

keep clear of having their hoods made with superfluity and long tabs, and so that all the youth dress their heads decent and as becomes Truth."

In 1717 mothers were asked to "keep out of superfluous fashions, cutting and powdering the hair and needless pinches in the forehead manties with short skirts or any other dress that are not consistant with Truth". In 1719, in spite of the earlier minutes, evidently "superfluities" continued, alas, and in addition some Friends must have been "wearing something in their petticoats in imitation of a hoop".

As the years roll on, the minutes become more and more formal and monotonous, sometimes the spelling and writing are very bad, and there are frequent changes of clerk. But down to 1777, when the minutes cease, Friends are still nobly refusing to pay tithes, they faithfully visit each other and other Meetings, they are exhorted to read the Holy Scriptures in their families, and to keep out of "the spirit and corrupt friendship of the world".

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Bridget Draper, *née* Fell

BRIDGET was the second daughter of Judge and Margaret Fell, and was born at Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, Lancashire, probably in 1635. She was therefore about 17 years old when George Fox first came to her home in 1652. During 1660 she was left in charge of home, family, Meeting and estate, while her mother was in London pleading with Charles II for the release of George Fox, then in Lancaster prison, and she was faced with the constant difficulties due to persecution from Colonel Kirkby and others. Her letters to her mother show the strain. On 26.i.1662 (O.S.), Bridget married John Draper, of Headlam, Durham, son of a Friend, Henry Draper.

As nothing whatever except one reference to the settlement of her estate was known after her marriage, it has been thought during the last thirty years that she died

mentally afflicted (see note on page 96 of H. Crosfield's *Margaret Fox of Swarthmoor Hall*). Fortunately my research among the Swarthmoor Letters enables me to disprove this supposition. Two letters written to Margaret Fell by William Caton, who had formerly been her own secretary and her son's friend and companion, refer to Bridget. Nine days before Bridget's marriage, her mother had written to William Caton telling him of the approaching wedding at Swarthmoor Hall, and William wrote back to tell her of the pleasure it was to him that she—like her elder sister Margaret who had married John Rous of Barbadoes two months earlier—was marrying a Friend. (Swarth. MSS. I, 328.) Then on 13.ii.1663 (O.S.), William Caton wrote from Amsterdam to Margaret Fell, "Before my return out of England I had heard the sad and unwelcome news concerning the death and departure of dear Bridget, which thou may be assured came exceeding near me, but what shall I say? We must go after her, for here we have no continuing city, oh that we always therefore may be found in that faith, life, power and spirit, through which the entrance is made into the eternal inheritance." (Swarth. MSS. I, 330.)

I am indebted to Amy G. Wallis (Darlington) for the information that the parish register at Gainford records the burial of Bridget's husband, John Draper, on January 13th, 1671 (13.xi.1670 (O.S.)).

Bridget's property on her death must have remained with her husband, but apparently was returned to her own family after his death, as letters of administration for her estate, dated May 22nd, 1671, were granted to her sisters, Sarah Fell and Mary Lower. In H. Crosfield, *Margaret Fox*, p. 96 and note, the date 1678 is no doubt a misprint for 1671.

Bridget died therefore just a year after marriage.

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