

## The Barnes Family of Cumberland

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**J**N the issue of *The Friend* for the 27th July, 1900, there appeared an article from the present writer's pen, entitled "Hannah Barnes and the Duke of Cumberland," in which it is stated that "Thomas Keith Barnes, sometime Editor and co-proprietor of *The Times* newspaper, was the son of John Barnes," of Burgh-by-Sands. In the interest of truth and as a warning not to base family history on tradition unconfirmed by investigation, the following correction is made.

For some eighty years there has been a family tradition that Barnes, the editor of *The Times*, was the son of John Barnes of Burgh-by-Sands. A search in Monthly Meeting books at Devonshire House disclosed a discrepancy between the dates of certain entries respecting John Barnes and known facts respecting the editor. An enquiry at Printing House Square did not clear the matter up, but information was obtained from the Clerk of Christ's Hospital (the Blue Coat School) to the effect that Thomas Barnes, the editor, born 10 ix. 1785, was the son of *John* Barnes, Attorney, Citizen and Clothworker, who married Mary Anderson at the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, 4 viii. 1784. From the Clothworkers' Company information was received that a John Barnes was admitted to the Freedom of the Company by Patrimony on 8 xi. 1775, being described as an Attorney of Tooley Street, son of Henry, who, thirty-nine years before, had been admitted to the Freedom after serving an apprenticeship of seven years. Henry was son of John, a weaver, and was apprenticed in 1728 to John Andrews, a Calender.

The editor of *The Times* being satisfactorily disposed of, enquiry elsewhere elicited the following. John Barnes of Burgh, who left Friends after coming to London, married Janet Jopp. He was reticent about his early life and only once revisited his Cumberland home. He appears to have become a financier, and, in recognition of a loan raised by him in "hard times," was presented

by some of his friends with a silver vase. He retired to Christchurch, Hants, died in 1815, and a monument by Chantrey was erected to his memory in the Priory Church.

His eldest son, John, followed the father on the Stock Exchange; another son, Keith, who with his brothers was educated at the Charter House School, became a solicitor. A son of Keith Barnes, also named Keith, became a clergyman and was rector of the beautiful parish church of Cattistock in Dorsetshire from 1863 to 1875. The main building of the church had been restored by his predecessor, and he continued the work by rebuilding the tower with Sir Gilbert Scott as his architect, and determined to place in it a Belgian carillon. The first bells cast by Severin van Aerschodt of Louvain, thirty-three in number, after examination by and approval of Rev. H. R. Haweis, author of *Music and Morals*, were brought to England in 1882. Two more, cast by Felix van Aerschodt, son of Severin, were added in 1899, when there was a dedication of the carillon by Bishop Wordsworth,<sup>1</sup> Lord Bishop of the Diocese. Rev. Keith Barnes kept in touch with some of his Quaker connections throughout his life, by correspondence at least. It is curious that his correspondents, never doubting that he was the son of *The Times* editor, cannot have raised the question which he could have settled in a moment, and so the legend continued until blown to pieces by the writer's enquiries. The not improbable suggestion has been made as to its origin, that at the time Thomas Barnes was exciting public interest as editor of *The Times*, Keith Barnes the elder sent occasional copies of *The Times* to his Cumberland relatives, and in this way innocently gave rise to it. After the decease of William Rickerby of Burgh, the cottage built by William and Mary Barnes in 1717, with adjacent land, so long in the occupation of Friends, passed to the Barnes family again, though the cottage was still occupied by a Quaker relative until the beginning of the twentieth century.

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<sup>1</sup> Connected through his grandmother, Priscilla Wordsworth, *née* Lloyd, with Lloyds, Braithwaites and other Quaker families.