

"Without genealogy the study of history is lifeless"—John Fiske.

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Cemetery Records:	
Burial Places of Soldiers of War of 1812; by Ellie Roberts Ray	84
Zion Reformed Churchyard, Millersville, Lancaster Co., Pa.	78
By William Frederick Warner (Decd.)	
Communications and Notes:	
Eisenhower Note; by Faith Daskam	112
Lilly Family of Memphis, Tennessee; by John I. Coddington	108
Pearce Records (N. Y., R. I., N. C., Ind.); by Mrs. W. B. Craghead	111
N. G. S. Notes:	
Death of Dr. Marcellus D. A. R. von Redlich; by Milton Rubincam	89
Genealogies in Course of Preparation	86
Members Elected, Fiscal Year 1945-1946	107
Revolutionary War Records:	
Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Applications	97
By Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh	
Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications	Supplement (225-240)
By Max E. Hoyt	
Source Material and Aids to Research:	
Court House Discards Rescued; by Nellie P. Waldenmaier	79
English Friends' Meeting Records; by Milton Rubincam	73
Index of Family Data in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.	80
List of Men from Elk Creek District, Va., 1782; by Mrs. Claude P. Stephens	76
Genealogical Society of Utah, Notice	96
New Jersey Petition of 1780 Concerning Retaliation; by Leroy W. Tilton	75
Petition Concerning Double Taxation, Va., 1778; by Nellie P. Waldenmaier	85
Probate Records of Trumbull County, Ohio; by Nellie M. Rabe	77
Recent Books of Interest to the Genealogist; by Roberta P. Wakefield	86, 96
Soldiers Named John Thomas from Georgia in War of 1812; by Hugh B. Johnston	84
Vital Records from the National Intelligencer; by Frank J. Metcalf	89

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ENGLISH FRIENDS' MEETING RECORDS

By MILTON RUBINCAM, Green Meadows, Md.

Among the more fruitful sources in genealogical research are the records of births, marriages, and deaths maintained by the Society of Friends, or Quakers. This well-recognized fact is exemplified in the *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* now in progress under the supervision of William Wade Hinshaw and Thomas Worth Marshall. The minutes of the various Friends' meetings also furnish much information of value to the genealogist.

One of the perplexing problems confronting the researcher is the determination of the pre-American homes and antecedents of the families under investigation. In New Amsterdam, the Dutch Reformed church registers, court minutes, and other records often identified the European homes of early colonists there; thus, Reynier Van Giessen undoubtedly came from Giessen, in the landgraviate of Hesse-Darmstadt; and the marriage record of Christiaan Toemssen and Engelte Jacobs described the bridegroom as of "Strabroek in Brabant" and the bride as from "Hoogharsteen in Holstejn." In New Jersey, the earliest deeds frequently mentioned the British homes whence came 17th century settlers, as, for examples, a deed of January 20, 1682/3, described Hugh Lambe as "now or late of the Parish of St. Martins in the fields, co. of Middlesex," a deed of July 9, 1679, named Samuel Norris as of Watlin(g) Street, London, and Wm. Cooper senior as "late of Amersum, Buckingham co." (actually Amersham, on the border between Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire); while

John O. Evjen, Ph.D., *Scandinavian Immigrants in New York, 1630-1874* (1916), pp. 416, 207. *Ibid.*, vol. XXI, p. 412. John Hogg in Judge John Clements's *First Settlers of Newton Township, Old Gloucester County, New Jersey*.

John O. Evjen, Ph.D., *Scandinavian Immigrants in New York, 1630-1874* (1916), pp. 416, 207. *Ibid.*, vol. XXI, p. 412. John Hogg in Judge John Clements's *First Settlers of Newton Township, Old Gloucester County, New Jersey*.

A few examples will suffice to illustrate the usefulness of these transcripts. In 1902, Richard Haines, of Medford, N. J., published his *Ancestry of the Haines and*

Allied Families; one of the families treated by him was that established in Burlington County, N. J. in 1677 by Francis Collins. Mr. Haines did not have the dates of birth of Collins's children by his first wife, Sarah Mayham. From land records it is known that this family came from Stepey, Middlesex; an examination of the transcripts of the quarterly meeting records of London and Middlesex discloses the following information:

Francis Collins, of Ratcliff, parish of Stepey, county Middlesex. Bricklayer m. Sarah Mayham at the Bull and Month Meeting, 1-2-1683; Sarah Collins, daughter of Francis and Sarah, of Ratcliff, parish of Stepey, was b. 10-16-1685; Mary Collins, daughter of Francis and Sarah, was b. 2-14-1688; Priscilla Collins, daughter of Francis and Sarah, was b. 10-25-1689; Elizabeth Collins, daughter of Francis and Sarah, was b. 7-16-1671; Joseph Collins, son of Francis and Sarah, was b. 9-18-1672.

Dr. Daniel Wills, a physician and chemist, and a Quaker leader of the town of Northampton, England, was one of the commissioners to settle the province of West Jersey in 1677. The Friends' registers for Northamptonshire reveal the following data about his immediate family:

James Wills, son of Daniel, of Northampton, was b. 12-20-1656; Daniel Wills, son of Daniel, was b. 12-17-1658; John Wills, son of Daniel, d. 5-26-1659; John Wills, son of Daniel and Elizabeth, of "Northton" (Northampton), was b. 7-9-1660; Elizabeth Wills, wife of Daniel, of "Northton," d. 11-6-1661; Daniel Wills, of Northampton, m. (2) Mary Wagstaffe, of Banbury, 3-13-1666; Mary Wills, daughter of Daniel and Mary, of "Northton," was b. 2-4-1687; apparently d. young; Samuel Wills, son of Daniel and Mary, was b. 8-26-1668; Mary Wills, daughter of Daniel and Mary, was b. 7-25-1670; Joseph Wills, son of Daniel and Mary, was b. 2-28-1673.

Dr. Daniel Wills and his second wife, The birth-records of the children show that the family were members of the Ratcliff and Barkings Meeting. John Wills was afterwards a distinguished official of the province of New Jersey. See his biography by Milton Rubincam in the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society for July 1939, and the original marriage certificate of Dr. Daniel Wills in the collection of the Society of Friends in London. A photostatic copy is in the writer's collection. *Mary Wills made three notable marriages, first to Joseph Wills, second to Robert Wills, and third to the Council of Proprietors; second to Robert Ewer, alderman of Philadelphia; and third to Nathan Stansbury, Mayor of Philadelphia.

Mary Wagstaffe, had another daughter, Ann, born in New Jersey in 1677.

An early settler in Chester County, Pennsylvania, was Francis Stanfield, who arrived on the ship Endeavour in 1683. Curiously enough, the only one of his seven children mentioned in the Quaker registers is his fourth daughter, Grace, who was born at Marple, Cheshire, 9-23-1673, according to the Quarterly Meeting Records of Cheshire and Staffordshire.

Human interest stories and interesting sidelights in the careers of Quaker ancestors of American families are shown in the abstracts of minutes of the "Upper-side of Bucks" Monthly Meeting in the volume on Buckinghamshire. On the 26th day of the 3rd month 1680, "Rowland Foster of Wicomb" complained to the meeting that Joyce Olliffe (Olive), formerly of Aylesbury, Bucks, "having for some time entertained him in y^e way of a Tutor in order to Marriage, is lately removed to London, in order to transport herself beyond y^e Seas, to his great trouble & dissatisfaction." The meeting instructed Thomas Ellwood to discuss the situation with Joyce in order to persuade her "to give y^e said Rowland satisfaction in this case." On 5-7-1680, Ellwood reported to the meeting that "he had delivered their message to Joyce Olliffe, who received it very kindly; & y^e afterwards, Rowland Foster & she discoursing together, did wholly end y^e Controversy y^e had been between them, each of them solemnly releasing y^e other by a writing under their hands." On 1-2-1680/81, "Thomas Olliffe acquainting y^e Meeting, that his sister Joyce Olliffe (who y^e last summer went from England to live in New Jersey in America) hath by letter desired him to move this Meeting for a Certificate on her behalf. The Meeting in order thereunto desired John Archdale, Nicholas Noy & William Kidder to make inquiry concerning her clearness, & to speak particularly wth Rowland Foster." A certificate attesting to her clearness was signed in meeting on 2-4-1681. Thus Joyce Olliffe, having jilted Rowland Foster, was free to marry Isaac Marriott, which she did later in the year 1681.*

*See the ante-nuptial bond of Isaac Marriott and Joyce Olliffe in the collection of the Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, vol. II, p. 4-5. The bride's brother was Governor Thomas Olive, of West Jersey.

NEW JERSEY PETITION OF 1780 CONCERNING RETALIATION

Copied in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

By LEROY W. TUTTON

To the Honourable the Legislative Council & General Assembly of the State of New Jersey — The Memorial of the Subscribers Inhabitants of the County of Monmouth, Sheweth, That your Memorialists having represented to your Honours the unhappy local Situation of your Memorialists — The daily Depredations committed on your good and loyal Subjects residing in this County to the great Danger of the Liberties Livs & Property of every good Subject, & being informed that a Law had nearly passed your Honble. Houses for our Relief, it being decided by only a majority of a single voice against it, and our situation growing daily more critical by an increase of Ravages having thereby become truly alarming demanded an immediate Remedy — After revolving every Scheme that occurred to our Imaginations for our Protection during the Recess of your Honble. Houses we finally fixed on an Association for the Purposes of a well regulated Retaliation as will at large appear by a Copy of the Association which is herewith handed to your Honours for your Inspection to which Measure we were considerably led by a Resolve of the Honble. the Congress bearing Date the 30th Octbr. 1778 wherein they most solemnly avow Retaliation etc. — We are happy in informing your Honours that the mere Measure of association did for a considerable time put a total stop to the Practice of plundering & Manstealing & we are fully of Opinion there scarcely [damaged] retaliation at all [damaged] who profess themselves good Subjects taken great [damaged] they dare to that your Honble. Houses would immediately on sitting disapprove the Measure etc. & by such Means inducing the influential & opulent disaffected to believe that no lasting Injury would be derived to them on the Scheme of Retaliation & thereby preventing their applying to the Commander in Chief of the British Army to issue orders against the said Practices, which we fully believe the disaffected were about to do soon after our Association was established & would have done had it not been for this Representation aforesaid. Your Memorialists do conceive the Law of Retaliation when executed with Attention as justifiable as any Law [two words illegible] and that in our present Situation it is absolutely necessary for the Preservation of our Liberties and Properties, and that the disaffected within our Limits are proper Objects to retaliate on we humbly presume will fully appear—First, because they must be well affected to the Government of Great Britain, & consequently withhold their aid from and conspire the Ruin of this and the other United States before they can be reputed disaffected — Secondly, because a number of them do hold a constant Correspondence and Trade with the Enemy to the enriching themselves & Ruin of the loyal Subjects of this and the other States in Union — Thirdly, because it is a Fact notoriously known that those disaffected Persons do daily see these plundering Parties pass by their Houses in open Day light on their intended Incursions and never give the Troops on Duty or your loyal Subjects any Information of their approaches, but on the contrary many of them while they have the plundering Refugees in their Houses will when enquired of by any of our scouting Parties in the most solemn Manner declare they know nothing of them on all Occasions refusing to give us any Information & yet so intelligent are they as to keep the Enemy in full Information of all our Movements & numbers by which means they on one hand are always enabled to avoid our Parties when Superior to them in numbers and also to plunder us of our Properties & drag many into Confinement — Situated and circumstanced as your Memorialists are we do think a Law for Retaliation absolutely necessary for the Safety of our Persons & Property and therefore pray that your Honble. Houses will pass a Law for that Purpose etc.

Freehold Septmr. 17th. 1780—

Peter Forman	Lewis Gorton	William Devinney
Daniel Harbot	John A. Scudder	John Andyrson
[torn]	James English	Vanderveer
Theodoros Covenh—	John Baird	John Freeman
James McChesny	Forrest (?) Hampton	David Baird
John Covenhoven J. P.	Zabulon & Baird by Order	athan