



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## ELIZABETH HUMPHREY (16xx-unknown)

Compiled by Richard 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.]*

**ELIZABETH HUMPHREY** emigrated from Llanegrin, County of Merioneth, [Wales] in 1682 [actually 1683], with her son Benjamin, and two daughters, Anne and Gobitha, and settled in Haverford. They were all Friends, and she brought a certificate with her, that recommends her "for an honest faithful woman ye has been serviceable in her place, and praiseworthy in her conversation," and her children "as tender plants, growing in that which they do profess, even the truth and the grace of God." Gobitha died in 1697; Lydia was married to Ellis Ellis, of Haverford, and Anne to Edward Robert.

*[Additional information]*

Elizabeth Rees was born in Wales, where she married Samuel Humphrey on April 20, 1658. According to Charles H. Browning in his 1912 book Welsh Settlement of Pennsylvania, they were married by Morris Wynne and Robert Owen, justices of the peace, by Friends ceremony, believed to be the first such marriage. Samuel Humphrey, along with his family, was repeatedly persecuted and jailed by the King's authorities, owing to his Quaker beliefs. He died on September 17, 1677 in Llangelynin Parish, Merionethshire, Wales.

Elizabeth (Rees) Humphrey's eldest son, Daniel Humphrey, sailed to America in 1682 in his early twenties. Elizabeth, accompanied by most (if not all) of her other children, followed him in 1683. Her children were as follows:

1. Lydia Humphrey was born on March 26, 1659, came to America in 1683 with her mother, married Ellis Ellis of Haverford in 1685, and died in 1706.
2. Daniel Humphrey (described elsewhere).
3. Joseph Humphrey was born in July, 1662 in Wales, the twin of Benjamin Humphrey, came to America in 1683, and died in 1693 in Philadelphia County. He married Elizabeth Medford in Darby Township, Delaware County in 1684. Joseph owned 80 acres of land in Newtown Township, which were surveyed in 1683. Historian Dr. George Smith quotes Chester County records that in 1685 Joseph was appointed as one of two collectors within Newtown Township of a levy to fund a court house and jail for Chester County.
4. Benjamin Humphrey (described elsewhere), the twin of Joseph Humphrey.
5. Rebecca Humphrey was born on September 26, 1664 in Wales and died on April 17, 1733 in America. It is not known when she came to America, but she married Edward Rees of Merion Township, Philadelphia County in 1713, becoming his second wife.
6. Anne Humphrey was born in May, 1666 in Wales, came to America in 1683 with her mother, and married Edward Roberts of Merion Township in 1699. She was the mother of Rowland Ellis.
7. Gobitha Humphrey was born on September 7, 1668 in Wales, sailed to America in 1683 with her mother, and died in 1697 in Pennsylvania.

8. Elizabeth Humphrey, about whom little is known, married Thomas Abel of Haverford Township in 1693.

Here is the text of the certificate (formal letter of introduction) that Elizabeth Humphrey brought with her from her Friends Meeting in Wales:

1683, the 27th of Fifth month.

To all or any whom it may concern—

Whereas Elizabeth Humphreys of Shanegain in the County of Merioneth with together all her children viz. Benjamin Humphreys, Lydia Humphreys, Amy Humphreys, and Gobetha Humphreys, have declared before us their intention in order to their removal to Pennsylvania in America. We thought it convenient to certify in their behalf as followeth vyt: as to herself, the said Elizabeth is a woman worthy of recommendation for an honest, faithful woman that hath been serviceable in her place, and praiseworthy in her conversation amongst us; her children also, educated as children of honest parents, of and concerning whom, we have known that they are as tender plants growing in that work the ----- the truth and grace of God.

She has her eldest son, Daniel Humphreys, already gone into Pennsylvania about twelvemonth since. Our testimony concerning him is also that he hath walked orderly amongst us, and parted with us in much love mutually, with consent of Mother and relations, and left such a testimony behind him that was, and is, of good saver.

From the Quarterly Meeting of Merionethshire.

Signed	Robert Owen
	Owen Lewis
Owen Humphreys	Evan William Howell
Hugh Rees	Lewis Owen
Humphrey Owen	Rowland Owen
Griffith Lewis	John Evans
Ellis Morris	Daniel Evans
Rowland Ellis	Thomas Davis
	Robert Owens.

(True Copy, Philadelphia, March 16th, 1822.

CHARLES HUMPHREYS.)

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