

**HISTORICAL SKETCHES, CHIEFLY
RELATING TO THE EARLY
SETTLEMENT OF FRIENDS AT
FALLS, IN BUCKS COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649603121

Historical Sketches, Chiefly Relating to the Early Settlement of Friends at Falls, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania by George Williams Brown

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE WILLIAMS BROWN

**HISTORICAL SKETCHES, CHIEFLY
RELATING TO THE EARLY
SETTLEMENT OF FRIENDS AT
FALLS, IN BUCKS
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

0
HISTORICAL SKETCHES,

CHIEFLY RELATING TO THE

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF FRIENDS

AT

FALLS,

IN

BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

BY

G. W. B.

1882.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTING HOUSE OF JOHN P. MURPHY,
227 South Fifth St.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

CHAP. I.

Among those eminent for virtue, energy, religious weight, and usefulness in church and state; who left their dwelling places in old ancestral England, and crossing the Atlantic, founded their habitations in foreign lands, surrounded by wilderness aspects, and uncivilized aborigines, was Phineas Pemberton; a goodly number of his contemporaries, who, like himself, were primitive settlers of the country lying adjacent to the falls of the Delaware River, in the south-eastern part of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, (a locality recognized by the general name of Falls,) were those of congenial character, and who with him, doubtless, were largely instrumental in shaping the local affairs, and future prospects of the newly planted colony, by their wise counsels, their upright walking, their diligent industry, their

prudent economy, their Christian spirit, and religious weight and influence.

Numerous offices of trust and importance were conferred upon Phineas Pemberton in the civil and public service of the county and province of which he was a resident, and being a prominent member of the little community with which he was surrounded, it may not be uninteresting, historically, to refer to an earlier period, and as sketched chiefly by himself, bring partially into view the standing and position of some of the primitive settlers, and trace some of the influences and considerations which finally resulted in the immigration of a band of fifty-two persons from England, apparently bound together by common interest, and looking forward to the same place of debarkation, which the captain of the vessel they occupied, promised by contract, should be at a satisfactory place in Pennsylvania.

Phineas, the son of Ralph and Margaret Pemberton, was born eleventh month, 31st, 1649, and in due time was apprenticed to John Abraham, a valuable friend, whose re-

sidence was at Manchester, England. Possessing energy, fearlessness, and independence in a remarkable degree, he, in common with many of his brethren of those days, several times suffered persecution for conscience sake, even while serving as an apprentice. After one of these seasons of trial, he wrote a long letter to his father, describing the proceedings; this letter has been referred to as portraying a "specimen of undaunted bearing, honest firmness, and promptness of reply, little to be expected in a youth then under age;" it is concluded in the following language: "Blessed be the Lord God of everlasting goodness, that gave me power and dominion over and above them all! I can truly say when he (the presiding officer) had uttered all his railing and bitterness, and all the cruelty that was in him, it was no more to me than if he had smiled upon me." In addition to other railing words, this officer, or justice, as he was called, told Phineas that this was his second offense, and if he offended again, he would be hanged, and that he, himself, would prosecute.

Phineas has left a record of the following particulars relating to the last visit that he ever made to his affectionate master, whose precepts and example, and fatherly care, had been of so much value to him during the important period of his apprenticeship.

“The 19th of the 4th month, 1681, being the first day of the week, he being then sick, of the sickness whereof he in a short time afterwards died, I went from home early in the morning to visit him thinking, after I had visited him, to go to the meeting in the town, (Manchester) and I had acquainted him that I intended to take my journey toward London in a few days. About meeting time, being about to take leave, Ralph Ridgway being then present, and ready to go with me, he desired us to stay awhile, and said to me: I would not have thee go to meeting this day, but spend it with me; for thou mayest not have another to spend with me; but to enjoy the benefit of a meeting, thou mayest have more opportunities. Accordingly I stayed, and the friend R. R., for some time, and he placed us on each hand of his chair.

After a little silence he desired to stand up, and, being helped by us, he leaned on our shoulders, and spoke forth in a living spring of life, of the loving kindness of the Lord unto him, and how it had been extended, and was stretched out, and continued still unto him; and also, how he had walked and spent his days in his fear; and of his assurance of his favors and blessings; and of his willingness to receive his dissolution, that he might arrive at that long desired haven of rest. And although he was under great weakness of body, yet, he was so filled with life, that he livingly spoke forth his words as when in his strength, to the penetrating, and piercing, and tendering of my spirit."

Phineas relates the following pleasing incident respecting his first acquaintance with Phebe Harrison, which took place in 1669, and whom he afterwards married. "Phebe, with her mother, as they were going into Cheshire, called at my master's shop, but I knew them not; she being about nine years of age, said to her mother, (having some cherries in

her apron,) I have a mind to give one of these young men some cherries; her mother said, then give to both. She said, no; I will but give to one: and through the crowd of people that then stood before the counter, she pressed, holding out her hand with cherries for me, before I was well aware, and I admired that a child I knew not, should offer me such kindness; but on inquiring, remembered that I had heard her name; and retaliated her kindness at the same time with a paper of brown candy."

Time passed on, and the friendship and attachment existing between Phineas and Phebe still progressing, it resulted in marriage engagement, and, eventually, in their marriage. A copy of the certificate appertaining to the occasion, from the records of Hardsbaw Monthly Meeting, exhibits the simplicity, language and order of those primitive times; and it is probable that the same peculiarities which characterized those worthies, Boulton and its vicinity, were carried to America by the noble band that immigrated from thence, and settling within the