



**QUAKER HILL
A Memorial in Recognition of the Lives
and Service of
ISAAC P. and MARY ANN EVANS**

**this, their home, repurchased by members
of the family, is restored and rededicated
In 1940
TO FRIENDLY SERVICE
FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE-WEST**

The above inscription on a bronze plaque placed on a boulder in Quaker Hill's front yard, sums up the work, planning, money expended and the love that went into the restoration of the old Evans home.

Selections in this pamphlet were taken from the
*History of Quaker Hill Foundation
and Conference Center*

Quaker Hill Conference Center

Original Purpose:

To provide a clinic and experimental station adequately equipped to permit religious, educational and social service work, primarily under the auspices of Friends but in close association with groups from the Mennonite and Brethren churches, with Earlham College and with all interested persons and groups in Richmond

Today's Mission and Vision:

MISSION: Quaker Hill Conference Center is a retreat and conference center offering hospitality and programming to faith-based and community groups in an atmosphere that embodies and nurtures Quaker values of peace, simplicity, integrity, and equality.

We continue a long tradition of being a special place apart from the routines of daily life for individuals and groups.

VISION: Quaker Hill Conference Center will realize its potential as a dynamic, well-used facility that provides an exceptional retreat opportunity for individuals and small groups through excellent hospitality in a beautiful, well-maintained environment.

We provide a safe setting to experience and nurture spiritual life and to examine important contemporary issues.



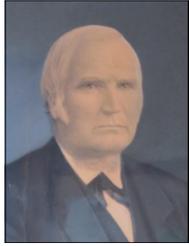
**Quaker Hill Conference Center
10 Quaker Hill Drive
Richmond, IN 47374**

**EVANS HOUSE
AT
QUAKER HILL**



**The Story of
a Place and the
Generosity that
Multiplied**

Isaac and Mary Ann Evans



Isaac Evans purchased a tract of land February 26, 1853, north of the linseed oil mill on a bluff overlooking the valley of the East Fork of the Whitewater River. The original ownership was titled to Andrew Hoover and the certificate of entry was dated June 7, 1806. Andrew Hoover, an early Quaker settler along the Whitewater, came from North Carolina by way of Ohio to Indiana Territory and was one of the earliest settlers in the Richmond area.

Isaac Evans was a member of the Committee for the Friends Boarding school founded in 1847 and now Earlham College, and in that connection met Mary Ann Buffam, a teacher at the School. She had come from North Berwick, Maine, in 1849 as Head of the Girls Department staying in that position for four years. During this time she and Isaac Evans met, and were married May 2, 1855.

Isaac had begun the building of a home for his bride and in 1855 they were able to move in to this spacious house regarded as an example of “elegance and pioneer splendor,” which indeed it was.

The brick for the walls was made near the scene. The house contained eighteen rooms and was three stories high topped by a widow’s walk. The interior was finished and trimmed with hard wood cut on the property, sills were made of poplar, black walnut was used for the materials, stairway and banister, and supporting oak timbers cut on the ground remain firm even to the present day.

The Evans home and surrounding grounds became a center for the gathering of Friends, especially during Indiana Yearly Meeting sessions. With spacious parlors, paneled dining room, and a number of comfortable bedrooms, hospitality was gracious and many Friends could be housed and fed. During Yearly Meetings it was not unusual to see a number of carriages going out Newport Pike (Route 27) and up the hill to the Evans home where perhaps 25 to 30 people might be entertained for meals and overnight accommodations. Sojourning Friends and those traveling in the ministry were also entertained.

Of a pleasant and genial personality, Isaac Evans’ opinions were always respected in the business world and success seemed to follow him in all his endeavors. He filled a number of responsible positions with integrity and was well informed on the political issues of his day. He was interested in all public improvements to which he gave his support and cooperation. Active participation in the Society of Friends was important to him.

Robert Gammon, the first pastor in the 1890’s, at White-water Monthly Meeting, wrote a sketch in 1940 entitled “Some Reminiscences of that Quaker Saint, Mary Ann Evans.” He spoke of her fine personality, and that she was, without exception, the most gracious person he had ever met. In 1900, Mary Ann took a trip to the Middle East. While in Ramallah, Palestine, visiting the Friends Schools and mission work, she became ill and, in spite of the loving care of Friends there, she died March 9th and is buried at Ramallah. When word of her death was received in Richmond, a number of local businessmen felt that stores should close and that all possible should be done to commemorate her greatness and graciousness.



Evans’ Home Becomes Quaker Hill



In 1939 discussion was being held among Friends about the need to start an inclusive project, or projects in the Midwest that would “embody the service ideal while educating and fortifying Friends in the basic religious principles of peace.” This discussion grew out of a gathering of the “American Friends Service Committee in October, 1939, at Indianapolis.

An executive committee was formed with Isaac E. Woodard of Indianapolis as General Chairman. In casting about for the ideal place, Isaac Woodard recalled the old home of his grandparents in Richmond. Knowing that the old home was for sale, he suggested that it be purchased for this purpose. Hearty approval was given and it was agreed that the property should be secured, rehabilitated, and then dedicated to renewed Quaker service as a memorial to those Quaker worthies “who had lived and served here in years long gone.”

Isaac Woodard purchased the house and twenty five and one-half acres of ground which had been a part of the original purchase by his grandfather, Isaac Evans.

He also initiated the incorporation of the Quaker Hill Foundation to which the property was assigned “for the purpose of carrying out the philanthropic cultural, social service, religious and educational objects” of Quaker Hill, the name given to the Evans home at that time.

Programs began in 1940 and continue to the present day.