

**A MEMOIR OF
ENOCH LEWIS**

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A Memoir of Enoch Lewis by Joseph J. Lewis

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JOSEPH J. LEWIS

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By JOSEPH J. LEWIS.

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*To the relatives, friends and former pupils of
my late Father.*

More than twenty years ago, I wrote a rough draft of a memoir of my father, intending to publish it without delay ; but national troubles and other circumstances diverted me from my purpose. The practice of my profession, which I resumed after the war, occupied my time so fully that I could not return to the subject, until my failing sight compelled me to withdraw from business. On reëxamining my MS memoir at that time, I found it to contain far more than seemed necessary for the special object of recalling to those interested, the peculiar traits of my father's character. The little work was therefore to be rewritten, under the disadvantage of inability to read, by dictation to an amanuensis. This fact may in a measure account for any apparent negligence of expression, needless repetition, or imperfect proof-reading. I trust, however, that you, for whose perusal the memoir is especially designed, will recognize the fidelity and general accuracy of the sketch, though I am conscious that those who best knew my father will feel most deeply how far short it falls of doing full justice to his memory.

JOSEPH J. LEWIS.

WEST CHESTER, PA., 7th Mo. 4th, 1882.



MEMOIR OF ENOCH LEWIS.

CHAPTER I.

ANCESTORS.

The ancestors of Enoch Lewis came early to Pennsylvania. They were among those earnest and devoted men, who, preferring political and religious liberty, attended by privation and hardship in the New World, to a life of comparative ease subject to aristocratic and ecclesiastical domination in the Old, sought, under the auspices of a governor with whose pacific principles and benevolent purposes they thoroughly sympathized, to become the pioneers of a new civilization in which Christianity should be a pervading and informing element.

In the latter part of 1681, or the beginning of 1682, Henry Lewis emigrated from Narbeth, a small market-town in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, and arrived at Upland, afterwards Chester, on the west bank of the river Delaware. He was accompanied by his father, Evan Lewis, then an old man, and his family, consisting of his wife, Margaret, and three children, two sons and one daughter, an elder daughter having died prior to his emigration. The eldest son, whose name was also Henry, was a lad of less than eleven years. He was born, as appears by a record still existing in Friends' Library in London, "10th month 26, 1671." (o. s.) Samuel, the second son, was born "8th month 1, 1676." (o. s.) and Elizabeth, the daughter, was born "12th month 14th, 1677." (o. s.) Henry Lewis, the elder, brought with him from the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Narbeth, a certificate of membership of himself and family. His

father, Evan Lewis, does not appear to have joined the Society. The Monthly Meeting at Narbeth, prior to 1682, was in a flourishing condition, but it has now become extinct, having lost its members, mainly, by emigration to America. Even the house in which it was held has disappeared. A gentleman of high respectability in Narbeth, who has made the antiquities of the place a subject of study, showed, in 1876, the spot where the meeting-house stood. It was on the top of the hill, the western slope of which is occupied by the town, and commands a view, wide as the horizon, of a country of wonderful fertility and picturesque beauty. The gentleman had, himself, when a boy, attended meetings for worship in that quaint old edifice, in which George Fox, John Ap John, and William Penn, had preached, and he stated that there was an existing tradition that the lot on which the building was erected was a donation to the Society from the Lewises, whose large family mansion he pointed out from a station in the highway, opposite the meeting-house grounds. It stands from half a mile to a mile east of Narbeth, and is embowered by venerable oaks and elms, and surrounded by fields bounded by trim hedges, and glowing with rich verdure. Till within thirty years it was still in the family name, having descended through successive generations from father to son, for some centuries, to the last proprietor, but it has now passed into the hands of strangers.

William Penn obtained his charter as proprietary and governor of Pennsylvania, on the Fourth of Third Month, 1681, and the province was immediately open for settlement. As an inducement to his Welsh friends, who were then suffering persecution from the bigotry and intolerance of the English church, which had not learned the first principles of religious liberty, the proprietary promised to erect a barony of about forty thousand acres of land outside of the limits of the intended city, and not including any prior grants, for the special accommodation of the Welsh emigrants. Their object was to have a separate municipal district, in which the business of the municipality should be transacted by officers of the barony, and in which the proceedings of the courts should be conduc-

ted in their own language. The erection of a baronial division, indeed, implied the institution of a court baron, with a jurisdiction co-extensive with the barony. To the native Welsh, this was important, as, to the great majority of them, the English was an unknown tongue. They have always been, and still are, strongly attached to the language and customs of their country, and do not easily become Anglicized. Narbeth, even now, contains two distinct populations almost equal in number—one English and the other Welsh—each occupying separate portions of the town, and ignorant of the language of the other. Although the forty thousand acres were not actually surveyed till 1684, it was understood that the survey would include lands lying immediately west of the Schuylkill river. Henry Lewis, though an educated man, and speaking, as is believed, both languages, preferred to establish a settlement within the limits of the projected barony, where he expected to be soon surrounded by many friends and neighbors, who were preparing to follow him to Pennsylvania. He, therefore, in conjunction with William Howell, purchased of Lewis David, a tract of a thousand acres, bounded on the south by Darby, and the city liberty land, and on the east by Merion; and a conveyance by lease and release, dated the 10th and 11th days of Fifth Month, 1682 (o. s.), was made to the purchasers as tenants in common. This was at the eastern end of the forty thousand acres, which was afterwards called "The Welsh Tract," but which never became a barony, in the proper sense of the term, much to the disappointment of many of the settlers. The grantees, very soon after obtaining their title, made partition of the land purchased. The part which fell to Henry Lewis, according to a subsequent survey, contained five hundred and fifty acres. On the same Tenth day of Fifth Month, 1682 (o. s.), Henry Lewis bought an adjacent piece of land, containing two hundred and fifty acres, which had been recently patented in the name of Arthur Buse. On the first mentioned of these tracts, he proceeded to erect a commodious two-storied house, for a residence for himself and family. As soon as Philadelphia was laid out, which was in the Autumn of 1682, he purchased a lot of ground and built upon it a