

# Do you have Quaker Ancestors?



Have you hit a wall in your family research? Can't find any trace of your ancestors in the parish registers? Perhaps the reason is that your ancestors were Quakers. Quakers, or the Religious Society of Friends, remained entirely outside of the established church and maintained their own, detailed registers from the mid 1600s until the mid 1960s, recording births, marriages and deaths. Over the years, many Quakers "married out" – married non-Quakers – or were disowned for other reasons. Their descendants often don't know about their family's Quaker roots. Quaker meetings, as congregations are called, kept minutes, filled with details of the everyday lives of their members. These might include information on where they lived, the schools they attended, apprenticeships, bankruptcies and various other aspects of their lives. Many Quakers also kept spiritual journals, many of which have been printed. These are all valuable resources for discovering your family history.



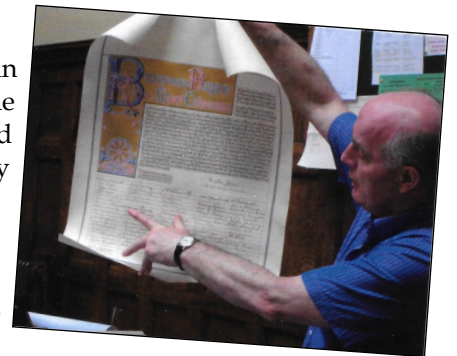
Quaker history is a rich history of faith in the face of persecution and living in the world with integrity. Our Quaker ancestors worked for freedom of religion, peace and disarmament, abolition of slavery, prison reform, the prevention of cruelty to animals and many other causes.

As Quakers were barred from public employment and university because of their refusal to swear oaths, Quakers often pursued livelihoods in business. Quaker practices led Friends to pioneer the fair price for goods they sold instead of the traditional haggling over prices. Many famous British companies have Quaker origins, to name just a few: Barclays Bank, Lloyds of London, Cadbury, Rowntrees, Huntley and Palmers, and Clarks Shoes. Quaker employers were also leaders in maintaining good working conditions for their employees, leading some, such as the Cadburys and Rowntrees to establish model villages for their employees.

Curious to learn more about your family history? We would love to have you join us in discovering your Quaker roots.

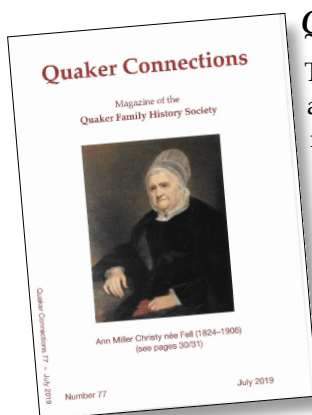
## Regional Meetings

The *Quaker Family History Society* conducts three regional meetings each year in various parts of the UK where Society members and guest speakers help make the local connections to Quaker family history. Recent regional meetings have been held at Mansfield, Bristol, London, Sheffield, Exeter, Blackheath, and Leominster. Many of our regional meetings are held in historical Quaker meeting houses.



## Quaker Connections

The *Quaker Family History Society* has published an attractive journal *Quaker Connections*, which is included in membership, three times a year, since 1993. Articles describe the research of members on their own families; articles on the history of various local meetings; provide information on available resources and; report on regional conferences and other activities of the Society. Back issues of the journal are available online for members to consult with indexes to surnames, authors and content. Our website also provides a helpful guide to where to look for Quaker records and what records are available.



## Research Grants

Each year, the *Quaker Family History Society* offers a *Margaret Bennett Small Research Grant* of up to £750 to encourage new research in Quaker family history.



## Quaker Family History Society

Registered Charity No. 1100843

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/QuakerFamilyHistorySociety/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/QuakerFamilyHistorySociety/)

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