

## Awbrey, of Brecknockshire, in connection with Friends.

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A granite memorial stone has recently been placed in the disused Friends' Burial Ground at Greinton, near Street, Somerset, under the sanction of Mid-Somerset Monthly Meeting, bearing the following inscription :—

This Burial Ground was given to the Society of Friends in 1696, by Philip Watts, owner of Grienton Manor, a member of Polden Hill Monthly Meeting.

Amongst the earliest buried here were members of the Watts and Clark families.

The last burials were those of Sarah Coe, II. 13. 1829, and Thomas Beaven, II. 18. 1829, son and daughter of Thomas Beaven and Elizabeth, his wife, both also interred here.

Elizabeth Beaven was Granddaughter of Richard Awbrey, of Llanellyw, Brecknockshire, and of his wife, Mary, sister of the above Philip Watts. She was Grand-niece of William Awbrey, who married Letitia, daughter of William Penn.

The identification of William Penn's son-in-law with William, younger brother of Richard, the last of the ancient line of the Brecknockshire Awbreys, has been arrived at with certainty from a comparison of the results of family papers and researches of my own, with information and documents kindly furnished me, in response to enquiry in *The Friend*, by our Friend, George Vaux, of Philadelphia, whose late wife was descended from Martha, a sister of the two brothers, wife of Rees Thomas, original owner of the "Thomas Estate," near Philadelphia. The parents of these three (and other children)—William and Elizabeth Awbrey—were the first Friends in the family. William, their second son, seems pretty early to have left Wales for a mercantile career in London, where he married twice, his first wife being of Welsh extraction, his second Letitia Penn. Richard's Somersetshire marriage eventually brought his descendants into Southern England, where several families

—Friends and others—including my own, trace descent from him, but *all*, as far as at present known, through his Granddaughter, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Beaven, born 1727, died 1803.

The original Norman spelling of the family name, *Aubrey*, was changed by the Breconshire branch of from 12th century downwards, to *Awbrey*, to suit the phonetics of the Welsh alphabet.

ISABELLA METFORD.

### Paragraph of the Will of John Rutty, 1770.<sup>1</sup>

Whereas I have left behind me in my Escrutoir a manuscript written in my own hand, intituled, *A Spiritual Diary and Soliloquies*, consisting of six volumes bound in quarto, now it is my will that this manuscript may *without inspection* at the first convenient opportunity be transmitted to Thomas Fowler, of Melksham, Wiltshire, or to whomsoever he may have appointed in his stead, and my will is that the same may be printed without delay and without any *pretended alteration or amendment*, and, in order to encourage the printer, I do hereby order that Thirty Pounds Sterling be given him over and above paying him a reasonable price for the following fifty copies, to be distributed in the manner following, as presents, *viz.*, thirty to the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting in London next ensuing, ten to the next Half-Year's Meeting of the People called Quakers in Dublin, and ten to the Quarterly Meeting in Wiltshire.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Rutty was born at Melksham in Wiltshire, in 1698. After study abroad and becoming an M.D., he removed to Dublin. A copy of his certificate of removal is printed in *Wiltshire Notes and Queries*, December, 1901. He wrote various valuable medical works, and also brought down the *History of the Quakers in Ireland*, to the year 1751. His *Spiritual Diary and Soliloquies* was published in two volumes in 1776, in one volume in 1796, and in an abridged form in 1781, and 1840. The contents are of a somewhat morbid character. Dr. Rutty died in 1775.

<sup>2</sup> No. 48 of a series of MSS. collected by William Thistlethwaite, of Wilmslow (d. 1870), and now belonging to John S. Rowntree.