

The 1940s

Hitler starts World War II in 1939 while polio paralyzes or kills over half a million children and adults worldwide and the world is still in the throes of Depression. The U.S. enters the war in 1942 – food rationing begins. Germany and Italy surrender in 1945, but Japan fights on. The U.S. drops atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing massive destruction of property and human life, and affecting the health of survivors from exposure to radiation – Japan surrenders. The United Nations begins in 1945.

The AFSC and other religious organizations immediately call on President Truman to ban nuclear weapons completely and co-founds the Committee for SANE Nuclear Policy, pressing for a nuclear test ban treaty.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) starts its work in 1943, and in 1947, the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded “to the Quakers, represented by their two great relief organizations, the Friends Service Council in London and the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia” for their work providing relief to refugees before, during, and after war.

What's Happening at CHFM

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1940-42 | The Meeting joins the effort to bring refugees to the United States, sends food to war zones before the U.S. enters the war, and wins permission for CPS (Civilian Public Service) men to serve overseas. |
| 1942 | CHFM forms a permanent Race Relations Committee. The Committee challenges Friends to bring the “actual position of Friends” closer to the answers they wrote to the queries listed in <i>Faith and Practice</i> . |
| 1943 | The Second World War challenges Friends’ adherence to the Peace Testimony. Some young Quaker men at CHFM join the military to fight Hitler – CHFM supports them and those who choose not to fight. |
| 1947 | AFSC survey results on Quaker military service in WWII. Seven-hundred and fifty Meetings (out of 1000) answer the survey: 5,953 men fought in the war, 713 entered alternate service, 57 conscientious objectors were imprisoned, and 654 men chose civilian service instead of fighting. |
| 1948 | CHFM joins other groups in finding living quarters, jobs, and sponsorship arrangements for many of the 205,000 displaced persons allowed into the U.S. over the next two years. |
| 1949 | CHFM approves a minute supporting new United Nations |

CHFM History Timeline – The 1940's

CHFM Clerks in the 1940's:

Leonidas Dodson (1940-42)

Joseph Myers (1942-45)

George W. Hagner (1946-48)

M. Wistar Wood (1949)