

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

Friends Historical Society has recently lost two of its Presidents.

Hope Hay Hewison had a gracious, loving and courageous spirit. Her fine study *Hedge of Wild Almonds: South Africa, the 'Pro Boers' and the Quaker Conscience* (1989) reflected a long, deep and active interest in Africa to which she brought here a Quaker historical perspective. Her patient research into the years 1890-1910 also inspired her Presidential Address of 10 November 1990 – "Human Progress and the Inward Light"; The position of Thomas Hodgkin (1831-1913) in relation to his contemporaries, *JFHS*, 56, no. 2 (1991) and an essay with the arresting title 'God at London Yearly Meeting 1900' in *A Quaker Miscellany for Edward H. Milligan* (1985).

Maurice J. Wigham had a long and distinguished record of service for Irish Friends. I recall a presence of quiet, gentle authority and a seriousness tinged with humour. His Presidential Address of 28 September 1996 – 'Some Irish Quaker Naturalists', *JFHS*, 58, no. 1 (1997) opened a new perspective on Irish Quaker history whilst his book *The Irish Quakers* (1992) should remain the standard introduction for some time to come. His *Newtown School, Waterford: A History 1798-1998*, reflecting nearly a life-time's association with the School, was published after his death. Altering only one word of a Friend's tribute to Maurice at the meeting for burial, the Society could also say: "with love and gratitude, we gather them now into our history".

This issue contains articles on the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. J. William Frost's stimulating Presidential Address is the prelude to perhaps a decade's work on a new biography of William Penn.

Part of a new book on early Seekers and Quakers, Douglas Gwyn's article on Joseph Salmon is a fascinating reminder of the exciting period of spiritual turmoil and exploration in which Quakerism emerged.

David J. Hall presents a careful bibliographic survey of eighteenth century editions of a key Quaker work.

Through one Friend's spiritual journey Richard Allen introduces us to the growth of Quakerism in Wales.

1798 is a landmark date in modern Anglo-Irish history. Glynn Douglas succinctly surveys the Quaker involvement in the disturbing events which shook Ireland and led to the Act of Union of 1800.

The Editor welcomes articles and short items for consideration for inclusion in the *Journal* but his decision is final as regards publication or revision.

Howard F. Gregg