

Excerpts from "Journal of William Savery,"¹ Relating to Swarthmoor Meeting and Swarthmoor Hall

" 1797. 3^d Day. 9mo. 12, Left Whitehaven in a Post Chaise with Isaac Brag & George Binns—Several fr^{ds} coming to take Leave of me—pass^d thro a very mountainous Country in which there are some pretty Valleys and abundance of Small Sheep upon the mountains w^{ch} is Said to be the Sweetest mutton in England—the Land is but Poor & the people poor, yet Look well & tidy, mostly wear shoes only the Upper part Leather, the Soals are wood & bound round wth Iron—it was harvest time they were Reaping Wheat, Oats & Barly, all at one time ripe, it was Quite Cold & wet appear^d like Singular harvest weather to me. Stopt at Ravenglass & Bootle & Crossing the Sands, where they sea is several feet Deep at high water Call^d Ulverston sands, we arriv^d at the town of Ulverston ab^t 8 & Supp^d at Docter Fell's a friend, Christiana Huslers Son & his Wife the Doc^s Daughter & several young fr^{ds} from Kendall—Lodg^d at our fr^d Elijah Salthouse father in Law to J. Fosters wife—a worthy friend & family— . . . 43 miles to day met wth an Extraordinary parson to day at Broughton in Lancashire—

" 4th Day—morning—the week day meeting of friends at Swarthmore one mile from Ulverston where the friends chiefly Reside, ab^t 40 Good Looking friends attended & perhaps 12 more of other Societys attended, I felt nothing to Constrain me to minister—so after sitting in a Comfortable Refreshing Silence ab^t 2 hours—I mentioned my Prospect of a meeting with the Inhabitants of the Town at 5 in the Evening a methodist minister who was present—stood up and offerd us their Meet^s house, w^{ch} he thought would Suit us better as it was in the Town friends acknowledgd his kindness but after he & the Rest were gone seemd to have some straits ab^t it and at length Concluded to hold it at Swarthmore, thinking the people would Come out, for my part I Doubted it, and had no Scruple of Accepting the offer—after meeting, I look^d at the Premises the meeting house is now in Good Repair—may hold when the Chamber & back part is open ab^t 500 people at the Entrance next the Moor is a Coverd Door way of Stone—with an Inscription, signifying the time of its building & G F at the End of it there are also two large Arm Chairs very heavy made altogether of Wood much Carv^d on the Back—these were one for G F & the other for his wife to Sit in—there is also an Ebony Bedstead which George Left with Some other things for fr^{ds} that were travelling to Lodge on, the meeting house stands high, has a beautifull Prospect of the Country & town of Ulverstone we walkd by a pavd foot way the Way they Usd at that time to Swarthmore Hall ab^t 1/4 of a mile from the meeting house—it is a Large pile of Antique

¹ Copied by Francis R. Taylor from the original manuscript of the Journal in his possession.

Building with an Entrance into the yard where Marg^t Fox's Carriage usd to Enter by a Gate of Rough Stone arched on the top—the House at present as well as the farm are the Property of Some person not a friend—and is Rented—the Rooms are large particularly that where the meeting usd to be held—it is pavd with Stone down Stairs, up stairs the Wainscotting Round the Room is Carvd & over the Chimneys with Some Representation of Scripture transactions,—M. Fox lies Buried abt a mile from thence were fr^{ds} Buried at that time which is mostly Shaded with trees there are now ab^t 12 familys of friends who keep up their meeting I believe Reputably—but in Silence as there are none that minister among them now—going over these Grounds Caus^d me to feel Serious I Confess, but not Superstitious, when we got to Elijah Salthouses, he shewd us their Antient monthly meet^g book in the Days of G. F which was Curious and also an Old Folio Bible printed in 1541 in Old English text with Rough plates of many transactions, it has a Chain & small padlock to it by which it was formerly Chaind to the Wall in the meeting house, it is in pretty good keeping for its age—the Reason's that is alledgd for its being Chaind in the meeting house is that in that Day Cavillers at the Doctrine Deliverd, were sometimes present, then fr^{ds} Referd to the Text to Satisfy them, and also to Shew to the world that the Calumny thrown on fr^{ds} of rejecting the Bible was false—it was likewise made use of by poor fr^{ds} who usd to Come from a Distance to meeting & would be their before the time, they Employd themselves in Reading it, a far better and more Consistent Employment than many now are in the Practice of before meetings begin, such as Conversing ab^t News trade or Politics—”

Of the following meetings Francis R. Taylor writes in his *Life of William Savery*, 1925, p. 399 :

“ An appointed meeting was held in the meeting house, but distance and rain combined made the attendance only two hundred. The next evening another and larger meeting, three hours in length was held in Ulverston in the large Independent meeting house. It was so packed that many were left outside and one woman fainted.”

“Haben Sie Ge-quaked?”

Extract from *Horny Hands and Hampered Elbows*, by Whiting Williams (London : George Allen & Unwin). 1922. The author is describing a visit to Essen, August, 1920 :

“ *Haben Sie Ge-quaked?* ” is said to be the present form of asking “ Have you breakfasted ? ” For a long time the only young people who enjoyed this luxury were those who took them out of the bowls—the *Quaker-Kessel*—used at the children’s feeding stations. “ I am a Quaker ” now means, not a new conversion away from old faiths, but the lucky condition of having an occasional full meal, thanks to Quaker kindness.

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