

Meetings in Market Houses

NOTES BY RUTH G. BURTT*

VARIOUS Market Houses, Wool Halls, and Inns in the Cotswolds appear to have been licensed for the worship of Friends in the eighteenth century. The following records for Minchinhampton and Wotton-under-Edge, date from the reign of George the Second. Both little towns were then flourishing centres of the wool trade, and Minchinhampton had three market halls, devoted principally to the sale of Cotswold cloth. The nearest Meeting-house in each case was Nailsworth, three miles from Minchinhampton and five from Wotton-under-Edge.

To Martin Benson Bishop of Gloucester:

We and others of the Kings Protestant Subjects called Quakers desires the Market Houses in Minchinhampton in the County of Gloucester may be Recorded for the Use and Worship of Almighty God according to act of Parliment in y^t case made and provided.

Christopher Young

Hen: Wilkins

Wm. Humphris.

Dated this 23rd Day of June 1746. This Certificate was duly Registered in the Registry of the Bishop of Gloucester by me Tho: Branch Dep. Register.

It is ordered by this Court (of General Quarter Sessions) that the Roome over the Markett house or Town Hall in Wotton under Edge in this County Be Lycensed and Allowed for his Majesties Protestant Dissenting subjects called Quakers to Assemble and meet together in for the Worship of God in their Way. And it is also further ordered that the Dwelling House of John Wallington called the Crown Inne in Wotton under Edge aforesaid be also Lycensed for his Majesties afore said subjects to Assemble and meet together in for the Worship of God If they shall see occasion so to doe. According to their Petition for that Purpose filed and Allowed
Will: James, Clark of ye Peace.

* See frontispiece to this issue.