

# A Hertford Marriage Certificate, 1679

**W**HEREAS Henry Smith of Felsted in ye County of Essex & Abigail Collin of Hartford in ye County of Hartford after a Due Deliberate Consideration had, & a free Consent between themselves made so as is alway meet and requisite, especially in every so serious & Weighty a Matter or Affaire ; Having signified or declared their Intentions of taking each other in Marriage ; Before or at severall publique Meetings, i.e. one Mo<sup>thly</sup> & one Quarterly Meeting of ye people of God called Quakers at Hartford. Whereafter convenient Inspection and Enquiry, According to ye Good necessary Christian Care & Order of ye s<sup>d</sup> people there used & observed in all & every such Cases ; Things being Generally found Consistent & Cleare, The parties, also to have obtained ye Approbation & Consent of Friends and their Relations.

THESE are therefore to Certify whom it may Concerne ; That for ye Full & Compleat Determining such their s<sup>d</sup> Intentions upon ye 16<sup>th</sup> Day of 8<sup>ber</sup> Ano. Domi. 1679. They ye s<sup>d</sup> Henry Smith & Abigail Collin in an open Assembly of ye Lords people afores<sup>d</sup> at their publique Meetingplace in Hartford above sd in a Solemn & Christian Manner according to ye Custom & Example of Gods people in Ancient time were Joyned together in Marriage ; For each taking other by ye hand, The s<sup>d</sup> Henry Smith took her ye s<sup>d</sup> Abigaill Collin to be his Wife & Shee in like manner took him ye s<sup>d</sup> Henry Smith to be her husband. And they did as in ye prsence of ye Lorde and in ye open Audience or hearing of ye s<sup>d</sup> Assembly Mutually engage & solemnly promise to be Loving & Faithfull each to other in ye Neere Relation of Marriage viz., as husband and wife during terme of either of their Naturell Lives And then and there under their owne Hands did Ratify and Confirme ye Same Whereof wth

many more wee were witnesses whose Names are hereunto  
Subscribed.

H. Stout	{ Henry Smith }	Mary Stout
Abraham Rutt	{ <u>Abigail Collins</u> }	Elizabeth Plumsted
Edward Plumsted		Sarah Pletloe
James Paratt	Abraham Goedowne	George Whitehead
John Boyde	Joseph Foster	Thomas Green
John Staploe	Nathaniel Norris	Thos. Burr
Wm. Faireman	William Crowe	Rich Thomas
Thomas Childe	Joseph Senitt	Wm. Rudd
Sarah Rudd	George Hurrell	Wm. Childe
Eli Maler	Martha Hull	John Pesper
John Collins	Jane Collins	Stephen Choppen
Joseph Collin	Jane Goedowne	Thos. Wright
William Colin	Hannah Edlin	Jonathan Cock

This marriage certificate was very kindly lent for transcription by Edith Emily Green of Newport, Essex, by whose permission it is here printed. It is written on vellum measuring  $10\frac{1}{4}$  by  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches and differs from the modern certificate in not reproducing the declarations of the parties. The marriage does not appear in the digested registers of Hertford marriages at Friends House, but the births of seven children are in the Essex birth register there. It is claimed for Hertford meeting house that it is the oldest in the country, being built in 1670.