

Flat Fox and Fell



Adventures with George Fox and Margaret Fell

Be patterns, be examples in all countries,
places, islands, nations wherever you come;
that your carriage and life may preach
among all sorts of people, and to them; then
you will come to **walk cheerfully over
the world**, answering that of God in
everyone; whereby in them you may be a
blessing, and make the witness of God in
them to bless you.

George Fox, 1656

Take a walk through England and see the places George Fox and Margaret Fell lived and shared the message of Quakerism in its earliest days. You can still visit these places today, like Flat Fox and Fell did.

1652 Country

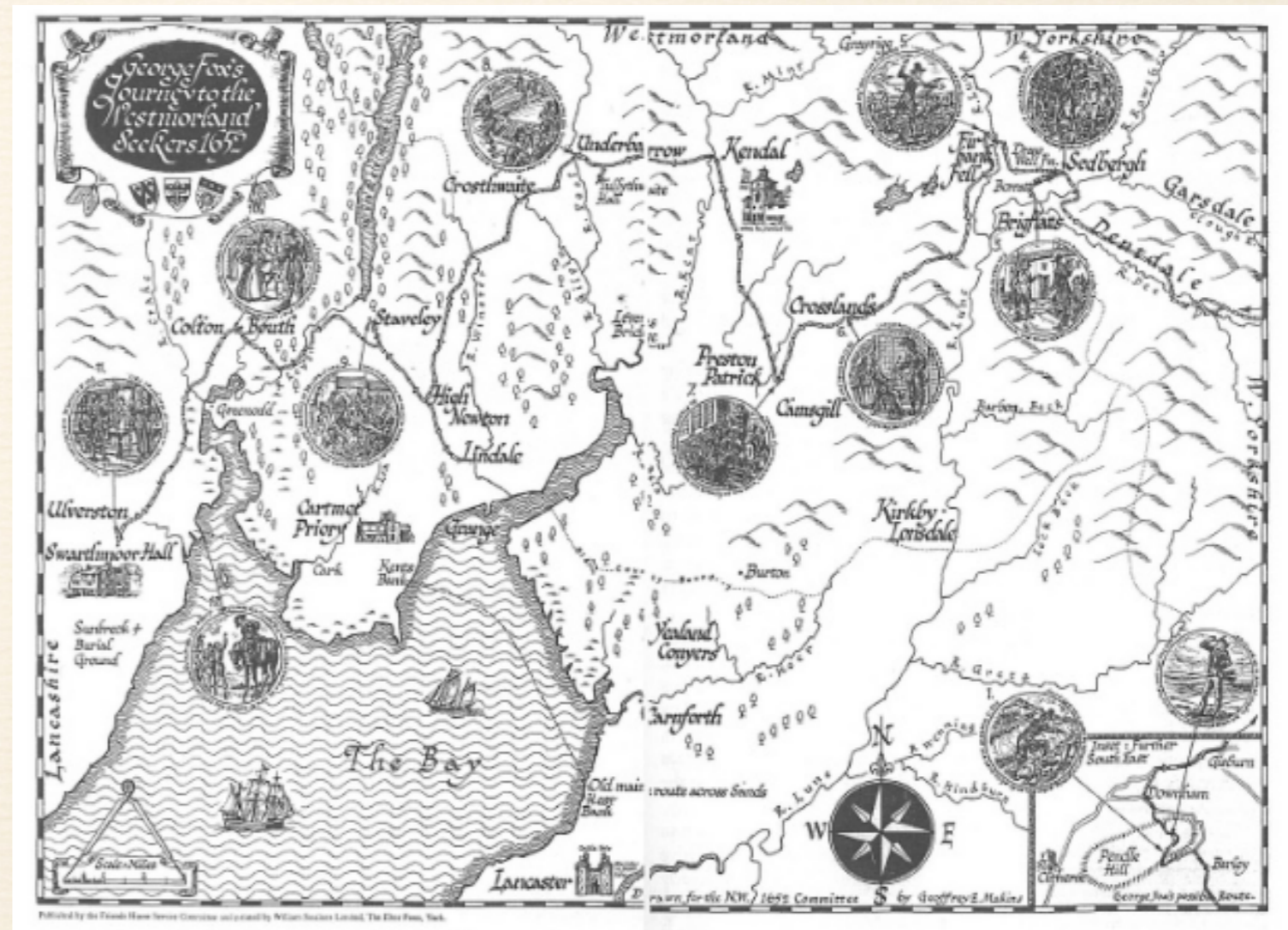
Quaker Places

The term "1652 Country" refers to that part of Northern England which George Fox visited between 1652 to 1653. He was an itinerant preacher from Loughborough who came to the North West at a time of political and religious upheaval following the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I. In many areas, people were beginning to join informal worshipping groups in one another's homes. Despite ill treatment and imprisonment, Fox continued to preach and found many people eager to hear his message. The Society of Friends had its beginnings in these new groups in the North West.

- George Fox visited the top of Pendle Hill where he gave a vision of the whole year including the sea and vast areas of land. He wrote that he was "troubled to sound the day of the Lord and the hour he was to be given to his people."
- As he sailed, George Fox preached at a "holy hill" before going to Pendle Chapel. He refused to enter the chapel and instead he preached to over a thousand people for three hours that is today's site. Local Quakers meet on several sites to thank Fox for work done.
- For several years, Preston Harrow and then to Skipton where he worked in many ways, what was then the town of Skipton. A meeting house was later built in 1652. The current building was completed in 1844.
- George Fox was well received in Southdown Hill, the home of Judge and Magistrate. Fox was the first Quaker to "take house" for his meetings. The reference to Quakers as "Friends" comes from this time. From Southdown he set off to meet about 1000 people and there he conversed with various friends to carry on his work.
- In 1652, George Fox made visits to Cumberland and especially to Great Cumbria. He was imprisoned here and was in jail for being the only one who refused to wear the military cap. He was released like many people who challenge the established authority. He was imprisoned several times and after 11 months.
- In the following years, new meeting houses began to be built. The meeting houses in England, Scotland, Ireland and Sweden are examples of these.

George Fox left the North West at the beginning of 1654. He wrote in his journal that the groups were settled in the North and that many people had begun to spread the message to other parts of England. He had a strong sense of the importance of this development.

"About this time did the Lord raise upon the spirits of the many whom he had raised up and sent forth to labour in his vineyard and to travel Southwards and spread themselves in the service of the gospel to the Eastern, Southern and Western parts of the nation." George Fox's Journal





On the way to Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill is where George Fox had his vision of “a great people to be gathered.”
In his Journal, Fox wrote, “As we went I spied a great high hill called Pendle Hill, and I went on the top of it with much ado, it was so steep; but I was moved of the Lord to go atop of it ...”



The view from Pendle Hill

George Fox was 27 years old and had many questions about God and faith.

On top of Pendle Hill, he experienced an opening of spiritual truth:

“I heard a voice which said, ‘There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition;’ and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy.”

Firbank Fell



George was invited to a place called Firbank Fell. There he found a people gathered together, and he preached to a crowd of over a thousand people on a hillside. They heard his message, and many decided to join with him. *The path he had found was the path they were seeking.*

George Fox began to share his discovery with more people. He walked the roads of Northern England, to find other people seeking a different way of living their faith. He found that many other people were also looking for deeper meaning in their lives, and a stronger connection to the Divine.

Many of these joined him. They called themselves Friends.



Materials for the Faith & Play story, “George Fox’s Big Discovery”



Saint Andrews Church in Sedbergh

Fox was thrown out of this church, and others, for interrupting the service to preach his message.

Not everyone welcomed George Fox's message. It angered the priests in churches and others who liked the power they had, and did not want change. His message that God loves all his children equally threatened them.

Briggflatts Meeting

is the second oldest meetinghouse in England. It was built in 1675 when it was still illegal for Quakers to worship together.



Friends began to worship together in homes and other humble places, even a barn. These first meeting houses were very different from the decorated “steeple-houses” of most churches. Friends worshiped in silence, waiting to hear what God was saying to them. They began to believe they were trying to create the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus spoke of in his parables, on earth, here and now.



Swarthmoor Hall

Fox visited Swarthmoor Hall, the home of Judge Thomas Fell and his wife, Margaret Fell. Fox preached at their home and at the village church nearby. His words opened Margaret Fell's heart, and were an answer to her questions. She became a Friend, and her daughters became Friends, too.

Swarthmoor Hall became a meeting place and a haven for Friends.

Margaret Fell opened her heart and her home, and she organized and encouraged early Friends. We sometimes call her the “Mother of Quakerism” and later in her life she and Fox were married.



Margaret had the gift of hospitality, and you can still visit her home today and even stay overnight.

All are welcome.

Swarthmoor Hall Today

There is a museum with dress ups to pretend you are living in the time of Fox and Fell.



You can see Fox's traveling trunk and bed that he used on many journeys.



Lancaster Castle (Prison)

Friends refusal to follow society's customs landed them in trouble with the law. Local officials fined them and sometimes sent them to prisons such as Lancaster Castle, where they were treated harshly. Yet we know George Fox sang hymns as he was taken to prison, and there are many stories of Friends helping and caring for one another in hard times and places like prison.

Their faith made them strong.



Lancaster Meeting

The building in this picture replaced the original meetinghouse that was built in 1677.

The Friends School in Lancaster was founded in 1690 and stood on the meetinghouse grounds.



Kendal Meeting

A new sign on an old meetinghouse.

Quakers still worship here today.

All are welcome!

We are part of a



© Quaker Tapestry

This image shows one of the 77 Quaker Tapestry embroideries made by 4,000 people in 15 countries. Quaker Tapestry Museum, Kendal, UK. <https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk>

*Where will
you walk
with
Flat
Fox & Fell?*



Flat Fox and Fell:

Adventures with George Fox and Margaret Fell

Photos and Story:

Sallie Welte

Candace Shattuck

Melinda Wenner Bradley

Learn more about George Fox

Learn more about Margaret Fell Fox

Learn more about Quakers and Lancaster Castle

Faith & Play Stories, Inc. ©2020