

ATKINSON FAMILIES OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.¹

BY OLIVER HOUGH.

(Continued from volume XXX, page 502.)

PART II.

THE CHRISTOPHER AND JOHN ATKINSON FAMILY.

[For much of the following, concerning Christopher and John Atkinson themselves, and their father, William Atkinson, I am indebted to Charles Francis Jenkins, Esq., one of their descendants, who very generously put at my disposal material he had collected and arranged; the following extract of his letter to me under date of 9 mo. 29, 1904, on this subject, will explain itself: "I have your letter of September 28th, and will be entirely willing to let you have all my Atkinson matter, which along the lines of John and Christopher is almost complete. I had intended publishing it in book form, but seemed never to find time to get it arranged. If you care to have the material and increase it with your investigation, I have no objections and will be glad to let you have it. It is practically ready to put in the printer's hands." I shall quote frequently below from Mr. Jenkins' manuscript. O. H.]

1. WILLIAM ATKINSON, SENIOR, father of *Christopher* and *John*. Mr. Jenkins begins: "Among the group of listeners to the words of an early Quaker preacher one First day in 1660 was William Atkinson of Scotford. Swarthmore Hall the home of Margaret Fell and of Geo. Fox where this unlawful 'conventicle' was being held is sixteen miles or more from the old town of Lancaster, the county seat of Lancashire. The distance is much less when the tide of the

¹ *Correction to Part I.* On page 482, (vol. xxx), fifth line from bottom, *Sarah* Pancoast, second wife of Ralph Cowgill, should be *Susannah*. Register Burlington Mo. Mtg.

shallow bay is out for then the road stretches across the shining sands with a gently winding course avoiding here and there the deeper depressions which the retreating tide has turned into shallow pools. A few hours later the rushing waters have covered the road and greatly lengthened the path of the traveler from Lancaster to Swarthmore."

On this particular day¹ we know the names of many who were gathered in this earnest company for before they had dispersed they were arrested and carried off to Lancaster castle for 'unlawful conventicle.' Let us hope the tide was out and that the little band of prisoners was able to take the shorter road across the hard and level sands.

How long William Atkinson was confined within the high wall of Lancaster castle Besse's *Sufferings of Friends* does not say. This gray pile was once the stronghold of John of Gaunt whose storm-worn effigy still sits grimly over the entrance way." Besides this imprisonment Besse mentions that in 1685 William Atkinson and Nathan Kennedy "for nine weeks absence from the national worship," had goods taken from them to the value of £3,5s.,6d.

Mr. Jenkins continues with a description of the village where William Atkinson lived, called indiscriminately Scotford or Scotforth, but which he says was no doubt anciently Scotford, i. e. the Scot's ford for it is on the high road to Scotland: "Scotforth, the home of William Atkinson is a little cross roads village nearly two miles south of the city of Lancaster, on the high road connecting the northwest of England with the south. The houses are low and small, built of dark gray stone and mostly lacking the setting of flowers and climbing vines and roses which make attractive even the humblest cottage in many parts of rural England. To the east of the village are the rising lands and hills and from the hillside nearby the gray roofs of the hamlet seem to nestle down among the green trees in the valley, while at one side runs a little stream winding its way across the intervening flats and at low tide across the sands to mingle

¹ The day was Jan. 24, 1660/1. (Besse.)

with the waters of Morecambe Bay. To the north the tall, smoking chimney stacks on the outskirts of Lancaster pierce the horizon."

This, of course, is a modern description, and was written by Mr. Jenkins from personal observation, he having made a trip to Scotforth a few years ago when he was collecting his Atkinson notes. Samuel Lewis's *Typographical Dictionary of England*, (3 ed., Lond. 1838) describes it:

"SCOTFORTH, a township, in that part of the parish of LANCASTER which is in the hundred of LONSDALE, south of the sands, county palatine of LANCASTER, 1½ mile (s.) from Lancaster, containing 557 inhabitants." As to the parish Lewis says:

"LANCASTER (*ST. MARY*), a parish, comprising the borough, port and market town of Lancaster, having separate jurisdiction, and several chapelries and townships, partly in the hundred of LONSDALE, south of the sands, and partly in the hundred of AMOUNDERNESS, county palatine of LANCASTER." The *History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster*, by Edward Baines, Esq., M. P. (London, 1836), says, (vol. iv, p. 474): "The hundred of Lonsdale is formed into two districts, called North and South Lonsdale, the vast expanse of sands, constituting the upper portion of the bay of Morecambe, forming the broad boundary line between the two, and imparting to each the appellation of Lonsdale North of the Sands, and Lonsdale South of the Sands. This hundred is comprehended in twenty-one parishes; of which nine are to the north of the Sands, in the district called Furness, and twelve to the south of the Sands." As we see by Lewis's description above, Lancaster parish is not all in one hundred, (although that part we are concerned with is all in Lonsdale Hundred), nor is it even all contiguous territory. Baines says of it (iv, 482): "The parish of Lancaster comprises so many detached and distant parts, that it is not possible to describe its boundaries." . . . "The length of the chief trunk of the parish, if it may be so called, is upwards of ten miles, from north ot

south, and the breadth about nine, from west to east. The next considerable portion, consisting of Stalmine with Stainall, and Preesall with Hackensall, in the hundred of Amounderness, is about four miles by one and a half, and in some places two miles. The total number of statute acres in the parish appears to be about 68,084."

Of William Atkinson's station in life it may be said that he was of the upper yeoman class, for he was a freehold landowner, though on too small a scale for him to have claimed gentility; and while we have no knowledge at all of his ancestors, it is safe to assume that their station was the same, for at that time families in this position almost invariable remained in the same state generation after generation. Besides in William's time there were many Atkinsons in exactly similar station in the Hundred of Lonsdale, both in Lancaster parish, and in the neighboring one (that is across Morecambe Bay) of Cartmel. We have given an account of one of these, Thomas Atkinson, the preacher, in Note A, to Part I; in his book there mentioned, *The Christian's Testimony against Tythes*, he speaks of a number of such Atkinsons in Cartmel; while Besse's *Sufferings of Friends*, in the chapter on Lancashire, mentions various others.¹ William Atkinson's freehold landownership is shown by the will of his son William, as will be seen later, as well as by his own, which, Mr. Jenkins says, "you will find in the records of the Archdeanery of Richmond, deposited at Somerset House, London. The inventory of the estate was taken

¹"There was in Scotforth about this time a Robert Atkinson, who may have been a brother of the elder William Atkinson. His will was dated June 23, 1668. His property was valued at £117, consisting mainly of amounts due him from his neighbors. Included among these was £8.12s. due him by William Atkinson, which Robert in his will gave to William. The will also mentions Ann Sasson a 'sister,' also his nephew Sasson. On February 17, 1660 Robert Atkinson was arrested, with twenty-four others, at the house of John Hartley at Trawden 'where they had assembled to worship God, by the High Constable and soldiers, and for refusing to take the oaths committed to Lancaster gaol, where they lay above five weeks.' *Besse's Sufferings*." (Jenkins.) The date was Feb. 10, 1660/1. He was again imprisoned in October, 1687. (Besse.)

Sept. 17, 1679," but he gives no further particulars except to say: "His modest estate amounted to but £68 and included a drove of thirty two sheep." Of course, it is needless to remark that this amount, (and those named in the footnote also), had a value then of many times the same sum now.

William Atkinson's wife was named Ann, but her family name is unknown, as the meeting records do not go back to the time of their marriage;¹ it was perhaps Holme, as her son William, in his will mentions his "uncle Thomas Holme," but Holme might have been an uncle by marriage. William Atkinson died in 1679, and was buried 10 mo. [Dec.] 10, of that year, in Lancaster meeting house yard. William and Ann Atkinson had issue:

2. WILLIAM ATKINSON, JUNIOR, of Scotford, eldest son, b. —, d. unmarried, 1679/80 and was buried 11 mo. [Jan.] 14, in Lancaster meeting house yard.² Mr. Jenkins says: "Within a few weeks after the death of William Atkinson his oldest son William to whom he had left the disposition of his estate died also. William Atkinson, the younger, directed in his will that his body should be buried in Friends' burying place belonging to Lancaster meeting and he further gave ten pounds to 'such poor people as are in scorne called Quakers.' The little holdings in Scotford which had come to him from his father were all given to his brother Christopher, the next oldest son. He describes the property as 'those severall p'cells lying and being within the libertyis of Scotford and knowne by the names of Heron's Shreason, Cookstool, Steell End and Great Acre all contayning by Estimacon six Acres and a halfe' and also the half of one acre 'on the backside of the same' which belonged to Christopher Atkinson but which was evidently not entirely paid for. The house where William lived, which was called Beckside, also in Scotford, was given to his brother John. After making provision for his mother, Ann, and numerous small legacies to relatives³ and friends and after giving 'twoe of my best sheepe' to 'little John Padgett (sonne of Francis Padgett),' he appointed his brother John his executor." This

¹ "An Anne Atkinson of Scotforth (probably widow of William) married 6 mo. 23, 1681 at Lancaster meeting house John Townson of Radcliffe. *Lancaster Monthly Meeting records.*" (Jenkins.)

² Register Lancaster Mo. Mtg.

³ "The other relatives not already named were, 'My uncle Thomas Holme' and five [ten] shilling apiece to 'All my uncles and aunts.'" (Jenkins.)

will was dated Dec. 22, 1679 and proved Feb. 11, 1679, (1679/80), in the Archdeanery of Richmond.

3. CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON, b. ———, d. July —, 1699.

Mar. 8 mo. 8, 1679, Margaret Fell.

4. JOHN ATKINSON, b. ———, d. 1699.

Mar. 2 mo. 8, 1686, Susannah Hynde.

3. CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON, son of William and Ann, was born no doubt at Scotford, and probably about 1657, but no record of his birth has been found. He lived in Scotford until 1699, in which year, shortly after the middle of May, he, with his wife and children, accompanied by his brother John and family, and some sisters-in-law of John's, embarked on the ship *Britannia*, from Liverpool, for Pennsylvania. There was much sickness on this ship, and in the month of July Christopher Atkinson died. Mr. Jenkins says of this voyage: "The 'Brittania' reached Philadelphia the 24th of Sixth Month (August) 1699, and immediately the Friends of Philadelphia and of the nearby meetings addressed themselves to the nursing of the sick and the care and oversight of the widows and orphans. In many families the sorrowful voyage is still traditionally remembered, and the 'Brittania' is recalled as 'The Sick Ship.' One-fifth of those who had so hopefully set out for the new world had found a grave in the ocean's deep. It would be difficult to fully realize the state of mind of the Widow Margaret, landing in a strange land with so many dependent on her and having undergone so many and so severe trials. Her sorrows however were not yet at an end, for during her stay in Philadelphia, her only son, William, together with Thomas Procter, a servant, was drowned."

Christopher Atkinson was a member of the Society of Friends¹ and had obtained a certificate of removal for himself and family dated 2 mo [April] 3, 1699, from Lancaster Monthly Meeting addressed to Friends in Pennsylvania;² this, his widow, Margaret Atkinson, presented to

¹See Note A for another Christopher Atkinson, a member of the Society of Friends.

²See footnote under John Atkinson, below.

Neshamina (afterwards Middletown) Monthly Meeting in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on 9 mo. [Nov.] 2, 1699. On that date Margaret Atkinson presented three certificates to that meeting, one as above, one for the children of her husband's brother John, (both he and his wife having also died on the voyage), and the third possibly for John Atkinson's sisters-in-law Mary and Alice Hynde though the minutes of the meeting do not specify as to that.

Christopher Atkinson made his will on board the *Britannia*; it was dated July 1, 1699, and proved Sept. 6, 1699, after the vessel's arrival in Philadelphia;¹ in it he described himself as "late of Scotforth in County of Lancashire, husbandman." He left half of his 1000 acres of land to his only son, William, and the remaining 500 to his wife, Margaret, to enable her to bring up their other children, Hannah, Margaret, Isabel and "ye child unborn." He also left her £40 in money, twenty to be paid out of his effects on board the *Britannia*, and twenty out of property, which, he says, "I left in England." All residue of his personal estate in England or elsewhere to be equally divided between his wife and children, William, Margaret, Hannah, Isabel and child unborn. His wife Margaret was made sole executrix. The inventory made in September estimated his personal estate at £209, a considerable sum as estates went in Pennsylvania before 1700. The will shows which of their children were living and accompanied them on the voyage. Besides those named in the will they had three others, Alice, Deborah and Joseph; we have a record of Deborah's death in Lancashire in 1690, long before they started; if Alice and Joseph lived to embark with their parents, they must have both died very early on the voyage, before July 1, the date of the will, but no doubt both had died before 1699. Of the children mentioned in the will, William and Hannah both died in 1699, the former in September and the latter in October, while "ye child unborn" either

¹ Phila. Co. Will Book A, p. 472.

remained unborn or died in infancy, as it does not appear in the settlement of the estate.

By deeds of lease and release dated March 17 & 18, 1698, (1698/9?)¹ William Penn conveyed to Christopher and John Atkinson, of Scotforth, Co. Lancaster, England, 1500 acres, "clear of Indian encumbrances," between the Rivers Susquehanna and Delaware, in the Province of Pennsylvania. Of this 1000 acres was Christopher's and 500 John's. After Christopher's death and his widow's arrival in Pennsylvania, she proceeded to have her husband's land laid out, and obtained a warrant dated 3 mo. 17, 1700, for the 1000 acres to be surveyed in Buckingham Township, Bucks County. In the *List of "Old Rights,"* in Penna. Arch. 3 ser., vol. III, page 54, under Bucks County, occurs: 20. Margaret Atkinson, return for 500 acres, dated 7 mo. 6, 1700.

On 4 mo. 8, 1702,² Margaret Atkinson, of "Bellemont," in Bensalem Township widow, relict and executrix of Christopher Atkinson, sold Joseph Gilbert, of "Weskickels," also in Bensalem Township, 500 acres, 73 perches in Buckingham Township, part of 1500 acres granted to Christopher Atkinson,³ by William Penn, by deeds of lease and release, dated March 17 & 18, 1698, and laid out to Margaret Atkinson by warrant of 3 mo. 17, 1700. At the session of the Board of Property⁴ held 2 mo. 3, 1704, it was stated that the Proprietary by warrant dated 3 mo. 17, [1700], had granted Margaret Atkinson in right of her late husband Christopher Atkinson 500 acres which were surveyed 6 mo. 23 following, and that Margaret as executrix of her husband, by deed of 4 mo. 8, 1702, had granted the same to Joseph Gilbert, of Bensalem, who requested a patent. The patent was ordered for him with special restriction to be in right only of Christopher and John Atkinson of 1500 acres, reference being made to the patent to William Atkinson [John's son] dated 8 mo. 12, 1702. Joseph Gilbert, by his will dated April 15, 1707, devised his whole estate after his wife's death, half to his son Thomas, and half to his daughters Sarah and Mary. And by deed⁵ of Nov. 22, 1715, Margaret Hillborn, of Newtown, widow, and Isabel Atkinson, of Newtown, spinster, daughters and co-heiresses of Christopher Atkinson, confirmed the said 500 acres, 73 perches to Thomas Gilbert, Sarah Stackhouse, (wife of Benjamin), and Mary Gilbert. This tract is shown on Cutler's survey (1703) map of Buckingham Township,⁶ under the name of "Margaret Atkinson now Jos. Gilbert."

By deed⁷ of 1 mo. 8, 1702/3, Margaret Atkinson, then of "Bellemont," sold the other 500 acres of her husband's land to William Cooper, of Buckingham Township. The deed states that it was in right

¹ Phila. Co. Deed Book F vol. 6, p. 127.

² Bucks Co. Deed Book 3, p. 82.

³ This should have read "part of 1000 acres, Christopher Atkinson's share in 1500 acres granted to Christopher and John Atkinson," etc.

⁴ Penna. Arch., 2 ser., XIX, 422.

⁵ Phila. Co. Deed Book G 9, p. 91.

⁶ Reprinted in Davis's *History of Bucks Co.*, 1st ed., p. 267.

⁷ Bucks Co. Deed Book 3, p. 200.

of Christopher and John Atkinson, purchasers from William Penn, that Christopher had left his wife Margaret 500 acres by will dated July 1, 1699, and that it was laid to the said Cooper 6 mo. 25, 1700, under warrant of 8 mo. 17, 1700 ; (Margaret Atkinson must therefore have sold Cooper the warrant before this deed was made ; a not unusual procedure). This tract is shown on the Cutler survey map of 1703 above mentioned, in Buckingham Township, in the name of " Wm. Couper." William Cooper by will¹ dated 11 mo. 30, 1709. [Jan. 30, 1709/10], proved Feb. 17, 1709/10, left the greater part of this in a somewhat indefinite manner to his son Joseph (who died 7 mo. 14, 1712), and directed some to be sold. Part of it seems to have come back in some manner to the heirs of Christopher Atkinson, for on Sept. 27, 1739, Samuel Hillborn, (son of Margaret, daughter of Christopher Atkinson), and Abigail his wife, conveyed 150 acres of the same tract to David Dawes.²

Christopher Atkinson married³ 8 mo. [Oct.] 8, 1679, at Height, in the parish of Cartmel, Lancashire, Margaret Fell, daughter of Christopher Fell, of Newton in Cartmel.⁴ Her father was a member of the Society of Friends, who suffered persecution for his religion, as mentioned in Thomas Atkinson's *The Christian's Testimony against Tythes*. Christopher Fell, of Tarnegreen, died 12 mo. 2, 1705, [Feb. 2, 1705/6], and was buried 12 mo. 6 at Height.⁵ Though we have not been able to exactly locate Tarnegreen, it was surely in the same locality as Height and Newton, perhaps the name of a small estate, and there can be little doubt that this Christopher Fell was father of Margaret (Fell) Atkinson. Newton and Height were in the Township of Upper Allithwaite; Baines (*History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster*, 1836, iv, 735) says: " At a place called Height, above the village of Newton, is a Friend's meeting-house, coeval with the establishment of that body in North Lonsdale." Neither of these places is of sufficient importance to be described in Lewis's *Typographical Dictionary*.

¹ Phila. Co. Will Book C, p. 195.

² Recited in deed of 1 mo. 25, 1742, Dawes to Kinsey, Bucks Co. Deed Book 27, p. 296.

³ Register of Lancaster Mo. Mtg.

⁴ For some account of the parish of Cartmel, see Note A to Part I.

⁵ Register of Lancaster Mo. Mtg.

Christopher and Margaret (Fell) Atkinson had issue, all born in Lancashire, and probably all at Scotford, (births of 5, 7, 8 and 9 from register of Lancaster Mo. Mtg.):

5. ALICE ATKINSON, b. 4 mo. 28, 1680; probably died young, before her parents started for America, as she is not mentioned in her father's will, July 1, 1699.

6. DEBORAH ATKINSON, b. ———, d. 1690, bur. 9 mo. 24.¹

7. HANNAH ATKINSON, b. 8 mo. 1, 1685, d. 8 mo. 9, 1699,² She survived the voyage which proved fatal to so many of her relatives, only to die shortly after her arrival in Philadelphia, or just after reaching Bucks County.

8. JOSEPH ATKINSON, b. 12 mo. 22, 1687, died young, before his parents embarked for Pennsylvania.

9. MARGARET ATKINSON, b. 5 mo. 7, 1691, d. ———. She accompanied her parents to Pennsylvania, living there with her mother, first at "Bellemont," in Bensalem Township, Bucks County, and afterwards in Newtown, until her marriage. She and her sister Isabel were the final surviving co-heiresses to their father's estate; their deed of confirmation of the sale of the 500 acres, 73 perches to the Gilbert heirs, on Nov. 22, 1715, has been mentioned above.

She married³ first, 9 mo. 8, 1711, at the house of Stephen Twining, in Newtown Township, Samuel Hillborn, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Hillborn, of Newtown Township. They had only one child, a son, Samuel Hillborn, (born 6 mo. 13, 1714)⁴ who married in 1736, Abigail Twining, daughter of Stephen and Margaret (Mitchell) Twining, of Newtown Township, and granddaughter of the Stephen Twining, at whose house her husband's parents were married. Samuel Hillborn, Sr. died in 1714 and was buried 10 mo. 15³. "The death of Margaret Hillborn's husband about this time and the fact that her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Hillborn, had married another Aston settler, Abraham Darlinton, no doubt induced her to follow her sister Isabel to Chester County. In the fall of 1717 Margaret Hillborn, Isabel Carter and Elizabeth Darlington applied for certificates of membership from Middletown Meeting. A committee of the meeting was appointed to assist Margaret in settling her affairs" (Jenkins.)

Margaret (Atkinson) Hillborn, then of Aston Township, Chester (now Delaware) County, married second, 2 mo. 10, 1718, at Gwynedd Meeting-house,⁴ John Jones, a widower, of Gwynedd Township, Philadelphia (now Montgomery) County. At the Gwynedd Monthly Meeting held 12 mo. 25, 1717, [Feb. 25, 1717/8], John Jones requested a certificate to Chester [Mo. Mtg.] in order to marry Margaret Hillborn; this was signed for him 1 mo. [March] 25, 1718. At the women's meeting held 4 mo. 24, 1718, "Margaret Jones having Produced a

¹ Register of Lancaster Mo. Mtg.

² Register of Middletown Mo. Mtg.

³ Register of Middletown Mo. Mtg.

⁴ Register of Chester Mo. Mtg.; there is no record of this marriage in the register of Gwynedd Mo. Mtg., though it took place at one of the latter's constituent meetings.

Certificate from Province¹ Monthly Meeting relating to her Life and conversation which was Read att this Meeting approved of and order⁴ to be recorded." (Minutes of Gwynedd Mo. Mtg.)

10. WILLIAM ATKINSON, b. ———, d. 7 mo. [Sept.]—, 1699, buried 7 mo. 30.² He was drowned in Philadelphia, about a month after his arrival there; Thomas Procter, a servant, being drowned at the same time. The 500 acres his father had left him, being not then laid out, was inherited by his mother and sisters.

11. ISABEL ATKINSON, b. ———, d. Co-heiress, with her sister Margaret, to her father's estate. Probably born about 1695.³ Accompanied her parents on the voyage to Pennsylvania, and on arriving there lived with her mother at "Bellemont" and in Newtown, Bucks Co., until her marriage. She married 3 mo. [May] —, 1716,⁴ John Carter, of Aston Township, Chester (now Delaware) County, son of Robert and Lydia (Walley) Carter, and grandson of Edward Carter, formerly of Aston, in the parish of Bampton, Oxfordshire, England, who had settled in Aston Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Isabel had a certificate from Middletown Mo. Mtg., which she presented to Chester Mo. Mtg., 10 mo. 30, 1717. John Carter died in June, 1760. His father Robert Carter, was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly 1698, 1699 and 1703, and his grandfather, Edward Carter, 1688. John and Isabel had 6 or 7 children.

The *Britannia* arrived in Philadelphia in August, 1699, and after staying a little over a month in that city, Margaret Atkinson, early in October, took her surviving children, Margaret and Isabel, and perhaps Hannah, (who died Oct.

¹ Providence, one of the particular meetings constituting Chester Mo. Mtg., and which name was sometimes applied to the monthly meeting.

² "Records of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting." (Jenkins.)

³ In view of the fact that she married a Chester Countian in 1716, it is quite a coincidence that an Isabel Atkinson, 21 years old, was baptized Dec. 23, 1716, at Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church, in New Castle County, now in the city of Wilmington, Delaware. (*The Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington, Delaware*, p. 234; published by the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilm., 1890.) This could hardly be Isabel daughter of Christopher, though the age fits very well, for she had been married the previous May, and in the following year obtained a certificate of membership with Friends from Middletown Monthly Meeting, in Bucks Co. There was, moreover, an Atkinson family in New Castle Co., of which Sampson Atkinson died interstate and letters of administration were granted Ann Atkinson, widow, at Philadelphia, May 6, 1703; also Sarah Atkinson and John Butcher were married Aug. 15, 1722, at Swedes' Ch., Wilmington. (*Records*, as above, p. 270.)

⁴ They "passed second meeting" 3 mo. 3, 1716, and on 4 mo. 7, the marriage was reported as having been "orderly accomplished." (Minutes of Middletown Mo. Mtg.)

9, either in Philadelphia or just after their arrival in Bucks County), to Bucks County, and took up her residence on the plantation called "Bellemont" in Bensalem Township. Mr. Jenkins says: "Belmont was the name of a ridge crossing the northern corner of Bensalem township and running down the Neshaminy. It was also given in later years, perhaps even at that date, to a portion of the large estate of 1250 acres covering the northern portion of the township originally belonging to Joseph Growdon." A large part of the Growdon estate as well as that of John Tatham adjoining it, was, about the time Margaret Atkinson settled there, in possession of Thomas Revell, of West Jersey, either as owner himself or as attorney for others. On Jan. 20, 1701/2, Revell sold 1000 acres, and on March 16, 1702/3, 2500 acres, on the south and southwest banks of the Neshaminy, to Thomas Stevenson, Jr., of Long Island. "Bellemont" was included in one, or perhaps partly in each, of these tracts. As Margaret made no purchase of land here, she doubtless rented the plantation, or the house alone, from Revell. Thomas Stackhouse, Sr., a childless widower, who had a plantation on the other side of, and further up Neshaminy Creek, came to board with her. The minutes of Middletown Monthly Meeting in 1701 mention his living at "Widow Atkinson's," and on 3 mo. 1 of that year he appeared and "condemned his actions contrary to truth," beginning as follows: "Whereas there hath been some concern between Margaret Atkinson and I relating to marriage & some reports have passed of my behavior towards her whereby truth might suffer," etc. These reports appear to have been without proper justification and the circumstance is only introduced here on account of its bearing on Margaret's residence. The judgment of the meeting was that he should not "make her house his place of abode to be at constantly;" but on 9 mo. 6, 1701, it was reported to the meeting that he was still living there. They finally declared their intentions of marriage to the meeting 12 mo. [Feb.] 4, 1702/3, committees were appointed to see that

they were "clear" and to secure her children's estate, and they were married in March, 1702/3.¹ They had no issue. For some account of Thomas Stackhouse, Sr., see Note B.

After Thomas Stackhouse's death Margaret married third, March, 1708/9, John Frost, a prominent man of Newtown. They "passed meeting" the second time March, 3, 1708/9, and were married within themonth.¹ John Frost was a member of the Provincial Assembly in 1712 and 1715. He was one of three trustees to whom the "Newtown Common" was patented August 16, 1716, for the use of the inhabitants of the township. Frost Lane, the upper or northeast boundary of the borough of Newtown, was named for him. Margaret Frost (previously wife of Christopher Atkinson), died in 1714, O. S., and was buried 1 mo. 19, [March, 1715, N. S.]² John Frost died in 1716, and was buried 8 mo. [Oct.] 25, "in Friends' ground at Chester."² He was probably on a visit to his step-daughter, Isabel Carter, at the time, or perhaps had gone to live with her after his wife's death, though in his will made five days before his death he gives his residence as Newtown. By this will,³ dated 8 mo. 20, 1716, proved Nov. 16, 1716, he left legacies to his "daughters-in-law" (stepdaughters) Margaret Hillborn and Isabel Carter, and directed that if Isabel should die without issue, her share should go to Margaret's son Samuel Hillborn, when he reached the age of 21 years, naming Thomas Hillborn and John Stackhouse trustees for him in the meanwhile. (Isabel, however, did have issue.) He also made bequests to his brothers Joseph, Edmund, Samuel, Isaac and Thomas Frost, and to his sister Elizabeth Francis; these brothers and sister probably did not live in Pennsylvania. To John Carter he left his servant man, John Jones. John Wildman was named as executor.

¹ Minutes of Middletown Mo. Mtg.

² Register of Middletown Mo. Mtg.

³ Bucks Co. Will Book 1, p. 31.

In the introduction to this article, (vol. xxx, p. 58), attention was called to the entirely imaginary description of the landing of some early immigrants given in *The Atkinsons of New Jersey*, and the similar account of the landing of the progenitors of one of the Bucks County Atkinson families. The latter is as follows :

“John and Christopher Atkinson.

On the 3rd day of Second month (April), 1699, there also landed at the same wharf¹ in Philadelphia two other men, of middle age, and the heads of families. They came from the agricultural districts of Lancashire, one of the northern counties of England, and bringing with them all their worldly goods. They were Friends, as shown by their apparel and manner of speech, and were met by some of their relatives on the shore, who had preceded them to this wilderness country.” “These men were John and Christopher Atkinson, who had landed with their wives and children, seeking a home either in Pennsylvania or New Jersey. Letters sent them from those already here, encouraged their removal, giving florid accounts of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and, above all, the liberality of the government, and tempted them to leave the old hearthstones in their native land.” There is more in the same strain.

It is needless to remark that this is almost totally erroneous, except the facts that they had lived in Lancashire and were Friends. The two men and the wife of John never landed at all, for as we have seen above, they all died on the voyage. The *Britannia* arrived in Philadelphia 6 mo. 24, 1699, the date of their landing here given, 2 mo. 3, 1699, being that on which their certificates were signed at Lancaster Monthly Meeting, over a month before their embarkation.

4. JOHN ATKINSON, son of William and Ann, of Scotford,

¹ At the mouth of Dock Creek, Philadelphia.

Lancashire, was born about 1660. He was no doubt born at Scotford, and certainly lived there until 1699. He was executor of his brother William, who died in 1679/80; in papers connected with the executorship he is styled "carpenter," but as already explained, among Quakers these terms were no indication of social status, and in his marriage certificate he is styled "husbandman," a more appropriate designation for the son of a freehold landowner, following in his father's footsteps, and a very non-committal Biblical term besides, carrying no suggestion of rank, either high or low.

In the latter half of May, 1699, John Atkinson, with his wife and three children, his wife's sisters Mary and Alice Hynde, and perhaps another, Lydia Hynde, and his own brother, Christopher Atkinson, and family, set sail on the ship *Britannia* from Liverpool, for Philadelphia. He had obtained a certificate from the Lancaster Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, addressed to Friends in Pennsylvania, for himself and family.¹ We have already told in the account of John's brother Christopher how sickness, (it seems to have been smallpox), made such terrible havoc among the *Britannia's* passengers. Both John Atkinson and his wife succumbed to it; the exact date of their deaths was not recorded, but they occurred sometime between the middle of May and the 24th of August, probably in July 1699. Neither had made a will, so after the arrival of the *Britannia* in Philadelphia, joint letters of administration on

¹ His brother Christopher's was almost exactly similar, and with two exceptions (and perhaps these are copyist's errors) the names signed to it are the same. John's reads:

DEAR FRIENDS:

The bearer hereof, Jno. Atkinson, having had Inclinations for severall years to remove himself family to Pennsylvania, and now having an opportunity, did at our last Moth. Meeting desire a certificate from us to you of his conversation and affairs here when he left us. In order to which wee did appoint some friends to make Inquire into his affairs, who at this Meeting do give us an account yt they find he has settled his affairs to ye satisfaction of his neighbors (or who he was concerned with), and also wee do hereby let you know yt as to his and wife's conversation amongst us have been as becometh truth wch they have made profession of from their youth, and have educated their children therein. Wee have nothing to certifie you of but well, so do recomend them to

both their estates were granted, Sept. 6, 1699, to Mary and Alice Hynde,¹ sisters of the wife.

John Atkinson had a right of 500 acres in the 1500 acres which he and Christopher purchased of William Penn, March 17 & 18, 1698. Mary and Alice Hynde, as administratrixes of his estate, obtained a warrant for this, 7 mo. 12, 1700. At the session of the Board of Property² held 4 mo. [June] 15 & 16, 1702, it was stated that the Proprietary by Lease and Release dated March 17 & 18, 1698, granted Christopher and John Atkinson 1500 acres, who coming over to this province on the ship *Britannia* from Liverpool, both died, and John's wife also, the said John leaving issue, William, Mary and John; and that the Proprietary by warrant dated 7 mo. 12, 1700, granted Mary and Alice Hind, sisters to said John's wife, and administrators on his estate, to take up 500 acres which were laid out in the country of Bucks, and returned by Edward Penington, (Surveyor-General) 4 mo. 24, 1701. The said Mary and Alice requested a patent to the children for the said land, which was granted. This tract was laid out in Buckingham Township, and appears on the map³ of Cutler's survey of 1703, in the names of "Mary and Alice Hinde."

you for your advice and assistance in what may be necessary for their settlement amongst you. With our salutation in dear love to you wee rest your friends and bretheren.

From our Month Meeting at Lancaster ye 3 : of ye 2 : month* 1699.

To our friends in ye province of Pennsylvania, these,

Signed by

Tho. Dockery,	Deborah Lawson,	Mary Waithman,
Tho. Green,	Elizabeth Patchet,	Elizabeth Jenconson,
Robt. Hubershe,	Elizabeth Green,	Agnes Wilde,
Tho. Wither,	Elizabeth Baynes,	Elizabeth Goucon,
Robt. Mayer,	Ellin Coward,	Ellin Godsalm,
Willm. Wylde,	Margret Wither,	Mary Hubershe,
Tho. Dillworth,	Agnes Tomlinson,	Margret Cornthwait.
Willm. Stout,	Jannet Backhouse,	Martha Hodgson.
Willm. Skirrow,		

*April O. S.

¹ Phila. Co. Adm'n Book A, p. 286.

² Penna. Arch., 2 ser., XIX, 320.

³ Some of the maps of the Cutler survey of 1703, are now (1907) in possession of the Bucks County Historical Society, being part of the collections of Dr. John Watson, (author of a history of Buckingham and Solebury Townships), a descendant of John Watson, an early Surveyor-General. These are probably copies made for his own use by Surveyor-General Watson, the originals no doubt being in the Surveyor-General's office, (now part of the Interior Department at Harrisburg). It is certain the latter office had the Cutler maps, whether originals or copies, for Robert Smith, of Bucks County, obtained a certified copy of that of Buckingham and Solebury, from the Surveyor-General's office April 30, 1794. Gen. Davis, in the first edition of his *History of Bucks County*, page 267, reprints a map of these townships, probably from the Smith copy.

By deed¹ of April 1, 1713, William Atkinson, of Warminster Township, his sister Mary Atkinson and brother John Atkinson, heirs to their father, sold the above tract to Christopher Topham. The deed stated that the amount for this land issued to Mary and Alice Hynde was dated March 13, 1700, which do not agree with the statement before the Board of Property, but the land was the same.

At the same time that Margaret Atkinson, widow of Christopher, presented her husband's certificate to Neshamina (Middletown) Monthly Meeting, she presented his brother John's, 9 mo. [Nov.] 2, 1699; this, of course, included the three children. On the same date the meeting passed the following resolution: "It is agreed & concluded upon by this meeting that the meeting take care of all friends children that are left as orphans & unsettled, to inspect & see that all such be taken care of & settled in the best & sutablest maner according to their capacity."² Mary and Alice Hynde had brought their sister's children to Bucks County to live, somewhere within the compass of Middletown Monthly Meeting; it is possible that they lived first with Margaret Atkinson at "Bellemont." They continued the care of them under the supervision of the meeting, according to the above resolution, until Alice Hynde married William Stockdale in 1703, when the three children went with her to live on her husband's plantation, in Warminster Township. At the meeting held 1 mo. 6, 1700/1, a request was sent to Mary & Alice Hynde to come to the next monthly meeting and give an account of the children's estate in their possession. They appeared then (2 mo. 3, 1701) and at subsequent meetings, and at that of 4 mo. 5, 1701, the meeting finally adjusted their accounts, settling the allowance for the children's keep, etc. At this last meeting some books sent by the Quarterly Meeting were distributed, Mary Hynde getting two, a very desirable acquisition in those days when reading matter was scarce

¹ Phila. Co. Deed Book F 6, p. 154.

² This and the following abstracts from the proceedings of Middletown Mo. Mtg. are from the official minutes thereof.

in the colony. At the meeting of 7 mo. 6, 1705, William Stockdale was desired to bring the two younger children, Mary and John, with him to the next monthly meeting, which he did and arrangements were made with him for their care.

John Atkinson married 2 mo. 8, 1686, at Lancaster Mtg.,¹ Susannah Hynde, daughter of Richard Hynde of Scotforth, Lancashire. Richard Hynde of Oreangle or Ove-angle (a place not identified), Lancaster, died 9 mo. 24, 1693, buried 9 mo. 25;² though his residence is not given as Scotforth, he was doubtless Susannah's father, Lancaster being only a short distance away. Mary Hynde, widow, of Lancaster, most likely Susannah's mother, died 3 mo. 26, 1695, buried 3 mo. 27 at Lancaster³ (meeting house yard).

Of other members of Susannah's family circle the Roger Hynde who signed her marriage certificate (see footnote) was probably a brother or uncle, most likely the latter. The first Richard Hynde on that document was without doubt her father. The second Richard Hynde probably a brother, and the Elizabeth Hynde following, his wife. John Hynde was doubtless a brother; John Hynde, son of Richard, of Lancaster, died 1689, and was buried 2 mo. 26.⁴ Lydia Hynde seems to have been a sister; she started for

¹ Register of Lancaster, Mo. Mtg. Mr. Jenkins gives the text of the certificate: "John Atkinson of Scotford in ye county of Lancaster, Husbandman, and Susannah Hynde daughter of Richard Hynde of Scotford aforesaid did take each other in marriage ye eighth day of ye Second month 1686 in a public assembly of the people of God called Quakers mett together for yt purpose in ye public meeting house at Lancaster ye party's and themselves publishing their names before these witnesses. Roger Hynde, Alice Thornton, Henry Bishersle, Richard Hynde, Tho. Tomlinson, John Ecroyd, Ann Tomlinson, Robert Mayor, Christopher Atkinson, Wm. Gunson, Wm. Wylde, An. Wylde, Thomas Dottery, John Tomlinson, Timothy Taylor, Thomas Skirrow, Margt. Hodshan, Henry Coward, Richard Hynde, Elizabth Hynde, Ann Gunson, Eliz. Midlton, ffrancis Walling, Tho. Davison, Thomas Hadson, Ellon Coward, Lydia Padgot, John Hynde, Isabel Coward, Lydia Hynde, Sarah Davison, Isabel Taylor." This certificate was copied from the original record book in Somerset House, London.

² Register of Lancaster Mo. Mtg. ³ Ibid. ⁴ Ibid.

Pennsylvania¹ with her sister and family in the *Britannia* but as she is not heard of again, no doubt she died on that ill-fated ship. Though they did not sign the marriage certificate, (being perhaps too young), Susannah positively had two other sisters, Mary and Alice Hynde, who accompanied her on the voyage to Pennsylvania, and took care of her orphan children after their arrival in that province. Mary Hynde married Thomas Parsons, 4 mo. 1704, he bringing a certificate from Abington Mo. Mtg.; they passed their second meeting at Middletown 4 mo. 1, 1704, and at the meeting of 5 mo. 6, the overseeing committee reported it had been accomplished. Alice Hynde married 2 mo. [April], 1703, (they passed second meeting at Middletown 2 mo. 1), William Stockdale; for account of him see Note C. Several persons named Hinde, [Hynde] among them a Richard, are mentioned in the Lancashire chapter of Besse's *Sufferings of Friends*.

John and Susanna (Hynde) Atkinson had issue, all born at Scotforth, Lancashire; (births from register of Lancaster Mo. Mtg.):

12. WILLIAM ATKINTON, b. 1 mo. 31, 1687, d. — 1755.
Mar. 1st, June —, 1716, Phoebe Taylor.
2nd, Sept. 22, 1728, Mary Hugh.
3rd, August — 1730, Lowry Evans.
13. MARY ATKINSON, b. 7 mo. 25, 1689, d.
Mar. 2 mo. 12, 1716, Cephas Child.
14. JOHN ATKINSON, b. 8 mo. 25, 1692, d. 9 mo. 6, 1694, buried
9 mo. 7, at Lancaster Friends' burying ground.²
15. JOHN ATKINSON, b. 9 mo. 25, 1695, d. Jan. —, 1752.
Mar. 8 mo. 30, 1717, Mary Smith.

¹ Her name was either included in the certificate with Mary and Alice, or else she had one of the same date. Mr. Jenkins quotes from the minutes of Lancaster Mo. Mtg. of 1 mo. 6, 1698/9: "Its ordered at this meeting that certificates be drawn for Christopher Atkinson, John Atkinson, Thomas Laynfall, Thomas Willson and their families and for Elizabeth Tomlinson, Mary Hynd, Alice Hynd and Lydia Hynd and Jane Cotton in order to their transportation to Pennsylvania to certify friends there of their Departure from us in Unity with us and of their clearness from Debt," etc. While each man had a separate certificate, there is reason to suppose Mary & Alice and perhaps Lydia Hynde had one between them, or perhaps all five of these women, in which case Elizabeth and Jane were most likely sisters of the others.

² Register of Lancaster Mo. Mtg.

(To be continued.)