

PASQUOTANK MONTHLY MEETING
(later Symons Creek Monthly Meeting)

Pasquotank County, North Carolina

The monthly meeting in Pasquotank was usually referred to as Pasquotank Monthly Meeting in the early records of other monthly meetings. About 1770 the name Symons Creek Monthly Meeting began to be used occasionally, and this usage increased until, by 1800, the name Pasquotank is rarely found. In its own earliest records the meeting is designated "a monthly meeting held at the house of Henry White" (or Caleb Bundy, etc.) A little later it was "a monthly meeting held in Pasquotank at Symons Creek" (or at Newbegun Creek, or occasionally, at Little River). Toward the end of the eighteenth century it became "Symons Creek Monthly Meeting held in Pasquotank County."

The earliest men's minute book of Pasquotank Monthly Meeting begins with a reference to a monthly meeting held at the house of Henry White the 7th of 5th month, probably in 1698. The recorded minutes date from 1699. During the years 1700 and 1701 monthly meetings were held at the houses of Henry White, Thomas Cartwright and Stephen Scott. At the meeting in 3rd month, 1702, it was agreed that the monthly meeting should be held thereafter at the house of Caleb Bundy, and that the first day meetings should alternate between the house of Stephen Scott and the house of Henry White.

At the monthly meeting held at Caleb Bundy's house in the Precinct of Pasquotank, 1st of 3rd month, 1703, Friends agreed that a meeting house should be built "at Pasquotank with as much speed as can be." Dr. Weeks says in "Southern Quakers and Slavery," page 67: "This is the oldest Quaker meeting house of which we have distinct record, and it places their church edifices among the very oldest in the colony." On the 5th of 2nd month, 1705, the meeting decided to build a meeting house on the plantation of Joseph Jordan, "at the charge of Friends belonging to Pasquotank." At monthly meeting held at the house of Caleb Bundy the 4th of 5th month, 1706, Friends designated Caleb Bundy, Stephen Scott and Henry Keton to choose a proper location and build a meeting house between Caleb Bundy's house and William Brothers' Creek.

In the earliest book of women's minutes the marriage of Timothy Meads and Ane Blessing is recorded under date of 13th of 4th month, 1677. Witnesses to this marriage included Henry White, John Hunte, Arnould White, William Travis, William Torner, Dorathy Harvy, Mary White, Sary Travis, Francis Hunt, Ruth Torner, Elezabeath Sherad and Elinor Tailler. On the 24th of 4th month, 1678, Sollowon Poole and Margret White were married at the house of Henry White. Witnesses included Henry White, Timothy Meads, Francis Tooms, Charles Prous, Willam Smith, Jonathan Tailor, Arnould White, George Tailer, William Davis, William Bread, Willam Larson, Crestofer Oulldford, Mary White, Sary Davis, Francis Hunte, Rebecca Simons, Ane Maids, Elezabeath Larson and Jeams Hunte. Several other marriages are recorded with dates previous to 1700. One minute refers to a quarterly meeting held the 7th of 4th month, 1690. Monthly meetings are mentioned in 1696. At a quarterly meeting, held 4th of 4th month, 1698, a change in the dates for holding quarterly meetings was agreed upon; it was also agreed that the last seventh day of 7th month in every year should be Yearly Meeting at the house of Francis Toms the Elder. All of these meetings for business and most of the marriages were held at Henry White's house.

Three wills are recorded in the first book of women's minutes. Will of Arnould White, not dated. Executors, his brothers, Henry White and Thomas Symons. Mentions his son Arnould; his brother's daughter, Elizabeth; his brother Henry's children. (Note. Arnould White died 1630, 2, 23.

Will of Isack Page, dated 1680, 4, 30. Executors, Charles Prous and Henry White. Witnesses, Dorothy Prouse, Damaris Moris and Elizabeth Page. Mentions his daughter, Damaris, and her children; his daughter, Elizabeth, and provides for her if she marries Samuel Hill.

Will of George Tailler, dated 1680, 3, 19. Witnesses, Henry White and Arnould White. All worldly goods both reall and personall, to wife and children, to be equally divided as they come of age; children to remain with wife if she remains unmarred.

The preparative meetings which made up Pasquotank Monthly Meeting included Symons Creek, Newbegun Creek, the Narrows, Little River and Trueblood's. All these appear to have been locat-