

Pipe Creek Friends Meeting - Chronology of Events

(Prepared as an Outline for a Carroll County Historical Society Program – July 2012)

1730 – Allen Farquhar purchased a 220 acre tract at called “Kilfadda” from the original settler, Tredane. “Kilfadda” was located at what is now the Town of Union Bridge. Allen became a miller near what is now New Market, and deeded “Kilfadda” to his son William.

1735 – William Farquhar moved to “Kilfadda” with his wife and young family. He had joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) after coming to America, and had married within the Society. Worship services were held in their home. William was a tailor among other things, and acquired additional lands over time. The area became known as Pipe Creek Settlement.

1757 – William Farquhar conveyed to Solomon Miller and Nathan Haines a Twenty-five acre tract of land called “The Unity”, in trust “to suffer and permit the people called Quaker inhabiting within the said county of Frederick (Carroll County was not created until 1837) to erect and build such and so many Meeting houses School houses and yards or places of burial as they from time to time shall think necessary and convenient for the worship of god, the instruction of youth, and the burial of dead” (Frederick County Land Records: Liber F Folio 205) (The property called Unity was at the intersection where Hoff Road meets Bark Hill Road)

1757 – John Woolman visited Friends at Pipe Creek on his way home from travelling through Virginia and North Carolina and preaching against slavery.

1759 – Pipe Creek Quakers are officially approved at a Preparative Meeting under the care of Fairfax Monthly Meeting in Waterford, VA, which was in the Western Quarterly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

1771 - 1772 – Pipe Creek Monthly Meeting was established to include both Pipe Creek Meeting and Bush Creek Meeting. (Bush Creek Meeting was located at what is now Monrovia) The meetings of Pipe Creek Monthly Meeting rotated between the two meetinghouses until sometime between 1874 and 1900 when Bush Creek Meeting was “laid down”.

1771 – 1772 – William Farquhar conveyed to Trustees for Pipe Creek Meeting two acres from a tract called “Forest in Need” for the construction of a new meetinghouse.

1774 – Trustees sold the “Unity” property to Philip Englar ...”Except a small piece of the aforesaid land called the Grave Yard containing about two perches in length and two perches in breath which is hereby reserved for a Burial Ground” (Frederick County Land Records: Liber BD 1 Folio 448) (According to oral history, the Bark Hill graveyard was turned over to the local black community for their use. Two grave markers can be seen leaning against trees at this location)

1776 – Warrington and Fairfax Quarterly Meeting is established to include four Monthly Meetings that were formerly in Western Quarterly Meeting. The four were Hopewell, Fairfax, Pipe Creek and Warrington Monthly Meetings.

1778 – William Farquhar died in the 73rd year of his life, and was buried in the family cemetery.

1779 – Report to Western Quarterly Meeting by Joseph Wright. “Within Pipe Creek Monthly Meeting, a lot of school ground purchased, a school built and school kept under the direction of a committee appointed for that purpose, and we find that there are several school houses built and schools kept within the verge of this Quarter, but think the intention of the Yearly Meeting not enough attended to in most places, and in some places persons qualified are not yet to be got.”

Signed on behalf of the Committee the 18th of 9th Month 1779 by Joseph Wright
Joseph Wright’s brother Joel was reportedly the Schoolmaster of the Friends School at Pipe Creek for about 30 years from 1770 until 1800. This was probably the first and only school in this area during that period. By one account the school closed about 1840. By another account it may have lasted until the building burned during the time of the Civil War. (See 1862-1864 of this document and my separate document regarding schools)

1787 – Warrington and Fairfax Quarterly Meeting is divided into two separate Quarterly Meetings. Warrington Quarterly Meeting is composed of Pipe Creek, Menallen, York and Warrington Monthly Meetings. (Presumably, Huntington and Newberry Meetings were part of Menallen and/or Warrington Monthlies.) Fairfax Quarterly Meeting is composed of Hopewell, Fairfax, Goose Creek and Alexandria Monthly Meetings.

1790 – Realignment of Quaker meetings between Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Baltimore Yearly Meeting occurs. Meetings on the Eastern Shore of Maryland join Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Meetings in the Warrington and Fairfax Quarters join Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

1797 - Allen Farquhar conveyed 1.2 acres contiguous to the Pipe Creek Meetinghouse property to trustees “appointed by the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Pipe Creek to superintend the concerns of their school institutions.” (Frederick Co. Land Records Liber WR 15, Folio 126) (I believe this to be the second of three contiguous parcels that made a total of 7 ½ acres for this school, as determined when the school property was leased to the owner of property on the other side of what is now Quaker Hill Road.)

1800 – During the 1800’s a number Quakers established and operated mills in the area.
Mckinstry

1811 – Jacob R. Thomas conducted a field trial of the Reaper he invented. Later, his cousin Obed Hussey took over the project, obtained a patent, and sold reapers in competition with Cyrus McCormick for a short time.

1820 ? - With the coming of a post office, the Pipe Creek settlement considered naming the town Farquharville, but William P. Farquhar declined the honor and suggested the name Union Bridge.

1825 – William Henry Rinehart is born of Quaker parents, is educated in the Friends school, and goes on to become a renowned sculptor.

1826 – “At a meeting of the inhabitants of Pipe Creek Settlement held in the meetinghouse in 1826, a society was formed for the abolition of slavery” (From a photocopy of a page from an unidentified book.)

1842 – John Elgar built the first brick house in Union Bridge (Source? Does the building stand?)

1862-1864 – According to a newspaper article published in 1937, The Friends School near the meetinghouse burned in this time period. The fire was attributed to someone who had moved into the building while school was not in session.

1874 – A post and rail fence is built around the graveyard at a cost of \$78.50 (I include this only because I have a copy of the report to the meeting that includes names of financial contributors.)

1877-1883 - The Friends Seminary Company of Pipe Creek purchased lots 4 and 5 of Block 10 of the Plat of Union Bridge. Apparently a schoolhouse was constructed, and school held. In 1883 the property was conveyed to the wife of one of the managers of the Company, Fannie Lightner.

1889 – Minutes of P. C. Monthly Meeting: “The committee appointed in 1883 to have the oversight and care of the Friends Select School at Union Bridge has made regular annual reports of its condition and progress since that time. There has been a school in successful operation every year, except last year.” The Committee recommended closing the school, and the Meeting directed the property be returned. (Friends Select School probably operated in the school- house conveyed to Fannie Lightner, because she sold the property within months of the date of this minute.

1892 – A stone wall is erected around the graveyard at a cost of \$800, replacing the rail fence.

1906 – Members of Pipe Creek Monthly Meeting established a corporation under Maryland law for the ownership of the Meeting’s property. Initial trustees are: W. Morris Haines, Gideon Smith, _____ and _____

1909 – The 1852 Bush Creek Meetinghouse, which replaced the original log meetinghouse, burned and was not replaced.

1934 – The meetinghouse was almost destroyed by fire to the extent that the entire roof, gable ends, porch and interior woodwork had to be replaced. The moveable center partition was replaced by a fixed partition that made a larger and a smaller room. People who arrived on the scene early were able to save the stoves and some of the benches.

1937 – A detailed article about the meetinghouse in the “Democratic Advocate” reported membership at that time of 18 people, which included family names of Haines, Fuss, Hoff and Hibberd. Membership declined from that period before beginning to increase again in the 1970’s. There are currently 25 members plus a number of regular attendees who are not official members.

2022 – Warrington Quarterly Meeting is scheduled to meet at Pipe Creek this May. The visual program for the Historical Society could conclude with a picture of the attendees that day standing on the porch and in front of the meetinghouse.