

## Records respecting John and Margaret Lynam in England and Maryland.

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John Lynam, of the parish of Pentrich, in Derbyshire, joined the Friends soon after their rise, and early became a sharer in their persecutions. In 1661, he was in Derby prison for some months for refusing to pay tithes to Peter Coates, priest of South Wingfield, and in 1663 he suffered a distraint for the same cause. Attendance at meetings also brought him under the law; in 1675, he was fined for being at a meeting at Thomas Holland's in Heanor, and in the next year he had goods taken from him, value £6 10s., because he was present at the burial of the wife of Samuel Roe, in the parish of Ilkeston. (The total distraints on account of this burial amounted to £51 10s.)

About the year 1670, John Lynam married Margaret Ridge, who was the daughter of a clergyman or minister of Antrim, in Ireland. Prior to her marriage, Margaret's gospel labours had been considerable, both in Ireland and Great Britain. Various addresses and letters of hers, written before and after marriage, are extant.<sup>1</sup>

The date of the removal of John and Margaret Lynam to America does not yet appear, but we know from the letters which follow that they were in Maryland in 1682, and from Myers's *Quaker Arrivals in Philadelphia, 1682-1750*, that they removed from "Ann Arundal County in Province of Maryland," to Pennsylvania, in 1691. We cannot at present explain the circumstances which brought these Friends into the position described in the Maryland epistles, but, apparently, they changed their views later, and, we presume, died in harmony with Friends of Pennsylvania; Margaret died in Twelfth Month, 1697, and her husband two months later.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In D., and also in the Ridgeway Library, in Philadelphia.

<sup>2</sup> For further particulars of these Friends, see *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 17 (1844), p. 317; Besse's *Sufferings*, i. 138, 139, 143, where there is also a mention of a Thomas Lynam, of Pilsley, Derbyshire: *The Westonian*, vol. 13 (1907), p. 184; *Margaret Lynam*, by Thomas Davidson, 1901.

South River in Maryland, the 24th of the first month, 1682.<sup>3</sup>

Deare friend, Margret Fox.

. . . Wee haue atrue sence that thy Soul and heart Breaths to god and that thy prayers are to god allmighty for us one this side the sea that wee all maight growe up to geather in the truth. . . .

Truely ther is nothing more waightlyly upon our Spirits sence the day wee cam on this side the sea then that in our whole conuersation wee may bee Blemles; and Blessed bee the Lord for hee hath kept us, soe that Jnniquity non can justly Charg us with. And as to the good order established and kept by all that feare the Lord in all our mens and womens meetings, wee haue not acted contrery to itt. . . . In this one uery waightly thing desire your carr that non com on this side the sea as in the publacke Sarues of truth but such as are wel aproued of by you and known to you to be sesoned with gods power, for the hurt that is done here throug such haue consarned them selus in the afferes of truth . . . is more then any can bee sencybel of.

Truely, deare freinds, its contrary to our minds to write any thing in this kinde to you, at such adistances, But the waight Beeing soe heaue of us . . . therefore to you wee this write, and it is not only up on our own accounts, but ther is a suffering upon the spirits of many tender friends. . . .

Wee haue receiued thy Letter with thy daughter, Sarah, but not untel the tenth month of this yeare.<sup>4</sup>

From your deare freinds, JOHN & MARGRET LYNAM.  
EDWARD SARSON.

This J writ before J knew of my husbands coming to England.

<sup>3</sup> This letter occupiess three folio pages, but gives little of historical interest. When read in the light of the following letters from Maryland, one of them written three months later, it sounds like a defence of the position the writers had taken up, in opposition to other well-known Friends. It must have been very difficult for Margaret Fox to decide on which side of the controversy to place the weight of her influence.

The extracts are taken from the original in D. (Spence MSS. iii. 182.)

<sup>4</sup> The above letter was written on the last day of 1682.

An Epistle from the Halfe Years Meet in Maryland, dated the 18th 4th mo., 1683 :—<sup>5</sup>

Dear Geo : Fox,

Whome we dearly Love & esteeme in the Bessed Truth and Love of God which is Uniuersal. Our half Years Meet in the third m<sup>o</sup> last haveing a Sense of the Care that is laid upon thee for the Churches Wellfare, they did appoint us to give thee and Friends at London An Acct<sup>o</sup> of the Affaires of Truth in this Province; but we, finding the Ships gone out of this Province, soe that sending is very difficult, at this time, shall not Enlarge, as other waies we might have done. Soe Care may for the future be taken Yearly from our half Years Meeting in the 8<sup>th</sup> mo to give thee full acct of Truths Concernes amongst us.

At present Truth prospers in this Province, and Friends that abide in the Truth are Strong and Valiant for God and the honour of his Truth: but the old Adversary of the Truth by his Wicked Instruments is not wanting to disturb the peace and prosperity of our Jsrael, of which John Lynam and his Wife, Ed : Serson,<sup>6</sup> and some other bad and disorderly Spirits that is Joyned with them, are Cheef disturbers of Truth's prosperity amongst us, by their ungodly Carriage amongst us, especially of late time, goeing on more Violent in their Rending, Dividing, Seperate Spirit, doe keep amongst them at Lynams House a seperate Meeting, in opposition to the Body of Friends, to the great greife of the honest harted; and notwithstanding Friends, from time to time, have Traveled much for them, and in great Love and Tenderness dealt with them, to bring them to a sight of their daingerous Condition, it hath not taken effect with them, but they have gone on farther to Abuse the Meetings Messengers sent to them, and at Last, in open and Reproachfull manner, John Lynam stands up, about the Midle time of a Publique half Years Meeting and day of Worship, and Reads a Wicked ungodly paper over the heads of Friends, and in the face of the Worlds People, then present in that Assembly. A Copy of that paper we cannot as yet send thee,

<sup>5</sup> From a copy in D. (*Epistles Received*, vol. i., p. 1.)

<sup>6</sup> Edward Searson was a fellow-sufferer in Old England. He belonged to the same parish as John Lynam. See Besse; and MS. *Sufferings of Friends in Derbyshire*, preserved locally.

because we cannot yet get it, but we have here sent thee a paper, drawne up and signed by our half Years Meeting against John Lynam. As for Edward Serson, Friends have taken great pains with him upon severall acc<sup>ts</sup>, and alsoe that Concerning his Wife and that Acc<sup>t</sup> given by her in England Concerning him and Lynams Wife, but can gett no satisfaction from neither of them Allthough they did (one) promise very faier.

Jnclosed is a Certificate for Mary Serson which we desire may be sent to her. Alsoe we send thee a paper drawne up against one Stephen Keddy that some times did Minister in this Province but have by his Careless walking Dishonoured the Truth, and is now fallen in with the disorderly separate Spirits.

As for Thomas Huchenson, he is quite gone into the World's spirit and hath greatly greived Friends; but having writ to thee concerning him by a former Date; we shall say noe more of him at present.

Another evil Jnstrument is Thomas Thurston,<sup>7</sup> who is come againe into this Province, a very wrong Spirited Man, who have made it some of his work to abuse and belye Freinds, as thee may see by y<sup>e</sup> Copy of a Letter that was sent to him, which is here Jnclosed.

Soe, Dear G. F., we are greatly bound to Returne praise to God, for all these things works for good to those that truly fear him; for the Lord thereby have manifested this devouring Woulf-like Spirit that for some time lay hid from some simple hearted Friends under a Lamb-like Covering. Soe now the Lord have pulled off their false Covering, and they appear to be what they are; soe not able to devour and spoile the weake, feeble, and hindermost of the Flock, as some time they did, to the great greef, Exercise, and Travil of many who saw the Devourer in his false Covering. And we are greatly sensible that these things are of great service, and have bound and Knitt the Hearts of Friends together in the Bond of True Unity, even as one Man.

A heavenly time and great Service we had at our half Years Mens Meeting in the third month last, which Continued three dayes; the Lord Crowned our Meeting with his heavenly presens which Bound and Chained down the

<sup>7</sup> For Thomas Thurston see *F.P.T.*, p. 109.

Enemies power (which was felt to be great at that time), soe that although he had made what strength he could, by his wicked unruly Instruments, to spoile, Destroy, and Devour Even in our Assembly, the Power of God they perceived to be amongst us in a Mighty Measure, soe that Shame and Confusion Couered their ffaces and many Young and tender Freinds was thereby greatly strength'ned, the Lord haveing evidently owned our Proceedings, for which we Retourne Glory and Praise to God forever. Amen.

Here is many Friends of this Province that find a Concerne laid upon them to Vissit the Seed of God in Carolina, for we understand that the spoiler makes Havock of the Flock there; Dan<sup>l</sup> Acres, and one Rob<sup>t</sup> Willson and Ann his wife, very bad spirited people (that have disturbed the Peace of the Churches in divers places), are gotten to them parts and some other bad Spirits Joined with them, soe here is many weighty Friends Jntended down there on that service; and may Vissit Virginia and Accamack, and then we may give thee an Acc<sup>t</sup> how things are on Truths Acc<sup>t</sup> in those places.

Our very dear Love to thy Wife; soe with our dear Love to A: P: W: G: and G: W:<sup>8</sup> and all the faithfull, We Remaine thy Friends in our measure of that Glorious unering Truth which the Lord hath Manifested to us.

We Desire thee to seale  
and send the Jnclosed to  
Ellis Hooks.

W<sup>m</sup> RICHARDSON.  
W<sup>m</sup> BERRY.  
RICHARD JOHNS.  
THOMAS TAYLER.

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Maryland, the 13<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> m<sup>o</sup>, 1685.<sup>9</sup>

Dearly Beloued freinds, Geo: ffox, Alexand<sup>r</sup> Parker & Geo: Whitehead, whome wee dearly loue in the Eternall truth & word of Life, w<sup>ch</sup> haue apered in this our age & time, Euen in these Remote parts; & now, Deare freinds, Bretheren & Elders in the Church of Christ, wee being apoynted by our yearly meeting to giue accoumpt of the State of truths Concenes in this Prouinc<sup>e</sup>—

<sup>8</sup> Probably intended for Alexander Parker, William Gibson, and George Whitehead.

<sup>9</sup> From the original in D. (Port. 16. 29)

Wee giue you to vnderstand y<sup>t</sup> from our Deare freind, G ff, wee Recd a letter, Dated Kingston the 27<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> m<sup>o</sup> 1683, as alsoe some Inclosed Epistles, w<sup>th</sup> which wee were greatly Refreshed & Comforted, as alsoe another letter, dated Winsmere [Winchmore] Hill, y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> m<sup>o</sup>, 1684, together w<sup>th</sup> the Inclosed papers w<sup>ch</sup> Came from J<sup>n</sup><sup>o</sup>. & Margrett Lynam & the Rest of y<sup>t</sup> Seperate Company, who Still Remaine and goes on in y<sup>t</sup> Rending Seperate Spiritt; & although according to G ffs aduice freinds did againe Vissitt them to put them in minde of G ffs aduice in his letter to them, Viz: to Condemne what was amiss, & Come downe to y<sup>e</sup> meek & Quiett Spiritt in w<sup>ch</sup> freinds Could Receiue them, they did altogether, as they haue formerly, Reiect the Councell of freinds. Seuerall traulling freinds haue alsoe from time to time laboured with them, amongst w<sup>ch</sup> Deare W<sup>m</sup> Stockdall<sup>10</sup> was the last, who Prouidentially was Cast amongst us (and by whome wee had the Sorrowfull tidings of the Death of our Dearely beloued freind & faithfull Seru<sup>t</sup> of the Church, W<sup>m</sup> Gibson). Wee here Inclosed Send a Cobby of W<sup>m</sup> Stockdalls letter to them, and as farr as wee finde, freinds are pretty Cleare of them, and the Judgm<sup>t</sup> of truth Justly Stands upon them.

And as answer to all their Bundle & Packetts of lies, sent to G ff, Racked up ag<sup>t</sup> freinds in this Prouinc<sup>e</sup>, there is hardly any thing of truth in it all, & not worth the answering in more particular manner or farther troubling G ff: & freinds about, of w<sup>ch</sup> many worthy Sound traulling freinds haue bin wittnesses off: wee need Say noe more but Referr you to Deare W<sup>m</sup> Penn, Roger Longworth<sup>11</sup>, Christopher Taylor & W<sup>m</sup> Stockdall.

<sup>10</sup> According to *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 27 (1854), p. 294, William Stockdale was of Scotland and later of Ireland, whence, in 1687, he removed to Pennsylvania, where he died in 1693. In 1683, he wrote *A Brief Relation of the Sufferings of Quakers in Ireland*.

<sup>11</sup> Of Roger Longworth's life and labours we have a short account from his friends, William Yardley and Phineas Pemberton (Phila. *Memorials*, 1824, p. 11). He was born at Longworth, Bolton, Lancs., c. 1630. In pursuit of his labours as a Minister, he "passed six times through Holland, also part of Germany, five times through Ireland, once through part of Scotland, twice at Barbadoes, once through New England and Virginia, twice in Maryland and the Jerseys, and twice at Pennsylvania; having travelled by land above 20,000 miles and by water not much less." He died in Pennsylvania in 1687.

Manuscript records in D., including original letters from him, refer

As for Tho : Hutchenson, wee understand hee haue lately bin Vissitted w<sup>th</sup> a sore fitt of Sicknesse. Soe terrour of Conciencie & Judgm<sup>ts</sup> took hold of him, w<sup>ch</sup> brought him uery low, Soe y<sup>t</sup> hee Could not haue peace but was Constrained to giue forth a paper to Condeme his out Runings & Cleare the truth.

As for Sam<sup>l</sup> Newton in Virginia, Care haue bin taken about him, & freinds haue Dealt w<sup>th</sup> him, a farther acc<sup>r</sup> wherof our D<sup>re</sup> freind, Roger Longworth, Can giue you.

Our deare freind, Tho : Euerden,<sup>12</sup> is now gone upon Seruice to Virginia and Cariolina to Vissitt the Seed of god in those parts, for there is great need, the Spoyler haue bin at work w<sup>th</sup> his Instrum<sup>ts</sup>. Soe wee Cannot giue you a more particular accoumpt untill he Retourne from those parts.

What Deare G ff : writt Concering Margrett Hollon<sup>13</sup> freinds haue Comunicated it to her & dealt w<sup>th</sup> her in much loue, but Shee Still Remaines in y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> is a greife to the Spiritt of truth.

Tho : Thurston is in Maryland but Comes not amongst freinds, and as for Stephen Caddy<sup>14</sup> hee is quite nought.

By ours to you in 1684, wee writt Something of our giueing you acc<sup>r</sup> of our Sufferings in this Prouince, Butt the death of Seuerall of our freinds, & the distance by water betweene freinds of these parts, is y<sup>t</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> haue put a stop at present to the giueing you a full acc<sup>r</sup> of freinds Sufferings as wee did & doe Jntend. Here haue bin Some freinds goods latley taken away for denying to Beare Armes, but our meetings are Peaceable.

And now, Deare freinds, wee alsoe giue you to Vnderstand y<sup>t</sup> wee Recd from Mark Swanner 6 french Books sent for the french at Carolina, p G ff : of w<sup>ch</sup> wee haue taken Care about. Wee alsoe Recd this yeare a

to his services in London 1682/3, West Indies 1684, Amsterdam 1685, Barbadoes 1686. An account of his death is also extant in D. See *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 27 (1854), pp. 148, 156.

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Everden (Evernden) was a Kentish Friend who emigrated to Maryland after 1682, and died there in 1710. See *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 28 (1854), pp. 109, 117; *F.P.T.*, p. 143; *Piety Promoted*.

<sup>13</sup> Margaret Holland is referred to in *THE JOURNAL*, iii. 21.

<sup>14</sup> Stephen Keddy emigrated to Maryland from Yorkshire in 1681. See J. W. Rowntree's lectures on *The Rise of Quakerism in Yorkshire*.

pcell of freinds Bookes<sup>15</sup> Directed to W<sup>m</sup> Richardson, But from whome they Came, or to whome wee must Retourne pay, wee know not, haueing not Reçd one line from any person about them. Also from Mark Swanner wee Reçd the Sheets of the yearly meetings Proceedings, Dated in London the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>d</sup> m<sup>o</sup>, 1684, w<sup>ch</sup> was Read at our Quarterly meeting; a deep Sence of w<sup>ch</sup> (Viz: the Necessities of poore Suffering freinds and Captiues) was upon the mindes of freinds, Soe y<sup>t</sup> a Collection was apoynted by Each Respectiue meeting on the Westerne Side of the Bay, w<sup>ch</sup> was accordingly made & amounted to 33<sup>li</sup> 2<sup>s</sup> 06<sup>d</sup>, w<sup>ch</sup> wee haue ordered into the hand of Sam<sup>ll</sup> Groome to Receiue, and haue ordered him to pay it into the hands of those freinds apoynted by the yearly meeting in London to Receiue the Same. Ouer Quarterly meeting likewise did take Care to acquaint our freinds of the Easterne Side of the Bay, who, wee understand, haue taken Care in y<sup>t</sup> Concerne; & wee Expect y<sup>t</sup> freinds from the Easterne shore will alsoe giue acc<sup>t</sup> of their Collections to freinds in London; & wee doubt not but y<sup>t</sup> our Small mite will be accepted in as tender Bowells as our poore freinds Administered the Same out of our small Abillities.

This may alsoe Informe you y<sup>t</sup> our deare freinds, Tho: Tayler & his wife, are boath taken away by death, to the greife of maney, a very Seruicable man for the truth in his day; alsoe Bryan Omelia & Divers other freinds, Seruicable men in their places, taken away by death.

Soe y<sup>t</sup> Sometimes the affaires of truth Seemes to looke very low in this Prouince; Eminent, Honourable men & women taken away by death, but there is few like them Rises up. God almighty Preserue the Remnant yett Remaineing, and Raise up Instrum<sup>ts</sup> fitted for his purpose to Carry on his work, for it will Prosper And truly, deare freinds, wee Can Say, and y<sup>t</sup> from a liueing Sence of gods loue and mercyes to us in these Remote parts, y<sup>t</sup> the lord haue not bin wanting to us but haue wouderfully appeared in mighty manner many a time, Soe that hard things haue bin made Easy and Streight things haue bin made pleasant, & the mighty and lofty haue bin bowed & brought uery low, and wee haue noe Cause to

<sup>15</sup> See "Friends' Libraries in Maryland," in THE JOURNAL, ii. 130 ff.

doubt but y<sup>t</sup> the lords work will goe forward in this place & hee will bring his Euerlasting purpose to pass.

Our yearly meeting in the 8<sup>th</sup> m<sup>o</sup> Last, w<sup>ch</sup> Continued 5 dayes, was held in great power, peace, and loue, not Soe much as one Contradictious Spiritt appeared. A heavenly time, the liueing, heart Breaking Presents of god Broak in upon us, and Crowned our holly assembly to the great Comfort & Joy of all y<sup>t</sup> loued the Blessed truth.

Deare Christopher Tayler and Seuerall w<sup>th</sup> him from Penn Siluania, as alsoe Deare Roger Langworth, was at our Said meeting, & great Comfort & Satisfaction was accknowledged by them. The testimoney w<sup>ch</sup> they left behinde them was y<sup>t</sup> god was with us, & his liueing presents they had liueingly felt to be amongst us.

Soe, deare freinds, haueing nothing more to add at present but our uery deare loue to the Seed of God in w<sup>ch</sup> you are truly honourable to us, who are your truly loueing freinds and Bretheren in our measure of the Blessed truth,

W<sup>m</sup>: Richardson  
W<sup>m</sup>: Barry  
Rich: Johns

Addressed : To Geo : ffox, theise.

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### Islington Road School.

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In *Beauties of London and Middlesex*, 1815, we read :—It is sufficient to have mentioned that this belongs to and is occupied by Quakers to convey to the mind of the reader an idea of the most perfect cleanliness, order, and decorum. . . . It may truly be said of these people, who appear like a distinct race of mortals when compared with the rest of mankind, that “whatsoever their hands find to do, they literally do it with all their might.”

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[From a manuscript among the papers of the late William Beck.]