

Ohio General Meeting

When Ohio General Meeting was established in 1862-1863, it formed the last of the six groups in the nationwide network of Primitive Friends.

The Primitives leave Ohio YM

Ohio Primitives had three complaints about Ohio YM. First, it would not recognize other Wilburite groups except for Philadelphia YM. This was especially a problem regarding Iowa and New England. Second, they wanted meetings in Ohio YM to move faster to remove the names of Gurneyites from the membership lists. Third, Ohio YM in 1862 waffled on whether Friends should pay war taxes, including the proposed fee of \$500 for draftees who did not wish to fight in the army.

Disagreements about Iowa erupted at Chesterfield, where Ohio's first Primitive or "Maulite" division took place. When the men Friends at Chesterfield appointed a committee to "correct" the minutes of the women's MM (which was majority Primitive), the women's Clerk Belinda Hobson and other Primitives left (Twelfth Month 1862). Eight other divisions took place in 1863 throughout Ohio YM, as shown on the map.

Ohio General Meeting (OGM)

The first session of Ohio General Meeting was held in the new Primitive Meeting House at Chesterfield on 6/20/1863. Following the pattern established at Fallsington, Ohio GM met three times a year in joint session; it thus mixed the former duties of a YM and a QM. Joshua Maule was appointed Clerk, and the meeting sent epistles to Fallsington GM and Baltimore YM. A select general meeting was also held, of which Clayton Lamborn served as clerk.

Ohio GM immediately faced a dilemma because it did not have unity on the Otis-King divisions in New England, New York, and Iowa. When members of the King faction in Iowa (affiliated with Caleb Gregg) visited family in Ohio, they were not allowed to attend OGM business meetings. OGM leaders generally favored the Otis faction where Otis-King divisions existed.

In 1865, OGM organized three monthly meetings as shown on the map: Chesterfield (local meetings at Chesterfield, Plymouth, and Hopewell); Harrisville (local meetings at Concord, Harrisville, Plainfield, and Flushing), and Salem (local meetings at Salem and New Garden). Joshua Maule wrote a letter to an inquirer stating that OGM had 160 members.

Subdivisions and Disintegration

Most of the history of Ohio GM is the story of its decline and disappearance after just 15 years. The first trouble began when OGM became an independent Primitive body in 1867, not exchanging epistles with any other Primitives. It soon broke into the following "subdivisions."

1) *The Kollites*. Daniel Koll (locally pronounced *kawl*, though the group's name is pronounced *coalites*) of Salem MM was the leader of the movement to re-establish ties with Otisite Primitives. In 1867, Salem MM separated from OGM and was attached to Fallsington GM. By early 1868, Plymouth had joined Salem MM and had opened a Kollite meeting at Chesterfield. These meetings survived into the 1880s.

2) *The Remnants*. Joshua Maule withdrew from OGM after the meeting of 4/24/1869. He and others believed business meetings should be disbanded because they fostered disunity. He formed a new group called the Remnants, with meetings at Concord, Harrisville, Chesterfield, and New Garden. Additional Remnant meetings seceded from Fallsington GM. These meetings also mostly survived into the 1880s and 1890s.

3) *The Lamborn Party*. The remaining but gradually shrinking OGM became associated with Thomas Lamborn of New York. After a subdivision in New York YM (Otisite) in 1870, supporters of Lamborn joined Harrisville MM. By this time, OGM was only being held twice a year, and a steady trickle of members was leaving for Ohio YM. OGM laid down the two surviving MMs in 1874, and on 5/19/1877 OGM decided to disband.

1862 to 1877

