

**IN MEMORIAM: A SKETCH
OF THE LIFE OF
THE REV. FRANCIS
BICKFORD HORN BROOKE**

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In Memoriam: A Sketch of the Life of the Rev. Francis Bickford Hornbrooke by Orinda Althea
Dudley Hornbrooke & James De Normandie

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ORINDA ALTHEA DUDLEY HORN BROOKE & JAMES DE NORMANDIE

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BICKFORD HORN BROOKE**



Francis B. Humberstone

In Memoriam

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE

OF THE

Rev. Francis Bickford Hornbrooke, D. D.

BY

HIS WIFE

Mrs. Orinda Althea Dudley Hornbrooke

TOGETHER WITH

A TRIBUTE BY HIS FRIEND

JAMES DeNORMANDIE, D. D.



NEWTON

NEWTON GRAPHIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

1906

FRANCIS BICKFORD HORN BROOKE.

Born, Wheeling, West Virginia, May 7, 1849.
Graduated, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 1870.
Graduated, Union Theological Seminary, 1874.
Ordained, Union Congregational (Trinitarian) Church,
East Hampton, Connecticut, 1874.
Married, September 18, 1874, Cambridge, Massachusetts,
to Orinda Althea Dudley.
Son, Dudley Hornbrooke, born December 22, 1875.
Installed First Parish (Unitarian) Weston, Massachusetts,
1878.
Graduated, Harvard Divinity School, 1877.
Installed, Channing Church, Newton, Massachusetts, 1879.
Younger son, Francis Bickford Hornbrooke, Jr., born
Christmas, 1879.
Degree of Doctor of Divinity, (Ohio University), 1899.
Resigned from Channing Church, June, 1900.
Died, Newton, December 5, 1903.

INTRODUCTION.

At the annual meeting of the Channing Religious Society next succeeding the death of Rev. Dr. Francis B. Hornbrooke, held February 1, 1904, it was voted, on motion of Mr. Charles H. Breck, "that a committee of six be appointed by the chair (the chairman to be one of the number) to draw up a memorial to Dr. Hornbrooke to be placed on the church records."

In pursuance of the above vote the following committee was appointed: Mr. Charles H. Breck, chairman; Rev. Adelbert L. Hudson, Messrs. Warren P. Tyler, Howard B. Coffin, Fred W. Stone and Frank H. Burt. Mr. Joseph N. Palmer, clerk of the Society, acted with the committee at their request.

The committee asked Mrs. Hornbrooke to assist them by furnishing data in regard to the life of her husband. Complying with this request she prepared the accompanying biographical sketch and placed it in the hands of the committee, intending it solely as an aid to them in their work. Upon reading the sketch it was the unanimous feeling of the committee that no more fitting memorial of the life and character of Dr. Hornbrooke could be prepared; and with Mrs. Hornbrooke's consent it was submitted to the Society at the annual Parish Meeting, February 6, 1905, with the following report:

"Your committee, appointed to prepare a memorial to Dr. Francis B. Hornbrooke, for twenty years the beloved pastor of this church, having secured from his widow the excellent biography herewith submitted, recommend that it be adopted as a permanent memorial and incorporated by reference in the records of the Channing Religious Society."

The action of the Society upon this report was as follows :

"In accordance with this recommendation it was unanimously voted that said biography be adopted as a permanent memorial, and that it be filed with the records of the Society ; and it was further voted that the thanks of the Society be extended to Mrs. Hornbrooke for preparing said biography, and that the clerk be instructed to transmit to her a copy of the report of said committee and these proceedings thereon."

Complying with a generally expressed wish of members of the parish, the committee determined to perpetuate the memorial of Dr. Hornbrooke by publishing it in the present form. Through Mrs. Hornbrooke and others, several photographs of Dr. Hornbrooke at various ages were secured, as well as pictures of the four churches in which he ministered. By the courtesy of Alston Ellis, Ph. D., LL.D., president of Ohio University, an excellent picture was obtained of the buildings of that institution, Dr. Hornbrooke's Alma Mater, as they existed at the period of his college course.

The tender and appreciative funeral address by Rev. James DeNormandie, D. D., minister of the First Parish in Roxbury, is appended to the sketch.

Who understands the mountain? Those whose homes are nestled in its protecting shadow, or those who watch its clouds and purpling shadows and see its majesty from afar off?

In trying to write of the noble and many-sided nature of my beloved husband, I feel that after a long wedded comradeship of unusual intimacy, I am wholly inadequate, and will give a brief biographical account and let those better fitted draw the picture.

Francis Bickford Hornbrooke was born in Wheeling, Va., (now West Va.), on May 7th, 1849. He was the only child of Thomas Bickford and Jane (Lopeman) Hornbrooke, who had been married the year previously. His grandfather, Dr. Jacob Hornbrooke, had come from Bristol, Eng., in 1820 with a second wife (Elizabeth Hosier) and a large family of children. His children by his first wife, all men and women grown, remained in England. A brother, Saunders Hornbrooke, had preceded him to this country two years before, and settled in the vicinity of Evansville, Ind.; buying a great tract of land and becoming almost at once a leader of affairs in his vicinity.

Dr. Jacob Hornbrooke had had service in the British army both in East and West India. He was a skilled chemist, and instead of going into the regular practice of medicine in Wheeling, he established chemical works and pursued the manufacture of drugs and dyes as a regular business. On the outbreak of the cholera, however, his experience in India enabled him to render great service to the community, as he was the only physician who had ever had any experience with it. He instructed other doctors and made medicine which was sold up and down the great river. He was often called in consultation in severe or unusual cases. Wheeling was at that time a rough border town and medical knowledge was at the minimum, and Dr. Hornbrooke impatiently asserted that it took more training in England to be a hostler than in Virginia to be a doctor.

Dr. Hornbrooke was an English radical in politics and he followed the fortunes of his cousin, Sir Francis Burdett* in the latter's campaigns for Parliament with so much enthusiasm that he seriously reduced his own fortune and thought it much easier to begin over in a new country. The social change to his wife was extremely hard. From the dignified and set régime of the English

*Sir Francis Burdett was the father of Baroness Burdett-Coutte, the eminent philanthropist.