

An Anecdote relating to William Harrison, of Brighton

BARBARA GOLD HARRISON relates that from her father, John Harrison, she heard the following remarkable circumstance of his grandfather, William Harrison¹:—

As he was crossing Emsworth Common, between Brighton and Portsmouth, he was overtaken by a man with a horse and pots, and after going a little way together, he requested W. H. to keep on his horse, and he would return soon. He not coming back Wm. H. looked for him in vain, but soon saw two men riding fast toward him.

They asked him how he came by that horse; he replied a man had requested him to keep it on a little way, but that he did not return. They informed him that the horse was loaded with stolen plate. He said he knew nothing of it; they replied that as he was taken with it, with it he must go. So they took him before a justice and he was committed to prison, and there remained till the assizes came on. He was tried and condemned—sentence was passed that he was “to go from whence he came and then to the place of execution, there to be hanged until he go dead.” On his return, finding himself thirsty, he desired to go into the inn; they informed him he might go upstairs; he, being heavily ironed, told them he could not go without assistance. He called for a bottle of Canary, but when it was brought before him he said that he had been thirsty, but that now he could not drink it. “I never thought I should die, but now death looked me in the face.” He then requested the men who had charge of him to help him across the room for he had a desire to look out of the window. There he saw a man filling a dungcart and he knew him to be the man from whom he took the horse. He asked the men if they did not see him, and desired them to go down and tell him there was a person wished to speak to him. They went and the man came. When he entered the room he made a bow and said, “Your servant, Sir, I am glad to see you.” W. H. told him he did not know what to say to that. The man told him he knew of his trial and condemnation, and could not keep from the place. “Had you been

¹ William Harrison—Mary
of Brighton,
b. circa 1605, d. 1685

William Harrison—Frusannah Nelson, a well-known Minister.
of Poole, b. c. 1669, d. 1739.
b. c. 1667, d. 1733

John Harrison—Mary Linthorne
of Poole, b. 1707, d. 1784.
b. 1700, d. 1773

Barbara Gold Harrison
b. 1739, d. 1824.

upon the ladder," said he, "I should have saved your life, and not have had an innocent man die in my stead." The man was, on this, taken up and carried to prison, and W. H. with him, till next assizes when the man was tried, condemned and hung, and W. H. acquitted.

This account was taken down by Susannah Kemp² from Barbara G. Harrison.

From a MS. in possession of the Editor.

John H. Dillingham at a Funeral

IN the chapter on John Dillingham the Teacher, an instance is narrated in which there was a manifest advantage to the religious service of our Friend, in being late at a funeral. Another striking instance of the kind afforded unusual confirmation of the words of a deceased Friend, and gave the people of the village where it occurred, a most impressive sense of his personal devotion to the family concerned, as well as of his willingness to discharge his religious duties at whatever cost. Having missed the only possible train available from Camden for the funeral in question, John Dillingham boarded an express train to Atlantic City, thirty miles distant by bicycle from the place of his appointment. The funeral company gathered at the house as arranged, and sat for about an hour in silence. Most of those present were not Friends, and it seemed to them slight respect was shown to one who had been known in their midst for thirty years for liberality in entertaining members of her society. The funeral had moved from the house, and as the burial ground was near, a few minutes would suffice to conclude the last sad rites for a beloved mother and sister. At this juncture John Dillingham was seen approaching upon a wheel from the direction of Atlantic City. He had ridden the thirty miles in a very short time and had reached his destination at the critical moment. Means were found of giving him some refreshment promptly, and as the company closed in about the open grave, he moved forward with a testimony that seemed to savor more of heaven than of earth. Then he knelt in prayer, and all were baptized together in a memorable manner. One of the principals in this remarkable scene had remembered, and had remarked when the train had failed to bring John Dillingham, how the deceased had said on more than one occasion, when the narrative in *Biographical Sketches* of an incident in the life of Arthur Howell had been read to her, picturing how he had driven some miles to join a surprised company about an open grave, that something like that, she felt, would happen at her funeral.

From the *Life of John H[oag] Dillingham*, written by J. Henry Bartlett, pp. 130, 131.

² Susannah Kemp, *née* Horne (1793-1882), of Brighton. Her sister, Sarah Horne, married George Penney, of Poole, who was Barbara Gold Harrison's nephew.