

FRIENDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

The general history of the different bodies of Friends is presented in the statement for the older, or Orthodox, body. The specific statements, therefore, in regard to each of the other bodies indicate the differences between them and the Orthodox Friends.

The four bodies included in this group in 1926, in 1916, and in 1906 are listed below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE FRIENDS, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	885	110,422	819	\$10,217,657	854	\$1,687,785	727	67,889
Society of Friends (Orthodox)	715	91,326	665	8,013,407	696	1,498,161	639	61,815
Religious Society of Friends (Hicksite) ..	128	16,105	115	2,096,200	118	173,691	80	5,835
Orthodox Conservative Friends (Wilburite) ..	41	2,966	38	98,050	39	15,533	8	239
Friends (Primitive)	1	25	1	10,000	1	400		
1916								
Total for the group	1,023	112,982	923	5,720,473	958	825,493	814	71,123
Society of Friends (Orthodox)	805	92,379	718	4,262,893	757	714,166	702	64,583
Religious Society of Friends (Hicksite) ..	166	17,170	160	1,356,200	156	100,777	104	6,296
Orthodox Conservative Friends (Wilburite) ..	50	3,373	43	95,380	43	10,144	8	244
Friends (Primitive)	2	60	2	6,000	2	406		
1906								
Total for the group	1,141	113,772	1,096	3,857,451			846	53,761
Society of Friends (Orthodox)	867	91,161	832	2,719,551			723	47,612
Religious Society of Friends (Hicksite) ..	218	18,560	213	1,037,650			116	5,944
Orthodox Conservative Friends (Wilburite) ..	48	3,880	47	93,500			7	205
Friends (Primitive)	8	171	4	6,750				

ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Orthodox Conservative Friends (Wilburite) for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

In the Orthodox Conservative Friends the membership consists of those who are enrolled by the local meeting, including both "birthright" members, who are enrolled because their parents were members, and those who have joined upon application.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	41	5	36		
Members	2,966	671	2,295	22.6	77.4
Average per church.....	72	134	64		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	1,392	311	1,081	22.3	77.7
Female.....	1,524	360	1,164	23.6	76.4
Sex not reported.....	50		50		
Males per 100 females.....	91.3	86.4	92.9		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	518	106	412	20.5	79.5
13 years and over.....	2,398	565	1,833	23.6	76.4
Age not reported.....	50		50		
Per cent under 13 years ³	17.8	15.8	18.4		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	41	4	37		
Value—Churches reporting	38	4	34		
Amount reported.....	\$98,050	\$20,000	\$78,050	20.4	79.6
Average per church.....	\$2,580	\$5,000	\$2,296		
Debt—Churches reporting	1		1		
Amount reported.....	\$400		\$400		100.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	31	4	27		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	39	4	35		
Amount reported.....	\$15,533	\$3,756	\$11,777	24.2	75.8
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$7,856	\$1,673	\$6,183	21.3	78.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$7,677	\$2,083	\$5,594	27.1	72.9
Average expenditure per church.....	\$398	\$939	\$336		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	8	1	7		
Officers and teachers.....	31	6	25		
Scholars.....	239	45	194	18.8	81.2

¹ Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data presented herewith for the year 1926 represent 41 active organizations of Conservative Friends, with 2,966 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 40 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 40 churches, including 34 which reported members under 13 years of age. There were no parsonages reported.

Comparative data, 1890-1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	41	50	48	52
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-9	2	-4	
Per cent ²				
Members	2,966	3,373	3,880	4,329
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-407	-507	-449	
Per cent.....	-12.1	-13.1	-10.4	
Average membership per church.....	72	67	81	83
Church edifices:				
Number.....	41	46	47	52
Value—Churches reporting.....	38	43	47	
Amount reported.....	\$98,050	\$95,380	\$93,500	\$67,000
Average per church.....	\$2,580	\$2,218	\$1,989	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1	2		
Amount reported.....	\$400	\$1,600		
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	39	43		
Amount reported.....	\$15,533	\$10,144		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$7,856	\$6,301		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$7,677	\$3,843		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$398	\$236		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	8	8	7	
Officers and teachers.....	31	32	33	
Scholars.....	239	244	205	

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.
² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present statistics for the Conservative Friends by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory, and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church edifices and the debt on such edifices, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (value or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each yearly meeting in the Orthodox Conservative Friends, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States.....	41	5	36	2,966	671	2,295	1,392	1,524	50	91.3
New England:										
Massachusetts.....	2		2	39		39	15	24		
Rhode Island.....	2	1	1	86	67	19	30	56		
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	2		2	43		43	17	26		
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	12	2	10	1,090	367	723	533	557		95.7
Indiana.....	5		5	256		256	126	130		96.9
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	7		7	757		757	360	397		90.7
Kansas.....	2	1	1	88	38	50	20	18	50	
South Atlantic:										
North Carolina.....	7		7	335		335	163	172		94.8
East South Central:										
Alabama.....	1		1	73		73	36	37		
Pacific:										
California.....	1	1		199	199		92	107		86.0

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not re- ported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	41	50	48	2,966	3,373	3,880	518	2,398	50	17.8
Massachusetts.....	2	3	1	39	38	55	8	31		
Rhode Island.....	2	4	1	86	82	62	20	66		
Ohio.....	12	13	16	1,090	1,113	1,220	187	903		17.2
Indiana.....	5	6	7	256	232	353	46	210		18.0
Iowa.....	7	9	11	757	965	1,087	154	603		20.3
Kansas.....	2	3	4	88	276	621	9	29	50	
North Carolina.....	7	8	6	335	402	327	42	293		12.8
Other States.....	4	4	2	315	265	155	52	263		16.5

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.

**TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)**

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	41	41	38	\$98,050	1	\$400
Ohio.....	12	13	12	39,500		
Indiana.....	5	6	5	9,900		
Iowa.....	7	8	7	19,400		
North Carolina.....	7	7	7	8,750	1	400
Other States.....	10	7	7	20,500		

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)**

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	41	39	\$15,533	\$7,856	\$7,677	8	31	239
Ohio.....	12	11	4,783	1,825	2,958			
Indiana.....	5	5	528	356	172			
Iowa.....	7	7	3,044	507	2,537	3	11	108
North Carolina.....	7	7	1,297	1,020	277	4	14	86
Other States.....	10	9	5,881	4,148	1,733	1	6	45

**TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY YEARLY MEETINGS, 1926:
ORTHODOX CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS (WILBURITE)**

YEARLY MEETING	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total.....	41	2,966	38	\$98,050	1	\$400	39	\$15,533	8	239
Canada.....	2	43		(1)				(1)		
Iowa.....	8	956	8	24,400			8	4,158	4	153
Kansas.....	2	88		(1)				(1)		
New England.....	4	125		(1)			4	4,372		
North Carolina.....	7	335	7	8,750	1	400	7	1,297	4	86
Ohio.....	12	1,145	12	40,700			12	4,958		
Western.....	6	274	6	10,700			5	528		
Combinations ¹			5	13,500			3	220		

¹ Amount included in the figures shown on the line designated "Combinations," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for value and expenditures represent data for churches in Canada, Kansas, and New England yearly meetings.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The second separation among Orthodox Friends was brought about by a protest against what was believed by Wilbur and others to be radical departures from the original principles of the society.

John Wilbur, a minister of the New England Yearly Meeting, while visiting in Great Britain during the years 1831, 1832, believed that Joseph John Gurney was advocating doctrines contrary to the accepted teachings of Friends from the beginning; and when Gurney later came to America, in order to prevent his being received and thus spreading what was thought to be insidious doctrines, Wilbur adopted a disciplinary course which was not acceptable to the larger part of his meeting. There was a separation of those who with Wilbur believed that the society was departing from the original principles and the ancient faith of Friends, and a yearly meeting was set up in New England in 1845. Others formed a yearly meeting in Ohio in 1854, followed by yearly meetings in Indiana, Kansas, and Iowa, in 1877-1879, and in North Carolina in 1904.

Wilbur, who objected to the emphasis on the importance of an outward knowledge of the works of Christ, and also to the belief in the resurrection of the body, laid most stress on the necessity of heeding the "Light Within."

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

Fully believing that the doctrines set forth by the society in the beginning should be maintained in their purity, they endeavor rather to bear witness to the spirituality of the Gospel than to propagate it. They own and believe in Christ Jesus, the beloved and only Son of God, and in redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. They believe in the Holy Spirit, or Comforter, whom Christ declared He would send in His name to lead and guide His followers into all truth; that the Holy Spirit convicts for sin, and if obeyed, gives power to the soul to overcome and forsake sin. They hold that the Holy Scriptures contain a declaration of all the fundamental doctrines and principles relating to eternal life and salvation; though they do not call them the "Word of God," believing that term to be applicable to Jesus only, yet they are believed to be the words of God, written by holy men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Believing in the resurrection, they reject, however, the belief in the resurrection of the body, as nothing material ever enters the spiritual world. In consequence of their belief that the baptism which saves is inward and spiritual, they do not practice water baptism; and, as all true and acceptable worship of God is offered in the immediate moving of His own Spirit, they seek in public worship to wait before Him without outward form or ceremony.

The ministry among them is exercised by men and women, freely, without money and without price, as freshly called forth. In general, they hold and believe as did the early Friends. As a rule, they have not been in favor of Bible schools, but of late such schools have been set up in some of the meetings.

WORK

They have 1 academy, with 78 students, and 9 elementary and graded schools, with 150 pupils. The value of property used for educational purposes is estimated at \$171,500, and there is an endowment of about \$130,518.

They have no missionary enterprises and no philanthropic institutions, but as individuals they are interested in numerous efforts along many lines and contribute to the work maintained by other Friends.

¹ This statement, which differs somewhat from that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, was furnished by Dr. William J. Blackburn.