

# Continued Expansion in Ohio

Quaker settlement in Ohio grew exponentially in the early 19th century. As the map indicates, multiple new meetings were established. In addition, the large and increasingly unwieldy Redstone QM was partitioned, as three new QMs were established by Baltimore YM.

The first QM to be created inside the state of Ohio was Short Creek QM. Short Creek MM initiated the process in 1804; it approached Redstone QM on 6/4/1804 asking for the establishment of a new Ohio QM that would include it, Concord, and Middleton MMs. Redstone QM appointed a committee that reported back it had "near sympathy with their situation" but recommended against the new QM. The request was renewed in 1805 and forwarded to Baltimore YM on 9/2/1805. A yearly meeting committee was appointed to visit the area and consider the rightness of partitioning Redstone QM. During the process, Horton Howard produced a map of all meetings in Redstone QM (except those in southwestern Ohio) for the committee; this map was featured on the television show *History Detectives* in 2007. Baltimore YM granted Short Creek QM in 1806, and it first met on 6/6/1807 with two MMs – Concord and Short Creek. The following year, Concord set off Stillwater and Plainfield MMs to the southwest. Afterwards, Concord MM was comprised of meetings for worship at Concord and Wheeling. Plymouth MM was set off Short Creek MM in 1808. The meeting house at Short Creek was rebuilt in 1807 to accommodate the new QM.

Salem QM was granted by Baltimore YM in 1807. Apparently the YM committee to consider the partition of Redstone QM decided to create the three new QMs inside Ohio, as Redstone QM never followed up on the request to set off the meetings in Ohio. Salem QM, first held on 6/18/1808, was originally comprised of three MMs. The oldest was Middleton; it included meetings for worship in northeastern Columbiana County and any meetings established in counties in Pennsylvania that bordered on Ohio north of Pittsburgh (of which there were two at this time).

Salem MM had oversight of meetings in western Columbiana County and Stark County. New Garden MM was established in 1808, comprised of two preparative meetings (New Garden and Sandy Spring).

A growing concern in Baltimore YM was that Friends cease to use alcohol as a beverage. The YM sent minutes of advice on several occasions, and in 1807 it directed the QMs to visit local meetings on the concern and report back. In 1809, Baltimore YM directed the QMs to send committees to visit members involved in the production and sale of alcohol. Most years, Baltimore YM reported that the testimony against use of alcohol as a beverage was "gaining ground."

Concerns for the spiritual health of Friends are evident in the minutes. In a rarely used procedure, Borden Stanton was stripped of his recognition as a minister in 1809 for misbehavior. In 1810, the women's Baltimore YM sent a minute to subordinate meetings that stated "it is advised by the Yearly Meeting that Friends who occupy the foremost seats in society should be lively & weighty in their exercises, and that such seats should not be filled with those who are lukewarm..." Among travelling ministers of Ohio Friends during these years were Joseph Dew, Jonathan and Ann Taylor, and Jacob Ong.

One last ministerial visit of note was the travel of Mahlon Hockett of Centre MM (North Carolina YM) in 1812. Hockett had a prophetic ability, similar to that of Joseph Hoag of the next generation. While travelling through Ohio, Hockett stopped at New Garden. He spoke in ministry to a large and prosperous body of Friends in the meeting house. He told them that a time would come that the meeting house would be the dwelling place of moles and bats. Although he was ridiculed at the time, in fact that meeting house was abandoned in the 1830s, well within the lifetime of many Friends who heard the prophecy back in 1812.

# 1805 to 1812

