

**A MEMORIAL TO ELDRESS
ANNA WHITE, AND ELDER
DANIEL OFFORD**

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A Memorial to Eldress Anna White, and Elder Daniel Offord by Leila S. Taylor

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LEILA S. TAYLOR

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Anna White

A MEMORIAL

TO

ELDRESS ANNA WHITE,

AND

ELDER DANIEL OFFORD.

By **LEILA S. TAYLOR.**



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NORTH FAMILY OF SHAKERS.

ELDRESS ANNA WHITE.

MEMORIAL OF ELDRESS ANNA WHITE.

I

A CENTER of high thought and pure living, existing in America since 1774, is found in an organized community, whose basic principle is the life of purity and self-sacrifice, embodying and reflecting the Christ-life and the Christ Spirit. A member of this communistic order during sixty-two of her almost eighty years, amenable to its discipline, exemplifying its principles and embodying its spirit, ELDRESS ANNA WHITE, of Mount Lebanon, is a worthy exponent of that manifestation of Divine Motherhood known as Shakerism.

The White family brought from Old to New England many of its best elements, Elder John White, a parishioner of the Rev. Thomas Hooker, from Chelmsford, Essex County, landing with his family at Boston, September 16th, 1632. He settled on or near the site of Gore Hall, Harvard University, served as one of the seven first selectmen of Cambridge and four years later was with the one hundred, who journeyed afoot through the wilderness to the Connecticut River and founded the city of Hartford. At Hartford, Hadley, Northampton and Boston, Elder John White's judicial and religious ability and leadership were wrought into the structure and life of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

His sterling qualities were transmitted to his descendants, of whom four generations resided at Middletown, Connecticut. Calvin, youngest son of Deacon Moses White, born at Middletown in 1762, a graduate of Yale University, married Phebe Camp, daughter of Rachel and Capt. Nathaniel Camp, of Newark, New Jersey. A Presbyterian and then an Episcopalian clergyman, he finally embraced the Roman Catholic faith and, after the death of his wife, studied for but did not enter its priesthood. The book "John White and his Descendants," Hartford, 1860, says of him: "A devoted and accomplished scholar, he was one of the few who loved and thoroughly mastered the Hebrew tongue. In politics, he was a tory: and he never failed to refer to the war of the Revolution as 'the Rebellion.' He never voted in his life." He died at the age of ninety, in Derby, Connecticut, where he had formerly ministered for many years in the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Of the seven sons of Calvin and Phebe White, all successful business men, Chandler was the most widely known as a promoter of the Atlantic Cable, associated with Cyrus Field, President and Director of the company exploiting that enterprise; and a prominent member of the New York Chamber of Commerce.

Robert, the eldest, was born at Hanover, New Jersey, December 1st, 1792. Inheriting his father's independence in religious thought, he became known in early manhood as a "most estimable young Quaker." On the 9th of April, 1818, in Friends Meeting, at Liberty Street, New York, he was married to Hannah Gibbs, of a prominent Quaker family. Daughter of Abel and Elizabeth Gibbs, her Quaker antecedents date back to the time of William Penn. Born July 1st, 1795, Hannah Gibbs was brought up by an uncle, John Corlies, also a Quaker.
