

To:  
From: Ann Upton <aupton@haverford.edu>  
Subject: Request for Quaker records look up - Haddonfield Minutes  
Cc:  
Bcc:

Attachments:

---

Date: Mon, 21 Apr 2008 16:28:56 -0400  
To: aupton@haverford.edu  
From: Ann Upton <aupton@haverford.edu>  
Subject: Request for Quaker records look up - Haddonfield Minutes  
HC-Host: Message scanned by SMTP2, Networking & Systems, Haverford College, Haverford, PA 19041 [v011]  
HC-MailScanner: Found to be clean

Jeff Moore,  
Thank you for your questions to our library about the marriage of Benjamin and Elizabeth Whitall.

I looked into the Men's Minutes of Haddonfield (MF #15 1762-1781).

In 1767 Benjamin Whitall got into trouble for being present or participating in betting at a horserace. He made an acknowledgement and there was no further problem. (pp 100-104).

On 12 mo 10, 1770 the minutes state that he produced an acknowledgement in writing for himself and his wife's outgoing in marriage and accomplishing it before an hireling minister.." (p. 161). This was the first mention of his marriage and I back-tracked about a year without noticing anything earlier. A committee dealt with the couple for several more months. They were not happy with the acknowledgement and returned it to the couple and another was not forthcoming. On 4th mo 8th 1771 the minutes state "the acknowledgement doth not come up to what the nature of the case requires..." (p. 165). Finally on 11th mo 11, 1771 the pair was disowned.

The language of the entry is curious, though: "The Friends appointed reported they had delivered Benjamin Whitall & wife a copy of the Testimony against them, and informed them of their Privilege of appeal; he signified, he thought they should carry it no further. And as one part of the mater for which they are disowned is of a doubtful nature, some Friends think it most safe to enter it only [ ] Minute, & not publish what cannot be fully proved: the Meeting therefore agrees that the said Testimony shall be entered [ ] Minute & not publicly read; and it is as follows: "Whereas Benjamin Whitall and Elizabeth his Wife have had their Education

amongst Friends, but for want of taking heed to the Principles of truth in their own Breasts, have so far deviated therefrom as to go out in their Marriage, and their going such a Distance to accomplish it; and that before an hireling Minister; & they having a Child in about seven Months after which gave cause to suspect they were not clear of unchaste Freedom with each other; for which Misconduct much Time & pain hath been spent in tenderly treating with them, but they remain in the Neglect of making suitable Satisfaction. Therefore it becomes necessary thus to testify against such conduct & to disown them the said Benjamin Whitall & Elizabeth his Wife from being in religious Membership with us, until they shall manifest a Repentance & Reconciliation with their Maker and Friends; which that they may happily experience is our Sincere Desire."

I will send you a photocopy of this entry for your records. I believe it means that there was some part of the behavior that could not be "fully proved". The meeting decided not to "publish it", or read it aloud, but to enter it in the minutes. This behavior may have been the reason for the very long time it took the committee to deliberate. It sounds that finally Benjamin Whitall lost patience with the process and "thought they should carry it no further." For your purposes this information says that their son was born seven months after their marriage; you know his birthdate so the marriage must have been 7 months earlier - August 1769.

The Women's minutes mirror the Men's. The same day the men took up the actions above the women did, too. I am sending you a copy of the record for 4th mo 8, 1771.

Many of the un-microfilmed records for Haddonfield are in our library so I continued with some of them to see if I could learn the maiden name of Elizabeth Whitall. I checked the Ministers & Elders minutes (1757-1844) that had nothing. I checked the marriage certificates 1768-1772 to see if Elizabeth Whitall had signed a certificate at, perhaps, the marriage of a family member, but found none. More could be done here, perhaps, to check a broader span of time. I also checked the births and deaths 1664-1833. The children of Samuel and Mary Hopper were given: Mary (b. 11th mo, 4, 1739), John (b. 5th mo 18, 1742) and Elizabeth (b. 7th mo 14, 1747). This is a different birth year than the one you cited so I'm not sure. I think it would take a good bit of time and work to determine more about who Benjamin's wife was but it would all be circumstantial. Perhaps a critical exploration of the citations for the modern sources would be useful.

Hoping this will be helpful,  
Ann Upton

|||

Dear Haverford College Special Collections staff,

Can you please look up two entries in a meeting's minutes records and advise me of their content.

I am trying to verify the maiden name of Elizabeth (1746-1808), wife of Benjamin Whitall (1747-1797). Various modern sources identify her as Elizabeth Hopper, daughter of Samuel of Woodbury NJ.

I am searching for contemporary evidence, and have looked without success at the marriage records of many New Jersey & Philadelphia meetings and churches.

Haddonfield New Jersey Monthly Meeting records for both the Men's & Women's Minutes for 12th month 1770 indicate that Benjamin and Elizabeth Whitall were married out of meeting (per abstracts, GMNJ 1929-30 4:180 & 5:64; and Selby's Hinshaw Index, 1:314).

Could you please look at both those Minutes records and see if there is any indication she was a Hopper, or clues to the date of the marriage (they had a son 3rd month 1770).

Per trilogy, I think these are on films:

HV: Film 110 - Minutes 1769-1822 - Women's Meeting

HV: Film 15 - Minutes 1762-1781 - Men's Meeting and Joint

Thanks,

Jeff Moore

--  
Ann W. Upton  
Special Collections Librarian  
Quaker Bibliographer  
College Information Resources  
Haverford College  
370 Lancaster Avenue  
Haverford PA 19041 USA  
610/896-1158

Ann W. Upton  
Special Collections Librarian  
Quaker Bibliographer  
College Information Resources  
Haverford College  
370 Lancaster Avenue  
Haverford PA 19041 USA  
610/896-1158

THE QUAKER COLLECTION  
HAVERFORD COLLEGE  
370 LANCASTER AVE.  
HAVERFORD, PA 19041-1392

MF #15

Haddonfield Mtg  
Mens' Minutes

1762-1781

p 177

11<sup>th</sup> mo 11, 1771



1771.  
B. Whitall &  
Wife.

The Friends appointed reported they had delivered  
Benjamin Whitall & Wife a Copy of the Testimony against them  
and informed them of their Privilege of Appeal; he signified, he  
thought they should carry it no further. And as one Part of the  
Matter for which they are divorced is of a doubtful Nature, some  
Friends think it most safe to enter it only in Minutes, & not  
publish what cannot be fully proved. Their Meeting therefore  
agrees that the said Testimony shall be entered in Minutes, &  
not publicly read; and it is as follows:

Testimony  
against them.

Whereas Benjamin Whitall and Elizabeth his Wife  
have had their Education amongst Friends, but for want of taking  
heed to the Principles of Truth in their own Breasts, have so far  
deviated therefrom as to go out in their Marriage, and thereby  
ing such a Distance to accomplish it, and that before our meeting  
Minister; & they having a Child in about seven Months after,  
which gave Cause to suspect they were not clear of unchaste  
Fidelity with each other; for which Misconduct much Time &  
Pain hath been spent in tenderly teaching with them, but  
they remain in the Neglect of making suitable Satisfaction.  
Therefore it becomes necessary thus to testify against such



not publicly read; and it is as follows:

Testimony  
against them!

"We, the undersigned Benjamin Whitall and Elizabeth his wife have had their Education amongst Friends, but for want of taking heed to the Principles of Truth in their own Breasts, have so far deviated therefrom as to go out in their Marriage, and their going such a Distance to accomplish it, and that before an hiring Minister; & they having a Child in about seven Months after which gave Cause to suspect they were not clear of unchaste Freedom with each other; for which Misconduct much Pains & Pain hath been spent in tenderly treating with them, but they remain in the Neglect of making suitable Satisfaction. Therefore it becomes necessary thus to testify against such Conduct, & to disown them the said Benjamin Whitall & Elizabeth his wife from being in religious Membership with us, until they shall manifest a Repentance & Reconciliation with their Maker and Friends; which that they may happily experience is our Sincere Desire."

Given forth from the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Haddenfield the 9th of the 9. Month 1771.

Signed by Order and in behalf of David Cooper Clerk of said Meeting —



of a meeting to be held at this place next, are  
Mary Thorn, Ann Albertson, Sarah Brown, Mary  
Cooper & Martha Cousins with y<sup>e</sup> answers to y<sup>e</sup> queries  
which Sarah Hopkins is desired to transcribe. —

No other Business offering y<sup>e</sup> meet.  
adjourns as usual. —

At a Monthly Meeting of Women Friends Held  
at Hadonfield 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> Mo: 1771. —

The Fr<sup>ds</sup> appointed to Reconsider Elizabeth  
Whitall's Paper, Reported it was their judgment that it was not  
full enough, therefore this meeting concludes to join with the  
Men Friends to return it to them again & appoints Mercy  
Jefferis & Hannah Lord to that Service. —

Rebecca Hudson's Paper is to lay for consideration

A Certificate is requested to Recommend —  
Elizabeth Craig to Philadelphia, Sarah Griscomb & Ruth  
Clement are appoint<sup>d</sup> to make y<sup>e</sup> usual enquiry & Report to  
y<sup>e</sup> Man Fr<sup>d</sup> appointed to Draw it —

A Certificate Recommending Job Haines & Wife  
together with their Kinowoman Mary Sharp, was Read,  
approved & sign'd. —

No further Business offering  
y<sup>e</sup> Meeting adjourns —