

Death of Mary Fox, Mother of George Fox:

I having been out of the nation beyond the seas, & when I came into England to Bristol I heard my mother had been very sick & she was very glad to hear of me & it did raise her up; & from Bristol I came to London & she sent to me desiring once more to see me before she died, & I not being very well to travel, & this news I heard to London from her out of the country & in 10 month 1673 I going down through the country to see her & setting my wife & family towards Lancashire was taken by one Parker called a justice from a friend's house & sent to Worcester prison, & there kept about a month, & at the sessions there they put the oath to me as a snare knowing that I could not swear. And then I was moved to London from Worcester before the judges, & in she hearing that I was prisoned & coming down to see her might strike her to the heart & grieve her, & though I told the justices & judges the end of my travel, & these merciless judges & justices had neither mercy nor justice but sent me down again from London to Worcester, & when I heard she was dead it struck me for I did in verity love her as ever one could a mother, for she was a good honest virtuous & a right natured woman, & when I had read the letter of her death it struck a great weight upon my spirit & it was in a travail for a quarter of an hour, & there being people in the room saw some sudden travail upon me though they said nothing, & when my spirit had gotten through I saw her in the resurrection & the life everlastingly with me over all & father in the flesh also. So these wicked justices, God will judge who hindred me from visiting according to her motherly & tender desire. G.F.

¹ From a modern MS. in D., upon which is written, "From original. The whole written by G.F., larger writing than usual, I think. A.R.B[arclay]." But the spelling has certainly been modernised. It would be interesting to know the location of the original.

Sessions held at Bedford, 12th January, 1651/2:—

Subpoena for Robert Turrold against James Noell, gentleman, John Crooke,¹ John Butterfield, for stocking.

¹ John Crook of Beckerings Park, and Luton. Stocking was merely clearing away woodland for the plough. It had been made illegal by 35 Henry VIII., cap. 17. Note by Edward Marsh.

From *Bedfordshire County Records*.