

£171. Building was in the air at this time. In 1788 Kirby subscribed £9 14s. towards building Leeds Meeting House, £9 2s. for Devonshire House, London, in 1791, and for Sheffield in 1800.

In 1792 Monthly Meeting asked each Preparative Meeting to prepare and bring in a proper list of members. Near the end of our period, in 1855, the numbers had dropped to 17.

Pickering and Hull Monthly Meeting, of which Kirbymoorside and Hutton form part, was established in 1859. Kirbymoorside had originally been in Guisborough Monthly Meeting (one of the fourteen monthly meetings which formed Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting at the time of earliest record, in 1669) and this continued until 1833. In that year, Helmsley and Kirbymoorside (with Hutton and Lowna) were united with Pickering Monthly Meeting, which was amalgamated with Hull Monthly Meeting in 1859.

In 1869 Kirbymoorside Preparative Meeting was discontinued; Friends constituting it were united to Malton. From that date to about the end of the century, meetings were held only one Sunday in the month, one or more Friends from Malton usually attending. From about 1900 meetings have been regularly held. Whilst technically an "Allowed Meeting", the functions of a Preparative Meeting were gradually assumed during the 1930s, and full status was recognized in 1947.

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## A Quaker in Barbary

### Thomas Hutson in Algiers, 1677

IT was in June, 1677, that Mr. Samuel Martin, His Majesty's Consul and Agent in Algiers, was alarmed by the news that an English merchantman had been escorted into the port by the Dey's war galleys. The ship was the Barbados vessel *Patience*, bound homewards from England with goods of the Worshipful Turkey Company and under the command of one Thomas Hudson,<sup>1</sup> a Quaker.

<sup>1</sup> In Friends' records he appears as Hutson (or Huttson).

Thomas Hutson (Huttson), senr., died aged 73 on 14.viii.1697, buried at Southwark. At the time of his death he is described as of the parish of All Hallows, Lombard Street, London.

Friends' registers have records of the following children born to Thomas and Anne Hutson (Huttson, Hottson, Hudson, Hodson) of Shad Thames (alternatively, of Toolies, and of Olaves parish, Southwark):

(Footnote continued on next page)

The case was unusual, even in the turbulent seas of Barbary. The writ of international treaties ran as far as the Dey's authority could prevail with his pirate mariners, but it was not always easy for him to curb them and prevent them from interfering with vessels that happened to cross the course of their swift galleys. True, the English passport, backed by the English garrison at Tangier and the British Mediterranean squadron ready to uphold international law, was held in so great esteem that it commanded a high price on what might be termed the international black market of the Mediterranean navigation. So much was it respected, that commanders of Algerian vessels were ready to recognize its validity even in cases of manifest bad faith by the master of the vessel; and the lack of a passport would be overlooked if the Algerians were persuaded of the English provenance of the ship. Forbearance was going so far that the pirates mutinied against restrictions that were reducing their income and the revenues of the city of Algiers.

Just then, when the pirates were in an ugly mood, the *Patience* fell into their hands. Since she was a West Indian, not an English, vessel, and was carrying no indented passport, they regarded it as a rightful prize. Captain Hudson explained to the Consul his lack of a passport, saying "that hee could not have a passe where hee came from England without swearing, and that his conscience would not admit of."

The Consul hastened to the Dey, and appealed to him to abide by the treaty, by which the Algerians had promised not to molest vessels either from England or from English

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Emanuel 4.ix.1659; John 15.xii.1663; Thomas 13.i.1665/6; Josiah 3.x.1670; Mehetabell 7.ix.1672 (married Joel Gates, clothier, of George Yard, Lomard Street, 12.x.1695); Josiah 4.iii.1676 (died of teething, 9.i.1677, aged ten months). The following children's deaths are also recorded: Christian (1.ix.1665), and an unnamed child (16.iv.1669).

Thomas Hutson is described as a mariner in the records between 1659 and 1676, but there is no mention of occupation after that date. By 1695 he had quitted the sea and moved across the river into Gracechurch Street. In 1685 he sold canvas "to putt round the great bed where Friends lodge, yt are prisoners in ye Compter in Tooley Street" (see Beck & Ball, *London Friends' Meetings*, 232; *Jnl. F.H.S.*, ii, 132)—a possible indication of his trade ashore. In 1688 Horslydown Monthly Meeting named him the first of three Friends to go to claim the Old Park meeting house back from the military, who had been using it as a guard house (Beck & Ball, *op. cit.*, 220-221), and another indication of his standing is the fact that he was (in 1688 and 1689) one of the six London Friends "Intrusted for this Year with the Accounts" (Yearly Meeting printed epistles, 1688, 1689).

colonies, and in particular from the East and West Indies. The Dey valued good relations with England and recognized the force of the Consul's arguments, but he did not dare to adjudicate without his Divan. There the Consul encountered a storm of abuse from the honest pirates who indignantly refused to part with a rightful prize and their earnings. They had had more than enough of conciliatory policies—the more so because English merchantmen and privateers did not always play their part by discreetly respecting treaty rights. This time they would stand firmly on the letter of the law. "With a great deale of rudenesse and confusion they all agreed to unload all ships that hath not an indented passe. And soe they determined to doe by this Quaker without any regard unto whome sayd goods belongs to." However, after much haggling, "they promised to restore the shipp and company, and to pay the ffreight to the Master as they have hetherto done to all the shippes they have brought in."

And so, finally, it was done. Captain Hudson got 2,500 dollars for the Company's cargo, and cast off, minus most of the other goods, and with the painful prospect of facing the irate merchants, deceived of their profits, with the argument of his tender conscience.

Ironically enough, the Quaker's scruples resulted in strengthening the King of England's authority in the seas of Barbary, since the Dey, to prevent any repercussions from England, solemnly promised for the future to recognize and enforce the validity of English passports without any reservation as to the vessels carrying them or to the nature of their cargo.

As for Thomas Hudson, Consul Martin attempted to recover damages and even had some hope of success, but relations between Algiers and England again deteriorated, a war intervened, and before the case could be reopened the Consul died. Consul Martin's death finally closed the case of the Quaker captain's refusal to violate his conscience for the sake of his cargo.

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The documents concerned are in the Public Record Office. State Papers. Barbary States. SP 71/2. Despatches of Samuel Martin to Joseph Williamson, Secretary of State, p. 656, 659 of 22.vi.1677, p. 661 of 13/23. vi. 1677, p. 675 of 20/30.vi.1677, p. 677 of 19/29.vii. 1677. Other despatches, p. 725 of 3/13.iii.1677/8.