

Jacob Lindley, of Pennsylvania, 1744-1814

THE following is extracted from an address by Truman Cooper, of Avondale, Pa., at the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Establishment of New Garden Meeting, Pa.:

It is recorded that Jacob Lindley was one day riding on horseback near this place [New Garden, Pa.] when he was overtaken by a rain storm; he sought shelter under the sheds a few yards to the rear of us; as can be observed they are contiguous to the grave-yard. His mind was filled with recollections of the many worthy ministers of the Gospel and other valued Friends whose bodies had been laid at rest almost at his feet. His feelings gave way, and his powerful voice broke the silence with the words of Addison:

How are Thy servants blessed, O Lord,
How sure is their defence,
Eternal wisdom is their Guide,
Their help Omnipotence.

It so happened just then that a countryman was hurrying down the road we see before us. He heard with consternation those words. He believed a spirit of the departed had awakened, and with spurs to his horse dashed madly from the spot. Jacob observed the actions of the passer-by, and comprehending the cause, called after him in that same earnest tone. This only intensified the fears of the fleeing man; tradition says, at three miles away neither the speed of the horse nor the terror of the rider had abated.

Some time after the Revolutionary War, the government was considering the advisability of appropriating the Tunesassa Indian Reservation of New York and compelling the natives to go elsewhere. The Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting desired to prevent this. Joshua Sharpless (great grandfather of Joshua and John Sharpless of this neighborhood) and Jacob Lindley had the matter to look after. They had gone on the long journey to central New York by horseback: on their way they came to a stream of water that was dangerously deep. Joshua was endeavoring persistently to ford the swollen stream while Jacob looked on. Finally Jacob Lindley shouted to his companion in stentorian tones, "Joshua, if thee goes and is drowned, I shall preach thy funeral sermon, and I shall say, 'As a fool died, so died Joshua.'"

On First-day morning, Sixth Month 12, 1814, Jacob Lindley was engaged in the deliverance at this house of a most impressive testimony. Near its close he intimated his impression that one person within his hearing "would never see the light of another day; perhaps," he added, "it may be myself." During the afternoon of the same day, in company with his daughter, the vehicle in which they rode came in contact with the fence by the side of the road, near Kennett Square, and the subject of this sketch fell to the ground and expired almost instantly, and thus ended the mortal life of a most notable minister and self-sacrificing Christian.

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A very remarkable coincidence is that on the afternoon of the 12th of 6 mo., 1814 (the day upon which Jacob Lindley passed away), while at home in Burlington, N. J., Sarah Dillwyn observed her husband, George Dillwyn, sitting with an agonised expression of countenance so as to create in her alarm. In answer to her question as to the cause he said : “ Jacob Lindley is deceased, and my spirit has accompanied his spirit to the gate of the Kingdom.” Burlington is more than fifty miles distant from either New Garden or the place where Jacob Lindley died.

The Cambridge “Journal of George Fox”

Continued from vol. xii., p. 34

47.—Vol. II., p. 376.—In a letter from Henry Savile to Viscount Halifax, from Paris, Sept. 4 [16]69 N.S., we read :

“ The chief subject of this letter is to acquaint you with the death of my Lady Lexington. . . . My lady has made some kind of will here, by which she has left the care of her children to Sir Anthony Sellenger as I am told ; here is at present nobody with them but an old quaker with a long beard, one Bayly, who I think was prisoner in the Tower when I was”¹

It is probable that the old Quaker was Charles Bayly.

¹ WILLIAM DURRANT COOPER, *Savile Correspondence*, Camden Society, vol. lxxi. 1858. Henry Savile (1642-1687) was discharged from the Tower, March 21, 1668-9 (*ibid.*) For Savile. see Webb's *Fells*, p. 287, compared with THE JOURNAL, xi. 156.

“The First Publishers of Truth”

In the volume with this title, published in 1907, the Editor states, “ I do not at present know of any records of ‘ First Publishers ’ relating to this district [Middlesex Quarterly Meeting].”

The following has been copied from the minutes of Longford Monthly Meeting, vol. ii. (1703-1748), in D. :

Uxbridge moth meeting

1705, 10 Mo. 17.

The ffriends y^t was to Consider of morning meetting papers Reports as ffolloweth.

Our dear ffriend Edward Bourrough was y^e first as wee cann hereof y^t had a meeting in this parts & y^t was at Uxbridge at one W^m Winches.

Thomas Gillpinn & W^m Simson declared the Truth in Uxbridge Streets about the time Edward Bourrough comeing into this parts.¹

¹ There is a confirmatory reference to this in the Account from Warborough in *F.P.T.* (p. 215).