

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

February 2026



Do you respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? Each of us has a particular experience of God and each must find the way to be true to it. When words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from and what has nourished the lives of others. Listen patiently and seek the truth which other people's opinions may contain for you. Avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. Do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue. Think it possible that you may be mistaken.

Advices and Queries #17

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Are you planning or thinking to go to Canadian Yearly Meeting in Winnipeg this coming summer? I would like to go, and have been asked to lead sessions of sacred chant, but my troublesome eyesight makes reading signs and instructions and menus, etc., difficult enough that I don't feel comfortable traveling alone. If you'd like to take the train to Winnipeg with a roommate, please contact me. beverly_shepard@sympatico.ca.

From Mary Blackburn and David Beatty: Thank you for the lovely card that you sent to us via Elizabeth Beatty. David is receiving treatment for his cognitive impairment and it is our hope to spend more time in Hamilton in 2026. Hamilton Quaker Meeting holds a special place in our hearts. Pray for peace and for the madness here in the South to come to a quick end.

There will be a Pot Luck luncheon on Sunday, February 8 after meeting to discuss what Hamilton Meeting can do to uphold the Apartheid Free Communities Pledge. We will eat first, and discussion will follow.

On Sunday, February 15, there will be a Brown Bag luncheon to invite reflections about HMM in 2025 to help shape the State of Society Report.

The next meeting of the Reading Group will be on Sunday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. in our Zoom space. Please contact Shirla (shirla766@gmail.com) to be added to the participant list.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be held in person at the Meeting House on Sunday, March 1 at 12:30 p.m. You can also join us online on our regular Meeting Zoom link.



New Year 2026

by Beverly Shepard

In this room,
where I sit, quiet, relaxed,
the Christmas lights gleam and twinkle;
the voices are joyful, loving,
warm as a the gentle fire
that crackles by the hearth;
the feeling is of
 nostalgia
 union
 caring
 hope.

Outside, the light fades;
the snow that covers lawn and leaves
splashes it back to us.
The sky is a wash of pearl.

Beyond this room
and the peaceful scene outside
is a world in turmoil –
war and oppression,
floods, fire, and pollution.
But there are also quiet forests,
fertile fields,
close communities,
and more: evidence of the good
our world includes.

In this room,
where we are gathered,
joyful, loving, and warm,
we are the symbol and seed
of the way the world may be saved, by
 union
 caring
 hope.

The new year begins.



Pictures of Quaker History

by Wayne Irwin

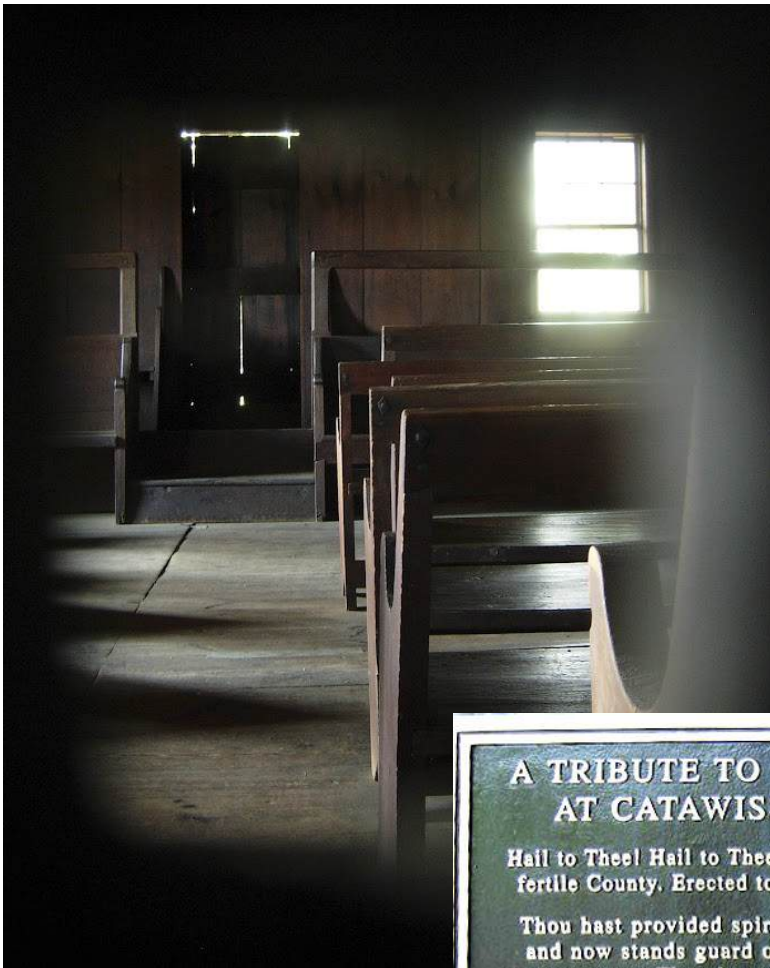
These photos are of Roaring Creek Friends Meeting House in Columbia County, Pennsylvania, where the forebears of Hamilton Monthly Meeting attendee Wayne Irwin attended and are buried.



It was first organized in 1786 under the care of Exeter Monthly Meeting, built in 1796, to become a preparative meeting under Carawissa Monthly Meeting. Elias Hicks is believed to have preached there during his travels.

Of particular interest in the pictures is the 'mounting door' allowing women in long skirts and older Friends to mount or dismount horses safely- an example of practical kindness. On the interior picture, it can be seen directly opposite the entrance. There is also an exterior view of the door.





Beginning around 1827, after the split between the Hicksite and Orthodox Quakers, Roaring Creek Meeting House was used by the Hicksite faction until 1916, when declining membership and increasingly infrequent meetings for worship caused the meeting to be laid down. The Meeting House is now owned by Locust Township.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR LOG MEETING HOUSES AT CATAWISSA AND ROARING CREEK.

Hail to Thee! Hail to Thee! This Meeting House of Worship in our fair and fertile County. Erected to the Glory of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

Thou hast provided spiritual nourishment to Thy children during life, and now stands guard over them as they sleep in yonder garden. For many years Thou hast stood among the stately trees pointing out to Friends the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Thou art now the House by the side of the Road, watching the Race of men go by. Thy task is finished, Thy work is done. Accept our honor, our respect and our admiration. Live on ! Live on ! in Thy memories.

Silent, Serene, Majestic.

Local Historian
Willard R. Rhoads
Born Aug. 22, 1886
Died Mar. 19, 1972



John Lee and Anne, his wife, conveyed by deed, September 16, 1793, one acre 32 perch to Casper Strawl, Issac Wiggins and Nathan Lee as Trustees, for the Religious Society of People called Quakers for use as a School House, Meeting House and Burial Ground for five shillings.

The Log Meeting House, located on the east end of this lot was erected in 1796, by the earliest settlers of the Roaring Creek Valley. The Meeting House stands as a reminder and a tribute to those who came before us. It is one of the oldest buildings in the Valley that is still intact.

Presented by Roaring Creek & Catawissa Valley Study Group.

Five Haiku

by Sheldon H. Clark

I

Twigs scratch frosty pane
Silhouettes appear flitting
Cardinals vanish

II

Sheers distort vision
Mantled statuettes poise still
Cold offspring shudder

III

Tracks disappear fast
Trees sway splitting winds vigor
Spring waits pleasantly

IV

Light vivaciousness
Squirrels chasing merrily
Eagles soaring hunt

V

Unconditional
Unlimited horizon
Eonian love

About this Newsletter / Submission Guidelines

This Newsletter is a monthly publication of news and announcements relevant to Hamilton Quakers.

It is also a venue for members and attenders to share creative works or articles they have written on subjects that may be of interest to our Quaker community. As a general guideline we are looking for submissions that are inspirational and related to Quaker concerns, as well as announcements and news. Members and Attenders are encouraged to submit works for the newsletter.

Requests for newsletter items are announced after Meeting for Worship and/or via email during the week before Meeting for Worship for Business. They are due by the Friday before Business Meeting. Submission of materials implies permission to publish. Copyright for original material resides with the author.

If the person submitting the article is unknown to the editor or if there are questions as to whether the article will be appropriate for the Quaker newsletter, the editor will consult with the clerk(s) who will together discern what will be included. Written permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder if a submission is not the original work of the submitter, unless the works are in the public domain, or are covered under the creative commons license.

Hamilton Meeting reserves the right to edit submissions for length or content in consultation with the authors. Please limit submissions to a maximum of 750 words. When opinion pieces are included a line will be added indicating "Submissions reflect the opinions of their authors, and not necessarily of Hamilton Monthly Meeting".

Submissions should be directed to the current editor, Sîân Reid, daywitch@gmail.com.

We acknowledge the land upon which Hamilton Friends Meeting House is located as the shared traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg, protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt covenant. This historic peace agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibwe, and allied nations represents a commitment to share and protect the land, water, plants, and animals, with respect. It is the privilege of Hamilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to share in the tradition of stewardship of this land, which has been the environment of human beings in this territory for thousands of years. We honour the original Peoples of this land and express a commitment to and gratitude for the opportunity to work together toward restorative justice and reconciliation.