

The Andrew Job Line

The Religious Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, began in England in the mid to late 1640s during a time of political, social and religious upheaval, which included an increased dissatisfaction with the Church of England, the Execution of King Charles I of England in 1649, and the rise of other nonconforming movements.

Perhaps best described as an alternative form of Christianity, the central tenant of Quakerism is that Christ came to Earth to teach his people himself, and the idea is that it is possible for everyone to have a direct experience with God without the mediation of clergy; that everyone is guided by an “Inner Light”. Their religious practices are traditionally simple with little or no formal ceremony, although over the past three centuries, various flavors of Quakerism have evolved. During the first years of the movement however, Quakers thought of themselves as part of the restoration of the true Christian church after centuries of apostasy. Early Quaker preachers, such as George Fox, were outspoken, and Quakers in general, for their beliefs, were persecuted by the official Church of England and other religious groups who felt their beliefs were heresy. It wasn't long before Quakers began immigrating to America in an effort to escape this persecution.

The primary vehicle for Quaker gatherings is the Meeting. At the local level, Quakers met weekly, often at a person's house, and then later at actual Meeting Houses as the community grew. Quakers generally kept good records of the Meeting activities of their members.

Andrew Job, Sr.

Andrew Job, Sr. was born 1620 in Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, Wales. Family historians seem to agree that that both Andrew and his brother Daniel served in the King's army in the early 1640s, however by the late 1640s converted to Quakerism, the Quaker beliefs putting them at odds with the Church of England. It is probably also during this time that Andrew Job met and married his wife Elizabeth.

The couple removed first to Kent, and then later in 1650 became part of the first groups of Quakers to immigrate to America, presumably to escape mostly Puritan persecution for their beliefs. Andrew and Elizabeth's first son Andrew, Jr. was born on the crossing to America. The family landed in Portsmouth, New England. It is not known where they went first, however by 1680 they were in or near Upland, what is now Chester, in Chester County, Pennsylvania. By this time, at least two other children were born to Andrew and Elizabeth, sons John and Thomas. And while the records of the Chester County Meeting

from 1675-1690 were destroyed by fire it is generally believed that the Jobs were regular participants in that Meeting.

It is believed that Andrew Job, Sr. died in 1700 and is buried near Nottingham, Pennsylvania. Because Quaker tradition, it is not known for sure however, as Quakers routinely at the time used no headstones or very simple ones with little or inscriptions.

Andrew Job, Jr.

The oldest son of Andrew and Elizabeth Job, it is believed that Andrew Job, Jr. probably travelled to England sometime before 1682 for a formal education. As Job family tradition holds, Andrew Job Jr. and William Penn were close personal friends, and there does seem to be evidence of that, although it is unclear where Job and Penn first met.

By December 1682, William Penn's arrival in America, Andrew Job, Jr. was back in Chester County, and was probably on hand to welcome Penn on his arrival.

Almost immediately following Penn's arrival (and actually probably before), disagreements arose between Penn and Lord Baltimore concerning the boundary line separating Pennsylvania and Sesquahana Manor in Maryland. Lord Baltimore claimed that his charter came from Charles I and that the boundary was farther north. Penn claimed that his charter came from Charles II through James II, then Duke of York, which gave him possession of lands farther south. This agreement would not get resolved officially until Mason and Dixon surveyed the area, determined their famous Line, and released their findings in 1767.

A lot happened in 1692. In May, Andrew Job and Elizabeth Vernon declared their intention to marry at the Monthly Meeting and a committee was appointed to ensure there were no obstructions to marriage. On June 14, 1692, Andrew purchased a tract of 100 acres along the Chester Creek and bounded by John Churchman near Chester. On November 7, Andrew Job and Elizabeth were married.

Over the years, Andrew and Elizabeth would have eleven children:

Benjamin Job, born October, 1693, died November 1693

Jacob Job, born July 26, 1694

Thomas Vernon Job, born November 22, 1695

Mary Job, born February, 1697

Enoch Job, born September 9, 1698, died October 1698

Enoch Job, born January 1700

Abraham Job, born August 22, 1702

Caleb Job, born July 26, 1704

Joshua Job, born March 1706

Hannah Job, born December 24, 1708

Patience Job, born September 2, 1710

Andrew Job Jr. was active in both public and religious life. From 1697-1701 he served as Sheriff of Chester County, Overseer and Clerk of the Chester County Meeting, and was appointed Collector of money granted to the proprietor, William Penn. He served as the Assemblyman from Chester County in Philadelphia, 1703.

In 1702, a group of Quakers from the Chester area began settling on lands called Nottingham, which were part of the land disagreement between Penn and Baltimore. Whether they moved onto these lands to try and force the boundary for

Pennsylvania or not, family tradition holds that Andrew Job was instrumental in convincing George Calvert, the Lord Baltimore at the time, that these newly settled lands belonged to Pennsylvania, and at a meeting before the Commissioners of Property in Philadelphia in 1702, Andrew Job reserved 1,000 acres (2



lots of 500 acres), lots 32 & 35. By 1767, the boundary was defined by Mason & Dixon's survey and moved, with most of the Nottingham land becoming part of Cecil County, Maryland.

In about 1710 Andrew Job built and established the Blue Ball Tavern on lot #35 of the Nottingham lots¹. The Inn served travelers for more than 100 years.

¹ George Johnston, *History of Cecil County, Maryland* (Elkton, MD: Dickinson & Gilling, 1881), p. 160.



The Blue Ball Tavern, now a residence. Sandy Dierks, whose eighth great grandfather Andrew Job, Jr. built the Blue Ball Tavern, is standing beside the Roadside Marker

During the Fall 1718, Andrew Job traveled to Philadelphia and bought the indenture of Elizabeth Maxwell, niece of Daniel Defoe. She would later marry Andrew's son Thomas Vernon Job.

Andrew Job died on June 4, 1722 and probably is buried at the Nottingham Brick Meeting House. Elizabeth Job died sometime in 1732.



Thomas Vernon Job

Thomas Vernon Job, the third child born to Andrew and Elizabeth Job, was born on November 22, 1695 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Named after his maternal grandfather, Thomas appears to have been a quiet man of domestic habits and agricultural pursuits, content to live on the old Homestead. He ran the Blue Ball Tavern probably before and certainly after his father's death, and married Elizabeth Maxwell² following her indenture.

One of the children Thomas Vernon and Elizabeth Job had was Archibald.

Thomas Vernon Job died in 1779. Elizabeth survived him "retaining her vigorous health, sound mind, indomitable will, love of flowers. And vivacity of wit and spirit, til her death in 1782."³

Archibald Job

Archibald Job was the third son of Thomas Vernon and Elizabeth Maxwell Job. He was born in 1726 and grew up on the family's homestead. He married Margaret Rees on July 30, 1752, and together they had several children:

Elizabeth Maxwell Job, b. 1764.

Archibald was active in public life, serving as Sheriff in Chester County. There is no doubt that Archibald Job and his sons were active participants in the American Revolution. In May 1777, following repeated attempts by Quaker peers to convince him of the error of their ways, Archibald Job and his sons were disowned by the Society of Friends:

"At Nottingham Monthly Meeting held 29 day of 3rd month 1777 Whereas Archibald Job who made profession amongst us the people called Quakers, but closely adhering to the dictates of divine grace and truth inwardly manifested hath deviated from the principals professed by us and so far given way to a contrary disposition as to encourage or countenance war-like measures and in course of our dealing with him and his sons for joining in such measures hath frequently pleaded for the use of the same which we apprehend is contrary to the nature and purity of the gospel of our blessed savior, And being he being treated with for this deviation did manifest unsoundness in faith mistrusting or setting light by some of the doctrines contained in the new testament seeming to prefer or not to distinguish natural reason from the divine light of Christ which we profess to believe in as the only leader into all truth. Therefore accounting such things

² Elizabeth Maxwell was the niece of Daniel Defoe, thus making him a Great Uncle some generations removed of all descendants of Elizabeth Maxwell.

³ Need reference

dangerous and sorrowful departure from our Christian testimony and from that wisdom which is from above and is pure and peaceable one endeavored to restore the said Archibald not proving effectual, we think it our duty for maintaining the good order established amongst us to signify that is gone out of fellowship with us that we do not own him as a member of our society until through a more close attention to the spirit of truth he may come to see and acknowledge his error herein which we desire he may, Given forth at Nottingham Monthly Meeting held 25 day of 1st month 1777 and signed on behalf of the same by Samuel England Clerk”⁴

According to the Wilmer & Blair history of the Jobs⁵, Archibald Job was a Captain or Leader of the Job scouting party and it is said through him or by reason of information given by him, at least on one occasion Washington was induced to put the Brandywine (River) between him and the British prior to the Battle of Brandywine September 11, 1777. It appears that the Jobs were also iron makers, although perhaps more so the sons of Archibald than he himself, and took a contract to make arms for the Continental Army.

Following the war, it appears that Archibald Job continued to be active in public life and commerce. He served as Sheriff in Chester County in 1785-1787 and there are references in various histories of the Jobs supplying the ironwork for the frigate Constellation, which was built at Harris Creek Shipyard in Baltimore's Fells Point, and launched in 1797.

Archibald Job died August 12, 1805.

Elizabeth Maxwell Job

Elizabeth Maxwell Job married John Megredy in 1789.

⁴ This is a transcription of the actual note in the Meeting records. It appears to be “Americanized” from the original by the historian as Quaker records typically contain old English words that are distinctive, such as thou, thee, and ye. A similar record exists for the three sons of Archibald Job.