

First Publishers of Truth in Lancashire

Hawkshead

JAMES RIGG of High Wray was converted and brought unto the true way and worship of the true God ; and the light, the life, the living truth was made manifest in him in the year of our English account, 1653. And the Lord God was pleased to make choice of him FIRST to bear witness unto his living Truth in and about Hawkshead, in the high end of Furness Fells, and also made him willing by his living power, to be serviceable unto his people, by the world scornfully called Quakers.

James Rigg, along with John Braithwaite, of High Wray, purchased a burial ground for Friends of that district, in 1658.

This passage was published in *The Irish Friend*, V (1842), p. 105, being extracted from the Register Book of Hawkshead Meeting and contributed by W.B.¹ dated, Manchester, 18.vi.1842. It is additional to the Lancashire answers to the usual questionnaire, first published by the undersigned in *Jnl. F.H.S.*, xxxi. (1934), 3ff, and does not follow quite the usual form. The original book is presumably now at Somerset House, London. If it could be identified and consulted it might throw light on the date and character of the excerpt, possibly the context is biographical, a testimony to James Rigg.² He is mentioned much more casually in the regular reply (*Jnl. F.H.S.*, xxxi., 13). There is early evidence of a separate effort to secure data about Friends in the ministry, arranged biographically rather than locally. This extract makes an interesting supplement to the previous account for Hawkshead.

James Rigg of High Wray is mentioned as suffering (unconvicted) by distrains of cattle in 1664, in a paper submitted to the Justices of the Quarter Sessions at Lancaster, which was included in the Great Journal of George Fox (p. 506), in the Spence MS. Journal (*Camb. Jnl.* ii., 65ff.), and in the Sessions Records, printed by B. Nightingale in *Early Stages of the Quaker Movement in Lancashire*, pp. 116ff. He does not, however, appear in Besse's *Sufferings for Lancashire*.

HENRY J. CADBURY.

¹ Probably William Benson.—ED.

² The extract in question is not in the MS. *Extracts from Register Books*, at Friends House, the originals of which were surrendered to Somerset House, but there are under Hawkshead in that volume testimonies to George Knipe, d. 1709, William Rigg, d. 1712, George Benson, d. 1712.—ED.