

Some Interesting Ohio



Bill Taber (1927–2005)

William P. Taber Jr. was one of the most important ministers of Ohio YM in the latter half of the 20th century, having a major impact on Ohio YM and the Society of Friends as a whole.

Bill began to come forth in the ministry in the 1950s. He served as principal and teacher at Olney and wrote a history of Olney titled *Be Gentle, Be Plain*. While attending the Earlham School of Religion, Taber completed a history of Ohio YM that was updated and published in the 1980s with the title *The Eye of Faith*. His work outside Ohio included many years at Pendle Hill, where he wrote several landmark pamphlets (including *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*). He and wife Fran also served at the Friends China camp.

Bill Taber had a concern that ministry be able to reach his contemporaries. He sometimes spoke of "translation," by which he meant that some spiritual principles could be described using new wording that was free of baggage. Although his spiritual insight and experience were remarkably deep, he did not advertise himself to others; his modesty and meekness were an important example of what was expected of ministers. On many occasions, he gave important guidance to other ministers. He had a particular concern that ministers be "above party," by which he meant that they should take care not to become involved in differences among the members – thus allowing them to provide spiritual service to all Friends. He served as Clerk of Ohio YM for M&O from 1997–2005 and was instrumental in the creation of the Friends Center.



Louis J. Kirk

Louis J. Kirk was a weighty Elder of the mid-1900s. He served as Assistant Clerk of the men's YM 1934–49, as Men's YM Clerk 1949, and as Clerk of the joint session YM 1949–58 (a total of 25 years). Afterwards, he often timed the worship at YM sessions. His brother Charles was an Elder at Short Creek who served as Clerk of the YM for M&O (1963–70). A tragic accident occurred on 1/18/1970 when a man named Joseph Nairn was racing his car with Larry Melcher. Nairn drove his car into a car driven by Howard Allen of Tucson, Arizona; among the passengers in Allen's car who died were Louis Kirk and Charles and Tacy Kirk.



Charles and Tacy Kirk



Margaret Starbuck

Margaret was a school teacher at Salem. She was active in peace and social concerns activities for many years. Her sister Mary Alice Alexander lived her final years with Margaret.

Historic Atlas of Ohio Yearly Meeting, Page 82

Friends of 1950 to 1975



J. Howard and Lavina Edgerton

Howard Edgerton was an Elder at Middleton who was the senior member of the Meeting for Sufferings from 1949 to 1958. Lavina was a gifted minister who was able to relate to teenagers in her latter years.

Phebe J. Hall

Phebe Hall was secretary and business manager at Olney in the 1960s. She wrote several important spiritual tracts and worked to find healing among people with differences both in the YM and at Olney.



Bernita Bundy

Bernita Bundy was a member of Stillwater Meeting. She played a major role in acquisition of materials from the history of Ohio YM for the Heritage Room.



Wilson J. Morlan

Morlan, a son of Charles P. Morlan, was an Elder of Upper Springfield Meeting who served as manager of the Walton Home prior to becoming a resident there.

Historic Atlas of Ohio Yearly Meeting, Page 83



Thomas and Mildred Cooper, Bertha Cooper, Howard and Sara Stratton.

Thomas Cooper was a minister at Middleton who served with Mildred at Olney and the Walton. He had a concern for the youth of the YM throughout his spiritual service and would on occasion weep during his ministry. Bertha was an Elder at Stillwater and the widow of James Cooper. She served as Assistant Clerk of the YM for M&O 1969–75. Howard Stratton was an Elder at Short Creek. He served as Short Creek QM Clerk from 1957–60 and wrote several memorials for members in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



Alfred and Alice Heald

The Healds were Friends from Pasadena who moved to Middleton in the mid-1900s. They were concerned for a better understanding of the heritage of Quakerism.