

121 Yoder, "Anabaptists and the Sword" Revisited', p.283; Fitz-Gibbon, 'A Study...', pp.42, 217.

122 J. M. Stayer, 'Anabaptist Non-resistance and the Rewriting of History: Or, is John Yoder's Conception of Anabaptist Non-resistance Historically Sound?' (Unpublished and undated paper deposited in the library of the London Mennonite Centre), p.3.

123 ibid., p.2.

124 ibid., p.9.

125 ibid., p.11 and Yoder, "Anabaptists and the Sword" Revisited', p.283.


127 Peachey, op. cit., p.93.


129 Fitz-Gibbon, 'A Study...', p.218.


133 Hillerbrand, 'The Anabaptist View of the State', p.83.

134 ibid., pp.85-88.

135 ibid., pp.85-87. The legitimacy of government is repeatedly and strikingly affirmed in subsequent Anabaptist-Mennonite confessions: e.g. H. J. Loewen, ed., One Lord, One Church, One Hope: Mennonite Confessions of Faith, Institute of Mennonite Studies, Elkhart, 1985, pp.67, 77, 78, 99, 123-124 etc.

136 Stayer, Anabaptists and the Sword, p.3.


138 Verduin, Anatomy, pp.203, 205, 226.


140 Hillerbrand, 'The Anabaptist View of the State', p.90.

141 ibid., p.105.

142 ibid., pp.101-103.


144 ibid., p.22.

145 ibid., pp.19, 24.


NIGEL G. WRIGHT Senior Minister, Altrincham Baptist Church, Cheshire

Geoffrey Breed's My Ancestors Were Baptists has now appeared in a third edition (1995). Some additions have been made to the text but, more importantly, the appendices have been rewritten to take advantage of improved information available from the Public Record Office concerning the dating of registers, as also dates from registers which have been deposited there subsequent to the initial collection of registers in the 1830s. Three further appendices list Baptist registers/copies of the same held by the Libraries of the Society of Genealogists, the Gospel Standard Baptists, and the Strict Baptist Historical Society. The new edition, a tribute to Mr Breed's meticulous scholarship, now runs to just under 100 pages and is available from the Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA at £4-99, or £5-99 including postage and packing.
30 Minutes p.96.
37 ibid., pp.38-44.
39 Bunyan, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, p.46.
41 *Pilgrim’s Progress*, op. cit., p.156.
49 Bunyan, *The Holy City*, p.182.
50 R. Baxter, *Directions for Weak, Distempered Christians*, 1669, pt.1, p.130.

ROBERT ARCHER Tutor, Spurgeon’s College

American Theological Library Association

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dissenting groups and an implicit questioning of both state and Established Church which held to a Calvinism incapable of discerning the elect, instead embracing everyone in the commonwealth. Here was the root of the radicals' frustration at moral torpor in the body politic, apparently with the connivance of the ecclesiastical authorities. This is the context of Henry Hart's tendency to Pelagian views, the obscurantist mysticism of the Familists, and the apocalyptic millennarianism of John Champneys.

The theologies were inchoate. Restricted from freedom of expression without penalty, the protagonists resemble overlapping circles that intersect at different points: free-will, the Lollard tradition, Scriptural literalism and anti-intellectual views. Their affinities cannot disguise the difficulty of harmonizing their idiosyncrasies, which included heretical Christologies, proto-Baptist elements and an appeal to work out one's salvation that was easily tarred as Pelagian. They elude fixed categories. It would be helpful to know more of the narrative to take into account regional factors, the shifting focus of state policy, the change from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I via Edward and Mary. The radicals lived in times of fluctuating political and religious fortunes, when Puritans and Catholics in turn were persecuted. Was action against the free-willers part of a broader campaign by the authorities of the moment against all opponents of the political and religious establishment?

There is much valuable information and new discussion of the free-willers, yet the book really works better as studies in sixteenth-century Dissent. Sometimes the reader would love to know more and at times the text hurtles along at an alarming rate - the membership profile of the Family of Love is despatched in two pages and chapter 6 contains fourteen pages in seven sections. However, this work is a useful addition to the examination of an important transitional period, which is slowly being mapped, and Dr Pearse is a knowledgeable guide to this archipelago of dissent.

STEPHEN COPSON

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Baptist Historical Society
Annual General Meeting and Lectures
on
6 July 1996, 10.30 am to 4.00 pm
at Stoneygate Baptist Church, Leicester

Bring you own lunch - hot drinks provided. The cost is £5.00 - booking form with map from Stephen Copson (0121 350 2973) or turn up on the day.

Lectures: Dr Rod Ambler of Hull University on 'Church, Place and Organization: Development of the New Connexion of General Baptists in Lincolnshire', and the Revd Thornton Elwyn on 'Aspects of Eighteenth-Century Calvinistic Baptists in Northamptonshire'.