

## Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends (Wilburite) Records

1845-1976

2 vols., 1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 902 W553 N368

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In the complex history of Quakerism on Nantucket, the Wilburite Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends stands out. Separating from the numerically smaller Gurneyites in 1845, the "Otsite" monthly on Nantucket separated again in 1863, drawing away from the Wilburite Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, drawing with them a number of sympathetic Friends on the mainland, particularly in Warwick, R.I. Although worship on the island effectively ended in 1894, the mainland Otsites maintained their separation until 1911. Quaker worship on Nantucket was revived in 1939 and with the reunion of Wilburites and Gurneyites in 1944, the monthly meeting decided to remain independent, joining New England Yearly Meeting only in 1956.

This small, but important collection is centered on the latter years of the Wilburite meeting on Nantucket, during the period of

reunification with Gurneyites. The bulk of records for the Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) are housed at the Nantucket Historical Association.

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## Background on Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends (Wilburite)

The turmoil within Quakerism during the first half of the nineteenth century resonated more profoundly, and more complexly in Nantucket, than almost anywhere else. Having already experienced a split between Hicksite and Orthodox factions in 1830, a Wilburite-Gurneyite split ensued within the Orthodox body in 1845. While elsewhere in New England the Gurneyites were the "larger body," on Nantucket, the opposite was the case, outnumbering and outlasting the Gurneyites, who were laid down in 1867.

The Wilburites continued to experience turmoil, however, undergoing another separation in 1863, when a small group of "Primitive" or "Otisite" Friends seceded from the Wilburite Sandwich Quarterly Meeting of which they were part, forming a new Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (Otisite) and taking with them a number of sympathetic Friends on the mainland, mostly in Rhode Island. Although meetings for worship on Nantucket effectively ended in 1894, the mainland Otisites, based in Lynn, Mass., and Warwick, R.I., carried on the name Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends until 1911, when the Otisites reunited with the Wilburites.

Quaker worship was revived on Nantucket with summer meetings beginning in 1939. The Nantucket worship group decided to remain independent after the Wilburite and Gurneyite reunification in 1944, however its members in Warwick affiliated with the Providence Monthly meeting. The Nantucket worship group eventually affiliated with New England Yearly Meeting in 1956, and with Sandwich Quarterly Meeting in 1990.

## Scope of collection

This small, but important collection is centered on the latter years of the Wilburite meeting on Nantucket, during the period of reunification with Gurneyites. The bulk of records for the Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) are housed at the Nantucket Historical Association.

## Inventory

Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends (Wilburite)

1845-1976

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Minutes

1928-1934

09:B3

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Minutes

1939-1944

09:B3

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Correspondence [removed from volume of rough minutes for 1938-1945]

1938-1944

Box 1: 1

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Correspondence re: archives

1944

Box 1: 2

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Demand for property

ca.1845

Box 1: 3

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Outreach



Abbie Loring in Cape Cod Quaker attire, ca.1930.

Photo by Alton H. Blackington

1927-1941

Box 1: 4

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Removals

1850-1862

Box 1: 5

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Ministers and Elders

1927-1944

09:B3

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Receipts

1914-1944

Box 1: 6

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Epistles and other communications

1828-1947

Box 1: 7

Gould, L. A.: An account of New England Yearly Meeting

1845

Box 1: 8

Maule, Joseph: Broadsides of religious meetings

1871, 1873

Box 1: 9

Mitchell, Mary: Some thoughts on the qualifications of an elder in the Church of Christ [copy made ca.1890]

1807

Box 1: 10

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Burial ground

1894-1944

Box 1: 11

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Civilian Public Service and war

1940-1943

Box 1: 12

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): History: Elizabeth Foster and Robert S. Leach

undated

Box 1: 13

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): History: Robert S. Leach essays

1976

Box 1: 14

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Ministers who have visited the Foster family, Centreville, R.I.

ca.1860

Box 1: 15

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Miscellaneous

1846-1924

Box 1: 16

Nantucket Monthly (Wilburite): Paddock, Emma: care and interment

1900

Box 1: 17

Nelson, . Ripley: The Nantucket Friends Burial Ground

1954

Box 1: 18

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Records, March 2016.

### Related Material

This collection is part of the **New England Yearly Meeting Records**.

The bulk of records from the Wilburite Nantucket Monthly Meeting are held at the Nantucket Historical Association:

Men's and joint minutes, 1845-1873: half vol.

Women's minutes, 1845-1868: half vol.  
Women's minutes (rough), 1848-1859: 1 vol.  
Joint minutes, 1873-1900: 1 vol.  
Joint minutes, 1900-1944: 2 vols.  
Membership, 1845-1912: half vol.  
Marriages, 1845-1940: half vol.  
Removals and denials, 1845-1898: half vol.  
Ministers and elders, 1845-1911: half vol.  
Treasurer's book, 1845-1857 1?2 vol.  
Treasurer's book, 1856-1944 1 vol.  
Library books, 1845-1869: half vol.  
Miscellaneous loose papers, 1845-1889: 0.5 ft.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, October 2018.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Cemeteries--Massachusetts--Nantucket  
Nantucket (Mass.)--Religious life and customs  
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends  
Quakers--Massachusetts  
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Wilburites

### Contributors

Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends (Wilburite: 1845-1945) [main entry]

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