

Notes and Queries.

FRIENDS IN SCARBOROUGH IN 1798.—“The Quakers’ times of meeting are twice on the Sunday, and once on the Wednesday. The present number of this Friendly Society is forty-eight. They have a burial ground in a field near Falsgrave” (Hinderwell, *History and Antiquities of Scarborough*, York, 1798). In the enumeration of the places of worship occurs “Quakers, near Cook’s Row.” Of George Fox in the Castle the writer says, “The peaceful serenity of his mind was unmoved by external accidents and, though deprived of every social intercourse with his friends, and exposed to the derision of his enemies, this holy man, in patience possessed his soul, superior to every indignity.”

DATE OF GEORGE HARRISON’S DEATH.—William C. Braithwaite sends the following in correction of the date “Fifth Month, 1656,” given in THE JOURNAL, vol. vi. p. 172n.

“The date of Harrison’s ill-treatment at Haverhill seems rightly given in the extract printed in the last number of THE JOURNAL as 4th of 10th month (*i.e.* December), 1656. This has been wrongly given as 10th of 4th mo. (*i.e.* June), 1656, and has led to the statement

There is no entry of death in either the Essex or Westmorland Registers. The date, “Fifth Month, 1656,” appears in *Piety Promoted*, 1702, and is repeated by Thomas Camm, quoting *P.P.* (*F.P.T.* 250), but it must be incorrect.—EDS.

that he died in July. But a letter from Thomas Robertson to Margaret Fell dated from Horsham, 4th August, 1656 (D. Swarthmore MSS., iv. 204) shows that he was then in Kent with Stephen Hubbersty, and another letter from Hubberthorne to Margaret Fell, dated from London, 2nd September, 1656 (D. James Bowden’s copy of a letter in the Caton Collection), speaks of his being in London, and says that he is passing into Essex. This letter refers to the Launceston prisoners, so is certainly to be dated in 1656. The Kendal accounts include a payment in October, 1656, ‘to Richard Willan that George Harrison borrowed 15s.’ (D. Swarthmore MSS., i. 292). His death must accordingly be dated (say) January, 1657.”

GEORGE GEE, OF MANCHESTER (iv. 86, vi. 143).—Both Francis Bugg (*Battering Rams*, p. 15) and William Rogers (*Christian Quaker*, pt. v. p. 48) state that George Fox was in the employ of George Gee of Manchester, shoemaker. It has been suggested that *Manchester* may be a mistake for *Mancetter*, which latter place would be much nearer to Fox’s home.

The following letter from Charles W. Sutton, M.A., of the Manchester Public Library, will be read with interest:—

“As Gee was a fairly common name in Manchester in George Fox’s time I am afraid that we cannot settle the question *Manchester v. Mancetter* by reference

to Gees alone. In an assessment made in 1648 (*Chet. Soc.* n. s. 63) five Gees occur. One of these was George Gee, but I do not know his trade. Another was William Gee, who may be the Wm. Gee of Manchester, shoemaker, who was buried 15th June, 1676, but I do not find a reference to his trade in the parish register, although a child, presumably his (Thomas, son of William Gee) was bap. 28th March, 1647. A George Gee, of Manchester, calender, who may be the same as George, of 1648, was buried in 1681."

Can any of our readers in the Midlands give us information respecting Gee of Mancetter?

THE DAUGHTERS OF MARGARET FELL (vi. 81, 162).—The order of the last five daughters is confirmed by reference to a letter from Leonard Fell to M.F. (Swarthmore MSS., i. 123), in which he sends love to "Isabell, Sarah, Mary, Susanna and little Rachel."—
W. C. BRAITHWAITE.

DEATH OF HARPER GAYTHORPE, F.S.A. SCOT. — *The Ulverston News*, of January 1st, records the decease of Harper Gaythorpe, of Barrow-in-Furness, on the 27th ult., aged fifty-nine. Mr. Gaythorpe was a great authority on the antiquities of the Furness district, and though not a Friend he wrote also on Friends' history. He was in frequent correspondence with Devonshire House, and recently he presented to D. a copy of "Furness Past and Present," 2 vols., 1880, written by his father-in-law, Joseph Richardson. His assistance will be much missed.

QUAKERS' YARD.—People so often ask the origin of the name of the town and station "Quakers' Yard" that I think some notes in *THE JOURNAL* would be useful and interesting.

The deeds belong to South Division of Wales Monthly Meeting, and are in my custody. They are as follows:

1st, dated 1667. Mary Chapman leases to Trustees for 1,000 years, rent 1d. annually if demanded—the ground for a "place of burial for the dead especially those who are called Quakers."

2nd. A document with these papers, but illegible.

3rd. Copy of will of Mary Chapman, dated 1669, "I give and devise one plot of land unto the people of the Lord called Quakers to bury their dead in for ever. It is walled about and made ready for that use."

4th. Trust Deed, dated 1746, from Jenkin Thomas, the legal representative of the longest lived trustee of those named in the lease of 1667, to new trustees.

I cannot understand the use of this, as the *freehold* now belonged to Friends under Mary Chapman's will.

5th. Old map (undated) shewing area 1a. 1r. 3p.

6th. Building lease, dated 1868, from Trustees (only one of these alive in 1910) for ninety-nine years of all the surface to Lewis Parry. Friends reserve power to bury in a certain portion.

7th. 1889. The coal under the property was sold, and the proceeds used towards the building of Cardiff Meeting House.

The property is still held by trustees, and the rent used for the general purposes of the Monthly Meeting.—F. WILLIAM GIBBINS.

From several papers respecting Quakers' Yard, lent by F. W. Gibbins, we glean the following:—

The following note on Quakers' Yard and "Lydia Phell" was found by "Cadrawd" (T. C. Evans, of Llangynwyd) in the unpublished Iolo MSS.² at Llanover, which he examined by permission of Lady Llanover:—

"Inscription on a Tombstone in Quakers Yard, 'Here lieth the body of Lydia Phell, who departed this life the 20th of December, 1699.' The age is obliterated.

"Lydia Phell, it is said, was a Quaker, who had a freehold property in the neighbourhood. She gave the ground, walled about it, and it still remains to be [it is a large yard] to the Society of Friends for a place of Worship, it continued as such till within the memory of many still living. I have been twice at a meeting of Divine Worship there. It has a stone bench all round it, and the wall is six feet high, with a door to enter each side. It is still the property of the Friends, by whom the wall had been repaired in 1821. The traditional account of Lydia

² "Iolo Morganwg," whose name was Edward Williams, was a great Welsh historian. Dr. S. P. Tregelles, the Biblical scholar, took a warm interest in Iolo, and assisted Elijah Waring in the preparation of his *Life of Iolo Morganwg*, published in 1850, with frontispiece of Williams, etched by Robert Cruikshank. A copy of this book is in D.

Phell is that she was a single woman, who had bought the estate and lived on it, that it was intended to build a Meeting House there, but that most of the Society in these parts emigrated with William Penn to Pennsylvania, and that after the death of Lydia Phell, what remained of them here founded the Society at Treferhyg, where a Meeting House, said to be the oldest in Wales, had been built by William Bevan, of whom the present [or late] Joseph Gurney Bevan, of London, is descended.

"Lydia Phell is said to have been a very rich and charitable woman, that every first-day she attended at the yard to worship, which was very numerously attended by the poor tenants and neighbours, however bad the weather might have been. There is hereabouts an obvious predilection in favour of the Friends to this very day, and were it tolerably frequented by ministers, a very decent Society might be most likely gathered together there. It stands in a sheltered valley on a gently rising spot above the romantic river Taf.

"N.B.—George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, married a daughter, or some say a sister, to Judge Phell.³ Was Lydia Phell a sister, or any other relation of Mrs. Fox? I have enquired a good deal, and cannot find that there has ever been any other person besides herself of the name of Phell in this part of the country.—E. W."⁴

³ This is, of course, quite incorrect. It is surprising that Iolo should have gone so far wrong.

⁴ A portion of this MS. was printed in *Quakeriana*, iii. 57.

In 1891, when an article based on the statement in the Iolo MSS. appeared in print, the late Frederick J. Gibbins, of Neath, wrote respecting it:—

“ This article seems calculated to perpetuate an error in attributing the origin of the Friends’ Burial Ground to Lydia Fell. No records of the Society of Friends contain the name of Phell or Fell in this district. The only tombstone to be seen is that of Thomas and Mary Edmund,⁵ but there had previously been many burials there.

“ In 1667, when George Fox paid his second visit to Wales, he went, accompanied by Richard Hanbury, of Pontypool, “ over the hills,” towards “ Swanzey,” and, from the description he gives, there is very little doubt that he was at the place now called Quakers’ Yard. There never was a Friends’ Meeting House within very many miles of Quakers’ Yard, but meetings were held in the graveyard occasionally, when a raised mound inside the fence formed the only seat. Such meetings, when they were an annual institution at the latter part of last [eighteenth] century, were numerous attended by the surrounding population. It was, however, found that such a promiscuous gathering led to Sabbath desecration in the village; and, after one drunken person who had taken part in the revelry was drowned in the adjoining river, the meeting was discontinued.”

⁵ “ In Memory of Thomas Edmund, who died April 1st, 1802, aged 60 years.”

“ Also Mary Edmund, his wife, who died January the 4th, 1810, aged 79 years.”

Of recent years a fresh connection with the Society of Friends has sprung up in the neighbourhood, from the fact that a coal mine of great depth has been sunk by some of the family of the late Edward Harris, a well-known member of Stoke Newington Meeting. For the convenience of the colliers a considerable village has been built and is named by the proprietors Tre-Harris (*i.e.* the town of Harris), and here we find some Quaker history preserved in Fox Street and Penn Street.

A funeral which took place at ‘Quakers’ Yard in 1891, was the first for many years.

FAMILIES OF CLEMESHA, SPRINGALL AND BLECKLY.—Information wanted as to an autobiography of John Clemesha of Hull; also of the family and descendants of Gregory Springall, of Norwich, and of the family and descendants of William Bleckly, Clerk to the Y.M. in 1780. Copies of letters, and of entries in private MSS., etc., thankfully received.—(Miss) L. CLARKE, The Old Market, Wisbech.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF HANNAH LIGHTFOOT.—In the Supplement to Joseph Smith’s *Catalogue of Friends’ Books*, page 233, there is an entry “Biographical Notice of Hannah Lightfoot. By Joseph Smith. (In MS.)”

A lady who is writing a book on Hannah Lightfoot asks for information respecting this MS. Is anything known of its present ownership?