THE QUAKERS OF IOWA

BY

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THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

This volume on The Quakers of Iowa was written by Dr. Jones at the request of The State Historical Society of Iowa. For the task the author was peculiarly fitted both by temperament and by training. Moreover, his membership in the Society of Friends gave him ready access to much material which an outsider could not have hoped to obtain.

Although the Quakers have not been numerous in Iowa, the influence of their attitude toward life has been considerable in the history of the Commonwealth.

Benj. F. Shambaugh

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

In the present work the author has endeavored to present the essential features of the history of the people called the Quakers, from the time of their first appearance in Iowa down to the present time. To accomplish this within the limits of a single volume the writer has been compelled to omit many matters of local interest. Space permitted only the briefest mention of those who have been the leaders in many of the fields of church activity; while as regards the Friends' communities, many Iowa Quaker meetings, particularly in the western part of the State, are not even so much as mentioned. To explain this omission the writer desires to state that it has been his purpose to trace in detail the rise of only those settlements which formed the basis of Iowa Quakerism before the founding of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends in 1863. After that time the subject has been dealt with as a whole. Much of local and personal interest has thus been sacrificed in these pages.

Much of the initial work on this volume was done during the three years when the writer was con-
nected with Penn College at Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he had access to the rich collection of manuscript records stored in the college vault. During the fifteen months of his researches the writer lived in Iowa City and was connected with The State Historical Society of Iowa, thus having the advantage of its valuable library. Most of the materials used however, were secured from outside sources which are indicated in the notes and references.

The writer's acquaintance with almost the entire field, together with his personal correspondence with the principal members of the various sects, made possible a familiarity with the present condition of the various branches of the Society in Iowa which proved to be of great value.

The writer desires to take this opportunity to express his gratitude to the large number of persons both in Iowa and elsewhere, who have coöperated in bringing together the materials used in this work. To Dr. David M. Edwards and Dr. Stephen Hadley, both of Oskaloosa, Iowa, the writer is greatly indebted for valued assistance. Thanks are also due to Miss Florence Franzen and to Mr. Jacob Under Zee of Iowa City, Iowa, for their help in verifying the manuscript. Much credit for whatever merit the work may possess is due to Dr. Dan E. Claflin, Assistant Editor of The State Historical Society
AUTHOR'S PREFACE

Iowa, for his many suggestions, corrections on the manuscript, and for the index. And finally, only through the continued interest, assistance, and advice of Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Superintendent of The State Historical Society of Iowa, has the publication of the volume in its present form been made possible.

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