

Quaker Archives Report to North Carolina Fellowship of Friends
2022-2023

The Quaker Archives at Guilford College serves as the home for the records of this yearly meeting and constituent monthly meetings as well as other meetings and organizations in our region. This past year new deposits of records were received from Greensboro (First Friends), Mount Airy, and New Garden (USFW). We encourage meetings to be sure their holdings are complete for future historians and meeting record keeping needs. You can always check what we have for your meeting at <https://library.guilford.edu/quakerrecords> and contact archives@guilford.edu if you have questions about your meeting's records or about topics documented through our collections.

Thanks to annual contributions from various meetings for care of records, we hired a half-time Quaker Collections Associate, Beth Saunders, in the fall of 2022. Prior to 2020 staff reductions, Beth served in a quarter-time position assisting with Quaker records. Her new position provides invaluable skills and staff time focused on both Quaker records and other Quaker specific collections with particular focus on publications. This is a great example of how essential donor and meeting support is for Quaker Archives operations. Guilford College provides facilities and some funding but dedicated contributions are critical to ensure that archival operations are not dependent on student tuition dollars.

To that end, this past year former Quaker Collection curator Damon Hickey and his wife, Mary Temple Hickey of Wooster, Ohio, stepped up with a challenge gift to match funds needed to endow the Quaker Archivist/Special Collections Librarian position. Additional donations are now being sought to match their \$500,000 commitment. By request of the Hickeys, the newly endowed position will be named in honor of Carole Edgerton Treadway, former archivist and beloved Friend. Meetings and individuals are encouraged to consider financially supporting this essential challenge to make certain North Carolina Quaker records receive professional care for the next century. Learn more about this initiative at <https://sites.google.com/guilford.edu/treadway-endowment>.

One example of why funding for hiring specialized staff to care for these records is essential is the growing number of online resources now openly available. Workload has multiplied with growing expectations and opportunities for access to original source materials. This involves continuing care for physical records while also cataloging and organizing them for other forms of access. The latest project underway is publishing the 19th century NCYM minutes and the previously unpublished correspondence and minutes of the NCYM Meetings for Sufferings online. You can follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GuilfordQuakerArchives/>) to see more updates through the year.

We also enjoy seeing the results of research using the records under our care. Dr. Noeleen McIvenna gave a talk at Guilford last October on seventeenth century North Carolina Quakers as part of commemorating the 350th anniversary of George Fox's visit to the region. It was great to catch up and hear updated reflections from her original dissertation research done, in part, here at Guilford 20 years ago. Playwright Frank Levering is a regular researcher this year as he focuses on that same time period for a play to be produced later in Fall 2023.

Submitted by Gwen Gosney Erickson, Quaker Archivist and Special Collections Librarian