

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.
**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society
of Friends Rules of Discipline, circa 1806-1809**

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Society of Friends.
Title: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Rules of Discipline, circa 1806-1809
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 127
Extent: 1 volume
Abstract: Contains one 113 page volume with an index, of the Rules of Discipline of the yearly meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Rules of Discipline, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Jim Cooper and Nancy H. Watkins, 1994, 1996.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

The Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, was founded in England in 1652 by George Fox. Fox preached throughout England, emphasizing the need for complete and

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true obedience to Christ. The Quaker doctrine, which included pacifism and rejection of oaths, created conflict between Quakers and political and religious leaders in England and America. In 1656, barred from landing in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Quakers settled in Rhode Island. William Penn, a Quaker, founded the Pennsylvania Colony in 1681 and provided refuge for English Quakers and other persecuted religious groups.

Quakers in the United States held their first General Meeting in 1681 in Burlington, New Jersey. This group merged with the Philadelphia meeting in 1685 and became the General Yearly Meeting for Friends of Pennsylvania, East Jersey, and of the Adjacent Provinces. Now known as the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, it is the oldest Quaker group in the U.S.

Scope and Content Note

This small collection consists of a single handwritten volume, 113 pages with an index, of the Rules of Discipline of the yearly meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia, ca. 1806-1809. The book illuminates Quaker social and religious thought on such subjects as the African slave trade, Negroes, women, war, marriage, schools, and taverns. A copy of this book was kept at various meeting houses of the society by overseers and clerks, but access was restricted. Then, in 1825, a printed edition of the Rules of Discipline was published in a move to dispel the mystery surrounding these books.

