



PATUXENT FRIENDS
MONTHLY MEETING

1655-56 Quakers first arrived in Southern Maryland after being expelled from Virginia. Among them was Elizabeth Harris, who proceeded to convince Puritan leaders like Richard Preston to see the "Inward Truth". Meetings began to be established in Calvert County—for example, at the Upper and Lower Cliffs.

1657 The Provincial Council of Maryland referred to the "insolent behavior of Quakers". The latter were told they had to take oaths and remove their hats. They were called "vagabonds and idle persons". They were whipped from constable to constable, until they were tossed from the Province.

1670 By this time, despite persecution, Quaker meetings (all unprogrammed) were spreading in Maryland (except in St. Mary's County). They existed on the Severn River, the South River, the West River, Herring Creek, the Cliffs, and the Patuxent.

1672 George Fox visited Southern Maryland and attended several established meetings, including one called "Patuxent". He talked in his journal of meeting with Indian chieftains and of staying at the home of James Preston, son of Richard Preston (who died in 1669). In the same year, Fox was present at the General Meeting of Friends on West River, which became Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

1673 Fox returned to England, having taken passage from St. Leonard's Creek on the Society of Bristol, which was held up for days at Patuxent Point due to unfavorable winds.

1683 The Cliffs meeting house was built upon a tract near the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County, called "Gary's Chance". Among the Friends involved were the Sharpe family (Dr. Peter Sharpe was known as "the good Quaker physician of Calvert County") and Richard Johns (whose descendants became the founders of Johns Hopkins Hospital; one of the Johns family was disowned by Baltimore Yearly Meeting for selling whiskey). Some of these early Quakers were buried in a cemetery close to Scientist's Cliffs in Calvert County.

1686 The existence of Pickawaxen Meeting in Charles County was reported.

1700 Friends were no longer persecuted in Maryland.

1705 Esther Palmer, a Quaker missionary, visited in Calvert and Ann Arundel Counties. She found that earlier Quakers had "planted the theory of the Inward Light deeply and extensively".

1724 Maps at the time showed evidence of a Quaker presence in Calvert County, e.g. locations of Quaker Meeting Houses, "Quaker Road" and "Quaker Swamp" (at the headwaters of St. Leonard's Creek).

1777 The Maryland Society of Friends outlawed slavery. Until this time, Quakers had grown in number. After this date, Friends who did not wish to give up their slaves became Episcopalians. Those who gave up their slaves moved out of the area, since they could not grow tobacco economically without slaves.

1871 A Quaker meeting, known as "Patuxent Monthly Meeting", was organized in Hughesville, Maryland (Charles County). It was part of the Orthodox group of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. The minister was named Neave, and he served until his death in 1929. The Meeting had 28 members in 1876 and a peak of 36 members.



Original Hughesville meeting house established in 1871.

1942 The above-mentioned Meeting was laid down during World War II; the membership having dwindled to 2-3 families. The Meeting House was torn down. A small cemetery remains.

1980 A small number of Friends from Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles Counties formed a worship group under the care of Annapolis Meeting. Since 1980, this group has grown in numbers and spirituality and has become a monthly meeting. It considers itself a worthy successor of the unprogrammed Patuxent Meeting, which existed in Calvert County in the mid-17th Century.

1995 Patuxent Friends were welcomed as a Monthly Meeting, under Baltimore Yearly Meeting in July.

1999 Patuxent Friends Meeting accepted ownership of the cemetery from Adelphi Friends Meeting. An article in the Washington Post highlighted work on the cemetery and its new sign, constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Matthew Keck who is a member of Patuxent Friends Meeting.

2001 Patuxent Friends meeting was incorporated under the State of Maryland.

2001 Patuxent Friends purchased a little Cape Cod house on H.G. Trueman Road, in Lusby, MD, about a mile from the Southern Community Center where they had met for a number of years. The first meeting on the property was held on July 8, 2001. There was an adjacent house on the property, which would be converted to an apartment and First Day School.

2001 Renovation began on the annex building, which sits next to the Meetinghouse. Renovation was accelerated through a cooperative agreement with a young friend who was willing to contribute his building skills in exchange for temporary residence. He and his family lived in the upstairs apartment until Twelfth Month 2004. The upstairs annex living quarters has been occupied by different sojourners since the first day of renovation.

2003 The bottom floor of the annex was renovated as a multi-purpose, primarily used room for First Day School.

2008 A traffic circle was built on H.G. Trueman Road in front of the Meetinghouse. Entrance and address for the Meetinghouse was changed to 12185 Southern Connector Boulevard, and 12175 Southern Connector Blvd for the annex building.