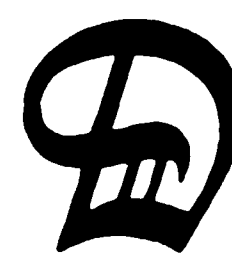


Note on Some Early Records of Quakers near Harrogate

URING the transcription of some local records the occurrence of a few references to the early Friends then resident, evidently in considerable numbers, near Harrogate, appeared to me to be of sufficient interest to warrant their publication. Although the names are herein lacking, a few may be found in the contemporary *Diaries of Oliver Heywood*¹ (1630-1702), and others are printed in the *Nonconformist Register*² (1644-1752), which contains lists of Papist Recusants and Quakers. Under the Toleration Act, on 8 October, 1689, the houses of the following persons were registered as meeting-houses: "Matthew Hogg, at Harrogate; William Dickinson of Bilton cum Harragate; William Reedshaw at Beckwithshaw in Panhall³; at Knarsborough at Mary Middleton house."⁴ In April 1697 the "Barne of Mr. Wright in Winser Lane, Knarsbrough," is similarly licensed, and is certified by James Talor, Minnister, John Wright, William Thompson, George Cass, Wm. Benson and others.⁵

Under the terms of the Conventicle Act, on Thursday 29 November, 1683, Samuel Thornton of Beckwithshaw, labourer, with seven others, was committed to gaol, but appears to have been soon afterwards discharged, for unlawful assembly at the house of Henry Thompson of Askwith. On December 6th following, an entry is made that on the previous Sunday morning, at 11, the Churchwardens of Weston, being informed of a conventicle in a house belonging to the above Henry Thompson, entered and found a large gathering including Walter ffawcett, of Haveray Park (Harrogate), labourer.⁶

¹ Edited by J. Horsfall Turner in 4 vols.

² Edited by J. Horsfall Turner, 8vo. Brighouse, 1881.

³ Pannal.

⁴ *Nonconformist Register*, pp. 145, 146.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 155.

⁶ *Ibid*, pp. 135, 136.

Oliver Heywood, who visited Harrogate more than once, speaks in 1668 of "Widdow Hog"—possibly the mother of the Matthew Hogg, whose house was registered as a Friends' Meeting-house. The diarist writes :

. . . And so passed on to Knaresborow Spaw⁷ where I met with many good friends of Leeds and others, and found comfortable employment, on Saturday in the afternoone I preacht at Widdow Hogs, on lords day at my own quarters, and George Wades, at his request and had a considerable number. on munday a considerable number kept a private fast at one francis Ingles near the wels where the Lord helped me wonderfully in preaching and praying.⁸

Possibly the foregoing extracts may serve to colour the picture presented in the matter which follows, and which now appears in print for the first time.

Pembroke, Harrogate WALTER J. KAYE, JR.

For permission to transcribe various documents my thanks are due to the Vicars of Pannal (Rev. M. Rowntree) and Christ Church, Harrogate (Rev. D. S. Guy), respectively.

[From the Pannal Parish Constable's Accounts]

1662.	ffor charges in carrieing 28 quakers before Sr will ^m Ingleby : ⁹ ffor souldiers charges that carried them	0	2	6
	ffor my charges in going to Ripley the next day after to get the said quakers Examined	0	0	8
	ffor my charges in carrieing Sixe quakers to yorke Castle the 21th of September two daies travell	0	3	0
1665	Paid ffor writeing a bill of 14 articles the second time concerning Recusants and quakers and others then in question to deliver in to the cheife Constable the ffourth of June	0	0	6
	paid to the cheife Constable when the said articles was delivered in the same time	0	0	6
	ffor my charges the same day	0	0	8
	ffor my charges in going before the Justices with the quakers	0	0	8

⁷ *i.e.*, High Harrogate, until 1749 in the parish of Knaresborough, —Low Harrogate, then often known as "Sulfer Well," being until 1825 in the parish of Pannal.

⁸ *Diaries of Oliver Heywood*, vol. i., p. 229.

⁹ Sir William Ingilby, Bart., of Ripley Castle.

1684	for a privat search for Conventickles	00 01 00
	ffor making a privat search every Quarter Sessions for all Absenters and Conventickles	00 04 00
1685	one search ffor Conventickles	0 1 0
	. . . and search for Nonconformists	0 1 0

[From the Pannal Parish Register]

1700 James Bentlay quaker [buried] August 29.

[From the Parish Register of Christ Church, Harrogate]

1785	Jan. : 1 :	Quakers: { Mary Johnson, born June 26th, 1778 Joseph Johnson, born June 30th, 1781 Ann Johnson, born Dec. 18th, 1782 Jane Johnson, born Apr. 3rd, 1784 }	Children of Thomas and Eliz : Johnson.	
	[baptized]			
1786	Feb. 17th			David, son of Thos. and Eliz. Johnson.
1788	Aug. 3rd.			Maria dau ^r of Tho ^s and Eliz. Johnson.
1790	July 4th	John, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Johnson.		
1792	Jan. 31st	Ellen, daugh ^r of Thomas and Eliza : Johnson.		

A Quaker Idyll, 1693

SAMUEL COLE emigrated to New Jersey and settled on a large landed estate bounded by the Delaware River and Pennshauken Creek. Having been summoned to his former home in England to arrange some unsettled business, he sailed thither, and returning home by way of Barbados, he was taken ill and died there. Says Clement, "The extended distance of the voyage, and consequent delay therefrom not being known to the wife, she made frequent visits to Philadelphia to meet her husband and welcome him to his family again. Tradition says that she would stand for hours by the water's edge, looking anxiously down the river for the sail that would bring the father of her children. These visits and watchings at last attracted the attention of a young mariner who frequented the port, and who was not long in discovering the cause of her anxiety. Sympathizing with her, he extended his enquiries in her behalf, and at last discovered that her husband had died on his return as before-named. Her grief for this sad bereavement interested his feelings, and, finding that she was about returning home alone in her boat, he offered to accompany her and manage the same. This offer she accepted, and he sailed up the river to Pennshauken Creek, and thence nearly to her residence, thus bearing the sad news to her children and neighbors. This man was Griffith Morgan, who, after a proper interval of time, sailed his own skiff to the creek aforesaid, to offer his consolations to the widow, and to interest himself about her children and estate. This solicitude soon assumed another shape, and culminated in the marriage of Griffith Morgan and Elizabeth Cole."

(CLEMENT, *First Settlers in Newton Township, New Jersey*, 1877, p. 307, quoted in *My Ancestors*, by William Hopkins Nicholson, 1897.)