

Joseph and Huldah Hoag and their Family

BY the kindness of Francis Corder Clayton, of Birmingham, we have been permitted to copy an account of the Hoag family, in the possession of Sara W. Sturge, of Birmingham.

This account, which is in the handwriting of Samuel Lloyd, of Wednesbury (1795-1892), is similar to that in the MS. Memoir of Elizabeth Robson (1771-1843), now in **D.**, but it does not agree with it in various particulars. We have inserted within brackets some of the principal variations to be found in the Memoir.

Joseph Hoag (1762-1846) was the son of Elijah and Phœbe Hoag, and was born in Dutchess County, New York. In 1782 he married Huldah Case (1762-1850), daughter of Nathan and Elizabeth Case, of the same County. His *Journal* was published in 1861. The vision which he saw in 1803 was printed in the *Friends' Intelligencer* in 1854, and has appeared since under various forms, the latest being learnedly edited by Albert J. Edmunds, Philadelphia, 1915.

Lindley Murray Hoag (-) was the youngest and best known of this remarkable family. In 1831 he married Huldah B. Varney (1801-1843), widow of Jonas M. Varney, and daughter of Joseph and Hannah Varney, of Wolfborough, N.H. (*Memoir*, 1845). He visited the British Isles in 1845 and 1853, and he was in Norway also in the latter year (Jones, *The Quakers of Iowa*, 1914; *American Friend*, 1907, 246). In 1858 Robert and Sarah Lindsey met him and "his lovely young wife." S. L. writes: "The former is looking well, but thinner than when I saw him last in England" (*Iowa Journal*, xii. (1914), 420). See **THE JOURNAL**, vols. iv., x., xi.

Hannah Hoag became the wife of Ezra Batty.

"Joseph D. Hoag of Salem was to be found in 1844 preaching the Quaker message from the rough-hewn

doorstep of Thomas Stafford's log-cabin, by ' the light of a pile of burning logs . . . the house being filled with women, and the yard with men and boys.' " (Jones, *The Quakers of Iowa*, 1914, p. 53.)

A memorandum in the Robson Memoir reads: " Joseph D. Hoag and his wife Dorcas live with them [J. and H. H.], as well as Lindley Murray Hoag." •

Extract of a Letter from the late Elizabeth Robson, dated Charlotte, Chilterden County, Vermont, [25th of Ninth Month,] 1826 :

Joseph Hoag's wife Huldah gave me the following particulars of her family. She and her husband were married in 1782, being each about 22 years of age—both spoke in the Ministry and were afterwards acknowledged by their Monthly Meeting. They were in low circumstances—but industrious. After they had two children their house at Nine Partners was burnt down, and as they had two small children [after which they had two more children], they concluded to remove to this place, an uncleared land, not having one tree cut down. They had only about 70 dollars worth of cattle, but her Father dying soon after left them a little property ; with this they had to hew [? hire] the clearings and pay the purchase money as they could spare it.

Her husband had poor health for some time, and Huldah [she was a comber and] combed wool in addition to taking care of her family, by which she obtained a little money to buy bread with when her Husband was too unwell to cultivate the Land. During this time J. & H. Hoag occasionally travelled in the Ministry and attended some Monthly Meetings. She carried her daughter Eliz : on horseback [and by water] 360 miles, before she was 4 months old—H. Hoag was the first friend who held a Meeting at Peru, having with her her daughter Hannah, little more than a year old. She had to cross Lake Champlain, with two young Friends without a man, and had to lie all night on an Island of the lake in the latter part of the Year.

As their children grew up they evinced much seriousness. Their eldest daughter Phoebe began to appear in the Ministry when about 12 years of age, at the same

Meeting their son Nathan appeared about two months afterwards being 10 years old. Martha appeared in the same line when 11 years old, and Hannah at 9 years old. Elizth appeared next, being 20, then Jemima at 19—next Joshua [Joseph] D. when in his 17th [fifteenth] year and Lindley Murray (their Youngest) in his 16th year, the last three are not as yet recommended, the first 5 are acknowledged Ministers.

Their Daughter Phoebe is deceased, she had 7 children and left 5. Her surviving Husband is an acknowledged Minister. Of J. & H. Hoag's children, 6 are now living who, with two of their partners, are acknowledged Ministers [other two appear as such but are not as yet acknowledged].

J. & H. Hoag have travelled much in the Ministry. J. H. has been as long as 10, 12, and 16 months [as many as nine, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-one months] from home at a time. His wife's journeys have not been so long, she not having been more than 9 or 10 months from home at one time. A Friend who had travelled with J. H. told me, that he had been acquainted with him 20 years, and he thought he had been absent from home for more than half of that time.

For some time after coming to Charlotte they had no Meeting, but sat in their family, some of their neighbours attending, several of whom joined them by conviction, and others removed to the settlement, so that now there are two Meetings settled there, the first was at Ferisburgh and they had to walk 3 miles to it [walk there awhile] sometimes without shoes to put on. Once when Huldah was appointed representative to their Monthly Meeting, at the distance of 75 miles from home, she had no shoes to wear, and a friend lent her some to go in.

They are now in a small clear farm and live comfortably. The situation is beautiful and they have been blessed every way and are a blessing to all around them.

Amy Hoag, a Daughter of Nathan and A[bigail] Hoag of Charlotte [and grand-daughter to Joseph and Huldah], began to appear in the Ministry when about 11 years old—in the beginning her voice was inaudible but it began gradually to get clear and distinct and her

Matter connected. Her Grandmother repeated to me one of her exhortations in these words (nearly if not quite), " My Mind has been deeply impressed with these words—If ye will open your hearts, I will come in, and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God." She was naturally of a [very] lively disposition, but became solid and serious in her behaviour previously to her appearance in the Ministry.

All J. & H. Hoag's children with their Partners are Ministers—or Members of the Select Meeting.

The following is added in the Lloyd manuscript :

1844. Lindley Murray Hoag, now on a religious visit in England, is a Widower with 4 children. He is a very eloquent preacher. Of this truly patriarchal couple (Joseph and Huldah Hoag) Dougan Clark, when in Ireland, 1844, related to John Abell the following particulars, That each now in their 85th year had last season been out on extensive religious service.

Joseph in paying a visit to Friends in Canada about a thousand miles from home, whilst his wife was a great distance away in another direction, he wrote to her that he hoped they might meet at the " Fall " and spend the winter together. After feeling released, he was about to return, but just as he was going on board the Steam Boat, he fell on the Quay and broke either his leg or thigh, which detained him a long time, and when able to travel again, he found his mind engaged to pay a visit in another distant Quarter and consequently their anticipated meeting had to be deferred.

Elizabeth Robson

ELIZABETH ROBSON (1771-1843) was the youngest daughter of a Quaker master mariner, viz., Isaac Stephenson (1694-1783), of Bridlington Quay, Yorkshire, by his third wife, Elizabeth Maire (1741-1795), of Beeford in Holderness.

Elizabeth Stephenson, later Robson, was descended from East Riding yeoman stock in several lines of ancestry,