

Minutes Concerning William Penn's Declaration of Intention of Marriage, and the Marriage of George Fox.

The minutes of Horsham Monthly Meeting set out on p. 32 may be supplemented by those of Bristol which deal with the same subject :—

“ 11th of 9th mo. 1695. William Penn of Worminghurst in the County of Sussex and Hannah Callowhill daughter of Thomas Callowhill of this City Linendrap proposed their Intentions of Marriage And desired to have the same accomplished in the way and manner that is practised among Friends Thomas and Anna Callowhill father and mother of the said Anna were present signifying their consent, and it is expected that William Penn shall bring in a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting in the County where he dwells of his clearnes from all others on the Answer of Marriage. Charles Harford and Richard Sneade shew themselves free to enquire touching their clearnes and to make [? reference] to the next meeting.”

“ 25th of 9th mo. 1695. William Penn and Hannah Callowhill againe appeared in pursuance of their Intention of Mariage William Penn could not now produce a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting where he dwells but it is expected that it shalbe produced before publication be consented to.

“ Richard Sneade and Charles Harford doe make return that on Inquiry made they cannot understand but that W^m Penn and Anna Callohill are Cleare from all others in refference to Mariage.”

“ 3rd of 12th mo. 1695 [*i.e.* February, 1696]. Be it remembered that the Intention of Mariage twixt William Penn and Hannah Callowhill 24th 11th month by paull Moone was publisht in o^e publique Meetinge.”

Paul Moon, above mentioned, one of the most prominent Friends in Bristol, was an ancestor of the families of Barrow, Cadbury, Gibbins and Lloyd.

In the minute of Horsham M.M. of the 8th of 11th mo., 1695, reference is made to a certificate sent to Bristol; this certificate is in existence, bound up in the book kept at Bristol which is labelled C 1842 G 10, “Certificates of Clearance for Marriage from 1682 to 1760.”

To the mens Meeting for Business
In the city of Bristoll

Deare Friends & Breatheren

The salutation of our Deare & tender Loue in the presious Truth by which wee have been made one family to God who hath called us from darkness into his marvelous Light in which the Lord preserve us Liveing and Savery to the end of our dayes Amen,

And Friends these are to Certife you that att our Last Monthly Meeting for Business, our dearly Beloved and Worthy Friend William Penn with whom we have had Long Aquantance and Sweet fellowship in the Blessed Truth, Did Declare his Intention of takeing Hannah Callowhill, a Friend of your City to Wife, Whereupon According to the Good order of truth in such cases Provided and settled in the Churches of Christ, wee the said Monthly Meeting Did order Severall of our Members to make Enquirey Concerning his clearness from all other persons on the Accounte of Marriage and to acquaint this þsent Monthly Meeting how they find it, and upon such Enquirey both in City and Countrey there being nothing found that may Impead or hinder his Intention, but to the best of our knowledge he is free and cleare from all other Persons on the Accounte of Marriage. Soe that he may proceed in Truths way to the Accomplishment of the same ; and we Leave it to the wisdome of God in you and your Christian care to see that all things be cleare on the said Hannah Callowhill and her Relations parte

Soe with love and hartly desires that the Lord's blessed Power and presence may Accompany them in that neare Relation they are entering into, and that they may continew to Honnour God and his Truth in their station & be A comfort to his people, as they have been, and one unto another & that the candle of the Lord may allways shine upon their tabernacles and the Blessings of the Everlasting Hills may Rest upon them, with all the upright in harte,

Soe wee Rest your Truely Loveing Friends and Breatheren in the Blessed Truth.

From our Monthly Meeting
held att Horsham the 8th Day
of the 11th month 1695 and
Signed by the Appoyntement of
the Same by

WILL GARTON	BENJAMIN HAYLLAR	THO. SNASHALL
THO. WRIGHT	SAMUELL TULLY	THOMAS PARSON JUN.
JOSIAH GARTON	HENRY MILLS	JOHN HUMPHREY
PETER (?) JAHAN	THO. LILLINGTON	RICHARD GATES
JOHN PRYOR	JOHN HENTON	LUKE HOWARD
JOHN SHAW	THO. HUMPHREY	ROBERT SOUTHWORTH
WM. NICHOLAS	WILL. BROWNE	RICHARD OWEN

Some of these names are autographs, others are in the same handwriting as that of the certificate ; the last three, in another handwriting, are the names of travelling Friends which the meeting desired to be inserted.

Thomas Callowhill's wife, Hannah, was a daughter of Dennis Hollister, a grocer in High Street, Bristol, who had been a lay preacher among the Baptists, whom he violently combatted after he joined himself to Friends. He had been a member of the Barebone Parliament (1653). From him was bought in 1669 for the sum of £200 the land for the Friars meeting house and graveyard (considerable parts of the present premises used by Friends have been since acquired).

Certain passages from the letters set out in *A Quaker Post-Bag* show that there was considerable disapproval on the part of Friends of this second marriage of William Penn ; see pp. 62, 127, 128.

William Penn's father, Admiral Penn, was buried in Redcliffe church, Bristol ; in the church are still hanging some shreds of the flags which he captured from the Dutch.

After his marriage William Penn lived for some little time in Bristol, and his name appears on the minutes of the Men's Meeting, e.g. 10th of Third Month, 1697—"Tho. Speed, W^m Penn Rich^d Snead & Charles Harford are desired to visit o^r Latten [Latin] Schooles and Give them Counsell & advice as they shall see meet." 21st of Fourth Month, 1697—"W^m Penn Richard Snead Charles Harford Tho. Callowhill and Ch Harford Jun. are desired to visit the Scholes of o^r friends Children to enquire in to the order & manners thereof [and] admonish against that they shall find amiss."

Near the Friars Meeting House, Bristol, are Penn, Philadelphia, Hollister, and Callowhill Streets. About 1740, Thomas Penn, a son of William Penn, sold a piece of land adjoining Penn Street, being part of the orchard called the Friars or Callowhill's orchard.

While we are on the subject of William Penn's marriage, it may be appropriate to set out the minutes relating to that of George Fox and Margaret Fell, which took place in the upper room situate in Broadmead, Bristol, used as a meeting house before the one at the Friars was built.

"18th of 8th mo. 1669. George Fox and Margaret Fell hath this day proposed to this assembly of the people of the Lord their intentions of being joynd in the honourable marriage w^{ch} in the power and presence of the Lord they have both declared to have arisen and to stand in the everlasting seed, in the covenant of life which is from everlasting to everlasting. John Rouse and Margaret his wife, Thomas Lowre [Lower] and Mary his wife, Issabell Yeamans and Rachel Fell daughters of the said Margaret Fell have all of them one by one not onely declared their free assent to s^d intended mariage butt also have for the most of them signified that they have had a sence that the thinge intended to be accomplit doth stand in the Covenant of Light and Life & therefore doe rejoice for that the accomplishm^t thereof draweth nigh."

"21st of 8th mo. 1669. Whereas G. F. and M. F. made a second proposall of their intention of mariage with w^{ch} freinds by many testimonyes manifested their Unity."

[added later]

"On the 22th day their intentions of mariage were publisht in our publick meeting by Dennis Hollister & on the 27th day of s^d mo. in the power and spirit of the Lord they were joynd together in the honourable Mariage."

Margaret Fell's daughters Mary Lower and Isabel Yeamans were at that time living in Bristol.

A. NEAVE BRAYSHAW.