

JANUARY 2025 ^ VOL. 3 ISSUE 1

TRENTON FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

www.trentonquakers.org
142 E Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08608
trentonquakers@gmail.com 609-278-4551
News and Updates for Friends and friends in our community



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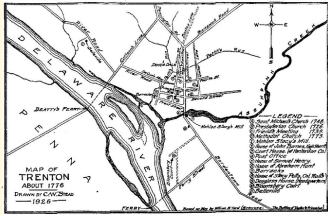
**EVENTS AND
NEWS PP. 2-4
CALENDAR PP. 5-6**

2025 marks the 285th anniversary of the construction of the Meetinghouse. Above is a picture of the structure before the major additions begun in the 1870s. See inside for an interesting tale of the Trenton Meeting member William Plasket, a mason by trade, who constructed the building in brick, Flemish Bond style.

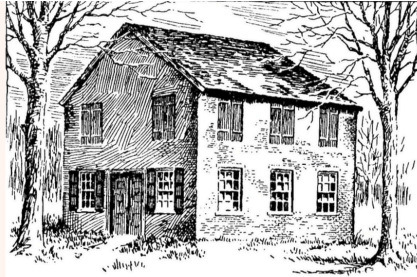
Having completed the busy and rewarding holiday season, January slows down. Instead of putting a lot of effort into public events we will be back doing our community work. Community Investment Committee continues discernment on requests for grants, the hosting of weekly Arm In Arm food distributions and monthly Black Lives Matter outreach resumes as does the sidewalk Free Sale and free Saturday piano lessons.

PATRIOTS WEEK EVENTS

Dec 28th 1:00 pm



Trenton 1775: A Colonial Town Caught in the Revolution



Quakers! Choose a Side

Dec 30th 2:00 pm

Dec 31st 2:30 pm

Dec 31st 4:00 pm



Annual New Year's Eve Peace Vigil (with a sing along and food)



PATRIOTS WEEK AT THE MEETINGHOUSE
142 E HANOVER ST | TRENTONQUAKERS.ORG

Patriots Week saw lively times at the Meetinghouse. The “Trenton 1775” Walking Tour did have to contend with rainy weather, but was still an enjoyable success.

A powerful and moving New Year’s Eve Peace Vigil brought together about fifty folks from the Quaker community in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, folks from the Coalition for Peace Action and likeminded friends from all around.

Pictures below are from “Quakers! Choose a Side” presentation by Fred Millner.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE BUILDING 2024

Once again, the Build a Gingerbread House event was fun and delightful. A dozen or more young people from our Meeting, the neighborhood and another Quaker Meeting made beautiful and creative structures.



TRENTON MEETING'S SUNDAY HOLIDAY PARTY

On the Sunday before Christmas each year, Trenton Meeting has a holiday party at the rise of Worship. This year was filled with music, good food and the wonderful company of members and attenders.



THE QUAKER MASON WHO BUILT THE MEETINGHOUSE

On a Tuesday, several weeks ago a couple from East Tennessee stopped by the Trenton Meetinghouse to see the building. By lucky coincidence, a few Trenton Friends were on site and were able to greet the visitors, give them a tour, and chat for a while in the worship room. They were visiting because the wife in the couple is a direct descendant of William Plasket (sometimes spelled Plaskett), who was the Trenton Quaker bricklayer who built the original section of our Meetinghouse in 1739. Very few Friends currently active in our Meeting community were familiar with the name of this man who was so significant in our early years!

A little Internet research has revealed, indeed, that the 1739 “[Quaker] Meeting House was built by the Friend and mason, William Plasket during the reign of King George II.” The building, on Quaker Lane (Montgomery Street) and Third Street (Hanover), was on the rural edge of the city at the time. “There was one long room

(continued next page)

WILLIAM PLASKET (1708-1748)



*Trenton Friends Meeting House
Photo: Trenton Historical Society*



Example of Flemish Bond brickwork

WILLIAM PLASKET (CONTINUED)

inside ... [with] two long benches for the membership. When first erected, the house was thirty by forty feet, one story high with a hip roof.” The brick walls are “laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers.... The date 1739 appeared in blue glazed bricks in one of the gable end walls. This may very well be the earliest example of patterned brickwork in Mercer County.... It was also only the second religious structure in Trenton at the time.”

Two significant enlargements were made to Meetinghouse in the 19th century, such that it appears as it is now – surrounded by the busy city on all sides.

The name William Plasket appears several more times in the historical record. “[He] was also one of the first councilmen for Trenton when it received its Royal Charter in 1745.” And, then, some 40 years later, his son William Plasket Jr. filed a claim for damage done to his residence at the top of either Queen or King Streets (N. Broad or Warren) by Washington’s cannons firing on the Hessians in the Battle of Trenton, on Christmas Day 1776. The concussions shattered 120 of his windowpanes.

Sadly, William Plasket Jr.’s fate among Quakers is recorded when he was “read out of Meeting,” that means he was disowned by the Trenton Friends community, for taking a loyalty oath to the new rebel government. The emerging local powers in New Jersey discouraged business done with people who had not yet broken allegiance with the King; and, William Plasket, among a number of other Quakers – perhaps driven, in part, by economic necessity – had chosen to go against the Friends testimonies forbidding oaths and the support of military activities.

Submitted by Trenton Friend John Kelly

References:

<https://revolutionarynj.org/sites/quaker-friends-meeting-house-of-trenton/>
https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/identify/nrsr_16_Dec_Trenton_Battle.pdf

FROM MUD TO WOOD CHIPS

The wonderful old Sycamore tree between the Meetinghouse and the former YWCA building does not allow grass to take hold and grow in its vicinity. Because of this, for quite some time we have had to deal with dirt that becomes mud whenever it rains in that side area. At last we have solved the mud problem with a large expanse of wood chips that is both practical and pleasing to the eye.



Trenton Quakers

Sat Jan 4, 2025

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jan 5, 2025

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

| **Where:** Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm CMW Committee

| **Where:** 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Tue Jan 7, 2025

6:30pm - 7:30pm Religious Ed meeting

Fri Jan 10, 2025

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Jan 11, 2025

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

1pm - 3:30pm George Lakey Film Event

| **Where:** Burlington (NJ) Quaker Meeting House & Center for Conference 340 High St, Burlington, NJ 08016, United States

Sun Jan 12, 2025

9am - 10am Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

| **Where:** Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Sat Jan 18, 2025

11am - 1pm Free Sale

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jan 19, 2025

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

| **Where:** Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm Social Sunday

Mon Jan 20, 2025

6:30pm - 8pm Community Investment Committee

Sat Jan 25, 2025

9am - 4pm BLM Spaghetti prep and distro

| **Where:** Trenton Meeting of Friends, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Jan 26, 2025

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

| **Where:** Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Trenton Quakers

Mon Jan 27, 2025

6pm - 7pm Communication & Outreach Committee

Where: Zoom

Sat Feb 1, 2025

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 2, 2025

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm CMW Committee

Where: 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Fri Feb 7, 2025

4:30pm - 6pm Property & Funds Committee

Where: Zoom or in person

Sat Feb 8, 2025

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 9, 2025

9am - 10am Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Sat Feb 15, 2025

11am - 1pm Free Sale

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 16, 2025

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm Social Sunday

Mon Feb 17, 2025

6:30pm - 8pm Community Investment Committee

Sat Feb 22, 2025

9am - 4pm BLM Spaghetti prep and distro

Where: Trenton Meeting of Friends, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

12pm - 2pm Piano lessons at Meetinghouse

Sun Feb 23, 2025

10am - 11am Meeting for Worship

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

11:30am - 12:30pm Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Where: Trenton Monthly Meeting, 142 E Hanover St, Trenton, NJ 08608, USA

Mon Feb 24, 2025

6pm - 7pm Communication & Outreach Committee

Where: Zoom

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

Copies of all our monthly newsletters can be found on our website. Go to www.trentonquakers.org/newsletter or scan the QR code below.



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Newsletter editor: Charles Hardy