

THE JOURNAL

OF THE

FRIENDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Our Quotation—1¹

“To the plastic communities of Seekers, George Fox was sent in the first divine fury of his prophetic mission. His strong soul acted as a signet to their gentle wax and stamped them with the indelible impression of Quakerism.”

L. VIOLET HODGKIN,

Silent Worship the Way of Wonder, Swarthmore Lecture, 1919.

Wedding Dresses in 1765

SOME years prior to his death in 1916, Joseph Marshall Sturge presented to **D** a typed copy of a letter describing the dresses worn at a wedding in 1765. The following is a copy of this type-script :

¹ Readers are invited to send to the editor quotations from the whole range of Quaker literature which they consider specially note-worthy in both inward meaning and outward form.

STURGE LETTER

The dresses of a wedding party in the last century described in a letter from the bridegroom's sister. The couple—by name Goad and Wakefield—were married at Friends' Meeting House, Devonshire House, 6th month 7th, 1765.

Honored Father :—

In answer to thy request will endeavour to satisfy thy curiosity respecting the wedding dresses.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1st Couple :
Ed. Wakefield
and Wife | Light colored cloth clothes.
Wife in purple silk with flowers
of all colours ; white petticoat,
flowered gauze linen ; white hat and
cloak. |
| 2nd Couple :
Bride and
Bridegroom | White cloth clothes ; coat, waist-
coat and breeches all alike.
Bride in white flowered satin,
white petticoat sleeves ; hat and
cloak ; gauze linen. |
| 3rd
Jas. Goad
and Wife | In full brown cloth clothes.
Wife Spanish snuff-colored silk
gown ; pearl colored petticoat ;
blossom hat lined with white ;
salmon colored shoes ; book muslin
linen. |
| 4th
Jacky Wake-
field aged 6
Nancy Goad
aged 3½ | In brown cloth clothes.
In a white frock, silk skirt, new
Morocco shoes, quilted cap, no
riband. |
| 5th
Jas. Wakefield
and Nancy
Robinson | Pearl-colored cloth clothes.
Nancy blossom silk with white
sprigs ; white silk petticoat ; salmon
shoes ; white hat ; book muslin
linen. |
| 6th
Tommy Wakefield
Isabella Wake-
field | In full brown cloth clothes.
In striped silk—green, purple and
white ; blue petticoat and shoes ;
white hat ; flowered gauze linen. . |

- 7th
Jabez Willet
and Wife
In chocolate colored cloth clothes.
Wife in purplish colored silk with white flowers shaded with dark purple; white bonnet and shoes; flowered gauze linen.
- 8th
T. Browning
and Wife
In olive-colored cloth clothes with gold buttons and holes; scarlet cloak.
Wife in green damask; pink petticoat; brocade shoes, and flowered gauze linen.
- 9th
Wm. Willet
& Browning's
Daughter
In light cloth clothes; waistcoat laid gold, breeches and garters.
She in straw-colored silk sack, flowered and striped with several colours; white shoes; a fly drest cap; no hat; gauze linen.
- 10th
John Barclay
and Wife
Light-coloured cloth clothes.
Wife in striped silk, green and white, with small purple flowers; white shoes; blue petticoat; white hat, and book muslin linen.
- 11th
John Wilson
and Wife
In light Spanish snuff-colored cloth clothes, laced waistcoat and Dresden ruffles.
Wife in blue silk flowered with white; white petticoat; embroidered shoes; flowered gauze linen.
- 12th
Robt. Harris
& Daughter
In full brown cloth clothes.
She in white flowered satin sack; white petticoat and shoes; flowered gauze linen.
- 13th
Mr. Miers
& Daughter
In drab-colored cloth clothes.
She in blossom colored silk flowered with white; pale blue petticoat and shoes; white hat; book muslin linen.
- 14th
John Miers
jun. &
Sister Archer
In brown cloth clothes.
She in blue silk flowered with white; white shoes and hat.

- 15th
John Bland
& A. Whitaker
In light purple cloth clothes ;
white silk stockings as had all the
gentlemen.
She in straw-colored silk flowered
with white ; blue satin petticoat ;
pink satin shoes ; white hat ; worked
muslin linen.
- 16th
Samuel West
and Wife
In light colored cloth clothes.
Wife in blossomed silk, flowered
with white ; pale blue petticoat ;
flowered shoes ; white hat and cloak.
- 17th
Thos. Pratt
& Wife
In snuff colored cloth clothes.
She in ruby-colored silk ; straw-
colored petticoat ; flowered shoes ;
spotted black cloak ; white hat ;
book muslin linen.
- 18th
Wm. Greenwood
& Wife
In pompadour cloth clothes ;
white satin waistcoat.
She in blue silk sack ; drest fly
cap, with garnet egret ; garnet
necklace and ear-rings ; silver
stomacher ; stone shoe-buckler ;
pink petticoat ; brocade shoes.
- 19th
James Cross
Stuton Brown
Dark brown cloth clothes
Drab-colored cloth clothes.

NOTE

The foregoing is a copy of a letter which was in the possession of a late Birmingham Friend, Mrs. George Goodrick, of George Road, Edgbaston.

J. MARSHALL STURGE,
Spelsbury Road,
Charlbury, Oxon.

According to *The Annual Monitor* Ann Mary Goodrick, wife of George Goodrick, of Edgbaston, died in 1887, aged eighty-one, but nothing was known of her connection with the above-mentioned wedding party.

This letter has been examined at various times by Joseph J. Green (to whom a copy was sent by J. M. Sturge),

by Isaac Sharp several times and by the present custodians of records. But the attempt to find official confirmation of the wedding and further information regarding the principal persons mentioned, has always failed. There is no record of a marriage at the date and place given—6 mo. 7, 1765—in the Friends' Registers, nor in the minutes of the Two Weeks Meeting, through which all metropolitan marriages had to pass, nor in the minutes of the Monthly Meetings of Devonshire House, Peel, or Enfield, nor in *The Gentleman's Magazine*. Nor again was there found any person of the name Goad or Wakefield, of either sex, suitable to marry! Edward Wakefield had, at the time, no marriable son or daughter, and no James Goad was found who could be father of either bride or bridegroom. There was no certainty as to which was bride and which was groom!

By aid of the Registers some of the couples were identified and it was suggested that the *Jas.* Goad of the third couple might be a misreading of *Jos.* for *Joseph*, there being a *Joseph* Goad living at the time, though he was too young to be the father of either bride or groom.

A further difficulty arose from the absence of signature to the letter, and no clue as to the person addressed as "Honoured Father." No further information being found at Devonshire House, it was decided to work on the only clue—the ownership of the (? original) letter, and the good offices of Francis C. Clayton, of Birmingham, were invited. These were willingly taken up and inquiries instituted. In January, F. C. Clayton wrote:

George Goodrick died in 1894 and A. M. Goodrick in 1887. The wife was a friend, but not the husband. They celebrated their diamond wedding in 1885. G. G. was an alderman and J.P. for many years, retiring from the Council in 1883. His wife was a well-known and benevolent lady; her maiden name was Pritchard.

In 1870 I was at Ulverston and called on a lady of the name of Hannah Goad on an introduction from her cousin, the late George Smithson, of Birmingham. His daughter, now Mrs. Walter Barrow, knows of the paper.

I now enclose a copy of Mrs. Barrow's copy of the letter; and she sends extracts from a second letter. You will see that it gives a *different date for the wedding* from your copy.

The first Barrow letter, here printed, is another copy of the letter from which the Sturge Letter was taken with variations.

FIRST BARROW LETTER

6th mo. 17, 1765

Honoured Father,

In answer to thy last I will endeavour to satisfy thy curiosity respecting the wedding dresses.

Edward
Wakefield &
wife.

He in light cloth coat, waistcoat,
breeches & white silk stockings.

She in dark coloured silk gown,
pearl coloured petticoat, blossomed
hat lined with white, salmon
coloured shoes; book muslin linen.

Bridegroom
& Bride

He in white cloth clothes.

She in white flowered satin,
white petticoat sleeves, hat &
cloak; gauze linen.

Joseph Goad
& wife

He in brown cloth clothes.

She in snuff coloured silk gown,
pearl coloured petticoat, blossomed
hat lined with white, salmon - col-
oured shoes & book muslin linen.

Jacky Wakefield
aged 6 years
& my Nancy
aged 3½ years

He in brown clothes.

She in white frock, silk skirt,
morocco shoes, quilted cap—no
ribbon.

Joseph Wakefield
& Nancy
Robinson

He in pearl coloured cloth clothes.

She in blossom silk vest with white
sprigs, white silk petticoat, salmon
shoes, white hat, book muslin linen.

Tommy &
Isabella Wakefield

He in full brown cloth clothes.

She in striped silk, green purple
& white & blue petticoat & shoes,
white hat, & flowered gauze linen.

- Jabez Willett & wife He in chocolate coloured cloth clothes. She in purple coloured silk with white flowers, shaded with dark purple, white petticoat, white bonnet & shoes, flowered gauze linen.
- J. Browning & wife He in olive coloured cloth clothes, gold buttons and holes & scarlet cloak. She in green damask, pink petticoat, brocade shoes & flowered gauze linen.
- Wm. W. Willett & J. Browning's daughter He in light cloth clothes laid gold breeches and gaiters. She in straw silk sack, flowered & striped with several colours, white shoes, a fly dress-cap, no hat, gauze linen.
- John Barclay and wife He in light coloured cloth clothes. She in silk, striped green & white with small purple flowers, white shoes, hat, book muslin linen.
- Robert Harris & daughter He in full brown cloth clothes. She in white flowered satin sack, white petticoat and shoes, flowered gauze linen.
- John Wilson & wife He in light Spanish snuff cloth clothes, laced waistcoat and Dresden ruffles. She in blue silk flowered, white petticoat & shoes, embroidered white hat, flowered gauze linen.
- John Miers & daughter He in drab cloth clothes. She in blossom coloured silk, flowered with white, pale blue petticoat & shoes, white hat, book muslin linen.
- Joseph Ward & Betsy Miers He in brown cloth clothes. She in blue silk flowered with white, white shoes & hat, flowered gauze linen.

ing where the rest of the company met them and went into meeting in the following order :

Edward Wakefield & wife	John Miers & daughter
Bride & Groom	Robert Harris & daughter
Joseph Goad & wife	John Bland & A. Whittaker
Nancy Goad & Jacky Wakefield	Joseph Ward & Betsy Miers
Jabez Miller & wife	P. Greenwood & wife
John Barclay & wife	S. West & wife
John Piller & E. Browning	T. Pratt & wife
J. Browning & wife	Joseph Cross & Hinton Brown

Thomas Whitehead made a short sermon on the occasion. Soon after which my brother and Betsy took each other in the presence of a large assembly. The clerk immediately read the certificates and ended the meeting sooner than was agreeable to some who would gladly have waited to have given opportunity to some friend to engage in prayer, but we came away without any verbal but I hope many mental. We went into the little room the same as we came out and were refreshed with a glass of wine, biscuit and roll.

As we walked through the court to the coaches many admired and blessed the little couple viz. Jacky Wakefield aged 6 & my Nancy aged $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. They both behaved exceedingly well at meeting and walked in good order and were very cheerful and diverted themselves and the company without being rude or troublesome all day.

We dined in the concert-room in the ' Crown and Anchor ' Tavern. The first course was boiled fish, with fried smelts, broiled fowls, green tongues and adders, roast pigeons, beef a-la-mode. The second course was forced Turkey, Turkey poult larded, roast chickens, asparagus, quarter of lamb, ducks, cucumbers, French beans, stewed mushrooms and Scotch collops. The dessert was very pretty. At the top the temple of Hymen. The tables being in the form of a O O O one side the Temple

the other two Cupids, the middle a castle of confectionery. A fountain made of glass round which was placed wet and dried sweetmeats and between was jellies and syllabubs, iced creams, tarts, blancmange, almonds, raisins, &c., &c., &c., &c., &c., &c., &c.

We drank tea at 5, and at 7 the company broke up; some went home, and Joe Ward, John Bland, E. Browning, my sister Nancy & E. Whittaker accompanied the bride and groom with the father and mother, brothers and sisters to their country house at Enfield.

It was said earlier in this article that Edward Wakefield had neither marriageable son nor daughter in June 1765—his daughter, Elizabeth, had married Samuel Robinson in April of that year and his son, Joseph, married elsewhere. As soon as the revised date became known—10th of Fourth Month (April), 1765, it was found to be the date of the marriage of Elizabeth Wakefield with Samuel Robinson, a marriage about which the usual information *re* such occasions is well known. This led at once to the conclusion that one *name* as well as the *date* in the heading of the Sturge letter was incorrect, and that the marriage which was sought so long under *Goad* and Wakefield was that of Samuel *Robinson* and Elizabeth Wakefield. (That the bride was “Betsy” is stated in the first Barrow letter.)

The marriage Robinson—Wakefield being now postulated, it remained to work out proof thereof from the names of the persons mentioned in the letters. This has been done, and satisfactory evidence has been abundantly forthcoming, as will be seen in the notes to various members of the wedding party.

By the kindness of Charlotte Fell Smith, we have secured from Somerset House a list of all those who signed the Robinson—Wakefield wedding certificate. Under the heading “Relations” are thirty-five names; those not referred to in the letters or notes are R. Hyam, Thos. Vickris Hyam, and John Goad.

NOTES

FIRST COUPLE

Edward Wakefield (1715-1765) was a son of Roger and Mary Wakefield, of Kendal. He was a mercer in Lad Lane, London. He married, firstly, in 1736, Huldah, daughter of Joseph Willett, of Stockwell, and, secondly, in 1748, Isabella, daughter of David Gibbon, of Ratcliff. By his first wife he had three children—John Willett, b. and d. 1738; Elizabeth, b. 1741; and Joseph, b. 1744, who married Hannah Christy in 1766 and Anna Doyle in 1781 and settled at Waterford. By his second wife Edward Wakefield had other children.

SECOND COUPLE

Samuel Robinson (1732-) and Elizabeth Wakefield (1741-) The bridegroom was of London, "citizen and skinner," a son of Samuel Robinson of Burton, Lincs. and Ann his wife, she then deceased.

THIRD COUPLE

Joseph Goad (of the Barrow letters, not *James* of the Sturge letter) son of Joseph and Jane Goad, of George Yard, Lombard Street; and Mary his wife (1726-), daughter of Samuel Robinson, Sr., whom he married in 1753.

Joseph Goad was of the family of Goad of Baycliff, Ulverston, N. Lancs

Mary (Robinson) Goad acted at the wedding *in loco parentis* and it was doubtless she who wrote the letters to her "honoured father," who was not able to be present at his son's wedding, but who desired to know all about the event, even to the dresses worn!

FOURTH COUPLE

John, son of Edward and Isabella Wakefield, born 25 xii. 1757, hence older than stated; and Anna Goad, daughter of Joseph and Mary Goad, born 5 x. 1761, the "my Nancy" of the first Barrow letter.

FIFTH COUPLE

Perhaps, Joseph Wakefield, later of Waterford, son of Edward and Huldah and brother of the bride; and Anna Robinson, born 1730, sister of the bridegroom and of Mary (Robinson) Goad.

SIXTH COUPLE

Thomas, son of Edward and Isabella Wakefield, born 1750; and his sister Isabella, born 1752, who married Sylvanus Bevan, of Wiltshire, in 1769.

SEVENTH COUPLE

Jabez Willett was the son of Joseph Willett, of Southwark. He was born in 1703 and married in 1728, Barbara Peirie. He was a mercer in Lad Lane. He died in the year of the wedding and his widow died in 1789. A portrait of Mrs. Willett was painted by Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland (1735-1811), representing her as a gay Quakeress in a brocaded silk dress. A photograph of the painting is in the possession of Joseph J. Green, of Hastings. See *History of the Wilmer Family*, 1888, p. 186.

EIGHTH COUPLE

T. Browning of the Sturge letter became J. Browning in the Barrow letters! "Jno Browning" and "C. Browning" signed the certificate—the wife probably Catherine.

NINTH COUPLE

Wm. Willett should doubtless be *Wilmer* Willett, son of Jabez and Barbara, born 1734, a merchant of Lad Lane. The name of Catherine Browning, Jr., follows that of Wilmer Willett in the certificate.

TENTH COUPLE

John Barclay was the second son of David Barclay, of Cheapside, London, and of his second wife, Priscilla Freame. He married Susanna, daughter of John and Mary Willett, in 1756. See *The Hanbury Family*, 1916, vol. ii. p. 291.

ELEVENTH COUPLE

There is no *John* Wilson in the certificate, but the names of "Sim. Wilson" and "Barbara Wilson" appear.

TWELFTH COUPLE

Next to that of Robert Harris on the certificate comes the name Elizabeth Peckover—was the latter the daughter?

THIRTEENTH COUPLE

John Myers (1712-1780), of Cannon Street, London, and his daughter Anne, who married Dr. John Coakley Lettsom in 1770.

FOURTEENTH COUPLE

John Myers, Jr. (1746/7-1787), and his sister Mary, born 1741, married William Archer, goldsmith, in 1763 and died in childbed in 1772, at Whitehart Court, London.

FIFTEENTH COUPLE

Presumably John Bland, the George Yard banker, of the firm of Bland, Barnett and Bland at the sign of the Black Horse in Lombard Street (Hilton Price, *London Bankers*, 1890, p. 13). Anne Whittaker signs the certificate.

SIXTEENTH COUPLE

Samuel and Mary West sign the certificate.

SEVENTEENTH COUPLE

The names of Thomas and Agnes Pratt appear on the certificate.

EIGHTEENTH COUPLE

Wm. Greenwood of both copies of the first letter is changed to P. Greenwood in the second Barrow letter.

NINETEENTH COUPLE

James Cross and Stuton Brown of the Sturge copy becomes *James Cross and Hinton Prown* of the first Barrow letter and *Joseph Cross and Hinton Brown* of the second Barrow letter. There was a Joseph Cross who died in 1769, aged 80. *Henton* Brown (1698-1775) was a banker (see *Tritton Family*, 1907). J— Cross signed the certificate.