

# Ohio Yearly Meeting

In the early 1820s, Ohio Friends reached a plateau, as the stream of Friends moving the eastern Ohio dwindled to a trickle. During these years, however, Ohio Friends divided their two large Quarterly Meetings in Ohio, creating Stillwater QM in 1821 and New Garden QM in 1824. Another tradition that dates to this time was the publication of the yearly meeting minutes, which was first done in 1822.

The Wapakoneta Indian center continued to offer assistance to the Indians to help them learn skills so they could continue to live in Ohio. Throughout the early 1820s, new buildings were built to house the family that managed the property, taught the school, and operated the mill. The Indian chief travelled to Mount Pleasant several times and addressed Ohio YM when the Indian Committee reported. Most of the Indians moved west in 1826, but those who remained were those who were interested in learning to read and to survive in Ohio. More money was raised than was needed for the operations; the excess was invested by a Friend in Baltimore, but alas the investments went bad and this extra money was all lost.

In 1823, Ohio YM eliminated one level of the meeting structure. Prior to that time, nascent meetings were held under the care of a MM committee; these "indulged" or "allowed" meetings were later "established" prior to the granting of a preparative meeting. Ohio Friends decided in 1823 that any new meetings would be created as established meetings.

An interesting piece of ministry in 1823 was recorded by Benjamin W. Ladd (Ohio YM men's clerk) and sent down to the subordinate meetings as part of an epistle of advice. The recorded portion of the ministry of the unidentified Friend includes this: "Though we believe [the scriptures] are not to be understood but by the illumination of that Spirit by which they were at first given forth, yet we also believe that the teachings of this spirit will never so convert them into allegories as to destroy the plan and obvious truths

to which they bear testimony." The YM approved the printing of 2,500 copies for distribution.

One of Ohio YM's most important publications in its history was the book *Doctrines of Friends* (1824). The first draft was written by Elisha Bates, a young minister at Short Creek who was gaining a reputation for his inspired ministry. His original idea in 1822 was to "modernize" Barclay's *Apology* and make the ideas more accessible to people of his generation. The first part of the book was a summary of *Phips on Man*; the Meeting for Sufferings read it in 12/1823 and approved it. The second part of the book was a series of essays by Bates. Joseph Hoag and Stephen Grellett were travelling in Ohio at the time and sat with the M4S while this latter part of the book was read and discussed for ten days in 9/1824. Bates took notes of the discussions and incorporated the insights of Ohio Friends, Hoag, and Grellett. The book was a remarkable publication that remained in print for most of the remainder of the 19th century.

An interesting question about apologies by members was raised at Ohio YM in 1824. Salem QM asked for clarification about the *Discipline* regarding this practice that was quite common at that time. The YM stated that when a woman Friend apologized to the women Friends during a business meeting, the apology did not have to be repeated to the men. This decision helped to foster the understanding that the women's meeting was not subordinate to the men. The YM did state that the women needed to inform the men if they disowned a member.

Salem QM forwarded a request to Ohio YM in 1825 regarding the procedure for endorsing the minutes of travelling ministers. The YM considered the matter, but in the end there was not unity to make a change. As a result, the YM left MMs at liberty to endorse minutes as they felt was best – specifying they could endorse the minutes on the spot during the business, endorse after the end of the business meeting, or choose not to endorse the minute at all.

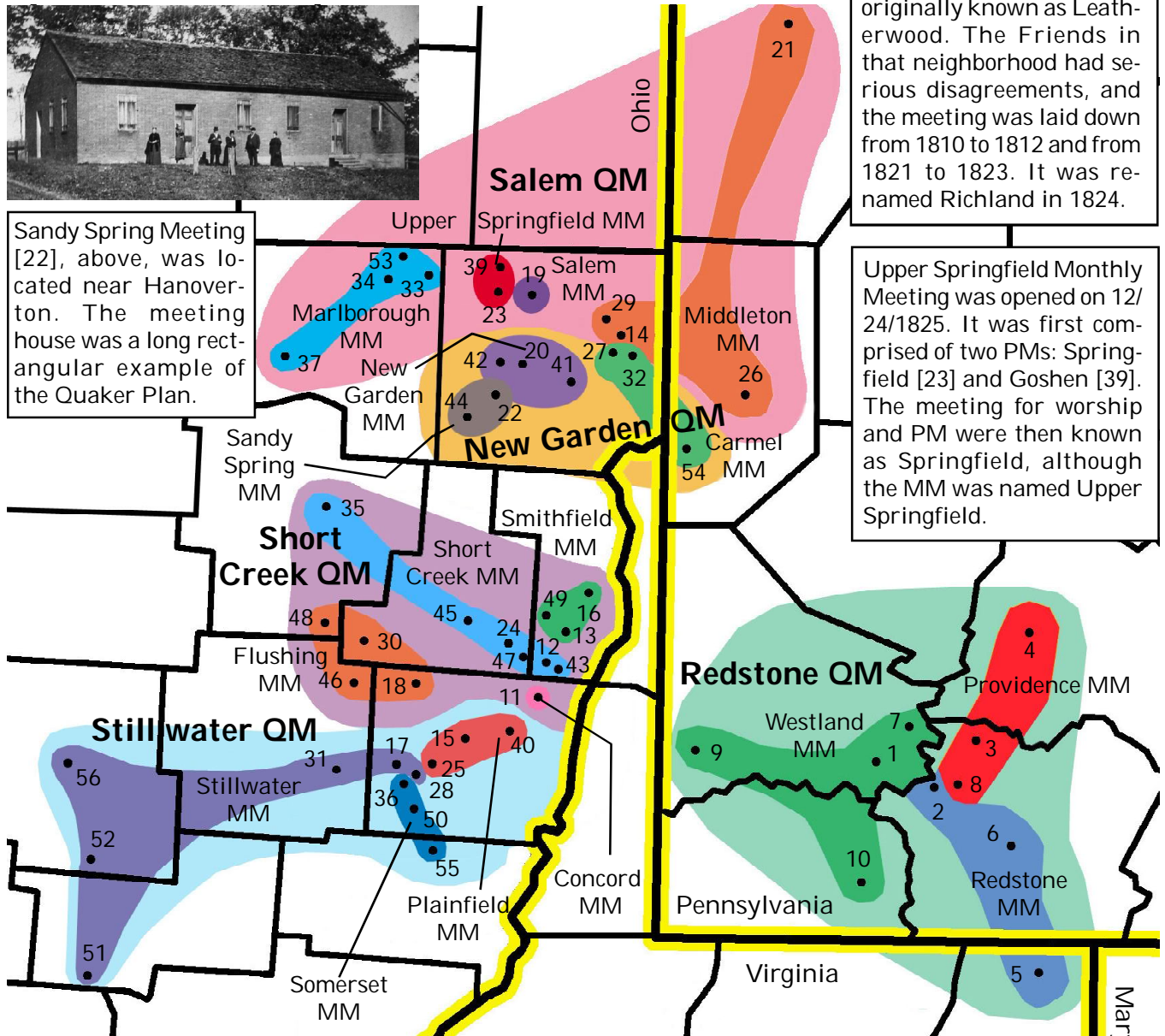
# 1820 to 1826



Sandy Spring Meeting [22], above, was located near Hanoverton. The meeting house was a long rectangular example of the Quaker Plan.

Richland Meeting [31] was located in Quaker City. It first met in 1809 and was originally known as Leathewood. The Friends in that neighborhood had serious disagreements, and the meeting was laid down from 1810 to 1812 and from 1821 to 1823. It was re-named Richland in 1824.

Upper Springfield Monthly Meeting was opened on 12/24/1825. It was first comprised of two PMs: Springfield [23] and Goshen [39]. The meeting for worship and PM were then known as Springfield, although the MM was named Upper Springfield.



List of Meetings			
<b>Redstone QM</b>	<b>Salem QM</b>	<b>New Garden QM</b>	<b>Short Creek QM</b>
1 Westland	14 Middleton	20 New Garden	11 Concord
2 Redstone	19 Salem	22 Sandy Spring	12 Short Creek
3 Providence	21 Coneaught	27 Elk Run	13 Smithfield
4 Sewickley	23 U. Springfield	32 Carmel	16 Cross Creek
5 Sandy Creek	26 Beaver Falls	41 New Lisbon	18 Flushing
6 Sandy Hill	29 Fairfield	42 Grove	24 West Grove
7 Pike Run	33 Lexington	44 Augusta	30 Freeport
8 Centre	34 Marlborough	54 Dry Run	35 Connaughton
9 Head of Wheeling	37 Kendal		43 Mt. Pleasant
10 Ridge	39 Goshen		45 Brushy Fork
	53 Deer Creek		46 Guernsey
			47 Harrisville
			48 Westchester
			49 York
			<b>Stillwater QM</b>
			15 Plainfield
			17 Stillwater
			25 Goshen
			28 Captina
			31 Richland
			36 Ridge
			40 Clairsville
			50 Somerset
			51 Deerfield
			52 Blue Rock
			55 Sunbury
			56 Zanesville