

# NOTES & QUERIES

## SHROPSHIRE FRIENDS

*Victoria County History: Shropshire*, ed. G.C. Baugh, Oxford U.P., 1985.

Article on Madeley includes the Coalbrookdale Meeting.

Also, the Darby family, Richard Reynolds, Ironbridge Ragged School in the 1840s, Telford Meeting from the 1960s and Friends in Lilleshall and Wellington.

## ALYS PEARSALL SMITH

In 'Alys Pearsall Smith and Bertrand Russell' in *Russell: the Journal of the Bertrand Russell Archives* (n.s. vol.3 no.2, Winter 1983-84).

Sheila Turcon provides a detailed account of a curious combination of an aristocratic and Quaker wedding between Alys Pearsall Smith and Bertrand Russell. Those attending included Bevan and W.C. Braithwaite and Rendel Harris.

## WEST CHALLOW

Many of the villages in the Vale of the White Horse had a Quaker following in the seventeenth century – places like Faringdon, Uffington, Childrey and West Challow. The Vale of White Horse MM was united with Oxford in 1791, and become Witney MM.

Faringdon had a meeting House which is still in use; that at Uffington is now a private house; meetings at Childrey were in a private house which can be identified today. At West Challow the Meeting House also became a private house and, much altered, is believed to be Box Cottage.

Mrs Violet M. Howse of Stanford-in-the-Vale has produced an admirable book (95pp., maps and illus.) on the parish history of W. Challow. She made use of the Vale of White Horse MM Minutebooks in the Oxfordshire Record Office and chapter 3 is devoted to the Quakers.

She quotes from the minutes between 1684 and 1712 and cites tables of collections and payments to poor members; e.g. on 24 1st mo. 1679 'To ye prisoners at Gloucester 10s.', and 'for paving ye meeting house at chawlow 16s. 6d.' On 27 2nd mo. 1699 we find 'to ye Girle for sweeping ye meeting house at Farrington 1s. 6d.'

Mrs. Howse has sent a copy of her book which will be placed with other MM records.

*Arthur Bissell*  
*Custodian Witney MM Records*

*Bristol, Africa and the eighteenth-century slave trade to America*. Edited by David Richardson. vol.I – The years of expansion, 1698-1729. (Bristol Record Society's publications. vol.38. 1986.)

This volume throws light on the mercantile activities of some Bristol Quaker merchants, shopkeepers and tradesmen in the generation before Friends' Meeting in Bristol became active in discouraging members from engaging in trading overseas in armed vessels, and half a century before Friends generally took up the anti-slave trade cause.

The notes which follow cannot claim to be exhaustive as regards items of Quaker interest, since more work is needed to identify people.

One of the earliest records in the book is of one 'Nathaniel Kile', owner of the *Beginning*, which sailed from Bristol for Guinea and Jamaica in November 1699, and returned to Bristol, 5 February 1701. He is probably NATHANIEL KILL (see Bristol Record Society, xxvi, 250).

The brothers WILLIAM and JOHN REEVE, merchants (see BRS, xxx, 258) appear as owners or part owners of vessels trading to Africa, and delivering slaves to Virginia. The *Susanna* (50 tons, 2 guns) went to Africa in 1724 and delivered 83 slaves to Nevis in the West Indies. They were joint owners also of the *Serelion* (70 tons, 2 guns) which delivered 158 slaves to Nevis from Guinea, 1727–28.

FRANCIS ROGERS, merchant, of Castle Precincts, Bristol (probably, 1670–1715? son of William Rogers the supporter of Wilkinson and Story) was concerned in ten voyages as owner (or part owner) of the *Dispatch*, *Expectation*, *Colston Gally*, *William*, *Fame Sloop*, *Peterborough Frigate* (120 tons, 14 guns) and *Jason Gally* (120 tons, 16 guns). These substantially-armed last two ships had letters of marque, and delivered more than 300 slaves each at Barbados and Nevis, 1711–13. In its last voyage, 1715, the *Fame Sloop* had on board 84 slaves. It was castaway in the road at Barbados.

The SCANDRETT family, grocers (CHARLES born 1691; married Mary Lloyd, 1724; CHRISTOPHER, 1705–39; and JOHN (see BRS, xxx, 260)) were active in Africa trade in the 1720s. Some ships brought back unsold goods as well as the bulk cargoes of ivory and redwood. The *Sherley Gally* (80 tons) for instance, between 1722 and 1729 made five voyages, taking on average more than 200 slaves to the West Indies or to Virginia each time. In 1728 the ship carried 5 guns; armament was not mentioned before.

The records on which this volume is based are incomplete. For instance, PETER BUSH, who married Margaret Herring in Bristol Meeting, 17 October 1715, was master on board the *Roachdale Gally* cleared outward from Bristol for Madeira and Barbados on 9 November following. There is no overt reference to a slave element in the trading mission, but this can be assumed, since the vessel (under a previous master) delivered 96 slaves in Barbados two years before.

The same lack of evidence of slave trading is seen in the voyage record of the *Diamond*, 'Richyt Cole & Co.' owners, which left port in December 1716, also for Madeira and Barbados. Richyt Cole is probably RICHYATE, son of Benjamin & Joan (Yates) COOLE, born 14 September 1690, who married Abigail Vigor in Bristol Meeting, 16 August 1711.

CHRISTOPHER DEVONSHEIR, owner of the *Anne and Dorothy*, sailing to Guinea, and then to Jamaica with 126 slaves, 1710–11, was probably connected with Minehead and the south of Ireland. Other names have a familiar ring, but identities are not established easily.

For instance, there is JOHN FRY, part owner of the *Whetstone Gally* (130 tons, 16 guns) 1708, which was taken when outward bound for Jamaica;

JOSEPH GOTLEY, part owner of the *Joseph Gally* (130 tons, 10 guns) with letters of marque, 12 January 1708; delivered 280 slaves in Jamaica;

RICHARD GOTLEY, part owner of the *Victory* (150 tons, 10 guns), on voyage outwards to Angola, 1699. For Richard Gotley see BRS, xxvi, 201;

RICHARD HAWKSWORTH, part owner of the *Peterborough Frigate* (armed vessel) 1711, and of the *Oldbury*, 1720 and 1728 (80 tons, 4 guns in 1728), voyages to Montserrat (209 slaves delivered) and Barbados. Richard Hawksworth, Castle Precincts, Bristol, buried 28 August 1752;

WALTER HAWKSWORTH, senior owner of the *Africa Brigantine* (50 tons) 1718–19, on a voyage to Guinea and Virginia (84 slaves delivered). Walter Hawksworth married Elizabeth Coysgarne, 8 xi 1716 in Bristol;

HENRY PARKER, senior owner of the *Westbury* (80 tons) which sailed for Guinea in August 1720 and was reported taken by a Spanish sloop off Hispaniola, 21 March 1721, when bound for Jamaica with 177 slaves on board. Henry Parker, merchant, married Sarah Hackett, 7 June 1708, in Bristol Meeting;

THOMAS SMITH, part owner (with Joseph Gotley and others) of the *Joseph Gally* (mentioned above), may be Thomas (born 1682) son of Paul Smith glazier (see BRS, xxx, 261);

The Vigor & Co., in part ownership of the *Hector Gally* (90 tons) may indicate involvement by FRANCIS VIGOR (1699–1726) son of Joseph and Abigail Vigor. The ship delivered 210 slaves at St Kitts in 1725.

#### SUSSEX

*The Victoria History of the Counties of England. A history of the County of Sussex.* Edited by T.P. Hudson. Vol.6, part 2: Bramber rape (north-western part), including Horsham. (Oxford University Press, 1986.)

This volume includes notes of Friends in Itchingfield, Thakeham (including the Blue Idol), Warminghurst (William Penn's ownership of the property between 1676 and 1707), Ashurst, Shipley and Horsham (centre for monthly meetings from 1668). It is interesting to note that Penn was selling substantial amounts of timber from his estate (perhaps to help finance his enterprise across the Atlantic), and that his name was adopted for a school at Coolham founded in the 1890s.

*Victoria History* volumes are useful not only for the detailed coverage they essay, but also for the source references which provide pointers to further sources of information.

#### ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS

Settle Montly Meeting, 4 i 1701/2, Minute 2 records a request from a Settle Friend for an expression of the meeting's unity with his concern to visit Friends in Wales and some counties in the West of England. The Monthly Meeting responded:

... this Meeting haveing weighed & considered thereof finds nothing against it. But advises him to be carefull to behave himselfe in his travel upon all accounts as becomes those who are concerned in so weighty a work, but more particularly that he be carefull not to be

more free in his discourse or intimacy with unmarried women than with those that are married, and give account at his return how he hath answered the advice of this Meeting.

How the ministering journey went is not recorded in Settle minutes. [Charlton Hill archives, deposited at the Brotherton Library, Leeds, volume H2, page 22.]

*Russell S. Mortimer*

#### SAMUEL ALEXANDER

Goldrood, Suffolk, the house on the outskirts of Ipswich belonging to Samuel Alexander, Friend and banker, was depicted in a series of more than fifty watercolours by his daughter Mary Ann between 1840 and 50. In *Country Life* (6 November 1986) John Cornforth publishes thirteen of these watercolours (eleven in colour) with an accompanying text. They provide a fascinating and rare insight into the life-style of prosperous English Friends in the mid-nineteenth century as well as examples of interior decoration at the time.

*David J. Hall*

#### YORKSHIRE SURVEYORS

The following names are identified as those of Quakers in Jan Crowther's *Enclosure commissioners and surveyors of the East Riding* (East Yorkshire Local History Society, 1986); John (1701–78), Joseph (1746–1823) and Samuel Dickinson; James Farthing; John Flintoff; Isaac Leatham (?–1815; author of *General view of the agriculture of the East Riding*, 1794); Isaac and Samuel Milbourn; Richard Allen (1812–75), Robert (1740–1813) and William (1764–1848) Stickney; Daniel (1784–1832) and John (1759–1841) Tuke.

The pamphlet includes an informative survey of the work of the enclosure commissioners. The author concludes that 'The chief beneficiaries of enclosure were undoubtedly the larger proprietors' (p.36); and adds 'Perhaps it is fortunate that Quaker commissioners were so active in the East Riding, as their commitment to egalitarianism and philanthropy ensured that the smaller proprietors were treated as justly as the system would allow.' (p.37)

*Jean Mortimer*

#### ILKLEY FRIENDS

David Carpenter's *Ilkley, the Victorian era* (Smith Settle, Otley 1986) includes a brief notice of Friends in the town and a reproduction of an old photograph of the meeting house on Queens Road, opened in 1869. The author mentions also Walter J. Kaye and Ilkley College. It will be noted that Walter Kaye (1843–1919) is later found in Harrogate as a private school proprietor (see Pearson Thistlethwaite's *Quaker meetings of Knaresborough and Harrogate*, 1984). It may also be mentioned that books of Ilkley Preparative Meeting minutes do not survive before 1891.

*Jean Mortimer*

#### QUAKERS AND THE LAW

Eric Stockdale: 'Sir John Kelyng, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1665–1671' (*Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society*, vol.59, 1980, pp.43–53) recalls

that Kelyng (who was accused of bullying juries to change their verdicts) when presiding at an Old Bailey trial of Quakers, thus addressed the Jury:

‘I shall say something concerning them and their Principles, that they might not be thought worthy of pity, as suffering more than they deserve: for they are a Stubborn Sect, and the King hath been very merciful with them. It was hoped that the Purity of the Church of England would ere this have convinced them, but they will not be reclaimed.’

‘Their end is Rebellion and Blood.’

The quotations come from William Smith’s *The innocency and conscientiousness of the Quakers asserted and cleared from the evil surmises... of Judge Keeling* (1664), pp. 5 and 7.

*Jean Mortimer*

#### LABOUR WOMEN

Isabella Ford, and Katharine Bruce Glasier (‘a poor plain sparrow’) appear in Sandra Stanley Holton: *Feminism and democracy: women’s suffrage and reform politics in Britain, 1900–1918*. (Cambridge University Press, 1986.) The book is fully researched and the author has made good use of sources available in such collections as the Fawcett Library.

Gordon Rupp’s *Religion in England, 1688–1791* (Oxford history of the Christian Church. Clarendon Press, 1986) has a sixteen-page chapter on Quakers, not restricted to the post-Revolution period.

#### WETHERBY, YORKSHIRE

Robert Unwin: *Wetherby, the history of a Yorkshire market town*. (Wetherby Historical Trust, 1986). This volume mentions Friends’ presence in the town in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The main supporter of the Friends’ Meeting seems to have been Thomas Mason (d.1690) who had a milling business. In 1689 his house was licensed for public worship. Monthly Meeting was held in the town in 1677. In 1736 the author states that a meeting house was provided at nearby Clifford. In the later eighteenth century the meeting was centred there. The author has used York Monthly Meeting records and Pearson Thistlethwaite’s *History of Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting* (1979).

#### FRIENDS AND ABOLITION

James Walvin: *England, slaves and freedom, 1776–1838*. (Macmillan, 1986) This volume treats of the influence of Friends on the abolition movement. ‘Friends – and their abundant theological outpourings – criss-crossed and the Atlantic, always sure of a bed and a sympathetic hearing in the expansive network of Friends’ (p.101).

**WILLIAM BARTRAM**

In *Journal of the History of Ideas* (vol. xlvi no.4 1985, pp 435–448) Larry R. Clarke writes about 'The Quaker background of William Bartram's view of nature'. He discusses the theological background to Quaker views of natural knowledge, Fox's interest in hermetic philosophy and the specific opinions of William Bartram and his father John.

*Christianity in the West 1400–1700* by John Bossy (Oxford 1985) is partly concerned with pre-Reformation Christianity but it also provides useful introductory material and interesting parallels for the origins of Quakerism. There is a brief discussion of Friends and contemporary movements in our earliest period.

*The Lake Counties and Christianity The Religious History of Cumbria 1780–1920* by John Burgess is published by the author and based upon his Sheffield University doctoral thesis. The brief chapter on Friends stresses their influence and that of former Friend families throughout the nineteenth century in Kendal, the Beacon controversy and the contribution of Friends to the beginning of the Brethren in Cumbria. The chapter on the Brethren develops the story of the 1860s division among Friends in Carlisle.

*Madness, Morality and Medicine: A Study of the York Retreat 1796–1916* by Anne Digby incorporates much detailed study of records of admissions, costs and medical progress. Her account shows how the early strong Quaker influence was gradually weakened and how influential the institution was, partly due to the publication of Samuel Tuke's *Description of the Retreat* in 1813.

**MYLES BIRKET FOSTER (1825–1899)**

Jan Reynolds in her book *Birket Foster* (London, 1984) has produced a substantial and well-illustrated large format work about the distinguished water-colour painter who began life as a Friend though he apparently resigned his membership in 1849.

**BRONNER & FRASER'S BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM PENN**

The appearance of this major bibliography of the printed works of William Penn provides a welcome opportunity for librarians to check their holdings and update the information provided more than a century ago in Joseph Smith's *Descriptive catalogue of Friends' books*, 2 vols., 1867.

The Birkbeck Library, now deposited in the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, together with other items in the collections of Friends' books there, includes over 40 percent of the items listed in this volume (which forms volume 5 of the University of Pennsylvania Press edition of *The Papers of William Penn*, 1986). The total holdings top the 50 percent mark when microform reproductions are taken into account. From that base one is able to add a few first notes in a process of expansion and illustration which will doubtless continue through the long life of this splendid work of reference.

First (but not in the Birkbeck Library): *The Truth of God* (114A) can be dated more closely than 'before 27 mar. 1699'. Note may be taken of the manuscript corrections which were made to the edition printed by William Bonny (see Bristol Men's Meeting minutes of 11 February 1698/99: Bristol Record Society's publications, xxx. 146). The title-page of this early Bristol printing is dated 1699: the practice of dating books issued towards the end of a year with the following year's date has a long pedigree, although William Penn and Benjamin Coole were not looking to the Christmas trade.

*The Three Norfolk Clergy Mens Brief discovery... modestly observed*, 1699 (116) is present in the Birkbeck Library in a copy which is both unsigned and without imprint. The price appears to have been one halfpenny.

Bulstrode Whitelock's *Quench not the Spirit*, 2nd ed., 1715 (132B) is present in the Birkbeck Library in copies which have the "Bulstrode" spelling on the title-page, together with corrected page numbers.

Among other items where different states and variants appear are: *No cross*, 1694 (65F) where the Birkbeck copy has no mention of the Crooked-Billet in the imprint.

*A Perswasive to moderation* (72B or 72C) is present in a copy where the title-page reads "Charls", but the page number 16 is correct.

*The Christian-Quaker*, 1699 (22C) differs in title-page after line 7, in the chapter number on p.27, and in that it includes the one-page Postscript at the end.

*To the Churches of Jesus*, 1677 (44A) has the text "My Companions..." on page 13.

In *The Concurrence & unanimity*, 1694 (99A) the page numbers 18 and 98 are correct.

A Birkbeck copy (volume 80.9) of *The Peoples ancient and just liberties asserted*, 1670, cannot be pinned down to any of the items 10B to 10E in the bibliography (the contents lists for these items appear to be incomplete – perhaps a fault in mechanical typesetting).

The colophon in the Penn item issued in the *Journal of George Fox*, 1694 (97A) includes the hyphen between the words "Holly-well".

The Birkbeck Library copy of *A defence of a paper entituled, Gospel-truths*, 1698 (113) has the imprint of 113A and the last line on page 4 as in 113B.

Russell S. Mortimer

Gordon D. Brisay, 16 Summerton House, 369 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7RA or c/o The Library, Lincoln College, Oxford wishes to contact anyone interested in Seventeenth-century Scottish Friends (especially in Aberdeen) or those with interests in Barclay and Keith.