged that, in addition to the contribution from the meeting, individual Friends support the Intelligencer by becoming associates. Such contributions may be made through Horatio Wood, Treasurer of the Quarterly Meeting.

Hospitality

Wolfgang Thron expressed appreciation for the hospitality provided by the Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meeting, and the Meeting approved the following minute:

Blue River Quarterly Meeting thanks the Urbana-Champaign Meeting for its hospitality and expresses appre-

ciation for the work of those Friends who planned the Quarterly Meeting program and took care of the necessary arrangements.

After a period of silence for worship, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Francis W. Weeks
Bruce E. Preserve

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT -- CLEAR CREEK

The Report from Clear Creek was presented orally. Representatives should not only tell Quarterly Meeting about Monthly Meeting activities but should take pains to report back to Monthly Meetings what happened at Quarterly Meeting. A concern was expressed that we avoid stereotyped State of Society reports and that the Monthly Meeting not wrangle over the wording of the reports. Clear Creek Friends find it difficult to assess spiritual trends over as short a period as a quarter, it is easier to do over a period of a year. Monthly Meeting activities reported included a visit to Clear Creek Meeting by John Willard, a "mitten tree" as part of the children's Christmas program, "Family Day" at First-Day school, and an interchurch Christmas pageant. The month of January was devoted especially to the collection of clothing for AFSC. Meetings and First-Day School are well attended.

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT -- PEORIA

Peoria Monthly Meeting also presented an oral report. Peoria Friends find it difficult to get scattered families together. The time of Meeting for Worship has been changed to First Day evening, and Meetings for Business were not held during the past quarter. Eleanore Harker reported on the assistance which she and her husband have been giving a student from Africa.

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT -- ST. LOUIS

Our meeting in St. Louis is happy to have three new members added to its family, Frank Burnham, and Walter and Marcia Bauer. They are to be presented copies of the Book of Discipline, at the suggestion of the Advancement Committee.

Marvin and Doris (Spruss) Fridley were married in a lovely ceremony in Graham Chapel at Washington University on December 20. On December 21, St. Louis Friends were sorry to hear of the passing of Rebecca Beard at her home in Florida. She will be missed not only by close friends, but by those who knew her through her books, lectures and her life.

The three First-Day School groups are well attended, with the system of rotating teachers each month. The newly-organized nursery group, with children to the age of four, makes it possible for more mothers to attend meeting. The pre-schoolers, from four to seven are led in the knowledge of Jesus with stories, pictures, and related activities. The junior class, from nine to twelve, are

presently studying early Hebrew heroes, and constructing a map to correlate with their stories.

The study group continues to meet every other week, with the topic of Testimonies and Practices of the Society of Friends by Jane Rushmore. We find rotating leadership satisfactory, and even if the attendance is sometimes small, the discussion is lively.

Tentative plans are being made, through the Des Moines Regional AFSC Office for an Intern in Industry project to be located in St. Louis this summer. Although the problem of getting housing for the students may be difficult, we hope that the project will materialize.

The newsletter which appears once a month, is sent to distant Friends as well as those in and near the city, and several have expressed appreciation at receiving it.

Paragraph from Friends World Conference General Epistle: We believe the responsibility is laid upon each individual Friend in our world family, to make a new "Holy Experiment" in practical living. Our vocation may find its chief emphasis in our meetings for worship; in living a better family life; in re-thinking our personal standards of comfort and possessions; in working for peace in the political sphere, in the fields of economic or racial conflict, or in the day-to-day contacts of all of us. We must each begin just where we are.

--Jean McClelland

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT -- URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The new quarters in Hillel Foundation have proved to be most satisfactory in giving us much-needed privacy, self regulation of our schedule, and room for all desired activities. It has also been born in upon us that perhaps some of the noise at McKinley Foundation where we used to meet was of our own making. However we have appointed ushers to keep the noise down during Meeting for Worship and we feel that this has greatly facilitated a truly silent atmosphere for worship.

During the past quarter the attendance at our Meeting has been good and has been augmented by the consistent attendance of a number of non-members.

The adult class or Forum has been recently working on a planned schedule dealing with the History of Christianity with particular emphasis on the History of Quakerism. Our leaders are chosen entirely from the Meeting. This Forum is at present a concern because of poor attendance and seeming lack of interest in the topics.

Twenty-one children are enrolled in the four First-Day School classes which meet concurrently with the Forum at 10:00. The activities of the children range from stories and handwork among the younger children to a study of the Old Testament with the older children. The Meeting supports a ten year old Polish boy under the Foster Parents' Plan for War Children. The teachers of the

First-Day School attempt to further a warm relationship between our children and their foster brother by means of letters, snap shots, birthday and Christmas gifts. The teachers feel a need for regular meetings to help them clarify their aims and to work out an overall program for the achievement of them. Before the opening of First-Day School in September each teacher attempted to make a call at the home of each of his individual pupils. We have a concern that children of the various ages be helped to participate in silent worship. A concern has also been expressed as to whether it is advisable or inadvisable to foster prepared ministry to the children during the first part of the Meeting for Worship before they leave for the project period. While the members of the First-Day School Committee are aware of many lacks and of much room for improvement they feel that children take a genuine pleasure in coming to First-Day School and that in this we have excellent and promising ground upon which to build.

While some of our Meetings for Worship have given clear indication of spiritual growth and renewal others have lacked in spiritual depth. One evidence of this has been that some members who do not minister to the group vocally are also failing to minister to the group silently. All members of the meeting should be aware of the need for individual preparation before the Meeting for Worship.

We were fortunate this past quarter year in obtaining the benefits of increased intervisitation among our members and attenders and thought is being given to ways to deepen fellowship in the Meeting. The significance is not only in the greater number of opportunities to be with each other but even more in the spirit which has moved this activity. It is a healthy sign that the Overseers have been actively aided by other members in this work. A particular concern is felt for students, Quaker in either affiliation or sympathy; so far we have been unsuccessful, however, in planning activities to interest them on the group level. We hope that having them to dinner in small groups will help us to contact these students.

Our attempts at intervisitation with the churches of Vermilion Grove Quarter have progressed slowly. We hope to increase visitation with both Blue River Quarterly and Vermilion Quarter.

To help clarify our thinking and to broaden the basis on which we might share in the rededication of those who went to Oxford our "Little Oxford Conference" was held on the weekend of November 22, -23rd. Glenn Reece spoke on the Meeting for Worship roundtable and George Bent on the theme of Race Relations. Group study of the booklets in preparation for the World Conference and the special issue of the Intelligencer gave particular value to the discussion period, after each talk. We celebrated the tercentenary of Quakerism in our own community with a tea on the Sunday afternoon of the conference. We were fortunate to have two Friends from Clear Creek serving in Quaker costume. The attendance was good and it was especially pleasant to see Friends from other meetings of Blue River Quarter.

The committee of Overseers has been considering the meaning of

membership in our meeting and the structure and duties of all Meeting committees and officers. A more equitable sharing of expenses is being sought for within our meeting.

Our three study groups continue to keep the spiritual life of the meeting vital and to make our social relations with each other of greater depth but while persons of like minds work most easily together there is still need for sharing among the groups.

The Meeting is stronger but it has constant need of your prayers and the guidance of God.

--Grace Fogg, Chairman
Ministry and Counsel

STANDARD B & P "NOTEAR"

STANDARD B & P "NOTEAR"