

NARRATIVE TO ACCOMPANY SOUTH RIVER PREPARATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Comments regarding this set of Minutes

These recorded Minutes of the South River Preparative Meeting of Friends (Conservative) span a period of over a decade from the beginning of 1878 to the spring of 1893. These meetings took place in the village of Ackworth, a Friends community north of the South River and 4 miles east of the town of Indianola in Washington Twp. (later, Lincoln Twp.), Warren County. Initially the South River Quarterly Meeting of Friends had opened in Ackworth, Iowa on 3/10/1860 as one religious body (Bedell 1966:89). These minutes were begun less than a year after the split from the greater Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends in 1877 into Conservative and Progressive branches. The South River Conservative Friends were accepted into the North Branch Monthly Meeting of Friends, located east of the young town of Earlham in northern Madison County. Per the minutes of the South River Preparative Meeting of Women Friends, the Preparative Meetings was allowed to be discontinued as of 12th month of 1894; however, the South River Meeting did continue for several decades after as a Meeting for Worship, under Bear Creek Monthly Meeting. [An Ackworth Friends Church (Progressive) continued on within the village of Ackworth after the two branches had split from each other.]

Initially, in 1878, the South River Friends Meeting (Conservative) met as a Preparative Meeting in homes of its members; later, late in 1885 the South River Meeting House was built in the village of Ackworth to be their place of worship. Per the Minutes of the South River Meeting, the little Meeting House was on a 27 ft. x 27 ft. plot of ground in the southeast corner of Block 8, and the ground was granted on a perpetual lease from John White, a member of the Meeting. Apparently in 1933 the little Meeting House was moved from town into the countryside to the William Clarkson Moffitt farm a few miles northwest of Ackworth and just north of U.S. Hwy 92.

According to Bedell 1966:92 the relocated Meeting House was:

“ . . . a small white one-room house with eight walnut benches [given by the Ackworth Friends Church], which will seat five or six persons each. There is one raised bench facing the others.”

The South River (Ackworth) Conservative Friends were not “laid down” until at least the 1960s. Apparently, the little Meeting House structure was ultimately moved to the fairgrounds in Indianola.

Initially South River Preparative Meeting fell under the jurisdiction of North Branch Monthly Meeting; but later, both were incorporated into Bear Creek Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. When members of South River Meeting traveled to Madison County to attend North Branch Meeting (east of the town of Earlham), or yet further to the Bear Creek Meeting House in Dallas County, they would have to have made a journey of 55-60 miles one way – with horse and buggy until into the 20th century.

Regarding some of the early members of the Meeting;

Note: By the 1885 Iowa State Census, Washington Twp. encompassed only the four wards within Indianola; the surrounding lands had been changed from Washington to Lincoln Twp.

***Nathan Craven** was the first and long-time Clerk of the South River (Ackworth) Meeting; he and his wife **Keziah Craven** show up in the 1870 Federal Census for Washington Twp., Warren County, Iowa as being ages 63 and 64 respectively. Both are listed as having been born in North Carolina. Nathan is a stone mason and Keziah is “keeping house.” Nathan’s real estate value is listed at \$3,000 and his “personal value” at \$1,000. Within in their household are Delila Craven (age 28, teacher), Almira Craven (age 24, teacher), and Oliver Craven (age 21, farmer). All three children are listed as having been born in North Carolina. Living separately, likely another son is **Joshua Craven** (age 35, born in North Carolina, “runs saw mill”) and his wife Ellen Craven (age 32, born in Indiana, “keeping house.”) They have a 3-year-old daughter, Samira. By the 1885 Iowa Census, Nathan and Keziah (spelled Kiziah in the census) Craven are once again listed as living by themselves, ages 77 and 79 respectively. In a nearby dwelling are listed Oliver Craven (age 35, born in North Carolina), Mary E. Craven (likely his wife, age 32, born in Ohio), and their children – William W. (age 7), Annie M. (age 2), and Frances K. (age 2). By the 1895 Iowa State Census, the **Oliver and Mary E. Craven** family is shown to be in the 1st Ward, Washington Twp. and they have another child, Avery O. Craven.*

*In the 1870 Federal Census for Washington Twp., Warren County, **Benjamin Hinshaw** (age 60, born in North Carolina, a farmer) and his wife **Nancy Hinshaw** (age 59, born in Indiana, “keeping house”) appear to have been living with two daughters, Ruth (age 22, and Annie (age 20), both of whom were born in Indiana. Benjamin Hinshaw’s real estate holdings were valued at \$12,000, and his “personal value” at \$2,500. A household - likely that of the Hinshaw’s son, Joshua Hinshaw (age 29, born in Indiana, farmer) and Joshua’s wife, Elmira Hinshaw (age 25, born in Tennessee, “keeping house”) – is nearby. They have a young daughter, Almedia, age 1. Two other children, Orlando Hinshaw (age 11, born in Iowa) and Elizabeth Hinshaw (age 6, born in Kansas) are listed*

in the census, but their relationship to the others is not clear. In the 1885 Iowa Census for Lincoln Twp., Warren Co., Iowa, the family name is spelled "HENSHAW. Only one Hinshaw household is listed: Benjamin Hinshaw (age 75), his wife Nancy Hinshaw (age 73), and their daughter Anna Hinshaw (age 33). [Both of the elder Hinshaws died within two weeks of each other in the spring of 1891]. By the 1895 Iowa State Census, Joshua and "Elmina F." Hinshaw are living within Washington- 4th Ward Indianola with a daughter Vivian.

Also in the 1870 Federal Census for Washington Twp., Warren County, are listed **Levi Barnett** (age 39, farmer) and his wife **Mariam Barnett** (age 32, "keeping house."); both were born in Indiana. Levi's real estate value is listed at \$4,500 and his "personal value" at \$700. They have with them four children: John (age, 8), William (age 6), Oscar A. (age 4), and Alice (age 2). All four children were born in Iowa. Possibly living with them is **Margaret Barnett**, age 79, who is listed as "too old to work." Next to her name in the census is that of **Jane Rubottom** (age 43, born in Ohio), who was listed as "keeping house" and with her as daughters were Catharine Rubottom (age 12) and Ruth Rubottom (age 8), both of whom had been born in Iowa. It might be assumed that Jane was a sister to Levi and possibly a widow, and that Margaret was their mother.

By the 1885 Iowa State Census, Levi and Mariam Barnett have two more children: Arthur Jessie (age 14, born in Iowa) and Elva Elizabeth Barnett (age 3, born in Iowa). From the Master Index for the 1895 Iowa Census, Warren Co., Iowa, one household in Lincoln Twp. is listed with Barnett surnames: Arthur Jessie, Elva Elizabeth, Jno [Jonathan], Levi, Miriam, Oscar A. Obviously, this constitutes the **Levi and Miriam Barnett** family.

Moormon Haworth shows up in the 1870 census for Washington Twp. as a 68-year-old farmer born in Tennessee; his wife Elizabeth Haworth (age 64) was also born in Tennessee. He signed as one of the original members of South River Meeting. Living with them were two unmarried daughters: Malinda Haworth (age 32, born in Illinois) and Angeline Haworth (age 26, born in Iowa). Moormon's real estate worth is listed as \$13,000 and his "personal value" as \$300.

In a separate household is listed a 13-year-old schoolboy named **Moorman Haworth**, born in Iowa. His parents were Calvin Haworth (a farmer age 40, born in Illinois) and Rachiel Haworth (age 33, born in Illinois). An Agnes Haworth (age 56, born in Ohio) is listed nearby in the census and likely would have been Calvin's' mother. This Moorman Hayworth was living with five younger siblings: Laura (age 11), James (age 9), Mahlon (age 7), John F. (age 5), and Isaac E. (age 1.)

Moorman Haworth -- listed in the 1885 Iowa State Census as "Morman C. Hayworth" -- had a family in Ackworth: his wife Clara Y. "Hayworth" (age 26, born in Indiana), and their children Netta (age 4) and Rex (less than 12 months). By the 1895

Iowa State Census, “Morman Haworth” is listed in Lincoln-Ackworth Twp. and living with his wife Clara and with four children, Nella L, Rex, Leon, and M. Pritchard. Quite a few families with the surname Haworth or Hayworth were living with Lincoln Twp., Warren Co., Iowa.

*In the 1870 Federal Census for the then Washington Twp., Warren Co., Iowa, **William A. Moffitt** (age 33, born in North Carolina) is listed with his family: **Mary Moffitt** (age 28, born in North Carolina), son **Clarkson Moffitt** (age 7, born in North Carolina) and daughter **Mary E. Moffitt** (age 1, born in Iowa). William A. Moffitt’s real estate value was listed at \$500 and his “personal value” at \$400.*

*In the 1885 Iowa Census for Ackworth the Moffitt family is listed under the spelling of “MOFFET.” Living together in the same house were **William A. Moffitt**, at age 47, with his children **William Clarkson Moffitt** (age 22), **Emma M. Moffitt** (age 16), and **Olla R. Moffitt** (age 11). William C. had been born in North Carolina, but the other two children were born in Iowa.*

*From the Master Index for the 1895 Iowa Census for Warren Co., Iowa, one household in Lincoln Twp. is listed with the names of **Able J. Moffitt, Jane Moffitt, Margaret E. Moffitt, William Clarkson Moffitt, and William E. Moffitt**. Obviously this is the family of William Clarkson (Clarkson) Moffitt and his wife Jane.*

*In the 1870 Federal Census for Belmont Twp., Warren Co., Iowa, **Samuel Carey** is listed with his family. Samuel Carey, age 45 and born in Indiana, is a farmer with \$1,400 worth of real estate and a “personal value” of \$650. The family is composed of his wife, Ruth Carey (age 48 and born in Indiana), twin daughters Eliza and Rhoda Carey (age 17, born in Indiana), and sons Joseph Carey (age 13) and Linley Carey (age 9) – both of whom were born in Iowa. Samuel Carey served as clerk of South River Preparative Meeting of Friends in its earlier years. By the 1885 Iowa Census for Warren County, the Carey family is no longer listed.*

*In the 1870 Federal Census for Palmyra Twp., Warren Co., Iowa, **John White** is listed with his family. John is a 58-year-old farmer with real estate valued at \$16,000 and “personal value” at \$1,500; he was born in North Carolina. His wife, **Margaret White**, is age 42 and was also born in North Carolina. They have living with them four children: **Mary E. White** (age 28, a teacher, born in Indiana), **Jonathan White** (age 17, farmer), **Alvin White** (age 9), and **Jane White** (age 2). The three youngest children were all born in Iowa; both Jonathan and Alvin are listed as having attended school.*

*By the 1885 Iowa Census for Ackworth, **John White** (age 78) and **Margaret White** (age 58) are both listed as living within that village. Living with them is a daughter, **Irene White** (age 17), born in Iowa. [Is she the same person as **Jane White** listed as a 2-*

year-old with the family in 1870?] **Alvin White** (age 24) apparently had started his own family in Lincoln Twp., Warren Co., Iowa. With him was his wife, **Elizabeth White** (age 24, born in Iowa), and a daughter, **Laurra White** (age 2, born in Iowa).

For unknown reason **Reece Mendenhall** and his wife, **Catherine Mendenhall**, do not appear in either the 1870 Federal Census for Warren Co., Iowa or in either the 1885 or 1895 Iowa Census for Warren Co., Iowa.

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