

XIII.—NOTES ON SOME FORGOTTEN BURYING GROUNDS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS :

GATESHEAD, WHICKHAM, BOLDON, AND SOUTH SHIELDS.

BY MABERLY PHILLIPS.

[Read on the 23rd day of December, 1891.]

ONE of many difficult problems that puzzled the early members of the Society of Friends was how to dispose of their dead. A great number stood excommunicated at the time of death, and, on that account, were denied interment in the ordinary manner. It is said that some of the clergy refused to bury any of them, and the story is told of one reverend wag, who, when upbraided for such inhuman conduct, denied the accusation, stating that, far from declining to bury them, he would cheerfully bury them all! Be this as it may, it is certain that the religious persecutions that the early nonconformists were subjected to, led to the formation of private burying grounds, in garden, orchard, or field, the privilege of interment being often extended to relatives and friends. For establishing such grounds the owners were sometimes cited before the ecclesiastical court at Durham, so that it must have been most perplexing to know how to act. When the laws were altered, public nonconformist burial places were gradually opened, the private ones falling into disuse. In many cases the ground has been utilised for other purposes, and in some instances, has been so entirely forgotten that even the situation occupied cannot now be identified.

Such interments as I have named not being entered in the parish books naturally led to formation of private registers; in which births and marriages were also recorded. No body of dissenters was so careful in keeping its registers as the Society of Friends.

Sims, in a chapter upon 'Non-parochial Registers,' when remarking upon the Quaker Registers says:—'The Commissioners appointed by Her present Majesty in the year 1838, to enquire into the state of the Registers of Births, etc., in England and Wales, having called upon the Society of Friends to deliver up their Registers, with a view to some arrangement for depositing them with the Board; the several Registers from the origin of the Society down to the establishment of

the system of civil registration, under the Act of 6 and 7 Will. IV. were brought to London for their inspection.' The Commissioners state, in their Report:—'We have visited their place of deposit, and saw enough of their state and condition to testify that they exhibit an admirable specimen of the state to which order and precision may be carried in the classification and arrangement of records of this description.' At this time the Society declined to surrender their books but subsequently consented to do so. I believe that prior to the surrender of these books, most, if not all, were copied in duplicate, one being retained locally, and the other deposited at Devonshire House, the London depôt of the Society.

One local volume has the following endorsement:—'Surrendered to the Commissioners of Non-parochial Registers, pursuant to Act of Parliament III. and IV. Vic. Cap. 92.'

I find from 'The Lists of Non-parochial Registers in the custody of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages' the number of volumes now at Somerset House exceeds 1,500. Unfortunately they are difficult of access; were they more easily got at for purposes of literary enquiry, they would prove of the greatest use to the antiquary and the genealogist.

A short time ago I was fortunately able to examine one or two of these registers, which much aided my investigations. I have further been very much assisted by the kindness of Mr. J. R. Boyle, who placed at my disposal the notes that he extracted from the records of the Society of Friends when preparing the chapter 'Early Quakerism in Gateshead' for his *Vestiges of Old Newcastle and Gateshead*. Mr. Blair also kindly lent me some most interesting papers, which were endorsed 'Copied from original documents in private possession, saved from fire, when the room within the gates at Auckland Castle was cleared out to make room for an office for the agent to the Eccle^s Com^s and the papers ordered to burnt. The carts carrying the documents to the flames were intercepted and many of the papers, but not all, secured.'

Those who wish to see an account of the rise of Quakerism in this district, I refer to the most interesting chapter in the *Vestiges*, to the pages of Ambrose Barnes (*Surtees Soc.* vol. 50) and to Besse's *Sufferings of the Quakers*. The first home of Quakerism in this

immediate neighbourhood was Gateshead, and there we find the earliest burying ground.

One of the volumes at Somerset House bears upon its opening page the following :—‘The register book of the Burials of the People of God In scorn called Quakers, and others their relations and kindred who have been buried in their Buring Ground In Gateshead in the county of Durham.’ The book also contains the record of several persons who were buried in their own grounds. These I will first enumerate and give what account I can of the owners.

1679. ‘Susannah daughter of John Carneath of Newcastle, Tanner, & of Mary his Wife, was buried in his garden the ninth day of ye 6 monthe.’ The burials of several members of the family are recorded.

In 1681 John Carneath had his goods distrained upon to the value of £1 0s. 9d. for tithes. The charity and generosity of the society is shown by the following entry in the records :—‘Agreed that Ann Carneath take care of Jos. Bell till next monthly meeting and that friends doe pay for his diett, and shee to make prooffe, in that time, how much he can doe towarde earning his bread, in the Tobacco Trade & to report to the Meeting.’ Probably the child remained with Ann Carneath, as another entry says :—‘Paid Ann Corneath to buy Jno. Bell’s child a hatt 00. 01. 6.’

In 1689 Ann Carneath was scandalized by Lionel Johnson ‘for using an unjust measure, in that she measures barke by Cockle parke Bushell.’ The matter having been debated, and a certificate from ‘ffive of the trading tanners in Newcastle intimating it to be an usual measure, and that they have bought by it, being read, in this meeting, Lionell Johnson has condescended, that if any two of the ffive Tanners that have certified consarning that measure, doe declare that it is an usual measure, then he will acknowledge that he has done her wrong. The two Tanners y^t Lionel has pitched on, to prove this matter, is Christophere Barker and John Harle. And Christopher Vickers, John Harrison, Hue Middleton, and Jeremiah Hunter are appointed to take the said two Tanners Account, and to report to the next monthly meeting.’ At a subsequent meeting the matter was most carefully gone into. The tanners affirmed ‘that it is usual to buy Barke by Cockle parke measure,’ and ‘Lionele Johnson reprimanded

for having wronged Anne Corneath in her repute, through his false reports.' I quote this account to show how very carefully disputes between members were investigated.

The next entry in the register that I note is '1688, 8 m. 26 d. Benjamin Tittory son of Daniel Tittory of Glasshouses broad glass maker & of Mary his wife was buried in his garden.' The Tittorys were one of the celebrated glass-making families who came from Lorraine during a religious persecution in their own country.¹

Another entry is '1678. Peregrin Tizacke son of Peregrin Tizacke of Glasshouses, broad glassmaker and of Debora his wife was buried the thirteenth day of the 11 month.'

'1679: Abagail daughter of John Tizack of Glasshouses broad glassmaker & Sarah his wife, was buried the 7 day of the 12 month.'

The headstone that marked the resting place of Abagail may now be seen at the side of the footway, just below 'King John's Palace,' in Heaton park. It bears the following inscription:—'Abigall Tizacke Daughter of John & Sarah Tizacke, departed this life ye 7th day of ye 12th month and in ye 7th weack of her age Anno 1679.' Brand, the historian, says that he found this stone in a garden belonging to Captain Lambton, near the Glasshouses. Although the register does not mention 'in his garden' as in the case of Carneath and Tittory, it does not say in Gateshead. It is therefore highly probable that the Tizacks had a burying place in their garden at the glasshouses like the Tittorys. The Tizacks were evidently very active members of the society as the constant mention of missions entrusted to their care fully testifies. In 1683 John Tizack was taken from a meeting at Gateshead on pretence of being a dangerous person, and for some time confined in Durham gaol.

Mr. Boyle tells us that the first meetings of the Gateshead Friends were held in Pipewellgate, at an old house, now the Fountain inn. That many-gabled old building may yet be seen in crossing the Swing bridge. Here Fox found them upon his second visit in 1657. In 1660 their meeting house was in the High street on property belonging to Richard Eubank. It would appear that their burying

¹ See *Vestiges of Old Newcastle and Gateshead*, p. 148. We cannot now identify the locality of their place of interment, but as they are described of 'Glasshouses,' probably the ground was somewhere in that locality, although the burial was recorded in the Gateshead register.

place was from the first in ground adjoining, as I have notice of burials here as early as 1655, two years prior to the time that we know they were holding their meetings in Pipewellgate.

In 1674 Richard Eubank was cited in the Archdeacon's court at Durham for being a quaker, and in 1677 'for enclosing a burial place for sectaries.'² He died in 1678, and was interred in the ground in question.

At the Gateshead monthly meeting held 10 d. 9 m. 1679 'friends ordered y^t Robert Younge, perig Tizeck, & Edward Kinge, assist one another in collecting a sum of money, for purchasing a Burieing grounde, of Margret Eubank, & to bring an acct thereof to ye next monthly meeting.' Subsequently a lease of the ground was taken 'in the name of Pergryne Tyzack and ors, from Margaret Eubank for 19 years, the consideration for which was fifteen pounds.'

In 1680 it was 'ordered that a Bricke Wall is to be built about the ground, about the Meeting house door in order for having it for burying in. Perègrin Tizacke, Jeremiah Hunter, Robt. Wallis, John Ayrey, Geo. Raw, and Samuel ffreeman to get it done.' At a subsequent meeting it was 'Desired that the friends formerly appointed to get a wall made about the ground, before the meeting house, doe continue their care to get it effected.'

Again in 1689, 'Ordered that friends of Gateshead Meeting be reminded of building the wall about the Ground before the Meeting House for a New burying place, and that if it may with convenience, it be effected, betwixt this meeting and next monthly meeting.' The ground was in use until 1698. Mr. Boyle states that in all 101 interments were made. Subsequently (in 1731) the alms-houses built by the bequest of Thomas Powell were erected upon the site of the burying ground. In a conveyance of this property from the heirs of the survivors of Powell's trustees to the churchwardens and overseers of Gateshead, it is described as:—'All that messuage, burgage, and tenement, garden, yard, and back side, with appurtenances in Gateshead aforesaid, formerly belonging to Richard Ewbank late of the same place, tailor, deceased, and heretofore in the possession of John Doubleday his undertenants and assigns.'

The earliest mention of an interment that I noticed in the Register

² Surtees, vol. 47, p. 226-7.

at Somerset House was in 1660, when 'Deborah Turner daughter of Barth and Jane Turner of Gateshead dyed, the 21 day of the ninth month 1660 and was Interred in the Burying ground in Gateshead.' But from the registrar at Devonshire House I have been favoured with the following :—'1655. 11 m. 4 d. Isabella Hunter d. of Cuthbert Hunter and Elen was interred in Richard Eubanks bury^g place in Gateside.'

The Aireys were another important family, some of whom were here interred. In 1677, George Airey was cited to Durham 'For not resorting to the Divine service at the Parish Church and for being a Quaker.'

Anno do: 1683
the 13th of the
11^h Moneth called
January.

'John Ayrey of Gateside, Mathew Allinson of the same, John Allett of Newcastle, John Tyzack of the Glass houses being at a meeting at Gateside amongst other friends, vpon pretence of being dangerous persons to the government & for refusing to take the oath of Alleagiance, were comitt to the goale at Durham by Isaac Basier, John Jenkins.'³

The following list will be a guide to the leading Quaker families in Gateshead in 1686 :—

'A schedule or list of Severall Quakers or p'sons reputed Quakers within the County Palatine of Durham convicted as Récusants, and prosecuted by Exchequer Proces, for the Penalties thereby incurred.'

Gateshead.

Christopher Bickers and his Wife.
John Doubleday.
Lionel Hetherington, Sadler.
Moses ffisher, and his Wife.
Jno Ayrey, the Elder.
Jno Ayrey, the younger.
W^m ffenwicke and his wife.
John Allenson and his Wife.
Mathew Allenson and his Wife.
Robert Mooney and his wife.
Barbara Hunter.

The notes before me abound in accounts of fines, penalties, and imprisonments suffered by various members of the families named, but much as I am tempted to record the same, they are hardly within the scope of my paper.

³ Mr. Blair's papers.

Soon after the opening of the burying ground in Newcastle, the Gateshead one was abandoned, and, as already stated, the place was subsequently occupied by Powell's alms-houses. They are situated, as most of my hearers will be aware, on the east side of the High street, a little above the railway arch.

WHICKHAM.

In the churchyard of Whickham, under the west window of the chancel, are two flat stones, which originally had round their margins the following inscriptions:—'Here lyeth the body of George Hodgson, he departed this life the 1st of December 1667.' 'Here lyeth the body of Aibiah Hodgson, Daughter to George Hodgson, she departed the 6th of February 1669.' The stones are considerably weathered, and the inscriptions much defaced. On the face of the right-hand stone was the following:—'These gravestones were removed out of a field at the west end of Whickham, on the 30 day of Nov. 1784 into this church yard, by order of Mr Robert Hodgson of London, druggist, a descendant of the said George Hodgson, and as a memorial that his ancestors were inhabitants of this Parish, and had lands of inheritance therein, as may be seen by the division of lands made in the year 1691 under the name of Luke Hodgson M.D. grandfather of the said Robert Hodgson.'

Such is the account given by Surtees, the historian of Durham. He adds, 'These sepulchral memorials of the *Quakers* were, on a cursory view, reported as the monuments of two Knight Templars.' The will of George Hodgson is not to be found at Durham, but there is an inventory (see Appendix I. p. 207) there of the goods that he died possessed of, which were appraised by George Shafto and Richard Harding, of Whickham, gent., William Lonsdale, of Swalwell, yeoman, and William Cutter, of Newcastle, cooper.

I submitted what scant information I had of the George Hodgson in question to my friend Mr. Richard Welford, and he soon favoured me with most interesting memoranda, which show that George Hodgson, buried at Whickham in 1667, was the great-great-great-great-great grandfather of our late member, Mr. John Hodgson Hinde.

MEMO.—1656, *June 9*.—Francis Wetwary of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, draper, and George Hodgson, of the same town, assign to Thos. Brignall, of Whickham, gentleman, 4 acres of land in the south field of Whickham, with all coal mines, pits, and seams of coal under the said 4 acres, with liberty to dig, sink, work, and make pits for the getting of coals.—*MS.*

1682-83, *February 23*.—Witness to the will of Oliver Killingworth of Killingworth (a famous nonconformist family), Luke Hodgson with William Cutter.

1705, *June 14*.—Witness to a deed relating to the manor of Killingworth, in which John Hodgson and Mahitabel, his wife, daughter of Thomas and Mehitabel Partis (the Madam Partis of Ambrose Barnes's *Memoirs*), and daughter of Oliver Killingworth were parties—Luke Hodgson.

The particulars give inter-marriages with the Killingworths of Killingworth, and other strong Puritan families, but for the positive connection with the Quakers we only have the historian's statement. The name does not appear in the notes from the records before me, nor is it mentioned amongst the Quakers of Whickham who were cited to Durham in 1673, but in the same year Luke Hodgson, Nicholas Hodgson, and Massiam Hodgson, all of Whickham, were cited to the Durham Court for not paying church cess. The registers of the Society of Friends at Devonshire House have been most kindly searched for me, and they afford no particulars of any Quaker burials at Whickham or Quickham as it was often called, nor do they give any record of the death of George and Aibiah Hodgson. William Cutter who appraised Hodgson's goods was with his wife in July, 1667, at the celebrated conventicle held at the house of Mr. Richard Gilpin, in the 'White Freers,' at 6 o'clock in the morning, when the doors were broken open, and the names taken of all who were present. It was at the house of 'Madam Partis,' a relative of Hodgson's, that Mr. Thomas Bradbury delivered his noted speech. These circumstances and the various marriage relationships lead one to think that the Hodgsons were not Quakers, but belonged to some other body of nonconformists. On the other hand, George Hodgson's great-great-grandson, *John*, who purchased Elswick in 1720, undoubtedly belonged to the Society of Friends, and was interred in their burying ground in Pilgrim street in 1749. Richardson in the *Table Book*, *His.* vol. ii. p. 25, gives an account of the same, and a copy of the family arms.

That a burying ground did exist at Whickham, other than that around the parish church, is beyond a doubt. The first field on the right-hand side of the path that leads from the high end of Whickham to Swalwell, and numbered 670 on the large Ordnance map, is locally known as the 'Graveyard' or 'Kirk Garth field,' and there are those still living in the village who hand down the tradition that it was from this field that the stones were removed to the churchyard in 1784. One native assured me that he remembered seeing other stones in the same field at the early part of the present century.

Upon a recent visit to Whickham I was kindly allowed to search the parish registers, but I could find no mention of the burials of George and Aibiah Hodgson, or any reference to the removal of the stones. A book in the church safe marked 'An ancient award of Common Lands in the Parish of Whickham' gives a full account of the division of the lands in 1691. Luke Hodgson was awarded 77 acres, Henry Hodgson, jun., 43 acres 2 roods 7 poles, and Henry Hodgson, sen., 23 acres, fully verifying the inscription on the stone.

I am informed that the two stones at the church were originally standing upright, but at some 'restoration' were placed in a recumbent position, since which the inscription has become very much defaced.

WEST BOLDON.

Another volume at Somerset House has the following endorsement:—'This book bought by me Robert Linton att Randalls shop Newcastle, in or about the year 1678 w^{ch} cost me four shillings.' From entries therein we have records of burying grounds at Boldon, South Shields, North Shields (high end), and Cullercoats; each of which I shall review in order.

The Boldon ground was in the orchard of Christopher Trew hitt. How it came to be established there the records of the society shall show in their delightfully quaint style. 'Our Meeting at Sunderland was held at ye house of George Humble, at ye beginning, who was a faithful man, and died a Prisoner for his Testimony, in reproving a persecuting Justice (so-called) namely George Lilburn, who [George Humble] after he died was brought home & buried in his own ground at Sunderland aforesd, where severall oth^r frds children were likewise interred. But in process of time, when frds increased, our burying

place was usually, at West Bowden in ye garden of Christopher Trewhitt, where to omitt naming of them, a great many of our frds were buried, as also from Shields, but it being far from us at Sunderland, and ye waters tedious oftentimes, especially in the winter season, In ye year 1670 the Lord stirred up ye mind of Richard Willson⁴ and W^m Maull, to purchase a more convenient Burying Place, w^{ch} in due time they gott accomplished & bought a parcell of ground, a copyhold Estate, in a place called ye Panfield in ye Parish of Bpps wearmouth.'

. . . Then follows a long account of how the enclosure walls were provided, etc., but as Sunderland does not come under consideration I must pass on.

The earliest note that I have of a burial at Boldon is in 1657, when Eleanor Harper, wife of Roger Harper of Sunderland, was interred at 'West Bowden.' Another entry says, 'In Christopher Trewitt's Orchard at West Bowden.'

I give what particulars I have gathered of the Trewhitt family.

In 1664, 'William Trewhitt of West Bowden had his goods distrained upon for £3 6s. 8d. by a Bailiff for R^o Chapman, priest.'

In the list of recusants for 1686, we find Joseph Trewhitt, George Trewhitt, and his wife.

George evidently married Isabella Walker, according to the rules of the society, as the subjoined entry shows:—'At the meeting at Gateshead 13 day of . . . Month 1675 George Trewhitt, of Bowden, declares y^e 2nd Tyme, his Intentions of Taking Isabella Walker, of Monckhesleton, to Wife a certificate Redd from y^e Meeting at Sunderland, to w^{ch} she Belongs, giveing their consent, and soe passed wth y^e consent of ffrinds Heare.' This marriage is confirmed by records of Boldon which inform us that in September, 1677, George Trewhitt and *his pretended* wife were cited to the court at Durham 'for procuring themselves to be clandestinely married.' (See Appendix III. p. 208.) This being the expression used for all marriages of non-conformists.

Some members of the family weré also cited 'for being Quakers,' and 'for not paying clerks wages.'⁵

In 1689, the Boldon family were again harassed for 'Tythes.'

⁴ See Appendix II. p. 208.

⁵ Surtees, vol. 40, p. 218.

1689. 4 m. 'Charles Basier,⁶ of Bowden, in the county of Durham, because he could not get Wool from Joseph Trewitt, for Tythes, sent his men Robert Thompson, and Wm. Johnson, who instead thereof, took away a Lamb, worth four shillings and sixpence.

And in the $\frac{6}{m}$ sent his men aforesaid, who took from the said	
Jos. Trewitt, Two Thieves of Bigg, worth Two Shillings, and one Waine Load of Hay worth 20s. They took more from him, 7 Threaves of Wheat altogether in one Row, and 3 Threave of Oates — Altogether to ye Value of 7s. 6d. in all to the value of Three pounds 12s. & 6d.	} 3 12 6
And the same Joseph Trewitt having Tenn Riggs of Bose, The afore s ^d 2 Men, took up one halfe Rigg together, and the Impropriator the other half to the Value of 12 ^s . 6.	} 0 12 6
More corne taken from said Joseph Trewitt by Rob Carnaby Impropriator, the like Quantities as by the Priest, to the said value of ffour pounds, nine shillings & sixpence.	} 4 9 6
Taken from him in all	8 19 0

In 1661 William Trewitt was taken prisoner at South Shields and for some time confined in Tynemouth castle, but of this I shall give an account when I come to remark upon the burying ground at South Shields.

William Trewitt died about 1677, his will is dated November 30th of that year, he names himself as William Trewitt of West Boldon, yeoman, and leaves George Trewitt and Thomas Wood his executors, and directs that his property be sold and divided in the following manner:—

Richard Wilson late of Sunderland his Executors	30 0
William Humble of East Boldon	10 0
Widdow Hogg of East Boldon	10 0
Widdow Feckell of Newcastle	20 0
Thom Peddison of Hedworth	11 10
Thom Wood of Cleadon	5 0
	86 10

'Ye charges' at his funeral are quoted at £1. Would that funerals were conducted as simply in the present day.

Christopher Trewitt lived to see quieter times. From the calendar at Durham I find his estate was administered to in 1692, but unfortunately the document is not now to be found.

⁶ Rector of Boldon, 1673-1691.

The name Trehwitt has evidently been long in the county of Durham. By the will of James Dale of Ravensthorpe, June 4th, 1507, there is bequeathed to 'Sir Thomas Trehwit, prior of Hertylpoule, a nag.' By the favour of Mr. F. J. Trehwitt of Sunderland I give in the Appendix IV. (p. 208) a copy of a will of Cuthbert Trehwitt of 'Howghton in the Springe,' dated 25th Sept., 1512. He leaves four sons, Robert, John, George, and Christopher, he desires to be buried in Houghton churchyard, and would probably be interred by the celebrated Bernard Gilpin who was rector at that time.

The Vestry Book of the Parish of Houghton-le-Spring has been published by the Surtees Society.⁶ Nearly every name in the will is mentioned in some way in it, and in an account of the letting of the stalls it is remarked, that although the sexes are divided 'Widdow Trehwete' still has her state on the men's side, as a widow might occupy the room of her husband.

Two of the children of Robert Wardell were interred at Boldon in 1661 and 1670 respectively. Wardell was another leading man amongst the Friends, and numerous references are made to him in the records. In 1670 he was instrumental with Rob^t Chipchase and W^m Dawson in building two side walls to the Sunderland burying ground. In 1672 he was cited 'for not comeing to the church' [Wearmouth], and in 1675 with others 'schismaticks and offenders against all order' and 'for keeping open Shoppe on Holydays.'

The last entry that I find at Boldon is in 1670. There is no reference to the Quakers in any way in the Parish Registers at Boldon. I have been quite unable to identify the position of this ground although I have made diligent enquiry. I give a list of all the burials at Boldon that I have note of.

BURIALS AT BOLDON IN CHRISTOPHER TREWHITT'S ORCHARD.

Year.	Day.	Mo.	
1657	4	6	Eleanor Harper Wife of Roger Harper of Sunderland.
1658	3	7	Margaret Jackson of So. Shields Widow.
1660	15	6	Mary Turner D. of Thomas Turner of Gateshead.
1660	21	6	Roger Harper of Sunderland.
1661	29	6	Lancelot Wardell.
1662	20	11	Robert Warham Daughter of William.
1665	3	8	Johanna Linton D. of Robert & Joan Linton of South Shields.

⁶ Vol. 84, *Durham Parish Books.*

Year.	Day.	Mo.	
1665	5	5	Thomas Turner late of Winlaton.
1667			Levi Trewitt Son of William Trewitt of West Boldon 9 Months.
1669			George Linton Son of Robert Linton and Joan Linton of South Shields 1 9 3.
1670	18	9	Margery Wardell daughter of Robert Wardell.
1681	17	10	Ellenor Wife of George Carr of So. Shields.
1682	14	12	George Carr Husband of Ellenor Carr of South Shields.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

The next ground that the register under consideration makes mention of is that of South Shields. As previously stated this was situated in Robert Linton's garden. It will be remembered that it was Robert Linton who purchased the register book at Randall's for four shillings. Two of his children (one in 1665 and another in 1669) were buried at Boldon, so that it seems hardly likely that the Shields ground was opened until after the latter date. The first interment that I can record is 1673 when 'Mary Fearon daughter of Thomas Fearon of South Shields was buried in Robert Linton's Garden.' The date of the last use of the ground was in 1697.

Linton was evidently a prominent member of the society. From Besse's *Sufferings of the Quakers* we get a most interesting account of how a meeting at Linton's house was surprised, and all persons present taken prisoners. I give the story in Besse's words: 'Anno 1661. On the 10th of the month called August, John Blakeling of Drawell near Sedberg in Yorkshire, Yeoman, Thomas Jackson, Robert Fowler, of Burlington, Samuel Nelhest of Whitby in Yorkshire, mariner, John Stockley, Thomas Allison, William Hurt, John Dove, and William Dove of Whitby, Yorkshire, yeomen [which undoubtedly should be Whitley, Northumberland], Mary Dove, jun., of the same, spinster, William Trewithwaite of Bowden, Robert Linton, Thomas Chandler, Thomas Merriman, Lancelot Wardell, merchant, Thomas Smith, labourer, Richard Wilson & Margaret his wife, George Carr, salt merchant, Sarah Knowles, Dorothy Dawson, Joane Sanderson, spinster, William Maud, merchant, George Linton, John Harrison, all of Sunderland or Shields, Susannah Truthwaite, spinster, and Laurence Haslem of Whitby in Yorkshire [should be Whitley, Northumberland] mariner, were taken at a meeting at Robert Linton's at South Shields by Major Graham the deputy governor of Tinmouth

Castle and cast into nasty. Holes there, where they lay a full month and then he turned them out, having so far as appeared to them neither Order, Authority, or Warrant, for any Part of his Proceedings.

I fear that George Linton suffered from the imprisonment as he only lived a few months after his release; when his body was stolen by the soldiers, but this I shall give an account of at another time.

Robert Linton appears to have been in an extensive way of business, and amongst other things was proprietor of several salt pans.

One mission on which Linton was engaged will show the care the society took that their members should only marry 'Friends.' '1678, 10 day 7 month. Friends also agreed y^t Robert Linton, Anthony Wind (interred the following year in the ground under consideration), Jno. Harrison, John Linton, & Bridget Pinder, goe as soon as possible may be, and speak w^t Jane Michell touching Intentions to marry one of y^e world, & as we ar Informed ar already cald in y^e steeplehouse & to bring an acct thereof to y^e next monthly meetinge.'

From the register of marriages I find that Robert Linton married Jane Parrott. Amongst the names of the witnesses who signed the register are William and John Dove of Whitley.

The Rev. C. E. Adamson has favoured me with the following extracts from the Westoe Court Rolls:—

'1671. It^m R^o. Linton that he repaire & amend the way down the Banks toward the dam lying right above the ground hee now enjoys before the first of february they lay a paine of 10 lb. 10 s. 00 d.

It^m they p'sent . . . together with Robert Lyntons servants for throwing their ashes into the street. . . .'

Recusants in 1682. 'Robert Linton South Shields, Yeoman. Jane his wife. . Sarah Linton, Spinster.'

Richardson's Terrier of Survey made 1682. MS. made by Mr. Andrew Stoddart.

'In 1667 the Lay Farm was separated from the other four, and belonged to Lewis Frost, Ra. Milbourne, Mich^l. Coatsworth, and Rob^t. Lynton.'

This 'Lay Farm' was afterwards subdivided, and in 1768 belonged to Rob. Green, Mrs. Shrive, Rev. Mr. Radley, and possibly others (62 acres).

It seems to have been the fringe of Westoe township, which included much of what is now called High Shields.

Court Rolls of Westoe contain these names, thus :—

1668-9-70.	1671-3.	1675.
Lewis Frost	Lewis frost	Lewis frost
Milburn	Exor Ra Milburne	Henry Wolfe
Linton	Ry Lynton	Ro Linton
Coatsworth	Mich Coatsworth	Mich Coatesworth

A short time ago the Rev. C. E. Adamson brought to our notice⁷ a very interesting stone now in an outhouse of the residence of the late Robert Ingham, esq., at Westoe. The stone, it was stated, had been removed from the neighbourhood of Frederick Street, Laygate, South Shields. The stone marked the resting-place of Ralph Milbourne, who died January 14, 1668, of Grace Woolf, who died 16th January, 170⁵/₆, and of Henry Woolf. 'Grace Wolfe,' named on the stone, wrote a most interesting letter to Ambrose Barnes, the Puritan alderman⁸ of Newcastle.

At that time I was inclined to think that the stone was a relic of the burials in Robert Linton's garden, but subsequent consideration leads more to the belief that Milbourne and Woolf were nonconformists, either Presbyterian or Independent, but not belonging to the Society of Friends. Milbourne was buried in 1668, and had the ground at Linton's been then open a child of the latter would hardly have been buried at West Boldon in 1669.

The earliest entry that I have of any burial at Linton's is in 1673, five years after the date of Milbourne's death. St. Hilda's register says that he was 'buried in his house.' The wills⁹ of Milbourne and Woolfe are at Durham, and from them I find that Grace was the widow of Milbourne, and subsequently married Henry Woolfe.¹⁰ From the wills we are able to get a short pedigree of the family.

⁷ *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newc.* vol. v. p. 100.

⁸ *Surtees Soc. Publ.* vol. 50, p. 196.

⁹ For wills see Appendix VI. and VII. pp. 209 and 210.

¹⁰ Henry Woolf's will is dated April 25, 1709. He describes himself as of the Lay Yett, near South Shields, and desires that his body shall be buried at the discretion of his executors,

One daughter of the second marriage became Mrs. Cay, and another Mrs. Linskill (see Appendix V. p. 209).

The signatures of several witnesses are on each will, but I do not find the name of Milbourne, Woolfe, or of any one person referred to in the wills mentioned in the Quaker records before me.

Henry Woolfe and one of his co-tenants [Michael Coatsworth] of the Lay Farm are both named in the will of Henry Hudson of Brunton, November 22, 1700, as 'my worthy friends.' Hudson himself desired to be buried in the Sidgate, Newcastle, which was the 'Quig's' burying ground, the first in Newcastle used for nonconformists. Again, in 1672, when King Charles the II. granted his 'Preaching Licenses, or licenses of indulgence to tender consciences,' in the list for Durham we find, under South Shields, 'The house of Cuthbert Cotesworth in the Westpans near South Shieles Durrham Pr [Presbyterian] Meeting Place.' The Whitburn records show that Cuthbert Coatsworth and his wife were in 1674 cited to Durham 'for not comeing to theire Parish Church,' 'for keeping theire children unbaptised, and she not comeing to be churched after her childe birth.'¹¹ These considerations lead me to think that the stone found by Mr. Adamson was not from the Quaker burying ground in Robert Linton's garden, but that probably as Milbourne and Linton were joint tenants of the Lay farm, they each appropriated some spot of ground for their private burials. The site most probably was about Frederick street. It is stated that when excavations were made for the formation of the street several skeletons were found that could in no way be accounted for.

A cash book belonging to the Society of Friends, now in the custody of Mr. C. J. Spence, has this entry:—'1817 12 mo Cle^s Graveyard in Sⁿ S^o 8s.' Mr. Spence knows of no other burying-place than the one under consideration. It seems most remarkable that if 8s. was paid in 1817 for cleaning the ground there is no one who can identify the site that it occupied. I give a list of those that I have a record of as being buried in Robert Linton's garden between 1673 and 1697.

¹¹ Surtees Soc. Publ. vol. 47, p. 245.

BURIALS AT SOUTH SHIELDS IN ROBERT LINTON'S GARDEN.

Year.	Day.	Mo.	
1673	6	2	Mary Fearon daughter of Thomas Fearon of South Shields was buried in Robert Linton's Garden.
1674	28	10	Martha daughter of Thomas Fearon.
1674	7	9	Margaret Wife of James Smith of South Shields.
1684	1	3	Mary Harrison of Blackwell Co. Durham.
1684			Elizabeth Lisle daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Lisle.
1688	20	10	Anthony Wynd of South Shields.
1695	14	1	Thomas Chandler of South Shields.
1695	6		Timothy Frost son of John and Dorothy Frost.
1697	20	8	Ann Chandler of South Shields.

Robert Linton lived to see more peaceful days for the Quakers, both he and his wife were laid to rest in the Friends' Burial Ground at North Shields 'Upper End,' the former in 1715 and the latter in the following year.

I had been much struck with the fact that in some of the very early Quaker burying grounds many head-stones, with lengthy inscriptions upon them are to be found, while grounds of later date possess very few stones. I made many enquiries but could get no explanation, until a few days ago Mr. C. J. Spence favoured me with the following, which fully explains the matter, and may also account for the entire absence of stones in nearly all the grounds I have been reviewing:—

EXTRACT FROM RULES OF DISCIPLINE, 3rd Edition, 1834.

1717. This meeting being informed that friends in some places have gone into the vain custom of erecting monuments over the dead bodies of friends, by stones, inscriptions, etc., it is therefore the advice of this meeting, that all such monuments should be removed, as much as may be with discretion and convenience: and that none be any where made or set up, near or over, the dead bodies of friends or others, in friends burying places for time to come.

In 1766 another resolution was passed:—

This meeting being informed that since the advice formerly issued, in order to excite friends to a proper regard to our testimony against grave stones, divers having accordingly been removed, and being desirous that the revival of this concern may be effectual, we earnestly recommend the removal of them may be general.

This rule was rescinded in 1850, when a plain stone was allowed with name, age, and date, under direction of the monthly meeting:—

So that in each particular burial Ground such an entire uniformity may be preserved in respect of the material, size, and form of the stones as well as the mode of placing them, as may effectually guard against any distinction being made in that place between the rich and the poor.

One other extract from the records shows the desire for simplicity at funerals :—

Gateshead ye 8th day of ye $\frac{9}{m}$ 1675. At ye saide meeting friends had a discourse touching a black cloth upon ye coffin and desired consideracon further had about it till next monthly meetinge.

At ye monthly meeting at Gatesid the 13 Day of $\frac{10}{m}$ 1675 ffriends have generally given there Judgment touching Burialls, that whean there is a coffin, there's noe nissisity of any cloth at all. And y^t the distriabution of wine, And serveinge of ffreinds and people In ye maner of ye world as is a customed, is surperfluous and needles, and not comendable amongst ffreinds.

I fear that during the two hundred years that have elapsed since this resolution was passed 'ye manner of ye world' at funerals has not very much improved.

If my hearers are not weary of the subject I propose at an early opportunity to give an account of the ground at North Shields 'High End' and of the one that used to be at Cullercoats, the existence of which may be fresh in the memory of many present.

APPENDIX.

I.

GEORGE HODGSON, 1667.

A true & perfect inventory of all such goods & chattells as George Hodshon, late of Newcastle-on-Tyne, died, seized of, 17 Decr., 1667.

Itm. One Lease of a cloyrie.

Itm. A Lease of Boldon fflate, Milne, Goods at Bowdon fflate, two oxen, etc., etc.

Itm. One Lease of a house in Newcastle, wherein the testator lived.

Itm. One Lease of a Cole Stath from Sir James Clavering.

Itm. One Lease of a Cole Stath from M^r George Shafto.

Itm. The Testator's purse, etc.

Itm. Debts owing to the Testator.

Sum total ... £147s. 4d.

George Shafto, }
Richard Harding, } of Whickhm, Gentn.
William Lonsdale, Swalwele Groman.
William Cutter of Newcastle.

II.

' . . . Richardum Wilson . . . , for not coming to the Church: 23 Augusti [16]74. Ex^t.' ' . . . Richardum Wilson, sen., . . . for schismaticks, and offending against all order: 10 Dec. [16]75. Ex^t.' ' . . . Gulielmum Maude . . . , for keeping open shopps on Holydays: 26 Aug. [16]77. Ex^t.'—Surtees Soc. Publ. vol. 47, pp. 246-7.

III.

'OFFICIUM DOMINI contra Gulielmum Trewhit et Doratheam uxorem ejus, Adonellam Cornforth, Georgium Trewhit, Margaretam Trewhit, *Quakers*; Gulielmum Trewhit et Georgium Trewhit, *for not payeing assessments to the Church*: 5 Jan. 1673. Ex^t. 'Gulielmum Trewhit, Georgium Trewhit, Johannem Robson, Robertum Steel, Richardum Moore, et Robertum Laidler, *for not payeing Clerk's wages*; Thomas Bedson, et Janam Johnson, uxorem ejus pretensam; Georgium Trewhit et uxorem ejus pretensam, *for procureing themselves to be clandestinely married*: Sept. 1677. Ex^t.—Surtees Soc. Publ. vol. 47, p. 218.

IV.

Durham Probate Court.

In the name of god Amen, the 25th day of September, in the yeare of our lord god 1582: I Cuthbart Trewghit of Howghton in the Springe, seake and euill at ease in my bodye by the visitation of allmightie god, but by his grace and mercye in good and perfect remembrance makethe my last will and testament in maner and forme followinge. ffirste, I committe my soule into the haudes of allmightie god, who as I stedfastlye trust and hope will receaue it, for the merites of his deare sonne and oure sauioure Jhesus Christ, who hathe redeemed it, withe his most precious bloude: And I will that my bodie be buried in my parrishe churchyarde of the saide Howghton, after I have ended the course of this miserable lyfe. Imprimis, I geaue to the poore, 0 3/4. Also I make Allice Trewghit, my wyfe, Robart Trewghit, John Trewghit, Henrye Trewghit, xpofer Trewghit, And Jane Trewghit my chyl dren, executoures of this my last will and testament. Also, I make Mr. John Casson, and Raulfe Pendrithe, supervisors of this my last will and testament, desiring theym for the loue of god, and as I trust them, to see this my last will and testament performed and fulfilled to the true intent and meaninge hereof, Recordes (?) and wytnesses hereof, Are Mr. John Casson, Robart Rueter (?) John Browne, Roger Amond, And Anthonye Chiltoune.

The Inventorye of all the goodes and cattelles, wch weare the goods and cattels of Cuthbart Trewghit of Howghtone in the Springe, of late deceased, pryced by these men, John Browne, John Chilton, Henrye Clerksone and Robart Rueter (?) the 26th day of februarye. An'o. dni: 1582.

Imprimis, fowre kye (?)	...	...	...	5 ^{li}	v ^{li}
Itm One mare, & twa stagges (?)	...	...	...	3 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d	iiij ^{li} xiiij ^s iiij ^d
Itm 22 ^w sheape	...	...	...	4 ^{li}	iiij ^{li}
Itm fower swyne	...	...	...	...	xviii ^s
Itm fowre bee hyves	...	...	...	...	xvi ^s
Itm wheate in the stackgarthe	...	...	...	...	iiij ^{li}
Itm otes in the barne	...	...	...	...	xxx ^s
Itm wheate sown upon the grounde	...	...	...	...	iiij ^{li} vi ^s viii ^d
Itm hay in the barne	...	...	...	...	xvi ^s
Itm sown bourdes (?) & all wood geare	...	...	...	...	xxvi ^s
Itm Ambryes, cawels (?), arkes (?), chystes, tables, formes, and chayres	...	...	...	...	iiij ^{li}
Itm powder vessell, brasse pottes And other vessell	...	...	...	...	iiij ^{li} viii ^s viii ^d
Itm howshoulde stuffe in the chamber	...	...	...	...	xxxiiij ^s iiij ^d

Itm fowre threave of hемpe & pulleyne	iiii ^s
Itm one Iron chymney, all his worke geare And theyre appurtenances	xi ^s
Some xxxiiii ^{li} xii ^s	
Debtes owinge to the sayde Cuthbart.	
Xpofer haall	iii ^s
Some xi ^s —xxxv ^{li} iii ^s	(?) viii ^s
Debtes to be taken out of the some aboue.	
To Mr. S'riffe (?) Bellassis	iii ^s iii ^d
To Nycolas Pounder	ii ^s viii ^d
To Robart Ironsyde younger	iiii ^s
Itm for reparacons	xxxiii ^s iiiii ^d
Itm for wheate	xxxvi ^s
Itm for clensing of the howse	xxxv ^s iiiii ^d
Some v ^{li} xiiii ^s vii ^d	
Some tot xxix ^{li} viiii ^s v ^d	

V.

Mr. H. A. Adamson informs me that the Linskills of North Shields originally came from Whitby. The 7th vol. of the North Riding Record Society states that at the Quarter Sessions held in 1677 William Joseph and Reuben Linskill of Whitby (all Quakers) made affirmation of loyalty to their sovereign, but claimed exemption from the penalties imposed on Roman Catholics. The Tynemouth Lodge estate and other property at North Shields properly came into the possession of the Linskill family by the marriage of William Linskill of Whitby with the daughter of Anthony Pearson in 1754.

VI.

Durham Probate Court.

RALPH MILBOURNE, 1668.

I, Ralph Milburn of South Shields Westoe Salt pans in the County P. of Durham, etc., etc.

Imp. I give & bequeath unto my Wife Grace (my debts being first paid out of the whole) that p'cell of Ground in the Lay called by the name of the Bordwell Close wth the new house thereon erected and all appur^t thereunto belonging, being one fourth part of a farme lyeing in the township of Westoe w^{ch} I bought of Thomas Burdon.

Itm. I also give & bequeath unto my wife Grace one full third part of all my other estate reall & personal.

Itm. I also give & bequeath unto my son Joshua another full third part of all my estate.

Itm. I also give & bequeath unto my two youngest sons John & Edward the other third part of my whole estate to be equally divided between them.

Itm. I do hereby constitute & ordain my wife Grace Sole Extrix of this my last Will & Testament in witness whereof I have hereto set my hand this twelfth day of Jany in the twentieth year of the Reign of King Charles the Second Anno Dni., 1668.

Ra. Milbourn.

Signed in the presence of—

Lewis frost,
 Mich Colesworth,
 Thomas Airey,
 Milburn,
 Cuth Colesworth.

Proved Feb. 6, 1668.

Long inventory of Stock at Salt pans. Shares in sundry vessels (nine) proved at £640 19s. 8d.

VII.

Durham Probate Court.

I, HENRY WOOLFE of Lay Yett, near South Shields My body to be buried at the discretion of my Exors.

To my Son in Law John Cay & Grace his wife my daughter

To my Son in Law Robert Linskill & Rubina his wife my daughter

& shall suffer Henry Linskill & John Linskill sons of the s^d Rob^t & Rubina
 to John Linskill, Alice Linskill daughter of the said Robert Linskill
 Grandson Robert Cay.

Robert Cay Messuage & five salt pans^o held from Dean and Chapter. Robert Cay twentieth part of Elswick Colliery Farm in Harton lately bought of Thomas Watson.

I give & b. to each of my son in law Joshua Milbourne's five children Hannah, William, John, Grace & Jane Milbourne £5.

Dorothy Milbourne another daughter of the said Joshua Milbourne share of Ship Love of which her said father is now master. Henry, John & A. Linskill to be put to some honest trade.

Dated April 25th, 1709.

Proved 1710.

Witness—

Samuel Doneson,
 Hannah Greenwich,
 Wm. Rutter.

Executors, John Cay & Grace his wife.