

**MEMORIALS OF
ELIZABETH ANN WESLEY,
THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND**

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Memorials of Elizabeth Ann Wesley, the soldier's friend by Samuel Wesley

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SAMUEL WESLEY

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THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND**



Elizabeth A. Wesley

MEMORIALS
OF
ELIZABETH ANN WESLEY,
THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND,

BY HER FATHER, THE
REV. SAMUEL WESLEY

EDITED WITH A PREFACE BY
GEORGE JOHN STEVENSON, M.A.,

*Author of 'Memorials of the Wesley Family'; 'The Methodist
Hymn Book Illustrated,' and other works.*

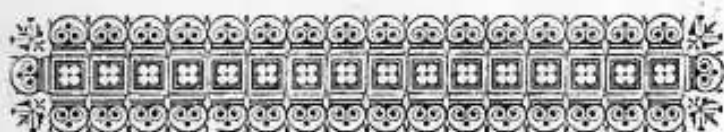
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'I will never give up any man, so long as Christ does
not give him up.'—E. A. WESLEY.

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TO
MAJOR W. THOMSON,
7TH REGIMENTAL DISTRICT, HOUNSLOW GARRISON,
These Memorials,
IN SINCERE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS DEEP INTEREST
IN THE CHRISTIAN TOIL OF
MISS WESLEY,
AND ESPECIALLY OF HIS PRACTICAL SYMPATHY WITH HER
IN HER ARDUOUS LABOURS AMONG BRITISH SOLDIERS,
Are Dedicated
BY HIS FRIEND AND LATE CHAPLAIN,
SAMUEL WESLEY.



Preface.



THE Wesley family is a very old one, one of the oldest in England, and has been traced in an unbroken succession back into the times of the Saxons, and more than a century before the Norman Conquest. The first name on the family roll is that of Guy, who was made a thane (a member of the Saxon parliament) by King Athelstan (925-40) about the year A.D. 938, and who married Phenan, his kinswoman, the daughter of an old chieftain. He lived at Welswe, near Wells, Somerset. There the family settled, and lived on their own domain for centuries, passing through changes consequent on the wars of various sovereigns, but ultimately holding their own homestead, right on to near the end of the XVIIIth century. The twenty-second occupier of the family estate, in direct succession, was named George Arthur Wesley; who was for some years in the army, and squandered much of his property; so much, indeed, that ultimately about a century ago, 1785, the remainder of the estate was sold, and the old family mansion pulled down. The title deeds of the

estate have recently been discovered in the archives of Wells Cathedral; by their aid, the position of the mansion has been found; and with the aid of the spade, the original foundations have been laid bare. This has come to light since the publication in 1876 of 'Memorials of the Wesley Family.' The said George Arthur Wesley was twice married; first to the daughter of G. A. Pelham, Esq.; they had one son who died without issue; second, he married a lady said to have been his kinswoman, but owing to the confusion of the family affairs, and the sale of the property, her name has not been preserved. She left a son and a daughter; the son, Francis, was the heir; the daughter, Mary, died unmarried. Francis was born in 1767, and married Elizabeth Bamfield. He died in 1854, aged 87 years. His son was Alfred Wesley, born 1804; he married Ann Lilley; they had six sons, most of whom are still living. This Alfred was the twenty-fourth in direct descent from Guy of the Saxon times. Amongst the twenty-four, many were distinguished as courtiers, warriors, statesmen, priests, men of chivalry, authors, musicians, and poets. One of them was standard-bearer to Henry II, during his wars in Ireland, A.D. 1172. Another was a pilgrim in the age of the Crusades, and died fighting the Saracens in defence of the Holy Sepulchre and the city of Jerusalem. For his services, the Knights Templars conferred on the family the right to use the escalop shell in their family arms, which is used by them to this day.

The nineteenth Wesley in succession was named Sir Herbert Wesley. This Herbert was the only son of his parents, and was contemporary with Queen Elizabeth. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Robert Wesley, of Dangan Castle, County Meath, Ireland: the Irish branch was that from which the Duke of Wellington descended. Three children were given to Sir Herbert and Elizabeth Wesley, whose names were, William, the heir; Harphame, who died unmarried; and Bartholomew, who was ordained a priest (born about 1696), and became the head of that branch known as the Wesleys of Epworth. This Bartholomew was the most remote name in the family of which the founders of Methodism had any knowledge. When it is remembered how severe, and long, and terrible were the trials of the seventeenth century, and how many families were broken up by them, it is no wonder that the Wesleys, who had their full share of hardships and privations, should have neglected genealogical studies; so they knew little of their ancestors, excepting of those living. Bartholomew had only one son, whom he named John: he studied theology and medicine at Oxford, and took his M.A. degree at New Inn Hall. He entered the ministry, and served several parishes and congregations, both of the Church and Independents. He was one of the preachers accepted by Oliver Cromwell's Triers; so he was at one time Episcopal, at another time Nonconformist; and he was one of the 2,000 clergymen expelled from Church and home in