

# Marriage Certificate, 1673

## Fothergill of Wensleydale

**T**HE 12 day of y<sup>e</sup> 4 month 1673. In the feare of y<sup>e</sup> Lord & accordinge to his holy Institution & ordinance. And accordinge to y<sup>e</sup> Law and y<sup>e</sup> practice of y<sup>e</sup> holy men of God in y<sup>e</sup> Scriptures of truth did Alexander Fothergill son of John Fothergill of Carr end in Whensladall take to wife Ann Langton Daughter of John Langton of side in Sedburgh And she consented to him And further did take Alexand Fothergill to be her husband for y<sup>e</sup> Assembly for y<sup>e</sup> people of God at Brigflats in the aforesaid Sedbergh And he is her husband & she is his wife sollemly : promissinge to live faithfully together man and wife soe long as they Live And we are witnesses of y<sup>e</sup> same whose names are hearunto subscribed

John Fothergill  
John Langton  
Oswald Routh  
Thomas Metcalfe  
Alexander Metcalf  
Joseph Paine  
James Thompson  
Tho: Thompson

John Blayklinge  
Michael Pratt  
Francis Blayklinge  
Richard Speight  
Lawrence Routh  
Marmaduke Walker  
John Thompson  
James Guy  
John Holmes  
John Fothergill.

Elsabeth Fothergill was borne on the eighteen't day of the first month and in the yeare 1673[/74].

This marriage certificate is now in the possession of Bertram Fothergill Crosfield who has kindly presented a facsimile copy to the Library, Friends House.<sup>1</sup> It presents several features of interest in common with the two other early marriage certificates printed in the last two issues. Like them it is not recorded in the digest of marriage registers at Friends House ; it does not record the words of the declaration made by the two parties ; nor do the parties themselves set their hands to it. In this case there is no reference to " Quakers " though clearly Briggflatts meeting is meant as the place of marriage.

<sup>1</sup> MS. Vol. 101.(9).

The first two signatures are those of the fathers of the parties and there is no woman's signature. Inability to write can hardly have been the reason for this because the names of three of the witnesses have apparently been written for them by the bridegroom's father, who also wrote out the certificate.

The record of birth of the first child of the marriage has been added to the certificate. It occurs also in the Yorkshire register at Friends House. The dating well illustrates the confusion that may arise if old style dates are misread. Translated to new style the date of the marriage is 12th June, 1673, and of the birth of the child, 18th March, 1674.

The original is on paper and measures 11¼" — 7½". Alexander Fothergill was the grandfather of Dr. John Fothergill.

ED.

## Bristol Friends in 1715

The Quakers of Bristol "are generally well affected to the present government, large traders and very rich. Their number may be supposed about 2,000 and upwards; and their wealth not less than £500,000." MS written in 1715 by John Evans, minister of Hand Alley Presbyterian Church, Bishopsgate Street, London, preserved at Dr. Williams Library, London and quoted in E. D. Bebb's, *Nonconformity and Social and Economic Life 1660-1800*, 1935, p. 52.

H.J.C.

## From Whitby Parish Register

- Fisher, Rachel, a quaker. born 1 Nov. 1657.  
 Lotherington, George son of Benjamin a quaker b Sept. 3  
 1703.  
 Walker, John son of Tho. & Eliz. quakers. born Oct. 11 1703.  
 Walker, Mary dau. of John & Hester Q born 30 Oct. 1703.  
 Smales, Elizabeth da of Tho. Smales his wife being a quaker was  
 buried Nov. 13 1703.  
 Foster, Alice da of Benjamin & Sarah Quakers born Nov 18 1703.  
 Sewales, Isabella a quaker, born 26 Feb. 1728-9.  
 Close, James s of Jacob, a quaker, was bo privately 8 Feb.  
 1736-7.