

The Wife of John Swinton.

Is there any record of the marriage to *Aaron Sonemans* of Frances Swinton, widow of John Swinton, of Swinton (who died in 1679)?

Frances White, of Newington Butts, Surrey, was a widow at the time of her marriage to John Swinton, at Westminster, 3rd of Sixth Month, 1671. Burke, in his *Landed Gentry*, says she was "the daughter of — Hancock, of Wallieford, East Lothian;" and adds that she married for her third husband, "Arnot Soman." Can this be a misprint for Aaron Sonemans, a Friend originally from Holland?

The only records of Frances *Swinton* in the Edinburgh Meeting Records for many years are her signature to a marriage at Edinburgh, 11 mo., 1671, and a "Testimony" written by her at Borthwick, 6 mo., 1679, about the time of her husband, John Swinton's decease. In 1 mo., 1689, however, occurs the incident given in THE JOURNAL, i. 119, when she was mobbed and illtreated at a meeting in Edinburgh. Two years later, whilst driving from Meeting in Edinburgh, she and others were stoned through the "grase mercket" by the covenanting rabble, who had molested Friends all meeting time. Both the coach doors were broken "with great stons," and one of the women inside was wounded, and a boy was knocked on the head "with a stone of about 2lb wieght . . . the Lady Swintoun hardly escaping." The only other mention of this lady in Scottish Meeting records is in Book C., of Aberdeen, from which we learn that about 8 mo., 1693, she had a design, along with Friends of Edinburgh, to reprint "a notable little treatise lately published in London, containing some fundamental principles of truth to obviate and stop the malicious designs of some separat spirits in America Their bespattering frinds and the Light itself as Insufficient, &c. Together with some papers of P. Livingstones." Aberdeen Friends agree to bear one third of the expenses of printing, etc., and are to have, as their share, 162 copies of the book.

Next year, it appears from the following letter (Aberdeen Meeting, Book C.), that Frances Swinton was occupied with another publication.

Aberdeen Monthly Meeting 6. of Tenth mnth, 1694.

Also frinds wrot the following Letter to Francis Swinton concerning Jo. Robertson's answer to William Jamieson, which Letter was sent South by Alexr. Spark.

"Francis Swinton, Dear Frind.

"We received thy Letter directed to Andrew Jaffray concerning these books Latly printed: And we since understand by Alexr. Spark That ye are willing to keep two hundred for the South and West. And as for the remaining 300 coppies, We desire that frinds may take care to send ane hundred of them derected to Gilbert Moleson Unbound (we having his order for them) with a Letter giving account of their price: And as for the other two hundred, Wee desire on hundred of them Unbound may be sent heir packt in a barrell, with four or fyve pecks of flower in the bottom and as much on the Tope or more if it will hold it: And the other hundred we desire ye may keep till further Order: And we shall take care thou shall be no Looser for our share: Let the Barrell be marked with J: H: with a Line by poast directed to John Hall and the price of the flower and nothing else in it. This is all we find needfull at present save our dear Love to thee and frinds.

"Signed by aptment of the Meeting,

"JOHN HALL:

"AND: JAFFRAY.

"A written Account of the Late Conference betwixt frinds & the presbiterians we shall Labour to send very shortly: Farewell."

Aberdeen Friends seem to have been somewhat dilatory in paying for the books, as, in Tenth Month, 1695, a Friend writes on Frances Swinton's behalf craving for the money due for the 200 copies of J. R.'s book, which had been apportioned to the North—"She having Lyen Long out of it and desiring friends answer per first poast." In response to this appeal £8 sterling was sent, sixteen shillings short of the required sum—which no doubt was remitted by a subsequent "poast."

As regards Frances *Sonemans*, we find her witnessing a marriage at Edinburgh, 9 mo., 1681, and, next year, record is made of her sending two dollars for the relief of a suffering Friend at Musselburgh. Aaron Sonemans, whilst travelling in England with his friend, Robert Barclay, was killed by highwaymen in 1683. In 1691 we find Frances Sonemans signing a memorial to William III., anent the sufferings of Friends in Glasgow, and next year her name appears as witness to a marriage at Edinburgh. In 1699 she was entrusted by Edinburgh Monthly Meeting with £6 Scots "to dispos on as she seeth fit." She died, apparently at Edinburgh, 29th 3rd mo., 1699, when she is described as "spouse to Arrant Sinamons."

Now, do these entries regarding Frances *Sonemans* refer to the widow of John Swinton, who married, as seems very likely, Aaron Sonemans? She might not improbably be still known as "Lady Swinton," especially by Friends at a distance. She seems to have been Aaron Soneman's wife for only two or three years. There is no record in the Meeting books of the death of Lady Swinton.

WILLIAM F. MILLER.

**William Penn's Introduction of Thomas Ellwood
to his Agents in Philadelphia.¹**

Wellbeloved friends.

26. 1^m. 1704.

At the request of my old and worthy friend, Thomas Elwood, who cannot be unknown to you at least by a just fame & reputation and of the first purchassers, J do hereby desire & order you to take care that you forthwith Graunt warrants of Survey to take up & Survey w^t lands of his (haveing right to 1,000 acres) remains unsurveyd, & also his Liberty lands and Citty Lots, on front and in High street, according to Lott and Settlemts: concerning which he will give order to some person to attend you. With best wishes
J close & am

Your true &
affect: friend

W^m Penn.

Endorsed by writer:—For my Com^{rs} of Property in Philadelphia in Pennsylvania.

Further endorsement in another hand:—The Prop^r to y^e Comm^{rs} in behalf of Tho: Ellwood brought by Sa: Jennings. dat 26. 1^{mo}. 1704.

¹ Copied from the original in the autograph of William Penn (D. Penn MSS. 45).