

Disused Burial Grounds in South Yorkshire.

MONKBRETTON OR BURTON.

This is a now populous village about two miles from Barnsley. The ground is situated on a bleak hill top, and, from the number of graves still to be traced in it, must have been the resting place of many of the earlier Friends of the district. The Meeting there was for some years held at the houses of its members in rotation, and dates from the very earliest years of the Society's existence. About the year 1697, a Meeting House was erected upon part of the ground. Tradition says that the plot was originally given for the purposes of burial by one George Ellis,¹ who was not then a Friend, but afterwards became one, and that the reason of the gift was a feeling of compassion for the indignities suffered by Friends in regard to the burial of their dead. It is said that on one of these occasions, as a funeral party was conveying the remains to what was then the only burial place in the neighbourhood, probably the churchyard at Royston, two miles away, they were molested by a party of roughs, who threw the coffin from the shoulders of the bearers, and the corpse fell out on the road, and that Geo. Ellis, witnessing the disgraceful scene, gave the ground to Burton Friends, to obviate the need of their going so far to dispose of their dead. There is a quaint engraved brass plate, dated 1657, now in the porch of Barnsley Meeting House on which is set forth^{*} a Scriptural apology for burial in unconsecrated ground.² It was removed from over the gateway of the Burton ground at the time when the old Meeting House there was pulled down, and the Meeting transferred to Barnsley, about 1815.

As stated in THE JOURNAL,³ the three Meetings constituting Pontefract Monthly Meeting in the 17th century, were Burton, Ossett, and Denby.

¹ George Ellis, of Burton Meeting, appears in the list of Yorkshire Friends, given in THE JOURNAL, ii. 33.

² The wording of this inscription is given in *The Friends' Monthly Magazine*, vol. i. (1830), p. 359. It was also printed as a small broadside, with this note, "The original of this Copy was engraved, Anno Domini 1657, and renewed by Order of John Wilson, Senior, of Barnsley, 1776." Richard Farnsworth is said to have been the author of the inscription.

³ii. 33.

There are a few flat gravestones in the Burton Burial Ground, now nearly illegible. One of these, forty years ago, bore the inscription: "Here lyeth interred the body of William Fletcher, of Barnsley, who departed this life the ninth day of the sixth month, 1689, aged 42 years, and also Hannah, his daughter, who dyed the 26th day of 1st month, 1690, aged 7½ years," and another: "Here lyeth the Body of Samuell Nickleson, late of Darton, buried the 28 day of December, 1688."

At the time the Burial Ground became the property of Friends, it adjoined what was common land, and the enclosure act which afterwards dealt with it awarded the right of road through what is now private property, with sufficient ground on which to turn a hearse and needful carriages.

LUMBROYD.

This Burial Ground adjoined a hamlet of that name near the town of Penistone and here also there was, within living memory, a small Meeting House, which has now been removed, and the ground planted.

HOYLAND SWAYNE.

No Meeting House is believed to have existed here. The ground is within two or three miles of Highflatts, and was sold more than fifty years ago, with a covenant that the surface was not to be disturbed.

AGBRIGG.

This ground, now practically within the city of Wakefield, is still held by Friends, but has long been disused.

WARMSWORTH.

Thomas Aldam, of Warmsworth, was closely associated with George Fox, and is often mentioned in his *Journal*. He, or one of his immediate descendants, gave the ground to Friends, and it was for generations the burial place of the Aldams, Paynes, and others. A few years ago, the Monthly Meeting of Balby handed it back to the late William Aldam, and it now forms, with the Meeting House, a portion of the family estate.

RAWCLIFFE, NEAR GOOLE.

This ground has now passed out of the possession of the Society. There was formerly a Meeting here.

BRAITHWAITE, NEAR DONCASTER.

This ground also has been sold by Friends.

HILLAM.

Situated about a mile and a half from Milford Junction, this ground, long disused, is under the care of Pontefract Monthly Meeting, which occasioned the late James Backhouse (the elder) to remark that Hillam Friends, belonged to York Monthly Meeting when they were living, but to Pontefract Monthly Meeting when they were dead. The ground is now used as a garden, being let at a small annual rental. There is no Meeting House connected with it.

CHARLES BRADY.

“Honest Margret.”¹

MARYLAND, The 25th of the
4th m^o. 1683.

DEAR G. F.

We have this day had a perticular Meeting for Truths Concernes, and are goeing to Pensilvania to Advise with Freinds there, and at West Jersy, concerning the wellfare of Truth in those parts, Virginia, and Carolina.

Dear G: F: there is one thing more that we have upon our Minds, and that is Concerning Margret Holland. She is a very wrong Spirited Woman, and takes part with all the wrong Rable against Friends; and when Friends have dealt with her, Shee strengthens herself against us by a Letter which she hath Received from thee, wherein she is called Honest Margret. Soe we Desire thee to give a Word of Advice to her by us when thou writes to us.²

¹ From *Epistles Received*, vol. 1, p. 3. This series of six folio volumes, in manuscript (1683-1897), preserved in D., contains copies of Epistles addressed to London Y.M. from New England, New York, Virginia, North and South Carolina; Pennsylvania, Maryland, Long Island, Barbados, Nevis, Georgia, Rhode Island, Tortola, France, Germany; Cape of Good Hope; Ohio, Indiana, Canada, Holland, Syria, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, St. Croix, Jersey, and other parts.

² This interesting communication is not signed, but as it appears to form an addendum to a letter signed by Wm. Richardson, Wm. Berry, Richard Johns, and Thomas Taylor, we may presume these Friends were the writers.