

Friends in Montgomeryshire

IN the *Inventory* for this county, issued by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, are the following references to Friends' Meeting Houses and Burial Grounds, all of which have been visited for the Commission by its Assistant Inspecting Officer, George Eyre Evans.

DOLGARADOG, parish of UWCH Y GARREG
(6in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mont. 33, N.W. ; lat. $52^{\circ} 34' 3''$;
long. $3^{\circ} 46' 47''$.)

The Friends' Burial Ground, known locally as "Clawdd Quakers," is situated a few yards south of the barn on Dolgaradog farm. The former fence or hedge has disappeared, but the outline of the small enclosure, 50ft. by 30ft., is plainly to be traced. No headstones are visible. A few trees flourish on the ground. The door to "ty cwrdd Quakers"—the Meeting House, leads into a small room, now used as the farm store-room.—Visited 21st April, 1910.

This house of Friends was in the Quarterly Meeting of Merionethshire, Montgomeryshire and Salop ; there are references to it in the MS. Minute Book, 1668-1752, now kept in the Friends' Meeting House at Worcester. See also a short article in *Mont. Coll.* 1891, xxv., 353."

GARTH BWLCH, QUAKERS' YARD, parish of LLANWDDYN
(6in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mont. 8, S.W. ; lat. $52^{\circ} 45' 1''$;
long. $3^{\circ} 27' 53''$.)

A Burial Ground belonging to the Society of Friends, on the farm of Bryn Cownwy, the western outskirts of Coed Garthbwlch, and one mile south of the modern village of Llanwddyn. It is not marked on the Ordnance sheet. It stands enclosed by a modern fence on the high ground close behind Bryn Cownwy, the large stone-paved kitchen of which was formerly used as the Friends' Meeting House. The inscription on an erect slate stone, recently placed in the middle of the small enclosure, is as follows :

“Site of the old Quaker Burial Ground attached to Garth Bwlch: 13 bodies are said to have been interred herein. Actual records shew that David Lloyd (died in 1685), and John Thomas Morris of Bryn Cownwy (died in or about 1751) were of the number. Erected in 1910, at the cost of 4 members of the Society of Friends.”

Visited 31st August, 1910.

QUAKERS' GARDEN, parish of LLANGURIG
(6in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mont. 47, S.E.; lat. $52^{\circ} 24' 41.5''$;
long. $3^{\circ} 33' 18''$.)

A walled Burial Ground, 30ft. by 30ft., just north of Nantgwernog farm, and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the third milestone from Llanidloes to Llangurig. The low gate faces east, on it is a cast-iron plate inscribed, “FRIENDS' BVRIAL GROVND, 1708.” A well-worn path connects it with the lane leading into the high-road. The entrance is shadowed by two aged holly trees; no memorial stones mark the graves, the forms of some of which are yet visible. This burial ground, which is excellently kept, is not shown upon the Ordnance Survey sheet. It was granted to the Friends for a term of 2,000 years on a yearly peppercorn rent, the lease being dated 25th 1st mo. [March], 1708, from which date until within living memory it was the place of interment of the once numerous Society of Friends meeting at Llanidloes.—Visited 3rd October, 1910.

QUAKERS' GARDEN, parish of TREFEGLWYS
(6in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mont. 34, S.W.; lat. $52^{\circ} 31' 8''$;
long. $3^{\circ} 38' 15''$.)

This little Burial Ground, 36 feet square, is known in the annals of the Society of Friends as that of “Esgair goch,” the name of “Staylittle” (or “Stay a little”) for the hamlet, about 400 yards to the south-west, only coming into use early in the nineteenth century. The graves are now barely discernible, but they are remembered as being arranged in three parallel rows. The rude stone wall which formerly enclosed it, having become ruinous, has recently been replaced by wire fencing. On the gate is an iron label inscribed—“FRIENDS' BVRIAL GROVND, 1711.” Adjoining the ground, and now used as an out-

house of the farm of Esgair goch, is the shell of the stone building, formerly the Meeting House, with its heavy oaken beams still supporting the roof.—Visited 28th June, 1910.

Abiah Darby's Dream¹

ABIAH DARBY retired to rest one night and dreamed that she saw a kitchen and the cook standing by the fire stirring something in a saucepan, then she saw her leave the kitchen and a man enter stealthily and approach the saucepan and drop something in; then she saw the cook return and pour the contents of the saucepan into a basin and take it up to her master, who was ill in bed—upon which she awoke.

She knew that there was at that time in Shrewsbury jail a young woman convicted of poisoning her master, and sentenced to death, and though her dream seemed strange she thought she need not trouble about it, and on falling asleep again she dreamed precisely the same thing, but without feeling she need arouse herself.

The third time she fell asleep, and for the third time the same scene appeared to pass before her.

It so impressed her that she felt she must get up at once, and she called her maid and told her to tell the coachman to put her horses into the coach, as she wished to drive to Shrewsbury at once (about fourteen miles distance). On arriving there, she enquired for the Judge, but found the Assize there was over, and the Judge had gone to the Assize at Hereford, so she ordered fresh horses to be put into the coach and drove immediately to Hereford, where arriving, she found that the Judge was at lunch. She waited till he had done, was admitted to see him and told him her story, which had such effect upon him, that he asked, if he could procure a reprieve and pardon for the accused, whether she would be willing to receive the prisoner into her service as cook. She replied she would most gladly do so. He told her that she would have to wait until the entire Circuit was finished, when the Judges would meet in London, and it would be brought before the Home Secretary.

The woman was reprieved through the influence of the Judge, and Abiah Darby took her into her service as cook, but the troubles she had experienced had affected her health and brought on consumption.

About twelve months afterwards the nephew of her deceased master, who had come into his property, being on his death-bed, sent for her, and confessed to her that he had himself put poison in the saucepan while she was absent from the kitchen. He felt afraid that his uncle would hear of his gambling habits and would cut him off from inheriting his estate.

¹ For Abiah Darby (1716-1794) see *THE JOURNAL*, x.