

Firm beliefs develop into a fine tradition

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and Parma formed separate worship groups and organized a Michigan yearly meeting of Friends of Human Progress.

A sizeable number of Livonia Friends seceded to join the "progressive" movement. Annually they convened in Battle Creek for a Lyceum-type forum, which lasted for a week.

Suffragettes, temperance leaders, Free Sillers, peace activists, and abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass participated in the gatherings, which drew hundreds of persons outside the Quaker fold.

In 1854, progressive Friends appointed members to visit and bring relief to ex-slaves in Canada. In New York, progressive Friends advocated the vote for women and sex education, when such ideas were taboo.

Jacob Walton and Abigail Lapham of Livonia meeting served as clerks of the Progressive Friends Meeting in 1854. Jacob Volland, a German political refugee and Quaker farmer in Ann Arbor Township, was corresponding secretary in 1857.

BECAUSE OF THE secession of Livonia Friends, Genesee yearly meeting agreed to dissolve the Livonia monthly meeting for business, and converted it into a worship group under the care of Battle Creek meeting.

In 1848, all non-dissenting members had their membership transferred to the Battle Creek meeting and Pelham half-years meeting in Canada. As the turbulent 1850s ended, the schism among Friends healed. During the

1860s, the meeting dwindled, and the meetinghouse was sold to William Roberts, a Livonia Quaker, who purchased the farm of David Lapham.

Later the building which was used for half-yearly meetings, drawing Friends from Niagara, Elgin, and Middlesex Counties in Ontario as well as Michigan, was converted into a dwelling with only minor alterations involving the building of stairs to the cellar and an enlarged attic.

In the 1870s, younger members of the Quaker families joined community churches.

In 1874, Pelham half-years meeting of Genesee yearly meeting convened at Plymouth; and the older Friends kept up meetings for worship on an irregular basis in their homes. Jared Lapham, a liberal Quaker banker and merchant, lived in Plymouth.

The following families were prominent in Livonia meeting: Dean, Cox, Macy, DeGarmo, Angel, Aldrich, Merritt, Lapham, Walton, Glasier, Volland, Deming, Hawxhurst, Stacy, Haviland, Rathburn, Roberts, and Macomber.

Despite the theological distinctions, all the Quakers in the area were buried in the cemetery on Gill Road.

Should 12 persons in Farmington and Livonia feel drawn to Quakerism through worship and study, they could re-establish one of the old meetings.

The Detroit meeting, 9640 Sorrento, always welcomes seekers and newcomers, and looks to the day when a preparative meeting in Farmington or Livonia will carry on the work so nobly begun by the founders of these two communities 140 years ago.

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

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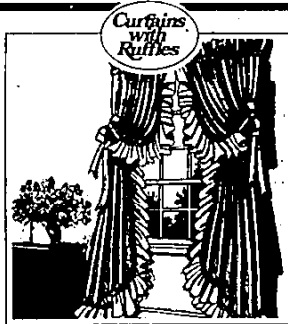
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