

William Hitchcock to John and Amy Harding, 1687.

John and Amy Harding,¹ with the latter's brother, John Kingsman, and Ralph Withers, were among the first settlers under Penn, at Chichester in Chester (now Delaware) County, Pennsylvania. There is evidence that they were highly esteemed Friends, and the Monthly Meeting of Chichester and Concord was frequently held at the house of John Harding. His death occurred in 1688, and in 1690 his widow married Philip Roman, a widower, also from Wiltshire. Martha Roman, daughter of Philip by a former wife, married Isaac Taylor, a physician and surveyor of Chester County. "The Taylor Papers," now in possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, contain several letters written to John and Amy Harding by their friends in England; one of which is here given:—

My dear ffreinds, John & Amy Harding,
unto whom is y^e Salutation of my unfeigned love,
with my wifes to John Kingsman his wife, y^e widdow
Bezer, & freinds, as thy freedom is, thou may remember
my true love unto. And these may let thee know I did

¹ The wedding certificate of John and Amy Harding is as follows:—

"The 10th day of y^e 8^t month (called October), 1672.

"These are to Certifie all those whom it shall or may Concerne that John Harding tooke Amie Kingsman to be his wife and she the said Amie Kingsman tooke him the said John Harding to be her husband (in the meeting at Marlborough) according to the order of the Church, in the presence of vs whose names are here vnder subscribed, and others, the day and yeare first aboue written."

JOHN RICHARDSON
JOHN FFRY THE YOUNGER
JOHN KINGSMAN
RALPH WITHERS
FFRANCES BROWNE
JANE LAWRENCE
SARAH CRABB JUNIOR

BRIDGETT HITCHCOCK
THOMAS LAWRENCE
WILLIAM HITCHCOCK
DANIELL SMITH
FFRANCIS DODSON
EDWARD BROWNE
JOHN DAVIS

receive thy letter bearing date y^e 6th day of y^e 5th month, 87, also one by Mozes Minall wherein thee writest he was willing to bey 250 acares of my Land & give 20^{lb} for it, & if he would pay y^e charge as y^e House stood me in, thou advised me to let him have it, & truly I was willing to harken to it, but when he came to me wth y^e letter, his mind was altered; he sedd his mother would not let him goe back and besides he sedd he should not give soe much for it. Robert Yewer, hearing of it, came to me & sedd he would eyther bey it himself or otherwise helpe me to a Chapman for it, tould me he Judged 250 acers of y^e land was worth more than 20^{lb}, but had wrather leave y^e house then pay y^e charge, as supposing it not be good enough or big enough for him; when we parted he sedd I should heare from him againe concerning it, but have not, but a report is he is returning back to Pensilvania againe. I understand y^e Land is good, & William Penn tould me soe, & showed it me in a mapp lately at my owne house, where he Lay as he went down to Bristoll, at y^e faire, & as he came upp also. I went down to Bristoll wth him; he is as well as ever I knew him, & very Large & pretious in his testimony for y^e Lord and his truth; wonderfull meetings att Bristoll while he was there, of freinds & others, y^e great meeting House would not neare hould y^e people that came to heare him. His visset was well excepted, & of great servise in that place. As he came upp, he had a meeting at y^e Devizes, in y^e great market house, where many thousands of people were to heare him; wonderfull sober y^e people wer, of all sortes & greatly satisfied. From thence he came to Marlborough, had a Large meeting here at my House, hundreds of people stood to heare him in y^e street; y^e rooms being full, y^e glass of y^e windowes being taken downe, freinds stood in y^e Penthouse & spoke to y^e people to their great satisfaction. Samuel Waldenfeild & francis Stamper came upp from Bristoll wth him; he had a meeting at Newbery & Reading. Great is his Labour for y^e Lord, his truth & people, & of wonderfull servise his being here has binn & is. Under y^e Lord he has binn a great instrument of our Liberty, being very Conversant wth y^e King, whose eare is open to him.

Now as concerning my land, I must leave it to thee,

if thee canst sell 250 acres of it & y^e house, soe as I may be a saver by it, or if it be y^e whole 500 acers.

If the canst hear of a good cheapman, whatsoever bargaine thee dost make, I shall make it good, but if any of it be sould, I thinke its best for to sell y^e house wth it.

My sonn, John, is out of his time, has taken a House & shopp in Bristoll, is now come upp to Marlborough. To morrow his mother & he goes toward London in order to furnish himselfe wth goods to sett upp; he is a sober young man, & I am willing to doe what I can for him; some hundred of pounds it will cost me to sett him upp, which I have by bills ordered him to receive in London, by which means I shall be very much streghtned for moneys; & I doe wonder at John Bristoll that he should receive 14 pound of me for y^e improvement of my Land there, & has not as I understand laid out one penny for me, it being now more than two years since he received it of me, neither have I had any account from him, onely this, shortly after he was arrived, he sent me a letter that he, his wife, & family was safely arrived in Pensilvania. Never since have I had one word from him, soe that I would now intreat thee to receive this 14 pound of John Bristoll, with interest for y^e same for the time he has had it in his hands, which was last Bristoll faire 2 years agoe. I shall wright to him to pay y^e moneys to thee, & that thy receipt shall be his full discharge, & I hope he will be willing to doe it. Were it my Case or thine wee should be glad wth an oportunity to acquitt our selves of it, for he was y^e only man as perswaded me to disburst y^e moneys, as perswading me it was y^e onely way for an improvement for me, & by which means I might have a Tennant uppon y^e Land, but to this day I doe not understand he has any wayes concerned himselfe to be at one penny Charge for me; soe I would desire thee to receive y^e moneys of him, & let him know I have given thee order soe to doe. I shall wright a Letter to him to desire him to pay y^e moneys into thy hands, & also let him know I have given thee order to receive it of him wth interest for y^e same.

As concerning y^e 10^{lb} 10^s as thou ordered me to receive of John Withers about 5 wickes since, he paid me

10 pound of it, soe there is now but 10 shillings behind unpaid of that money to me. As concerning y^e 2 years rent as thou hired of me uppon thy going from England, it was none of it paid according to y^e time, but as I received it I gave John Withers receipts for it & did take an accoumpt of y^e days & times when it was paid, but at present I know not where it is as concerning y^e receiving of thy rent here. I shall be very willing to doe it for thee or any thing els as layes in my power wherein I cann serve thee, I shall be both willing & ready to doe it for thee, & I have acquainted Edward wth it & he will be assistant. I likewise informed him of y^e Low Condition of his sister, y^e widdow Beazer, at which he wonders it should be soe wth her. Y^e old Tennant is out of y^e widdow Beazers bargaine, & John Withers has plased in another, I suppose a responsible man which is likely to pay his rentes, I suppose, without troble, but hardly any Tennants payes their rent at y^e very day, but mostly a considerable time after; & for that rent as is behinde from y^e ould Tennant, if he be in a cappassity to pay sumthing of what is behinde owing John Beazer being deseased, John Withers has noe power to recover it of him, so that y^e widdow Beazer should by a letter of attorney authorize her brother John to recover y^e rent as is behind, or some of it, off y^e former Tennant, if he be able to pay it; and Likewise to receive y^e rent of this Tennant, & give discharge for it.

And once more let me desire thee to be mindfull as to take care to receive y^e moneys out of John Bristows hands, & when thee hast soe done, thee mayest pay thy sealfe out of it.

I have not much els at present, onely let thee know that through mercy wee are in health here, & soe was lately my sonn Loueday & his wife, at Painswick, & soe is thy mother in Law & her Children, soe farr as I know. Sarah James, & thy sister Mary, & her husband, was Lately at y^e Devizes, & heard William Penn. I spoke with them there, & was very glad to see them, esspetially Maryes Husband, who, as I suppose, was never but once at freinds meeting before, & that was at Marlborough when friends were taken upp.

For present, wth unfeigned Love to thee & freinds,
remains thy truly Loving freind,

WILLIAM HITCHCOCK.

Marlbrough, ye 28th day
of ye 7th month, 1687.

I have sent John Bristows Letter unsealed, as thee mayes see what I have written, & when thee soe donn, seale it upp & give it to him.

William Hitchcock was a purchaser of 500 acres of land from William Penn, in 1681, which were laid out in Concord Township, Chester County. Moses Minall (Mildenhall—now Mendenhall), herein mentioned, was the son of Thomas and Joan, of Ramsbury Parish, Wilts; came to Pennsylvania in 1685, but returned two years later. His sister, Margery, wife of Thomas Martin, went with him to Penna. Two brothers, John and Benjamin, and a sister Mary had emigrated previously, and the latter became the wife of Nathaniel Newlin, who was the owner of what is now Newlin Township. Moses Mendenhall subsequently bought the Hitchcock tract for his brothers. Concord Meeting House was erected on land of John Mendenhall. The descendants of this family number many thousands, and many of them are of the highest respectability.

GILBERT COPE.

Editors' Note.

With the kind assistance of the author, a copy of Supplement No. 6, containing a sketch of the life of John ap John and notices of other early Welsh Quakers, prepared by William Gregory Norris, of Coalbrookdale and Weston-super-Mare, is sent out, free of cost, with this issue of THE JOURNAL to members of the Historical Society. Further copies of this pamphlet may be bought from the Society's agents in London, Philadelphia, and New York. Price on application.