

In the year 1770, 3rd Month 11th, "our friend, Joseph Rule, departed this life [at Joseph Lane's], and was buried the 18th of the same at Jordans, Isaac Sharples, Thomas Whitehead, and Joseph Rose [being present], a very large and good meeting." The Chalfont St. Giles parish register adds, "a noted Quaker."

William Allen's account further states that

being so remarkable a man; although it was winter [another account erroneously states it was summer, and it really was spring, or, perhaps, "Blackthorn Winter"], and a retired place, a very large concourse of Friends and others attended his Funeral, so that insted of bringing the Coffin into Meeting, it was set in the bottom of an amphitheatrical Hollo in the Ground [so well known to those acquainted with Jordans], and the multitude ranged around; many testimonies [were] delivered; and before the Company withdrew; a Shower of snow descended and Clad the whole assembly and Coffin in white.

A fitting circumstance truly, as attending the interment of such a white-apparelled, white-souled saint!

William Bennett's account adds that Isaac Sharples repeated the words, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile."

To conclude, it may be interesting to note that Joseph Rule's grave at Jordans was one of the very few identified, some fifty years ago, when head-stones were placed over the graves of members of the Penn, Penington, Ellwood, Vandewall, Green, and other families. The date, however, 1765, was erroneous owing to the imperfect Friends' registers. The Butterfield Manuscript and the Chalfont St. Giles Parish Register clearly show that Joseph Rule lived until 1770, and at the instance of W. H. Summers, now of Hungerford, the date was amended some ten years ago.

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Early Friends and the Use of Tobacco.

14th of 4th mo. 1691. It being considered that the too frequent use of smoking Tobacco is inconsistent with friends holy profession, it is desired that such as have occasion to make use thereof take it privately, neither too publicly in their own houses, nor by the highways, streets, or in alehouses or elsewhere, tending to the abetting the common excess.—HARDSHAW M.M., *Lancashire*.