

Leading the Way

BEING a Series of Brief Sketches of Quaker Inventions and Discoveries, and of Friends who have Led the Way in various directions.¹

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XCV

“The first line of regular packet ships between New York and Liverpool was established in 1817 by two Friends, FRANCIS and JEREMIAH THOMPSON. This was the old Black Ball Line, which made semi-monthly sailings for Liverpool.

“The second line of packets was started by Byrnes, Trimble & Co., the Trimble being GEORGE T. TRIMBLE, who was a Friend.” (William H. S. Wood, *Friends of New York in the Nineteenth Century*, 1904, p. 16.)

XCVI

ROBERT MURRAY (-1786) “became the largest shipping merchant in the country. . . . He erected a grand old house and entertained in princely style. He imported and used the first private coach in New York, which he called his ‘leathern conveniency,’ to appease the feeling of the citizens who considered him as ‘putting on too much style.’” (William H. S. Wood, *Friends in New York in the Seventeenth Century*, 1904, p. 10). Robert Murray was the father of Lindley Murray, the grammarian.

XCVII

JOHN KEESE III (1773-1860), of Cardington, Ohio, “when about sixty years of age invented an apparatus for taking a correct map of the heavenly bodies and also calculating longitude by the fixed stars. He found afterward that he was anticipated in this last invention by a

¹ The Editor would be glad to receive information regarding other inventions, discoveries, etc., or regarding other claimants to any of the inventions or positions introduced. The length of the Sketch bears no proportion to the importance of the subject.

German astronomer. . . . He constructed several models for improvement in machinery for planting corn. . . ." (*Keese Family History*, 1911, p. 26.)

XCVIII

ROBERT ABBATT, SENR. (d. 1763), established the first water-supply in Preston, Lancashire, in 1729, by means of wooden pipes—tree-trunks bored through. The corporation fined him for supplying water on "Good Friday," so he declined to supply it on Fridays afterwards, his reason being that all Fridays should be Good Fridays.

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XCIX

WILLIAM LOCKWOOD (1782-) was a builder in Woodbridge, Co. Suffolk. He invented a Portland Cement, about the year 1817, to supersede the dark coloured Roman Cement in use previously. His search for suitable stone for the manufacture of it took him into Derbyshire, So. Wales, Dorsetshire and Leicestershire, where he found the best. His son, William Lockwood, gives an account of these journeys in *Woodbridge in the Olden Time*. He did not patent his invention, and a few years later a Leeds man, Joseph Aspdin, made a similar discovery and took out a patent in 1824.

W. L. must have been a Friend when he invented his cement. He was a volunteer in 1813, but his principles altered soon after, and he broke the points off both his weapons (as an officer he was allowed to keep them), "turning the sword into a pruning knife," "and the halberd he made serve for a linen prop in his wife's drying ground." Several of his children were at Ackworth School—Susanna entered in 1817 and William in 1819.

Information from H. C. Hunt, of York.

C

PHINEAS DAVIS (1795-1835), "in honor of whose memory the citizens of York are interested in preserving the old Meeting House there, was a native of New Hampshire. In 1809, at the age of fourteen, he arrived at York, Pa., 'bare-footed, wearing a straw hat, with a bundle under his arm containing a few precious belongings,' after a weary and

lonely journey from his New England home. He was taken in by Jonathan Jessop, a Quaker watchmaker, who taught him his trade. He succeeded well at this trade but interest in natural philosophy and chemistry led him to experiment with steam as applied to motive power. He, as a partner in the firm of Davis and Gardner, was responsible for the building of the first iron steamboat built in the United States, as well as the construction of the first engine used on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in which anthracite coal was successfully employed.

“ At the age of twenty, Phineas Davis became a member of the Society of Friends, and at his untimely death at the age of forty it was written : ‘ Though his loss to the great field of mechanical improvement will be deeply felt, the community will suffer a greater loss in the impressive example of his excellent life.’ ” (*Friends’ Intelligencer*, Third Month 29th, 1924.)

Lives by John C. Jordan, 1904, and H. C. Ulmer, 1924, with illustrations.

CI

WILLIAM WESTON YOUNG (1776-1847) has several notices in Mardy Rees’s *Quakers in Wales*, 1925. He was a wonderful man, both physically and mentally. He could write prose and poetry, paint on canvas and china, survey land, and lift a blacksmith’s anvil of several hundredweights. He was an inventor and discoverer of the Dinas sand for the making of a superior fire-brick. After his marriage at Bristol in 1795, he removed to Neath and with the exception of three years in Worcester and five in Bristol, their married life was spent in Wales. His wife was of the Davis family, of Minehead, a daughter of Robert and Hannah. Elizabeth (Davis) Young (1765-1842) kept a diary, which was printed in 1843, under the title : *Christian Experience of Elizabeth Young*. It began in 1791 and ended in 1840.

CII

MARGARET MORRIS (1737-1816) was a daughter of Dr. Richard Hill, of Maryland, and wife and widow of William Morris, to whom she was married in 1758. In the *Recollections of John Jay Smith*, 1892, p. 242, we read : “ Thomas Gilpin told me she was recognised as a skilful doctress.

. . . At one time during her residence at Burlington, when physicians were scarce, so great was the demand for her services that she visited her patients in a carriage which was regularly brought to her door for the purpose. It is not known whether any charge was made. . . . This is, perhaps, the first recorded instance of a female physician in practice. She was known to have thirty small-pox patients at one and the same time."

CIII

THOMAS ALLGOOD (-1716), though "only an artisan, was a great discoverer, and his knowledge of chemistry was unique. He devised the means of manufacturing copperas . . . and also a process for extracting oil from Cannel coal. His fame rests chiefly upon his secret process for making Japan ware.

" EDWARD ALLGOOD, son of Thomas, greatly improved his father's patent.

" WILLIAM ALLGOOD, grandson, brought the works at Pontypool to their highest point of perfection." (Rees, *Quakers in Wales*, 1925, p. 253.)

CIV

Cropper, Benson & Co. " started the first line of packets that sailed on stated days between England and America with mails and passengers; their ships carried 'dummy' guns" (*Dingle Bank, the Home of the Croppers*, by F. A. Conybeare, 1925, p. 6).

James Cropper, 1773-1840.

Robert Benson, c. 1750-1802.

NOTE

No. XL. C. Francis Jenkins " was born in the country north of Dayton, Ohio, in 1868, of Quaker parents. Spent boyhood on farm near Richmond, Indiana. Attended . . . Earlham College. Came to Washington, D. C., in 1890. . . . Has over three hundred patents and maintains a private laboratory in Washington. Is . . . founder of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. Has several times been honored by scientific and other bodies for original research and attainment." (Jenkins, *Vision by Radio*, 1925, p. 4.)

No. XXV. Job Roberts was born in 1757. "He was the first to bring and breed merico sheep in Pennsylvania. In 1804 he published *The Pennsylvanian Farmer*. His integrity won the respect of all who knew him" (Rees, *Quakers in Wales*, 1925, p. 251).

To be continued

Held to Ridicule

In the Mayor's Court in Norwich, held 6 ix. 1675 :

"Mrs. Mary Pease is permitted to show two Meere maids & a devouring great eating Quaker, at the sign of the Angel [in the Market Place] from this day till Thursday senight."

Friends could not let this pass without a protest ; we find a minute of the M.M. as follows :

"Whereas there was a man (with others) who was termed a presumptuous eating Quaker, that went about giving forth that he was a Quaker, going about to deceive people, endeavouring to render them and their principle odious, friends were ordered to go and give a testimony against them, whose names are under written.

"Samuel Duncon, Tho : Murford, Tho : Plumstead, Antho : Alexander, Will : Weymer."

From a history of Quakerism in Norwich, by Arthur J. Eddington, 1924, in MS.

We should be glad to know how the "testimony" was carried out and whether, in so doing, the Friends came into contact with the "Meere maids." Mrs. Pease may have seen a copy of the pamphlet, *The Monstrous Eating Quaker*, published about this time, which with the pamphlets, *The Quaker turned Jew* and *The Quaker and his Maid*, Ellis Hookes "confuted by plain evidence to undeceive the ignorant, clear the Truth, and stop debauchery." (Smith, *Cata.* i. 971, *Adv. Cata.* p. 18.)

The Ancestry of Quakerism (?)

"The Quakers were leavened by Fox, and Fox by the Ranters, and they by the German Enthusiasts, and those by Ignatius Loyola and he by the Pope."

HENRY PICKWORTH, ex-Quaker, *True and Faithful Relation*, 1736, p. 66n. Several times repeated in his books is the statement that George Fox was originally taught the doctrines of Ranterism by one Hinks a Ranter, whilst they kept sheep together.