

World War I, Fairhope,

The second decade of the 20th century introduced new challenges and opportunities for Ohio Friends. Several important changes took place that helped define the yearly meeting for years.

Ohio YM finally recognized North Carolina YM in 1911. The year before, the Meeting for Sufferings appointed a committee to draft a pamphlet to set forth the beliefs of Conservative Friends. Representatives from five Conservative YMs attended Ohio YM in 1911 and fine-tuned the text. This document, printed with the title *A Brief Synopsis of the Principles and Testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends*, was adopted by all Conservative YMs.

Hickory Grove QM was transferred to Iowa in 1917. It had reported to Ohio YM in 1912 that it was "generally united" in being transferred. The YM appointed a committee to visit, and the committee was concerned about the substantial number of Friends in Iowa who were still reticent about the change. In 1916, HGQM had unity to request to be transferred, and Ohio YM appointed a committee to consider the request. The committee asked for permission to visit Iowa again, and the following year it reported that the time had arrived. The four MMs in HGQM (Coal Creek, Hickory Grove, Pasadena, and Springville) were officially transferred out.

Other changes were taking place among the meetings of Ohio YM. The first joint session business meetings were held during the decade. The Pennsville QM visiting committee allowed Pennsville PM to hold joint business meetings in 1912 as a means of extending the life of the PM. Chesterfield MM became the first MM to be so held (1915). The change took place throughout the YM at various times thereafter. Short Creek QM asked Ohio YM in 1915 about discontinuing preparative meetings when a monthly meeting only had one preparative meeting. As the map indicates, the reality of the time was that it was increasingly rare for a MM to have more than one PM, but the YM was not ready to make that change.

A new meeting was opened in Fairhope, Alabama. In 1915, the Orange Grove Meeting was established. It was comprised of members from Iowa and Ohio who were participants in a single tax movement. When the preparative meeting was granted in 1917, the meeting was renamed Fairhope. Fairhope MM was granted in 1919.

World War I represented the first time since the Civil War that the United States was mobilized for a war. The Meeting for Sufferings had published tracts against the rising tide of militarism prior to the war, and James Henderson had his somewhat unsatisfactory visit with Woodrow Wilson in 1915. The M4S appointed a "Service Committee" in 1917 to be ready to provide any needed assistance to young Friends. A "Half-Way Picnic" was held in Harlem Springs, at which 375 young Ohio Friends discussed their situation with some selected experienced Friends. Many Ohio Friends who were drafted were sent to Camp Sherman near Chillicothe. Although the US first recognized conscientious objectors, the COs were required to perform certain types of work and were not fed well. The Service Committee urged the young Friends to abstain from any work that would appear to support the war but also reminded them to be faithful to the Lord's direction for them as individuals. The committee assisted them in obtaining "farm furoughs" that would allow them to return home.

Other changes were taking place that were not reflected in the minutes. Friends were increasingly driving automobiles, which meant that more people attended YM from a distance and more people drove back and forth every day. An early impact was that the brims of women's bonnets were shortened noticeably in order to provide a wider range of vision to female drivers. Another change was that a shift in colors of dress was taking place; the older blues and browns of the 19th century were giving way to black cloth. Young Friends held conferences, organized the Olney Alumni Association, and held evening presentations at YM time as ways of providing fellowship and coming forth in their gifts.

& Iowa 1910 to 1920

