

At Becky's Shop, Ampthill, Bedfordshire

Although I make but little shew,
I sell as cheap as others do,
And various is my little store,
These neighbours call at Becky's door.
In humble verse I mean to tell,
The sort of goods I have to sell.

First yeast from Morris¹ fresh & sweet,
Whether for brewing or to eat,
It makes good bread, ferments your beer,
I'll use you well come buy it here.
No dashing Sign-board I display,
But best of Candles have from *May*.²
Of fruit I've many kinds well sorted,
Yett mostly English, some imported,
Oranges, Figs and Nuts and Spice,
And many sweetmeats very nice.
Gingerbread Toys, both gilt and brown,
Good as any made in Town.
Marbles, Spinning Tops and Balls,
Equal to any at the Stalls ;
And for the little hopeful Student,
Who loves his learning and is prudent,
Here's Books from pence up to a shilling,
For him to read and try his skill in ;
Some plain some gilded very fine,
Who learns them well are shure to shine ;
Coppay Books for larger writers,
Who may soon become Inditers
If go regular to Schools,
And mind their Master and his rules ;
Fine Lacepaper good and stout ;
And matches when your fire is out,
Pincushions of various sorts and sizes,
Some finely knit of different prices ;
Comfits, Sugar-plums, and drops,
Good as sold in finer shops,
Nice Tarts and Trifles made by Self,
And Salve for wounds, upon my shelf,
New laid Eggs, in summer low,
In Winter as the Markets go.

Boxes for Servants when they'er hir'd,
 And of their good old Masters tir'd ;
 Some Masters like a change of faces,
 But prudent Girls will keep their places.
 My Trunks and Boxes paperd well,
 Most useful be where'ere you dwell,
 And when you come my wares to buy
 Good Moral maxems you'll espye,
 Hung round my Shop amongst my Trade,
 Which buy or not my friends may read.

And now kind neighbours thanks to all,
 For former favours great and small
 And hope in future more may stop,
 To buy good things at *Becky's Shop*.

Composed in the year 1809 by TP³

A search through the Bedfordshire Friends' Registers to 1834 produced only one Rebecca—Rebecca Richardson, spinster, died 1809, *æt.* 53, of Ampthill.

¹ There was a Friend, William Morris, of Ampthill, who was a baker, d. 1843, *æt.* 89.

² Samuel May, of Ampthill, d. 1851, *æt.* 78.

³ T.P. was, probably, Thomas Pumphrey, of Ampthill, died 1825 *æt.* 65.

"September 12. On Saturday, 7th inst., died at the house of Mr. John Thomas in Fredk. Co., Joseph Patts, Esq., att'y at law, of Berwick upon Tweed, in his 29th year. Buried in a burial ground of the people called Quakers, at his own request."

From the *Maryland Gazette*, quoted in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, vol. 18 (1923), p. 281.

"1761. January 15. Last Sunday Evening [Jan. 11] departed this Life, after a week's Illness of a Pleurisy, Mrs. Sarah Hill, one of the People called Quakers, wife of Mr. Joseph Hill, near this Town . . ."

"1761. October 29. Sunday last [Oct. 25], Died at his Plantation, near Town, Mr. Joseph Hill, an eminent Planter, and one of the People called Quakers, who by an honest Industry accumulated a very good Estate."

Taken from the *Maryland Gazette*, reprinted in the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, June, 1923.