

## Quakers in Cambridgeshire, 1685

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**NOTES** of the Episcopal Visitation of the Archdeaconry of Ely in 1685 (*Collected Papers of Henry Bradshaw, late University Librarian, Cambridge, 1889., pp. 297-332*).

From papers belonging to John Taylor, of Northampton, who bought them as waste paper at Market Harborough; some of the sheets wanting, but sixty-seven parishes are included. The particulars given are a forlorn picture of the condition of the parishes and parish-churches at that period. They give name of incumbent, patron, condition of church and churchyard, value of living, names of schoolmasters, number of families in parish, dissenters if any, names of proprietors, etc., etc., including also names in some cases of gentry, etc.

SUTTON.

Six familys of Quakers.

MEEPOLE.

One female Quaker in the parish.

CHATTERIS.

The parish abounds w<sup>th</sup> Quakers.

DOWNHAM.

Two or three stubborne Quakers.

BALSHAM.

Two Quakers.

ABINGTON MAGNA.

Two Quakers, one excomd. for not paying Tithes.

RAMPTON.

One Dissenter a Quaker.

ALL-HALLOWS, CAMBRIDGE.

Several Quakers.

BARTON.

One Quaker.

OAKINGTON.<sup>1</sup>

Three or four Quakers and their Families.

Of the sixty-seven parishes described only forty-six include particulars of nonconformists, etc. Some Friends may be included under "Dissenters."

<sup>1</sup> Of Oakington it is said: "This y<sup>e</sup> most scandalous Parish and worst in y<sup>e</sup> Diocese for y<sup>e</sup> people are most vile."

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The Truth is one and the same always. Though ages and generations pass away—one generation goes and another comes; yet the Word, and the Power, and the Spirit of the Living God endures for ever and changes not.

MARGARET FELL.