

George Fox's Uncle Pickering.

1646. I had an uncle there [in London] one *Pickering*, a Baptist.
—George Fox's *Journal*, l. 4.

Edward Pickering was a merchant of London. In 1612 he was in Leyden, where on 24th November (new style) he was betrothed to Mary Stubbs, from "Stromse," the betrothal being attested by six members of John Robinson's Church. He was married on 15th December. "Stromse" is the Dutch spelling, which usually disguises the English names effectually, though when the English name is known, it can usually be recognised through the haze. There is no hint in the Dutch records in what part of England this village lay.

By June, 1620, Edward Pickering was back in London, and was busy arranging to finance the expedition of this Leyden Church to Virginia. A letter of John Robinson on 14/24 June, 1620, to John Carver, discusses his unreadiness to find hard cash for expenses at Leyden, and his slowness to hire the shipping needed, which was the one thing he had definitely promised. He was one of seventy adventurers who were interested in this proposed plantation in the colony of Virginia, but before 25th November, 1626 (old style) when the Adventurers and the Planters made a composition, and perhaps by 1622, he had ceased to be financially interested. For this episode see Arber, *Pilgrim Fathers*, pp. 317, 318, 322; or the original authority, Bradford's *History*, pp. 47, 49, 117. Captain John Smith described the purpose of these Adventurers as "aiming to do good and to plant Religion."

In 1636 he was apparently dead, an inference from the register that Mary Pickering was living on the Papengracht in Leyden, and witnessed the betrothal of her daughter, Sincere Pickering, on 22nd February, 1636 (new style), to Elias Arnold, watchmaker, living on the Rapenburg at Leyden. The other witness was the brother of Elias, Nathaniel, who lived in Amsterdam. For all the Dutch facts, see Dexter, *The England and Holland of the Pilgrims*, pp. 601, 628.

There is nothing in these two sources to show more about the Pickering family. But evidently Edward may have had a son, born as early as 1614, who might find a bride named Fox or Lago; or he may have had a daughter who married a Fox or Lago.

The Camden Society has published the records of some cases tried by the High Commission about 1634. In this volume we find that *William Pickering* was before the court in 1632. And on 2nd December, 1635, a Pickering, whose Christian name is not given, petitioned to be released as no prosecutor had appeared. There is some ambiguity whether this were a Londoner or a man from Stanton Lacy in Salop (see Domestic State Papers at this date). Dates hardly encourage the conjecture that William, tried in 1632, was son of Edward, married in 1612. But the name is not so common but that we may suppose the two to be related. They were both out of touch with the Church of England, and either of them, by a process of evolution, might well have become a Baptist by the year 1646.

Preston.

W. T. WHITLEY.