

Westland and Redstone

Hopewell MM Accepts Redstone

Hopewell Monthly Meeting delayed action on the request by Friends in the Redstone Settlement as long as it could. Warrington & Fairfax QM appointed a committee on 3/22/1779 to visit Hopewell. The Friends on the committee asked Hopewell to appoint a MM committee to accompany it to the Redstone Settlement. Rees Cadwalader was appointed to the task. Also with them were two Friends travelling in the ministry – John Simpson and Margaret Crook.

The committee had a good visit with Redstone Friends. They visited each family of Friends and held four public meetings – one being “a free conference relating to the Affairs of Society.” The committee believed “that the further care of the Quarterly Meeting uniting with Hopewell Monthly Meeting may be of real use to them.” Hopewell MM was not impressed with the committee report and took no action.

In the fall of 1779, W&F QM appointed another committee to visit “Friends Settled at Redstone and there-away.” As usual, the committee stopped by Hopewell on its way because this was the only way to get Hopewell to take action. The joint committee gave another favorable report, saying there were upwards of 150 Friends living in the Redstone Settlement.

Events at Redstone proceeded at a faster pace after Rees Cadwalader relocated to Redstone. Hopewell sent a committee on 9/4/1780 to visit all Friends in the Redstone Settlement desiring to hold membership at Hopewell. The committee reported on 11/30/1780. At that time, Hopewell accepted four Friends who had requested membership “some considerable time ago”: Nathan Hail (Heald), Uriah Coleson, Margaret Crawford, and Elizabeth Jinkinson.

With the passage of time, the term “Redstone” became more and more specific, today being the name of a township in the Fayette County. In the early 1780s, however, the term still encompassed the area in the vicinity of the Redstone Old Fort, which had been constructed as a de-

fense against the French and Indians. The fort was never used. After Rees Cadwalader purchased the southern half of the fort and the surrounding land, he renamed the area Peace Hill.

Westland Meeting, PM, and MM

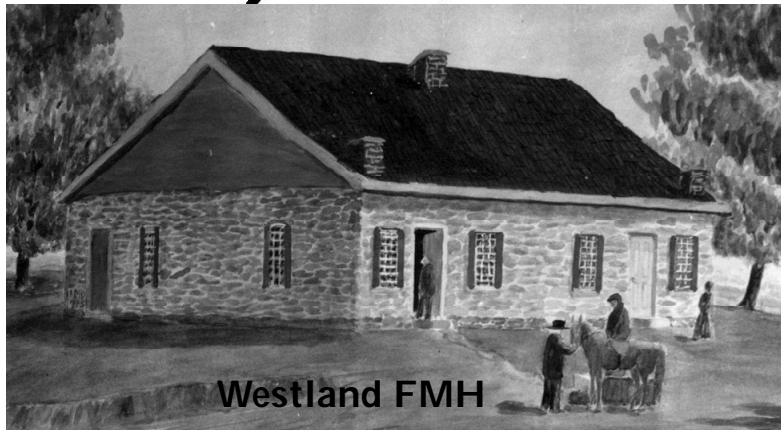
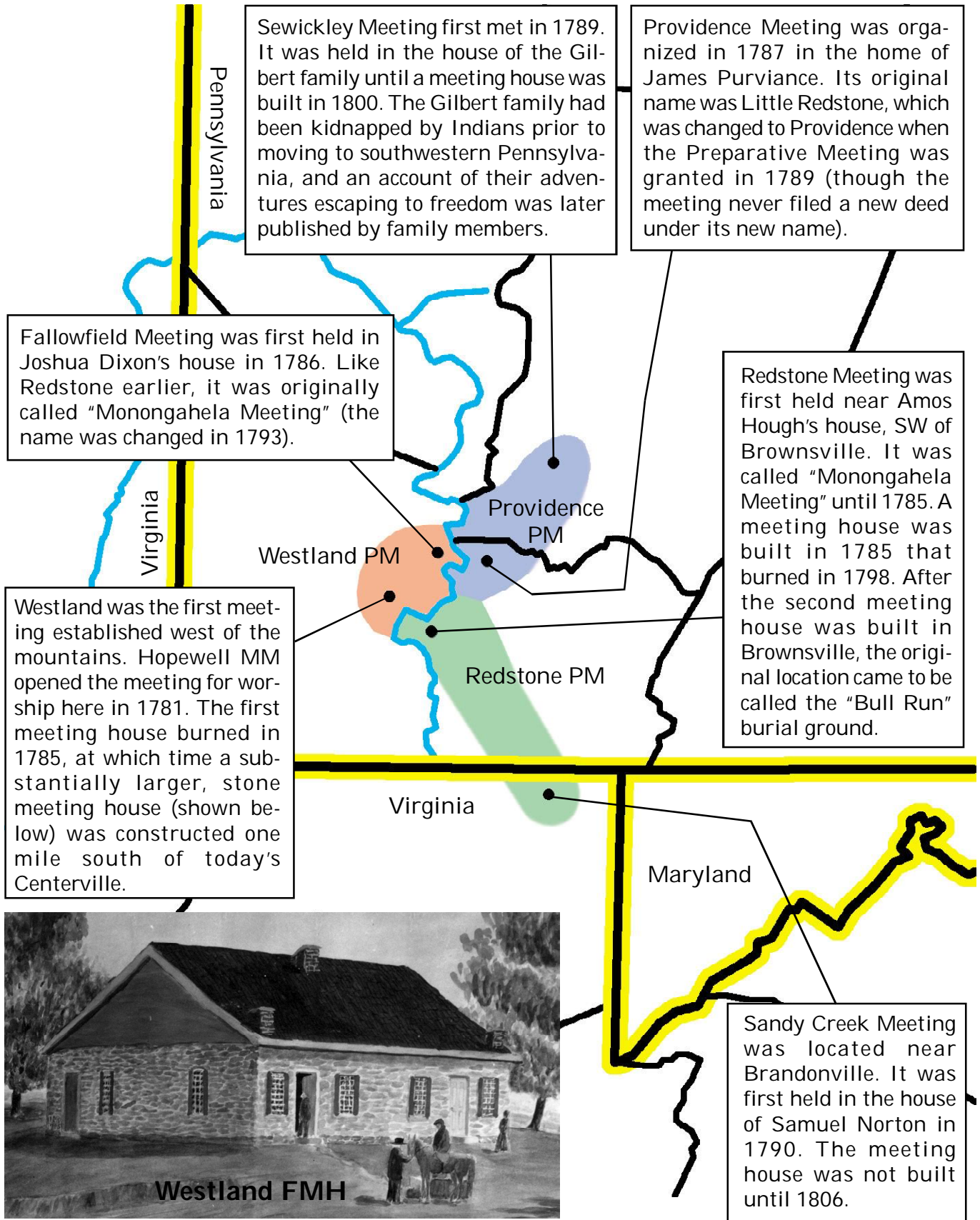
Friends in “the Redstone settlement” requested a meeting for worship and a preparative meeting from Hopewell MM in 1781. The MM sent a committee that reported back two months later, reporting it was their “sense & Judgement that it may be useful to Establish said meeting there.”

After a year’s delay, Warrington & Fairfax QM granted a preparative meeting at Westland, which was first held on 11/14/1782. At that time, PMs were expected to send representatives to each MM session, but due to the distance Westland PM’s representatives only sporadically made the journey. In 1783, Westland reported to Hopewell that Friends on the east side of the Monongahela requested a separate meeting for worship. Hopewell sent a committee that reported back favorably, and Redstone meeting for worship was first held near Amos Hough’s house.

The settlement of Quakers in the Redstone settlement continued at a brisk pace. In 1784, Westland PM forwarded a request from Redstone, requesting a preparative meeting and from Friends north of Westland requesting a meeting for worship. Warrington & Fairfax QM granted both a Redstone PM and a new Westland MM. Redstone PM was first held on 11/11/1785, and the following day Westland Monthly Meeting was first held. In 1790, the QM was transferred from Philadelphia YM to Baltimore YM.

In the latter half of the 1780s, two ministers of Westland MM (Rees Cadwalader of Redstone and Benjamin Townsend of Westland) visited scattered Friends in the general area. They encouraged new meetings, and by the end of the decade Westland MM was comprised of three preparative meetings, each with two meetings for worship (see map).

1779 to 1790



Westland FMH