

**Minutes of the
Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends
1889 - 1899**

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This minute book is stored in a safe at the Bear Creek Friends (Conservative) Meeting House, Dallas Co., Iowa. Transcribed in 2024 from the original hand-written journal by Nancy Osborn Johnsen, great-great granddaughter of Deborah Fox Standing – who was Clerk of the Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends during this period. [Note: Deborah was from England, which guides the spelling of some of the words she used in the earlier years.] See more comments at the end of this transcription.

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th month 13th 1889

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

Received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting's stock. The Treasurer is appointed to receive contributions and report in 8th month next.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers viz Deborah Standing & Mary Mills.

An acceptable Epistle has been received and read from the New England Yearly Meeting of Men & Women Friends.

The Committee on Burials not being ready to report, are directed to report to next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th month 18th 1889

The Clerk not being present, Ella Newlin is appointed for the day. The Committee on Overseers not being ready to report, are continued, and are directed to report to next meeting. The Committee on Burials not being ready to report, are directed to report to next meeting. No further business claiming attention, the meeting concludes.

Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held the 15th of 8th month 1889

The Queries have all been read with written answers from the Preparative Meeting which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for worship and discipline have been attended, generally by most of our members, a few are remiss in that important duty. Unbecoming behavior avoided. The hour of meeting pretty well observed.

2nd Most friends appear to maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged and most avoided. No apparent differences among us.

3rd Most friends endeavour by example and precept to educate their children and those under their care in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They endeavour to guard them against pernicious reading and from corrupt conversation and they are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th There has been no dealing with offenders since last report.

5th Friends appear to maintain a faithful testimony against slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries. A few not quite clear of attending on a hireling ministry.

6th Friends are careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage or in hazardous or speculative trade. They are just in their dealings and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements and in paying their debts reasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. A few not clear of attending a place of diversion. Moderation and temperance observed.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th No schools amongst us under our control.

10th No new meetings settled and none discontinued.

11th No Ministers or Elders recorded, and none deceased the past year. One Minister and four Elders within our limits.

12th Numbers of families 8, parts of families 8. Every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meetings are read, and endeavours used to answer them as directed.\

The following friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to next meeting, viz Mary Mills and Deborah Standing/

The Treasurer reports the sum of 60 cents as contributed toward the Yearly Meeting's stock which is directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ruth Newlin & Keziah Cook are appointed to propose to next meeting the name of a friend for Clerk, also one for Assistant for the ensuing year.

The Committee on Overseers submitted the names of Mary Mills, and Ella Newlin, with which the meeting unites and they are appointed to that office for the ensuing year.

The Committee on Burials produced their annual report. They are continued and directed to report in 11th mo. next. Report: We the Committee appointed to have a care

at Burials now make our annual report. There has been no occasion for the services of such a committee the past year. On behalf of the committee

Milton Mills
Mary Mills.

The General Advises have been read as directed.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9th mo 19th 1889

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

The friends who were appointed at last meeting to propose to this a friend to serve as Clerk the ensuing year, also one for Assistant, propose Deborah Standing for Clerk and Elma B. Gooden for Assistant with which the meeting unites.

The Book and Tract Committee made the following report which is satisfactory. The Committee is continued and directed to report in 9th month next. Report. There have been ___ pages of tracts received most of which have been distributed. Our library contains about 84 vol all of which are in good condition. A very limited number of loans the past year owing to the fact that friends have private libraries containing nearly the same books.

On behalf of the Committee
Abner L. Newlin

The Committee on Education submitted the following report which is satisfactory, the Committee is continued and directed to report in 9th month next. Report. There are within our limits 18 children between the age of 5 and 21 years, 14 of whom have attended public District School, 2 have attended school in a private family, and 2 thought too young to attend regular school hours. There is no school within our limits under the care of the Monthly Meeting.

On behalf of the Committee
A L Newlin

PS Quite a large majority of the children included in the foregoing report, are of parents not in unity with us.

The meeting now concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10th month 17th 1889

The Recorder reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded for the past year. Mary Mills is continued as Recorder and directed to report next 10th month. No further business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 14th 1889

The following named friends are appointed to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting as our representatives and they are directed to report to next meeting. Mary Mills and Deborah Standing. No further business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held the 19th of 12th month 1889

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

We appoint Mary Mills to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, and she is directed to report to next meeting.

We have read at this time an Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends the contents of which are encouraging to us.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 16th 1890

The clerk not being present Elma B. Gooden is appointed for the day. No business appearing the meeting concludes.

Elma B. Gooden Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd month 13th 1890

The first four queries have been read with written answers from the Preparative which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship and Discipline have been attended. No unbecoming behaviour to remark. The hour of meeting pretty well observed.

2nd As far as appears friends maintain love in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Most friends endeavour by example and precept to educate, guard and encourage their children and those under their care as queried after.

4th No dealing with offenders since last report.

Mary Mills and Deborah Standing are appointed our representatives to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The friend who was appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year reports it has been attended to.

The following friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collating statistics of births & deaths and report when ready, viz Ella Newlin and Mary Mills.

An acceptable Epistle has been read from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3rd month 13th 1890

The friends appointed at our last meeting to attend the Quarterly Meeting as representatives, report they attended.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4th month 17th 1890

A satisfactory Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting of Men & Women Friends has been read at this time.

The committee appointed in 2nd mo to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths etc. report the service performed.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5th month 15th 1890

The first four Queries have been read with written answers from the Preparative which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for worship and discipline have been attended, though often quite small. No unbecoming behaviour therein. The hour of meeting pretty well observed.

2nd As far as appears most Friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends generally endeavour by example and precept to educate their children and those under their care in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. Pernicious reading discouraged. They are encouraged to read the Scriptures and other religious books.

4th No dealing with offenders since last report.

We appoint Ella Newlin and Deborah Standing our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th month 19th 1890

The friends appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives, report they attended.

We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock. The Treasurer is directed to receive contributions and report in 8th mo.

The Committee on Burials made a verbal report. There had been no occasion for the services of the Committee the past year. They are continued and directed to report in 6th mo next.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers, and they are directed to report to next meeting, viz Deborah Standing & Mary Mills.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th month 17th 1890

The following named friends are appointed to propose to next meeting the name of a friend for Clerk, also one for Assistant for the ensuing year, viz Mary Mills & Ruth Newlin.

The Committee on Overseers report they were united in proposing the friends now in office be appointed for another year, with which the meeting unites.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8th month 14th 1890

The Queries have all been read with written answers from the Preparative which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended, a few remiss in that important duty. No unbecoming behaviour therein. The hour of meeting pretty well observed.

2nd Most Friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd We believe most Friends use some endeavours by example and precept to educate their children and those under their care in simplicity of dress and language. They also discourage pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. The reading of the Holy Scriptures and other religious books is encouraged.

4th There has been no dealing with offenders.

5th Friends maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods, and lotteries.

6th Friends are careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and of involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage or in hazardous or speculative trade. They are just in their dealings, and endeavour to be punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements and in paying their debts reasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors, a few not quite clear of attending places of diversion, they appear to observe moderation and temperance on all occasions.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th No schools amongst under our control.

10th No new meetings settled, and none discontinued.

11th No Ministers or Elders deceased, and none recorded the past year. Number of Ministers 1. Number of Elders 4.

12th Number of families 8; parts of families 9. Every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly & Preparative meetings have been read and endeavours used to answer them as directed.

We appoint Deborah Standing and Mary Mills our representatives to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The friends who were appointed to bring forward the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year, also one for Assistant, propose Deborah Standing for Clerk, and Elma B. Gooden for Assistant, which is united with.

The Treasurer reports the sum of 60 cents as contributed towards the Yearly Meeting's Stock which is directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

The general Advices have been read as directed. The business being gone through the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9th month 18th 1890

The friends who were appointed representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

The Book & Tract Committee made the following report. The Committee is continued with the addition of Sarah Lewis and directed to report in 9th month next. Report. There has been but a limited number of Tracts distributed the past year. Our library is kept in good condition. But few loans reported. On behalf of the Committee

Abner L. Newlin

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10th mo 16th 1890

The Recorder reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded for the past year. Elma Gooden is appointed Recorder and directed to report next 10th mo. Mary Mills is requested to inform her of her appointment.

Men Friends informed they had come to the judgement to testify against George McNichol for having married contrary to discipline while his former companion is still living, and for joining the Order of Odd Fellows, for which he has been treated without the desired effect. This meeting unites in the decision of Men Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 13th 1890

The following named friends are appointed to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting as our representatives and directed to report to next meeting, viz Ella Newlin and Deborah Standing.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12th mo 18th 1890

The friends who were appointed representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

We appoint Mary Mills and Ella Newlin to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 15th 1891

The friends who were appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, report it has not been attended to. They are continued and directed to report to next meeting.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births and Deaths, viz Deborah Standing and Mary Mills, and report when ready.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd mo 19th 1891

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed Clerk for the day.

The first 4 Queries have been read with written answers which are directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. We appoint Mary Mills and Ella Newlin to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting as our representatives and report to next meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. No unbecoming behavior to remark. The hour of meeting middling well observed.

2nd Most Friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged but not entirely avoided by some. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Some friends are concerned to educate their children and those under their care in the simplicity which our principles enjoin and they discourage pernicious reading and corrupt conversation and encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Care has been taken to deal with offenders as reasonably as might have been best.

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

No meeting held in 3rd mo on account of sickness.

No meeting held in 4th mo

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5th mo 14th 1891

The first four Queries have been read with written answers from the Preparative which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, viz Keziah Cook and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

Those appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, report attended to.

The Committee appointed to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of births and deaths etc. report attended to.

The Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends has been read the contents of which are satisfactory.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for worship & discipline have been attended except two Monthly Meetings on account of poor health and unfavourable weather. No unbecoming behavior to remark. The hour of meeting middling well observed.

2nd As far as appears most Friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Most friends endeavour by example and precept to educate guard and encourage their children and those under their care as queried after.

4th None dealt with since last report.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th month 18th 1891

The Clerk being absent Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

The Committee on Funerals made the following satisfactory report, they are continued for the same service the coming year. Report. We the committee appointed to have a care at Funerals now make our annual report. We attended the interment of our aged friend Keziah Cook in the 9th mo last, and becoming good order was observed.

[Keziah Henderson Cook, (1803-1890) died at age 87.] Signed on behalf of the Committee.
Milton Mills, Mary Mills.

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th mo 16th 1891

The friends who were appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives in 5th mo report they attended.

We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting requesting us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock. The Treasurer is directed to receive any that may come to hand, and report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8th mo 13th 1891

The Queries have all been read with written answers from the Preparative Meeting which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended, a few remiss in that important duty. Friends avoid unbecoming behaviour. The hour of meeting nearly observed.

2nd Most Friends maintain Christian love toward each other as far as appears. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Most Friends endeavour by example and precept to educate their children in simplicity of dress and address. They guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation as far as we know. They are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Reasonable care has not been extended to delinquent offenders.

5th With the exception of a few of our members who support a hireling ministry by their attendance, Friends maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods, and lotteries.

6th Friends are careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage or in hazardous or speculative trade. They are just in their dealings, and endeavour to be punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements and in paying their debts reasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. Not altogether clear of attending places of diversion.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th We have no schools under our control but feel to encourage them. A few receive instruction at home.

10th No new meetings settled, and none discontinued.

11th No Ministers or Elders recorded the past year. Keziah Cook an Elder deceased 8th of 9th mo 1890. One Minister and three Elders within our limits.

12th Families 8; Parts of families 8. Every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly & Preparative meetings have been read and answered therein as directed.

We appoint Ruth Newlin & Deborah Standing as our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The sum of 85 cents has been contributed towards the Yearly Meeting's Stock which this meeting directs shall be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

The following named friends are appointed to propose to next meeting the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year, viz Keziah Cook [*Keziah Bowles Cook (1817-1895), mother of Darius B. Cook.*] & Ruth Newlin.

The general advices have been read at this time.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with Men Friends to bring forward the names of friends to serve this meeting as Overseers, viz Deborah Standing and Keziah [*Bowles*] Cook.

The meeting now concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9th mo 17th 1891

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

The representatives report they attended the Quarterly Meeting. Those appointed at last meeting to propose to this the name of a friend to serve this Meeting as Clerk for the ensuing not being ready to report are continued and directed to report to the next meeting.

The committee appointed at last meeting to bring forward to this meeting names of friends to serve as Overseers, report they are united in continuing the same now in office for the coming year, who being united with are appointed to that station.

The Committee on Books & Tracts made the following annual report which is satisfactory, the committee is continued and directed to report in 9th mo next. Report. We the Committee on the subject of Books & Tracts now make our annual report. There has been but little done as a committee. Quite a package of Tracts was sent away recently by an individual, number of pages not given. A few books have been loaned out of our library the past year. No funds on hand. Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Abner L. Newlin

The Committee on Education made a satisfactory report. They are continued for the ensuing year, and directed to report in 9th mo next. Report. We the committee on the subject of Education now report. There is no school under the care of this Monthly Meeting's Committee. Some friends members of our Monthly Meeting deeply feel the need of a friends school within our limits. There are about sixteen children between the ages of 5 and 21 years who are members of our Society but quite a number of these are of parents who have been disowned or greatly neglect the attendance of our meetings. A few friends' children receive guarded instruction at home. Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Abner L. Newlin

A proposition has been received from Bear Creek Preparative Meeting of Ministers & Elders and sanctioned by the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers & Elders informing us they united in proposing Milton Mills to stand in the station of Elder who being united with is appointed accordingly.

This meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10th mo 15^h 1891

The friends who were appointed to bring forward the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk not being ready to report are continued and directed to report to next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 19^h 1891

Mary Mills & Ella Newlin are appointed our representatives to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The friends who were appointed to bring forward to this meeting the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the coming year propose the one now in office be reappointed and which the meeting unites.

The minutes of this meeting not having been recorded the past year, the Clerk is directed to record them, and report when ready.

A proposition has been received from Bear Creek Preparative Meeting of Ministers and Elders and united with the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers & Elders to the station of Elder, with which this meeting unites.

A satisfactory Epistle has been read at this time from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12th mo 17^h 1891

The Clerk having forgotten to send the report to the Quarterly Meeting, that meeting directed it to be sent to the next Quarterly Meeting. The Clerk is directed to forward it.

The following friends are appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, viz Mary Mills and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to next meeting.

We have received instructions from the Quarterly Meeting that the Epistles received from the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond and attached to the printed minutes are to be read in our meetings as heretofore.

An acceptable Epistle has been read from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 14th 1892

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

Those appointed at last meeting to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, report it has been attended to.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like Committee of the Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths and report to next meeting, viz Ella Newlin & Mary Mills.

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd mo 18th 1892

The Clerk being absent Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

The first four queries have been read with written answers which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

We appoint Ella Newlin and Mary Mills to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives and they are directed to report to next meeting.

Those appointed at last meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of birth & deaths report it has been attended to.

The Epistle from Kansas, also one from New England for 1890 have been read, the content of which are very instructive and encouraging.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for worship & discipline have been attended, except one preparative missed on account of some friends being away from home. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior. The hour of meeting tolerably well observed.

2nd Most Friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavour by example and precept to educate their children and those under their care in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They guard them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation and they are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th There has been no dealing with offenders.

This meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3rd mo 17th 1892

The Clerk being absent Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

Those appointed at last meeting to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives, report one of them attended.

A satisfactory Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting has been read at this time.

Then the meeting concluded
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4th mo 14th 1892

No business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5th mo 19th 1892

The first four queries have been read with written answers which are approved, and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for worship & discipline have been attended, except one preparative missed on account of sickness & wind storm. No unbecoming behaviour therein. The hour of meeting pretty well observed.

2nd As far as appears most friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends generally endeavour by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. Pernicious reading is discouraged. They are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th There has been no dealing with offenders.

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

A satisfactory Epistle has been read from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th mo 16th 1892

The representatives report they failed to attend the Quarterly Meeting owing to the weather being so unfavorable and for the same reason the reports were not forwarded. We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to forward them to the next Quarter.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of the Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers, viz Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The Committee on Burials produced their annual report which is satisfactory. They are continued and directed to report in 6th mo next. Report. We the Committee to have a care at Burials would make our report. One of our members deceased since the last report, a part of our committee were present at the interment, but as the family of the deceased chose to have the services conducted by a member of the other Body, our committee had no control of the funeral. Signed on behalf of the Com

George Standing
Mary Mills

And Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting has been read, the content are very satisfactory.

The meeting concludes
D Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th mo 14th 1892

The committee appointed to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers not being ready to report are continued and directed to report when ready.

The following named friends are appointed to bring forward to next meeting the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk for the ensuing year, viz Mary Mills and Ella Newlin.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8th mo 18th 1892

The Queries have all been read with written answers which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting nearly observed.

2nd Most friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children as queried after. They guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation, and encourage the reading of the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th There has been no dealing with offenders.

5th Friends maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods, and lotteries, except a few in membership with us who attend meetings where a hireling ministry is supported.

6th Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage or in hazardous or speculative trade. They are just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements and in paying their debts reasonably, for aught that appears.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors, and attending circus shows and other places of diversion so far as we know. And they observe moderation and temperance on all occasion.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th Schools are encouraged for the education of our youth under the tuition of teachers in membership with us.

10th No new meetings settled, and none discontinued.

11th No Ministers recorded. Milton Mills and Mary Mills recorded Elders the past year. Eli Scott and Elder deceased 12-24-1891 aged 67 yrs, 1 mo 16 days. Number of Ministers one. Number of Elders four.

12th No. of Families 8; Parts of families 9. Every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures.

13th The Queries addressed to the Monthly and Preparative Meetings are read and answered therein as directed.

The following named friends are appointed as our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Ruth Newlin and they are directed to report to next meeting.

Those appointed at our last meeting to bring forward the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year propose Deborah Standing who is united with and appointed accordingly.

The General Advices have been read and considered.

A satisfactory Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends has been read at this time.

The Committee on Books & Tracts produced the following report which has been approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. The Committee is continued and directed to report in 8th mo next. Report. Number of Libraries. Number of Volumes about 85. No. received during the year, none. No. of loans, very few, Friends private libraries containing many of the same works. Pages of Tracts received, none. Pages on hand about 1400. N. distributed during the year very limited. No funds in hands of our Committee. On behalf of the Committee

Abner Newlin
Mary Mills

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9-15-1892

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

An acceptable Epistle had been read from Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The Committee on Overseers report they are united in proposing the Friends now in that station to be continued another year.

The following report has been received from the Educational Committee which is satisfactory, the Committee is continued and directed to report in 9th mo next. Report. There has been one term of school of twelve weeks taught by a friend *[a Quaker lady from Kansas named Joanna Bowles]*. Enrolment *[sic.]* four, average attendance nearly the same. The school was satisfactory and the advancement encouraging. *[What follows was crossed through and is assumed not meant to have been included in the report: "Cost \$90, twenty-four of which was paid by Bear Creek Monthly Meeting. \$42.46 by Yearly Meetings Committee. Balance unpaid \$25.54."]*

Abner L. Newlin

The meeting having disposed of the business before it now concludes

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10-13-1892

No business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11-17-1892

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting, viz Mary Mills and Deborah Standing and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The following report has been received from the Committee on Education which is satisfactory. Report. We your Committee on Education would report we have put a frame building 14 x 16 ft. 8 ft. story for school purposes for this meeting, located on SW ¼ NE ¼ sec 24 78-29 at a cash expense of \$131.36, \$115.00 of which was paid by donation and the remainder was raised voluntarily by members of this meeting. The house still needs plastering on the walls and a foundation wall underneath. We would also state, there has been a term of school of four weeks with the exception of 1 ½ days taught in said building by a teacher in membership with us. Enrolment *[sic.]* 6, the scholars gave marked evidence of a good advancement in the branches taught. At a cost of \$15.00 satisfactory arrangement for the payment of which has been made. On behalf of the committee

Abner L. Newlin

No other business appearing the meeting concludes

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12th mo 15th 1892

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

Those appointed at last meeting to attend the Quarterly Meeting as representatives report they attended.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes.

Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 19th 1893

We have received an abstract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to read the Epistles in the meetings.

The Clerk reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded to the year 1891.

The following named friends are appointed with a like committee of Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths, viz Mary Mills & Ella Newlin. They are also directed to revise the minutes of this meeting for the past year and report when ready.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd mo 16th 1893

The first four queries have been read with written answers thereto which approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended except the Preparative in the tenth month on account of Yearly Meeting. No unbecoming behavior to note. The hour of meeting middling well observed.

2nd As far as appears most friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Most friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They endeavor to guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation, and they are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Some care extended toward delinquent members.

We appoint Mary Mills and Deborah Standing our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The friends appointed at our last meeting to revise the minutes of this meeting for the past year report attended to. The Clerk is directed to record them and report next 2nd month.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3-16-1893

Those appointed at last meeting to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives report they attended.

Cynthia J. Cook has informed this meeting in writing that she wishes to resign her membership in the Society of Friends, this and Men's Meeting are united in granting her request. The Clerk is directed to inform her thereof.

The Committee appointed to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths report they have attended to the object of their appointment as far as way opened for it.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4-13-1893

The Clerk reports the needful information has been given in Cynthia Cook's case.

An Epistle from the New England Yearly Meeting has been read the contents of which are satisfactory and encouraging. No further business appearing the meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5-18-1893

The first four queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. A few are remiss in this important duty. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting middling well observed.

2nd Most friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. As far as appears tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They guard them against reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation, and they are encouraged to read the Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Some care extended toward delinquent members.

We appoint Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting.

A satisfactory Epistle has been read at this time from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th mo 15th 1893

Those appointed as representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended. A satisfactory Epistle has been read from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends. The Committee on Burials failing to report are directed to report next month.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th mo 13th 1893

We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting Stock. This meeting directs the Treasurer to receive contributions and report to next meeting.

The following named friends are appointed to propose to next meeting the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year, viz Mary Mills & Ruth Newlin.

A satisfactory Epistle has been read from Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The Committee on Burials made the following satisfactory report, the Committee is continued and directed to report in 6th month. Report. We the Committee on Burials now make our annual report. There has been no occasion for any special case on that subject the past year. On behalf of the Committee Milton Mills

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers and report to next meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Ruth Newlin.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8th mo 17th 1893

The Queries have all been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. A few are remiss in this important duty. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting mostly observed.

2nd Friends maintain love toward each other as far as appears. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No differences amongst us.

3rd Most friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of dress and address. They guard them against reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation, and they are encouraged to read the Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Endeavors are used to deal with offenders impartially though not as seasonably as might have been best.

5th With the exception of a few, Friends maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry. They are clear under the remaining heads of that query for aught we know.

6th Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage or in hazardous or speculative trade. They are just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements and in paying their debts seasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. We fear all are not quite clear of attending places of diversion. Moderation and temperance observed.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th Schools are encouraged for the education of our youth under the tuition of teachers in membership with us.

10th No new meetings settled, and none discontinued.

11th No Ministers or Elders recorded, and none deceased during the year. Four Elders and one Minister within our limits.

12th No. of Families 8; Parts of families 9. All are furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings are read and answered therein as directed.

The following named friends are appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our [remove dotted line if possible]

.....
representatives and directed to report to next meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Mary Mills

The Treasurer reports the sum of 75 cents has been contributed to increase the Yearly Meeting Stock which this meeting directs to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. Deborah Standing is continued as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Those appointed to bring forward the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk, propose the friend now in office be continued another year with which the meeting unites. [remove dotted line if possible]

.....
The Committee on Overseers are united in proposing that the friends now in that station be continued another year which united with.

The General Advices have been read at this time.

A satisfactory Epistle has been read from Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9-14-1893

The friends appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives report they attended.

The following satisfactory report has been received from the Book & Tract Committee. Report. There have been about 1,200 Tracts procured and about 1,000 distributed the past year. There are 25 vol in our Library and 9 loans the past year. On behalf of the Com

Abner L. Newlin

The Committee is continued and directed to report in 9th mo next.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10th mo 19th 1893

The Committee on Education produced the following satisfactory report, the Committee is continued and directed to report in 9th mo next. Report. We the Committee on the subject of Education herewith submit our annual report. There has been four months of school taught, three in the spring, and one in the fall. Spring term enrolment *[sic.]* 10, average attendance 9 ³/₄, fall enrolment *[sic.]* 12, average nearly the same as enrolment *[sic.]*. The first term at a cost of \$60.00 was paid by subscription of the members of this meeting, the fall term of \$20.00 was paid out of the funds received from the Yearly Meeting's Committee. The school was taught by **Emma L. Heald** a member of Ohio Yearly Meeting and was satisfactory to all parties concerned.

Statement received from Yearly Meeting's Committee	\$ 48.89
Bear Creek	60/00
Other sources	5.00
	<hr/> \$113.89
 Paid for Teaching	 \$80.00
Do <i>[ditto]</i>	15.00
Sundries	9.41
	<hr/> \$104.41
Balance	9.48
	<hr/> \$113.89

On behalf of the Committee

Abner L. Newlin

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 16th 1893

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting, viz Mary Mills and Deborah Standing and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

A communication is received from a Meeting of the Committee (held 10th mo 10th 1893) which was appointed by our late Yearly Meeting to labor to remove the hindrances (if any still exist) to a union of Hickory Grove Quarterly Meeting with us. This meeting unites with the recommendation to rise in time of Prayer; and we would encourage all our members to conform to the expressed recommendation of the Yearly Meeting thereon. No further business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12-14-1893

The friends appointed at our last meeting as representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, report they attended.

We appoint Ella Newlin and Mary Mills to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year and report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 18th 1894

The friends appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting the past year, report attended to.

Elma B. Gooden had informed this meeting in writing that she wishes to be released from being a member in the Society of Friends. After deliberation thereon this meeting feels best satisfied to appoint a committee to visit her, and Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin are appointed to obtain an interview with her.

The following friends are appointed to join a like committee of Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths, viz Mary Mills & Deborah Standing and report to next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2-15-1894

The first four Queries have been read with written answers, which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. We appoint Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting.

The friends who were appointed to visit Elma B. Gooden on her application to be released from membership with us, report they had an opportunity with her but without the effect of changing her decision, but Men's Meeting feels best satisfied to leave it over for another month with which this meeting unites.

Those appointed to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births and Deaths, report attended to.

The Clerk reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded for 1892. She is directed to record them for the past year and report in 1st mo next.

The Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends has been read to our comfort and refreshment.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. No unbecoming behavior to remark. The hour of meeting nearly observed.

2nd Friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Most friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children as queried after. They endeavor to guard them against reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation, and they are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Some care extended to delinquent members.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3-15-1894

The clerk being absent - Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

As the minutes of the last meeting are not here we are unable to take up the unfinished business, it is deferred [*sic.*] until next month.

This meeting concludes
Ella Newlin clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4-19-1894

This and Men's Meeting are united in granting Elma B. Gooden's request of resigning her membership in the Society of Friends. Ella Newlin is appointed to inform her thereof.

A satisfactory Epistle has been read from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5-17-1894

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended, a few are remiss in this important duty. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting mostly observed.

2nd As far as appears most friends maintain love toward each other as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends use some endeavors to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They are guarded against reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation, and encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Care is taken to deal with offenders impartially, though sometimes not as reasonable as might be best.

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting and directed to report to our next meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin.

Ella Newlin reports she attended to the object of her appointment in Elma B. Gooden's case.

The representatives appointed in 2nd mo last to attend the Quarterly Meeting report they attended. This minute was overlooked in its proper place.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th mo 14th 1894

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

An acceptable Epistle has been read at this time from the Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock. The Treasurer is directed to receive any that may come to hand and report in 8th mo next.

The Committee on Burials made a verbal report. There had been no occasions for the services of the Committee the past year. They are continued and directed to report in 6th mo next.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of the Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers, viz Deborah Standing and Ruth Newlin and they are directed to report to out next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th mo 19th 1894

An acceptable Epistle from our dear aged friend Huldah Bude addressed to our last Yearly Meeting has been read at this time.

The Committee on Overseers not producing a report are continued and directed to report next month.

The following friends are appointed to propose to next meeting the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year, viz Mary Mills and Ruth Newlin.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8th mo 16th 1894

The Queries have all been with written answers thereto, which have been approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. A few are remiss in this important duty. Unbecoming behavior is avoided. The hour of meeting mostly observed.

2nd As far as appears Friends maintain love toward each other. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No differences amongst us.

3rd Friends use some endeavors to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment, and apparel. They guard them against reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation, and they are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Care is taken to deal with offenders impartially though sometimes not as reasonably as might be best, and to endeavor to evince to those who will not be reclaimed the spirit of meekness and love before judgement is placed upon them.

5th Friends appear careful to maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries, except a few still in membership with us attend meetings where a hireling ministry is supported.

6th Friends are careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage or in hazardous or speculative trade. They are just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements and in paying their debts seasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. And as far as we know of attending circus shows, and other places of diversion. Moderation and temperance is observed.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th Schools are encouraged for the education of our youth under the tuition of teachers in membership with us.

10th No new meetings settled, and none discontinued the past year.

11th No Ministers or Elders recorded, and none deceased the past year. One Minister and four Elders within our limits.

12th No. of families 8; parts of families 9. Every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures as far as we know.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meetings are read and answered in the Monthly Meeting only, as the Preparative is composed of the same friends.

Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The friends who were appointed to propose a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year not being ready to report are continued and directed to report to our next meeting.

The Treasurer reports she has received a sum of 75 cts to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock which this meeting directs to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. Deborah Standing is appointed treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Committee on Overseers produced the following report which is united with and the friends named therein are appointed to the station for the following year. Report. We the committed continued at last meeting to bring forward names to serve in the station of Overseers offer the following, viz William H. Cook, Milton Mills, Mary Mills, & Ella Newlin. On behalf of the Committee

George Standing
Deborah Standing

The General Advices have been read and considered.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9th mo 13th 1894

The representatives appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting report one of them attended.

The friends who were appointed to bring forward a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk agreed to propose that Deborah Standing be re-appointed for the ensuing year which is united with.

The following report has been received from the Committee on Education which is satisfactory. The committee is continued and directed to report in 9th mo next. Report. We your Committee on Education herewith submit our report. There has been a school of 10 weeks during the past summer, kept in the Monthly Meeting School House with an enrolment [*sic.*] of 12 pupils, average attendance of 9.6, the teacher employed being a member of Ohio Yearly Meeting. The expense incurred was \$50.00. There has also been a winter school kept in a private house, the term lasting 12 weeks of 4 days in the week; with an enrolment [*sic.*] of 10 pupils, average attendance 8.7; at an expense of \$2.00 for coal. The winter school was taught by a member of our own Yearly Meeting. The result of both terms has been satisfactory to the parents and those interested in the schools. The expenses of the schools have been defrayed by a draft on the treasurer of the Committee; leaving a balance on hand of \$5.00. On behalf of the committee

Henry Standing Clerk

[Note: From journals kept for each year by Henry Standing, we know that he was the teacher of the winter school session, and that that session was taught in the home of his parents, George & Deborah Standing. NMOJ]

The Book & Tract Committee failing to report are directed to report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

The Monthly Meeting was omitted [*sic.*] in 10th mo on account of Yearly Meeting.

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 15th 1894

We appoint Ella Newlin & Mary Mills our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

An Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends has been read at this time the contents are satisfactory and encouraging.

The Book & Tract Committee failing to report are directed to report to our next meeting. The meeting having disposed of the business before it now concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12th mo 13th 1894

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

We have read at this time an acceptable Epistle from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The following named friends are appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, viz Ella Newlin and Mary Mills and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The Book & Tract Committee produced the following report which is satisfactory. We appoint the following friends in conjunction with Men Friends to bring forward names to constitute a committee for the ensuing year, viz Ella Newlin & Eunice Standing. Report. We the committee on Books and Tracts produce the following report. Number of pages of Tracts received through Auxiliary of Quarterly Meeting about 5,494, No. of pages distributed 3,368, No. on hand 2,126. Our library is kept in good condition, a limited number of loans the past year. On behalf of the committee, Abner L. Newlin

The meeting now concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 17th 1895

The friends who were appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year report it has been attended to.

The Clerk reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded for 1893, she is directed to record them for the past year and report in 1st month next.

The Committee appointed at our last meeting to propose names to constitute a committee on Books & Tracts for the ensuing year, have submitted the following which are united with and appointed accordingly, viz Deborah Standing, Ella Newlin, and Sarah Lewis.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with Men Friends to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births and Deaths for the past year, viz Ella Newlin & Deborah Standing.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2-14-1895

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

The first four Queries have been read at this time with written answers, which are directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to the Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. No unbecoming behavior to remark. The hour of meeting middling well observed.

2nd As far as appears friends maintain at good degree of Christian love. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate and guard their children as queried after, and encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th No offenders dealt with since last report.

The Committee appointed to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths report attended to.

We appoint Ella Newlin and Mary Mills to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting as our representatives and report to next meeting.

Request has been received that Arthur Charles Standing, infant son of Charles Standing, be received into membership according to discipline as only one parent is a member. This meeting is united in granting the request.

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3-14-1895

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they both attended.

A satisfactory Epistle from Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends has been read at this time.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4th mo 18th 1895

An Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends has been read, the contents are satisfactory and encouraging.

No other business appearing, the meeting concludes. Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5-16-1895

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended, a few are remiss in this important duty. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting mostly observed.

2nd Friends maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. Endeavors are used to end differences when any appear.

3rd Most Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate and guard their children as queried after, and they encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th No offenders under dealings since last report.

Mary Mills and Deborah Standing are appointed our representative to the Quarterly Meeting.

An acceptable Epistle has been read from New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

We have received a copy of a minute taken from the minutes of Bear Creek Quarterly Meeting informing us they were united in appointing a committee to assist the Monthly Meetings and work in harmony with the Overseers in dealing with our delinquent members. We have the acceptable company of the committee at this time.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6-13-1895

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock. The Treasurer is authorized to receive any that may come to hand, and report in 8th month next.

The Committee on Burials produced an annual report which is satisfactory. The Committee is continued and directed to report in 6th mo next. Report. We the Committee appointed to have a care at funerals now make our annual report. One of our members deceased 4-8-1895. *[This would have been Keziah Bowles Cook, wife of William Henderson Cook & mother of Darius B. Cook.]* The funeral was attended by the committee which was conducted in an orderly and becoming manner. Another of our members deceased 9-15-1894, being remotely situated the funeral was not attended by the committee.

On behalf of the committee
George Standing Mary Mills

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7-18-1895

The following named friends are appointed to bring forward to next meeting the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year, viz Mary Mills & Ella Newlin.

Men Friends inform they have come to the judgment to testify against Darius B. Cook with which this meeting unites. *[Note: This might suggest that Darius Cook was still*

recorded as a member of the Conservative Bear Creek Friends MM, although it seems clear from his later 1914 book, Memoirs of Quaker Divide, that he later became allied with the Progressive group and was designated its pastor in 1892.]

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8th mo 15th 1895

The Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended, a few are remiss in this important duty. A few are remiss in this important duty. Unbecoming behavior avoided. The hour of meeting nearly observed.

2nd Friends maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Some endeavors are used by example and precept to educate in plainness of speech, deportment, and apparel. Also to guard against reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation, and to encourage the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th Some care is extended to delinquent members.

5th Friends maintain a testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries as far as appears, except a few of our members who do not attend meeting with us, attend where a hireling ministry is supported.

6th Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and of involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage or in hazardous or speculative trade. They appear just in their dealings, and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements and in paying their debts seasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. Not quite clear of attending circus shows, and other places of diversion. Moderation and temperance is observed.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th Schools are encouraged for the education of our youth under the tuition of teachers in membership with us.

10th No new Meetings settled, and none discontinued the past year.

11th No Ministers or Elders recorded in the past year. None deceased. One Minister and four Elders within our limits.

12th Number of families seven; parts of families ten. Every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures as far as we know.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meetings are read and answered in the Monthly Meeting.

We appoint Deborah Standing & Ella Newlin our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting.

The Treasurer reports she has received the sum of 50 c[ents] to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock which is directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. Deborah Standing is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The friends who were appointed to propose a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk are united in proposing Deborah Standing who is accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

The General Advices have been read and considered.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers, viz Ruth Newlin and Mary Mills.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9th mo 19th 1895

The representatives report they both attended the Quarterly Meeting.

The Committee on Overseers not being ready to report are directed to report in 11th mo next.

The Book & Tract Committee, and the Committee on Education, are also directed to report in the 11th mo.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes.
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10th mo 17th 1895

No business appearing the meeting concludes.
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 14th 1895

The following named friends are appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives and they are directed to report to our next meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Mary Mills.

The Committee on Overseers submitted the following report which is united with. Report. We you Committee continued from 9th mo in regard to Overseers are united in recommending that no changes be made at this time. On behalf of the Committee,

George Standing

Mary Mills

The following report has been received from the Committee on Education which is satisfactory, the committee continued. Report. We your committee on Education herewith submit our annual report. There have been two terms of school under our care since last report; one in the winter and one in the summer. The winter school lasted 10 weeks of 4 days to the week, average enrolment [*sic.*] 10, average daily attendance 8 27/40. Cost \$3.60 for fuel. The summer school lasted 12 weeks of 5 days to the week, enrolment [*sic.*] 12, average daily attendance 11 13/60, cost \$60.00, incidental expenses 20 cts, making a total expenditure of \$63.80. \$57.80 of which has been paid by a draft from Yearly Meeting's Treasurer of \$40.00. Bear Creek Monthly Meeting \$11.80. \$40 + 11.80 = \$51.80, leaving a deficiency of \$12.00 which has been satisfactorily arranged for. Our winter school was taught by a member of our own Monthly Meeting; our summer school was taught y a member of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Both terms were satisfactory to the Committee. There are 15 children of school age within our limits – 8 of whom have attended our school, also 5 children of another Monthly Meeting.

Henry Standing Clerk of Com.

The Committee on Books & Tracts failing to report are continued and directed to report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12th mo 19th 1895

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

The following named friends are appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, viz Mary Mills and Eunice Standing & to report to our next meeting.

An acceptable Epistle has been read at this time from New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The Book & Tract Committee failing to report are continued and directed to report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 16th 1896

The Clerk not being present Mary Mills is appointed for the day.

The friends appointed at last meeting to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting the last year, report attended to.

The Book & Tract Committee produced the following satisfactory report. Mary Mills and Eunice Standing are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's

Meeting to propose to next meeting names of Friends to constitute a Committee on Books & Tracts the ensuing year. Report. There has been 2,481 pages of Tracts received. No. of pages distributed 970. No. of pages on hand 3,032. Our library is kept in good order. There has [*sic.*] been three loans the past year. On behalf of the Committee.

Abner L. Newlin

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a similar committee of Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths, viz Mary Mills and Eunice Standing and report to next meeting.

Then the meeting concluded
Mary Mills Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd mo 13th 1896

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended, though some are remiss in this important duty. No unbecoming behavior to remark. The hour of meeting middling well observed.

2nd Friends maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged and mostly avoided. And when differences arise endeavors are used to end them.

3rd Friends use some endeavors to educate, guard and encourage their children as queried after.

4th No way has appeared to open for dealing with delinquent members since last report.

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The Clerk reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded for 1894; she is directed to record them for the past year, and report in 1st mo next.

A satisfactory Epistle from Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends has been read at this time.

The committee appointed at last meeting to bring forward names to constitute a committee on Books & Tracts for the following year, have proposed the following which are approved and appointed accordingly, viz Mary Mills, Ella Newlin and Sarah Lewis.

The committee appointed at last meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births and Deaths, report attended to.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3rd mo 19th 1896

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

A satisfactory Epistle has been read from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4th mo 16 -1896

We have read at this time an acceptable Epistle dated 1894 from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends which was not received in due course.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5th mo 14th 1896

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. Unbecoming behavior avoided. The hour of meeting pretty well observed.

2nd As far as appears Friends maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distractions avoided. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate and guard their children as queried after. They endeavor to guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. They are encouraged to read the Scriptures and other religious books.

4th No way has seemed to open for dealing with offenders.

Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th mo 18th 1896

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting directing us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock. The Treasurer is authorized to receive any that may come to hand and report in 8th month next.

We have read at this time an acceptable Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The following report has been received from the Committee on Burials which is satisfactory. The Committee is continued and directed to report in 6th month next. Report. To Bear Creek Monthly Meeting. We the Committee to have a care at funerals would submit our annual report. There has been no occasion for any services of the Committee in the past year.

On behalf of the Committee
George Standing
Mary Mills

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th mo 16th 1896

The following named friends are appointed to propose to next meeting the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk for the ensuing year, viz Mary Mills & Ella Newlin.

We have read at this time a satisfactory Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Stillwater, Ohio.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8 mo 13th 1896

The Queries have all been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended,. A few are remiss in this important duty. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting nearly observed.

2nd A good degree of Christian love is preserved. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd We believe Friends endeavor to educate their children by example and precept as queried after. They guard them against reading pernicious books and corrupt conversation and encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th There has been no dealing with offenders.

5th Friends maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries; except a few still in membership with us who attend meetings where a hireling ministry is supported.

6th Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage; or in hazardous speculative trade. They are just in their dealings and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements; and in paying their debts seasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors; and of attending circus shows and other places of diversion as far as we know, and they observe moderation and temperance on all occasions.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th Schools are encouraged for the education of our youth under the tuition of teachers in membership with us.

10th No new meetings settled and none discontinued.

11th No Ministers or Elders recorded and none deceased during the year. One Minister and four Elders within our limits.

12th Number of families seven; parts of families ten, every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures as far as we know.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meetings are read in the Monthly Meetings.

We appoint Mary Mills & Deborah Standing our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The Treasurer reports the sum of \$1.10 as contributed to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock which is directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. Deborah Standing is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Those appointed at last meeting to propose to this the name of a friend to serve as Clerk not being ready to report are continued and directed to report to our next meeting.

The General Advises have been read and considered at this time.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like committee of Men's Meeting to propose to our next meeting names of friends to fill the station of Overseers for the ensuing year, viz Deborah Standing & Mary Mills.

The meeting having disposed of the business before it now concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9th mo 17th 1896

The friends appointed as our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

The friends appointed to bring forward the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk, propose Deborah Standing and she is appointed accordingly.

Those appointed to bring forward names of friends to fill the station of Overseers in this meeting, report they have not been unmindful of their appointment but are not ready to report at this time. They are continued and directed to report in 11th month.

The Committee on Education produced the following satisfactory report, the Committee is re-appointed with the addition of Ella Newlin. Report. We your Committee on Education make the following report. There has been one term of school taught of 12 weeks, enrolment [sic.] 12, Average daily attendance _____. School taught by a member of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Advancement very good and has been very satisfactory to both the Committee and Patrons. Expense of term \$60 which has been met by an appropriation of Yearly Meeting's Committee of \$40 and \$20 paid by the members of this meeting. On behalf of the Committee. Abner L. Newlin Clerk

The Committee on Books & Tracts made the following report – which is satisfactory, they are continued and directed to report in 9th mo next. Report. We your Committee on Books & Tracts herewith submit our report. There have been about 600 pages of Tracts distributed during the past year. Number of loans from our Library, 9/ Number of volumes in our Library, 81. No additions during the past year. We have several hundred pages of tracts still on hand. On behalf of the Committee

Abner L. Newlin
Mary Mills

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

There was no Monthly Meeting in 10th mo on account of Yearly Meeting.

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 19th 1896

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

We appoint Mary Mills and Ella Newlin our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting, and report to next meeting.

The Committee continued in 9th month last to bring forward names of suitable friends to serve this meeting in the station of Overseers make the following report which is approved and they are appointed accordingly. Report. The Committee appointed to bring forward the names of suitable friends to serve this meeting as Overseers for the ensuing year would offer the following to serve till 6th mo next, namely William H. Cook, Charles Standing, Mary Mills, & Ella Newlin. On behalf of Committee

James E. Gooden & D. Standing

This meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12-17-1896

The Clerk being absent Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

The Representatives report they both attended the Quarterly Meeting.

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1-14-1897

We have received an extract from the minutes of our last Quarterly Meeting directing us to read the exercises of the last Yearly Meeting, also the Epistles received from the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond.

The following named friends are appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, also to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births and Deaths and report to our next meeting, viz Mary Mills & Ella Newlin.

The Clerk reports the minutes of this meeting are recorded for 1895, she is directed to record them for the past year, and report in 1st mo next.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd mo 18th 1897

The first four Queries have been read with written answers, which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to the Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. No unbecoming behavior to note. The hour of meeting is observed.

2nd We believe most friends maintain a good degree of love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession and are concerned to discourage tale bearing and distraction. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel, and endeavor to guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. And encouragement is given to the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures.

4th We feel that in our present condition we are not sufficient to deal with offenders.

We appoint Deborah Standing & Mary Mills our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

Those appointed at our last meeting to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, also to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths, report attended to.

We have read an acceptable Epistle from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3rd mo 18th 1897

Those appointed at our last meeting to attend the Quarterly Meeting as Representatives, report they attended.

We have read at this time a satisfactory and encouraging Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4th mo 15th 1897

The Clerk not being present Mary Mills is appointed for the day. No business appearing the meeting concludes.

Mary Mills Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5th mo 13th 1897

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to the Queries

1st Ans All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting is observed.

2nd Most friends appear to maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our profession. We desire to discourage tale bearing and distraction. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children as queried after.

4th No way has appeared to open for dealing with offenders.

We appoint Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin our representatives to attend the ensuing Quarterly Meeting.

An acceptable Epistle has been read from the New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6 mo 17th 1897

One of the friends who were appointed at our last meeting to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives attended, the other was prevented on account of sickness at home.

We have received an extract from the minutes of the Quarterly Meeting requesting us to raise funds to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock. The Treasurer is authorized to receive any that may come to hand, and report in 8th mo next.

The Committee on Burials made a verbal report that there had been no occasion for the services of the Committee the past year. The Committee is continued and directed to report in 6th mo next.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like Committee of Men's Meeting to bring forward names of friends to serve this meeting as Overseers, viz Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin and report to next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7-15-1897

The following named friends are appointed to bring forward to next meeting the name of a friend to serve the meeting as Clerk the ensuing year, viz Eunice Standing & Ella Newlin.

Those appointed at our last meeting to bring forward names of friends to serve this meeting as Overseers for the ensuing year, produced the following report which is united with, and the friends named therein are appointed accordingly. Report. To Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends to be held 7 mo 15th 1897. We your Committee appointed in 6th mo last to propose names of suitable friends to fill the station of Overseers propose William H. Cook, Charles Standing, Mary Mills and Ella Newlin.

On behalf of the Committee
Abner L. Newlin
Deborah Standing

We have read at this time an acceptable Epistle from Kansas Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 8th mo 19th 1897

The Queries have all been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended,. A few are remiss in that important duty. Unbecoming behavior is avoided. The hour of meeting mostly observed.

2nd Most Friends maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children and those under their care in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation and encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th No way has seemed to open for dealing with offenders.

5th Friends bear testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries; except a few in membership with us who attend places of worship where a hireling ministry is supported.

6th Friends are careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage; or in hazardous speculative trade. They are just in their dealings and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements; and in paying their debts seasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. We feel all not quite clear of attending places of diversion.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th Schools are encouraged under the tuition of teachers in membership with us.

10th No new meetings settled and none discontinued.

11th No Ministers or Elders recorded and none deceased the past year. One Minister and four Elders within our limits.

12th Number of families 7; parts of families 19, all furnished with Scriptures as far as we know.

13th The Queries addressed to the Quarterly, Monthly and Preparative Meetings are read in the Monthly Meetings.

We appoint Deborah Standing & Mary Mills our representatives to attend the Quarterly Meeting.

The Treasurer reports the sum of 70¢ as contributed to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock which is directed to be forwarded to the Q M.

Those appointed to bring forward the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk propose the name of Deborah Standing which is united with.

Mary Alice Standing has requested to be united in membership with our Society. After a time of deliberation thereon friends have come to the judgement to appoint a committee to have an interview with her and we appoint Ella Newlin and Mary Mills to that service and they are directed to report to next meeting.

Men Friends have informed this meeting they are united in requesting the Quarterly Meeting that we hold our Monthly Meeting one week later in 10th mo, on account of Yearly Meeting being held at the same time with which this meeting unites.

The General Advises have been read and considered.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9-16-1897

Those appointed at our last meeting to attend the Quarterly Meeting as our representatives, report they attended.

The Committee appointed at our last meeting to have an interview with Mary Alice Standing on her application to be received into membership with our Society, report attended to, and this and Men's Meeting are united in granting her request, also that her infant daughter Alice Rebecca be admitted at the same time. Eunice Standing is appointed to inform her and report to next meeting.

The Committee on Education presented their annual report which is satisfactory. They are continued and directed to report in 9th mo next. Report. We your Committee on Education herewith submit our annual report. Since our last report we have had under our care one term of school of three months taught by a member of Ohio Yearly Meeting with an enrolment [*sic.*] of 12 scholars, average daily attendance 11 ½, cost \$60.00 of which \$40.00 was drawn from the Yearly Meeting's fund, and the balance paid by members of this Monthly Meeting. The school was satisfactory to all concerned. On behalf of the Committee

George Standing
Mary Mills

The Committee on Books & Tracts made the following report, the Committee is re-appointed, viz Mary Mills, Ella Newlin and Sarah Lewis and directed to report at the usual time next year. Report. We your Committee on Books & Tracts herewith submit our annual report. During the past year we have received through the Tract Association of Friends nearly 8,500 pages of Tracts, most of which have been distributed. We have on hand 4,536 pages of Tracts and 30 juvenile books; also 2 copies of John Wilbur's letters, and a library of 86 volumes of which none have been loaned during the year. On behalf of the Committee

Henry Standing
Ella Newlin

This meeting has concluded to adjourn to next 5th day the 23rd on account of lack of information from the Quarterly Meeting as to the disposal of our request with regard to changing the time of holding the Monthly Meeting in 10th mo.

9th mo 23rd Met according to adjournment. We have received information that the Quarterly Meeting has granted our request and that the Monthly Meeting be changed to 5th day after the 3rd 7th day in the 10th mo.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10th mo 21st 1897

The friend who was appointed to inform Mary Alice Standing that her request to become a member of our Society is complied with, not being present in continued, and she is directed to report to our next meeting.

To Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends to be held 10th mo 21st 1897:
Dear Friends

On account of the disturbed condition of Society I was unable to produce a certificate to your meeting and now request to become a member if Friends are satisfied.

Mary H. Ridgeway

This and Men's Meeting are united in granting Mary H. Ridgeway's request, and we appoint Mary Mills to inform her thereof. *[Mary Hibbs Ridgeway was the daughter of Valentine & Sarah J. Greene Hibbs; she was a widow with children as of 1890.]*

Frances Nicholson has requested to be joined in membership with our Society, after a time of deliberation thereon this meeting is united in appointing Mary Mills and Martha Lewis to have an interview with her on the subject and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11-18-1897

The friend who was appointed to inform Mary Alice Standing that her request to become a member of our Society is complied with, reports attended to.

The friend who was appointed to inform Mary H. Ridgeway her request to become a member of our Society is complied with, reports attended to.

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Mary Mills, and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

We have received a proposition from the Preparative Meeting of Ministers & Elders to appoint Ella Newlin as a suitable friend to fill the station of Elder, this and Men's Meeting unites with the proposition, she is there appointed to that station.

The friends who were appointed to confer with Frances Nicholson in regard to her request to become a member of our Society, report they had an interview with her to satisfaction, and this meeting united by Men Friends have come to the judgement to grant her request, she being present it is unnecessary to appoint any one to inform her.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes

Deborah Standing Clerk

The Monthly Meeting in 12th mo was missed.

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1st mo 13th 1898

The representatives appointed to attend our last Quarterly Meeting, report they attended.

Josiah Standing & Frances Nicholson have informed this meeting in writing, they intend marriage with each other, we appoint Ella Newlin & Mary Mills to whom objections in respect to marriage engagements, if any, are to be made, and they are to report to our next meeting.

Mary Mills & Ella Newlin are appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, also to unite with a similar appointment of Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths, and report to next meeting.

The Clerk reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded for 1896, she is directed to record them for the past year and report in 1st mo.

We have read a letter from the Committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting to assist us in dealing with our delinquent members if way opens for it which has been considered.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd mo 17th 1898

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries

1st Ans All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended except one Monthly Meeting on account of sickness.. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting is nearly observed by most.

2nd Most friends maintain love toward each other in a good degree as queried after. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends use some endeavors by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation and encourage them to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th No way has seemed to open for dealing with offenders.

The following friends are appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as representatives, viz Mary Mills and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to next meeting.

The committee at last meeting to whom objections if any should be made to the proposed marriage of Josiah Standing & Frances Nicholson, report that nothing has come to their notice. They are left at liberty to accomplish their marriage according to our rules. The following named friends are appointed to attend the marriage and marriage entertainment and extend the necessary care, and report to next meeting, viz Ella Newlin & Mary Mills.

Request has been made that a meeting be appointed at this place on the 7th of 3rd mo for the solemnization of the aforesaid marriage which is granted by this meeting.

Those appointed at last meeting to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting, also to unite with a similar committee of Men's Meeting to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of births and deaths, report attended to.

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3-17-1898

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

The friends who were appointed to attend the marriage and marriage entertainment of Josiah Standing and Frances Nicholson report they attended and extended the care necessary, and it was conducted in an orderly manner.

The communication from the Yearly Meetings Committee being considered at this time, this and Men's Meeting are united in directing the Clerks to inform that committee that way did not seem to open to act in accordance with their recommendations.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4th mo 14th 1898

No business appearing the meeting concludes.

Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5th mo 19th 1898

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to the Queries

1st Ans All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. No unbecoming behavior to remark. The hour of meeting generally observed.

2nd For aught that appears friends generally maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends endeavor by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They guard them against pernicious reading and corrupt conversation, and they are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th There has been no case of offenders before our meeting.

Deborah Standing and Mary Mills are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting.

We have read a satisfactory Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th mo 16th 1898

The friends who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting report they attended.

We have read at this time a satisfactory Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a similar appointment of Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers and report to next meeting, viz/ Deborah Standing, Mary Mills & Mary Ridgeway.

The Committee on Burials failing to report are continued and directed to report to our next meeting.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th mo 14th 1898

The following named friends are appointed to bring forward to our next meeting the name of a friend to serve the meeting as Clerk for the ensuing year, viz Mary Mills & Ella Newlin.

The Committee appointed at our last meeting to bring forward names of friends to serve the meeting as Overseers are united in proposing that those now in that station be continued another year and they are appointed accordingly, viz William H. Cook, Charles Standing, Mary Mills & Ella Newlin.

The Committee on Burials submitted their annual report, the Committee is continued and directed to report in 6th month. Report. We the Committee appointed to have a care at Burials, would herewith submit our annual report. One of our members deceased since our last report but the Burial was conducted by the other Body. On behalf of Committee.

Milton Mills

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 7th mo 18th 1898

The Queries have all been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended. No unbecoming behavior to remark. The hour of meeting generally observed.

2nd For aught that appears, Friends maintain love in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction are discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends use some endeavors by example and precept to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel, and to guard them against pernicious reading and from corrupt conversation, and they are encouraged frequently to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th There has no case of offenders come before our meeting.

5th Friends maintain a faithful testimony against a hireling ministry, slavery, oaths, military services, clandestine trade, prize goods and lotteries; except a few who attend meetings where a hireling ministry is supported.

6th Friends appear careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances and to avoid involving themselves in business beyond their ability to manage; or in hazardous speculative trade; they are just in their dealings and punctual in complying with their contracts and engagements; and in paying their debts seasonably.

7th Friends are clear of importing, vending, distilling, and the unnecessary use of all intoxicating liquors. We fear not quite all clear of attending places of diversion. Moderation and temperance is observed.

8th No poor amongst us requiring aid.

9th Schools are encouraged under the tuition of teachers in membership with us.

10th No new meetings settled; and none discontinued.

11th Ella Newlin recorded an Elder; none deceased the past year. Five Elders and one Minister.

12th Ten families; 18 parts of families, every family is furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures as far as we know.

13th Endeavors have been used to answer the Queries as directed.

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Mary Mills.

The sum of 75¢ is reported to increase the Yearly Meeting's Stock which is directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. Deborah Standing is reappointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Those appointed at our last meeting to bring forward the name of a friend to serve this meeting as Clerk the ensuing year, propose Deborah Standing and she is appointed accordingly.

The General Advices have been read and considered.

We have read at this time a satisfactory Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 9th mo 15th 1898

Those who were appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, report they attended.

We have read a satisfactory and encouraging Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

The Committee on Books & Tracts have submitted their annual report which is satisfactory, the Committee is continued with the addition of Mary H. Ridgeway. Report. We your Committee having the care of Books & Tracts herewith submit our annual report. During the past year we have received through the Tract Association of Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting about 2,500 pages of Tracts nearly all of which have been distributed, together with some of what we already had. We now have on hand 4,592 pages of Tracts. Our library consists of 86 vol. There have been two loans during the past year. We also have in our hands a number of pamphlets not contained in the printed catalogue of tracts. On behalf of the Committee

Henry Standing
Ella Newlin

The committee on Education has sent in their annual report which is satisfactory, the committee is continued and directed to report at the usual time next year. Report. We your committee entrusted with the care of the subject of Education herewith submit our annual report. During the past year we have had in charge a school of four months, taught by a member of Ohio Yearly Meeting with an enrolment [*sic.*] of 12 pupils, average daily attendance 11. The efforts and exemplary conduct of the teacher have been satisfactory to the Committee, so also has the advancement of the pupils. The expense of the school was \$80.00; \$36.00 of which came from the Yearly Meeting's fund, and 44.00

from members of our own Monthly Meeting. There are in our limits 12 children of school age. On behalf of the Committee

Milton Mills
Mary Mills

The meeting concludes, Deborah Standing, Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 10th mo 20th 1898

We have with us at this time the acceptable company of part of the committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting one year ago, to assist if way should open for it in difficult cases in dealing with our delinquent members; after a time of deliberation thereon the meeting feels it may be best to let the subject rest for the present

No other business appearing the meeting concludes

Deborah Standing, Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 11th mo 17th 1898

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the ensuing Quarterly Meeting, viz Ella Newlin & Deborah Standing.

We have read at this time an acceptable Epistle from Canada Yearly Meeting of Women Friends.

We have received a letter from our dear friend, Jonathan Rhodes expressive of his deep concern for our spiritual advancement and that we may so yeald [*sic.*] ourselves to the government of the Prince of Peace as to be used by Him for the advancement of Truth.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 12th mo 15th 1898

One of the representatives attended the Quarterly Meeting.

The following named friends are appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year, viz Ella Newlin & Frances Standing.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes

Deborah Standing, Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 1-19-1899

Those appointed to assist the Clerk in revising the minutes of this meeting for the past year report attended to.

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like appointment of Men Friends to assist the Recorder in collecting statistics of Births & Deaths and report when ready, viz Alice Standing & Ella Newlin.

The Clerk reports the minutes of this meeting have been recorded for 1897, she is directed to record them for the past year and report in 1st mo next.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 2nd mo 16th 1899

The Clerk being absent Ella Newlin is appointed for the day.

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

Ans to the Queries

1st All our meeting/s/for Worship & Discipline have been attended except one Preparative missed on account of sickness and cold weather. Unbecoming behavior avoided. The hour of meeting generally observed.

2nd For aught that appears most friends maintain love toward each other in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Some endeavors are used to live up to the requirements of that query.

4th No way has seemed to open for dealing with offenders.

The following named friends are appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as representatives, viz Ella Newlin & Mary Ridgeway and to report to that meeting.

An encouraging Epistle from Canada has been read at this time.

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin, Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 3-16-1899

The Clerk not being present Ella Newlin is appointed for the day. The Clerk having failed to send the book we are unable to take up the unfinished business of last meeting.

The committee appointed in 1st mo to examine the records of births and deaths make the following satisfactory report – We have examined the records and find them in good condition, and the following satisfactory report, and rendered the Recorder such assistance as we found necessary. On behalf of the committee

Henry Standing
Ella Newlin

The meeting concludes
Ella Newlin Clerk for the day

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 4-13-1899

The friends who were appointed our representative in 2nd mo both attended the Q. M.

A satisfactory Epistle from Kansas Yearly Meeting has been read at this time.

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 5th mo 18th 1899

The first four Queries have been read with written answers thereto which are approved and directed to be forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting.

The following named friends are appointed our representatives to the Quarterly Meeting, viz Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to our next meeting.

Mary H. Ridgeway requests a certificate of removal to be transferred to North Branch Monthly Meeting, Madison County, Iowa. Ella Newlin and Mary Mills are appointed to make the due enquiry and if no obstructions arise prepare and produce one to our next meeting.

Ans to Queries

1st All our meetings for Worship & Discipline have been attended, except one Preparative missed on account of sickness and other unavoidable circumstances. Friends avoid unbecoming behavior therein. The hour of meeting generally observed.

2nd We believe most friends maintain love in a good degree as becomes our Christian profession. Tale bearing and distraction discouraged. No apparent differences amongst us.

3rd Friends use some endeavors to educate their children in plainness of speech, deportment and apparel. They guard them against pernicious reading and from corrupt conversation and they are encouraged to read the Holy Scriptures and other religious books.

4th No way has opened for dealing with offenders.

No further business appearing the meeting concludes

The meeting concludes
Deborah Standing Clerk

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends held 6th mo 15 1899

The friends who were appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting as representatives, report they attended.

Those appointed at last meeting to prepare a certificate of removal for Mary H. Ridgeway produced one, which has been approved and signed by the Clerk, on behalf of the meeting and is directed to be placed in the hands of the Correspondent.

The Committee on Burials produced their annual report which is satisfactory. The Committee is continued and directed to report in 6th mo next. Report. We the Committee on Burials would offer the following report. There has been one interment of one of our members since last report which was attended by the Committee (Ruth Newlin deceased 8th mo 18th 1898). On behalf of the Committee

Milton Mills

Deborah Standing

The following named friends are appointed in conjunction with a like Committee of Men's Meeting to consider the propriety of a change in the Overseers, viz Deborah Standing and Ella Newlin and they are directed to report to next meeting. No further business the meeting concludes

Deborah Standing Clerk

Comments regarding this set of Minutes:

These recorded Minutes of the Bear Creek Monthly Meeting of Women Friends (Conservative) span a period of nearly a decade from the beginning of 1889 to the midpoint of 1899. These meetings probably took place in the first-built Conservative Friends Meeting House immediately east of the Bear Creek Cemetery within Section 23 of Union Twp., Dallas County – and across the road from a Friends Meeting House (later, a Church was built) which was occupied by the Progressive branch of Bear Creek Friends. The two groups were organized as a result of a split within the Bear Creek Friends in 1877. The Bear Creek group of Progressive Friends is referred to in these Minutes as “the other Body.”

The Men's Monthly Meeting and Women's Monthly Meeting met separately for business discussions but then consolidated any decisions made by either group, and each was presided over by a Clerk and Assistant Clerk. The Monthly Meeting as a whole had a Recorder and an elected group of Overseers, consisting of those designated as Elders and Ministers. Committees were routinely appointed to handle business concerns such as Books & Tracts and Education. One committee was appointed to “provide oversight and care” in the case of funerals and burial. During the entire span of these Minutes, Deborah Standing was re-appointed as Clerk of the Women's Meeting, and Ella Newlin and Mary Mills were most often serving in many roles. According to these minutes the entire membership of these Conservative Friends in the Bear Creek community consisted of only 7 to 12 families during this period of time.

The format of the Minutes is fairly formal and quite repetitive; it seems that they followed a consistent “template” from which there was little deviation, and each month two representatives were sent to represent the women at the Quarterly Meeting, which may have been held elsewhere. One issue with which the Monthly Meeting apparently struggled was the “dealing with offenders” – presumably members who were not following all the prescribed “rules” of the Meetings. They made decisions on who would

be admitted into membership and those who should be removed, and also approved and presided over at least one wedding within the Meeting – that of Josiah Standing and Frances Nicholson on 3/07/1898.

Prior to 1892 Bear Creek Monthly Meeting (Conservative) had had no formal school of its own, so one important business matter was the building of a little school house and the hiring of a series of appropriate Quaker teachers. The building of a school structure took place in the fall of 1892 on land provided by Abner and Ella Newlin, as reported in these Minutes.

*Nancy Osborn Johnsen
3/31/2024*

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