

TIMELINE FOR WARRINGTON MONTHLY MEETING

1735 Friends are among the first settlers in York County, Pennsylvania. They worshipped in one another's home and continued to belong to Sadsbury Monthly Meeting across the river in Lancaster County.

1740 The first wedding in the vicinity of Warrington was held 8th month 22nd 1740 "at Ye house of William Garretson" when James Frazier married Rebecca, daughter of John Cox. The certificate contained the names of 36 witnesses.

1740s A log school that was built near the meetinghouse . Brothers Zephaniah and Elihu Underwood were the first teachers at the Friends schools. This was the only school in the area and was open to all.

1745 The family of Pennsylvania founder William Penn, warranted 29 acres, 156 perches and allowance of land to Quaker Thomas Cox, intended to be in trust for the Society of Friends; however, Cox procured it in his own name, for his own use. Cox was later disowned by the Society. Regardless of the land situation, Friends built a log meetinghouse on this property.

1747 Newberry and Warrington were a Preparative Meeting, with oversight from Sadsbury Monthly Meeting which was located 40 miles and a mile wide river away. Due to the long distance between the Meetings, the Friends at Warrington and Newberry requested permission to establish their own Monthly Meeting. Sadsbury Meeting appointed a committee to visit Friends west of the Susquehanna. A favorable report was received and liberty was granted to organize the Warrington Monthly Meeting "for discipline and affairs of the truth." Warrington Monthly Meeting belonged to Chester Quarterly Meeting (later known as Concord Quarterly Meeting) and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

The first monthly meeting was held in the log meetinghouse during 10th month with William Underwood as clerk. Underwood served as clerk for the first 28 years.

1749 The log meetinghouse burned and was rebuilt.

1758 Chester Quarterly Meeting became so large that Warrington Monthly Meeting and eight other Monthly Meetings were separated and formed into a new quarterly meeting known as Western Quarterly Meeting.

1760 Warrington burial grounds was created.

1767 John Penn, son of William Penn, patented the aforementioned land to 13 Friends and their successors in trust for the Society of People called Quakers. Today we hold the original deed for 29 acres, 156 perches and allowance of land.

1769 A new fieldstone meetinghouse was constructed. At Western Quarterly Meeting, Warrington Monthly Meeting reported "One new Meeting House built at Warrington near the old one." This is the "old part" of the meetinghouse we use today.

1774 The Quaker population continued to grow and in 1774, Warrington and two other Meetings located west of the Susquehanna (very far west of the Susquehanna, actually in today's Virginia), Hopewell and Fairfax, requested permission to establish a Quarterly Meeting of their own.

1776 A new quarterly meeting was established. Warrington and Fairfax Quarterly Meeting held its first session 3rd month 10th, 1776 at Warrington.

1780-1786 Benjamin Walker, a devout Friend who served as caretaker for Warrington for many years, kept a diary between 1780-86 that documented the everyday life and responsibilities of a Quaker as a pioneer. He oversaw the building of the addition to the meetinghouse in 1782. His diary has provided much insight into early Warrington.

1782 In order to accommodate the large attendance for the Quarterly Meeting held at Warrington, an addition was added to the rear of the meetinghouse. This is the "new part" of the meetinghouse. This enlarged version is the Warrington Meetinghouse as we know it today. Of special note is the work of a very skilled stonemason whose identity is unknown. On the exterior north wall, running from cornice to foundation, the mason spelled the word PRAYER (or it may be PEACE, depending upon your interpretation) with the mortar between the stones. The meetinghouse was a station on the Underground Railroad.

1787 The Quaker population continued to grow and it was necessary to divide the Quarterly Meeting of Warrington and Fairfax. All the Monthly Meetings in York and Adams counties in Pennsylvania continued as Warrington Quarterly Meeting.

1789 Warrington Monthly Meeting and Warrington Quarterly Meeting join Baltimore Yearly Meeting, permanently separating them from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

1862 Due to many removals to other Meetings as Friends moved westward, Warrington Monthly Meeting (composed of Newberry Preparative Meeting and Warrington Preparative Meeting) became unable to function satisfactorily. The situation was placed in the care of a committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Warrington Monthly Meeting was merged into Menallen Monthly Meeting. There were 64 members within Warrington Monthly Meeting at that time; 58 members desired to be transferred to Menallen. The membership of the remaining six was dropped by their request.

1862-1946 The title of Warrington's property was held by Menallen Monthly Meeting through its trustees. Services in Warrington Meetinghouse were confined to one annual meeting held on the First Day immediately preceding the fourth Second Day in September.

1889 The Meetinghouse and cemetery were in a very dilapidated condition. A committee from Menallen and Warrington raised money to improve the property, supplementing the deficiency by disposing of timber from Warrington's property.

1911 Warrington's cemetery needed a new fence and there was demand for additional burial space by descendants of Friends and others in the community. Ground was cleared, doubling the size of the cemetery with the entire area being enclosed by an iron fence.

1919 A permanent trust fund was established, with income to be used for the care and maintenance of the graveyard.

1946 Weekly meetings were revived at Warrington by local birthright Quakers, many being descendants of the founders of Warrington. Preservation, rather than renovation, of both the interior and the exterior begins. Since 1946, an annual candlelight service has been held the Sunday before Christmas.

1949 The meetinghouse was repaired and restored to its original plan. Today our building, which bears the date 1769, has been called the finest example of early Quaker meetinghouse architecture in the country.

1950-2021 We are a small gathering of Friends who meet each First Day for spiritual growth and sharing. Our attendance typically ranges between 8 and 15 Friends on any given First Day.

2019 Warrington Monthly Meeting commemorated the 250th anniversary of the construction of Warrington Meetinghouse with a rededication service and a presentation series.

2020 In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Warrington members designated a fund for local charitable giving for the betterment of our community and neighbors who were affected socially, financially and/or spiritually by the pandemic.