

Notes and Queries

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

D.—Friends' Reference Library, Devonshire House, 136, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

Camb. Jnl.—*The Journal of George Fox*, published by the Cambridge University Press, 1911.

D.N.B.—*Dictionary of National Biography*.

THE THREE SARAH GRUBBS OF CLONMEL (xvi. 95).—In connection with the article on the three Sarah Grubbs which lately appeared in this JOURNAL, I am interested in the references to the Greer family. My first wife was Margaret E. Greer, daughter of Thomas Greer, of Belfast. She and her sister, Mary Ellen, later the wife of Richard Penney Fumage, emigrated to Tasmania in 1884, and were perhaps the sole survivors of that branch of their family descended from James Greer, son of Thomas Greer,¹ of Clonrole, Lurgan, by his second wife.

The Greer pedigree, set forth in Burke's *Landed Gentry* of Ireland, derives the family from the clan McGregor, through the Griersons of Lag, and for this reason the Greer coat quarters the McGregor arms, and the motto "Memor esto," presumably refers to this ancestry. As the above descent from the Griersons is of comparatively recent date, it should be capable of proof. It is also stated that "the change of name to Greer took place about 1630."

¹ According to Burke James is given as his younger brother.

The derivation of the family, and its name in the article above quoted, is so startlingly at variance with the comparatively sober pedigree in Burke, that it seems to merit some further consideration.

The statement that Sir Henry Greer (*James* in Burke) was created Lord Greer in 1572, ninety-four years before his death in 1666, and thirty-five years before his father, Sir William Greerson, was knighted, would seem to require some explanation. I am not able to consult *The Complete Peerage* for the reference to "Lord Greer," 1572, but should be glad to know what it has to say concerning him. Then we have the astonishing statement that he was eighteenth in descent from Sir Henry Greer, Knight, 1096, who "was the first of this family surnamed Greer." I understand privately that the authority for this personage is a pedigree written about 1720, that is some 600 years after his reputed date; I dare hazard the opinion that no documentary evidence can be produced for this phantom knight, who is recorded as bearing a surname ages before such a convenience came into vogue. I also suspect that the prefix "Sir" was far away from

this period. Still more wonderful the pedigree gives us his ancestry back for another twelve centuries or so, to Fergus, the first king of Scotland, who, the *D.N.B.* says, is an absolutely fictitious personage; and this estimate of him must doubtless include the twelve centuries of ancestors, and also, I am afraid, Sir Henry Greer, knight, 1096, and many of his reputed descendants.

The statement that "Sir Henry Greer, knight, 1096," married Juliana, daughter of Sir Robert Maxwell (another improbably-named person) would seem to be an echo of the marriage of Sir William Grierson, of Lag, to Nicola Maxwell, daughter of Sir John Maxwell, Lord Herries.

It would seem probable that we are on much more solid ground with the Burke pedigree, and I must sadly conclude that the MS. Greer pedigree of 1720, with its magnificently long descent from 300 B.C., is a fake, jumbling together fact and fiction in a happy-go-lucky manner, and perhaps not intended to be taken seriously by its author; or, if with intent to deceive, then only comparable with "The Bonny House of Coulthart," see *The Ancestor*, No. 4, pp. 61-80.

WILLIAM L. MAY.

Maydena,

Sandford, Tasmania.

HEXAGONAL MEETING HOUSES.
—At Burlington, N.J., Friends built a hexagonal meeting house in 1691, and at Fallsington, Pa., was built an octagonal school house in 1775. Are there other Quaker buildings of similar description? Did this mode of

architecture originate in America or was it introduced from Great Britain?

AN OLD, FRIENDS' TOMBSTONE.
—About a mile from Chapel-en-le-Frith, in Derbyshire, on the old road to Sheffield, there is, just off the road, near the gates of Ford Hall, an old Friends' burying ground. On one of the gate-piers is the date 1668. The enclosure measures some sixteen yards square; it is in grass with a few shrubs, in a rather unkempt condition. Against the wall, opposite the gate, is an old stone with the inscriptions "IR sonne TR buried 17th day 8th month 1671," and underneath, "AR wife of TR buried 2nd 10th month ano 1685"; also, "JR dapered [*sic*] this lif 1742,—of Octobar." Built into one of the side walls is a block of stone with the letters "R.W." but no date.

There are about five stones of modern and simple design (though not of strict Quaker pattern) on the left hand wall, with names and dates of interment, all since 1875.

THOMAS HENRY WEBB.

For further respecting this burial ground, see *Quakeriana*, 1894, i. 152, ii. 8.

THE SISTERS GRIMKE (xiv. 79).
—The reasons for the severance of these Friends from the Society, as given in vol. xiv. are stated in the *Bulletin of F.H.S. of Phila.*, vol. ix., p. 125n, to be inaccurate. The editor writes, under date 24 vii. 1920:

"The sisters were disowned because of the marriage of Angelina Grimké 'out of Meeting,' and for

Sarah Grimké (apparently) aiding and abetting. Thomas Smith Grimké [xiv. 80] was a brother. He was a great peace man, but I am under the impression not anti-slavery."

For more respecting this family see *Bulletin*, vol. ix. ; *Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*, p. 169.

QUAKERISM AND ENGLISH LITERATURE, 1650-1750 (xvi. 110).—The thesis on this subject, prepared by Ezra K. Maxfield, has been accepted by the committee at Harvard and the author has been awarded the degree of Ph.D. We hope to hear further particulars ere long of this important contribution to Quaker literature.

PREACHING TO NOBODY (xvii. 102).—"In confirmation of my conversation regarding Stephen Grellet's having preached in an empty lumber-camp, I would say, that we have three or four Friends in our Meeting at Germantown, Phila., Pa., who are blood-relations of Stephen Grellet, and one of them, Sarah C. C. Reeve, an Elder of the Meeting, was on intimate terms for years with his daughter, Rachel Grellet. I consulted Sarah Reeve about the episode, and she says that Rachel Grellet frequently related the story as an incident of her father's life, without any question as to its historicity. This seems to me fairly conclusive as to the genuineness of the episode.

"I might add in further confirmation that when writing my sketch of Stephen Grellet's life in *Quaker Biographies*, vol. iv., I utilised the incident, because a manuscript leaf relating it was

lent to me for the purpose by Elizabeth Pearsall Smith of our Meeting (now deceased), who was also a relative of Stephen Grellet, and treasured many mementoes and traditions of his life. This manuscript leaf was, I suppose, written down from the oral story which was current, as stated by Sarah Reeve. Of its authenticity Elizabeth Smith evidently had no question. Hoping these facts may help to justify the use of the story by Violet Hodgkin,

"I remain,

"Sincerely thy friend,

"ALFRED C. GARRETT."

ISAAC NORRIS TO JAMES LOGAN. —1706/7 1 mo. 10. London letter of Isaac Norris, of Philadelphia, to James Logan, of Philadelphia :

"On y^e 6th Jnst, being a Lovely Clear Day J went wth Hen: Goldney —took a room wth in 2 Yards of & Opposite to y^e Door where y^e Queen Entred to y^e Parlim^t house —had a fair Sight of her, the L^s Godolpin & D: of Marlbrö: Wⁿ they came Out again I had Confidence Enough to come Out & Stare y^e 2 Latter full in their face as they Sate in their Chairs Reading w^{ch} Gave me oppertunity to be very near the Queen yⁿ Past y^e Union or Onion as Patrick Us'd to say."

MS. Isaac Norris Letter Book, 1706-1709, iv. 38.

ALBERT COOK MYERS
Moylan, Pennsylvania.

NOBILITY AT WESTMINSTER (xvii. 20).—Another account states :

"Hast thou heard any thing of a great public Meeting which Hannah Backhouse and Elizabeth

Fry had last 1st day week at Westminster for the *upper* classes of the Nation, & I understand they could not go *higher* unless the Royal Family attended, which I believe, was not the case. I did hear that the Duchess of Sutherland walked up the Meeting holding our friend Edward Harris under the arm. It is also said that Lord Morpeth &c were there & that the Meeting was satisfactory."

JOHN GRUBB to his brother, Joseph Grubb, from Sudbury, 16 vii. 1838.

EDWARD HARRIS (above) (1787-1852) of London, was a son of Richard and Jane Harris, of Walworth. He became a prominent Friend and was "an active partner in a large commercial house" (*The Friend* (Lond.), 1852, p. 125). In 1814 he married Isabella Tindall (1791-1868) and had a family of eleven children, among them being Edward (1815-1900); John Tindall (1817-1887), of Egham, Biblical commentator; Theodore (1832-1900), minister, traveller and banker, of Leighton Buzzard; Ellen (1820-1903), who married

Francis Bassett (d. 1899 aged 79), of Leighton Buzzard, banker and M.P.; and Isabella (b. 1822), who married Alfred Tylor (1824-1884), scientist, of Carshalton, and later of Mayfield, Sussex (*Mary Howitt*, 1889, ii. 38).

For the Harris family, and especially Isabella (Tindall) Harris see *Family Memorials*, privately printed in 1869 (copy in D.).

WESTON-SUB-EDGE REGISTERS.—Burials, 1703. "James Hunt of Shipston, a Quaker, found dead in a wood, was putt into y^e ground Sept^r 11."

Information from Richard Savage, Avranches, Stratford-on-Avon.

FRIENDS AND THE BLIND.—In Flynn's *Influence of Puritanism* occurs the following (p. 160, after a reference to William Edward Forster, 1871):

"Groups of Quakers raised funds for the education of the blind and sent teachers amongst them into several English counties."

What is known of this philanthropic effort?

"THE GREAT JOURNAL."—We are glad to be able to report that the manuscript of *The Journal of George Fox*, to which reference has frequently been made in THE JOURNAL (see esp. ii. 152, iii. 90, vii. 90), has now become the property of the Society of Friends, having been purchased from its owner, Robert Spence, by the joint contributions of Friends in America and Europe. It is deposited in the Devonshire House Reference Library.