

**ANNUAL MEETING URSCC, January 7, 2018,
Report from Research/ History Committee
By Bill and Brenda Beadenkopf**

In the beginning of the year, we updated the Quaker Timeline on the URSCC web site. Bill attended by Skype a workshop on Keeping Cemeteries Alive, presented by the Historical Society of Michigan.

Brenda made a presentation on nonviolence at the Stepping Stone Center in Dowagiac Feb. 25, where she mentioned the URSCC, along with Cindy Yawkey talking about the URSCC and her new book.

In the Spring, the Beadenkopfs spent a day, first at the Cass Historical Library researching the Village of Penn and also William Wheeler, an underground Railroad conductor in Flowerfield. In the afternoon, they traveled to Flowerfield, where they found the Mill thought to be an underground railroad station run by the Wheeler brothers, talked with the present owners and poked around the burned ashes of the old mill. Brenda helped with spring cleanup at the Bonine House by cleaning a lot of windows.

In the summer, Brenda attended an annual meeting of the Birch Lake Cemetery Committee and tried to follow up leads as to the lore about a Kentucky Raid wagon in Birch Lake while trying to arrange a Board tour of the cemetery. That still has not happened, and another trip they were planning that hasn't happened is a trip to the Nathan Thomas UGRR house in Schoolcraft.

The Beadenkopfs went to see the Brownsville School that the Board is concerned about preserving, that Sojourner Truth spoke in. They also tried to obtain an interview with Richard Shildhaus. Brenda met with Penn historian Cathy Jones, to determine what material should be put in a URSCC notebook about the underground railroad history of Penn Friends Meeting and Church.

Both Bill and Brenda were tour guides for the Underground Railroad Days, where Brenda set up a display and made a presentation at the Youth Center, "After Abolitionist Days, How Did the Quakers Lead?" When Bill attended a meeting of the Spiritual Life Committee of Penn Friends Church, Pastor Greg not only agreed to be speaker, he decided to take the whole church to the service! That was a landmark attendance record for the Community Church Service.