

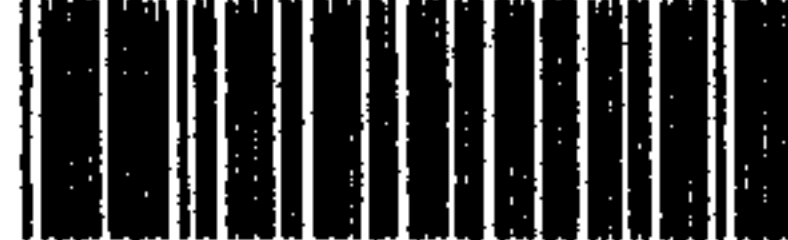
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Genealogies of **PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES**

From The Pennsylvania Magazine
of History and Biography.

With an Introduction by
MILTON RUBINCAM

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Note to the Reader



THIS VOLUME is composed of articles excerpted from *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. It contains all but one of the family history articles published in the *Magazine* up to 1935, when genealogical contributions were discontinued. The omitted article—"The Descendants of Jöran Kyn, the Founder of Upland," by Gregory Keen—totalled 250 pages and was thought to be too extensive for inclusion in a volume already exceeding 900 pages. We have also omitted a few articles which are rather more historical or biographical in nature than genealogical. At the same time, to broaden the genealogical basis of the work, we have included every Bible record and genealogical fragment known to have been published in the *Magazine* (see the Appendix).

This space affords us an opportunity to thank the various persons who cooperated or assisted in the production of this book, and therefore to all who were involved we offer our warmest thanks. We wish, in particular, to express our gratitude to James E. Mooney, Director of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, for granting us permission to reproduce articles from the *Magazine*; to Milton Rubincam, Fellow of The American Society of Genealogists, for furnishing an informative Introduction; to Robert and Catherine Barnes for preparing the Index; and to Edgar Heyl for collecting and arranging the articles.

Genealogical Publishing Company

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WILLIAM BILES.

BY MILES WHITE, JR., BALTIMORE, MD.

At what time the Biles family first settled in Dorsetshire, and whence they originally came, is uncertain. The earliest recorded will of any of the name, in either the Consistory Court or the Archdeaconry Court at Blandford, is that of Dorothy Biles, of Dorchester, in 1693.¹ The wills of Josiah Byles, of Dorchester, in 1707, and of four others who resided at Woodland, Holwell, Weymouth, and Shilling Okeford, are all that appear of record prior to 1710, which would seem to indicate that the family had not then been long resident there.

The Register of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, of Devizes, Wilts, shows that 12 Nov., 1593, Josias Byle married Anne Lye;² and *Alumni Oxonienses 1500-1714* contains the names of two Byles, as follows:

"Byle, William, 'serviens' of Cornwall, Exeter Coll., matric. 26 Oct., 1660, B.A. 1664, M.A. 1667.

"Byles, John, s. Daniel of Dorchester, Dorset, p.p. Exeter Coll., matric. 20 Nov., 1685; aged 16, B.A. 1689."

The latter was probably related to the subject of this sketch, who, however, always spelt his name "Biles," though in contemporary records it was frequently spelt "Byles."³

¹ *Index Library, British Record Society.*

² *N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. li. p. 186.

³ A writer in the *N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.* (vol. vii. p. 300) has said that "this name has undergone more varieties of spelling than one would suppose possible in so short a syllable. Farmer spells it 'Byles,' 'Byley' and 'Bylie.' In the *H. and G. Reg.* for 1849, p. 55, it is spelt 'Byly.' Mr. Stone in his *History of Beverly* spells it 'Byles.'"

In the *Visitation of Cornwall, 1620* (Harleian Soc. Pub., vol. ix.), the name appears as Bill, Byll, Beyle, Byle, Bile, Beele, Beile, Beill, Beale, Biell, Biele, and Debyll, and it is stated that there are numerous entries of the name of Beele in the Registers of the Parish of St. Ewe, and that Roger Beyle and Walter Byle were both members of Parlia-

The names of the parents of William, Charles, and Thomas Biles do not appear in any account of the first ment in the time of Edward III., and that William Biell was an Alderman of the Towne and Borroughe of Saltashe in co. Cornwall in 1620.

The Hertfordshire family of Bill was a prominent one there from about 1400. (*Notes and Queries*, 1st ser., vols. vii. p. 286, x. p. 530, xi. p. 49; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, vol. v. p. 29.) Of this family was Rev. Wm. Bill, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1546, Master of Trinity College, 1551, one of Committee to prepare form of Prayer Book, 1559, first Dean of Westminster Abbey, 1560, and Lord Almoner to Queen Elizabeth. A branch of this family settled in Staffordshire and their descendants now live at Farley Hall.

There were several early settlers of New England who were named Bill, Bills or Billes, Byles and Byley (*Savage's Geneal. Dict.*, vol. i. pp. 177, 179, 326); of these Josiah Byles, the father of the noted preacher Rev. Mather Byles, came from Winchester, co. Hants, prior to 1695. Henry Byley came, in 1638, in the "Bevis" of Southampton, from Salisbury, where the name of the family is found in Registers of St. Edmunds Parish between 1582 and 1636 (*N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. li. pp. 181-8) as Bile, Biley, Byle, Byley, and Bylie; and his grandfather describes himself in his will dated 18 Oct., 1633, proved 23 June, 1634, as Henry Biley the elder, of New Sarum, Wilts (*Ibid.*, vol. lii. p. 44).

There was also a Thomas Bills, of Barnstable, Mass. (probably the son of William, who settled at Barnstable in 1640, and who may have been the Willen Bill of Great Torrington in Devonshire (*Ibid.*, vol. xiv. p. 341), who at the age of 28 took oath of allegiance at Dartmouth, 20 Feby., 1634), who 1st married 3 Oct., 1672, Ann, dau. of Wm. Twining, by whom he had two daus. Ann and Elizabeth, mentioned in will of Wm. Twining (*Phila. Wills, Liber B, fol. 402*); and 2dly married 2 May, 1676, Joanna Twining (said by Savage to be niece of above Wm. Twining and by Twining Genealogy to have been his dau.), by whom he had three sons and three daus.; most of whom were born at Eastham, Mass. (*N. Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. vi. p. 43), where he removed from Barnstable, and where he was living in 1695. Wm. Twining removed from Mass., and settled in Bucks Co., Penna., and Thomas Bills and family settled in New Jersey, and were members of Shrewsbury Mo. Mtg of Friends, the Register of which shows the dates of death of Thomas and Joanna to have been respectively 2nd mo. 2, 1721, and 4th mo. 4, 1723.

Some of the above-mentioned persons may have been of the same family as the subject of this sketch, but no proof thereof has been obtained.

named, and it is not certain whether there were other children or not, and very little is known of their early life and occupations.

When William Biles became a Friend, and whom and when he married, may possibly be shown by the Minutes of Friends' Meeting in Dorsetshire; but the Register does not contain this information, nor does it make mention of any of his brothers or their families. It does, however, show the names and dates of birth of five of his children.

Pemberton's List of Arrivals¹ states that "William Biles, of Dorchester, in the County of Dorset, vile monger, and Johannah, his wife, arrived in Delaware river, in the 'Elizabeth & Sarah' of Waymouth, the 4th of the 4th M^o 1679.² Children. William, George, John, Elizabeth, Johanah, Rebecca and Mary Biles. Servants. Edward Hancock, to serve 8 years: loose the last of the 3^d M^o 1687. To have 50 acres of land. Elizabeth Petty, to serve 7 years: loose the last of the 3^d M^o 1686. To have 50 acres of land.

"Charles Biles, of the town and County above. Arrived in the ship aforesaid, the time aforesaid."

Pemberton is in error as to Rebecca and Mary Biles having come, with their parents, from England. His List was not made until 1684,³ and he evidently recorded all seven of William Biles's children, who were living at that time, instead of the five who actually came with him.

Whether Charles Biles brought with him a wife is unknown; no record of his marriage or death has been found, and as no wife or children are recorded in the List, it is quite probable that he married in America. He was a

¹ PA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG., vol. ix. p. 225; Battle's *Bucks Co.*, p. 677.

² One recent account states that they "landed in New Castle County, Delaware, April 4 [sic] 1679." I have been unable to find any corroboration of this statement, and believe it erroneous, and that they landed in New Jersey. See Smith's *Hist. N. J.*, p. 109; also *Hist. Delaware Co., Pa.*, p. 447.

³ PA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG., vol. ix. p. 223; *Publications So. Hist. Assoc.*, vol. v. p. 391.

brother of William, and appears to have always resided in New Jersey. He died and his widow remarried prior to March 9, 1697/8, as shown by a deed, dated that day,¹ but signed June 8, 1698, between Joseph Wood, of Bucks Co., Penna., yeoman, and Sarah, late widow of Charles Biles, of Maidenhead, Burlington Co., West Jersey, deceased, and Alexander Biles, second son of said Charles Biles and Sarah Biles, now Sarah Brearly, in which mention is also made of "ye two daughters of Charles Biles," names not given.

Charles Biles also had a son John, for the will of John Biles, of Maidenhead, Hunterdon Co., yeoman, dated May 29, 1740, was probated July 22, 1740.² In it mention is made of his wife Elizabeth, daughter Sarah, two sons John and Charles, and the Executors were "my wife and my brother Alexander Biles."

Charles Biles in 1694, in a deed, describes himself as "of Maidenhead, Province West New Jersey, yeoman," and 10th mo. 13, 1695,³ he purchased of John English, of Burlington Co., 200 acres "above ye ffalls of the Delaware."⁴

Proud mentions William Biles as among those of the Society of Friends who arrived in the Province of New Jersey before the grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn, and who appear to be mentioned as active and useful, not only in their own religious society, but most of them also in a civil capacity in and about Burlington.⁵

How long William Biles tarried in New Jersey is not certain. The biographical sketch of him in *The Friend*⁶ says he "appears to have resided a time at Burlington," and in the *History of Burlington and Mercer Counties*⁷ it is stated that he settled at Burlington; while W. J. Buck, in his *History of Bucks County*,⁸ says he settled in Bucks County in

¹ W. J. Deeds, *Liber B*, fol. 658.

² W. J. Wills, *Liber 4*, fol. 247.

³ All dates in this article are Old Style.

⁴ N. J. Deeds, *Liber B*, fol. 593.

⁵ *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 159 n.

⁶ Vol. xxviii. p. 102.

⁷ P. 113; see also Raum's *Hist. N. J.*, vol. i. p. 106.

⁸ P. 20.

1679. He seems to have held large tracts of land in New Jersey, which, however, all seem to have been purchased after he settled in Bucks County, Pa.

The first purchase appears to have been that tract described in a deed¹ from Thomas Green, of Maidenhead, Burlington Co., West New Jersey, yeoman, to William Biles, of County of Bucks, province of Penna., Merchant, dated 10 day of ye month called Aprill, 1696, and acknowledged the 8d of ye first month, 1697, before Mahlon Stacy, Justice, as 300 acres, being part of 400 acres, lying above ye falls within ye territories of Maidenhead. Consideration £55.

In other deeds he is described as "William Biles of Bucks County, Gent," "William Byles of Bucks County, yeoman," and "William Biles of Bucks County, Merchant." His purchases were located principally in Burlington and Salem Counties,² and also included " $\frac{1}{30}$ part of a share of land in West New Jersey, America," and " $\frac{1}{16}$ of $\frac{1}{16}$ of a whole propriety in West Jersey." In 1702 he was appointed by William Crouch, of London, Upholsterer, and James Wass, of London, Chirurgeon, as their attorney,³ and as such conveyed various tracts of land to John Bryarly and John Swift, of New Jersey, and to John Hough, of Bucks Co., Pa.

In 1704 Joseph Wass, of London, sailed for America, and James Wass, Sr., Chyrurgion, appointed William Biles and Edward Shippen, of Pa., Merchants, Joseph Wass, now on a voyage to Pa., and Joshua Barkstead, late of London, now of W. N. J. his attys,⁴ and they in 1705 conveyed to Robt. Ayers, of Rhode Island, 2200 acres in Salem Co. and to Thomas Stanford 300 acres called Quiahocking Islands.

September 15 and 16, 1707, James Wass sold to William Biles all his several tracts of land in or near Quahoking, Cohanzie and Morris River in W. N. J.⁵ and William Biles, in 1709 (after he had made his will in which he bequeathed these tracts), conveyed to Joseph Kirkbride, of Bucks Co., Pa., and Thomas Lambert, of Burlington Co., W. N. J., parts of two tracts, one called Quohokin containing 4500 acres and the other being 10,000 acres in Salem Co., bordering on Morris River and Delaware Bay.

Through his large landed interest he became a member of the "Council of Proprietors of Western Division of New

¹ N. J. Deeds, *Liber B*, fol. 630.

² N. J. Deeds, *Liber B*, fol. 741; AAA, fol. 132, 133, 134, 139, 140, 141, 142, 220, 252; BB, fol. 275, 309, 310.

³ Ibid., AAA, fol. 89, 148, 149, 151, 153, 154.

⁴ Ibid., AAA, fol. 115, 184, 203.

Ibid., BBB, fol. 345 and 347; AAA, fol. 412 and 413.

Jersey," and when that body, 14 November, 1706, received in Council from the Gov. Lord Cornbury a Prohibition to granting any warrants for laying out lands &c., and a Petition from Proprietors and Purchasers of West Jersey, to Lord Cornbury, was drawn up, asking for the removal of the prohibition, we find William Biles¹ among the signers.

In 1680 the first regular correspondence between the Friends in America and London Yearly Meeting was begun by an epistle from the Monthly Meeting at Burlington,² in which it was particularly urged that, in order to prevent impostors and designing persons from coming among them, no Friends should remove to them without certificates from the Society where they had previously lived. This epistle was signed by those present at the meeting, and afterwards by William Biles³ and some others who were not present.

The birth of William Biles's daughter Rebeckah in 1680 is entered in the Records of Burlington Monthly Meeting, and he was doubtless then a member of that meeting, on whichever side of the Delaware River he then resided. For although in Bucks County "the Quakers had a regular and established meeting, for religious worship, before the country bore the name of Pennsylvania,"⁴ which meeting was held at the houses of William Yardley, William Biles,⁵ and others, yet there was no monthly meeting until 1683, when the first one was set up at the house of William Biles, and continued to be held at houses of Friends till 1690, when the first Falls Meeting-House was built near Fallsington, which was the first building for worship erected in the county.⁶

It was probably on the door of William Biles's house that Phineas Pemberton, in 1683, placed a notice of the estab-

¹ N. J. Archives, 1st ser., vol. iii. p. 165.

² Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 159.

³ Smith's *Hist. Penna.* in Hazard's *Register*, vol. vi. p. 182; *The Friend*, vol. xviii. p. 407.

⁴ Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 217 n.

⁵ Smith's *Hist. Penna.* in Hazard's *Register*, vol. vii. p. 116; *Friends' Miscellany*, vol. vii. p. 29.

⁶ Buck's *Bucks Co., Penna.*, p. 81.

lishment of the weekly post in response to the request of the Governor,¹ "carefully to publish" this information "on the meeting house door, and other public places."

In 1679 Jasper Dankers made a copy of a map of the Delaware River from Burlington to Trenton, which has been supposed to have been made by some English surveyors. On this map² William Biles is shown to have 309 acres on the west side of the Delaware River, and the road from Burlington to "ye ffalls" passed through it. Holme's Map of Bucks Co., Pa., begun in 1681, shows that he owned two tracts of land fronting on the Delaware River, and that William and Charles Biles owned together another tract some little distance back from the river.³

Davis, in his *History of Bucks County*, says⁴ that "in the summer and fall of 1679 and spring of 1680 several English settlers took up land on the river bank just below the falls. . . . William Biles, three hundred and nine acres. . . . He was a man of talent and influence and a leader;" and in another place he says,⁵ "Of the original settlers in Falls, several of them were there before the country came into Penn's possession. They purchased the land of Sir Edmund Andros, who represented the Duke of York, and were settled along the Delaware from the falls down; among whom were William Biles [and others], whose lands bordered on the river. These grants were made in 1678 or 1679, that of Biles embraced 327 acres, for which Penn's

warrant is dated 9th, 8th month, 1684, surveyed 23d, same month, and patented 31st, 11th month."

These two accounts probably refer to the same tract, as the below mentioned deeds (which I am informed by Mr. W. S. Ely, who made the examination for me, are all under which William Biles obtained possession, so far as the records show) do not convey two tracts of this size and description. There are two patents recorded from Penn to William Biles, one¹ dated 1st mo. 31, 1684, for 306 acres, for which warrant had been issued by Sir Edmund Andros in 1679 and from Penn 3rd mo. 9, 1684; the other² for 173 acres, dated 5th mo. 31, 1684, containing the same recital. This last tract of 173 acres William conveyed 2nd mo. 14, 1693, to Samuel Beakes,³ and the former he deeded 4th mo. 14, 1698, to his son William Biles, Jr., cooper, as the "Farm and Tract in Falls Township whereon I live, containing 309 acres."

3rd mo. 16, 1701, William Biles conveyed to William White⁴ 100 acres which had been patented to Philip Conway 5th mo. 15, 1684, and by him conveyed, by endorsement thereon, to Thomas Biles, brother of William, "and said William purchasing same had it confirmed by patent from Penn dated March 11th, 1692," but no such patent appears of record in Bucks County. Ann Milcombe conveyed 8th mo. 6, 1685, to William Biles 200 acres patented to her in 1684, which he, 5th mo. 5, 1688, deeded to Joseph English; and said English, 10th mo. 10, 1688, conveyed to Biles 102 acres patented to English in 1687.⁵ Henry Baker, 7th mo. 1, 1698, conveyed to Biles two tracts of 100 acres and 190 acres,⁶ which William conveyed to his son John 3rd mo. 24, 1707, as 300 acres. In 1705 there appears also to have been issued a patent to William Biles⁷ for 472 acres in two tracts, one of 343 acres for 300 made up of Rowland's and Bennett's entries, and the other 129 acres for 100 of Harrison's; and these two tracts correspond in size to those shown on Cutler's map of 1703, as then belonging to William Biles, situated very near the northwestern corner of the Manor of Pennsbury, on the Bristol Township line, and it was probably to this tract, or the Atkinson one mentioned below, that William Penn referred in his letter of 7th mo. 30, 1705, to Governor Evans.

¹ Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber* 11, *fol.* 467.

² *Ibid.*, *Liber* 2, *fol.* 60.

³ *Ibid.*, *Liber* 2, *fol.* 61; *Liber* 5, *fol.* 208.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Liber* 3, *fol.* 38.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Liber* 1, *fol.* 9, 182, 196.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Liber* 2, *fol.* 205; *Liber* 5, *fol.* 133; *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. xix. p. 423.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 473.

¹ *Friends' Miscellany*, vol. vii. pp. 28 and 29.

² *Burlington and Mercer Cos.*, p. 56.

³ This last-mentioned tract contained 472 acres, and was granted by warrant dated 2nd mo. 13, 1683, laid out by Surveyor 4th mo. 13, 1683, and confirmed by Letters Patent from William Penn dated 5th mo. 29, 1684. William and Charles Biles divided this tract 8th mo. 14, 1686 (Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber* 1, *fol.* 102 and 105), and Charles sold his equal half, containing 236 acres, to Abel Janney 7th mo. 12, 1694, and William sold his moiety of 236 acres to John Cuff or Luff 8th mo. 18, 1686.

⁴ P. 35.

⁵ Pp. 103 and 104; see also Buck's *Bucks Co., Penna.*, p. 80; Hazard's *Annals of Penna.*, p. 468.

A tract of 300 acres which Thomas Atkinson took up but did not pay for was, after the marriage of William Biles to his widow, released by her three sons Isaac, William, and Samuel, as they severally became of age, to George Biles for a consideration,¹ and from him it passed through Solomon Warder to William Biles, Sr., and from him in 1707 to William Paxson.

Davis tells us that² "Biles's island, in the Delaware, a mile below the falls, and containing 300 acres, was sold to William Biles about 1680 by Orecton, Nannacus, Nenemlahocking, and Patelana, free native Indians, in consideration of £10, but was not actually conveyed by deed. The 19th of March, 1729, Lappewins and Captain Cumbansh, two Indian 'Sackemen,' and heirs and successors of the Indians above named; confirmed the said island to William Biles, Jr.,³ son of William Biles, the elder, now deceased, in consideration of seven pounds in Indian goods. The deed contained a warranty against the grantors, their heirs, and all other Indians."

Davis furthermore states that⁴ "Biles became a large land owner. He sold 5000 acres in this county near Neshaminy to William Lawrence [and others], but the purchasers could find only 2000 acres. In 1718 James Logan issued an order to survey 3000 additional acres, not already settled or surveyed." The Land Records show that William Biles, as attorney in fact for Thomas Hudson, conveyed several thousand acres in Bucks County to various individuals; and that these 5000 did not belong to him individually is shown by the Minutes of the Board of Property of the Province of Pennsylvania,⁵ which state that William Lawrence and others "purchased of William Biles late of sd. County 5000 acres of Land in the sd. County belonging to one Thomas Hudson whose Atty he then was," etc., and that "The whole 5000 acres was formerly surveyed and sold to the above Persons of Long Island by William Biles, under certain Bounds, but the greater part being under an earlier survey to Dennis Rochford, is taken by his assignees."

Proud also states that⁶ William Biles was a preacher among the Quakers, among the first settlers there, where he appears to have taken up land, under Governor Andros, of New York, prior to William Penn's grant of the Province. He is said to have been a very useful person both in

¹ Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber 3, fol. 86, 167.*

² *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 117.

³ Bucks Co. Deeds, *Liber 26, fol. 380.*

⁴ *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 104.

⁵ *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. xix. pp. 682, 693, 697.

⁶ *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. p. 237 n.

the civil and religious line, being often in the Council and Assembly.¹

In fact, he was an office-holder before the Province passed from under the Duke of York to William Penn, for he held office under the Pro-Provincial Government.² It has been said that in 1680 "the only European settlements comprised within its [Pennsylvania's] limits were included in Upland county, and were subject to the jurisdiction of Upland Court;"³ and the records of that Court show that October 13, 1680, land was laid out by order of this Court "on ye west syde of delow^r Riv^r and on y^e South East syde of hataorackan Creeke,"⁴ which was about Pennsbury Manor in Bucks County.

Though no record of the appointment of officers nor the establishment of such a Court has been found (the Minutes of the Governor and Council of New York, 1678-1683, not being in existence, so far as known), yet Colonial documents still preserved at Albany show clearly that there was in 1680 a Court at Crewcorne, or Creekehorne, and that William Biles was a member thereof.

No mention of this Court has been found elsewhere than in published records of the State of New York, and no historians of Pennsylvania or of Bucks County allude to it.

In reply to inquiries, Dr. William H. Egle writes me that "Crookhorne in Falls Township, Bucks county, was the first seat of justice of the county," and General W. W. H. Davis writes, "Crewcorne was on the Penna. side of the Delaware at Trenton Falls. It had no surveyed bounds, but a frontier settlement and local court was held there. The Upland Court had jurisdiction in Bucks to the falls. The Court at Manhattan had jurisdiction in Bucks in the

¹ Vide *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. ix. pp. 623, 752-754; *Duke of York's Laws*, pp. 485, 507, 523, 536, 552, 559, 565, 576, 577.

² *Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. ix. p. 616.

³ Smith's *Hist. Delaware Co., Pa.*, p. 125; *Mem. Pa. Hist. Soc.*, vol. vii. p. 81.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. vii. pp. 185, 203.

Hough were appointed by the Qtly. Mtg. to adjust the difference between Jno. Brooks and Lydia Wharmby, and on 6th mo. 17, 1687, William Biles was dealt with for selling liquor to Indians.

In 1690 the first meeting-house was built near Fallsington, and was deeded to Thomas Janney, William Biles, Richard Hough, and Joshua Hoopes, in trust for the meeting. On 11th mo. 6, 1691, certain Friends, including William Biles, agreed to take the meeting's share of all books that shall be printed in the unity of Friends and by their approbation. On 12th mo. 1, 1692, William Biles took upon him to pay the balance of carpenters' account for the meeting-house. On 5th mo. 1, 1696, William Biles and wife proposed to visit Friends in New England, and were given a Certificate. On 9th mo. 3, 1697, it was "agreed that a Testimony be drawn concerning Thomas Janney's labors and service amongst us in the Truth," and Joseph Kirkbride, William Biles, Phineas Pemberton, Richard Hough, Jane Biles, and Margery Hough were appointed to prepare the same. In 1699 it was decided to enlarge the meeting-house, and William Biles, Richard Hough, and Joshua Hoopes were appointed to make the agreement with workmen. On 7th mo. 4, 1700, Joshua Hoopes and his wife Eleanor, who had had some differences, were present, but did not agree in their accounts, and Richard Hough, William Duncan, and William Biles were appointed to hear them together and give an account to the meeting. On 8th mo. 2 they reported that Elinor did not sustain her position, and a paper of Condemnation which Joshua had formerly brought in against his wife was read and approved by the meeting. On 11th mo. 5 Jane Biles proposed to go to visit Friends in some parts of Europe, and William said he formerly had opposed it, but now gave his consent and would go with her, and on 1st mo. 5, 1701, certificates for both were read and signed. On 7th mo. 6, 1704, William Biles, Joseph Kirkbride, Richard Hough, and Jacob Janney were appointed to assist Elizabeth Brock to settle her deceased husband's estate. On 11th mo. 4, 1709, William Biles was reported as being very weak, and unfit to take care of the meeting's accounts, and on 5th mo. 5, 1710, he was reported as being dead, and a committee was appointed to call on his son William for the meeting's books and papers.

George Keith caused much trouble and dissension among the members of the Society of Friends, and finally was disowned by the meetings. On 4th mo. 17, 1692, William Biles, William Yardley, and others wrote a letter to London Friends about the difficulties and divisions occasioned by Keith's separation.¹

¹ Evans's *Exposition*, etc., p. 218.

On 4th mo. 20, 1692, the Meeting of Public Friends, in Philadelphia, gave forth its Testimony¹ of Denial against him, and among the signers was William Biles;² and the Yearly Meeting held at Burlington 7th mo. 7, 1692, sent out its Testimony signed by over two hundred members, including William Biles.

On account of the misrepresentations made by Keith in regard to the teachings of the Society, it was deemed wise to state clearly what these really were, and this was accordingly done; and in 1695 T. Sowle published, in London, a pamphlet entitled *Our Antient Testimony renewed concerning our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Holy Scriptures and the Resurrection, given forth by a Meeting of Public Friends and Others, at Philadelphia in Pennsylvania*; and this was also published in 1696 as an Appendix to the English translation of *The General History of the Quakers*, by Gerard Croesse. Among the thirty-nine signers of this statement were Griffith Owen, William Biles, Richard Gove, and Thomas Janney.

William Biles seems always to have been a clear-headed advocate of the principles of Quakerism, and it has been said that³

"There appears to be good evidence in the testimonies of various kinds left concerning this Friend, that he was one qualified by the Great Minister of Ministers, to labour in his cause, and that his Gospel labours were blessed to the good of the church. How much more useful in the Lord's hand, he and many of his fellow-ministers would have been, if they had refused all public offices, we cannot tell."

William and Johannah Biles had eight children, five of whom were born in England and three in America. The dates of birth of the former are taken from Friends' Records at Devonshire House, London, where the name is spelled "Byles," and of the latter from Records of Middletown

¹ *The Friend*, vol. xix. p. 86; Proud's *Hist. Penna.*, vol. i. pp. 365, 368; Hazard's *Register Pa.*, vol. vi. pp. 279, 280.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 301, 302; *The Friend*, vol. xix. p. 109.

³ *The Friend*, vol. xxviii. p. 109.

Quarterly Meeting, Pennsylvania, where the name is spelled "Biles." Many of the certificates of early marriages in Pennsylvania were not recorded, and this is the case with those of most of these children. From the minutes, which show when six of them received permission to marry, and from their father's will, it appears that they married as stated below.

CHILDREN.¹

1. *Elizabeth*, b. 4th mo. 3, 1670; m., 1st, at house of William Biles, 8th mo. 31, 1688, Stephen Beaks, and had five children. She m., 2d, Matthew Hughes.

II. 2. *William*, b. 11th mo. 12, 1671; m., at Middletown Meeting, 11th mo., 1695, Sarah Langhorne, daughter of Thomas and Grace Langhorne, and had nine children.

3. *George*, b. 7th mo. 4, 1673; bur. 12th mo. 27, 1708/9; m., 1697, Martha Blackshaw, who d. 1720. They had six children. She m., 2d, 1713, Joseph Waite, of Philadelphia, who d. before her, in 1720.

4. *Joanah*,² b. 1st mo. 1, 1675; m., 1695, Samuel Beaks, and had six children.

5. *John*, b. 1st mo. 31, 1678; m., at Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, New Jersey, 1707, Mary Lambert, b. 2d mo. 2, 1681, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lambert, and had five children.

6. *Rebeckah*, b. 10th mo. 27, 1680;³ m., at Falls Meeting, 6th mo. 18, 1703, Joseph Janney, b. 1st mo. 26, 1675/6; d. about 1728; son of Thomas and Margery (Heath) Janney, and had six children, five of whom moved to Loudoun County, Virginia.

7. *Mary*, b. 11th mo. 1, 1682; m. — Robbins, and had one child.

8. *Ann*, b. 4th mo. 13, 1685; m., 12th mo., 1706/7, Thomas Yardley, who came to America, in 1704, from Rushton Spencer, County Stafford. They had ten children. For account of them, see the *Yardley Genealogy*.

From Phineas Pemberton's letters⁴ we learn that in 3d mo., 1687, a great land flood and freshet at the Falls occa-

¹ The number of children that each of William Biles's children is stated in this list to have had is the number whose names have been ascertained. Each of his children may have had more than herein mentioned.

² So spelled in English Records; in American it is Johannah.

³ Burlington Monthly Meeting gives her birth as 11th mo. 27.

⁴ Buck's *Bucks Co., Pa.*, p. 23; *Hist. Sketches relating to Early Settlement of Friends at Falls*, p. 55.

sioned much sickness. Whether this was the cause of the death of William Biles's wife cannot now be stated, but she died that year and was buried 7th mo. 4.

On 10th mo. 11, 1688, he married, at his own house, Jane Atkinson,¹ widow of Thomas Atkinson, and it has been said that

"in her he had a faithful helpmeet, and one well calculated to assist him on his journey heavenward." She was a minister, and is said to have had an eminent public testimony, and is shown by the Minutes of Falls Monthly Meeting to have been useful in meetings for discipline, and to have served on numerous committees. They appear to have often travelled in the ministry of the Gospel. In 1st mo., 1689, she visited Friends in East Jersey and on Long Island, and in the summer of 1696, accompanied by her husband, she visited the meetings of Friends in New England, to their satisfaction. A concern for a long time rested on her mind to pay a religious visit to the land of her birth, but her husband discouraged it as far as he could. In 10th mo., 1699, she laid the matter before the General Meeting of Ministers, and towards the close of that year William Biles, writing to William Ellis, who had just returned from a religious visit to Friends in America, said, "My wife talks of coming to you, but how it may be upon that account I shall at present leave to the ordering hand of the Lord; the voyage is great, and she but weakly in body." When the meeting finally gave her liberty to go, "not being satisfied with the opposition her husband made," he decided to go with her, and in the early part of 1701 they both went to England and Ireland and returned towards the close of 1702, and the visit seems to have been well accepted there.

Quite a lengthy sketch of her life and labors was published in *The Friend*,² from which it appears that she resided in Yorkshire, and in 1678 married Thomas Atkinson, a minister in the Society of Friends; that in 1682 they removed to New Jersey, and brought a recommendation from Beamsley Meeting in Yorkshire. In 1687 she was taken very ill, and both she and her husband thought she would die. After a time he told her he believed she would be raised up again and that he should be taken instead. This proved to be true, for that very day he became unwell, and, after lingering for eight or nine weeks, died; while she, by

¹ Yorkshire Friends' Records at Devonshire House, London, show the marriage of "Thomas Adkinson of Sandwich, Adingham psh., Yorkshire, to Jane Boid, 4th mo. 4, 1678, at Knaresborough Meeting." No residence or parentage of Jane Boid being given.

² Vol. xxviii. pp. 93, 102.

whom much labor in the militant church was yet to be performed, grew stronger and stronger.

Her testimony in regard to her husband, Thomas Atkinson, has been published in *The Friend*.¹ She died in 1709, and was buried 10th mo. 21, leaving three children by her first husband and none by her second. William Biles did not long survive his wife, but died in 1710, and his burial took place 3d mo. 19.

His will appears not to have been recorded, but an abstract of it was published in PENNA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG.² It was dated January 5, 1709, and contained the following bequests:

"To my son John Biles, 300 acres of land.

"To my daughter Elizabeth Hewes, wife of Matthew Hewes, the sum of twenty shillings.

"To my three grandchildren, John, Mary, and Grace Beakes, the sum of fifty pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my daughter, Johannah Beakes, the wife of Samuel Beakes, the sum of twenty shillings.

"To my daughter, Rebeckah Janney, the wife of Joseph Janney, the sum of one hundred and forty pounds.

"To their two daughters, Martha and Ann Janney, the sum of ten pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my daughter, Ann, the wife of Thomas Yardley, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds.

"To my daughter-in-law, Martha Biles, the sum of five pounds.

"To my three grandchildren, Johannah, Phebe, and Sarah Biles, the daughters of my children George and Martha Biles, the sum of fifteen pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my three granddaughters, Ann, Grace, and Sarah Biles, the daughters of my son and daughter, William and Sarah Biles, the sum of fifteen pounds, to be equally divided between them.

"To my sister-in-law, Mary Biles, the widow of my brother, Thomas Biles, of Dorchester, in the county of Dorset, in old England, eight pounds.

"To my grandson, William Robbins, the son of my daughter, Mary Robbins, the plantation where I last lived, lying betwixt the land of Anthony Burton, and the land of my son John Biles. It being part of

¹ Vol. xxvii. p. 172.

² Vol. xv. p. 503.

the same land I purchased from Henry Barkar [Baker?] by estimation, about 200 acres.

"To my grandchildren, Johannah and Rebeckah Beakes, the daughters of my son and daughter, Samuel and Johannah Beakes, the sum of twenty-four pounds.

"To my son William Biles, all the rest, residue of my lands in West Jersey, etc.

"Signed, published, and declared this fifth day of the Eleventh month called January, 1709, in the presence of us,

"JER. LANGHORN,

"JOS. KIRKBRIDE,

"ROBERT SOTCHER."

It may be of interest to add, that upon William Biles's plantation, near Penn's Manor, there now stands a large brick dwelling of ancient date,¹ which has been represented by tradition and from the initials inscribed upon it as the homestead of William Biles, Sr., who is said to have built it of bricks brought from England.²

There is also a tradition that the Bible William Biles brought to America had belonged to John Waite, and had the latter's name in it, with the statement that he bought it in 1633. It has been surmised by some that this John Waite was the father of either William Biles's mother or wife.

The children of William Biles do not seem to have occupied so prominent a place in the meeting as their father did, Johannah, William, and Ann having been dealt with by Falls Monthly Meeting, though they all retained their membership.

II. William seems to have been the most prominent of the sons in civil life, and he occupied many public posi-

¹ *Hist. Sketches relating to Early Settlement of Friends at Falls*, p. 26; Davis's *Hist. Bucks Co.*, p. 105 n.

² Some few Colonial houses were built of "bricks brought from England," but most of such brick houses were built of bricks made near the spot. In those days bricks of two shapes or sizes were used, one called "Dutch bricks" and the other "English bricks." From "English bricks" to "bricks brought from England" was an easy step for tradition to take.

tions.¹ He was Sheriff of Bucks County 1704–1707; Coroner October 3, 1717; Justice of the Peace September 6, 1718; January 4, 1722; May 12, 1725; September 14, 1725; September 13, 1726; September 10, 1727; November 22, 1738; member of Assembly 1710, 1711, 1718–1725, 1732, 1735–1737; and Speaker of Assembly 1724–1725, having been so elected October 14, 1724.²

In 1721 he and five others were appointed by the court as viewers for a road from “Yardley’s Ferry to the Cross Roads near Neshaminy meeting-house,”³ and in 1724 he was on the committee to build a new court-house and prison at Newtown, the new county-seat of Bucks County.⁴ He was admitted to the Bar in New Jersey December 5, 1721,⁵ was a member of the “Council of Proprietors of West Jersey,” and as such was one of the signers of the paper sent by that body to Governor William Burnet, against repealing an act for ascertaining the line between the eastern and western divisions of New Jersey.⁶

He was a large land-owner, both in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and in New Jersey, having inherited some tracts from his father and bought others; among the latter was a half interest in 4000 acres in Evesham, Burlington County, which he bought of John Borradail in 1717, and sold in 1726 to Thomas Marks for £284,⁷ in which deed he is styled “William Biles of Bucks County, Penna., Esq.”

In his will, made in 1737, he left certain lands on “Morris” River to his children, but they did not inherit them, for he (and various members of the Lambert family), January 15, 1738/9,⁸ released for £1500 to Abraham Bennet

¹ *Pa. Arch.*, 2d. ser., vol. ix. pp. 742–759.

² *Votes of Assembly*, vol. ii. p. 403.

³ *PENNA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG.*, vol. vii. p. 72.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 73; *Votes of Assembly*, vol. ii. p. 238; *Colonial Records*, vol. iii. p. 255.

⁵ *Snell’s Hist. Hunterdon Co., N. J.*, p. 206.

⁶ *Smith’s Hist. N. J.*, Reprint 1890, pp. 551–554.

⁷ *W. J. Deeds, Liber D, fol. 168.*

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Liber E F, fol. 108.*

and others 10,000 acres, being part of several properties situate in Quohocking, Cohansie, and Maurice River, West New Jersey, which James Wass had released in 1707 to William Biles, his father.

The wife of William Biles, Jr., was Sarah Langhorne,¹ sister of Jeremiah Langhorne, who was Chief-Justice of Pennsylvania, Speaker of Assembly, member of the same for many years, and also filled other offices. Indeed, most of those connected with the Biles family seem to have been office-holders. Thomas Biles was Sheriff 1726–27; Langhorne Biles, Justice of the Peace 1749 and 1752; and other connections of the family for years served as Justices, and in the Assembly.

The will of William Biles, of Falls Township, was dated December 3, 1737, and proved September 27, 1739. It is recorded in *Liber I, fol. 267*,² and in it mention is made of his wife Sarah; his sons William, Charles, and Langhorne; his daughters Sarah and Elizabeth Biles, Ann Pennington, and Hannah Janney; his grandchildren William, Jeremiah, and John Beatts, [Bates], Edward, Mary, and Sarah Pennington, Thomas and Margaret Biles; to all of whom he left land, mostly in West Jersey, on “Morris” River, and to most of them some negroes. By a codicil he left the Island to his son William, who also received the home plantation after his mother’s death.

The following is a list of his children and the persons they married:

CHILDREN (ORDER OF BIRTH UNCERTAIN).

1. *Thomas*, b. 6th mo. 30, 1696; d. 1743; m., 12th mo. 1729, Elizabeth Lambert, daughter of Thomas, of New Jersey. She returned to Chesterfield Meeting 11th mo., 1763. Her will proved 1771 (*N. J. Wills, Liber 15, fol. 474*).

2. *William*, d. 1775; m., 1st, 3d mo., 1725, Ann Stevenson,³ b.

¹ For account of Langhorne family, see *PENNA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG.*, vol. vii. pp. 67–87.

² *Ibid.*, vol. xv. p. 382.

³ See *Our Family Ancestors*, p. 300.

12th mo. 6, 1704; *d.* 3d mo. 8, 1734; daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Jennings) Stevenson; *m.*, 2d, Jane —; *d.* 1777. William and his two sons, Thomas and William, were disowned by Falls Meeting, 6th mo., 1756, for joining a military association; his will is recorded in Bucks Co., *Liber 3, fol. 385*.

3. *Charles, m.*, 1729, Ann Mary Baker, *b.* 4th mo. 16, 1704, daughter of Samuel and Rachel (Warder) Baker, for account of whom see *Publications So. Hist. Assoc.*, vol. v. p. 480. In 1732 Charles and his wife removed from Falls to Buckingham Meeting.

4. *Langhorne, m.*, 1749, Hannah Kirkbride, *b.* 9th mo. 23, 1726, daughter of Joseph, Jr., and Sarah (Fletcher) Kirkbride. Langhorne was disowned by Falls Meeting, 1748, for joining a military association; upon his marriage, his wife was taken under dealings, and in 1756 disowned therefor.

5. *Ann, b.* 12th mo. 4, 1702/3; *bur.* 12th mo. 22, 1748/9; *m.* 10th mo., 1725, Isaac Pennington, *b.* 1700, son of Edward and Sarah (Jennings) Pennington.

6. *Grace, d.* before 1737; *m.* — Bates, who was twice married. The will of her daughter Sarah Bates, dated 1760 (Bucks Co. Wills, *Liber 3, fol. 21*), mentions sister Hannah, wife of Saml. Yeardley; aunt Hannah Janney; cousin Charles Janney; cousin Bettie Janney, daughter of Abel Janney; niece Sarah Bates, daughter of brother John; cousins Ann and Elizabeth Janney; brother John Bates and half-brother Job Bates.

7. *Sarah, d. s. p.* 1781; *m.*, 1740, Lawrence Growden, who was twice married. Her will is recorded in Bucks Co., *Liber 4, fol. 336*.

8. *Elizabeth, m.*, 1740, Abel Janney. The marriage license, issued in New Jersey June 5, 1740, describes them as Abel Janney, of Maidenhead, New Jersey, and Elizabeth Biles, of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It is not certain whether Abel was the son of Thomas and Rachel (Pownall) Janney or of Abel and Elizabeth (Stacy) Janney, though probably the former, whose wife was named Elizabeth, and joined Middletown Monthly Meeting in 1745; she and her husband moved to Virginia in 1746 and returned to Pennsylvania in 1748, he dying that year (see *Publications So. Hist. Assoc.* vol. v. p. 481). The latter Abel married out of meeting, prior to 1742, and that year was in Virginia, whence he returned in 1745, and in 1752 and 1753 kept a tavern in Ridley Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He married a second time in 1755. Whether Elizabeth (Biles) Janney had other children than a daughter Betty is not known. Records of Race Street Meeting, Philadelphia, show the burials in 1758 and 1759 of four children of Abel Janney, but do not give their mother's name.

9. *Hannah, m.*, at Falls Meeting, 3d mo., 1735, Thomas Janney, son of Abel and Elizabeth (Stacy) Janney. One of their sons, Thomas, was a Lieutenant in the Falls Company Bucks County Associators in 1775, (*Pa. Arch.*, 2d ser., vol. xiv. p. 151), and later an officer in the Revolutionary army (*Ibid.*, vol. x. pp. 153, 449; *PENNA. MAG. HIST. AND BIOG.*, vol. vii. p. 167).

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