

Bass River Neck and Bridgeport Friends Meeting Minutes

An Indulged Meeting under the care of the Chesterfield Monthly Meeting was established at Tuckerton in 1709. The Little Egg Harbor Preparative Meeting was established in 1714, and in 1715 the Indulged and Preparative Meetings were transferred to the Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting. During the great split in the late 1820's, the Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting remained Orthodox.; however, it's indulged meeting at Bridgeport chose the Hicksite path and came under the care of the Mount Holly Monthly Meeting in 1828.

The Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting was discontinued in 1901 when it became an indulged meeting under the care of the Burlington Monthly Meeting during the summer months. In 1986, a new Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting was established by the Burlington Quarterly Meeting and is still in existence today.

The following references related to the indulged meetings held in Bass River Neck and Bridgeport were taken from the Little Egg Harbor Monthly Meeting Minutes. They were transcribed by Peter H. Stemmer from microfilmed copies of the Little Egg Harbor Friends Monthly Meeting and the Mt. Holly Friends Monthly Meeting minutes. Italics denote minutes from the Women's Monthly Meeting.

13th Day, 1st Month, 1803 [page 260-1]

Brought up from the Preparative meeting of Eggharbor that the few friends at Bass River Requested Liberty to hold a meeting of first Days for three month to be held in a house built by the few friends there and some other friendly People for that Purpose and for a school house, and after this Meeting taking their request into weighty consideration Do appoint Jeremiah Willits Daniel Parker John Ridgway Eli Mathis Thomas Ballangee Job Ridgway of Barnegat John Willits & John Collings to take into consideration the Request of the friends at Bass River and the use and Propriety of holding a Meeting there & Report to the Next month Meeting.

20th Day, 2nd Month, 1803 [page 262]

The Friends appointed now Reported that most of them attended to the appointment and had a solid opportunity with the few friends and other solid People at Bass River and it was their united opinion that it would be Likely to be of use to allow them to hold a Meeting there once in a Month for three Month. This Meeting unites with their Report and allows them to hold one on the third first Day in Each Month for three month to begin at the Eleventh hour.

10th Day, 3rd Month, 1803 [page 263-4]

The friends appointed Reported that they attended the meeting at Bass-river agreeable to their appointment and it was an orderly satisfactory meeting and this meeting appoints Thomas Bellangee and John Willits to attend the next appointed meeting at Bass River and Report to next month meeting the manner in which it was held.

14th Day, 4th Month, 1803 [page 264]

One of the friends appointed to attend the meeting at Bass River Reports he attended it and it was an orderly meeting and this meeting appoints Job Ridgway of Barnegat and Thomas Willits to attend the next appointed meeting at Bass river and Report to next month meeting the manner in which it was held and their view on the use of said meeting.

11th Day, 3rd Month, 1819 [page 176]

A Paper was produced to this meeting Signed by a number of Friends belonging to this Monthly meeting Requesting that an Indulged Meeting might be held in the Neighborhood of Bass river and after Solid Consideration this Meeting appointed Daniel Parker Jeremiah Willits John Hallack Simion Haines John Collins and James Willits to attend there and have A meeting of Confirance with those friends on the Subject and make Report to Next month meeting Their Line(?) on the action.

8th Day, 4th Month, 1819 [page 177]

The Committee appointed to attend at Basriver now Report they attended to their appointment and had a Meeting of Confirance with the friends in that Neighborhood in Company with the womans Committee and were Unitally of the Opinion that it would be Right to Suffer a Meeting to be held there once in two weeks for three months and that it would be Right to appoint a Committee to attend the Meeting held there all of which they Submit to this meeting and after due consideration this meeting Unites with their proposal and a Meeting is to be held there Every other first day to begin at Eleven Oclock on Each day which meeting is to Commense on the next first day and continue for three months and Jeremiah Willits Simion Haines James Willits and Nathan Bartlet are appointed to attend Said meetings and make Report of their _____ thereon at the Expiration of the time.

8th Day, 7th Month, 1819 [page 179]

The committee appointed in the 4th Month last to attend the meeting permitted to be held at Basriver now report the meetings there have been held agreeable to permission and each one attend by part of the committee and a considerable number of people and was to reasonable good satisfaction as far as appeared to them and after due consideration this meeting Concludes to permitt a meeting to be held there every other first day for three months to come as it has been for three months past and the same committee to attend as before and make report at the expiration of Said time.

14th Day, 10th Month, 1819 [page 181-2]

The friends appointed to attend the meeting held at Basriver now report they attended to their appointment and part of them attended Each meeting held there which were attended by most of the friends within the limits there and a number of other people and were held to a good degree of satisfaction as far as appears and this meeting Received a line Signed by friends Generally within the limits of Said meeting Requesting a Meeting Still to be suffered there and after Solid Consideration this meeting Concludes to permit a meeting Still to be held there Every other first day as heretofore for the term of Six Months to begin at the Eleventh hour and Thomas Willits Jeremiah Willits Thomas Bellangee and Aaron Bellangee are appointed to attend the same and make Report at the Expiration of Said time.

13th Day, 4th Month, 1820 [page 188]

The Committee appointed in the tenth month Last to attend the meeting held at bassriver by permission of this meeting now report jointly with the womens Committee that they have attended it agreeable to appointment and think it has been held to general Satisfaction and a paper was produced from friends Living within the limits therof Requesting this meeting to Indulge them in holding a meeting there Every First day and after Solid Consideration this meeting Concluded to permit them to hold a meeting there every first day for Six months from next first day week and Eli Mathis Daniel Parker Jeremiah Willits James Willits Simeon Haines John Hallock Nathan Bartlet David Mapps Zachariah Jenkins are appointed to attend to Same.

4th Day, 12th Month, 1820 [page 199]

The Committee appointed in the tenth Month last to attend the meeting held at Bassriver report that Some of them have attended to Same Since that time which were held to good Satisfaction as appeared to them and the Members thereof request this meeting will Still permit a meeting to be held there for Six Months to Come and after Solid Consideration Friends Give permission for a Meeting to Still to be held there every first day for Six months from this time and Zachariah Jinkins David Mapps Jonathan Giffard Jun. James Willits and Simeon Haines are appointed to attend the Same and Make Report at the Expiration of Said time.

13th Day, 9th Month, 1820 [page 204]

The Committee appointed in the fourth Month Last attended the Meeting held at Basriver Report they have attended agreeable to appointment and _____ it has been held to good Satisfaction – the following friends are appointed to attend the Said Meeting as _____ for that period of Six Months next Ensuing and Report their Same on the Subject Jeremiah Willits Simion Haines Aron Bellangee & David Mapps.

12th Day, 4th Month, 1822 [page 33] - Women's Meeting

The Committee to attend Bassriver meeting in the tenth month last reports Some of them have attended the same since that time, which meetings were held to good satisfaction as far as appeared to them. Our members at Bassriver requests a meeting may still be permitted to be held at that place for six months which request is complied with by this meeting. Lucy Evans, Shader Riley Grace Mapps Lydia Hallock Judith W Smith Margery Willits Phebe Osborn Sarah Bellangee and Mary willits are appointed to attend during the said time.

9th Day, 5th Month, 1822 [page 43] - Women's Meeting

The Meeting at Bass River is continued to be held as usual. Margary Willits, Sarah Bellangee, Phebe Osborn, Grace Mapps, Lydia Hallock, and Lucy ann Evans are appointed to attend The Meeting.

9th Day, 5th Month, 1822 [page 213]

The Committee appointed in the 10th Month Last to attend the meeting held at basriver now Report in writing that they have all attended more or Less and believe it has been held to General Satisfaction and Likewise a Request from the members within the Confines of Said Meeting that it Still may be Continued _____ by Indulgence which after Solid Consideration this meting Grants that a Meeting may be held there as Usual Every first day for Six Months to come and Nathan Willits Zachariah Jenkins Simion Haines Thomas Bellangee David Mapps and Eli Mathis are appointed to attend the Same and Report in the 11th Month Next.

3rd Day, 9th Month, 1822 [page 42] - Women's Meeting

The Committee appointed to attend Bass River Meeting Report they have attended to general Satisfaction.

11th Day, 10th Month, 1822 [page 36] - Women's Meeting

The Committee appointed 4th month last to attend Bassriver meeting reported it has been held to good satisfaction as far as appeared and that the meeting has been kept up agreeable to permission, and some of the committee has attended all of them. Elizabeth Collins Ann Bellangee Rhoda Osborn Mary Ivans Judith Mathis and Grace Mapps are appointed to attend Bass River Meeting to be held 6 months.

14th Day, 11th Month, 1822 [page 219]

The committee appointed in the 5th Mo. Last to attend the indulged meeting held at Bassriver Report that some of them have attended all the meetings which were to satisfaction, also the members constituting that meeting request, that the meeting may be continued as usual; with which this meeting unites and a meeting is allowed to be held at Bass river for six months longer, and the following friends are appointed to attend that meeting and report to this meeting when the time is expired. Thomas Bellangee Simeon Haines David Mapps, Thomas Osborn John Hallock Thomas Willits & Nathan Bartlet . . . This meeting appoints Eli Mathis, David Mapps, Thomas Bellangee & John Hallock, to Inspect the situation of the house and Lot at Bassriver Granted to friends by Amaja Mathis, and also the Deed for the same and report to next month meeting.

12th Day, 12th Month, 1822 [page 220]

The friends appointed to inspect into the house and Lot at Bass river, report that part of them met, but are not prepared to make a full report, therefore the subject is continued under their care another Month.

9th Day, 1st Month, 1823 [page 221]

The friends appointed to inspect into the situation of the school house and Lot at Bassriver, report they have attended to the same, and produced a Deed for it, Conveyed to Jeremiah Willits & Thomas Bellangee their heirs and assigns, for the use of a Meeting house for friends; and a School house, and no other purpose. This meeting considering the subject do appoint Aron Bellangee & Nathan Willits to get the Deed received and convey to the overseers of this meeting for the time being.

2nd Month, 1823 (No day listed) [page 221]

The friends appointed to get the Deed for the meeting & Schoolhouse Lot at Bassriver, renewed, report they have attended to the subject, but have not completed it; therefore they are continued and to report when done.

12th Day, 6th Month, 1823 [page 225]

it appears from the Report of the Committee that the indulged Meeting at Bass river has been held every first Day but one and did by some of the committee to general satisfaction, and it is concluded that it may be held another month under the care of the same Committee.

10th Day, 7th Month, 1823 [page 226]

it appears by the Report of the Committee that the indulgd meeting at Bass river has been held as usual and the Members Constituting that meeting Request further indulgence of that meeting and Likewise the Liberty of holding a meeting on fourth Day of the week in every week Except them weeks that preparitive and Monthly meeting are held and after Solid Consideration this meeting unites with their Request and the Meeting is allow'd to be held accordingly for six month. John Hallock Semion Haines Nathan Bartlet Jun Thomas Bellangee Zacharah Jenkins David Mapps & Eli Mathis is appointed to attend the said indulge Meeting and Report to this meeting at the Expiration of said six Month.

10th Day, 7th Month, 1823 [page 53] - Women's Meeting

The Meeting at Bass River is continued for 6 mo. as heretofore; likewise an indulged Meeting to be held on the fourth day of the week- accept Preparative and Monthly Meeting weeks, to have a _____ of which Ann Bellangee, Phoebe Osborn, Mercy Ridgway, Margaret Randolph, Shada Reily, Grace Mapps and Lydia Hallock are appointed.

14th Day, 11th Month, 1823 [page 46] - Women's Meeting

The Meeting at Bass River being continued as heretofore Phoebe Hubbs Ann Hains, Ann Oliphant, Grace Mapps and Lydia Hallock are appointed with men friends to have the care of it.

8th Day, 1st Month, 1824 [page 229-230]

The committee appointed to attend to Indulged meeting at Bassriver Report that the meeting has been held to good satisfaction and some of the Committee has attended every meeting and the Members Constituting that meeting Request a further indulgence of holding of it for six month Longer as heretofore and after solid Consideration this meeting grant them the Liberty of holding a meeting agreeable to their Request for six months Longer and appoints John Hallock, Semion Haines, Zachariah Jenkins, Nathan Bartlet Jun. Eli Mathis & Thomas Osborn to attend that meeting amd Report to this meeting at the Expiration of said term.

This meeting taking into Consideration the Situation of the meeting house at Bass river being not central among the Members Do appoint Eli Mathis, Daniel Parker, David Mapps, John Collins Sen. Nathan Bartlet Jun. & Thomas Osborn to take into Consideration their situation and see if there can be any place thought of more convenient and Report to this meeting within three month.

8th Day, 4th Month, 1824 [page 232]

The Committee appointed in the first month Last to take into Consideration and see if there Could be a place thought of as more Central among the members that Constitute the indulged meeting at Bass river Report that a lot of ground can be had at Bridgport on Reasonable terms that appear to be more Central among the members and will Answer to build a house on but on consideration it is thought best to Let it Rest untill next months meeting for further Consideration.

19th Day, 5th Month, 1824 [page 233]

The Consideration of Building a Meeting house on the Lot proposed at Bridgport for the Members that Constitute the Indulge meeting house at Bassriver, now coming before this meeting, it is thought best to Leave it under the Care of a Committee, therefore, this meeting appoints Eli Mathis, Johathan Gifford

Jun., Semion Hains & John Hallock to have the Consideration of Building the aforesaid meeting house at Bridgport or any other place under their Care and Report to next months meeting.

10th Day, 6th Month, 1824 [page 234]

One of the committee under whose care the proposal of Building a meeting house at Bridgeport or any other place was Continued now Report that they have attended to their appointment but found no other place and after Considering the subject this meeting appoints Eli Mathis, Semion Haines, David Mapps, & John Collins Jun. & John Hallock to open a subscription amongst friends in order to Raise money to purchase the Lot and build a meeting House at Bridgport and Report to next month meeting.

8th Day, 7th Month, 1824 [page 234-5]

One of the Committee appointed to open a subscription amongst friends in order to Raise money to purchase a Lot and build a meeting house at Bridgport now Report that four of the Committee has attended to their appointment got about two Hundred & Sixty Dollars Subscribed. after solidly Considering the subject agrees to Build the house twenty two fet by twenty Eight one Story High ten feet posts and appoints David Mapps & Elis Mathis John Hallock & Semion Haines to get the Lot Run out and get a Deed for the same and agree with some person to Build the House the said Lot to be Convey'd to Timothy Pharo & Nathan Bartlet Jun. whome we this meeting appoint to take the Deed in trust for the use of the monthly meeting and Report to the next month meeting.

The Committee appointed to get the meeting house Lot at Bridgport Run out and a Deed of Conveyance for the same and agree with some person to build a meeting House thereon Report that they have attended to their appointment and got the Lot Run out, agreed with a Carpenter to build the House but the Deed is not yet Executed therefore they are appointed to Continue their care and Report to Next month meeting.

11th Day, 11th Month, 1824 [page 238]

one of the Committee appointed Reported that the Deed for the Meeting house Lot at Bridgport is Ready but not yet Executed, therefore the Committee is Desired to Continue their Care & Report to next month meeting.

9th Day, 12th Month, 1824 [page 239]

The Committee appointed in the six month Last to attend the indulge meeting at Bassriver not being Ready to Report at this time the meeting is Continued under their Care one month Longer.

19th Day, 1st Month, 1825 [page 240]

One of the Committee appointed to attend the indulged meeting at Bassriver Report on behalf of the Committee that all the meetings allowed to be held there has been kept up and attended to general satisfaction and until there is a new meeting house built at Bridgeport this meeting think but to Discontinue the indulged meeting at Bassriver but that it be held at Bridgeport for six month. John Hallock David Mapps Eli Mathis & Jonathan Gifford Jun. Is appointed to attend this indulged meeting at Bridgeport & Report to this meeting at the Expiration of six month.

10th Day, 2nd Month, 1825 [page 241]

The friends appointed to get the meeting house built at Bridgport, Report it is Done and the Expense amounted to three Hundred & Eighty five Dollars & 17 Cents and the money Raised by subscription is two Hundred & Eighty Dollars which Leave the meeting in Debt one Hundred & five Dollars & 17 Cents. Nathan Bartlet and David Mapps is appointed to Receive money Subscribed & not paid and take new subscriptions to settle the amounts & Expense of said meeting house and give their Note on behalf of the meeting for the Balance that may be Due & Report to next month meeting.

10th Day, 3rd Month, 1825 [page 241]

Nathan Bartlet & David Mapps Report that they have Settled the Expenses of Building the Meeting House at Bridgport agreeable to their appointment and the Subscription not all being paid in they give their Note

on behalf of this monthly meeting for one Hundred & fourteen Dollars to be paid to Jesse Evans in one year without Interest.

11th Day, 8th Month, 1825 [page 244]

The Committee appointed to attend the indulged meeting at Bridport now Reports that all the meetings has been kept up and held orderly and some of the Committee has been at all of them and the said indulge meeting is allowed to be held as heretofore for six months to come except those weeks in which the Quarterly meeting is held & David Mapps, John Hallock, Mark Riley & Jonathan Gifford is appointed to attend it and Report to this meeting at the Expiration of six months.

11th Day, 8th Month, 1825 [page 66] - Women's Meeting

The Meeting at Bridg-Port to be continued as hereto fore except the weeks of the Quarterly Meeting. Grace Mapps Malisa Gifford Lucy Ann Evans and Lydia Hallock are appointed to have the care of it.

9th Day, 2nd Month, 1826 [page 247]

The Committee appointed to attend the indulge meeting at Bridgport informs this meeting that all the meeting has been kept up to general satisfaction and attended by some of the Committee and they thought it Right that it should be held six month Longer therefore this meeting allows it to be held as usual for six month to come and appoints David Mapps Mark Riley Thomas Willits & Nathan Bartlet to attend the said indulge meeting and Report to this meeting at the Expiration of six month.

14th Day, 9th Month, 1826 [page 250]

The Committee appointed to attend the indulge meeting at Bridgport informs this meeting that all the meeting has been held to Satisfaction and the members of that meeting Request that it be allow'd to be held as heretofore for six month Longer which is united with and the meeting to be held accordingly. David Maps Nathan Bartlet & Thomas Willits is appointed to attend to said indulge meeting and Report to this meeting at the Expiration of six month.

12th Day, 10th Month, 1826 [page 250]

The meeting meet on the 16th agreeable to adjournment William Twining & Rebeckah Riley having consent of parents covn'd they are Left at Liberty to accomplish their marriage at a Public meeting held at Bridgport Thomas Osborn & Eli Mathis is appointed to attend their marriage and See that good order is observed and Report to next month meeting and Return the marriage Certificate to be Recorded.

13th Day, 12th Month, 1827 [page 259]

The Committee appointed to attend the indulge meeting at Bridgport, Reports that some of the Committee had attended all the meeting held at that place which in general was to satisfaction and the members Constituting that meeting Request that a meeting be allowed to be held for six month to Come but this meeting on Consideration Do allow the said meeting to be held as usual for three months only, and Nathan Bartlet, David Mapps & Eli Mathis is appointed to attend the said indulge meeting and Report to this meeting at the Expiration of three month.

8th Day, 5th Month, 1828 [page 261]

This meeting is informed by the womens meeting that Lucy Ann Evan Elizabeth Cox & Margret Randolph had been treated with for joining a seperate meeting set up Contrary to Discipline and after solid & weighty consideration this meeting appoints Nathan Bartlet & Eli Mathis to join the womens Committee and pay them a visit and Report to next month meeting their sence on the occation.

12th Day, 6th Month, 1828 [page 261]

The Committee appointed to pay Lucia Ann Evans Elizabeth Cox & Margret Randolph a visit Respecting their Joining a seperate meeting set up Contrary to Discipline, Report that they have attended to their appointment and had a sutable oppertunity with them but they justified their conduct therefore we thought the meeting might proceed against them, and after some solid consideration . . . MISSING TOP OF PAGE 262

14th Day, 8th Month, 1828 [page 262]

The friends under whose care the Informing Lucia Ann Evans Elisabeth Cox & Margret Randolph that this meeting had come to a judgment to disown them, now report that have been informed and produced a testimony of disownment which was read approved of & signed by the Clerks and are as follow –

WHEREAS Lucia Ann Evans had had a right in membership amongst friends but hath so far deviated as to join a separate meeting set up contrary to discipline for which she has been tenderly treated with but Neglects making satisfaction for which we Disown her from our Religious joining being a Membership until she becomes sensible of her Error and Condemns the same to the Satisfaction of this meeting which that she may is our Desire.

14th Day, 8th Month, 1828 [page 264]

Brought from the preparative meeting that John Hallock hath been treated with for joining himself to a separate meeting set up Contrary to Discipline and after some solid Consideration This meeting appoints Jonathan Gifford & Eli Mathis to pay them a Visit & Report to next month meeting their sence on the occasion.

11th Day, 9th Month, 1828 [page 264]

The friends appointed, Report they paid John Hallock a Visit agreeable to their appointment and had A suitable opportunity with him he Justified his Conduct and no objections against friends acting as they thought Right and after some solid Consideration this meeting has come to a judgment to Disown him was brought from the womens meeting that Lydia Hallock had been treated with for going herself to a separate meeting set up Contrary to Discipline and their meeting was united in Disowning of her and after some solid & weighty Consideration this meeting unites with the women & hath come to a judgment to Disown her and William Gifford & Thomas Willits is appointed to inform John Hallock & Lydia his wife of the Judgment of this meeting. Likewise to prepare a Testimony of Disownment against them for the approbation of the next month meeting.

11th Day, 9th Month, 1828 [page 88] - Women's Meeting

The friends appointed to serve Lucy Ann Evans Elizabeth Cox & Margaret Randolph with testifications against them, report they Served Lucy Ann & Elizabeth with theirs, but Margaret would not accept hers, Elizabeth said she should not appeal, the others did not say whither they should appeal or not.

One of the Committee appointed to visit Lydia Hallock for joining herself to a separate meeting Contrary to discipline, report She had a Suitable opportunity with her, but she did not appear to have a desire to return her right and thought the meeting might precede against her and this meeting uniting with the judgment of the Committee it was laid before men friends for their unity who have informed us they had come to a judgment to disown her.

9th Day, 10th Month, 1828 [page 265]

The friends appointed produced a Testimony of Disownment against John Hallock & another against Lydia his wife agreeable to their appointment which was Read approved of & signed. Nathan Bartlet & Eli Mathis is appointed to join the women friends and serve them with a copy thereof and inform them of their Right of appeal & Report to next month meeting.

13th Day, 11th Month, 1828 [page 266]

The friends appointed to join the women in serving John Hallock & Lydia his wife with the Copy of the Testimony of Disownment against them Report it is Done and inform'd them of their Right of appeal but they Did not say whether they would appeal or not.

Whereas John Hallock hath had a Right of Membership amongst friends but hath gone so far contrary to the good order of society as to join himself to a separate meeting set up Contrary to Discipline for which he hath been treated with and not making satisfaction this meeting Disowns him from being a Member of our Religious Society until he

becomes Sensible of his misconduct and Condemns the same to the Satisfaction of this meeting.

Given from our monthly meeting held at Little Eggharbour the 9th Day 10 mo 1828 and sign'd on behalf thereof by Eli Mathis, Clerk.

Whereas Lydia Hallock hath had a Right of Membership amongst friends but hath gone so far contrary to the good order of Society as to join herself to a separate meeting set up contrary to Discipline for which she hath been treated with and not making satisfaction this meeting Disowns her from being a Member of our Religious Society untill she becomes sensible of her misconduct and Condemns the same to the Satisfaction of this meeting.

13th Day, 11th Month, 1828 [page] - Women's Meeting

This Meeting is informed from Little Eggharbor preparative meeting that Lydia Hallock has been treated with for joining herself to a seperate meeting Contrary to discipline and taking the case into consideration appoint Ann Oliphant & Judith Mathis to visit her on the occasion and report to next monthly meeting.

13th Day, 11th Month, 1828 [page 88] - Women's Meeting

Men friends have furnished this meeting with testification against Lucy Ann Evans, Elizabeth Cox, & Margaret Randolph which was read and signed and Grace Mapps & Rebecca Townsend are appointed to serve them therewith and inform them of their right of appeal and report to next monthly meeting.

This meeting has been informed for Little Eggharbor preparative meeting, that Lydia Hallock has been treated with for joining herself to a seperate meeting Contrary to discipline and taking the case into consideration appoint Ann Oliphant & Judith Mathis to visit her on the occasion and report to next monthly meeting.

The Mount Holly Monthly Meeting was established in 1776 by Burlington Quarterly Meeting out of the Burlington Monthly Meeting. The Orthodox branch of this monthly meeting was discontinued in 1828 with its members being transferred to the Orthodox Burlington Monthly Meeting. The Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting became Hicksite and was the forerunner of the current Mount Holly Monthly Meeting.

The following references related to the indulged meeting held at Bridgeport were taken from the Mount Holly Monthly Meeting Minutes.

6th Day, 3rd Month, 1828 [page 188]

A paper was produced by women friends signed by Lucy Ann Evans, Elizabeth Cox and Margaret Randolph members of Little Eggharbour Monthly Meeting requesting they may transfer their right of membership to this meeting. After a time of deliberation and the very tried situation of those friends in connection with the general state of society being considered do very general unity was expressed with their becoming members of this meeting without producing certificates and women friends are requested to inform them thereof.

6th Day, 3rd Month, 1828 [page 224] - Women's Meeting

Lucy Ann Evans, Elizabeth Cox and Margaret Randolph from Egg Harbour Monthly Meeting request to transfer their rights of membership to this meeting; after a time of weighty and sympathetic feeling, great unity was expressed by both men and women friends in receiving them as members of this monthly meeting. Leah Burr and Rachel Bishop are appointed to inform them.

8th Day, 5th Month, 1828 [page 192]

John Hallock a minister and member of Little Eggharbour monthly meeting attending here at this time produced in writing a request that he might transfer his right of membership and the right of his two minor sons, Richard and Aaron Hallock, to this meeting without producing a certificate which after a time of deliberation the meeting unites in granting believing that the general state of Society is such as very much to preclude the possibility of a certificate being obtained.

5th Day, 6th Month, 1828 [page 193-4]

A paper was produced signed by Lydia Hallock, Allan C. Hallock, Amy Adams, and Shady Riley Members of Little Eggharbour Monthly meeting in which they request that they may transfer their rights of Membership to this meeting without producing certificates which after consideration the meeting unites in granting, believing the general state of society to be such that, from that monthly meeting certificates could not be obtained.

5th Day, 6th Month, 1828 [page 194]

A paper signed by a number of the members of this meeting was produced requesting the privilege of holding a meeting for worship and a preparative meeting at some convenient place at or near Bridgeport after a time of deliberation the women's meeting uniting, this meeting concludes to grant permission for a meeting for worship to be held on the first and fourth days of the week for one month and appoints the following friends to attend the opening and have the care thereof and to report to next meeting their views of a preparative meeting being held there. Viz: Anthony Sharpe, Asa Rogers, Abraham Merritt, John Hallock, George Hulme, Samuel Ellis and Charles Jones.

5th Day, 6th Month, 1828 [page 229-230] - Women's Meeting

The following named friends to wit Lydia Hallock, Allen C. Hallock, Amy Adams and Shady Ryley from Little egg Harbour Monthly Meeting desire to transfer their right of membership to this monthly meeting after consideration, great unanimity is expressed in receiving them . . .

. . . A request from friends formerly members of Egg Harbour Monthly Meeting to have established at Bridgeport a meeting for worship, and preparative Meeting, under the care of this Monthly Meeting has

been read and considered and the establishment of a meeting for worship united with Amy Fenimore, Leah Burr, Esther Fix and Mary Carr are appointed in conjunction with men friends to attend the opening and report their sense of the propriety of their holding a preparative meeting.

10th Day, 7th Month, 1828 [page 195]

The committee appointed to the care of the meeting for worship at or near Bridgeport and to express their sense of a preparative meeting being held there report as their sense that it would be right to continue the meeting for worship under the care of this meeting, and that in the view of the committee, way did not open for establishing a preparative meeting there at this time. After consideration the meeting unites with the report and continues that meeting for six months, To be held on first and fourth days of the week, excepting that on fourth day, in the week this meeting is held and under the care of the same committee excepting Asa Rogers who requests to be released.

10th Day, 7th Month, 1828 [page 230] - Women's Meeting

The committee appointed in conjunction with men friends to attend Bridgeport meeting, report that with the exception of one, they attended and were united in the continuance of it, to be held on the first and fourth days of the week, except the day preceding our Monthly Meeting but did not see the way clear to establish a preparative meeting; the meeting concludes to continue the meeting for worship for 6 months under the care of the same committee with the addition of Elizabeth Cox.

9th Day, 10th Month, 1828 [page 232] - Women's Meeting

Rhoda Osborn of Little Egg Harbour Monthly Meeting informs us she believes it her duty to transfer her right of membership to this meeting if here concurred with; after solid deliberation great unity was expressed in receiving her, and a similar judgment being received from men friends, Lucy Ann Evans is appointed to inform her thereof.

8th Day, 1st Month, 1829 [page 201]

The committee appointed to the care of the meeting at or near Bridgeport not being prepared to report that meeting is continued for one month under their care and that committee desired to report to next meeting.

5th Day, 2nd Month, 1829 [page 204]

The friends appointed to the care of the meeting at or near Bridgeport not being yet ready to report that meeting is continued for three months under their care.

5th Day, 2nd Month, 1829 [page 236] - Women's Meeting

The committee appointed on the 12th inst in conjunction with men friends with addition of Jamenia Lippencott to propose the names of Suitable friends fir the station of Elders now report they were united in proposing the following to wit, Lucy Ann Evans Leah Burr and Mary Carr. After a time of solid deliberation, they were seperately united with and a similar judgement being received from men friends, Leah Burr and Mary Carr, are appointed to that station Lucy Ann Evans not being present her appointment is defered to a future meeting.

7th Day, 5th Month, 1829 [page 206]

Our esteemed friend Lucy Ann Evans opened in this meeting a prospect she had of attending the ensuing yearly meeting of Friends to be held in New York; with which the meeting unites, she being an elder in good esteem.

7th Day, 5th Month, 1829 [page 207]

Our friend John Hallock opened in this meeting a prospect that had attended his mind to appoint some meetings among friends and others within the compass of Haddonfield Quarter. After consideration he is left at liberty to pursue his prospect as truth may open the way he being a minister in good esteem with us. The Clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute and sign on behalf of the meeting.

7th Day, 5th Month, 1829 [page 238] - Women's Meeting

Our beloved friend Lucy Ann Evans in a weighty manner laid a concern before this meeting, that has for some time impressed her mind to attend the ensuing yearly Meeting of New York, the concern having claimed the serious consideration of friends, great sympathy and unity were _____ with her and she left at liberty to persue the prospect as truth may direct being an Elder in good esteem.

9th Day 7th Month, 1829 [Page 209]

The time last granted for holding meetings at or near Bridgeport being expired and a number who compose that meeting making request for their continuance & the committee appointed to the care of that meeting making a favorable report after consideration, the meeting united in granting liberty to hold meeting there for six months under the care of John Hallock, George Hulme and Daniel Smith.

9th Day, 7th Month, 1829 [page 239] - Women's Meeting

The committee appointed to have a care of Bridgeport Meeting now report that some of there number have frequently attended, that the meetings having been orderly and satisfactory, after solid deliberation the judgement of men friends is united with, in continuing the meeting for six months.

7th Day 1st Month 1830 [Page 215]

The time last granted for holding meetings at or near Bridgeport being expired and the committee appointed to the care of that meeting report that the meetings have been kept up and that the Friends of that meeting request a further continuance for six months which this meeting unites in granting under the care of the same committee.

7th Day, 1st Month, 1830 [page 243] - Women's Meeting

Men friends inform that the committee appointed to the care of the meeting at Bridgeport report that the meetings have all been kept up, and that the members request a continuation of it for six months longer, that there meeting united in granting there request under the care of the same committee, also that they have had under consideration, since last month, the propriaty of changing the time and place of holding the select preparative meeting, and were united in holding it at this place the same day of our Monthly Meeting preceding the Quarterat the third _____ Poll these subjects having claim'd the attention of this meeting, their judgment was united with in both cases.

8th Day, 7th Month, 1830 [Page 222]

The time last granted for holding meetings at or near Bridgeport being expired and the committee appointed to the care of that meeting not being ready to report that meeting for one month under their care.

8th Day, 7th Month, 1830 [Page 223]

Our friend Lucy Ann Evans opened in this meeting a prospect she has of accompanying Elizabeth Cox in her visit to the State of Ohio this May inform that she is a member and Elder in good esteem with us- the Clerk is directed to furnish her with a copy of this minute and sign it on behalf the meeting.

5th Day, 8th Month, 1830 [Page 224]

The committee appointed to the care of the meeting at Bridgeport reported that some of their number have attended it that the meetings have been kept up to satisfaction And the members of that meeting making request for its further continuance after consideration, the meting unites in continuing it for six months under care of the same committee.

10th Day, 2nd Month, 1831 [Page 230-1]

The subject of continuing Bridgeport meeting coming again before this meeting after consideration it is concluded to continue it for 6 months longer under the care of the same committee with the addition of Mark Riley thereof.

4th Day, 8th Month, 1831 [Page 237]

The time granted for holding Bridgeport meeting having expired and the committee not making any report, it is continued under their care another month and they requested to report.

4th Day, 8th Month, 1831 [page 258] - Women's Meeting

Men friends inform they have Concluded to continue Bridg-Port Meeting under the care of the same Committee and request a report at our next Month Meeting; which is united with by this Meeting.

8th Day, 9th Month, 1831 [Page 239]

The time last granted for holding Bridgeport meeting having expired and the committee reporting the meetings have all been kept up and that the members request a further continuing it 6 months longer under the care of Anthony Sharp, Joel Reeves, George Hulme & Mark Riley.

6th Day, 10th Month, 1831 [page 259] - Women's Meeting

The Meeting at Bridg-Port is Continued for Six Months Jane C. Hough is appointed to attend it in addition to the former Committee.

8th Day, 3rd Month, 1832 [page 262] - Women's Meeting

The meeting at Bridgeport is continued for two months longer under the care of the same committee

18th Day, 5th Month, 1832 [page 264] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in the continuance of Bridgeport meeting for three months longer under the care of the same committee with the addition of Rebecca Sharp.

9th Day, 8th Month, 1832 [Page 253-4]

The time last granted for holding Bridgeport meeting having expired after consideration it is concluded to continue one month longer under care of the same Friends.

6th Day, 9th Month, 1832 [Page 254]

The time last granted for holding Bridgeport meeting having expired the committee appointed to have the care of that meeting report the meeting has been kept up to good satisfaction, and the friends of that meeting request its continuance after consideration this meeting unites in continuing it 6 months longer under care of the same friends with the name of Thomas Sooy added thereto.

6th Day, 9th Month, 1832 [page 266] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in continuing Bridge Port meeting six months longer. appoints Rebecca Woodward, Hannah Reeves Rebecca Matlack and Elizabeth Cox to join men friends in the care thereof.

9th Day, 5th Month, 1833 [page 271] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in the continuation of Bridgeport meeting another month under care of the same friends.

6th Day, 6th Month, 1833 [page 271] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in the continuation of Bridgeport meeting for three months longer under the care of the same committee.

8th Day, 8th Month 1833 [Page 266]

Our beloved friend Lucy Ann Evans opened in this meeting a prospect that she had of accompanying Elizabeth Cox in a religious visit to Indiana [sic] Yearly meeting, and some of the meetings composing

that and Ohio Yearly meeting, which upon solid consideration was united with and she left at liberty to pursue the same as truth may open the way she being an Elder in unity with us - the Clerk is directed to furnish her with a copy of this minute and sign it on behalf of the meeting.

5th Day, 12th Month, 1833 [page 275] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in the continuation of Bridgport meeting for two months longer under the care of the same committee.

6th Day, 2ndMonth, 1834 [page 277] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in the continuance of Bridgport meeting for two months longer, under the care of the same friends.

6th Day, 6th Month 1833 [Page 264]

The time last granted for holding Bridgeport Meeting having expired, this meeting unites in continuing it 3 months longer under care of the same friends.

10th Day, 4th Month, 1834 [page 278] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in the continuance of Bridgport Meeting for one year and also the alteration proposed in holding it on fourth days at Martha meeting house and on first days as usual at Bridg Port. Rebecca Woodward Hannah Reeves and Rhoda Osborn are appointed to join men friends in the care thereof.

9th Day, 4thMonth, 1835 [page 287-8] - Women's Meeting

The friends under whose care the meetings at Bridgport and Martha were held report they have most of them attended the meeting at Bridgport which they believe has been held to good satisfaction. The one on fourth day at Martha has not been kept up for some time past- it is therefore discontinued and the meeting at Bridgport on first day continued as heretofore under the care of the same friends with the addition of Saupia Wills.

7th Day, 4th Month, 1836 [page 297] - Women's Meeting

The friends under whose care the meeting at Bridge Port is held report they have most of them attended the meeting to good satisfaction and purpose it to be continued another year, which after consideration is united with by the meeting and the same friends are continued in the care thereof.

6th Day, 4thMonth, 1837 [page 308] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in continuing the meeting at Bridge Port another year under the care of the same committee with the addition of Rebecca Sharp and Sarah Atkinson.

5th Day, 4th Month, 1838 [page 314] - Women's Meeting

The meeting unites with the report of the committee appointed to attend the meeting at Bridge Port, and have concluded to continue that meeting under the care of the same friends with the exception of Mary Fennimore in the place of Rebecca Sharp & the release of Rhoda Osborn.

8th Day, 8th Month, 1839 [page 321] - Women's Meeting

This meeting unites with men friends in the continuance of Bridge Port meeting for one year by the name of Bridge Port meeting held at Martha Furnace under the care of the same committee with the addition of Hannah Bullock.

10th Day, 9th Month, 1840 [Page 362]

The time last granted for holding Bridgeport meeting having expired and the committees not being prepared to report it is continued another month under their care.

10th Day, 9th Month 1840 [Page 362-3]

The committee of Men and women friends having charge of Bridgeport meeting make the following report "The committee having charge of Bridgeport meeting report that several of our number have attended the meeting, that it has been kept up one or two days excepted owing to indisposition. Some of the committee have lately had an interview with some of the members of that meeting and they do not think well of asking the indulgence any longer" with which the meeting unites Women friends also uniting therein the meeting is accordingly discontinued.

10th Day, 9th Month, 1840 [page 331] - Women's Meeting

The committee having charge of Bridgeport Meeting report they have conferred with some of the friends of that meeting and they do not wish the indulgence any longer the committee is therefore released and the meeting discontinued.

8th Day, 10th Month, 1840 [Page 364]

The committee appointed to inquire into the situation of Friends property at Bridgeport not having attended thereto are continued.

5th Day, 8th Month, 1847 [page 13] - Women's Meeting

Lucy Ann Evans Memorial

Woman friends named to join men friends in abridgin [sic] the memorial of Lucy Ann Evans, have attended to it, men friends inform us that way did not open for it to go forward, and where united in its being placed upon the records of the Monthly Meeting Book which was united with us, [2½ inch blank space left blank] . Meeting concludes.

Notwithstanding years have elapsed since the deceased of our beloved friend Lucy Ann Evans, yet as she by her upright life and conversation, her practical benevolence and charity was truly a preacher of Righteousness, the remembrance of which still lives in our minds. A concern has arisen believing it might be proffitable [sic] to give our testimony concerning her.

She was the daughter of Samuel and Lucy Kellum and born in the year 1759 at Beverley in the Sate [sic] of Massachusetts [sic]. She was young when her Mother died and was placed with a connexion [sic] of the family in Boston who sometime after removed to Philadelphia brought her with them.

The benevolence of her disposition was earley [sic] manifested in acts of kindness and charity to such of her fellow creatures as were needy or afflicted, without liberty (as she expressed herself) to enquire [sic] wether [sic] they were worthy or not, at this time she followed working with her needle and from her own account it appears that frequently a large portion of her earnings were devoted to the relief of such whom she often visited, she has been heard to speak of one case that came under her notice of an aged Catholic Woman languishing in extreme poverty who often preached to her Quaker doctrine long before she knew any of the society of friends, and that the instruction she received from her far exceeded any she had before met with.

In the year 1795 she was married to Jesse Evans with whom she lived in qual [sic] during the remainder of her life, and with whom she removed to New Jersey and shortly after to Martha furnace where an extensive field was open for the exercise of those acts of Benevolence and charity which had ever adorned her character.

She was at this time in the gay walks of life but her meekness and engaging manners gained for her the esteem of all with whom she had intercourse.

The use of snuff was a habit she had long indulged in untill [sic] about the forty fifth year of her age she felt it to be a duty required of her to abandon the use thereof, this appears to have been the first important sacrifices she was called upon to make in obedience to divine requirements, and so wrought upon her as to confine her to her room for som [sic] weeks in which as she afterwards expressed it the pernicious effects resulting from the use of tobacco to both mind and body was made clearly manifest to her and she

ever after bore a faithful testimony against its use and frequently in after life in select opportunities has felt herself called upon to decry its use as inconsistant [sic] with the character of a deciple [sic] of Christ.

Having thus been made willing to yield up her own will and enabled to obtain the victory under an humbling sense of the mercy and love of her heavenly father she was lead to seek in retirement for the bread of eternal life and in obedience to Divine manifestations of duty laid as to many of her former habits manifesting to the works that she was willing to appear in great simplicity for Christ's sake whom she said she had found to be the light within the anchor of Hope and source of consolation amid all her conflicts and in the clear evidence now offered her saw it was the same that had been with her from her youth up, though she knew it not untill [sic] it broke in upon her understanding and became the day star to her.

Being remotely situated she had but little intercourse with any religious denomination untill [sic] she became impressed with the belief that it would be right for her to join the Religious Society of Friends under the impression she regularly attended their meetings twelve miles distant, and in process of time was received a member of Little Egg harbour Monthly Meeting.

She was much concerned for the promotion of Truth and Righteousness amongst men evinceing [sic] by her life and conversation an earnest desire all might become partakers of that inward peace and enjoyment that is experienced where Christ is suffered to arise in power and dominion over all.

She was appointed to the Station of an Elder by Little Eggharbour Monthly Meeting and subsequently by Mount Holly Monthly Meeting of which she became a member, and being endowed with the Spirit of judgment was eminently Qualified to fill that Station and to administer a word of caution or encouragement in due season. She traveled several extensive journeys in truth's service as companion to those called in the line of the Ministry to whom she was a true help mate proving herself worthy the appalation [sic] of a Mother in _____ .

She was favoured in a remarkable manner with the spirit of Discernment or Prophecy two instances of which we deem worthy of record - at the preparative meeting of which she was a member she once spoke as follows "it is with trimbling [sic] and great weakness that arise to break the silence of this meeting but the fear of offending my God causes me to stand upon my feet, there is something rest upon my mind to communicate to some [sic] one present, perhaps myself, "set thy house in order for thou shall die and not live," and I also believe there are those present who are under the preparing hand of the Lord for deep trials and tribulations that await them are long but fear not for those shall have joy and rejoicing in the end. The Meeting seperated [sic] as usual and an aged Friend after participating in the business before the Meeting died before it closed.

The other instance as follows- Arising earley [sic] one morning she said if ever I see my dear H again (alluding to a friend in declining health) I must go to day the weather was dark and stormy but her belief was strong that it would be right for her to go, she and another female Friend set out and rode near forty miles to the residence of the friend alluded to and the result proved the truth of her impression as the individual Deceased in a short time after they arrived.

Although of a slender constitution she was enabled to indure many severe hardships and privations by day and by night in the prosecution of her various benevolent purposes in the most inclement seasons visiting the sick and afflicted in their Comfortless habitation & without regard to notion or colour.

Her Store house was ever open to feed the hungry and cloth the naked, and the stranger was not sent empty away, the orphan in her found a tender Mothers care, and her house was an asylum for many.

Of a strong and persevering mind she shrunk not from the performance of what she believed to be her duty to the close of her life. in the fall of 1834 she was attached with Billious fever which she bore with Christian patience and resignation and which terminated her valuable life in the Sixty Sixth year of her age.

10th Day, 3rd Month, 1847 [page 288]

The committee appointed to prepare a memorial for Lucy Ann Evans produced one which is directed to be signed by the Clerks and forwarded to the Quarterly Meeting. [Note: Memorial did not appear in the minutes.]

Lucy Ann Evans Memorial

[From the Mount Holly Women's Monthly Meeting Minutes, 5th Day, 8th Month, 1847 , page 13]

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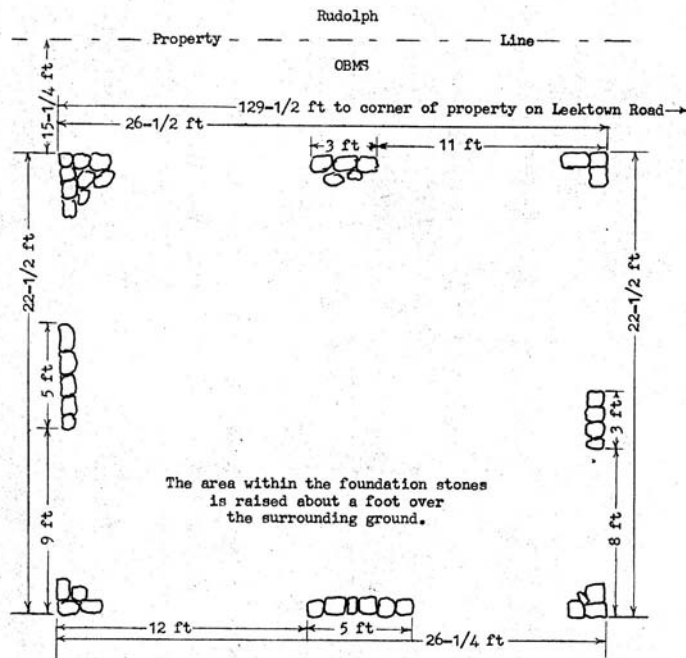
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The Bridgeport Friends Meeting House Circa 1925



The area within the foundation stones
is raised about a foot over
the surrounding ground.

FOUNDATION STONES

Hicksite Quaker Meeting House
Old Bridgeport Memorial Society
Wading River, Bass River Township
Burlington County, New Jersey



Measured and plotted by
Frederic M. & Marjorie K. Cramer
15 November 1973