

They were welcomed by several families in Salem, who sympathised with the new faith, Lawrence Southwick's and Nicholas Phelps' being the most prominent among them. Meetings were held at the same time as the church services, at which the strangers preached of repentance and forgiveness of sins through Christ, and of the joy of the spiritual life.

On Sunday, June 27th, a meeting was held at the house of Nicholas Phelps, in "the woods," as that western portion of the territory of Salem was then called. This house stood on the northerly side of Lowell Street, just westerly of the Phelps Mills railroad station, in West Peabody. This was about five miles from the meeting house in Salem, and the privilege of attending religious services in one's own neighborhood was welcomed. This meeting was attended by the missionaries. The Phelps house was built upon the Norris grant by Eleanor, widow of Thomas Trusler about 1654. She died the next spring, having devised this estate to her sons Henry and Nicholas Phelps (children by her former husband). The half interest of Nicholas was taken for the payment of fines for being a Quaker and not attending church, and Henry bought it in. In 1664, he conveyed the estate to Joseph Pope. Many years later, the place returned into the Phelps family and then remained in it until Francis Phelps took the ancient house down in 1856. The illustration is a copy of a pen and ink sketch of about that date from an oil painting of the old homestead made about a century ago, and now in the possession of Mrs. Maria Hood of Danvers.

Governor Endecott had removed to Boston and Major Hathorne was the principal person in authority in Salem, and Edmond Batter, a commissioner, was his executive, assisted by James Underwood, the town constable. To this meeting came Mr. Batter (whom George Bishop, in New England Judged, called "a bloody man" and "a cruel wicked man") and the constable, and required the people to assist the constable in arresting the offending but inoffensive Quakers. This the company refused to do, probably because there was neither occasion nor need of interference. After using some violence to the strangers, the commissioner and the constable went their way. The next week, Batter gave their names to the court, who caused them to be arrested and kept in a neighbor's house two days until the latter part of the session of the court which was then convened.

The aged Brend and the younger Ledra and the score of men and women, who had been arrested with them filled the court chamber in the tavern of John Gedney on Essex Street, June 29th. Many of the men stood with their hats on until the officers pulled them off. The magistrates were Simon Bradstreet, Gen. Daniel