

Some Interesting Ohio

John Fowler (1832–1910) and Esther Fowler (1845–1922)

John and Esther Fowler were recorded ministers who demonstrated what the power of Christ Jesus could accomplish through people. Both John and Esther suffered from poor health throughout their lives but left behind a substantial witness to their faith.

The Fowlers were raised in Plymouth MM, Washington County. John Fowler had a leading to visit every household in his county to ask for voluntary contributions to an orphanage. Although his health was not good, he accomplished this remarkable feat, and the orphanage was built. The work apparently assisted his health, as he was able to commence farming in 1882. He served as Pennsville QM Men's Clerk for 14 years.

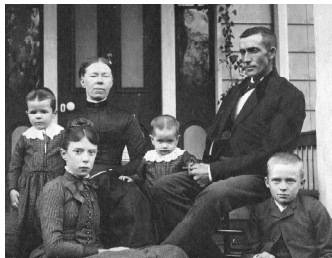
Esther Fowler was a daughter of Isaac Huestis of Chesterfield. Her gift in ministry was recorded in 1881, and the following year she married John Fowler. In 1891, the Fowlers moved to Philadelphia YM.

John and Esther Fowler travelled in the ministry to England and Egypt in 1895. Esther spent quite a bit of time with school teachers in Cairo, and John visited blind people and orphans. Their experience of the poor in Cairo was etched into their minds and hearts.

The Fowlers moved to New Garden in 1898. During their lives there, John began to raise money to build an orphanage in Cairo, Egypt. He collected \$9,000 (a substantial amount of money for that time) for the project. He recognized that he did not have the strength to accomplish the objective, but the way opened for him to make contact with the American United Presbyterian Mission, which did build an orphanage in Cairo. Although the orphanage was operated as a Presbyterian mission, it was named the "Fowler Orphanage." Ohio Friends heard reports from the Fowler Orphanage for many years at YM time and donated to its work.

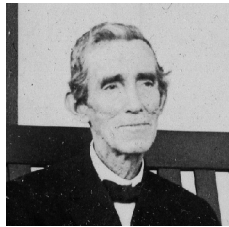
In 1908, the Fowlers travelled to Japan. John's health was not good during the trip. They stayed at the Friends School in Tokyo, which was operated by Gurneyite Friends. Some of the teachers were particularly touched by waiting worship, which had not taken place in Japan before this visit. The Fowlers decided to cut their visit short because they preferred the medical care found in Ohio to that found in Japan.

After John died in 1910, Esther completed several additional visits under religious concern, including a second visit to London YM. She died in 1922.



Elisha B. and Ellen (Gilbert) Steer and children. Elisha Steer was a minister at Salem for many years. Ellen was a daughter of George Gilbert.

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William Stanton was an Elder at Stillwater and was the senior member of the Meeting for Sufferings from 1913 to 1918.



Jonathan Binns was an important Elder of Short Creek MM. He served as M4S Clerk 1896–1906 and as men's YM Clerk 1905–1915.

Friends of 1900 to 1925

Ellwood Conrad (1850–1943)

Elwood Conrad was an important minister in Ohio YM in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Conrad was born into a Hicksite family in Philadelphia YM. An important early event in his spiritual life was reading the testimony of some North Carolina Friends who were interviewed in the Philadelphia newspapers. Their witness of not serving in the Confederate army as a part of their faith in Christ Jesus struck Conrad, because they expressed their faith openly in a way that he had not heard before. He began to read the Bible, had a conversion type experience in 1866, and was called to the ministry.

In the 1870s, Conrad moved to Iowa to teach in schools operated by Ohio Friends living in Hickory Grove QM. His gift in ministry was recognized there. Throughout his life, Conrad's ministry focused on the biblical underpinnings of the faith and practice of Friends.

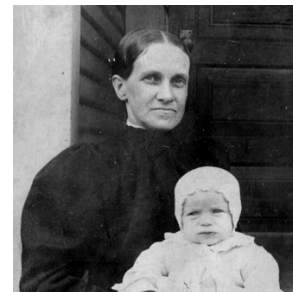
Conrad was a minister at Salem from 1903 until 1933. In the latter year, he and his wife Phebe moved to Pasadena, California, where they served the Lord the last years of their lives.



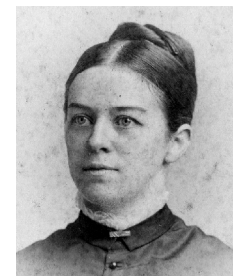
J. Wetherill Hutton (1866–1943)

J. Wetherill Hutton dedicated his life to serving Christ Jesus by working for Olney and for Ohio Yearly Meeting. He moved to Olney in 1908 and became the Principal in 1911. The house called "the Hutton" was built for him and his family. He was the first person to remain at Olney long enough to retire (1935).

JWH was known for his strong gift in prayer, although he was never recognized as a minister. He served as Clerk of the Meeting for Sufferings from 1927 until 1942 and served for several years as Stillwater QM Clerk. Hutton was active in peace work during both World Wars.



MaryAnn Thomasson (shown here in 1903 holding son Ernest). One of three women ministers at Pasadena in 1900, she died in 1907 at the age of 42.



Emma Holloway was the last recorded minister at Flushing and served for many years as the women's YM Treasurer.

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Jesse Dewees, an important Elder in Ohio YM, and his second wife, Miriam (Hall) Dewees. She was the last women's Clerk of Pennsville MM. When they were married, Jesse was 62 and Miriam was 31.