

Early Meetings in Nottinghamshire.

In part reply to the query of Morgan Bunting, in *THE JOURNAL*, vol. iii., p. 46, I send the following information:—

Copied from the earliest Quarterly Meeting Minute Book in possession of Friends at Nottingham, dated 30th of 1st Month, 1668:—

“The constitution of Meetings and how they are joyned in two Monthly Meetings and one Quarterly Meeting:—

“The Sand Meeting, The Clay Meeting, the Trent-side Meeting, Joyned in one Monthly Meeting for the north side of the countie.

“West side fforrest Meeting, East side fforrest Meeting, Nottingham Meeting, Vaile Meeting, Joyned in one Meeting for the south part of the countie.”

This appears to have been the general division of the county, and the Meetings mentioned under must have been included in one or other of the above districts.

MANSFIELD.

Evidently no Meeting House, for the meeting was held at the house of Tymothy Garland. John Firth, vicar of Mansfield, 1654-1699, in his report of conventicles held in his parish, says:—

At the Quakers meeting about twenty ordinarily, and at some extraordinary times, three score. The quality of the Quakers is mean, most of them women and inhabitants of other parishes. The Quakers are said to meet at the house of Tymothy Garland for the most part and it is said they are all speakers.

Every Quarterly Meeting from the first held, 30 i. 1668, to the 34th, 26 iv. 1676, had been held at Mansfield, and, from the following extract, apparently at the house of Tymothy Garland:—

At a monthly Meeting at Nottingham, 11 vii. 1676.

Agreed that Wm. Wood and John Theaker speak to Tymothy Garland and wife, and acquaint them that the men's Quarterly Meeting is to be removed from their house at Mansfield to Nottingham for the next time, and for the future as it may be considered of.

Twelve years later, in 1688, the Quarterly Meeting was still held at T. Garland's house.

I have found no record as to when Friends first had a Meeting House in Mansfield, but in 1800,

The undermentioned Meeting-houses and land were sold, with the concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting and the Trustees, having become useless to the Society as such, and the money arising therefrom appropriated to the re-building and enlarging of Mansfield Meeting-house, so as to render it commodious for the Quarterly Meeting, *viz.* :—

South Leverton to Thos. Hodgkinson for the sum of £20.

Oxton to William Sherbrook for the sum of £50.

Kersall to John Hopkins for the sum of £63.

Halam to Wm. Wilkie for the sum of £80.

Skegby.

Markham for the sum of £26 5s.

The present Meeting House at Mansfield bears the date 1800 over the entrance.

MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE.

A meeting was held at the house of Richard Bingham, and marriages were celebrated there. In the Digest Register at Nottingham, we find that Robert Moore married Eliz. Bingham, at Richard Bingham's, Mansfield Woodhouse, 28 i. 1668.

Fra. Chapman, vicar of Mansfield Woodhouse, in 1669, in his report of Conventicles, writes :—

In reply to your worshipful Archdeacon's letter, I know nothing but this: that in Mansfield Woodhouse we have no conventicle but one of Quakers, at the house of Robert Bingham (excommunicate for not comynge to church), but who they are who frequent it I cannot say.

At Skegby, alsoe, there is a conventicle of Quakers at the house of Elizabeth Halton, widow,¹ but I cannot learn who they are who frequent them, they being all of other towns. In the same town of Skegby alsoe there is another conventicle reputed Anabaptists and ffith monarchy men, held at Mr. Lyndley's (excommunicate alsoe), but I know neither their speakers or hearers. Sir, your most humble servant.

FRA. CHAPMAN.

SKEGBY.

A meeting was held at the house of Geo. Cockerham. Joshua Ely, of Mansfield, and Mary Sinear, of Mansfield, were married there 29 viii. 1673. A Quarterly Meeting was held at Skegby, 7 v. 1679.

HUCKNALL.

It seems probable there was a Meeting House here, as shown by the following extract from the Minute Book kept recording the Sufferings of Friends :—

¹ Perhaps it should be Elizabeth *Hooton*, if she was a widow at that time.

“ Wee being mett together peaceably in the feare of the Lord at Hucknall in our meeting house upon the 16th of second month, 1676,” etc.

FARNSFIELD.

A burial ground was purchased 29 x. 1673. Presumably there was a Meeting House, as we find a Monthly Meeting was held here 10 vi. 1698.

BLYTHE.

There is a disused Meeting House in this village belonging to Nottingham and Mansfield Monthly Meeting. In the early Q.M. minute book mention is frequently made of Blythe and of the Friends of that Meeting.

I fear this is not a complete list of early Nottinghamshire Meetings, as when the notes were made no special notice was taken of the different Meetings.

EMILY MANNERS.

Editors' Notes.

The Editors have on hand for next year's volume several articles of considerable interest, among which may be mentioned:—“ A Glimpse of Ancient Friends in Dorset,” by Elizabeth B. Rutter; “ Friends in Barbadoes,” by C. Dickinson Sturge; several articles on Friends in Nottinghamshire, by Emily Manners; a history of Friends' property in Somerby, Leicestershire, by the late Mary Radley, edited by Henrietta Ellis; “ Thomas Areskine, Brewer, of Edinburgh,” by William F. Miller; an account of Richard Cubham, of Bickerstaffe, Lancs.; “ Bernard Barton's Dream,” by J. J. Green; “ Reminiscences of Manchester Meeting.”

Various early documents relating to Friends, preserved in the Public Record Office, London, are being copied, and it is hoped that these may be printed *in extenso*, from time to time, by the F.H.S.