

# Quakers in Masham

## From 1660 to today

Wed 7th October 2015



**Live adventurously.**

Wensleydale & Swaledale Quakers

# Who are the Quakers?

George Fox writing about his vision at the summit of Pendle Hill, south-west of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 1652:

*...I was moved of the Lord to go up to the top of it; which I did with difficulty, it was so very steep and high. When I was come to the top, I saw the sea bordering upon Lancashire. From the top of this hill the Lord let me see in what places he had a great people to be gathered.*

- As Quakers we believe that there is something of God in everybody.
- We do not have clergy, rituals or creed and our meetings for worship are often held in silence as we wait on God. Our days are full of talk, question and hopefully action!
- Our Quaker Values or Testimonies are Peace, Equality, Truth and Integrity and Simplicity

# The early Quakers

- George Fox began the Society of Friends in 1648 as he and his friends travelled across England speaking of the importance of a personal relationship with God.
- One of the first people in Wensleydale to become 'convinced' as a Quaker was Richard Robinson (1628-1693) of Countersett Hall, possibly after hearing George Fox preach at Askrigg.
- The travelling Friends (later to become known as the Valiant Sixty) were bringing together those unconvinced by the leaders of the church and state in a time of upheaval and unrest - “seekers, scattered Baptists, disillusioned soldiers, and restless common folk”
- Quakers were seen as a threat to the establishment as they rejected the need for any one, of any class, to depend on clergy or creed to intercede with God on their behalf. They rejected oaths, titles, war taxes and tithes.

# The Sufferings of Friends

It was a time of major religious and social unrest following the death of Cromwell and the restoration of the crown.

- Act of Uniformity 1662 – making the use of Book of Common Prayer compulsory
- Quaker Act of 1662 and the Conventicle Act of 1664 – outlawed the refusal to make an oath to the crown in court and prohibited 5 or more persons congregating for religious worship other than Anglican services, leading to imprisonment, fines or possessions confiscated
- James II's Act of Toleration in 1669 did eventually lead to Meeting Houses being licensed at Aysgarth, Bainbridge, Carperby, Countersett, Hawes, Leyburn and Masham.
- But yet another Act in 1670 imposed a fine on anyone attending any religious services other than those of the Established Church – 5 shillings for the first offence and 10 shillings for a second. Any preacher or person who allowed their house to be used as a meeting house could be fined 20 shillings and 40 shillings for a second offence.

# The Sufferings of Friends

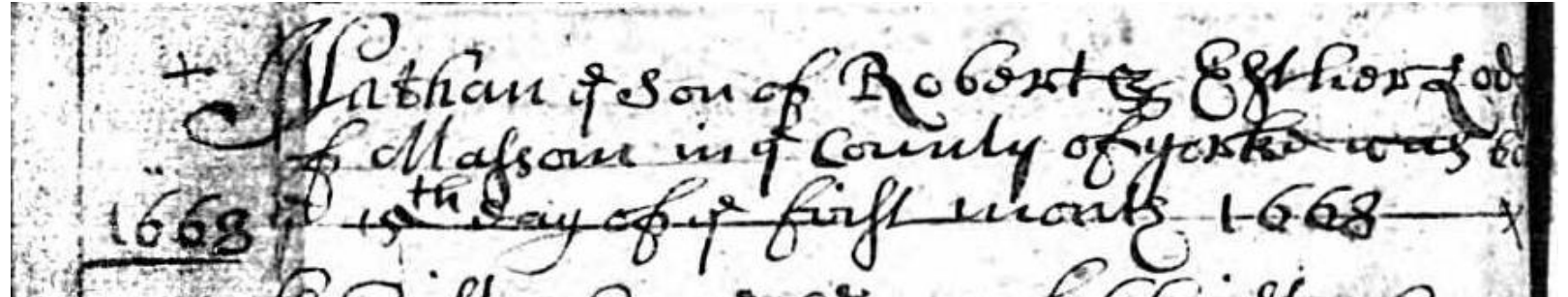
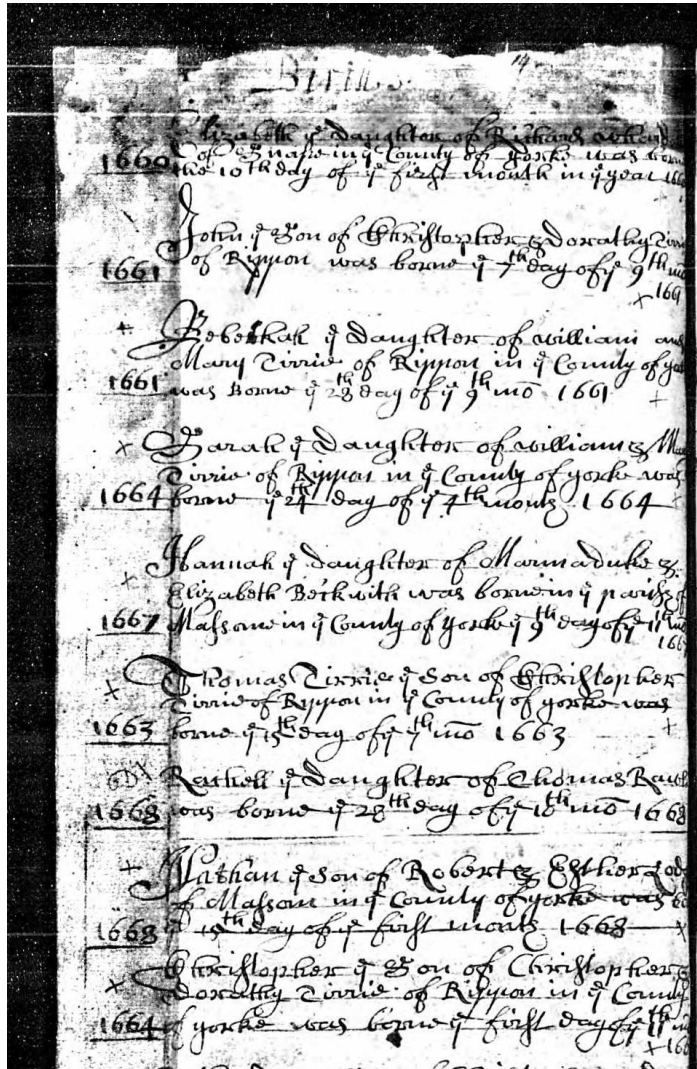
- Judge Fell and his wife Margaret of Swarthmoor Hall provided the base for the beginnings of Quakerism.
- Margaret, who later married George Fox, was imprisoned herself, in Lancaster jail. She kept remarkable records of the 'sufferings' of these imprisoned Quakers, and 'meetings for sufferings' were held to organise assistance for the prisoners and their families. The key strategic body for British Quakers has retained the name 'Meeting for Sufferings', due to the great historical significance of this period
- It still retains a register of Friends before the courts or imprisoned for matters of conscience.

# The first Quakers in Masham

- One of the first attested Quakers in Masham was Robert Lodge, a butcher. It is said he was *pretty early convinced of the blessed Truth, & being called to the Ministry was a faithfull labourer therein* travelling and preaching throughout the country.

1665 Robert Lodge of Masham in the County of York  
5<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Having before in a public Meeting of y<sup>e</sup> people published  
his intent of taking Ether Bridgewater to be his wife  
p. 8. L. accordingly at a Meeting held at the house of Henry Little  
(1) of Marefield in Netherdale on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> Mo: 1665 they  
did in a Solemn manner take each other in Marriage  
& Subscribing their Names to a Certificate thereof  
Witnesses  
Peter Hardcastle  
Henry Little  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Hardcastle &c  
Robert Lodge  
Ether Lodge

# Quaker Birth, Marriage & Deaths



Nathan the son of Robert & Esther Lodge of Massam in the County of Yorks was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth (July) month 1668

Monthly Meetings of Richmond, Coverdale, Masham, Swaledale: Masham: Births (1660-1704)

# The first Quakers in Masham

1665 Robert Loda of Massham in y<sup>e</sup> County of York  
published his intent in a public Meeting of Gods people  
to take Hoster Bridgwater to be his wife; and upon y<sup>e</sup> 2.  
day of y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> m<sup>o</sup>. 1665 they declared their Mariage in y<sup>e</sup> house of  
Hon. Bolls at Harfield in Witherdals according to y<sup>e</sup> ordinance  
of God & the order of y<sup>e</sup> Church & the practise of y<sup>e</sup> people of  
God, we whose names are here subscribed are witnesses.

Rob <sup>t</sup> . Lodge	Peter Hardcastle	Peter Stott
Hoster Lodge	Hon. Bolls	John Booscroft
	Rish. Withershead	Wille. Whetlost
	Tho. Hardcastle	Thomson Whetlost
	Miles Hardcastle	John Spence
	Rob <sup>t</sup> . Holms	John Bainbridge
	John Hardcastle	

# The first Quakers in Masham

- In 1661, along with many other Quakers, Robert was imprisoned. He was also fined on occasion for attending Quaker Meetings in High Ellington. When he died in 1690, he was buried at Low Ellington – in the Burial records he is called “Minister”.
- A colleague wrote about him: „...*we had much discourse about Religious matters, and he saw the Errors of the Priests more clearly than I did.*”

# The Peculier Court, Masham

In the 1200's the living of Masham was given to York. However, the Archbishop of York was not overjoyed at the news. His responsibility of administering the law there would mean a journey through thick forests inhabited by cut-throats and vagabonds. His solution was to free Masham of 'all the customs and claims of his archdeacons and officials.' Thus the Peculier Court of Masham was established.

Record show that offences dealt with by the court included:

- Poor attendance at church - and bidding the church wardens to do their worst when being asked to mend one's ways.
- Drunkenness, swearing, brawling, and scolding
- Not bringing in one's children to be baptised
- Telling Fortunes and using enchantments
- Harboursing Roman Catholic priests.

And so Masham Quakers were receiving punishments at a very local level.

# The first Quakers in Masham

In 1660, in just 2 months, 535 Friends from York and Yorkshire were imprisoned.

Richmond became a centre for Quakers with around 40 to 50 meeting together, in each other's homes. Meetings were regularly dispersed and over one 14-month period the Friends were fined £399.

Jane Bridgewater in Masham and Anne Blackburn in High Ellington opened their homes as meeting places. In 1671, Anne Blackburn of [High] Ellington was fined £20 for holding a meeting in her home.

By 1665 the Richmond Monthly Meeting had been established. From the Reform of 1669 the North Riding Richmond Monthly Meeting included Coverdale, Richmond, Swaledale, Wensleydale and Masham.

Meetings were held in Masham from around 1669 to 1828.

# The Cooper family

- William Cooper, of Low Ellington, had been a member of the Anglican church, he and his first two children were baptized in that church.
- His second wife, Thomasine Porter, was born about 1656 in Low Ellington, Yorkshire, England, and was the daughter of Patrobus Robti Porter and Thomazinae
- William's date of marriage to Thomasine is unknown. Since she is not listed as the mother of Elizabeth and Henry in the Quaker birth records, they were probably married in 1675.
- William and Thomasine's children are recorded in the Quaker Register of Births
- William was fined 2/6d in 1690, probably for failure to pay a tax to the established church. Nine years later he emigrated with his family from Low Ellington to Pennsylvania, after obtaining a „certificate of removal“ from the Masham Monthly Meeting dated [first month/ March]1699.

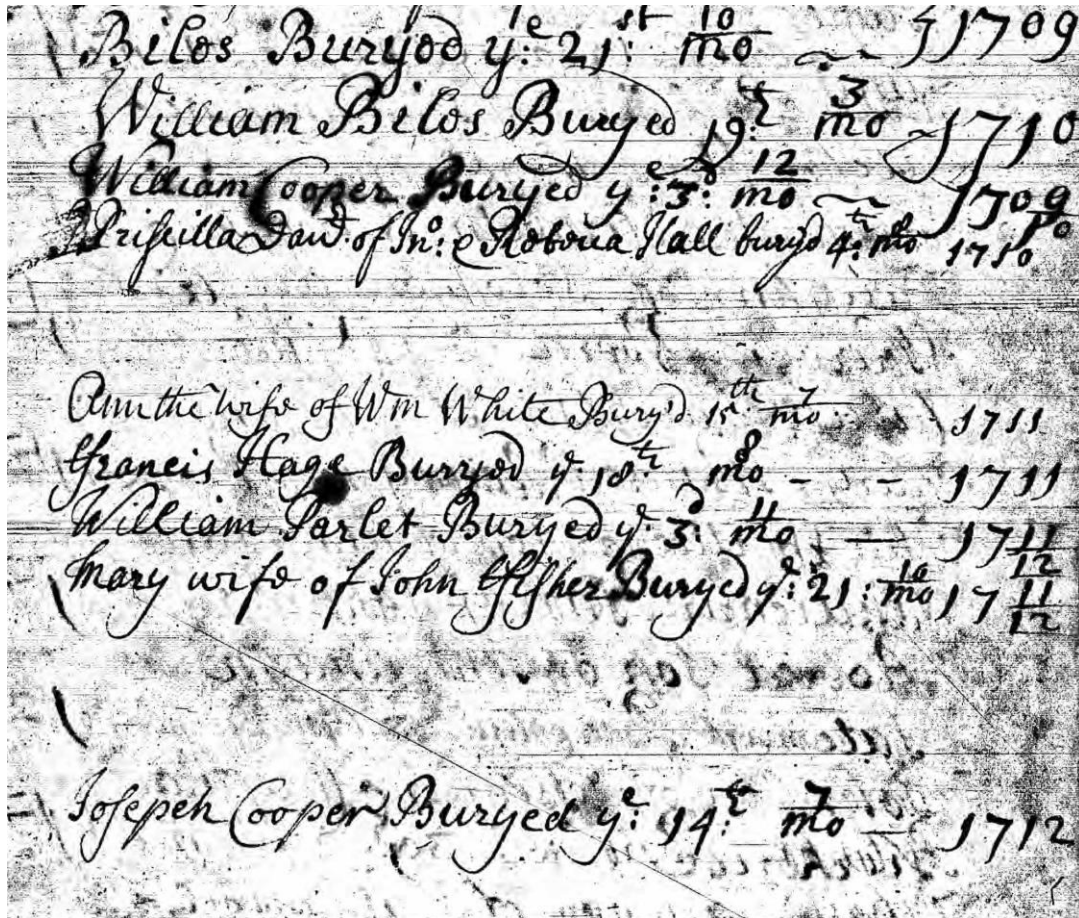
# The Sick Ship

- The ship Britannia was commissioned by Lancaster Quakers to take Quakers to Philadelphia in the summer of 1699
- William and Thomasine had with them their 8 children ages 13-26. This ship had an outbreak of smallpox or typhus with 50 people dying on the trip over. The ship was seriously overcrowded with a passenger list of over 200 and yet a safe load of only 140.
- William may have lost his wife Thomasine on the ship since no later mention is made of her in Quaker records or his will of 1709.
- When they arrived in Philadelphia, they were not allowed to disembark. Philadelphia already had a yellow fever epidemic raging in 1699 (most deaths were in Sept that year), so the ship landed across the river in Salem County, NJ.
- Christopher Atkinson died on board the ship and after his death his wife sold 500 acres in Buckingham township to William Cooper for £30.

# New world settlers

- William deposited the Anglican and the Friends certificates at the Middletown Monthly Meeting where he also entered the births of his other children
- In 1700 The Quakers gave permission for the Buckingham Friends to hold a weekly meeting at William Cooper's house.
- In the Bucks Quarterly Meeting Register the actual certificate of removal from the Middletown meeting to the Bucks county meeting for William states:  
*"To the Monthly Meeting at the Falls in Bucks Co., Pa. Greeting. Whereas William Cooper who hath been a member of our Meeting since his coming from the Old England and now being desirous to join himself to your Monthly Meeting at the Falls hath acquainted us therewith, requesting of us a certificate for his removal. We therefore after due consideration of the matter do hereby certify that he hath been a laborious man amongst his family since coming amongst us, and also hath been and is in unity with Friends."*

# New world settlers



This wasn't the end for the Cooper's in America. Not only were the family significant in the development of Buckingham, Falls Meeting House – one of the oldest in the US – their descendants played a part in politics, law and literature from the founding of Cooperstown to James Fenimore Cooper who wrote 'Last of the Mohicans'

# Masham Meeting House

**10 April 1708 Conveyance** 10 Shillings

1. John Binns Sr, Massham, serge weaver, and wife Grace  
John Binns Jr, of same, serge weaver, and wife Ruth
  
2. Joseph Winn, Wett Rayne, Well, grasier  
Isaac Johnson, Cowling, Bedale, husbandman  
Nathan Lodge, Massham, butcher  
George Pickersgill, High Ellington, husbandman

Witnessed: Abraham Spence, David Fleatham, Matthew Lockey, William Wilkin

Parcel of ground, 12 yards long x 9 yards broad, on which to erect a meeting House for the people called Quakers, **near the dwelling house of John Binns, senior, in Masham**

# Masham Meeting House



1801 Map of Masham



# Masham Meeting House

**25 December 1728**

The Meeting House has been active for a number of years.

John Binns Sr has died. His daughter in law (Ruth) and grandson of (John, of Water Yate, Ripon, yeoman) “grant free ingress, egress and regress from the King’s highway in Masham” to the Quaker Trustees.

*Is this when changes to Silver Street were being made?*

Trustees:

Christopher Pinkney, Sutton Grange, husbandman

Thomas Walker, Highfield, grazier

Francis Walker Jr, Highfield, butcher

John Kilden, Tanfield, serge weaver

Witnesses: John Parker, James Buck

# A visitor in 1774

## **THE LARGE AND SMALL NOTEBOOKS OF JOSEPH WOOD A YORKSHIRE QUAKER 1750-1821**

### **An Account of my Journey to the Summer Quarterly meetings at York and Durham in the Year 1774.**

“we went by Bellaby to Leyburn where we got to John Thompsons about 7 o Clock and Lodg’d there. After we had sat a little we took a walk thro' the village up to the Top of an hill where we had an Extensive prospect of a very rich and beautiful valley call'd Wensleydale and from thence return'd to Supper. On 11th. and 2nd. of week, we set out about 7 o Clock in the morning and came down a beautiful valley by Spenithorn and Witton to Masham where we stopt about an hour and a half at our kind friend John Hildens and got some refreshment, and then came on by Gruelthorp, Kirby Grantley and Grantley hall the seat of Sir Fletcher Norton speaker of the house of Commons, near which place we call'd and got some refreshment at the Blackamoors head paid 2d a piece eating and 3d Liquor, and so came on by Ripley to Harrowgate (having travelled about 29 miles this day) where I proposed to tarry some time for the benefit of the waters, took up our Quarters at the Sine of the Horse shoe where we got about 7 o Clock in the evening.”

at Masham  
Whose names are Under as Witnesses

Viz: John Kilden John Binks  
Esther Kilden Arm'd Fielden  
John Richardson Mary Richardson  
Wm Richardson Mary Kilden  
Benj. Richardson Wm Hardcastle  
Esther Binks Ann Fosdick  
John Kilden Jr Sam'l Wood  
Elizabeth Fielden Henry Richardson  
Steven Hudson Sarah Walker  
Hannah Kilden Jam's Masterman  
Wm Richardson Wm Masterman  
Margret Twaits - Wm Elington

## Masham Quaker Witnesses to the marriage of Dorothy Kilden 1760

John Kilden  
Esther Kilden  
John Richardson  
Wm Richardson  
Benjamin Richardson  
Esther Binks  
John Kilden Jr  
Elizabeth [ ]  
Steven [ ]  
Hannah Kilden  
Wm Richardson  
Margret Twaits

John Binks  
Arm'd Fielding  
Mary Richardson  
Mary Kilden  
Wm Hardcastle  
Ann [ ]  
[ ] Wood  
Henry Richardson  
Sarah Walker  
James Masterman  
Wm Masterman  
Wm Elington

# Masham Meeting House

**3/4 6mth 1769**

The named trustees are changed marking the deaths of Christopher Pinkney and Thomas Walker

“Only remaining trustees from 1728 and now aged wish to relinquish their trusteeship”

John Kilden, Masham, serge weaver

Francis Walker, Leeming Lane, Kirby Fleetham, butcher

Appointed trustees:

Armystead Fielding, Masham, wool comber

John Binks, Hawes, Yeoman

John Thompson, Bellerby, Spennithorne, miller

Witnesses: John Robinson, Thos Lambert

# Masham Meeting House

**3 4m 1789**

Reassignment "Following deaths of Francis Weaver, John Binks, Armystead Fielding and the departure of William Parker to America"

John Kilden, Masham, gentleman

John Thompson, Bellerby, miller

Appointed Trustees:

William Fothergill, Carr End, Aysgarth, gentleman

Joshua Blakey, Holly House, Aysgarth, gentleman

Thomas Lambert Jr, High Blean, Aysgarth, farmer

Witnesses: Wm Ward, David Lambert, Hannah Lambert, Metcalfe Tiplady

...proviso that when trustees are reduced to two premise should be assigned to 5 or more Quakers elected by those inhabiting in the compass of the Richmond meeting

# Low Ellington Burial Ground

A Quaker burial ground was maintained from 1714 in Low Ellington. – the Burial Register for Low Ellington Burial Ground also gives dates: 1663, 1674; 1676; 1678; 1680/81; 1682; 1684; 1685; 1691;

(73)  
To *Matthew Cragg* — Grave-Maker.  
The 15<sup>th</sup> Day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Month 1791 73  
MAKE a Grave on or before next *Seventh* Day, in Friends  
Burying-Ground, at ~~or near~~ *Ellington near Masham*  
and therein lay the Body of *John Childers*  
of *Masham*  
in the County of *York*  
aged about *Eighty Seven* who died the *Thirteenth*  
Day of the *Seventh* Month, called *July* One  
Thousand *Seven Hundred and Ninety one*  
*John Caldbock*  
The Body above mentioned was buried the *Sixteenth* Day  
of the *Seventh* Month, called *July* 1791  
Witness *Matthew Cragg* Grave-Maker.  
A true Copy, *Wm. Middlebrook*  
Register to *Richmond Monthly* Meeting. }

# Low Ellington Burial Ground

**Lease for 999 years 10s 30 January 1713/14**

Elizabeth Beckwith, Ainderby Myers, Yorks., widow

Leases the premises to:

Samuel Wreather, Biggin, yeoman

Joseph Wynn, Ainderby Myers, yeoman

Thomas Pratt, Low Ellington, yeoman

Christopher Pinckney, Sutton, Yorks., yeoman

Parcel of ground adjoining to the garden on the south end of dwellinghouse lately belonging to Robert Scott and which formerly belonged to messuage in Low Ellington, containing on the side towards the Queen's highway 20 yards, and on the side towards the garden in the occupation of Robert Scott 24 yards, and on the side towards the west adjoining on grounds of Thomas Place 12 yards.

Peppercorn rent if demanded

Witnesses: Hannah Wynn, Jonathan Barron, Benj. Binks, Matthew Lokley

# Low Ellington Burial Ground

**6 February 1755** Following the deaths of Samuel Wreather, Joseph Wynn, and Thomas Pratt - Christopher Pinkney, Ripon, yeoman assigns the premises to parties:

John Kilden sr, Masham, weaver

John Kilden jr., his son, weaver

William Calvert, Masham, butcher

Thomas Hardacre , Ellershaw, Kirby Malzeard, farmer

Witnesses: John Theaker, Richard Hanley

**4 Aug 1789**

John Kilden, Masham, gentleman

William Calvert, Seamer, Scarborough, butcher and grazier

Assign the premises to:

William Fothergill, Carr End, gentleman

Joshua Blakey, Holly House, Aysgarth, gentleman

Thomas Lambert Jr, High Blean, farmer

Witnesses: Wm Ward, Robert Clemeshaw, George Megson, Metcalfe Tiplady

# Masham Meeting in the 1800s

**1816** the Richmond Monthly Meeting became part of Westmorland Quarterly Meeting; it was then transferred to Durham Quarterly Meeting in 1860. Since 1999, it has been known as Wensleydale and Swaledale Monthly Meeting.

**1819** Masham Meeting House closed ...though it was still written into the Book of Meetings until 1828. The building was leased and then sold to the Primitive Methodists until they built a chapel on the corner of Silver Street and Quaker Terrace.

Quaker mentions in Gazetteers and Directories:

**1848 (Slater's Northern Counties 1848)** There are places of worship for Baptists, the Society of Friends, and Wesleyan Methodists

**1859 (Whellan, T. History & topography of the City of York & the North Riding of Yorkshire vol II, 1859)** The Wesleyans, Baptists and Primitive Methodists have each a Chapel here – and there is a building formerly used as a meeting house by the Quakers

# Quakers in business -1800s

During this time, other people began to recognize Quakers for their integrity in social and economic matters. Many Quakers went into manufacturing or commerce, because they were not allowed to earn academic degrees at that time. These Quaker businessmen were successful, in part, because people trusted them. The customers knew that Quakers felt a strong conviction to set a fair price for goods and not to haggle over prices. They also knew that Quakers were committed to quality work, and that what they produced would be worth the price.

# Quakers in business -1800s

- Quaker banks (most notably Lloyds or Barclays),
- Confectionery was to be had from a range of Quaker manufacturers (Huntley and Palmer, Carrs, Rowntree, Fry or Cadbury),
- Shoes could be purchased from Clarks.
- There were metal goods (notably cutlery) from Sheffield and Birmingham ironmasters,
- Chemical goods (especially soap) from Warrington Quakers. The country's major pharmaceutical company was a Quaker foundation.
- British towns were dotted with Quaker shopkeepers whose main trade was the provision of the basics of British life - notably tea and coffee. There were major Quaker brewers; corn and grain merchants, railway magnates, engineers, textile manufacturers, printers and publishers, and insurance companies.

It was possible to be drawn along Quaker railway tracks; pulled by Quaker engines, while dressed in Quaker clothing, consuming Quaker food and drink - all paid for by money drawn from Quaker banks. Quaker commercial success appears even more remarkable when set against demographic considerations.

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# Just some of the work of Quakers

- **Mental Health** - The Tuke's of York – The Retreat established in 1792
- **Schools** – Ackworth, Bootham, Breckenbrough, The Mount and nearby – Reeth School.
- **Social Reform - Joseph Rowntree** - a visionary businessman and social reformer. He built New Earswick, a village in York, for people on low incomes, including staff who worked in his factory, giving them access to decent homes at affordable rents. He was committed to understanding the causes of poverty and disadvantage in order to create a better society. His son, Seebohm Rowntree, was a pioneering social researcher who undertook one of the country's first investigations into poverty
- **Science - John Fothergill** (8 March 1712 – 26 December 1780, physician, plant collector, philanthropist Fothergill was born at Carr End, Bainbridge, the son of John Fothergill (1676–1745), a Quaker preacher and farmer, and his first wife, Margaret Hough (1677–1719)
- **Prison conditions - Elizabeth Fry** (21 May 1780 – 12 October 1845) was a major driving force behind new legislation to make the treatment of prisoners more humane
- **Slave Abolitionists** - As early as 1811, **Elias Hicks** published a pamphlet showing that slaves were "prize goods"—that is, products of piracy—and hence profiting from them violated Quaker principles
- **Peace Testimonies** - Friends Ambulance Unit, Hospital Ships and Prisoners of Conscience

# Wensleydale & Swaledale Quakers Today



# References

- Researching Yorkshire Quaker History, a guide to sources – Helen E Roberts for the Yorkshire Quaker Heritage Project
- North Yorkshire County Records Office: Richmond Monthly Meeting – Minutes from Masham; Births, Marriages and Burials from Masham and Low Ellington; Sufferings of Friends from Richmond MM; Leases and conveyancing.
- Masham Community Library – List of Members of the Society of Friends buried in Low Ellington Burial Ground 1663-1810
- Non Conformists in Masham – Elizabeth Melrose, York 2011
- Falls Meeting, Bucks Pa – online history