

The Burt Family

By favour of the owner, we have had before us two volumes of manuscript with the title: *Brief Memorials of William and Alice Burt, of Welbourn, and of several of their Descendants, from 1654 to 1855*, collected and written by John Burt, of Liverpool Street, London, and dated 30th of 8 mo. 1858. In addition to the record of descendants of the name, other family names appear as Jalland, Massey, Petchell, Pidd, Toinbe.

The following extracts are worthy of preservation in print:

PAYING THE JAILER

M.M. of the South-Western Division of Lincolnshire, held at Welbourn North End, 2nd of 1 mo. 1693: "Abraham Morris gives an accompt that he hath treated with y^e new Goler y^t's Cume into y^t place in y^e Castle, whoe seemes Respecttive towards friends, And is willing to Excepte of sixe pounds the year as y^e former goler had for the Rente of friends prizon-Roume, and also Abraham hath pay'd Sturton y^e Last goler £4 for his time which is to be spoken of at y^e next Quarterly meeting."

FRENCH PROPHETS

7 mo. 6 1711. "John Barlow & John Burt hath spoken to Samuel Shaw and Henry Pickworth concerning their joining with the people called French Prophets, who both of them still persist that they are a people led by the spirit of God, and that their judgments pronounced against Friends are true. Therefore Friends of this Meeting find themselves concerned to give forth their judgment against them.

"It is the judgment of Friends both of the Yearly, Quarterly, and this Meeting that they are a people led by the Enemy of their souls."

M.M. at Welbourn North End.

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION

John Burt to William Burt, 19 vi. 1840: "At the great 1840 Slavery Convention, a servant climbed up to close some window from the entry of rain, but lost his footing and fell some 25 or 30 feet onto persons sitting in the audience. Joseph Reynolds, son of the venerable philanthropist, Richard Reynolds, and our friend Isaac Bass, of Brighton, being immediately under the spot, received the blow, by which they were considerably hurt & of course greatly alarmed. Isaac Bass is gone home, his face was bleeding when he was supported out of the room. I have not heard of Joseph Reynolds. After the sufferers had been attended to by Dr. Hodgkin a solemn religious pause took place. Richard Barrett was so much affected as to be in a fainting state. Jacob Post, who was also sitting near, happily escaped injury. The poor man is said never to have spoken after the accident. He died in a few days, and the Delegates generously raised nearly a hundred pounds for his widow."

At the close of the volumes there are short biographies of friends of the family—Father Mathew, Elizabeth Dell of Earls Colne, John Storer of Nottingham who died at the house of Joseph Burtt at Welbourn in 1795, David Doeg, Hannah Kilham and Lydia Ann Barclay.

The picture illustrating this record of the Burtt family (see frontispiece) is a black and white wash drawing, at present on loan at Friends House. It is stated to be the work of Lefever Cranston, who exhibited from 1845 to 1867. The style of the painting and other details in it indicate that it was probably painted in the early years of the nineteenth century. These opinions were obtained from the department of drawing and design at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. On the back of the picture is written: "John Burtt, London, the gift of his sister Sophia 1833, 1692 11 mo. 5. At the screen end is William Burtt, of Caythorpe, who built the house at Welbourn. Second figure name unknown. Third William Burtt addressing the Meeting on the hiring of a room in Lincoln Castle with a view to keep Friends apart from felons (see previous page). The aged man at the table is Thomas Toinbe."

A Jesuit Anti-Quakerianum

The answer to the query in xxviii. 92 is as follows: Theodore Rhay was born in Ressen near Kleve in Rhenish Prussia in March, 1603. He was admitted to the Society of Jesus in October, 1622. He died March 10th, 1671. His other writings deal with local Catholic history or with the wonders of foreign lands like Tibet. The full title of his piece against Quakerism is "*Confusa Confessio Tremantium seu Quackerorum*, das ist: Der Quacker verwirte Glaubens Bekäntnuss, mit vorgesetzter kurtze, doch denckwürdiger historischen Relation, von dieser Zitter-Geister-Nahmen, Ursprung, Lehr und Fortgang. Vorgestellt, und widerlegt von Theodoro Rhay, der Societät Jesus Priestern. Cölln: In Verlag und Druckerey Wilhelm Friessems, Anno 1666."

Though printed in duodecimo the work contained 538 pages and was therefore one of the most considerable attacks on Quakerism from a Roman Catholic point of view. Are any others known? As early?

(Information from *Bibliothèque de la Compagnie de Jesus*, new edition by C. Sommervogel, S. J., Paris, vol. vi., 1895, col. 1783. H. Hurter, *Nomenclator Literarius Theologiae Catholicae*, third edition, Innsbruck, 1910, vol. iv., col. 105. J. Hartzheim, *Bibliotheca Coloniensis*, Cologne, 1747.)

The work was written in German. A translation of the title would be: The Quakers' confused confession of faith, to which is prefixed a brief but noteworthy historical account of the name, origin, teaching and continuance of these tremble-spirits. Presented and confuted by Theodore Rhay, Jesuit priest.

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