

## Some Account concerning the Women's Monthly Meeting in the County of Bucks.<sup>1</sup>

There was a stirring in the hearts of several towards it, in the yeare 1671, where vpon some of y<sup>e</sup> women, namely Ann Steuens, and Dameris Sanders, came to y<sup>e</sup> mens Meeting at Thomas Ellwoods to lay it befor them, the 6 day of y<sup>e</sup> 7 mont<sup>t</sup> 1671 where it was considered, and concluded, they might meet together, to feele there seruis in the truth, and if they felt seruis continew in it. The first meeting was the 18 day of the same 7 mont<sup>t</sup> 71 at prestwood, where wee were sweetly refreshed together in the presance of the Lord ; the next Meeting was at Tomlins y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>2</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> month 71 then it was put off to two Months and poynted y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> 10 m<sup>t</sup> 71 at Hide heath Jn which meetings y<sup>e</sup> lords blessed presanc & power was felt to ouer shaddow and break & Melt y<sup>e</sup> spirits of them y<sup>t</sup> faithfully waited for him But an eye was to much outwards to outward buisness, and y<sup>t</sup> not apearing, y<sup>e</sup> wise reasoning part was apt to get vp against y<sup>e</sup> pure simple innosent waiting for the lord to manifest himself how & by whome he pleased, and some being yong in y<sup>e</sup> truth saw not y<sup>e</sup> lords worke was to fitt them for y<sup>e</sup> seruis, and bring them to y<sup>e</sup> walty scence y<sup>t</sup> they might serue him a right & so feel acceptanc in there seruis.

Thus it was, and some discouragments wee mett with outwardly which brought it to soone to this conclusion that wee should cease meeting for the presant tel y<sup>e</sup> Men or wee women saw cause for coming together againe.

Thus it lay tel the 8<sup>t</sup> Mont<sup>t</sup> 1675 ; & then came to be reuiued againe, to y<sup>e</sup> Joy of some, but mett with great opposision from others, so that y<sup>e</sup> contest was high, but y<sup>e</sup> power of God was seene ouer al opposit spirits, And so from a meeting at Ralph Trumper where was some Men & many women, it was conclude that y<sup>e</sup> women should haue their Monthly Meeting y<sup>e</sup> same day y<sup>e</sup> Mens was, and y<sup>e</sup> place was appoynted at John Mannocks house at larkins Green, where y<sup>e</sup> meeting was y<sup>e</sup> 4 day of y<sup>e</sup> 6 M<sup>t</sup> 1678. And the few that their first sat downe, Mett with many discouragments to trie them, but y<sup>e</sup> lords power kept ouer al for his worke was in it, and the geathering Arme was stronge which kept them, and they felt from y<sup>e</sup> lord they could not go back.

Where vpon they sent a Message to y<sup>e</sup> Men friends, from their meeting which was vpon y<sup>e</sup> first day of y<sup>e</sup> 7 M<sup>t</sup> 75 That they haue a sence y<sup>t</sup> their Meeting is of y<sup>e</sup> lord, and y<sup>t</sup> they cannot go back, and therefore desire y<sup>t</sup> they may go on, w<sup>th</sup> the incorragement and vnity of the Men.

To which y<sup>e</sup> Mens Answer was, that they are there vpon willing to incorage them, and do not desire they should go back but go on in the name of the lord.

<sup>1</sup> From the Minute Book, deposited in D.

<sup>2</sup> Writing not clear, perhaps 16.

Thus the Lord wrought, and many that were (for some time) at a distance, were brought Neere by y<sup>e</sup> power of God reaching their hearts to Come & deny self & y<sup>e</sup> wise reasoning part, And sett down to wait purly for y<sup>e</sup> lord to appeare as hee pleased ; Not desiring outward buisness but y<sup>e</sup> feeling of life power & vertue from him to do his will, & here y<sup>e</sup> lord mett vs, & of his rich tresury hee opened & gaue forth, & a blessing was felt that y<sup>e</sup> earthly could not containe, and thus y<sup>e</sup> worke prospered in y<sup>e</sup> Mighty hand, y<sup>e</sup> lord passing by y<sup>e</sup> many weaknesses, the day of restoreation being come, the Antiant path revealed, euen y<sup>e</sup> way of holyness, y<sup>t</sup> so clean vessels he might prepare to tabernakel in, Therefor let vs al watch to y<sup>e</sup> lord, and one ouer another for good, and not for euil, Jn this state y<sup>e</sup> lord was pleased to exersise this meeting in a spiritual & holy exersise to himselfe, without desiring of outward buisness, tel hee prepared their waye, that in vnity with y<sup>e</sup> Men, as members of one body they might serue together.

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### *Women Friends in Buckinghamshire, 1678.<sup>1</sup>*

The names of y<sup>e</sup> seueral meetings belonging to the monthly meeting of the upper side of the County of Bucks & the names of seueral friends y<sup>t</sup> come to the womens monthly Meeting at Larkins Green, 1678.

Wiccomb	Ann Steuens Dorithy Kidder.
Chalfont	Mary Penington, Elizabeth Walmsley, Margery Clipsham, Sarah Russell, Hester Fleetwood, Martha Dell, Martha Gresingham, Rebecke Salter, Margrett Tredway, Alice Grimsdel, Eliza: Ashbey, Ann Mannock, Mary Odingsells, Mary Ellwood, Sarah Lane, Sarah Ball, Katerin Sexton, Martha Cooper.
Amersham	Ann Trumper, Margret Cooper, Ann Child, Martha Orton, Elizabeth Crouch, Elizabeth Harrison, Eliza: Grey, Mary Morten, Mary Costard, Mary Baker, Elizbeth Child.
Chesham	Mary Axtill, Sarah Ataway, Sarah Welch, Deborah Deacon.
Missenden	Susana Todd, Deborah Bryarley.
Meadel	Dameris Sanders, Katerine White, Ann Costerd, Elizabeth Baldwin.
Weston	Jane Jons, Jane Brown, Joyce Gardener, Ann Bigg, Judeth Dancer.
Alsbury	Ann Jennings, Sarah Lambert, Joyce Olive.
Flandell <sup>2</sup>	Susana Belch, Elizabeth Tompson.
Watford <sup>3</sup>	Ann Viuers, Sarah Meads.

<sup>1</sup> From the first page of the Minute Book of Women Friends, deposited in D.

<sup>2</sup> Now Flaunden. The name has been effaced.

<sup>3</sup> This name has been effaced.