



Haverford Township Historical Society



BENJAMIN HUMPHREY (1662-1738)

Compiled by Richard D. Kerr

[The following is excerpted from History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania by George Smith M.D., published by Henry B. Ashmead in Philadelphia in 1862.]

BENJAMIN HUMPHREY came to Pennsylvania with his mother, Elizabeth Humphrey, in 1683 (see Elizabeth), and settled in Haverford, but removed to Merion. In 1694 he was married to Mary Llewellyn, of Haverford. His uncle, John Humphrey, of Merion, having devised all his estate to him, he became a permanent resident of Merion, and died there in 1738, in the seventy sixth year of his age. He was strongly attached to the principles of Friends, and was remarkable for his hospitality.

[Additional information]

Benjamin Humphrey was born in July 1662 in Wales, the twin of Joseph Humphrey, and died on November 4, 1738 in Merion Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He is buried at the Merion Meeting burial ground.

According to Smith's history of Delaware County, Benjamin was willed 212.5 acres of the 312.5 acres owned by his uncle John Humphrey, who had no children. This land was adjacent to the land of Rowland Ellis, "about where Bryn Mawr stands." This land later went to Benjamin's son John. Benjamin also owned another tract of land in Merion Township, inherited from Thomas John Thomas (Thomas Jones), his father Samuel Humphrey's second cousin. This land was east of the first tract mentioned and north of present-day Montgomery Avenue at the Haverford railroad station. Documentation survives to show that Benjamin Humphrey paid taxes in Haverford Township in 1693.

Smith also states that Benjamin succeeded Rees Price as the landlord of the Blue Anchor tavern at Dock Street Landing in Philadelphia.

Benjamin Humphrey married Mary Llewellyn on June 19, 1694 at the Merion Monthly Meeting. Their children were as follows (note that at some point "Humphrey" became "Humphreys"):

1. John Humphreys, born September 8, 1695 in Merion and died in 1761, who had sons Joseph and David Humphreys.
2. Ann Humphreys, born July 24, 1708 in Merion, who married Garrad Jones on December 23, 1742.
3. Owen Humphreys, born January 27, 1714 in Merion, who married Sarah Embree (widow of John Hughes of Merion) on September 29, 1738.
4. Elizabeth Humphreys, who married John Scarlett in 1741.

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