

Isaac Hammer, of Tennessee

THE following are allusions to this Friend when he was travelling in Europe as a Minister, in 1826. They are culled from letters written by John Grubb (husband of the noted Sarah (Lynes) Grubb), from Chelmsford, to his brother, Joseph Grubb, of Clonmel, Ireland, now in the possession of J. Ernest Grubb, of Carrick-on-Suir.

“ I was disappointed in not meeting with Isaac Hammer in London, and greatly surprized to find he had left that city some days before the Q. Meet^s for Liverpool, with a hope or expectation of being at liberty to embark for America, & W. Rickman said that he should not wonder if he sailed for New York, next 2nd day, the first of the new Year—what an unexpected release from further service this is, to his friends at least. W^m. Rickman told me that I.H. has been only about 15 years a member of our Society, & that his Wife is *not* a friend—I believe his visit in Germany was extraordinary & likely to be very useful. I believe we never heard of a friend travelling as a Minister, who sat in silence in Meetings so frequently as he did in London.”

[Chelmsford, 29 of 12 mo. 1826.]

“ Hast thou heard the remarkable account of Isaac Hammer—he went to Liverpool as I mentioned to thee, before the Quarterly meeting in London, hoping to be at liberty to sail for America—he went on board a Ship which was to sail, I think about the 21st ult., but feeling uneasy, he declined sailing in *that* vessel ; which sailed as proposed, but was wrecked, & every person on board perished ! What an extraordinary preservation—I. H. afterwards sailed on the first day of this month I believe, but meeting with contrary Winds, they put back, arrived safely in Liverpool, where they remained at the time of the last account that I heard of.”

[Chelmsford, 22nd of 1st mo. 1827.]

A brief memoir of Isaac Hammer is to be found in *Southern Quakers and Slavery*, by Stephen B. Weeks, Baltimore, 1896. It is as follows :

A prominent Friend in the early history of Tennessee was Isaac Hammer. He was born near Philadelphia, April 8, 1769. His parents removed with him to Tennessee about 1783. He was at first a Methodist preacher, then a Dunkard preacher, but became a Quaker about 1808. He visited Ohio in 1811, travelled within the limits of North Carolina and Virginia Yearly Meetings in 1816, including the weaker meetings in South Carolina, and the older meetings in Virginia. He was in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania in 1818; visited Ohio and Indiana in 1821, New York and New England, 1822. In 1826-27 he visited England, Holland, Westphalia, Würtemberg, Austria, Baden, Switzerland and France.

After returning to America he renewed his travels and died in Tennessee, October 14, 1835. He has left a manuscript journal, which is preserved among the archives of the Society at Guilford College [North Carolina].

On his return to America, I. Hammer wrote a long letter to Thomas Robson, of Liverpool (original in **D**), giving a vivid description of his thirty-two days' voyage—"the roaring of the wind and waves and the Rowling and wollowing of the Ship, on the great deep to me was Marvelous."

The Family of French

BY the kindness of Howard Barclay French, of Philadelphia, London Yearly Meeting Reference Library has become the possessor of the two volumes of the *Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French* (1639-1699), printed privately (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 7 $\frac{3}{4}$, vol. i., 1639-1785, pp. 501, in 1909; vol. ii. 1785-1913, pp. 743, in 1913). The sub-title indicates to some extent the scope of this remarkable work: "Who came to America from Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, England, and settled in Burlington in the province and country of West New Jersey, of which he was one of the original proprietors, together with William Penn, Edward Byllynge, Thomas Ollive, Gauen Laurie and others. With some account of colonial manners and doings, setting up of Friends' Meetings, copies of old minutes, etc., together with 150 illustrations, compiled and published by Howard Barclay French, of the seventh generation."

Thomas French left England as a Friend in 1680, with his wife, Jane, four sons and five daughters in the good ship *Kent*, and settled on the banks of the Rancocus River in West New Jersey. Among surnames of descendants are Black, Brick, Buzby, Haines, Hollingshead, Jobs, Jones, Lippincott, Lukens, Matlack, Moore, Morris, Page, Ridgway, Roberts, Scattergood, Scholey, Shreve, Stokes, Wills, Woolman. Of the hundreds of female christian names that of Tacy occurs only once—Tacy (Jarrett) Stokes.