



THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE IN BRISTOL ABOUT THE YEAR 1850.

Joseph Eaton. Henry Hunt. William Tanner. Dr. Ash. Samuel Capper. Arnee Frank. Elizabeth H. Hunt. Sarah Atkinson.
 Edward Thomas. Richard Fry. Isaac Lloyd. Jacob Player Sturge. George Thomas. Eliza Thomas. Sarah Sturge.
 Francis Fry. Josiah Grace. James Grace. Mary Ann Fry.

Friends' Meeting House in Bristol about 1850

BY kind permission of Charles White, of Bristol, we are able to reproduce a photograph of his picture representing Friends in the Friars Meeting House about the year 1850. The picture was painted from photographs and drawings, and great care was taken to make it as correct as possible. Since the picture was first photographed some alteration has taken place. Our reproduction represents the picture as now in the possession of James Edward Grace, of Bristol.

We append notes on the Friends appearing, prepared with the kind help of Charles F. Pearce, Theodore Hunt and other Friends.

[Since above was written we find by *The Friend* that Theodore Hunt passed away on the 26th October. The notes, occupying three and a half pages of large foolscap paper, must have been among the last of his writings. The importance of the commitment to paper of information of the past while still possible is again strongly emphasised.]

JOSEPH EATON (1792-1858) was a wealthy bachelor and an Elder of the Bristol Meeting. He was greatly interested in Society work and was fond of having young men Friends to dine with him on Sunday. His father, George Eaton, was a wholesale ironmonger, but in 1835 his sons relinquished the pursuit of commerce. In 1836 Joseph Eaton began the publication of the *Bristol Temperance Herald* and he wrote on temperance subjects. He was companion to Arnee Frank on many ministerial journeys.

iii. xvi. ; *Biographical Catalogue of Friends' Institute, London, 1888.*

HENRY HUNT (c. 1780-1862) was an Elder of Bristol Meeting and took a seat next to the Ministers. He was very much respected ; he took considerable part in the discipline of the Society.

WILLIAM TANNER (1815-1866), after travelling abroad for the benefit of his health, became a papermaker, and, later, resided at Ashley Farm. In 1849, he married Sarah, daughter of Daniel Wheeler, who survived him only a few months. He was the author of lectures on

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Friends in Bristol and Somerset, published in 1858. Some autobiographical memoranda were edited by John Ford and published in 1868, with portrait and view of Ashley Farm. Theodore Hunt writes of him, in 1926: "Perhaps, taking it all round, he was the most popular, respected and beloved Minister that I remember. His sermons were always good, well delivered and profitable. One day the young Friends were invited to meet him at the Friars—the body of the house was well filled. We were anxiously waiting, when a message came that he was taken ill. We were much grieved and sorrowfully departed without knowing why he had asked us to meet."

Annual Monitor, 1868; *Biog. Cata. Fds'. Inst.*

EDWARD ASH, M.D. (1797-1873), was born at Bristol and went to school at an early age at Melksham, in Wiltshire, where he came under the religious influence of Rachel Fowler. At twenty-four he entered on a course of medical study in London and Edinburgh. For a time he resided in York, of which period he wrote: "I went to York a treader in the broad way; I returned from York a treader in the narrow way." In 1826, he removed to Norwich, commenced practice and married Caroline Fry (c. 1802-1882), daughter of William Fry, of London. In 1837 he retired from practice and returned to Bristol. About this time, owing, it is said, to his views on the Sacraments, he retired from the Society but, later, he regained his membership. He was treasurer of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, being one of a Quaker succession. He wrote a series of *Explanatory Notes and Comments on the New Testament* and other Biblical works; also on other subjects.

xv. xvi.; *Annual Monitor*, 1875; *Biog. Cata. Fds'. Inst.*; *Diaries of Edward Pease*, edited by Sir Alfred E. Pease, Bart., 1907.

SAMUEL CAPPER (1782-1852) was the son of Jasper and Anne Capper, of Gracechurch Street, London. He was converted at about the thirteenth year of his age, and became an active preacher, mostly around Bristol and with the aid of a tent with moveable forms and gallery and with the help of some young Friends. (This tent lay unused for many years at Devonshire House, but in 1864 its use was revived, and it was set up in the closed burialground, Whitechapel. The first services of William Booth, later General of the Salvation Army, were held in "Samuel Capper's tent.") S. Capper was apprenticed to Joseph Naish, of Congresbury, married his daughter, Elizabeth (with issue), and set up at Bristol as a linen-draper. For awhile he farmed at Potterne, in Wiltshire, but again settled in Bristol. He died suddenly in a meeting at Weston-super-Mare. A full-length silhouette by Samuel Metford is reproduced in *The Diaries of Edward Pease*.

xiv.-xvii. xix.; *Biog. Cata. Fds'. Inst.*

ARNEE FRANK (1766-1858) was a son of Thomas Frank, of Bristol, and Elizabeth, daughter of Zephaniah Fry. He was educated at Jonah Thompson's school at Compton, Dorset, and apprenticed at 14, for 7 years, to Thomas Young of Milverton. He was engaged in the woollen and woolstapling business in Bristol and afterwards in a cutlery and

hardware business. In 1793 he married Edith Lovell (d. 1799), daughter of Robert Lovell, pin manufacturer. Edith, daughter of A. and E. Frank became in 1822 the wife of Henry Dymond, superintendent of Sidcot School, 1854-1865. A. Frank took over the pin factory on the death of his father-in-law. He married, in 1805, Hannah Benwell (d. 1856) and had five children. He was clerk of London Y.M. in 1806. He was appointed an Elder and later was recorded a Minister. He paid many religious visits. His addresses often lasted an hour.

There is a silhouette of Arnee Frank, by Thomas Pole, 3rd mo. 1812, reproduced in *Thomas Pole, M.D.*, supplement No. 7 to *The Journal of the Friends Historical Society*.

In 1908, A. Frank's grandson, (Arnee) Frank Dymond, presented to D a manuscript—"A Narrative of the Principal Occurrences of my Life, including some Events and Remarks of a more general Nature, as regards the Society."

Annual Monitor, 1859.

ELIZABETH HUNT (c. 1791-1874) was the third wife of Henry Hunt. She was a Minister and a frequent speaker in Bristol Meeting.

SARAH ATKINSON (1801-1879) was a daughter of Thomas Waring, of Kimbolton, Herefordshire. In 1821 she married, at Chester, Joseph Atkinson of Manchester, silk and cotton manufacturer, who died in 1832, leaving four sons, Joseph, educated at Grove House, Tottenham; George, at William Lean's school at Camp Hill, Birmingham; William and Thomas, at Lovell Squire's school at Falmouth. By 1839 Sarah Atkinson had removed to Bristol. She was an Overseer and Elder, and rendered very valuable service for twenty-five years as a member of the Committee, and for thirteen years as Treasurer of the Bristol Female Mission. At times, during the winter months, she held Bible reading meetings for young Friends. She died at Rosehill, Cotham Road, situate opposite Cotham Lawn, the residence of Richard Fry and Tower House, the residence of Francis Fry. (Notes by Harold W. Atkinson, of Northwood, Middlesex, a grandson.)

EDWARD THOMAS (c. 1794-1853) was a brother of George Thomas. Although he occupied a seat in the Elders' Gallery, there is no evidence that he was an Elder. Edward Pease records a meeting of young men, which he attended in 1849, at Edward Thomas's house, where also were Samuel Capper, Joseph Eaton and William Tanner (*Diaries*, edited by A. E. Pease, 1907, p. 252).

RICHARD FRY (1807-1878), an Elder, was a son of Joseph Storrs and Ann Fry and brother of Francis Fry. His first wife was Rachel Pease (1800-1853), married in 1838, and his second wife was Margaret Dymond, of Exeter. He was deeply interested in the Bible Society and also in Sidcot School. There is frequent reference to R. and R. Fry in the *Diaries of Edward Pease*, their father.

xvii.; *Biog. Cata. Fds'. Inst.*

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ISAAC LLOYD (1801-1883) settled in Bristol, with three sons and one daughter. He had married, in 1828, Mary Rigge (1801-1867), of Kendal. He was the fifth son of Sampson Lloyd of Birmingham. His sons Edward and Howard (mentioned by Theodore Hunt) married daughters of John Eliot Howard. "Isaac Lloyd was a very orthodox Friend and appeared to be a very wealthy man." He is the only Friend represented with his hat on his head. The family returned to Birmingham.

Smith, *Smith of Cantley*, 1878; Foster, *Wilson of High Wray*, 1890.

JACOB PLAYER STURGE (1793-1857) was a son of Jacob Sturge (d. 1811), of Red House Farm, near Bristol, and Frances Player, his wife, one of a numerous family. Jacob Player settled as a farmer at Red House, married Sarah Stephens in 1819, and had issue. Frances (Player) Sturge was early left a widow. Her brother, John Player, began a land-surveying business and associated his nephew, Jacob, with him in it. On the death of Jacob Sturge, his two sons, Young and Jacob Player, succeeded him; the business was transferred to Bristol and is still continued, under the name of J. P. Sturge and Sons, by descendants. It is recorded of J. P. Sturge that he was a man with a great talent for mathematics. He evidently improved his opportunities, as his journal records that as a young man of nineteen he read a paper at an Improvement Society on Hydrostatics, although he had received no school education after the age of thirteen. He was employed at the time of the construction of the Great Western Railway in acquiring the necessary land in this part of the country, and the confidence in his judgment and probity was such that there were few appeals from his valuations. He died of a lingering and painful illness at the age of sixty-four. (From notes prepared by Elizabeth Sturge, of Bristol, grand-daughter of J. P. Sturge.)

GEORGE THOMAS (1791-1869) was a successful business man and a liberal supporter of good causes. He was one of the founders of the Bristol General Hospital, and for many years he filled the important office of Chairman to the Bristol Charity Trustees. He was warmly interested in the temperance cause. He was a diligent attender of meetings for worship and Church affairs, and occupied the posts of Overseer and Elder. In 1831 he married, *s.p.*, Elizabeth Greer. For a long series of years George Thomas was treasurer of Sidcot School.

xvii.; *Biog. Cata. Fds'. Inst.*

ELIZA (ELIZABETH) THOMAS (-1874) was wife of George Thomas, whom she married in 1831. Her maiden name was Greer, of Co. Tyrone, Ireland.

SARAH STURGE (1789-1867) was the eldest of the seventeen children of William Stephens, of Bridport, Dorset. She married Jacob Player Sturge in 1819 and had a family of eight children. Before his marriage, William Stephens was a painter of Bristol china (now of great value). When the factory closed, he entered into business as a linen draper at

Bridport, the business now carried on by Edward S. Reynolds. Two great-grandsons occupy important positions among Friends—Roger Clark is clerk of London Yearly Meeting and Edward S. Reynolds is clerk of its Meeting for Sufferings. (From notes prepared by Elizabeth Sturge, of Bristol.)

FRANCIS FRY (1803-1886), F.S.A., second son of Joseph Storrs Fry, married Matilda Penrose in 1833. He was active in various important public undertakings; was chairman of the Bristol and Exeter Railway, and also of the Bristol Water Company in succession to George Thomas. His private interests were in the collection and study of early editions of the English Bible.

Biog. Cata. Fds'. Inst.; *Brief Memoir*, by his son, Theodore Fry, 1887.

JOSIAH GRACE (c. 1785-1861) laid the foundation of the flour-milling business of Grace Brothers, on the Welsh Back, a business which was greatly developed under his son, Alexander Grace (who filled the office of teacher and superintendent of the Friars First-day School for over fifty years). Josiah Grace was among the first to use steam in his mills.

JAMES GRACE (c. 1796-1858). "For the greater part of his life James Grace was a grocer and tea dealer. Towards the close of his life he joined another Friend in a business, which under his sons and grandsons developed into the well-known firm of 'James and Henry Grace,' Chartered Accountants (now known as 'Grace, Darbyshire and Todd').")

James Grace's younger daughter, Sarah Mercy Capper, is still living. She was the last woman Friend of Bristol and Frenchay Monthly Meeting who had to gain consent of both the men's and women's meetings prior to marriage; she and the late William Smallwood Capper were married at the Friars Meeting House, Sept. 9, 1851." (Note prepared by J. Edward Grace.)

MARY ANN FRY (c. 1796-1886) was a daughter of Edward and Susanna Swaine, of Henley. She married Joseph Fry (d. 1879) in 1826. Her son, Joseph Storrs Fry, lived with her in the old home till her death. She and Eliza (G.) Thomas were close friends.

To Pennsylvania

Minute of Men's Meeting of Cork, Ireland, 23 vi. 1708 :

[Friends desiring to go to Pennsylvania—Thomas Jacob, Christopher Thompson, Caleb Jacob, John Camm—certificates prepared.]

13 vii. 1708. "Sam^l Combs & his 3 children take the opp^y to go on same ship if Fr^{ds} will assist him with part of passage. Fr^{ds} then & there advanced 10^{li} & others gave provisions to the am^t of 7.18.1. Meeting will pay, partly out of a legacy."