

Marriage Certificate, 1670, in Thomas Ellwood's hand

Whereas Edward Butterfield son of John Butterfield of Flandon in the County of Hertford Yeoman, and Mary Thompson, daughter of Philip Thompson of Flandon aforesaid, Blacksmith having first obtained the consent of their nearest Relations & friends, did in two several publick Meetings of the peope of God called Quakers declare their intentions to take each other in Marriage, and had the assent of the said Meeting thereunto :

These are now to certify al whom it may concern that upon the four and twentieth day of the second month (commonly called Aprill) in the year one thousand six hundred & seventy the said Edward Butterfield and Mary Thompson in the new dwelling house of Thomas Lane, called by the name of Whelplie situate in Hamlett of Coleshill in the County aforesaid did solemnly take each other in marriage to live together as husband and Wife, during ther term of their natural lives. In witness whereof we, then present, have hereunto subscribed our names :—

Phillip Thomson	William Cooper
Phillip Thomson Junr.	Henery Treadway
William Nash	Will W Bellon
George Bolsh	Edward Okley
Thomas Lane	John J G Gigger
Thomas Zachary	

This marriage does not appear in the digest of the Bucks Friends Marriage Registers at Friends House, nor is it in the minutes of Upper-side Monthly Meeting. The certificate is on parchment and measures 11 ins. by 8½ ins. It was given to the Library by Elizabeth Fox Howard and is reproduced facing page 1 of this issue, from a block kindly lent by the Friends' Tract Association.

Like the contemporary minutes, it is in the handwriting of Thomas Ellwood. It is also interesting in that it does not record the actual declaration made by the parties, only the sense of it being briefly given.

Edward and Mary Butterfield had several children ; the eldest, Abraham, married in 1708 Rebekah Webb, the compiler of most of the *Butterfield MS.* in the Library, which records events among Friends about Jordans from 1671 to 1796 and is an important source of W. H. Summers' *Memories of Jordans and the Chalfonts*, 1895.

J.L.N.