

**A HISTORY OF THE  
FRIENDS  
IN AMERICA**

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A History of the Friends in America by Allen C. Thomas & Richard Henry Thomas

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**ALLEN C. THOMAS & RICHARD HENRY THOMAS**

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A HISTORY OF  
THE FRIENDS  
IN AMERICA

ALLEN C. <sup>BY</sup> THOMAS, A.M.  
AND  
RICHARD HENRY THOMAS, M.D.

FOURTH EDITION  
THOROUGHLY REVISED AND ENLARGED

BY  
ALLEN C. THOMAS, A.M.

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1905

## PREFACE TO FOURTH EDITION.

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THE fact that the present edition has been printed from new type has afforded the opportunity to make many changes in the text, almost all of which, however, have been in the line of greater clearness and precision. All errors of whatever kind, have, so far as known, been corrected, and a number of unintentional omissions have been remedied. The narrative has been brought up to date, and in every respect great pains have been taken to make the book still more worthy of the favor with which previous editions have been received. In this revision it has not been thought advisable to depart from the original plan of the work—that of presenting a short history, which, while giving what is essential to a clear understanding of the subject, makes no pretence of being exhaustive.

It has been a source of great satisfaction to the authors, that, while their work has been criticised in matters of secondary importance, its spirit and the care with which it has been written have been recognized by Friends in general, as well as by the representative Journals of Quakerism—“The American Friend” (Orthodox), “The

## 6 Preface to Fourth Edition.

**Friends' Intelligencer** ("Hicksite"), "**The Friend**," Philadelphia, (Conservative), and "**The Friend**," London, (the representative of English Friends).

For the changes and additions in the present edition the writer of this Preface is wholly responsible, though he has had the benefit of a few notes made from time to time by his brother. It is impossible to estimate the loss which this edition has sustained from being deprived of the late Dr. Thomas's wide knowledge of existing conditions in the Society of Friends, a knowledge which was probably unsurpassed, combined as it was with an almost passionate devotion to the Society and its doctrines.

The difficulty of securing definite and accurate accounts of the events of the past few years has been great, and indulgence is asked for unavoidable errors and omissions. To the many friends who have kindly aided the writer in his work he extends grateful thanks.

ALLEN C. THOMAS.

Haverford, Pennsylvania,  
Ninth month, 25, 1905.

**NOTE.** It has been with continued feelings of regret that it has seemed to be unavoidable to use the titles employed by the United States Census of 1890 to distinguish the different branches of those calling themselves Friends. To adopt the words of the fair-minded critic in "**Friends' Intelligencer**," this has been submitted to, "reluctantly, . . . for the reason that some distinguishing names are evidently necessary, especially outside the Society, and that so far nothing better has been proposed." Strictly speaking, the names are unfair and inaccurate.

## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

THE following sketch of the history and doctrines of the Society of Friends in America is based on an independent examination of original records, documents, contemporary histories, journals, and other materials. To compress the history of two hundred and fifty years into less than one hundred and fifty pages has been no easy task;<sup>1</sup> and while great care has been taken to omit nothing of supreme importance, it is altogether likely that omissions will be found more or less serious. It is believed, however, that the account fairly represents the main lines of a remarkably eventful history.

In describing the various divisions which have occurred in the Society the aim has been to be impartial and, so far as practicable, let each side speak for itself. If any feel themselves not fully represented, indulgence is craved for unintentional shortcoming.

To those who have so kindly rendered aid in furnishing information and materials for use in the preparation of this sketch a grateful acknowledgment is due.

Haverford, PA.,  
Fourth month, 1894.

NOTE 1. This History first appeared as part of volume XII., American Church History Series, Christian Literature Co., New York, 1894.





## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION : ORGANIZATION.—Yearly Meetings. —Organization.—Discipline.—“The Constitution and Discipline.”—“The Five-Years Meeting.” . . .	11
CHAPTER I.—BEGINNINGS IN ENGLAND.—George Fox.—Early Missionaries.—Margaret Fell.—Doc- trines.—“The Inner Light,” etc.—Women as Preachers, . . . . .	27
CHAPTER II.—DISCIPLINE AND DOCTRINE.—John Perrot.—Meetings for Discipline.—Declaration of Faith, 1693.—The Holy Scriptures.—Sufferings of Friends, . . . . .	47
CHAPTER III.—EARLY YEARS IN AMERICA.—First Appearance in America.—Persecution in Massa- chusetts.—The Friends in Rhode Island.—Dispute with Roger Williams.—The Friends in New Neth- erland.—George Fox on Long Island.—The Friends in Virginia.—George Fox in Virginia and Mary- land.—The Friends in Maryland.—The Friends in New Jersey.—William Penn and New Jersey. —Founding of Burlington.—The Friends in the Carolinas.—William Penn.—The Founding of Pennsylvania.—The Keith Schism. . . . .	61
CHAPTER IV.—THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.— Loss of Political Power in Pennsylvania.—Growth in Numbers.—Enforcement of Discipline.—“Mid- dle Ages of Quakerism.”—The Friends and Indians. —Friends and Slavery.—Emancipation of Slaves.— John Woolman.—Friends and the Revolution, . . .	101
CHAPTER V.—DIVISIONS DURING THE NINETEENTH	

	PAGE
CENTURY.—Hannah Barnard.—Elias Hicks.—Orthodox Party.—Elias Hicks and the Elders.—Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of 1827.—The Separation of 1827.—The Separations of 1828.—Joseph John Gurney.—John Wilbur.—"Wilburite" Separations.—Conferences at Baltimore, 1849, 1851, 1853.—The "Wilburites". . . . .	119
CHAPTER VI.—PERIOD OF REORGANIZATION.—FURTHER PROGRESS.—The "Hicksites."—Lucretia Mott.—Educational Institutions.—Doctrine.—The Orthodox.—Declaration of Faith.—Bible Society.—Travelling Ministers.—Slavery.—Anti-Slavery Separation in Indiana.—Whittier.—The Civil War.—Sufferings in North Carolina.—"Peace Association of Friends in America."—President Grant and his Indian Policy.—Philanthropic Efforts.—Education and Educational Institutions. . . . .	159
CHAPTER VII.—LATER YEARS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—Causes of Declension.—Reawakening.—Change of Front.—Conference of 1887.—"Declaration of Faith."—The "Pastoral System."—Conference of 1892.—Foreign Missions. . . . .	191
CHAPTER VIII.—LATEST YEARS.—"American Friends Peace Conference."—"Primitive Friends."—"Wilburites."—"Hicksites."—General Conferences.—"Isolated Members."—Review.—Orthodox.—Conference of 1897.—Uniform Discipline and Union of Yearly Meetings.—Conference of 1902.—Five-Years Meeting.—Boards of Five-Years Meeting.—Results.—Foreign Missions.—Summer Schools.—Conclusion. . . . .	207
APPENDIX.—STATISTICAL TABLES.—BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . .	225
INDEX. . . . .	243