



Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter Volume 10, Issue 2 April 2014

Peace Testimony - Then (1777) & Now

Charles Spadoni

On September 11, 1777, the Americans and British had been at war for more than two years. Only a month before the British had landed an 18-thousand man army at Elkton, Maryland (via the Chesapeake Bay) and General George Washington had countered by marching the "Army" from Bucks County south through Philadelphia and Chester until it reached Wilmington. There it took over Wilmington's meetinghouse and dug in (literally) to oppose the British Army.

After an inclusive battle at Cooch's Bridge (that crosses the Christiana River near Newark), the British Army moved north into Pennsylvania via New Garden Township. Washington countered by moving his army north along the Brandywine Creek anticipating that the British would turn east after reaching Kennett Square and cross that creek at Chadd's Ford. On September 11, 1777 the two armies clashed. The British forces overran Birmingham's Meetinghouse that was being used as an American hospital and sent Washington's troops retreating past Concord Meeting toward Chester. A few days later Lord Cornwallis' troops, after searching for the retreating American forces in Aston Township, moved north along the Chester Road (Route 352) past Middletown's Meetinghouse to rendezvous with Lord Howe's troops near Goshen Meeting. Shortly thereafter the American and British forces confronted each other (near where Immaculata College now stands) until the Americans were forced to disengage because a northeast storm had made their gunpowder useless.

The members of Concord Quarter (then called "Chester Quarter") found themselves in the middle of a "hot" war that resulted in the decimation of their crops and farmland and expropriation of their personal property. (Both armies were like locusts consuming provisions and forage and leaving very little in their wake.) How its members dealt with the sufferings visited upon them (both by the war itself and the political environment that fomented that war) and the lessons that can drawn from those experiences and applied in our own time is the

theme of the program of Concord Quarterly Meeting that will be held on April 27, 2014, at Birmingham.

The program will have three parts. In the first, the



children will produce a short play that is based on the book [The Riddle of Penncroft Farm](#). The plot centers on Lars, a young boy who moved to a farm located in northern Chester County only a few years ago.

There he meets Geordie, a ghost who relates his adventures as a young Quaker boy during the time he found himself in the middle of the Battle of the Brandywine.

In the second, Charles Spadoni, will discuss what he found in reviewing the minutes of the business meetings held by Concord Quarterly Meeting and by Concord (in which Concord and Birmingham were preparative meetings), Chester (in which Middletown was a preparative meeting), Goshen and Wilmington monthly meetings from August 1777 through May 1779. (At that time West Chester and Westtown did not exist and Willistown did not function as a Preparative Meeting.)



In the third, historian Nancy Webster (a member of Swarthmore Meeting and an expert on the Battle of the Brandywine) will provide an overview of Quakers' reaction to the

Revolutionary War within their midst and then lead a discussion of whether what they did and wrote at that time has any applicability to how we modern Quakers treat the Peace Testimony in a world in which our government perpetrates continual warfare abroad in its unending quest for so-called national security.

Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham on April 27 "Concord Quarterly Meeting And The Peace Testimony In 1777 And Now"

Program grows out of the Meeting's response to the local township's plans to promote the Battle of the Brandywine this May.

- A young person's play about a Quaker ghost who tells tales of his experience at the battle
- A review of issues about the war from the pages of meetings' minutes at the time.
- A historian's account of the problems Friends faced in the Revolution and what we do today with similar issues.

PYM Long-Range Plan, 2015-2020

The Long-Range Planning Group (LRPG) will bring a 5-year plan for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to Annual Sessions this coming July, and Friends in their monthly and quarterly meetings are asked to become familiar with its proposals and take part in the decision to approve it.

Why has PYM undertaken this process?

In 2011 the Yearly Meeting decided it was time to “take stock.” It had reduced its budget and staff significantly in response to the financial crisis of 2008 and recognized the need to simplify its organizational structure, which seemed rigid and out of date to the next generation.

Membership in the Religious Society of Friends is aging and not very diverse, and volunteerism is down. Younger Friends often don’t find what they are looking for in our monthly meetings. They seek spiritually deepening experiences, loving community and service in which they learn things and make a difference -- like older Friends do -- but they have less time for committee work and property maintenance. Younger Friends expect to do committee work with the same technologies they use in their jobs and personal lives, preferably without leaving home or work place. They seek a worship community that nourishes families with children.

Friends struggle along with other liberal faith traditions to be relevant in today’s rapidly changing society. As we plan, PYM Friends need to decide what to be sure to carry forward and what we need to let go of in order to move toward the future that is seeking to emerge.

What is the 5-year plan?

The plan describes a vision for the future of our Yearly Meeting and six strategic directions (goals with action

steps) that help move us toward the vision. The plan will take some time to implement, and its pieces will be evaluated for effectiveness over time and adjustments made as needed.



A Long Range Planning Group working session

and sustaining the fabric of Quaker life in our spiritual community. Other goals include putting resources into helping meetings be vibrant, new ways to gather in community, connecting Friends through effective communications and technologies, speaking out about our faith, and recommitment to using best practices in all aspects of our worship, work and witness.

The Long-Range Plan for our Yearly Meeting can be read at <http://www.pym.org/long-range-planning-group> after April 12. At business meeting at April Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham I will be presenting more information on this plan with time available for questions.

Sallie Jones, PYM Long-Range Planning Group member and also a member of Birmingham Meeting: salliebjones@gmail.com.

The simpler structure includes two councils, one to oversee administrative functions of the PYM organization and one to focus on strengthening

Birmingham’s Ruth Passmore Young, Sewer, Quilter, & Land Mine Remover



Ruth Passmore Young, a life-long member of Birmingham Meeting, has a passion for sewing and quilting. In 1990, when Birmingham celebrated the 300th anniversary of its founding, Ruth not only sewed one of the squares of the commemorative quilt that hangs in the East Room of the meetinghouse (her square depicts William Penn and a Native American), but also she sewed together all of the squares that make up the quilt. So when Birmingham’s Peace Center decided to raise money to purchase landmine detectors for use by the United Nations to clear landmines around the world, Ruth decided to use her sewing skills to produce purses that she could sell to raise money for that purpose. Each purse, which is 6.5” wide and 7.5” long, is made out of donated fabric and has a draw string. Over the past three years Ruth has sold over 150 at \$10 each, mainly to members of Birmingham or to others who have attended Birmingham’s annual chicken barbecue or turkey supper (now harvest buffet). In addition, Ruth has had a great deal of success selling them to members of her

bowling club. Ruth’s largest single sale to one person was 10 purses. (Wife to Husband: “Honey, how much cash do you have? Husband: “\$100.” Wife to Ruth: “I’ll take 10.”) Ruth has about 80 purses remaining in inventory along with some donated material with which to make more of them. She plans to continue to sew and sell purses until that material is exhausted. So, in effect, Ruth has begun to wind down her operation. If you have an interest in learning how Ruth makes those purses or would like to purchase one, you can contact her at 610-436-0489. – Charles Spadoni

Concord Quarterly Meeting’s Newsletter is published four times a year: January, April, July and October. Deadlines for submissions: the 15th of December, March, June, and September. E-mail submissions to concordquarter@pym.org.

A Spiritually Led Quaker Decision Making Workshop

On Saturday, March 22, about 30 Friends and attenders from Concord Quarter and other Quarters were blessed to hear stories, practical tips and spiritual practices that breathed new meaning into the Meeting for Worship with attention to Business. Deborah Fisch, a member of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and associate secretary for Ministries of FGC, enveloped us in a loving web of support for a practice which many of us in our Liberal tradition can find burdensome. By the end of our four hours together many of us felt gathered into a spiritual location that we hadn't thought existed.



Photo credit: Phil Anthony

Deborah spoke with a small fire for her experience as both clerk and participant in her Meeting's and Yearly Meeting's business sessions. From the mundane (Should we carpet the floor or refinish it?) to the profound (One Friend stood in the way of the Yearly Meeting approving same gender marriage endorsement when the whole body was moving in the other direction) Deborah had a knack for instilling a spiritual significance beneath all the

incidents, showing how each prepared Friends to "practice their love for one another" through the Meeting for Worship with attention to Business.

There were the practical tips for making us closer with one another, which is her fundamental source for making the business of Friends stronger. Here's one which she saw

practiced in a Monthly Meeting. Once a month have one person bring in a query for all the members of the meeting to respond to. Let each person go off by herself or himself and worship with the query in mind, and in the last few minutes have everyone write down their responses. Then let them share their responses with one another in small groups. Do that each month and over time you will find that the questions get deeper and the participants get closer to one another.

Here is a suggestion for members in the body of the meeting to help the clerk during a discussion. "Listen to the wisdom of others and leave space to hear God's leading." Translation: spend more time listening to the other, less time thinking of your response and allow a TIME space to occur before speaking your own leading!

Do you wrestle with your responsibility to speak given that we are not called to speak if we are not led? Here is the process that is actually happening: You are testing God's call to speak with what the spirit in your heart is telling you. When the two are in alignment then the decision to speak is sound.

There was much more we heard during this session than can fit into this article. There were thoughts on committee interaction, on younger Friends participation, on standing in the way, and on the joy of the clerk as she sees love percolating through a business session. If you read this and were not able to attend, know that Deborah Fisch is a Friend who will speak Truth to your condition if ever you have the opportunity to settle with her in worship and be blessed by her guidance and ministry. – *Rich Ailes*

Concord Quarterly Meeting Coordinator Report

From time to time, I have been asked how I am enjoying being Coordinator. My response has always been the same: I like being paid to do what I enjoy doing - facilitating the operations of Concord Quarterly Meeting.

It all started with a rush: getting out the January newsletter that Rich Ailes had prepared. I did not realize the amount of time that went into arranging for it to get printed and then folding it, sealing it and mailing it to 189 people. My hat is off to Beth Lawn who used to mail over 300 newsletters before the use of email reduced the amount of time spent on mailing hard copy.

We had a wonderful Quarterly Meeting held at Wilmington on January 26 at which three of our young adults – Brigitte Burger (Concord), Zachary Dutton (Wilmington) and Todd Krasnai (West Chester) – helped us consider many of the issues that they had dealt with during the three-day gathering called "Visioning New Fire" held at the Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England last October.

For the fourth year in a row, we held a square dance (on February 22). Like last year, it was held in Willistown's large social room that was filled with at

least 40 people promenading and do-si-do-ing.

The first quarter was capped off with Deborah's Fisch's workshop on the Joys of Quaker decision making that was held on March 22. That workshop had been in the works for 10 months and was the result of a lot of hard work by Rich Ailes (Middletown), Tom Woodward (Goshen) and Gwynne Ormsby (Birmingham).

Birmingham is hosting the April 27 Quarterly Meeting. The religious education committee has been working away to prepare a children's program that includes the performance of a play about a Quaker family during the Battle of the Brandywine.

Zachary Dutton (Western Quarter's Coordinator) and I are working on an effort to get middle school and high students to attend Caln QM's program at Camp Swatara, May 2-4. He and I will be accompanying those young people throughout the weekend event, renting a van for transportation if needed.

As always, if you have issues about the Quarter you would like to discuss with me, please feel free to contact me at either concordquarter@pym.org or 610-256-3572. *Charles Spadoni* Coordinator

Concord Quarterly Meeting

April 27, 2014

Birmingham Monthly Meeting

8:15-8:30	Sign-in
8:30-9:45	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
10:00-11:15	Meeting for Worship with Birmingham Meeting
11:15-11:30	Announcements and break
11:30-12:30	Intergenerational Program

Concord Quarterly Meeting & The Peace Testimony In 1777 & Now

Birmingham Township is reliving the Battle of the Brandywine on May 17 and 18 at Sandy Hollow Park, a township-owned park located near Birmingham Meeting. In response the Meeting has prepared an extraordinary program examining the impact of the battle and the war on the local Quaker community and what it means for our Peace Testimony today.

- A young person's play about a Quaker ghost who tells tales of his experience at the battle

Bring your children and they can participate in the Play!

- A review of issues about the war from the pages of meetings' minutes at the time.

Hear about the goings on at the time from the actual Quaker minute books.

- An historian's account of the problems Friends faced at the time and what we face now.

Hear Quaker Historian Nancy Webster, report on the Friends reaction then and how we might handle our country's war mentality today.

12:30-1:00	Lunch (provided by Birmingham; donations to RSWR accepted)
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Middle School and Children's Program

8:30-10:00	Crafts making to support the Play
10:00-10:30	Join parents for Opening Exercises and the first 15 minutes of MFW
10:30-11:30	Preparation for the Play (based on <u>The Riddle of Penncroft Farm</u>)
11:30-12:30	Intergenerational Program (see above)
12:30-1:00	Lunch with parents

Note: Children and youth may join in at any time during the morning. Childcare is available for the youngest beginning at 8:30.

Directions: Located at 1245 S. Birmingham Rd., West Chester PA 19382. From Rte. 202 take Rte. 926 west; go left at Birmingham Rd; look for the Meetinghouse on the left.

For more info and a map to the meeting go to <http://www.concordquarter.org>

Concord Quarterly Meeting Calendar of Events

- Apr 5 **"Christ as our Inward Teacher"**
a workshop on Quaker Faith for Today with Ralph Greene
Saturday 10 AM to 1 PM – Middletown Meeting
<http://www.middletownquakers.org/quaker-ministry-workshop/>
- Apr 9 **The Hickman: Presentation by Maureen Hughes** on the current status of the real estate market in Chester County. Free and open to the public but advanced registration is required. Contact Barbara Leventon at bleventon@thehickman.org or 484-760-6401
- Apr 13 **Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee**
7:30 pm at The Hickman
- Apr 19 **Stewardship of Financial Resources Thread Gathering**
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM - Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
<http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/stewardship-of-financial-resources-thread-gathering/>
- Apr 26 **Peace & Social Concerns Thread Gathering**
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM - Reading Meeting
<http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/peace-social-concerns-thread-gathering/>
- Apr 26 **The Hickman Spring Clean-Up**
Volunteers needed; Continental Breakfast Provided; For more information Contact Jen Harris at 484-760-6306 or jharris@thehickman.org
- Apr 26 **Westtown Meeting's Environmental Film Series: "Chasing Ice"**
<http://www.westtown.monthlymeeting.net/>
at 7 PM - 1019 Ashley Road, West Chester, PA
- Apr 27 **Concord Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham**
8:15 AM to 1 PM
<http://concordquarter.org/nextqm-pastqm/2014/1/26/next-quarterly-meeting-at-birmingham-april-27-2014>
- May 2-4 **Concord/Western Quarter Middle School/Young Friends to Camp Swatara**
<http://concordquarter.org/camp-swatara-weekend/>
- TBD **LOOK FORWARD TO TUBING ON THE BRANDYWINE THIS SUMMER.**
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Concord Quarterly Meeting

Held at Wilmington Monthly Meeting - January 26, 2014 - Minutes

Opening Worship: The meeting opened with a period of worship at 8:30 am.

Welcome: The clerk welcomed those present and especially Leslie Leonard (Birmingham), Pam Leland and Reena Van Oot (London Grove), and Kerry Lynn, Aaron, Marissa, Jocie, Livia, Steven, and Stacey Resnik (Goshen), all of whom were attending Concord Quarterly Meeting for Business for the first time. Representatives were present from all the Quarter's monthly meetings save for Willistown.

Introduction of new Coordinator (Rich Ailes, Middletown): The clerk reported that **Charlie Spadoni** has been selected as the new Quarter Coordinator and has begun service in that position. The meeting enthusiastically welcomed the appointment.

Treasurer's Report (Bruce James, Westtown): The full report is appended to the official copy of these minutes. The overview is attached to the web version of these minutes.

In order for our new coordinator to fulfill his duties, the Meeting minuted: "The Treasurer shall establish a

second checking account for coordinator expenses with Bruce James, Rich Ailes and Charles Spadoni as signers on the account. This account shall allow the Coordinator (Charles Spadoni) to write checks and use a Credit/Debit Card to pay for expenses." The account should maintain a balance of no more than \$300.

In the interim period when the Quarter was without a coordinator, funds continued to come to the treasurer to support the coordinator's position. Planning Committee has directed the treasurer to maintain a coordinator reserve fund of 6 months to support any cash flow needs for the position and to refund to the Monthly Meetings any payments in excess of this amount.

A request was made for a comparison of this year's financials with those of last year at this time. These will be provided later. The meeting accepted the report presented and expressed its appreciation to the Treasurer.

Coordinator's Report (Charlie Spadoni, coordinator): The written report was received with appreciation and is attached to these minutes. A full set of activities is planned for this winter and spring. The current issue of the Quarterly Meeting newsletter was produced by Rich Ailes, to whom the meeting expressed its appreciation.

Tuition Fund Report (Charlie Spadoni): The fund is dispersing support to 13 or 14 Concord Quarter students attending Friends Schools in 2013/2014. The current application form for the next school year is available on our website at <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Tuition> with a deadline of Feb 15, 2014.

Joys and Challenges for Wilmington and Goshen Monthly Meetings: David Scott presented the state of the meeting report for Wilmington Monthly Meeting and Kerry Lynn Resnick did the same for Goshen Meeting. Both reports are appended to these minutes.

Thomas Swain's minute of travel for trip to England and Denmark (Rich Ailes): Thomas asked the Quarter to consider a travel minute for his planned service opportunities at Woodbrooke (February 8-9; 9- 11) on Spirit Given Gifts, a workshop for Kindlers at Friends House in London February 15, service as the keynote speaker at Denmark Yearly Meeting, March 28-30, and two or three other opportunities as way opens for the remainder of his time through until April 2. All of this is in line with the ministry that he has offered at other times among British and Nordic Friends. Middletown Meeting has written a minute for this travel in the ministry to Europe. Concord Quarterly Meeting agreed to endorse this minute and wished Thomas Swain well on his trip.

Minute of Appreciation for grant from Pemberton Fund (Rich Ailes): Concord Quarterly Meeting minutes its deep appreciation for the PYM Pemberton Fund which provided a grant of \$3049 that supported 3 of our Quarterly Meeting Friends to attend the Visioning New Fire conference in the United Kingdom in October 2013. The Quarter especially appreciates the Pemberton committee's flexibility in handling our application for assistance as a Quarterly Meeting request which facilitated our ability to finance this experience in a timely manner.

Update on Thomas Brown Endowment Fund (Rich Ailes): In response to a request for Concord Quarterly Meeting to serve as a Secondary Steward to a proposed Thomas S. Brown Endowed Chair in Faith and Practice Fund, an ad hoc committee has been formed to rework some of the language of the contract. The members of this group are Charlie Spadoni and Amy Brooks both from Birmingham, representing the Quarterly Meeting and Marc Dear, Bruce Harrison and Peter Lane representing Westtown Meeting. They will meet with representatives of the fund proposal with the purpose of revising the contract that will be brought to both bodies at a future date.

Host Meeting request for financial assistance for Quarterly Meeting program (Rich Ailes): The planning committee is asking all Meetings in the Quarter to request 4 weeks in advance any financial assistance needed for their program costs at Quarterly Meeting. The planning committee may not honor financial assistance requests after the events have occurred.

ListServe Service (Rich Ailes): Concord Quarterly Meeting approved the Planning Committee's purchasing a ListServe service that would be used to distribute the Quarterly Meeting newsletter and any other promotional pieces deemed necessary to support the Quarter's work. The service could be Mail- List.com which Birmingham and Middletown Meetings use, whose cost is \$1.07 per person per year. However other services will be considered by the Planning Committee, which will make the decision. In order to keep participants from receiving inappropriate email, the use of this service will be managed by the Quarterly Meeting coordinator.

Announcements of Upcoming Events (Rich Ailes): Friends are asked to take note of upcoming events sponsored by the Quarter or promoted by Quarterly Meeting meetings or members

- Quarterly Meeting Square Dance at Willistown Meeting on Feb 22
- Spirit Led Quaker Decision Making Workshop at Concord Meeting on March 22
- Quaker Ministry Workshop at Middletown Meeting on April 5
- Tom Woodward's presentations on The Gnostic Gospels at the Hickman on the Sunday afternoons in March. **Western Quarterly Meeting:** Pam Leland spoke of the activities of Western Quarterly Meeting, of which she is clerk. They are changing the name of what Concord Quarter calls its Planning Committee to "Support Committee" to better reflect the role that the MMs welcome. The Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Ailes, Clerk

David Leonard, Recording Clerk

For the full minutes including reports please go to <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Minutes>

Ideas to help Rekindle the Fire of Quakerism

These ideas were shared and recorded during Concord Quarterly Meeting held at Wilmington Meeting on January 26, 2014 following the presentation of the delegation from the Kindler's Conference held in Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England from October 11-13, 2013. It is the hope of this group that these ideas will be shared with all of the Monthly Meetings in Concord Quarter so that the Meetings may season the list and add any more ideas that may have to it. We then request that Meetings return their expanded list to Concord Quarter's coordinator, Charlie Spadoni so that he may bring the new ideas to a future Quarterly Meeting.

- Have more fun together as a community.
- Envision ourselves as Quaker luminaries.
- Appreciate the diversity of Friends.
- More worship and longer worship.
- Attract younger members through music.
- Implement opening exercises.
- Extol the virtues of what we do and what we believe.
- Listen to what people have to say.
- Reduce committee work and increase faith support group participation.
- Invite people to come back to Meeting.
- Communicate why and how Meeting for Worship is so important to us.
- Create opportunities for individuals to share their personal testimony.
- Move towards a common set of beliefs that are easy to articulate.
- Hold public Meeting for Worship.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Newsletter
Volume 10 Issue 2 April 2014

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