

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				

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (HICKSITE)

STATISTICS

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

In the Religious Society of 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: RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (HICKSITE)

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	128	35	93	27.3	72.7
Members	16,105	5,976	10,129	37.1	62.9
Average per church.....	126	171	109		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	7,046	2,502	4,544	35.5	64.5
Female.....	8,725	3,337	5,388	38.2	61.8
Sex not reported.....	334	137	197	41.0	59.0
Males per 100 females.....	80.8	75.0	84.3		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	1,912	559	1,353	29.2	70.8
13 years and over.....	14,056	5,230	8,776	37.6	62.4
Age not reported.....	137			100.0	
Per cent under 13 years ³	12.0	9.6	13.4		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	151	39	112	25.8	74.2
Value—Churches reporting.....	115	28	87	24.3	75.7
Amount reported.....	\$2,096,200	\$1,268,500	\$837,700	60.0	40.0
Average per church.....	\$18,228	\$44,946	\$9,629		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	3	1	2		
Amount reported.....	\$5,870	\$970	\$4,900	16.5	83.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	110	28	82	25.5	74.5
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	118	33	85	28.0	72.0
Amount reported.....	\$173,691	\$90,082	\$83,609	51.9	48.1
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$109,819	\$59,138	\$50,681	53.9	46.1
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$56,575	\$24,041	\$32,534	42.5	57.5
Not classified.....	\$7,297	\$6,903	\$394	94.6	5.4
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,472	\$2,730	\$984		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	80	22	58		
Officers and teachers.....	686	223	463	32.5	67.5
Scholars.....	5,835	1,519	4,016	31.2	68.8

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 128 active churches of the Hicksite Friends, with 16,105 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 125 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 126 churches, including 104 which reported members under 13 years of age. No parsonages were reported.

Comparative data, 1890-1906.—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: RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (HICKSITE)

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	128	166	218	201
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-38	-52	17	
Per cent.....	-22.9	-23.9	8.5	
Members	16,105	17,170	18,560	21,992
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-1,065	-1,390	-3,432	
Per cent.....	-6.2	-7.5	-15.6	
Average membership per church.....	126	103	85	109
Church edifices:				
Number.....	151	168	214	213
Value—Churches reporting.....	115	160	213	
Amount reported.....	\$2,096,200	\$1,356,200	\$1,037,650	\$1,661,850
Average per church.....	\$18,228	\$8,476	\$4,872	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	3	1		
Amount reported.....	\$5,870	\$800		
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	118	156		
Amount reported.....	\$173,691	\$100,777		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$109,819	\$62,447		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$56,575	\$30,635		
Not classified.....	\$7,297	\$7,695		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,472	\$646		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	80	104	116	
Officers and teachers.....	686	831	771	
Scholars.....	5,835	6,296	5,944	

¹A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Hicksite 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 property and the debt on such property, 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 (values 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 Religious Society of Friends (Hicksite), 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: RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (HICKSITE)

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States.....	128	35	93	16,105	5,976	10,129	7,046	8,725	334	80.8
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	22	5	17	1,788	922	861	786	967	30	81.3
New Jersey.....	20	7	13	2,611	728	1,883	1,104	1,310	197	84.3
Pennsylvania.....	55	15	40	8,225	2,834	5,391	3,627	4,598	-----	78.9
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	6	-----	6	335	-----	335	152	183	-----	83.1
Indiana.....	5	1	4	667	146	521	317	350	-----	90.6
Illinois.....	2	1	1	262	107	155	79	76	107	-----
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	1	-----	1	40	-----	49	29	20	-----	-----
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	3	1	2	484	321	163	211	273	-----	77.3
Maryland.....	8	2	6	1,010	524	486	472	538	-----	87.7
District of Columbia.....	1	1	-----	186	186	-----	73	113	-----	64.6
Virginia.....	4	1	3	347	62	285	135	212	-----	63.7
Pacific:										
California.....	1	1	-----	146	146	-----	61	85	-----	-----

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

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Previous to 1827 the Friends in America constituted a single branch of the Christian Church. It was not, however, altogether united in thought. Certain tendencies toward liberal thinking, which were strongly opposed by conservative members, had already developed in most religious bodies. The discussion centered especially in the question of the deity of Christ. In New England the controversy led to the withdrawal of the Unitarian element from the Congregational churches. Among the Friends the same tendency was manifested, although the issues were not so sharply drawn, and the corresponding element in the Society of Friends made no claim to be Unitarian in doctrine. Those who were inclined toward the more liberal view were not disposed to bring pressure to bear upon those who disagreed with them but emphasized their own right to hold such opinions as seemed to them justifiable. On the other hand, the conservative element claimed that to look upon Christ as other than the Deity was to deny the very foundation of the gospel and of the church.

As the discussion developed, Elias Hicks, a minister of remarkable personality, became the central figure. Believing that "God is a Spirit," he held that "a manifestation of His Spirit is given to every man everywhere, and that this alone if followed and obeyed is sufficient for his salvation," and that the "Light Within" is the only light that anyone need follow.

Hicks belonged to the New York Yearly Meeting but had been preaching within the limits of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, carrying the necessary credentials from his own meeting. Certain of his statements were not in accord with the doctrine of influential members of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by J. Barnard Walton, general secretary, General Conference of the Religious Society of Friends, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (HICKSITE)

[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 reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	128	166	218	16,105	17,170	18,560	1,912	14,056	137	12.0
New York.....	22	26	40	1,783	1,843	2,165	175	1,578	30	10.0
New Jersey.....	20	20	28	2,611	2,446	2,281	290	2,321	-----	11.1
Pennsylvania.....	55	72	81	8,225	8,705	8,947	1,122	7,103	-----	13.6
Ohio.....	6	7	17	335	511	750	15	320	-----	4.5
Indiana.....	5	6	9	667	829	1,013	52	615	-----	7.8
Illinois.....	2	4	5	262	372	441	15	140	107	9.7
Iowa.....	1	3	3	49	127	239	8	41	-----	-----
Delaware.....	3	6	5	484	527	512	36	448	-----	7.4
Maryland.....	8	14	18	1,010	1,174	1,571	119	891	-----	11.8
Virginia.....	4	5	8	347	365	428	38	309	-----	11.0
Other States.....	2	3	4	332	271	213	42	290	-----	12.7

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: RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (HICKSITE)

[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.....	128	151	115	\$2,096,200	3	\$5,870
New York.....	22	27	17	174,200	-----	-----
New Jersey.....	20	20	17	268,400	2	5,220
Pennsylvania.....	55	68	53	1,148,000	1	650
Ohio.....	6	5	5	7,300	-----	-----
Indiana.....	5	6	5	70,400	-----	-----
Delaware.....	3	4	3	72,500	-----	-----
Maryland.....	8	13	7	238,900	-----	-----
Virginia.....	4	4	4	31,500	-----	-----
Other States.....	5	4	4	35,000	-----	-----

and there were various controversies and discussions, and charges and counter-charges were made until party spirit ran high on both sides and often the real questions at issue were obscured. It became apparent that the two lines of thought were so contradictory as to make separation the only feasible outcome, and in 1827 the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was divided. Divisions followed in the yearly meetings of New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Baltimore. There were no divisions at this time in the yearly meetings of New England, Virginia, and North Carolina, each of which affiliated with the Orthodox body.

While Elias Hicks was a very prominent personal factor in the discussion, he was not a direct mover in behalf of separation, and although the more liberal party has been generally called Hicksite, that name has never been adopted formally by them. Some of the Hicksite Friends do not accept the opinions advanced by Hicks, and they do not claim to be his followers.

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (HICKSITE)**

[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.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	128	118	\$173,691	\$109,819	\$56,575	\$7,297	80	686	5,835
New York.....	22	21	27,172	21,600	5,572	-----	8	46	294
New Jersey.....	20	18	30,351	20,665	9,322	364	15	137	1,354
Pennsylvania.....	55	52	84,857	51,991	32,866	-----	39	358	3,053
Ohio.....	6	4	1,072	667	405	-----	2	12	76
Indiana.....	5	5	2,064	855	1,209	-----	3	20	225
Delaware.....	3	3	7,558	1,150	325	6,083	2	22	148
Maryland.....	8	6	13,970	11,335	2,635	-----	5	30	276
Virginia.....	4	4	2,358	343	1,985	30	3	37	223
Other States.....	5	5	4,289	1,213	2,256	820	3	24	186

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

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.....	128	16,105	115	\$2,096,200	3	\$5,870	118	\$173,691	80	5,835
Baltimore.....	19	2,336	19	375,400	-----	-----	18	21,274	16	1,025
Genesee.....	2	91	-----	(¹)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Illinois.....	4	446	3	8,500	-----	-----	4	1,807	2	210
Indiana.....	7	831	7	72,700	-----	-----	7	2,774	4	151
New York.....	23	1,862	17	222,200	-----	-----	22	35,592	10	365
Ohio.....	3	36	-----	(¹)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Philadelphia.....	70	10,503	65	1,407,900	3	5,870	64	111,886	48	4,084
Combinations ²	-----	-----	4	9,500	-----	-----	3	358	-----	-----

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 Genesee and Ohio yearly meetings.

The discussion that led to the division related partly to doctrine and partly to polity. The Hicksite body denied the right or advisability of demanding assent to doctrinal theology touching points regarding which there has always been diversity of opinion in the society. At the time of the division the Hicksites were in the majority in each of the yearly meetings in which a separation took place, except those of Ohio and Indiana.

The general history of the Hicksite branch is essentially that of the Orthodox branch.² The animosities of the earlier years have subsided, and many of the newer activities are undertaken in unison.

² See Society of Friends (Orthodox), p. 610.

DOCTRINE

The Hicksite Friends hold that the fundamental proposition of the society has always been a belief in and reliance on the "Light Within"; in other words, that a measure of the Divine Spirit is in all men, constituting the veritable "Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Speculative doctrines and dogmas are, therefore, not regarded as proper tests or requirements for a genuine spiritual fellowship, such matters being left to the witness in each individual for settlement. Hence, there is in this branch of the society substantial unity in the midst of a wide diversity of doctrine.

ORGANIZATION

In general government and worship this branch substantially follows the methods of the early Friends. It has never adopted popular revival methods and has no pastoral system or salaried ministers.

Each monthly meeting, which is the primary executive body in the society, has a clerk and an assistant clerk. The clerk presides and prepares minutes of the meetings. Parliamentary rules are not followed, and no vote is taken. If no one objects to the minutes prepared by the clerk, they are accepted as a record of the decisions of the meeting. If an objection is offered, however, the clerk changes the minutes until they meet with general approval. In this way the substantial unity of the members determines the decisions of the meeting. The monthly meetings appoint overseers, composed of both men and women, whose duty it is to have "a tender care over their fellow members." Monthly meetings provide also for meetings for ministry and counsel. Both men and women may be ministers, but those who speak in the meetings have no more power in the society than other members. The seven yearly meetings hold biennial general conferences, the object being to interest and inspire the members for service.

WORK

This branch maintains no distinct missions, either home or foreign, but its members are active in various lines of mission work, especially work for Negroes; for temperance, purity, peace, and prison reform; and work among women and children.

Under the care of this branch of the Friends, or acknowledging the application of their principles in the management, are 1 college, located at Swarthmore, Pa., and 21 preparatory and secondary schools, situated in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. The college has 556 students, and the other schools an aggregate of about 4,073 pupils. All are coeducational.

The Friends are especially interested in social service, which is carried on by committees of the general conferences, and of the yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings, assistance being given by these committees in the discussion of present-day problems, in the righting of manifest wrongs, and in various efforts for human betterment. Special features are the institutions called "Friends' boarding homes," of which there are 13, located in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and Indiana, accommodating about 285 persons. They are supported mainly by endowments and by payment of board. A hospital for nervous and cancerous diseases has been endowed and buildings erected at Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa., ready to be opened early in 1928. A social settlement is maintained in Philadelphia, at an annual cost of about \$4,000.

Assistance is given to the support of two Negro schools in the South, some of the contributions being made officially by meetings but most of them being made personally.

The Hicksite Friends are interested in various other philanthropies, but it is difficult to give details or statistics concerning these, since they are to a considerable degree personal and private in their application.

Young peoples' work is organized through the Young Friends Movement and the Young Friends Associations.

Since 1902 a definite attempt has been made to coordinate the society's activities, extend its influence, and promote its principles. This effort took shape in the appointment of a Committee for the Advancement of Friends' Principles and the selection of a general secretary, with headquarters in Philadelphia. By correspondence and printed matter, by interchange of visitors, by summer schools, and by broadening and perfecting the organization, this movement endeavors to advance the principles of the society, to assist in the application of its testimonies, and in various ways to increase its efficiency as an agency for good in the world.

This committee in 1916 founded, at Swarthmore, Pa., Woolman School for religious and social study. In 1917 this school was reorganized under a board of representatives for all Friends, and in 1925 it was moved to Wyncote, Pa.

The society conducts no foreign work of its own. The foreign service of this group of Friends is expressed through the American Friends Service Committee, in which all Friends in America participate and which is reported elsewhere.