

## Bracy Clark, F.R.S., 1771-1860

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**A**MONG "Pioneers in Veterinary Medicine," articles, written by E. Wallis Hoare, F.R.C.V.S., which are appearing in *The Veterinary News*, is a valuable record of the life of this good Quaker, "who played an important part in raising the profession from a position of comparative obscurity to one of respect and honour."

He was born at Chipping Norton; his father was engaged in the leather trade and was a Friend; he died before Bracy was two years old. The son was educated at Thomas Huntley's school at Burford and was apprenticed to John<sup>1</sup> Thresher, surgeon, of Worcester, during which time of apprenticeship he busily studied Greek, the Greek Testament being the text-book, and he also gave attention to chemistry and natural history. Cricket also attracted him and he established the first cricket-club in Worcester.

Hearing at the close of his apprenticeship that a veterinary school was about to be established in London, he went up and "entered as a pupil to John Hunter at a time when this illustrious genius had just ceased to lecture."

Bracy's brother, Henry, first turned his attention to the veterinary profession and started him on his career. After two years, Bracy left the college and took a long tour on the Continent and then commenced business in Giltspur Street, London.

In 1794, he received the Certificate of the Veterinary College, and "devoted an enormous amount of time and labour to the subject of the horse's foot and to horse-shoeing." He was "a voluminous and accomplished writer." Joseph Smith's *Catalogue of Friends' Books* gives a list of his books, mostly printed in 4to. dated from 1807 to 1844. The author presented copies of most of his works to the Friends' Institute at Devonshire House. He was joint editor of the short-lived *Farrier and Naturalist*.

<sup>1</sup> *The Veterinary News* gives John we think in error. Joseph Thresher (c. 1750-1786) was a Quaker surgeon in Worcester at the time in partnership with his brother, Ralph Thresher (c. 1754-1789). See "Jenny Harry, later Thresher," by J. J. Green, in *F.Q.E.* vols. 47 and 48.

He possessed much of the Quaker aloofness and took little care to reply to his numerous critics. He made a large fortune, which he subsequently almost exhausted by experimenting on shoeing, and in printing and publishing his various works, though we read at the foot of a list thereof, that they "are as cheap or cheaper than the flash duodecimos got up for sale by the trade."

Our Friend's honours included membership of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, the Royal Institute and the Ecole de Médecine of France and Natural History Society of Berlin, Frankfort and Copenhagen; hon. membership of the New York Lyceum of Natural History and the Stuttgart Royal Agricultural Society. He was a vice-president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and a Fellow of the Linnean Society. But for all this he does not appear in *D.N.B.*

The photograph of Bracy Clark, attached to the two volumes of his works in the Institute, represents a Friend in orthodox garb (as *e.g.*, like Peter Bedford), and his name appears in Meeting records—his M.M. was Westminster. There is in **D.** a letter from him to William Phillips, dated February 22, 1813, and there are references to the family in the *Memoirs of James Hurnard* (1808-1881), 1883.

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## Adin Ballou, 1803:1890

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**A**DIN BALLOU was son of Ariel and Edilda (Tower) Ballou and was born at Cumberland, R.I. The source-book for data respecting him is his *Autobiography*<sup>1</sup>, but he appears here and there in literature to be found in **D.** He is described in *The Religious History of New England*, 1917, p. 314, as "restorationist, abolitionist, prohibitionist, communist, spiritualist, pacifist — one of the most remarkable souls that New England has produced." Mrs. Chace (1806-1899) calls him "the inspiring genius of the

<sup>1</sup> Lowell, Mass; Vox Populi Press, Thomson & Hill, 1896. In the *Autobiography* there are, at least, 150 peculiar and strange names of members of this family.