



The Descendants of Mary Fisher.

The story of Mary Fisher's early life has been well told by Sewel and Besse, and James Bowden, in his *History of Friends in America*, has furnished an interesting narrative concerning her which is a valuable contribution to our history. It will be remembered by those who have read the latter account that after referring to Mary Fisher's services in the ministry both in England, America, and the West Indies, her sufferings for the cause of Truth in these countries, and her remarkable visit to the Grand Turk in 1660, the historian states that she was married to William Bayley¹, and again, some years after his decease, to John Crosse, of London. Reference is also made to her removal with her second husband to South Carolina. Bowden, however, as he states, was not in possession of much information relative to her residence there, and he leaves the subject with a remark as to a visit to her by Robert Barrow in 1697, with the additional statement that Sophia Hume was one of her grandchildren, but with no other reference to her descendants.

During the last winter, the writer spent some time in the city of Charleston, and whilst there had the opportunity to examine the public records, which disclosed some interesting facts. These facts have been added to by a personal friend, D. E. Huger Smith. The following is a brief recital of the information thus obtained.

By her marriage with William Bayley, Mary Fisher had three children, William, Mary, and Susanna, but apparently none by her second husband.

The time of the removal to Charleston is not known, but in 1685/6 we find John and Mary Crosse settled there. At this time, John Crosse made his will, which was proved

¹ The usual and standard spelling of the name of this Friend is *Bayly*. Many of his printed tracts are so subscribed and the title page of the Collection of his "Wrightings" gives the same form. A MS. in D., apparently autograph, is in agreement with the above. On the other hand, George Vaux states, "In all of the manuscripts I have from Charleston, the spelling is *Bayley*." For a brief note respecting William Bayly (d. 1675), see *F.P.T.* [Eds.]

7th of December, 1687, which latter time gives approximately the date of his decease. In this will he states that he is about starting on a voyage. He makes a devise of real estate to his "son-in-law" (step-son), William Bayley, but gives all the rest of his property to his wife. Mary Crosse did not long survive the visit of Robert Barrow. She died in Charleston in the autumn of 1698, and was undoubtedly buried in Friends' ancient Burial Ground in that city, which is still owned by Friends, and under the care of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Her will is dated 28th day of August, 1698, and it was proved the 10th day of November of the same year. In the opening of her will she says that she is "very sick and weak," and then proceeds in her first item as follows:—

"I recommend my soul to y^e mercy of God my Creator hoping through the merrits of Jesus Christ to obtain forgiveness from all my sins and everlasting life."

She devises to her son, William Bayley, "y^t corner town lot in Charlestown which was formerly Capt. John Clapps whereon y^e great house stands y^t he lately lived in together with y^e said house and all the buildings on y^e s^d town lot." Also other property for life to her son, William Bayley, and after his decease the latter to her two daughters, Mary Basden, widow of Captain Charles Basden, and Susanna Rawlins, wife of Edward E. Rawlins. She also gives to her daughter, Mary Basden, "half part of my town lott in Charlestown fronting y^e wharfe whereon I now live . . . unto my daughter Susanna Rawlins, y^e other part of my said town lott fronting y^e wharfe, viz., that northwest half of y^e s^d town lott and y^e house wherein I now live" and where she no doubt died. She also gave "three town lotts," situate near the Market Place in Charlestown, to her three children, William Bayley, Mary Basden, and Susanna Rawlins, but not in equal tenure to them all, and her executors were desired to sell other real estate and apply the proceeds to the payment of her debts. She further gives to her daughters, Mary Basden and Susanna Rawlins, all her household goods to be divided between them, and to Mary Basden her "Indian girl Slave named Zayner," and to her three children, share and share alike, all her shop goods and other real estate and personal estate not otherwise bequeathed.

The character of this will shows Mary Crosse to have been a woman possessed of a considerable estate and evidently in prosperous circumstances.

In a map of Charlestown, made prior to 1725, but originating probably as early as 1680, the name of "Mrs. Crosse" is shown on certain town lots. Some of these are those she mentions in her will as being "situated near the Market Place." At the present time their site is partially occupied by what is known locally as "the fire-proof building," which contains many of the public records of Charlestown. The locality is not far from Friends' Burial Ground.

William Bayley, the only son of William and Mary Bayley, was living in August, 1698, and died before April 25, 1702. His wife's name was Hannah, but her maiden name is not disclosed. He appears to have had one child only, John Bayley, who was a planter in Berkeley, South Carolina, in 1722, and still living in 1731.

Mary Bayley, the elder daughter of William and Mary (Fisher) Bayley, was twice married, her first husband being Charles Basden, as stated in Mary Crosse's will. Official records show that administration was granted on his estate, February 28th, 1697/8, indicating that he probably died not very long before that date. There were four children of this marriage: Charles (who died before 1714), Sarah (alive in 1741), Mary (unmarried in 1741), and Rebecca (alive in 1741, deceased before August, 1747).

Sarah Basden was married four times, the names of her husbands being John Douglas, James McCall, Jonathan Collins, and Robert Johnson. She had issue by her second husband, James McCall, a son, John McCall, who married Martha Hext, April 22nd, 1739. They were progenitors of a large family connection, still well known in South Carolina.

Rebecca Basden married William Guy, a clergyman of the Episcopal denomination. He was assistant minister of St. Philip's, Charlestown, in 1711, Rector of St. Helena, South Carolina, in 1712, missionary in Narragansett, Rhode Island, in 1717, rector of St. Andrews, near Charlestown, from 1719 to 1751.

Mary Basden's second husband was Nicholas Nary, to whom she was married after her mother's decease, and she was a widow the second time in 1714. She died before July 10th, 1717. There was one child of this marriage, Nicholas Nary, who died in his minority and was buried September 14th, 1722.

Susanna Bayley, the younger daughter, was also twice married. Her first husband, Edward E. Rawlins, was living at the time of her mother's death, but died shortly after between September, 1699, and June, 1700. The children of this marriage were Ann (alive in 1727), who married Thomas Hepworth, who was Chief Justice between 1724 and 1727; Mary (died between November, 1762, and May, 1763), who married William Blamyer, and Edward (alive in September, 1719, apparently dead before September, 1722). The Blamyer family certainly continued in South Carolina to a very recent period, and descendants through female lines are probably there now.

Susanna Rawlins married a second time, early in her widowhood, Henry Wigington, Deputy Secretary of the Province. It is interesting to note that the record of Mary Crosse's will, proved in 1698, has attached to it the official certificate of probate signed by him as Deputy Secretary.

Henry Wigington removed to London, where he died, and in his will, which is dated May 27th, 1722, and was proved December 17th of the same year, he describes himself "Henry Wigington late of South Carolina in America, but now of Villers Street in York Buildings, London." He bequeathes to "Mr. Robert Hume, of South Carolina, aforesaid, Attorney-at-Law, and his wife, my dearest daughter, Sophia Hume, my gold watch which was given her by my dearest mother, except the gold case which I bought, the maker's name Etherington on the dial plate, for which watch and case I desire my Executors here in England to buy a hook and chain. . . . To said Robert and Sophia also the sheets, bed, and table linen, and what else of such sort I have, which though of small worth here will be of use in Carolina, as also what few books I have left, if executors think them worth sending to Carolina. To my dearest mother aforesaid,

Mrs. Ann Wigington, the use of 400 pounds for life, then to Robert and Sophia Hume. To Robert and Sophia Hume whatever shall belong to me in England. To said Robert and Sophia Hume all negro slaves in Carolina and their offspring or issue, all moneys due in the province," etc. Robert and Sophia Hume were executors in Carolina. He directed that he should be buried in Chancel of Parish Church of Kingstone upon Thames, where most of his family lie buried.

Susanna Wigington, widow of Henry, died First Month 26th, 1733, and was buried in Friends' Burial Ground in Charleston. She took part in the business of Charlestown Monthly Meeting, and was appointed on committees, as shown by the minutes of this period. She also signed, as a witness, the marriage certificate of Joseph Shute, which is dated Eighth Month 7th, 1731.

Three other witnesses to this certificate were Mary Blamy, Mary Blamy, Jun., and John Blamy. The first of these was, without much doubt, Susanna Wigington's daughter, and the other two were probably her grandchildren.

The eldest, and probably the only child of Henry and Susanna Wigington was Sophia Wigington, born about 1702, and referred to in her father's will as "my dearest daughter Sophia Hume." According to the register of St. Philip's Church, Charlestown, she was married to Robert Hume, 15th of [*month illegible*], 1721. Robert Hume died October 1st, 1737, and was buried in St. Philip's Churchyard, October 3rd, 1737, where his gravestone may still be seen. In his will, dated December 16th, 1736, he refers to his wife, Sophia, and his son and daughter, Alexander and Susanna, and makes bequests to seven nieces and nephews. Further than this we have no information as to the descendants of Sophia Hume.²

² Careful search through all the Registers at Devonshire House has been made, but no entry of the name Hume has been found save that of the decease of Sophia Hume, in 1774.

The following extracts from letters make it appear that the daughter of S. Hume was in England at the dates on which the letters were written:—

SOPHIA HUME TO ANN HYAM:

Philadelphia i. vi., 1748.

Tis but a few days since I received the kind and very acceptable letter dated 13th of 12th mo. which came to hand after a very singular and

Accompanying Robert Hume's will was a letter addressed to his Executor, Peter Hume, advising him as to what Counsel he should employ in the event of an attempt to contest it. It is quite apparent from this that the testator was sensible that he had made bequests for the benefit of other relatives to the disadvantage of his wife and children. In October, 1737, soon after her husband's decease, Sophia Hume entered a caveat against the probate of his will. The reason for this is probably explained by the wording of her father's will heretofore quoted, which seems to indicate that the property possessed both by herself and her husband was really her own inheritance. Robert Hume's will was, however, afterward proved, as appears by the Executor's notice in the *Charlestown Gazette* of December 15th, 1737.

Philadelphia, Pa.

GEORGE VAUX.

remarkable manner. An Inhabitant of this place (a friend's son) having been at South Carolina, in his return from thence, took it with some others on the bank or shore (if I remember right) near Carolina, they being, as conjectured, thrown overboard by some vessel pursued by our enemies, but whether in a conveyance to Carolina, or from thence to this city, I have not yet been able to inform myself, however I am pleased to have received it though in a ragged yet legible form, and should gladly have received my daughter's also in the same condition, but it is not a little satisfaction to me to hear by thee of her welfare as well as thine and thy dear family. . . .

From a copy in D. (Robson MSS.)

SOPHIA HUME TO WILLIAM BROWN.

London, 19th 1., 1751.

Dear Friend,

My Daughters Indisposition prevented an earlier reply [no further mention].

From a copy in D. (Reynolds MSS.)

For further particulars respecting Sophia Hume, see introduction to her *Exhortation to the Inhabitants of South Carolina*; Testimony of Grace-church M.M.; *Piety Promoted*; *Premonitory Extracts*; *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 17 (1844), p. 295; MSS. in D.; and especially an article by George Vaux in *The Friend* (Phila.), vol. 82 (1909), pp. 403, 411, in which is recorded the great transformation in Sophia Hume's character which changed her from a woman of the world to an humble Christian, one of the most remarkable instances of the power of Divine Grace which our religious Society has presented.—Eds.

Take heed of sitting down to rest in any gift, but press forward in the strait way.

RICHARD FARNSWORTH, *Epistle*, quoted in *Little Book of Selections*.