

THE CARTER FAMILY.

CHAPTER I.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF EARLY PENNSYLVANIA SETTLERS BEARING THE NAME OF CARTER.

Before entering upon the main subject of the work, short sketches will be given of some of the other early settlers bearing the name of Carter.

William Carter of Wapping, from the County of Middlesex, in land, arrived in America 1632 from Old England on the Ship Providence; William Carter named as passenger.

Before a discussion of William of Wapping is written, an earlier event in England should be described. It is well known that William Carter of Wapping arrived in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1642. It is interesting to know that he came only a few months before William Penn arrived and became the Proprietor of the Province of Pennsylvania. It is also known that William Penn had extended unending effort to have imprisoned Quakers released from prison. The following is a page taken from the Friends Library comprising doctrinal treatment and other writings of members of the Religious Society of Friends. Vol. VIII, page 353, Evans Ft. Wayne library. -

Locus Sigilli.

His majesty is pleased to command, that it be signified as his pleasure to the respective offices and sealers, where the pardon to the Quakers is to pass, that the pardon, though comprehending a great number of persons, do yet pass as one pardon, and pay but as one.

ARLINGTON.

At the court at White hall, the 12th of Sept. 1672.

But though we had this warrant from the king, yet we had trouble from some of the covetous clerks, who strove hard to exact upon us.

When the instrument for the discharge of the prisoners was granted to our friends, there being other dissenters besides Quakers in some prisons, as Baptists, Presbyterians, and Independents; some of their solicitors, especially one William Carter, seeing what way we had made with the king for our friends release, desired their friends in prison might be discharged with ours, and have their names in the same instrument; and earnestly requested my advice or assistance, which I was very willing to give, in compassion to them. Accordingly, I advised them to petition the king, with the names of the prisoners in it, for his warrant, to have them inserted in the same patent with the Quakers, which they petitioned for, and obtained.

So that there are a few names of other dissenters, who were prisoners in Bedfordshire, Kent, and Wiltshire, in the same instrument with our friends, and released thereby.* I was very glad that they partook of the same benefit, through our industry; for when we had made way, it was easy for them to follow. Indeed I was never backward to give any of them advice, if I could, for their help, when any of them have been in straits, and come to me for help. Our being of different judgments and societies, did not abate my compassion or charity, even towards those who have been my opposers in some cases. Blessed be the Lord my God, who is the Father and Fountain of mercies, whose love and mercies in Christ Jesus to us, should oblige us to be merciful and kind one to another, we being required to love mercy, yea, to be merciful, as well as to do justly, and to walk humbly with the Lord our God.

After the king had signed a copy of the said instrument on several skins of parchment, which we got engrossed aforehand, for expedition, in the Patent office, in chancery hand, as is usual, we then got it passed under the great seal of England. And there being

eleven skins of vellum, in chancery hand, it was swelled to that size by the names of above four hundred persons repeated eleven times over in it, that Ellis Hookes and I, and some other Friends, were hard put to it to find out a way to have it dispensed to all the prisons throughout England and Wales, where our friends were confined; that they might be released, and not too long detained under confinement, as many had been, especially since, with great industry, we had obtained their discharge.

The best expedient I could at first pitch upon, was to get two duplicates of the original instrument, prepared and passed under the great seal, as the first was, which I got done very shortly; and then sent messengers with them several ways, to the sheriffs and jailors; as into Sussex, Bucks, Oxford, Warwick, and Stafford, where our friends had suffered long in their jails, that they might be forthwith discharged out of prison; which accordingly was done, when the king's discharge under the great seal was shown to the respective sheriffs and officers concerned, by our friends, the messengers, sent on purpose to see our dear friends released out of their long confinements.

Although at that time I had been in long and great labours and solicitation for the liberty of our oppressed friends in prisons, and thereby impaired my health and strength; yet I was willing to undertake a journey into Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Hertfordshire, to see our friends released out of the jails in those counties, as also in Huntington and Cambridge.

And having the original patent under the great seal, Edward Mann and William Gosnell of London were willing to accompany me on that journey. So we all took horse early, and got to Chelmsford that day, and lodged at the inn by the prison that night; and the next day the quarter sessions being held in that town, for the county of Essex, we went in the morning to several justices of the peace, where they were together at another inn. When we came before them, I gently told them our errand, and what was the intent of our coming there before them; and producing the king's letters patent, showed them what names of our friends were in it, who then were prisoners in Chelmsford prison, and how by it they were discharged. They seemed somewhat surprised at the sight of such a great instrument, under the great seal of England, and that in favour of so many Quakers; and some of them having no good will to us, seemed disgusted at our hats; however, I told them, I hoped they would allow of the discharge, and release our friends out of prison.

* Among these was John Bunyan, the author of the Pilgrim's Progress. Vol. V. II.—No. 9.

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From the earliest history of Penn's grant, immigrants with the surname Carter became numerous in Bucks, Chester and Philadelphia counties. Apparently they moved freely back and forth from one county to another. Records of ownership of land of the early Carter immigrants are to be found in each and all of the three original Pennsylvania counties.

Inquiry into their source of origin reveals that all came from locations close to the city of London. If a circle is drawn using the city of London as its center, its radius need not be more than seventy-five miles to include the homes of all.

There is ample reason to believe that the William Carter mentioned in the George Whitehead letter is the William Carter of Wapping, who arrived in America in 1682. His allegiance to and close association with William Penn are evident in England, as well as in the new world.

WILLIAM OF WAPPING

CON'TD

✓ IV. WILLIAM CARTER, of Wapping, in the county of Middlesex, England, was among the first purchasers of land in Philadelphia under the propriety of William Penn. He owned land in the neighborhood of Second and Chestnut Streets. A cross street was cut through this land and was named Carter's Alley, though more recently it has been changed to Carter Street. William Carter was a man of considerable wealth and was much engaged in land transactions. In the office of the Recorder of Deeds in Philadelphia, his deeds occur very frequently, especially before 1700. The first one recorded

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is dated "6th and mo. 1685" and signed 7th July, 1686. It conveys land to Thomas Howell and describes William Carter as "of ye Citty and county of Philadelphia." From the Records of the Common Council of Philadelphia it appears that he was a very active citizen. He was appointed an alderman for the City of Philadelphia, by William Penn, on 25 October, 1701,* and became thereby one of the Associate Justices [Judges] of the City Court,† a position he held for many years. He appears as clerk of the market in 1721

The Provincial Council of Pennsylvania were indebted to William Carter "12th of y^e 7th mo 1683," for various things, pork, wheat, and a loan of a small amount of money.

In the account book of Nathaniel Allen, ship cooper, of Philadelphia, (now in the possession of William John Potts, of Camden, N. J.) is found an account with William Carter, which begins "9th mo 30 day 1699" and ends "9 mo 25 day 1707."

According to the Friends' records of Philadelphia, William Carter was buried 21, 12 mo., 1738. His will is recorded in Will Book F, p. 101, in the Register of Wills' office, Philadelphia. It was signed 6 November, 1738, and proved 16 March, 1739. The will is very long, occupying six large folio pages of manuscript. He is named as blockmaker, of Philadelphia. He was a man of considerable wealth and made bequests to various charitable purposes.

He mentions his wife Mary, but does not mention any children, and it is possible that he either had none living or that he never had any.

He refers to his sister's daughter, Sarah Williams, but does not name the sister.

* See Charter of the 1217.

† See Martia's History of the Bench and Bar of Philadelphia.

He speaks of his brother Edward's grand-son, Edward-Otto Byard, merchant in Antigua, W. I.

He mentions his kinswoman Katharine Gregory, and her daughters Elizabeth and Mary.

His kinswoman Mary Smith wife of William.

His wife's daughter Mary Morris.

His kinsman, Robert Carter, of Bucks county.

The two daughters of his kinsman, William Carter, of Bucks county, deceased.

He refers to relatives near Limehouse on the Thames east of London.

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In December, William Carter of Wapping, three months after his arrival in August, was to sit in the first Provincial Assembly and give his approval to the long series of laws Penn had formulated, that was to govern the new Colony.

He was appointed by the Proprietor to be Sheriff of Philadelphia County. While serving as sheriff it fell to his lot to read the proclamation announcing the ascension of William and Mary to the English Throne.

He was appointed Alderman to the city of Philadelphia in the year 1701. Thereby he became one of the Associate Justices of the City Court, a position he held for many years.

He was chosen Mayor of the city of brotherly love in the year 1710. He supplied wheat and loaned money to the provisional Council in 1693.

In Penn's written frame of government for the establishment of the city of Philadelphia, twelve provisions related to the allotment, location, etc. of land. It was to this provision that William Carter's attention was soon attracted.

What could be more attractive to an ex-commoner from England than the ownership of his own land? William Carter succumbed to this lure and since he was among the ten per cent of the population of Philadelphia County who paid the highest amount of taxes for the year 1693, we know that he was the holder of large areas of land. He owned land in Philadelphia in the neighborhood of Second and Chestnut Street. A cross street was cut through this land and was named Carter's Alley. More recently this name has been changed to Carter Street.

The entire extent of land holdings which William Carter possessed is not known. He was a Welshman and no doubt he was attracted to the northern part of Chester County where a group of Welsh emigrants had acquired a tract of forty thousand acres of land. This huge acreage was an early grant by Penn to Welsh quakers.

The Penna. Magazine, page 248, Vol. 1, states:
William Carter, son of James and Dorit, his mother,
"was born 4/20/1651 and baptised at one day old."
Memorandum made 1870 information found in Bible dated
1688 that once belonged to William Carter of Wapping.

William of Wapping's first wife was Catherine, family
name unknown. M - died 2/7/1720.
Second wife, Mary Sutton, married 5/23/1721.

William of Wapping and Mary (Sutton) Carter had
a son William, who died 6/21/1729. (Friend's record).

This ends the line of progeny as far as
known of William of Wapping.

L. EDWARD CARTER, of Aston in the Parish of
Bampton, Oxfordshire, England, emigrated to Pennsylv-
ania, in the year 1682. Before leaving England, he purchas-
ed 230 acres of land of William Penn, which, in 1684, was
located in Aston township, Chester (now Delaware) coun-
ty. He was a carpenter by trade, and first resided in
Chichester, but subsequently removed to his land in Aston.

where he probably lived until his death. Edward Carter
seems to have been quite an active citizen, as his name is
mentioned frequently in the early Provincial records. He
was one of the jurors called to attend the first session of
Court convened for Chester county, which met 14th, Feb-
ruary, 1683. In 1684, he was appointed one of the col-
lectors "to gather the assessments," for Chester township.
He was appointed constable for Northley in 1686. [North-
ley seems to have been the name given to Aston before
1687.] He was a member of the Provincial Assembly in
1688. He was a member of the Society of Friends.
He was appointed one of the trustees for Chester Meeting
property, 5, 10 mo. 1687, and was, in consequence, one of
the trustees of the lot donated by Jurian Keen, in 1688,
"to the use and behoof of the said Chester meeting of the
people of God called Quakers, and their successors for ev-
er." The first Chester meeting house was completed on
this lot in 1693. It appears that Friends' meetings were
regularly held at the house of Edward Carter, as the fol-
lowing entry is found in the records of Chichester and
Concord (now Concord) Monthly Meeting, 23, 7 mo. 1703:
"The meeting formerly ordered to be at Edward Carter's
the last fifth day of every month is now Removed to Chi-
chester meeting house." The former order does not seem
to have been recorded. The name of Edward Carter's wife
seems to have been Margaret.

By a will, dated 17, 2 mo. 1699, and recorded at Phila-
delphia, Alice Tremain, of Aston, widow, devised legacies
to John Baldwin* [who married Katharine Turner, *nee*
Carter,] and to his wife and daughter; also to Edward,
Margaret and Robert Carter, and to John, Prudence,
Hannah and Lydia Carter the children of Robert Carter.
Edward Carter and his son Robert were residuary leg-
atees and executors.

* The name is written John Baldwin in the will.

EDWARD CARTER CONFES

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At Concord Monthly Meeting, 12, 5 mo, 1703, a letter dated 21, 4 mo. 1703, was received from Hannah Hill, widow of John, complaining of the executors of Alice Tremain for refusing to give a Bible which was willed to her late husband. The meeting appointed George Pearce and Philip Roman to speak to Edward and Robert Carter [executors] about it. At the meeting held 23, 7 mo. 1703, "Margrett Carter makes report to this meeting that the Bible is delivered according to order."

The last mention of Edward Carter, as living, is the minute above referred to, 12, 5 mo. 1703, and it is supposed he died shortly after this date, as the report at the meeting on 23, 7 mo. 1703, is made by his wife, instead of by himself.

Here is a short biography of EDWARD CARTER, taken from History of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

CARTER, Edward, of Aston, in the parish of Bampton, Oxfordshire, England, came to Pennsylvania in 1682 and settled in Aston township, Chester Co. The name of his wife was Margaret, and they had an only son, Robert, who married Lydia Waller in 1688, and had children, Prudence, b. 11, 6, 1689, m. Caleb Pusey, Jr., of Newborough; John, b. 4, 8, 1691, d. 2, 21, 1693; Hannah, 12, 22, 1692, m. Stephen Harlan; Lydia, m. Joseph Cobern, Jr., 3, 22, 1718; John, m. 1716 to Isabella Atkinson; Edward; Mary, m. to Thomas Harlan in 1720.

William of Wapping and Edward Carter of Aston in the parish of Bampton, Oxfordshire, England, were brothers, and it is possible that Katherine, who came from Cheshire, was their sister. All arrived in the year 1682 and it is possible that all came on the same ship Providence. Katherine Carter was a servant to Joan Blinston. She married first, Edward Turney of Philadelphia, who died, and married second John Boldinis of Aston township, April 4, 1689 - children, Ruth and John.

Edward Carter came from Oxfordshire, England, and his wife Margaret, with their son Robert, are first to be found on their two hundred fifty acre estate in Aston Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. This land had been purchased by Edward from William Penn before he emigrated from England. Edward Carter is probably the oldest of this trio. In 1705 his death occurred within a few years after his arrival. William was younger than Edward. It is probable that they brought their sister Katherine with them when they immigrated into the American colony.

were or soon
All became members of the Society of Friends. There are many records authenticating this. Edward was appointed a Trustee of the Chester monthly meeting. May 10, 1687 - Friends meetings were held at his house until the Chester Meeting House was completed in 1693. Edward Carter was a man of signal prominence in the new Colony. He was an active citizen and his name is mentioned frequently in early Provincial records. Both he and his brother William were to become members of the Provincial Assembly at a later date.

Robert Carter was the "only son and heir" of Edward above. He was for many years a resident of Aston township, and succeeded to the title of the land located by his father. In 1702 he was the owner of 375 acres in that township. In 1717 the Aston land passed to his son John. He was elected a member of Assembly from Chester county in 1698 and 1699, and again in 1703. He was settled in Marlborough in 1722, but removed to Kennett before his death in 1750 or 1751. Robert Carter and Lydia Walley declared intentions of marriage at Chester Monthly Meeting, 10, 7 mo. and 1, 8 mo. 1688, and "things being clear concerning y^e they are left to their liberty to proceed according to Truth's order." They were probably married soon after. She was probably a niece of Robert Wade, or of his wife, who had settled at the mouth of Chester Creek about 1675 and were very prominent in the early history of that locality. Robert Carter and his wife were members of Chester Friends' Meeting until about 1694 when they were joined to Chichester Meeting. In 1709 they again became members of Chester Meeting. Robert seems to have lost his membership in the Society before 1720.

Lydia Carter and her daughter Mary received a certificate from Chester Monthly Meeting to New Garden, 30, 3 mo. 1720, from which it appears that the mother was a preacher.

Robert and Lydia (Walley) Carter had the following children:

- i. Prudence, b. 6, 11 mo. 1689; m. Caleb Pusey, Jr., 5, 9 mo. 1712.
- ii. John, b. 8, 4 mo. 1691; d. 21, 2 mo. 1693.
- iii. Hannah, b. 22, 12 mo. 1692; m. Stephen Harlan, 26, 7 mo. 1723.
- iv. Lydia, m. Joseph Coebourn, Jr., 22, 3 mo. 1718.
- v. John, m. Isabell Atkinson, — 3 mo. 1716.
- vi. Mary.

JOHN CARTER, son of Robert and Lydia Walling Carter was married twice. His first marriage was to Grace White, January 1702 - 3. Their children were Mary, Robert William, who died 1739, leaving two daughters.

John Carter, son of Robert and Lydia Walling Carter, second marriage was to Isabel Atkinson.

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Certificate from Province's Monthly Meeting relating to her life and conversation which was Read at this Meeting approved of and order^d to be recorded." (Minutes of Gwynedd Mo. Mtg.)

10. WILLIAM ATKINSON, b. —, d. 7 mo. [Sept.] —, 1699, buried 7 mo. 30.th 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.th 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,th 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 Hampton, 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.

Friends Record list children of John and Isabel Atkinson

as:

John, married Barbara Ruth 3/25/1749
daughters Frances and Barbara Ruth
Edward, progeny unknown, 1 son Isaac,
daughter Lydia and
possibly a son Joseph

Robert, married 1753
Samuel, married Mary Barnes 1756.
Settled in North Carolina.

Joseph, Died 1765
Had son Hugh and daughter Sarah
Hannah, married Samuel Farro 1756
Perhaps there was another daughter Margaret
Penna. Mag. Vol. 31, P. 167-166-169

John Carter (son of John and Barbara Ruth Carter)
Married first: Hannah Cope 3/8/1770
Hinshaw Record. Children: Janis, Samuel,
James, and Hannah.

Second marriage 4/9/1789. Married Sarah Cope.
The same children of 1st marriage are mentioned
as the children of the 2nd marriage.

Conflicting information: John Carter, son of George Carter,
married Hannah Cope 2/10/1746. He died 6/14/1770 -
(see George Carter record) -