

Notes and Queries

AN EX-QUAKER ON GEORGE FOX

Henry Pickworth (?1673-?1738) lived at Sleaford, Lincs., and later at King's Lynn, Norfolk. He was disowned in 1714 and wrote much against Friends. (See *Jnl.*, vols. xxii.-xxiv.) The following is extracted from his *Short Account of the People called Quakers, shewing their Deceitful Way*, etc. London, 1735 :

“ That illustrious *George Fox* the Shoemaker, our *Quaker's Shakespear*, whom the Author of the aforesaid three Letters so illustriously Magnifies, which said Book stiled, *The Great Mystery*, tho' his deluded Proselytes still refer to in their late Catalogue of Titles of such as they Approve of, as dictated by the Power and Spirit of God, amongst the rest of his and their Scribbles of the like Nature : Yet their old Friend *George Keith*, who came to know better Things, Amongst others, assures us, That he was originally taught the Doctrines therein by one Hinks, a Ranter, whilst they kept Sheep together, whereby as he became possest with their spiritual Lunacy, in great Measure, wherewith his Followers still remain corrupted, or they might have easily enough discovered the same, by the many frivolous Epistles in his several Volumes ; together with those reprinted in the Journal of his life since his Expiration, as consider'd with his pretences to Miracles ; together with his mad Pranks recorded therein, about leaving his Shoes with some Shepherds in a Field, to run over Hedges and Ditches upon Sight of Litchfield Steeples without them : To cry, Wo, Wo, to that bloody City as he called it, under pretence of his seeing a Stream of Blood run along the Streets before him, for his Encouragement, tho' Nobody else saw a Drop therein ” (p. 16). Hinks is again referred to in connection with Henry Nicholas and the Family of Love (p. 55). Who was he ?

Joseph Smith states that, notwithstanding the misrepresentations contained in Pickworth's writings, he was able to glean information concerning persons, places and occurrences which he had not met with elsewhere (*Cata.* ii, 417). Anti-quaker literature has not yet been sufficiently studied.

GURNEY FAMILY

The pedigree of this family has recently been registered at the College of Arms. It contains all the Gurney descendants of John Gurney or Gourney of Norwich, who died in 1721, aged 55. This John Gurney is believed to have been the first of this family to join

the Society of Friends. His descendants have been so numerous that the pedigree fills forty-one pages, each measuring 16½ by 11½ inches, which is equivalent to a scroll nearly forty feet long. The information has been largely gathered from Quaker records, and the dates taken from these records are recorded in Quaker fashion, to distinguish them from those obtained from other sources. Each entry is accompanied by brief biographical details where these are known and could be proved. The pedigree contains nothing that has not been proved to the satisfaction of the College, and is the one authentic pedigree of this family. The College is willing to show it to those who give sufficient reason for asking to look at it.

It may be noted that it does not mention the parentage of the first John Gurney, as this is not yet known. If any reader should happen to come across information bearing on this point it would be a kindness to send it to Samuel Gurney, 6 Albemarle Street, W.1, who has been trying for some time to investigate this matter. John Gurney married Elizabeth Swanton, of the Wells family, and it seems that at the time of the marriage (at Woodbridge) his Mother was alive and gave her consent, and that she had married again and become the mother of Edmund Cobb, who was so much associated with John Gurney in his Quaker activities.

SAMUEL GURNEY.

SKIPTON MONTHLY MEETING

Harry R. Hodgson, Eccleshill, Bradford, Yorkshire, writes :

“ The first entry in the minute book of Skipton (Yorkshire) Monthly Meeting is dated 23 vi. 1666, but there were previous pages which are missing. Fourteen groups constituted the M.M.: Broughton, Knaresborough, Bentham, Settle, Scalehouse, Keighley, Guiseley, Bolland, Nitherdale, Beamsley, Ottley, Scarhouse, Bradley, Wixley.”¹

The first minute runs :

“ Brought in to Skipton, this 23 of y^e 6th month 1666—collected by y^e severall Meetings aboves^d to be sent to York by the Appoint^{mt} of friends mett there y^e 20th of y^e fourth month last, for y^e supply of friends in prison and for y^e service of y^e Truth in Genall y^e sum of 7 : 13 : 4.”

The minutes were signed by a number of Friends each month, including Samuel Watson of Stainforth, James Tennant of Scarhouse, Robert Clough of Broughton, Peter Hardcastle, Thomas Taylor, and Edward and George Watkinson, of Bradley, near Skipton.

¹ See Hodgson, *Friends in Bradford*, 1927.

Evidently, in 1668, Yorkshire Q.M. re-arranged the Monthly Meetings, and in 1669 the Settle M.M. minutes begin, immediately following Skipton, the Meetings included in Settle being Scalehouse, Scarhouse, Settle, Bentham, Broughton, and Bolland.¹

THE NAME " SOCIETY OF FRIENDS "

An enquiry received as to the genesis of the name " Society of Friends " has led so far to the conclusion that this precise phrase was not in use till the end of the eighteenth century. The following notes are based upon an examination of a considerable number of book titles, particularly official publications by the Yearly Meeting or the Meeting for Sufferings.

In earlier days, though " Friends " was commonly in use among themselves, papers addressed to " the world " usually referred to " The people of God called Quakers ". Later in the eighteenth century " Society " or " Religious Society of the people called Quakers " came into common use. The title we are now accustomed to has not so far been noticed on anything earlier than Joseph Gurney Bevan's *Refutation of some of the more modern Misrepresentations of the Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers*, . . ., 1800. Two outside admirers of the Society used it, John Bristed: *The Society of Friends, or People commonly called Quakers, Examined*, 1805, and Thomas Clarkson: *A Portraiture of Quakerism . . . character of the Society of Friends*, 1806. The first official publication to use it seems to have been *A Selection of the Christian Advices issued by . . . the Society of Friends*, . . ., 1813. Within a few years it was in general use both within and without the Society. A note of any instance earlier than 1800 will be welcomed.

WILLIAM MAUD, OF SUNDERLAND

Diary of Thomas Gyll. Vol. 118 of Surtees Society, pp. 192-3.

1753. Jan. 26. This day William Maud,² a Quaker of Sunderland, and a man of very good credit and fortune, went to Shields and came from thence on his way homewards, but has not yet been heard

¹ *Jnl.* vol. i.

² William Maude was eldest son of Joseph Maude of Sunderland by his marriage with Margaret, daughter of John Thornhill of that place. He was born circa 1699 and married, first, Margery, daughter of W. Rawlinson of Graithwaite, and secondly, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Holme of Kendal. He was ancestor of the family of Maude of Kendal. A full account of his unhappy death and of the finding of his body may be found in the Newcastle Courant, 20th January, 24th March and 31st March, 1753. See also *Jnl. F.H.S.* xiii.

of, although the horse he rode was found that evening, but without his master: 'tis supposed Mr. Maud was robbed and murdered and his body privately disposed of.

1753. March 22. The body of William Maud was found in a stall or ditch about half a mile to the north of Boldon, with his great coat and whip near him and a small quantity of money in his pocket. No bruises appeared about him or any marks of violence, except a scratch above his eye and a slight bruise upon his breast, all on the same side of his body, which may well be supposed to happen by falling, and some bruises on his fingers. The Coroner's inquest found he had been wilfully murdered by persons unknown.

Copied by H. R. HODGSON.

QUAKERS "PESTIFEROUS"

From *The Loyal London Mercury* or *The Current Intelligence*, No. 21, 28th October to 1st November, 1682.

" . . . The Quakers here are the most pestiferous People of all, they will Assemble though it be in a silent way, and then they say the Law cannot lay hold of them, but that is very seldom, for when any Officers come to disturb them, the Women begin their Tone, and tell them of Hell and the Wrath to come, but we hope in a short time to be rid of them all, and not see a Dissenter appear amongst us. Many of our Quakers are daily making preparations for Pensilvania, and to that end they put off their Houses and sell their Lands and Goods, when whole Families remove."

MRS. MILLER OF EDINBURGH

From *Read's Weekly Journal*, or *British Gazetteer*, Saturday, June 3, 1732.

Edinburgh, May 23. . . . Friday last died Mrs. Miller, a Quaker, famous for her Industry and Improvements in Home Manufactures. It is said she employ'd 6 or 700 poor People at Spinning, &c. which makes her Death much regretted. She was Yesterday interred in the Quakers Burying Place; where Friend Ereskine gave the word of Exhortation to a very numerous Auditory.

From *Notes and Queries*, June 4, 1932.

ELLIS HOOKS TO GEORGE FOX, 1669

. . . I have received thy letter and I have sent thee a primer by A. Clayton. I have sold but a few yet, but they are very much liked of all that see them. A.P. and G.W. say it will be serviceable

and say there was never a more serviceable book printed in that kind, and it is well liked of every body that sees it.

There are 2 or 3 literal faults in the book escaped in the press.

Swarth. MSS. i. 386 in Friends House. There is no reference to this primer in Smith's *Catalogue*. A.P. = Alexander Parker. G.W. = George Whitehead.

CHURCH RATE DEFAULTERS IN LONDON

Among papers recently given to the Library, Friends House (MS. Box 10.(1). 6.), a summons for non-payment of church rates, issued by the Lord Mayor of London, is printed specially for issue to "the people called Quakers". The summons in question was served upon Anne Elliot, an inhabitant of the parish of Saint Katharine Creechurch, and is dated 12th June, 1795. Quaker objectors must have been in considerable numbers to require a distinctively printed summons.

GENEROSITY

Two farmer-brothers, Gray, of Kinnuck, Scotland, sat together, the only Friends at meeting. Once they had sold a cow to a widow, which soon died. After meeting the one said to the other, "Brother, I've been thinking in meeting that we should let off the widow half the price of the cow." The other said, "I've been thinking that we should let her off the other half."