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BRADFORD FAMILY.

GENEALOGICAL MEMORIALS

OF

WILLIAM BRADFORD, The Printer.

BY SAMUEL S. PURPLE, M. D.,

Member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

NEW YORK:
PRIVATELY PRINTED.

1873.

H.T.



EDITION, FIFTY COPIES,
FROM THE NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD;
WITH ADDITIONS.

No. 31.

1881

For Capt A. Duzhinski Esq.

With the kind regards of

Samuel S. Purple.

MS. A. 1. 1. 1.
1881
1881

THE BRADFORD FAMILY

IN

AMERICA.

Whatever relates to the history of the early masters of the Art and mystery of printing in America will, we believe, prove of interest, not only to those who incline to purely antiquarian researches, but also to the student of general history. Some years ago the writer was favored by Dr. David King, of Newport, R. I., with the exact title of the earliest issue of Bradford's press in Philadelphia, a copy of which, he is probably the only possessor in this country. A particular notice of it will be found in the *Historical Magazine*, vol. 8, p. 274-6, but the display of the title is not there correctly given. It is as follows :

KALENDARIUM PENNSILVANIENSE
OR
AMERICA'S MESSENGER,
BEING AN
ALMANACK
FOR THE YEAR OF GRACE 1686.

Wherein is contained both the English & Forreign Account ; the Motions of the Planets through the Signs, with the Luminaries, Conjunctions, Aspects, Eclipses ; the rising southing and setting of the Moon, with the time when she passeth by, or is with the most eminent fixed Stars ; Sun rising and setting and the time of High Water at the City of Philadelphia, &c.

With Chronologies and many other Notes, Rules, and Tables very fitting for every man to know & have ; all which is accomodated to the Longitude of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Latitude of 40 Degr. north ; with a Table of Houses for the same, which may indifferently serve New England, New York, East & West Jersey, Maryland, and most parts of Virginia.

BY *SAMUEL ATKINS.*

Student in the Mathematics and Astrology.

And the stars in their courses fought against Sesera, Judg. v. 29. (1)

Printed and Sold by William Bradford. Sold also by the Author and H. Murrey in Philadelphia, and Philip Richards in New York ; 1685.

(1) See Common Version of Bible. Judges, Chap. 5, v. 20.

It is a 12^{mo} pp. 20, and dates a year earlier than the first printed work of Bradford, mentioned by Thomas ⁽¹⁾. In it is the following notice, which aids in settling the question as to the time when the press was first set up in Philadelphia County.

“The Printer to the Readers.

“Hereby understand that after great charge & Trouble I have brought that great Art & Mystery of printing into this part of America, believing it may be of great service to you in several respects: hoping to find encouragement not only in this Almanack, but what else I shall enter upon for the use & service of the Inhabitants of these Parts. Some irregularities there be in this Diary, which I desire you to pass by this year; for being lately come hither, my materials were misplaced and out of order, whereupon I was forced to use Figures & Letters of various Sizes, but understanding the want of something of this nature & being importuned thereto, I ventured to make public this; desiring you to accept thereof & by the next (as I find encouragement) shall endeavour to have things compleat. And for the ease of Clark’s, Scriveners, &c. I propose to print blank Bills, Bonds, Letters of Attorney, Indentures, Warrants, etc. & what else presents itself, wherein I shall be ready to serve you: and remain your friend

“W. BRADFORD.

“Philadelphia the 28th,
10th month, 1685.”

✓ WILLIAM BRADFORD,¹ son of William and Anne Bradford, of Leicestershire, England, was b. there May 20, 1663 ⁽²⁾. The family name is not found in the list of Printed Pedigrees of Leicestershire, but appears in that of Wiltshire, South Yorkshire and County of Yorke.

He served his apprenticeship and learned the art of printing with Andrew Sowle, printer and publisher of Quaker books, in Grace Church Street, London. Some doubt exists as to the time of his emigration to America, but it is, we believe, generally accredited that he came with William Penn and his company, in the ship *Welcome*—Capt. Robt. Greenway—which sailed from England Sept. 1, 1682, and arrived at New Castle October 27th, 1682 ⁽³⁾. He was living at or near Philadelphia on the 12th Sept., 1683 ⁽⁴⁾.

In August, 1685, he was in London, and received a letter of that date from George Fox, recommending him to prominent Quakers in America, “as a sober young man who comes to Pennsylvania, to set up the trade of printing Friends books,” &c. It is probable that in this year he married, and his wife accompanied him back to his new home, as “A certificate of Devonshire House monthly meeting, recommending “William Bradford and Elizabeth his wife, as members of the Society “of Friends, was read in Philadelphia monthly meeting, held the 4th “of the 11th month, 1685, and accepted.

“They were not however settled in Philadelphia, but in Oxford “Township, and belonged to Oxford monthly meeting” ⁽⁵⁾. In 1686 he published “BURNYEAT’S *Epistle*,” bearing the imprint like a num-

(1) Thomas’ History of Printing, vol. 2, p. 8.

(2) American Almanack for the year of Christian Account 1739. See Note a.

(3) Watson’s Annals of Phila., &c., vol. 1, p. 15.

(4) Minutes of Prov. Council of Penn., vol. 1, p. 82, Ed. 1852.

(5) Smith’s Catalogue of Friend’s Books, vol. 1, p. 310, London, 1867.

ber more of his earliest productions, "Printed and sold by William Bradford *near Philadelphia.*" Where his press was first set up *near Philadelphia* has hitherto been a matter of conjecture, and Chester, Kensington, Abington, Pa., and Burlington, N. J., have each been mentioned; the quotation from Smith indicates that it was neither of these places, and affords information which will probably establish exactly the point of its first location.

In the spring of 1693 Bradford removed to New York City, and was immediately appointed Royal Printer; April 10th of that year has been fixed as the exact date when printing was introduced into this Province. The first issue from his press in this city was a circular letter from Gov. Benj. Fletcher, dated 8th day of *Juny*, (?) 1693, printed in Dutch and English, authorizing the collection of money for the redemption of "*the son of Warnaer Wessells, and husband of Annetie Christians, inhabitants and sailors of the city of New York who following their lawful occupation were taken into Salee, where they are now in miserable slavery under the power of the Infidel*" &c. (1) In October, 1725, he established the *New York Gazette*, a weekly, and the first newspaper printed in the Colony; this he edited until 1743, after which James Parker became its proprietor, adding to it the name of "Post Boy."

He m., 1685, Elizabeth, dau. of Andrew Sowle, his former master; she b. 1663, and d. N. Y. City July (?) 8th, 1731. He m. 2d a widow in N. Y. named Smith; by his 2d wife he had no issue. He d. May 23, 1752, and was buried by the side of his wife Elizabeth in Trinity Church Yard, where a stone is erected to their memory (*a*).—*Issue* :

2. i. ANDREW,² b. Philadelphia, 1686. He learned the art of printing with his father, and in 1711 was in partnership with him in New York; in 1712 he removed to Phila. Dec. 22, 1719, he issued the first number of *The American Weekly Mercury*, the first newspaper founded in the middle States, and which he conducted until his death. He m. 1st, 1712, Priscilla Parker (2); she d. December. 1739. M. 2d, 1740, Cornelia Smith, a relation of his father's second wife; she d. 1755 (*b*). He d. Nov. 24, 1742, and was buried in Christ Church burial ground, Philadelphia (3). No issue.

3. ii. WILLIAM, Jr.,² of whom presently.

4. iii. TACEY,² m. John Hyat, Esq., Sheriff of Phila. County from 1741 to 1745.

✓ 3. WILLIAM, Jr.,² b. about 1688, and like his brother Andrew² was brought up to printing; having poor health on land he adopted the life of a seaman soon after he was of age. Some years before his father's death in 1752, he lived in Hanover Square in this City. Will dated August 31, 1742; admitted to Probate Jan'y 24, 1759; styles himself pewterer (*c*), names son William and wife Sytie legatees, making the latter sole executrix. He m., Nov. 25, 1716, Sytje, dau. of Abraham Sandford (*d*), she bap. April 14, 1695 (4).—*Issue* :

5. i. MARIA,³ bap. Aug. 5, 1719.

6. ii. WILLIAM,³ b. N. Y., 1719; was adopted and educated by his

(1) Records of Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, N. Y.

(2) Proceedings of N. J. His. Society, vol. 9, p. 19.

(3) Horatio G. Jones, Esq., Address before Penn. His. Society, Feb'y 9, 1869, p. 27.

(4) Records of Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, N. Y.

uncle Andrew,² with whom he learned the art of printing, and became his partner in December, 1739; this connection was dissolved in Dec., 1740. In Dec., 1742, he commenced the publication of the *Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser*, a paper devoted to the patriot cause from the beginning of the difficulties with Great Britain in 1765, and which bore from July, 1774, to October, 1775, the famous device of a divided snake, with the motto, "Unite or Die." The publication of this paper was continued until 1801, by his son Thomas⁴ (7), who then merged it into the daily *True American*. He was a warm defender, with both pen and sword, of the rights of his country; served as Major in one of the Phila. Regiments at the battle of Trenton, was wounded at Princeton, and returned Colonel of the Regiment in which he went out Major. He was at Fort Mifflin and in several other engagements; after the evacuation of Phila. by the British he left the army, broken in health and fortune. He consoled himself under these misfortunes of his latter years with the thought that he had aided in securing the independence of his country, and frequently remarked to his children "though I bequeath you no estate, I leave you in the enjoyment of liberty." He m., 1742, Rachel, dau. of Thomas Budd, of Phila.; she d. 1779. He d. Sept. 25, 1791, and was buried by the side of his wife in the Second Presbyterian Church Yard, Arch St., Phila.—*Issue* :

- ✓ 7. i. THOMAS,⁴ b. Phila., May 4, 1745; of whom presently.
 8. ii. WILLIAM,⁴ b. Phila., Sept. 14, 1755; graduated at Princeton, 1772; studied theology with Dr. Witherspoon, of Princeton, N. J., one year; read law in the office of the Hon. Edward Shippen, Phila., until the commencement of the Rev. War, when he joined the army as a volunteer. rose rapidly to the grade of Major of Brigade in the Militia, then Captain in Continental army, and on the 10th of April, 1777, by ballot in Congress, was elected Dep. Muster Master General, with rank of Lieut. Colonel. Declining health compelled him to resign his Commission, April 1, 1779; when he returned to the study of law, was admitted to the bar, and settled in practice the same year at Yorktown, Pa. In August, 1780, he was appointed Attorney Gen'l of Pennsylvania, and in August, 1791, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of that State, and in Jan'y 1794, was appointed by Washington Attorney General of the United States. He m., 1784, Susan Vergereau, eldest dau. of Hon. Elias Boudinot, and his wife Hannah (Stockton), of Elizabeth, (1) and afterwards of Burlington, N. J.; she b. Dec. 21, 1764, and d. Nov. 30, 1854. He d. August 23, 1795, and was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Burlington, N. J. No issue.

(1) Hatfield's History of Elizabeth, N. J., p. 589.

9. iii. SCHUYLER,⁴ d. in the East Indies.
10. iv. RACHEL,⁴ b. 1764, m. Hon. Elisha Boudinot, of Newark, N. J., she d. June 6, 1805⁽¹⁾.
11. v. TACEY,⁴ m., August 4, 1773, Joshua Maddox Wallace, Sr., Esq., of Burlington, N. J.; he b. Phila., Oct. 4, 1752; d. May 17, 1819. She d. Feb'y 28, 1829.—Had *issue*: 1. Joshua Maddox, b. Sept. 4, 1776. 2. John Bradford, b. August 17, 1778. 3. Mary Maddox, d. unmarried, Oct. 19, 1843. 4. Rachel Budd, d. unmarried, March 10, 1848. 5. Elizabeth. 6. Susan Bradford⁽²⁾.
12. vi. ——— m. Capt. Thomas Huston, a Rev. Navy officer.
7. THOMAS,⁴ b. Phila., May 4, 1745; attended College in Phila. for several years; in 1762 his father placed him in his printing office, and in 1766 received him as a partner in business. He was an ardent patriot, and at the commencement of the Revolution was elected Captain of a militia company in Phila.; served as Deputy Commissary General of Prisoners, in the American Army, with rank of Lieut. Colonel. He was in active service at Brandywine, Trenton, Princeton, Germantown, Valley Forge, and elsewhere throughout the Revolution. After the war he resumed printing with his father, and soon after establishing the *True American* in Phila. in 1801, he associated with him his son William (14) in the printing business, and retired from it in 1819. He m., Nov. 23, 1768, Mary, eldest dau. of Samuel and Elizabeth Fisher, of Phila.; she d. Nov., 1805. He d. Phila., May 7, 1838.—*Issue*:
13. i. SAMUEL F.,⁵ b. 1776, Book publisher in Phila., m. Abigail Inskeep; she d. August 2, 1837; he d. April 8, 1837.—*Issue*: 1. John Inskeep, b. 1798, d. Sept. 29, 1803. 2. John Inskeep, b. 1806, d. April 30, 1826. 3. Mary F., b. 1814, d. Nov. 30, 1841. And perhaps others. They were all buried in Christ Church burial ground, Phila.⁽³⁾
14. ii. WILLIAM,⁵ a printer in Phila.
15. iii. THOMAS,⁶ b. Phila., Sep. 11, 1781. At the age of fifteen he left the University of Pennsylvania, and entered the office of his father to learn printing; became a skillful compositor, but at the end of three years obtained permission of his father to study law in the office of William Todd, Esq., of Phila., and Oct. 18, 1802, was admitted to the bar. He soon obtained a large and lucrative practice, which he enjoyed to the close of his life. In 1843 his son Vincent L. Bradford became his partner in the law at Phila., a connection that continued until 1850. During his professional life he was not only prominent as a sound and able lawyer, but equally well known among his fellow citizens as a philanthropist and christian. In 1849 Jefferson College conferred on him the honorary degree of LL. D. He m., May, 1805, Elizabeth, eldest dau. of Vincent Lockerman, Esq., of Dover, Del.; she d. April 8, 1842. He d. Phila., Oct. 25, 1851, and had surviving him four sons and one daughter.

(1) Alden's Epitaphs, vol. 1, p. 10.

(2) Heraldic Journal, vol. 3, p. 185.

(3) Clark's Inscriptions in Burial Grounds of Christ Church, Phila., 1864.

16. iv. ELIZABETH,⁵ m. James Darrach, of Phila.
 17. v. MARY,⁵ m. William Flintham, of Phila.
 18. vi. SUSAN,⁵ m. Jacob Ritter, of Phila.

NOTES.

(a) The original monument over the remains of William Bradford and his wife, in Trinity Church grounds, was badly broken and defaced in the erection of the present church edifice. A new one of marble was placed over the graves by the Church Vestry in May, 1863, with the following inscription, under the figure of a full faced cherub :

Here lies the Body of Mr. WILLIAM BRADFORD,
 Printer, who departed this Life May 23,
 1752, aged 92 Years: He was born in
 Leicestershire, in Old England, in 1660;
 and came over to America in 1682, before
 the City of Philadelphia was laid out: He
 was Printer to this Government for upwards
 of 50 years; and being quite worn out
 with Old age and labour, he left this
 mortal State in the lively Hopes of a
 blessed Immortality.

Reader, reflect how soon you'll quit this Stage:
 You'll find but few attain to such an Age.
 Lives full of Pain: Lo! here's a Place of Rest,
 Prepare to meet your God; then you are blest.

Here also lies the Body of Elizabeth, Wife to
 the said William Bradford, who departed
 this Life July (1) 8, 1731, aged 68 years.

RESTORED, WITH THE ORIGINAL INSCRIPTION, BY
 THE VESTRY OF TRINITY CHURCH, MAY, 1863.

Tomb stones do not always furnish the best evidence of date of birth and death of the individual, whose memory they seek to perpetuate. Bradford's partly illustrates this fact. An Almanac (*The American Almanack for the year of Christian Account, 1739*), bearing his imprint, records among the events of the month of May, "The Printer Born the 20th, 1663." If this record refers to Bradford he was a few days over eighty-nine years old at the time of his death, instead of "aged 92 years," as inscribed upon his tomb stone.

(b) The will of Cornelia Bradford of Phila., widow, "Recorded for and at the request of Mrs. Catharine De Graw of the City of New York" May 10, 1762, will be found in the Surrogate's office, N. Y. City, Liber 14, A. p. 215. It is dated Jan'y 11, 1755; the date of probate in Phila. does not appear in the New York record. She bequeaths her property to her nephew James Hamm, and neices Elizabeth Flew, and Catharine De Graw (the daughter of her sister Mary) of New York, and to George Smith her nephew, and his wife Cornelia, of Phila., making the last two persons sole executors of her estate.

(c) In the *New York Gazette and Weekly Post Boy*, March 12, 1750, appears the following advertisement: "Choice good old *Madeira Wine*, to be sold by WILLIAM BRADFORD, Jun., in *Hanover Square*, by the Pipe: Likewise a Parcel of choice Iron Chimney Backs, and Plates for Cabooses; and gives ready Money for old *Pewter* and *Brass*."

(d) On the 5th of June, 1760, Sytje, widow of William Bradford, late of the City of New York, deceased, and one of the daughters and devisees of Abraham Santford, also, late of the City of New York, deceased, conveys to John Livingston, one undivided third interest, in a dwelling house, situated on the north side of Duke Street, in the City of New York.—(Records of Deeds, N. Y. City, Liber 40, p. 533.)

[The printed sources of information in this sketch not otherwise noted are, SIMPSON'S *Lives of Eminent Philadelphians*; WALLACE'S *Address, Bradford Bicentenary*, N. Y., May 20, 1863; THOMAS'S *His. of Printing*, and VALENTINE'S *Manuals*.]

(1) June?

