

## Thwarted Marriage Proposals.

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“ We wonder how the matter was finally settled, and whether John Day ever turned up again.”<sup>1</sup>

If John Day never turned up again, he was at least considered legally dead by the civil authorities three years before his supposed (or actual) widow, Hannah Day, and James Atkinson declared their intentions of marriage with each other, for his will,<sup>2</sup> made 8 mo. 15, 1692, when he was about “going to sea,” was admitted to probate April 15th, 1696. By this will John Day bequeathed his estate [excepting the legacies given below] to his wife, Hannah, including the brick house standing in Delaware Front Street in which he lived. To his “oldest daughter,” Hannah, a house and lot near Jarmantown [Germantown], Philadelphia, and a lot on High Street [Phila.] lying between the 6th and 7th streets from Delaware [River] and another lot on High Street between 3rd and 4th streets. Legacies, not in land, to daughter Grace, and youngest daughter, Sarah; to sister, Margaret Cock, and her daughter, Mary, both in England; and to cousin Hannah Gardiner’s daughter, Hannah. To the Quarterly Meeting he left land on which to build a meeting-house and school. The executors were John Parsons and the testator’s wife, Hannah Day.

Although the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting on 4 mo. 30, 1699, decided “that they cannot proceed to marry among friends” (as quoted in JOURNAL, vii., 194), they nevertheless did marry, as evidenced by their wills, abstracts of which are given below. The marriage, however, was not accomplished “among friends,” and is not on the register of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, so they were probably married by a magistrate, though I have not seen any record of it.

James and Thomas Atkinson (not stated to have been brothers, but that is the inference) arrived at Blue Anchor Tavern Wharf, in Dock Creek (afterwards the site of the City of Philadelphia) on 8 mo. 23, 1681, in the ship *Antelope*, from Belfast. Although coming from Ireland, they are said to have been Scots. According to a pamphlet, *The Atkinsons of New Jersey*, published by John B. Atkinson, at Earlington, Kentucky, U.S.A., in 1890, James Atkinson married, in 1684, at her house in Newton Township, Gloucester County, Province of West New Jersey, “according to the good order of Friends,” Hannah, widow of Mark Newbie (or Newby), and here he settled. The same pamphlet continues:—

“Here” [Mark Newby’s house] “the first Friends’ meeting in Gloucester county was held.” “Also in this house Mark Newbie had his bank, probably the first institution of that character in America.” It was about two miles from the present city of Camden, New Jersey, and near the north branch of Newton Creek. Mark Newby died intestate, and letters of administration on his estate were granted to his widow, Hannah,

<sup>1</sup> See THE JOURNAL, vol. vii., p. 194.

<sup>2</sup> Philadelphia County Will Book A, page 334.

September 16th, 1684. The inventory<sup>3</sup> was attested by Hannah Newbie, widow of Mark, September 4th, 1684.

The only appearance of James Atkinson in public affairs in Gloucester County was as a member of the Grand Jury in 1686, but *The Atkinsons of New Jersey* has: "James Atkinson was an active and influential member of the Newton Meeting. He was a representative to the Salem Quarterly Meeting and attended the Yearly Meeting when held at the same place in 1689. At the Quarterly Meeting at Salem he was appointed a representative on the part of the Newton Meeting to attend the next Yearly Meeting, which was held at Philadelphia." By 1699, his wife, Hannah, widow of Mark Newby, had died, and James Atkinson had moved to the city of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania, where he attained some prominence and became a considerable landowner in Philadelphia County and vicinity. Here he married, presumably in 1699, Hannah, widow of John Day. The abstracts of their wills, which prove this marriage, explain themselves.

Will of James Atkinson, of Philadelphia,<sup>4</sup> signed 2 mo. 16, 1711, proved Sept. 6, 1711; wife Hannah executrix; wife Hannah's daughter, Sarah, wife of John Durborow; son Thomas's children (names not given); Edward Newbie, son of late wife (whose name is not given); overseers, Ralph Jackson, Randall Spikeman [Speakman] and Nicholas Waln.

Will of Hannah Atkinson,<sup>5</sup> signed Nov. 28, 1713, proved Jan. 7, 1713/14. Daughter Grace, wife of Edward Pleadwell; daughter Sarah, wife of John Durborow; Cousin Clement Plumstead, trustee for daughter Hannah; John Day, former husband of testatrix; executors: sons-in-law, Edward Pleadwell and John Durborow.

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### Editor's Notes.

The Editor apologises for the delay in the issue of the first number of this year's volume, which is in consequence of other pressing claims upon his time. Another number will follow shortly. In the next and subsequent numbers will appear further instalments of W. F. Miller's lively extracts from the Minute Book of Aberdeen Yearly Meeting; an account of George Fox's American journey, from a MS. in the Bodleian Library, with valuable notes, prepared by Dr. William I. Hull, of Swarthmore College, Pa., and others; extracts from Thurloe's *State Papers*; etc.

<sup>3</sup> Burlington Records, page 7, abstracted in New Jersey Archives, 1st Series, vol. xxiii., page 338.

<sup>4</sup> Philadelphia County Will Book C, page 286.

<sup>5</sup> Philadelphia County Will Book C, page 367.