

Quaker records

The records of the Quakers (or Society of Friends) comprise some of the earliest nonconformist records we hold and date from the 17th century onwards.

Quaker meetings and therefore the records are based on a hierarchical structure which often spans counties, the lowest level being the Preparative meeting, then the Monthly and Quarterly meeting.

Quakers kept detailed records and most of their registers of births, marriages and burials are held at [The National Archives](#). Quakers reject formal services and any sort of paid clergy, meetings are instead led by elders. As a result minutes will also include details of administrative functions carried out by the meeting. These can include details of property owned by the meeting, financial transactions, registration of members, and sufferings (persecution for non-payment of tithes or taxes, or imprisonment or fines for refusal to join the militia)

Where are these records?

Oxfordshire History Centre holds the records of the Banbury Monthly Meeting (recently renamed Banbury & Evesham Area Meeting) under collection code NQ1, Vale Monthly Meeting (collection code NQ2), and Witney Monthly Meeting (now renamed Oxford & Swindon Area Meeting), collection code NQ3.

Records for Quaker Meetings in south-east Oxfordshire, for example Henley and Wallingford, are covered by Mid-Thames Area Quaker Meeting and are held at [Berkshire Record Office](#)

Records for the Yearly Meeting (the highest level of meeting) are held at [Friends House](#) in London.

Where is the catalogue

Catalogues for all three Quaker collections held by Oxfordshire History Centre are available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/heritagesearch

[Visiting the Oxfordshire History Centre.](#)