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Transactions

of the

Baptist Historical Society.

Some Memorials of the Dendy Family.

By Sir William J. Collins, K.C.V.O., M.P.

IN a paper entitled "Memorials of the Treacher family," which appeared in *Transactions* of the Baptist Historical Society in 1911 (Vol. ii., No. 4) reference was made to the connection between the Treacher family, belonging to the Buckinghamshire community of Baptists, and the Dendy family which was for several generations prominent among the Baptists of the Sussex group. The bond of union was the marriage, about 1750, between Sarah, daughter of Mr. Richard Dendy, of Horsham, and the Reverend Benjamin Treacher who was born at Berkhamstead in 1722 and became minister to the General Baptist Churches at Glass-house yard, Goswell Street and at the Park Southwark.

The family of Dendy, Dendys, Dendeys, Dendye or Dende were landowners in the counties of Sussex and Surrey, in the early part of the sixteenth century.

Researches made by the late Mr. Edward Stephen Dendy, Rouge Dragon and Chester Herald of the Herald's College, appeared to point to an earlier location of the family at Hayfield in the parish of Glossop in the County of Derby. Here according to this authority was born about 1450 Otwell Dende or Dendye who was later described as of the Blacke Sha in the chapelrie of Hayfielde. One son who took his father's name died without issue; a daughter, Agnes, married into the family of Bard or Beard of Ashenhurst (Stafford). The eldest son Oliverius (born about 1490) settled in Mansfield (Nottinghamshire) and married Margaret Godewynne, from whom came the Dendys de Mansfield Wodehouse and of Asheton in Yorkshire. The third son William (born about 1494) was, it is alleged, the forebear of the Dendys of Holmes Chapel (Cheshire) and of the Dendys of Sussex and Surrey who figured so prominently in the annals of the General Baptists during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Anyway it is clear that in the reign of Elizabeth a family of Dendys owned lands on either side of the old Roman highway, known as Stane Street which ran from Dorking to Chichester. Of this family an authentic pedigree down to the present time exists and was printed in 1892 by the late Rev. John Dendy (B.A., Lond.) of Manchester.

The chief interest, from the point of view of the General Baptists, centres round the Dendys of Tower Hill, Horsham since that family supplied many ministers to the little meeting house at Horsham, which can claim an unbroken record from 1720 to the present day. It is moreover honourably associated with the name of Matthew Caffyn, with whose family the Dendys inter-married. Many medical men who practised in and around Horsham derived from this stock, as also did the well known physician and writer,

Walter Cooper Dendy (1794-1871) who was President of the Medical Society, of London. One of the most illustrious—or as others have said notorious—members of the family, was Edward Dendy, sergeant-at-arms to the House of Commons at the time of the execution of Charles I. and during the Commonwealth, of whom I will speak later. Another picturesque character was a younger brother of Walter Cooper Dendy who was successively, Earl Marshal's secretary, Rouge Dragon, and Chester Herald. By marriage also the Dendys are connected with many other notable families, and without naming those, happily still alive, who worthily maintain the distinguished characteristics of the stock, it is evident that there is ample material for some interesting memorials of the Dendy family, towards which I offer this fragmentary contribution.

The *terrain* over which the Dendys of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were spread lay between the North and South Downs and within longitudinal lines running through Guildford and Reigate respectively. Different members of the family held lands in or around Ewhurst, Itchingfield, Rudgwick, Horsham, Capel, Charlwood, Warnham, Dorking, and Leigh.

The Horsham Parish Church registers record the birth of Elizabeth, daughter of John Dendy on August 24, 1572. Her father lived at Itchingfield (near the site of the new Christ's Hospital), and married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Bevill at Horsham in 1571. He also held land at Ewhurst and Rudgwick in Surrey. There were apparently two other children of this marriage—John (1572-1639) described as of Horsham, and George (died 1652) of Downhurst in Ewhurst; although another pedigree in my possession gives John's father as Nicholas Dendy (d. 1588-9). John the elder brother, in his will, speaks of his wife

Lettice, of his brother George, of his son Richard and daughter Betterice. He bequeathed gifts to the cathedral church of Chichester and to the poor of Horsham, and makes reference to his lands at Ewhurst. John Dendy's only son Richard, born in 1600, appears to have acquired the estate of Tower Hill, Horsham and from his two sons, Richard and John, the family of Dendy trace their descent. John the younger son, born in 1628, whose wife Elizabeth's surname has not been discovered, is the progenitor of the Dendys of Dorking, who for the most part appear to have continued in the Church of England. It was from the union of the elder son Richard (1627-1690) and his wife Joan, daughter and heiress of Thomas Holland of Courtland, Shipley, that the Dendys who embraced the General Baptist faith are descended. In the pedigree of the family compiled by the late Rev. John Dendy of Manchester and "derived (in part) from ancient bills, documents and monumental inscriptions, and the researches of Edward Stephen Dendy, of the Herald's College, Rouge Dragon" it is stated that Joan Holland, daughter and heiress of Thomas Holland, of Courtland in Shipley was "descended from Thomas, Lord Holland, and through him from Thomas Plantagenet, son of King Edward I. by Margaret, daughter of Philip le Hardi, King of France."

I recently discovered the grave of Richard and Joan Dendy in the yard of Horsham Parish Church. It lies close to the south wall of the church and is a brick sarcophagus covered with a fine slab of Sussex marble. I have had the inscription, which was only just decipherable, recut; it runs as follows:—"In memory of Richard Dendy of Tower Hill, yeoman, who died May 24th 1690 aged 63 years; also Joan his wife who died February 4th 1693 aged 70 years."

Although Richard and Joan are buried in the

parish churchyard, yet tradition relates that the house on Tower Hill, Horsham, in the occupation of the Dendy family from the close of the sixteenth century, was for a time used as the meeting place of the General Baptist church, known to-day, as the Free Christian church. This is of course quite distinct from the nineteenth-century Particular Baptist churches. It is supposed that this church dates from 1648, in conformity with which supposition there is a window dedicated to Matthew Caffyn as "the battle axe of Sussex" in the Horsham chapel where he ministered till his death in 1714. The first piece of contemporary evidence is in 1654, when Caffyn signed the minutes of the earliest assembly yet known. Next year two quakers, Thomas Lawson and John Slee, debated with Caffyn in his own house near Southwater, and subsequently published an account, styling him an "untaught teacher"; he promptly responded with a vigorous pamphlet, which elicited a reply from Nayler. In 1660 the church was represented in London not only by Caffyn, but by Samuel Lover, who is supposed to be the first Elder of the church, but of whom nothing else is known. The celebrity of Caffyn, and the connection of his family with the Dendys, necessitate a few words as to his career.

Matthew Caffin (or Caffyn) was born at Horsham in 1628, where an R. Caffyn had been vicar in 1560. With the aid of Lord Onslow he went to Oxford, intending to take orders; but his heterodoxy, in regard to the Trinity and infant baptism occasioned his expulsion from the university, and his imprisonment in Newgate, Maidstone and Horsham for heresy. He thereupon joined the General Baptists, whose faith he actively propagated in the south-east of England. He lived and died at Broadbridge Heath, some three miles west of Horsham, and was buried at Itchingfield. He sided with and indeed led the broader or more

advanced group of the General Baptists and gave a latitudinarian or anti-trinitarian tendency to that church, after his split with J. Wright in 1691. He was charged with Socinianism but in his preaching he was careful to avoid what he called "unrevealed sublimities." He was one of the few General Baptists who had had a university training; he engaged in a Latin disputation with a clergyman at Henfield and came off triumphant. "He was zealous for his own cause but was never guilty of narrow or illiberal views. . . . He lived an unspotted life and it was his happiness to survive the days of religious intolerance." (See. art: Caffyn. *Nat. Dic: Biog. The Worthies of Sussex*. M. A. Lower p. 342. *Matthew Caffyn* by Florence Gregg. *History and Antiquities of Horsham* by Miss Hurst 1889).

In 1711 Matthew Caffyn (junior) and Richard Dendy (the third) represented the Horsham Church at the General assembly of the General Baptists at Dunnings Alley, London; this annual assembly formed a connecting link between the scattered churches of the provinces in London, representatives proceeding thither from the S.E. counties, from the districts of Bucks and Herts as well as from the Midlands and East Anglia. There was a rule that marriage outside the circle of "the church" was to be deprecated, and these general assemblies doubtless were not seldom the means of promoting alliances between members of the family of "believers." The families of Caffyn, Dendy, Treacher, Mercer, Brittain, Chatfield and others whose names recur among the representatives at the annual assemblies afford instances of this tendency to marry within the faith.

When Caffyn senior died in 1714, his work was carried on by his son of the same name, who had been already associated with him for four years.

With the security felt by dissenters, after the

revolt of 1715 had served to assure the stability of the Hanoverian dynasty, the General Baptist Church at Horsham entered on a new lease of life. Richard Dendy, the third had two sons, Richard the fourth, and John, an apothecary. This John and two others in 1719 purchased the site "for a meeting place for the congregation of Protestants called Anabaptists, dissenting from the Church of England, residing in Horsham, Billingshurst, Slinfold, Shipley and Sullington, who maintained the faith of General Redemption and the practice of Believers' Baptism" (*Inquirer*, Feb. 8, 1890). The Church Minute Books are complete from 1720 to the present time and are well preserved.

Richard Dendy, the fourth, although he took out a grant of arms, did not forsake the General Baptist church. Not only did his daughter Sarah marry the Rev. Benjamin Treacher, but his eldest son, Richard Dendy the fifth, married Anne Caffyn, daughter and heiress of John Caffyn of Clayton, Sussex. Richard the fifth thus came into possession of an estate known as Leigh Place. This is an interesting old Tudor manor-house lying in the meadow-land three and a half miles from Reigate towards Charlwood. It is moated, and surrounded by gigantic oak trees. The old timber, fine carved wood panelling, seated chimney, corners, and Latin inscriptions, appear to date from Elizabethan times, or even earlier, though considerable alterations were made in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Between the joists of the upper floors was found a silver porringer containing silver coins dating from Edward I. to William III.; from the moat have been recovered Roman coins of Domitian's time. I have a fine woodcut of the exterior as it was in 1810, showing its older gabled elevation, which appeared in Manning and Bray's History of Surrey.

The estate is alleged to have belonged to the

family of Braose, Brewse or Bruce, from the time of the Norman Conquest till 1419; then to have passed to the de Arderne family, in the reign of Henry VII., and from them to the Copley family. As John Dendy, eldest son of Richard V., inherited the Tower Hill estate, this Leigh Place formed an appanage for the second son, Richard Caffyn Dendy. From him it passed to his great-nephew, John Caffyn Dendy (1835-1856). He devised it to his father Stephen Dendy (1800-1861), second son of John Dendy the General Baptist minister. Stephen having outlived his three sons, transmitted Leigh Place to his daughter Ellen Sarah (1838-1889), who married Daniel Watney. Their descendant Sir John Watney, F.S.A., wrote "Some Account of Leigh Place, Surrey, and its owners" for the collections of the Surrey Archæological Society in 1893.

A quarter of a mile from Leigh Place is the village of Leigh with the church dedicated to St. Bartholomew which contains on the north wall of the chancel six marble tablets to members of the Dendy family and a fine hatchment with the Dendy arms. The Dendys buried here are Richard Caffyn Dendy (1758-1832); Stephen Dendy (1800-1861) and his wife Elizabeth (née Saunders) (1813-1881) and their children Stephen Walter Dendy (1840-1859); Ellen Sarah, wife of Daniel Watney (1838-1889); Edward Saunders Dendy (1854-1856). The Saunders family from whom Elizabeth wife of Stephen Dendy of Leigh Place derived is an interesting one. For 300 years they resided at Charlwood (Surrey) and were descended from the "antient Lords of Saunderstede" and more remotely, it is said, through Fitztho Carew from Rhodri Maur, King of Wales. The church and yard of Charlwood contain many memorials of the Saunders family, the last members of which died within living memory. The beautiful screen in the

church was presented by one of the family and is said to be of thirteenth century workmanship. A monument in the south aisle is supposed to be that of Sir Roger Salomons whose daughter and heiress married Ralph Saunders (*temp.* Edward III.). There is a fine brass to the memory of Nicholas Saunders Esquire, and Alys his wife, placed there by their son Sir Nicholas Saunders, knight in the first year of the reign of Queen Mary, 1553. Also in the yard there is the quaintly carved sarcophagus of Thomas Saunders of Hookwood (1708-1775), and of Ann Mary Saunders his wife (1709-1801), probably grandparents of Mrs. Stephen Dendy, (née Elizabeth Saunders of Hookwood).

As already stated Richard Dendy the second, of Tower Hill, Horsham, 1627-1690, married Joan, daughter of Thomas Holland of Shipley, 1623-1693. They had four children; 1. John (1659-1736) married Elizabeth Nash of Itchingfield, acquired Gulshaw estate on Tower Hill, and dying without issue, left it to his nephew Richard the fourth; he is buried in Horsham chapel yard: 2. Richard the third: 3. Thomas, died unmarried 1699: 4. William, born 1671.

Richard Dendy the third, of Tower Hill, 1664-1732, married Sarah, daughter of Richard Cragg of Shipley, Sussex, and had two children, John and Richard the fourth. He is the first on record as attending the Assembly in 1711. John the heir, 1691-1724, married Mary, (Pickett) widow of John Knight of Horsham. He practised as a surgeon in Horsham, was one of the original purchasers in 1719 of the site for the Baptist chapel, being described as an apothecary, and lies buried close to its entrance door. He had two sons: John, 1720-1782, also a surgeon at Horsham; he married Jane Constable of Horne in Surrey, who was descended from the Dendys of Ewhurst, they had no family; and William who by his

wife Joan (surname unknown) had issue. Our interest now lies with:—

Richard Dendy, the fourth, 1693-1756, armiger, who married Sarah, daughter of John Stovell, of Nuthurst, Sussex, and inherited the Gulshaw, in Tower Hill, estate from his uncle John. He had four sons and two daughters who survived infancy, namely:—1. Richard (the fifth) of Tower Hill (1724-1766) married Anne daughter and heiress of John Caffyn (1693-1754) of Clayton, Sussex. 2. Sarah (1725-1789) who married the Rev. Benjamin Treacher. [See "Memorials of the Treacher family," *Transactions of the Baptist Historical Society*, vol. ii. no. 4, 1911]. 3. Charles (1727-1814) married Martha daughter of John Tully, of Ashurst, Sussex; from whom are descended the Dendys of Chichester and Newcastle. One of a later generation of the former married the daughter of the Comte de Percy, a member of Chamber of Deputies and Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur. 4. Mary (1729-1802) married James Tully, of Capel, Surrey. 5. John (1736-1813) settled in Southwater, near Lewes and married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Samuel Cooper of that place. Their daughter Sarah married her cousin John, of whom, more below. 6. Stephen (1730-1788), of St. Olaves, Southwark, married Rebecca daughter of Edward Langton, High Sheriff of Surrey; both he and his wife are buried in Horsham Chapel yard. He often represented "Glass-house" church at the Assembly. Their only child Stephen (b 1777) went to France and married the Comtesse Anna Maria Victoire de Herouard of Rouen. Tradition relates that he was at Boulogne when Napoleon was there preparing for his invasion of England and that he won a prize presented by Buonaparte in a horse race—mounted on one of his own carriage horses.

Richard the fifth and Anne (Caffyn) Dendy had

four children; 1. John, 2. Anne (1757-1777). 3 Richard Caffyn Dendy of Leigh Place and Manor, Surrey (1758-1832) who is buried in the chancel of Leigh Church. 4. Thomas (1760-1782) a surgeon of Horsham. He is buried in the chapel yard there and a tablet is on the walls of the chapel to his memory.

The eldest son John (1754-1814) married his cousin Sarah (1759-1819) the eldest child of John and Elizabeth (Cooper) Dendy. He was heir both to the Tower Hill estate and to that of Ifield Court, Sussex; he was minister to the chapel at Horsham, and is buried in the adjoining yard. From their son John (1793-1830) are descended the Manchester Dendys of whom Professor Arthur Dendy, D.Sc., F.R.S., Miss Mary Dendy, and Mrs. Bosanquet are well known representatives.

John and Elizabeth (Cooper) Dendy, of Southwater had, besides the above mentioned Sarah, three other children who grew up and married, viz:—2. Elizabeth (b. 1762) who married Richard Bowls of Brompton. 3. Samuel (1766-1798) who married Sarah Eden of Thame and died in America. 4. Stephen Cooper Dendy (1771-1827) who married Marianne Dubbins of Horsham; he practised there as a surgeon, and they are both buried in the churchyard of the parish church near the Sarcophagus of Richard and Joan Dendy of the seventeenth century. Their eldest son Walter Cooper Dendy (1794-1871) was man of considerable distinction.

He was a student at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital and became M.R.C.S. in 1814. He practised in the City and at Stamford Street, Blackfriars. He was president of the Medical Society and was an admirable speaker. According to the Dictionary of National Biography, "Dendy was not a mere surgeon, he shone conspicuously by his superior acquirements, by his cultivated tastes and his polished manners."

He was a good draughtsman and illustrated his own works. It is also stated "he held some peculiar religious views;" in fact he embodied the mystic and liberal religious views held by the General Baptists. Among his chief works were *The Philosophy of Mystery* (1841), *Psyche* (1853), *Mystery* (1861), together with medical tracts and books of travel. I have in my library most of his works, inscribed to my father and mother, of whom he was a warm friend. He was in later years, after retiring from practice, a *habitué* of the reading room of the British Museum. I have a good daguerreotype portrait of him which shows his fine head and thoughtful face as well as the Spencer coat which he habitually wore.

The arms granted to Richard Dendy (1693-1750) the fourth of the name were "Quarterly first and fourth ar.; second and third az. a mullet erne.; over all a bend inverted cotise sa. three cinque foils or. crest, on a mount between two slips of lauristinus, vert, a bezant charged with a unicorn's head coupéd az. Motto: *Respice sine luctu.*" Another branch of the family descended from John the brother of Richard Dendy the second (1627-1690), who married Joan Holland, and previously referred to as the Dendys of Dorking, received, in the fourth generation, a new grant of arms in 1834. The new grant to Samuel and Arthur Dendy, Esquires of Dorking is emblazoned thus:—"Quarterly first and fourth vert and ermine, a griffin sergeant inter four escallops, three in chief and one in base, or, second and third quarterly, az. and or, in first quarter a mullet of the second. Crest, on a mount vert, a swan ar. beaked gu. resting its dexter claw on a pheon proper. Motto: *Per ardua stabilis esto.*"

Samuel and Arthur were the sons of Samuel Dendy (1748-1810), and Sarah, daughter and heiress of Arthur Foster of Rudgwick, Sussex. Samuel,

the fourth of the name married Anne the daughter of Sir Thomas Hyde, Kt, and both he and his brother had numerous issue.

Sergeant Edward Dendy who played a conspicuous part in the scenes which preceded the trial and execution of Charles I. was connected with the Dendys of Surrey and Sussex, probably with the Ewhurst branch of the family, but the exact connection is not quite clear. His father, Edward Dendy appears to have held the position of sergeant at arms and to have been ousted therefrom by his son about 1640;¹ he had been in the household of the Earl of Exeter and had been sent by James I. as envoy to Rome concerning certain accusations against the Countess, which however he showed to be groundless.² He appears to have been reinstated in office at the restoration³ and in 1660 when "very old and almost superannuated" he petitioned Charles II. to allow him to surrender his patent of sergeant at arms reciting that he "ever with great fidelity served your royal father" and adding that he "with great detestation abhorred the vile appearances of his ungracious son which he beseecheth your majesty not to reflect on him."⁴ He died in 1665 and was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster. Sergeant Edward Dendy, junior, on the other hand in 1649 attended the commission for the trial of Charles I. riding in to Westminster Hall on horse back with the mace over his shoulder and there made

1. Heath's Chronicles of the late Intestine War.

James I).

2. Angelicus Coquinariæ p. 193 (vol. 2 of Secret History of

3. Calendar of State Papers 1659-60.

4. Ibid: 1660-1. p. 21. He appears to have been sent by Charles I to arrest the five members (Forster's Arrest of the Five Members p. 296).

the public proclamations on behalf of the Commissioners.⁵ On Jan. 30, 1649 preceded by trumpeters he proclaimed the execution of the king and that whosoever should proclaim a new king "shall be a traitor to suffer death."⁶ By order of the Court the officers of ordnance of the Tower of London, in whose custody was "the bright execution axe for the execution of malefactors" were directed to "forthwith deliver the same unto Edward Dendy, Esq., Sergeant at arms attending the Court or his deputies."⁷ He appears during the Commonwealth to have had a house at Lambeth in which John Rogers (b. 1627), the Fifth Monarchy man was confined. He was a kinsman of the Dendys, his aunt being Mrs. Rogers, daughter of Sir Robert Payne of Midloe, Hants.⁸ Dendy appears to have been intimate with Cromwell. In 1655 he petitioned the Commons to increase his salary of £365 a year as he had to give constant attendance and with a wife and eight children in town he was unable to lay by.⁹ In 1660, shortly after the restoration he had with other "regicides" to fly the country since the Commons on June 7 of that year resolved "that Edward Dendy be excepted out of this act of general pardon and oblivion for life and estate."¹⁰ He went first to Holland and thence to Switzerland. Clarendon through Downing secured a warrant from the States of Holland and West Friesland for his arrest; but pending its issue private information was conveyed to Dendy and in 1662 he with other "regicides" arrived, through Berne,

5. Whitelock's Memorials p. 362.

6. Carlyle's Oliver Cromwell, vol. 11, p. 360.

7. Life and opinions of a Fifth Monarchy Man 1867 (p. 131).

8. Ibid, (p. 216).

9. Calendar of State Papers; domestic (1655).

10. Somers' Tracts, vol. 7, p. 435.

at Lausanne.¹¹ Six of them went on to Vevey but Dendy and Broughton remained at Lausanne. In 1729 was published "*The Tryal of 29 Regicides—The History of Kingkillers or the Fanatick Martyrology, containing the lives of 365 Hellish Saints.*" The day assigned to the memory of Sergeant Edward Dendy is Oct. 21. He died in exile.

11. Ludlow's Memoirs, vol. ii, pp. 343-4. Life of Clarendon iii, pp. 152, 155, 169.

The General Baptists and the Friends.

Owing to a set of proofs being mislaid, several corrections made by Sir W. J. Collins in his paper entitled as above, did not appear in the July Transactions. The more important are as follows:—

Page 65, third line from foot: Separatist movements. Page 66, line 10: It was in truth among the Separatist Baptists that Fox found his "tender" people. Line 22: among the liberal Mennonites. Page 67, first line of note: John Treacher, of Stamford Hill (1755-1838), whose miniature is before me. Page 68, line 12: held lovefeasts. Page 69, line 7: he lodged in 1644, and associated with Baptists at Broughton, Leicestershire in 1647, while in 1649 he was in touch. Line 25: Augustus Charles Bickley. Last words: while he allows. Page 70, line 8: invidious comparison. Last sentence of note: These churches are represented to-day by Church Street, Deptford, and Borough Road. Page 71, line 17, last word: my. Page 72, lines 12 and 13: the Arminian Baptists and Mennonites along with their Quaker offshoot. Line 21: the life of the spirit is superior to and indeed begets the organization. Page 73, line 17: sacerdotalism. Line 27: represented and personified in John Smyth. Add at end: Of Smyth and his followers it might be truly said as of Whittier's Pennsylvania pilgrim:—

Within himself he found the law of right,
He walked by faith and not the letter's sight,
And read his Bible by the inward light.