

The Quaker Allusions in "The Diary of Samuel Pepys."

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THE PENN FAMILY.

Samuel Pepys came into continual contact with the Penns, and writes of them with great freedom.

SIR WILLIAM AND LADY PENN.

"Pepys was jealous of Penn as being naturally a greater expert in naval affairs than he was himself, and he often speaks of him in terms of contempt and dislike, but on the whole they were probably very good friends."⁶ Sir William is accounted "sociable, able, and very cunning"; he is "a merry fellow, and pretty good natured, and sings very bawdy songs"; he is also often overcome with wine; and is frequently ill, but on one occasion at least, "he do make very much of it." Sir William married Margaret, daughter of John Jasper, of Rotterdam. His residence at the Navy Office and his later official positions are fully noticed in *The Diary*. Of Sir William's family life, Pepys writes with great disdain—his supper-dishes were "deadly foul," there was "poorness and meanness" in all that he did, his daughter's wedding-dinner was "sorry, not anything handsome or clean, but some silver plates they borrowed of me," and yet at times we read of "a very pretty dinner" at Sir William's.

Of Lady Penn, Pepys writes in 1664, "To Sir W. Pen's, to see his Lady, the first time, who is a well-looking, fat, short, old Dutchwoman, but one that hath been heretofore pretty handsome, and is now very discreet, and, I believe, hath more wit than her husband." On being informed, a few days before, "that my Lady Pen is landed," he adds, "I hope the family will be in better order and more neate than it hath been."

⁶ H. B. Wheatley.

WILLIAM PENN.

The following entries in *The Diary* respecting William Penn are given in chronological order :—

April 22, 1661.—“ Sir W. Pen and his son and I went to Corne-hill to see the King’s Going from ye Tower to White Hall.”

November 1, 1661.—“ At my house we were very merry till late, having sent for Mr. William Pen, lately come from Oxford.”

Dec. 26, 1661.—“ Sir W. Pen and his son and daughter to supper to me to a good turkey, and were merry at cards.”

Jan. 1, 1661/2.—“ I home again and sent to young Mr. Pen and his sister to go anon with my wife and I to the Theatre. That done, Mr. W. Pen came to me, and he and I walked out, and to the Stacioner’s, and looked over some pictures and maps for my house, and so home again to dinner, and by and by came the two young Pens, and after we had eat a barrel of oysters, we went by coach to the play. . . . From thence home, and they sat with us till late at night at cards very merry, but the jest was Mr. W. Pen had left his sword in the coach, and so my boy and he run out after the coach, and by very great chance did at the Exchange meet with the coach and got his sword again.”

Jan. 25, 1661/2.—“ Sir W. Pen came to me, and did break a business to me about removing his son from Oxford to Cambridge to some private college. I proposed Magdalene, but cannot name a tutor at present.” See also Feb. 1st, but no further facts appear.

April 28, 1662.—“ Sir W. Pen much troubled upon letters came last night. Showed me one of Dr. Owen’s to his son, whereby it appears his son is much perverted in his opinion by him ; which I now perceive is one thing that hath put Sir William so long off the hooks.”

Aug. 26, 1664.—“ This day my wife tells me Mr. Pen, Sir William’s son, is come back from France, and come to visit her. A most modish person, grown, she says, a fine gentleman.”⁷

⁷ A note to above mentions that W. P. “ wore pantaloon breeches.”

Aug. 30, 1664.—“ After dinner comes Mr. Pen to visit me, and staid an houre talking with me. I perceive something of learning he hath got, but a great deale, if not too much, of the vanity of the French garbe and affected manner of speech and gait. I fear all real profit he hath made of his travel will signify little.”

Sept. 5, 1664.—“ Coming home it is strange to see how I was troubled to find my wife, but in a necessary compliment, expecting Mr. Pen to see her, who had been there, and was by her people denied, which, he having been three times, she thought not fit he should be any more. But yet even this did raise my jealousy presently, and much vex me. However, he did not come, which pleased me.”

Sept. 14, 1664.—“ So home and there find Mr. Pen come to visit my wife, and staid with them till sent for, and against my will left them together, but, God knows, without any reason of fear in my conscience of any evil between them, but such is my natural folly.”

Sept. 5, 1665.—“ Home pretty betimes and there found W. Pen, and he staid supper with us and mighty merry talking of his travells and the French humours, etc.”

On the 13th of this month, Pepys met Penn again, and “ put him into talk of France, when he took delight to tell me of his observations, some good, some impertinent, and all ill told.”

Dec. 5, 1667.—“ Do hear that Will Pen, Sir W. Pen’s son, is come from Ireland.”

Dec. 29, 1667.—“ Mrs. Turner to see us. She tells me that Mr. William Pen, who is lately come over from Ireland, is a Quaker again, or some very melancholy thing; that he cares for no company, nor comes into any: which is a pleasant thing, after his being abroad so long, and his father such a hypocritical rogue, and at this time an Atheist.”

Oct. 12, 1668.—“ To supper, and after supper to read a ridiculous nonsensical book set out by Will Pen for the Quakers⁸; but so full of nothing but nonsense, that I was ashamed to read in it.”

⁸ Probably the tract, *Truth Exalted*.

Feb. 12, 1668/9.—“Pelling hath got me W. Pen’s book against the Trinity.⁹ I got my wife to read it to me; and I find it so well writ as, I think, it is too good for him ever to have writ it; and it is a serious sort of book, and not fit for every body to read.”

Other slight references to William Penn occur under dates December 28th and 30th, 1661, January 7th and March 16th, 1661/2, July 5th, 1662, January 29th, 1664/5, April 25th and September 13th, 1665.

Several writers on Penn have referred to some of the above allusions in *Pepys*, but we doubt if there has been any serious attempt to use them critically in connection with the various events of Penn’s early life.

MARGARET PENN, AFTERWARDS LOWTHER.

The only daughter of Sir William is frequently mentioned in *The Diary*, and appears to have accompanied her father on many visits to Samuel Pepys, to the theatre and other places. In 1661 Pepys visited her at her school at Clerkenwell. He described her about this time as “a very plain girl.” His relations with her were not always very creditable. “Peg Pen” was married at the age of fifteen to Anthony Lowther, of Marske, Yorkshire, in February, 1666/7. Mr. and Mrs. Pepys were both present at a meal “instead of a wedding dinner for his [Sir William’s] daughter, whom I saw in palterly clothes, nothing new but a bracelet that her servant¹⁰ had given her, and ugly she is, as heart can wish.” Anthony Lowther was one of the original Fellows of the Royal Society, and M.P. for Appleby in 1678 and 1679. He died in 1692, and his widow in 1718. William, their son, was created a baronet in 1697, and married the heir of Thomas Preston, of Holker, Lancashire, a descendant of the Thomas Preston, of Holker Hall, before whom, and other Justices, George Fox and Margaret Fell were examined in 1663.¹¹ Pepys describes Lowther as “a pretty gentleman, and, I think, too good for Peg.”

⁹ This book would be his *Sandy Foundation Shaken*, published 1668.

¹⁰ *i.e.*, Anthony Lowther.

¹¹ In the index to G. Fox’s *Journal*, 1891, s. v., Holker Hall, read *Preston*, for Parker. A painting representing this trial, by J. Pettie, R.A., is in the possession of Robert Barclay, D.L., J.P., of Hoddesdon, Herts.

A copy of William Penn's *Address to Protestants*, 1678, given by the author to his brother and sister Lowther, has been recently presented to D. by the executors of the late Edward and Katharine Backhouse, of Sunderland. The following is a reproduction of the writing on the fly-leaf:—

For my Dear
 Brother & Sister
 Lowthers

W.P.

Know of by Acts
 of Rebellion are not
 Regidest W.P.

To be continued.

No man of well-regulated mind can feel any indifference respecting the genealogy of his family.

RICHARD COBDEN.