

Thwarted Marriage Proposals.¹

As a descendant of John Day's brother, Matthew Day, a Quaker shopkeeper of Newport, near Saffron Walden, Essex, I am able to add a few particulars of the family of the missing husband, although I cannot clear up the mystery of his disappearance; it is not unlikely, however, that he may have returned to England to visit his many relatives there.

John Day was a son of John Day, a yeoman farmer of Shaftner End (as is the present orthography), in the parish of Barley, co. Hertford, on the borders of North Essex. The last-named John Day belonged to a substantial yeoman family of the name which had its residence at Reed and Barkway, co. Hertford, of which John Day, of Reed, yeoman, made his will, and was buried in 1621, his wife Ellen in 1593.

John Day, of Barley, born *circa* 1607, married at Barley church, 29th September, 1631, Grace Hawke, daughter of James and Catharine Hawke, of Barley. The Hawkes were a considerable family of yeomen, of whom Stephen Hawke was patron of the living of Reed in 1613, when he presented the celebrated Andrew Willet,² the puritan divine and author, to the rectory there, he himself being allied to Willet by a family marriage.

By Grace Hawke, John Day had a family of some four sons and four daughters, six of whose baptisms, 1632-1643, occur in the Barley registers. He himself perpetuated his name in the same records by the following doggerel:—

“ John Day is my nam[e],
and with y^{is} pin (pen) J writ this same.”

Matthew Day (1634-1701), of Barley, and later of Newport, was the eldest son apparently, and joining the Society of Friends by 1660, two years after his marriage with Grace Wright at Wenden church in 1658. He became an upright and useful member of the early Quaker Church, and is named by Besse as suffering serious distraint in goods in 1670 for attending a meeting at Wenden, and is also alluded to in a controversial pamphlet of Samuel Cater, a pioneer East Anglian Friend of Littleport, as witness to a religious dispute on Thriploe Heath, co. Cambridge, in 1676. Cater's daughter Katherine married later, in 1696, as his second wife, John Day, of Stansted Montfitchet, Essex, a son of his old friend, Matthew Day.

This John Day (1664-1741), who was a nephew of the missing husband of Hannah Day, of Philadelphia, established in or before 1687 the well-known Quaker firm at Stansted, recently converted into a company, which has remained in the family of the principal directors and shareholders for the extraordinary period of at least 224 years, or for six generations. The grandmother of the present writer was Mercy Day,

¹ THE JOURNAL, vol. vii., p. 194; vol. viii., pp. 47, 48.

² (1562-1621) *D.N.B.*, lxi.-288.

wife of Joseph Markes Green, of Saffron Walden, and the only married child of Thomas Day, of Stansted and Saffron Walden (grandson of John Day of that place aforesaid), and who himself established a considerable business at Saffron Walden, the linen-drapery department of which is still carried on by his great-grandson, Walter Robson, of that ancient borough.

Of the other children of John Day, of Barley and Wenden, Katherine, baptized 1632, married a Mr. Willcocks apparently, and had issue living in 1669. Margaret, baptized 1636, married Mr. Cocke, and she and her three children, Anne, Grace and Mary Cocke, were all living in 1669, and as we have seen, she and her youngest daughter Mary were both named in the will of John Day of Philadelphia in 1692.

James Day, the next child of John and Grace Day, and named after his grandfather Hawke, was baptized in 1638 ; he was a Friend of Wenden, and named as one of his father's executors in 1669, but was buried that year in Friends' Burial Ground, Thaxted, Essex. The remaining children were Anna or Hannah Day, baptized 1641, who married at Peel Meeting House, 1663, Thomas Matthews, of St. Sepulchre's, London, carpenter, and had issue a child, Anna Matthews, living 1669 ; Grace Day, the youngest child, was baptized in 1643.

John Day, of Wenden, father of this family, had embraced the tenets of the early Quakers by 1660, when, according to Besse, he and others were taken out of a meeting at Hadstock, carried to Saffron Walden, thence to a Justice at Dunmow, who tendered them the oath of allegiance, and for refusing to swear, they were incarcerated a considerable time in Colchester Castle.

John Day, who is named in the churchwardens' accounts (1661-1669) at Newport, Essex, (where his son Matthew was overseer of the poor, as was the latter's second wife and widow, Rebecca Day, *née* Mills), made his will at Wenden, 14th September, 1669, having for witnesses, "Anthony Penneystone and Thomas Bowman." The former witness belonged to a well-known Essex Quaker family of gentle birth, descended from "Anthony Penistone of Deane in com. Oxon Esq.." father of a son of the same name at Saffron Walden, and great-grandfather of "Sr Thomas Peniston, Baronet." Of Anthony Peniston, the Quaker, the Saffron Walden parish registers state that in September, 1669, "Anthonie Penniston, Quaker, Buried his mother like a dog in his garden."

From him descended Thomas Pennystone of Saffron Walden, whose nieces and co-heirs were Mary Pennystone Day and Pennystone Anne Day, also nieces of Thomas Day aforesaid. Thomas Pennystone was for many years the respected Quaker steward and friend of Griffin, Lord Braybrooke, of Audley End Palace : and Susanna Crafton, second wife of Thomas Day, relates in her diary, that at Thomas Pennystone's interment at Friends' Burial Ground, Saffron Walden, in 1802, amongst "a large appearance of respectable neighbours, were there among them Lord Braybrook[e] with his Children and his Chaplain."

To continue our account of John Day, however. By his will he left his freehold tenement and one acre of land at Barley to his son Matthew. To his son John Day, later of London and Philadelphia, he left £20, also

"To my son John £5 if my wife shall see fit." The will was proved in London, 4th May, 1670.

John Day, with his wife Grace, were both buried in one day at Friends' Burial Ground, Thaxted, Essex, 22nd September, 1669, their son, James Day, following them to the grave the 12th October later.

The baptism of John Day, Junior, later of Philadelphia, is missing in the Barley registers, but he was a Friend, and resident in London with his wife Hannah, when he buried a son, John Day, in Friends' Burial Ground, Saffron Walden, 19th September, 1680. Possibly the London Friends' Registers may give other particulars of himself, his marriage and family.

It may be of interest to add that the present writer possesses the original Quaker marriage certificate, on parchment, dated 17 July, 1681, of Matthew Day, Junior, of Bocking, Essex, grocer, and Martha Ramsheire of the same, formerly of Newport, spinster. This document is witnessed by, amongst others, Matthew Day, Senior, of Newport, brother to John Day, of Philadelphia, and by the latter's nephew, John Day, later of Stansted, Essex. Of the twenty-two signatories, no less than seven at least are named by Besse as suffering for their Quaker principles.

Hastings.

JOSEPH J. GREEN.

Early Meetings in Hertfordshire.¹

The severall established & setled Meetings within the County of Hertford of the People of God there.

1	Hertford	10	Sacomb
2	Ware		Bendick
	Widford	11	{ Lilley
3	{ Sabridgworth	12	Albans
	{ Hartford	13	Slepside
4	Roiston	14	{ Cheshunt
	{ Ryston Sandon		{ Broxburne
5	{ Cottered & Buñingford		{ Merketstreet
6	Ashwell	15	{ Redburne
7	Baldocke		{ Gadsden
8	Hitchin	16	{ Northchurch
	{ Shiphall & Stevenage		{ Tring
9	{ Langley Rabble heath in	17	Hoddesdon
	{ Stevenage Welling Parish		

¹ Copied from the earliest Q.M. Minute Book. Date uncertain.