



## Library sources on Margaret Fell (1614-1702)

Margaret Fell was born in 1614 at Marsh Grange, near Dalton in Furness, the eldest of two daughters of John Askew. In 1632, Margaret married Thomas Fell, judge and politician, of Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston. There were eight surviving children of this marriage. In 1652, George Fox came to Swarthmoor Hall and converted Margaret Fell, her daughters, and most of her household to Quakerism. In 1653 Margaret Fell established the Kendal Fund to aid travelling Quaker missionaries and their families, particularly those in financial distress due to imprisonment. Margaret Fell became an authoritative, active Quaker minister who wrote and travelled and became a political spokeswoman of the early Quaker movement. She was imprisoned on more than one occasion, including a period of four years from 1664 to 1668. She married George Fox in 1669; there were no children of this marriage. Margaret Fell was fundamental to the evolution of the Quaker Women's meeting. She died at Swarthmoor Hall on 23 April 1702.



Inside Swarthmoor Hall [Picture Box 84/A-149]

The collections of the Library of the Society of Friends contain a wide range of resources for the study of Margaret Fell. These include printed material, manuscripts and images; selections of these are outlined in this guide.

### Dictionary of Quaker biography

A useful starting point for researching the life of Margaret Fell is the unpublished typescript *Dictionary of Quaker biography* (DQB), located in the Library's Reading Room. It contains an entry for Margaret Fell together with an extensive list of works about her held within the Library's collections.

### Printed works by Margaret Fell

The following selected published works by Margaret Fell are held within the Library's collections and are available for reference:

*A brief collection of remarkable passages and occurrences relating to the birth, education, life, conversion, travels, services, and deep sufferings of that ancient, eminent, and faithful servant of the Lord, Margaret Fell; but by her second marriage, Margaret Fox.* London: J. Sowle, 1710. 535p. SR 092.4 FOX

*A declaration and an information from us the people of God called Quakers.* London: Thomas Simmons and Robert Wilson, 1660~~60~~  
Box 22/31; [vol. 51/3](#); [vol. 68/57](#); [vol. 78/27](#); [vol. 96/39](#); [Hawkins vol. 6/19](#)

*A loving salutation to the seed of Abraham.* London: Robert Wilson, 1660 Vol. 133/38

### Printed works by Margaret Fell cont.

*-A sincere and constant love: an introduction to the work of Margaret Fell.* Edited by T.H.S. Wallace. Richmond, Ind.: Friends United Press, 1992 007 FEL

*The standard of the Lord revealed.* London, 1667 SR 017.1 FOX

*A testimony of the touchstone of all professions... Also some Ranter principles answered.* London: Thomas Simmons, 1656 Box 22/1

*To the general council, and officers of the army.* London: Thomas Simmons, 1659 Box 22/28

*A touch-stone, or, A perfect tryal by the Scriptures.* London, 1667 Box 23/29

*A true testimony from the people of God.* London: Robert Wilson, 1660 Box 23/21

*Undaunted zeal: the letters of Margaret Fell*, Edited and introduced by Elsa F. Glines; foreword by Rosemary Moore. Richmond, Ind.: Friends United Press, 2003 007 FEL

*Womens speaking justified, proved and allowed of by the Scriptures.* London: 1666 Box 23/27

The Library holds other copies of the above, along with further titles by Margaret Fell

### **Printed works about Margaret Fell**

Numerous works have been published about Margaret Fell. Below is a selection held within the Library's printed collections and available for reference:

Bruyneel, Sally. *Margaret Fell and the end of time: the theology of the mother of Quakerism.* Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2010 092.3 FEL/BRU

Crosfield, Helen G. *Margaret Fox of Swarthmoor Hall.* London: Headley Bros., 1913 092.4 FOX/CRO

Kunze, Bonnelyn Young. *Margaret Fell and the rise of Quakerism.* Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1994 092.4 FOX/KUN

Ross, Isabel. *Margaret Fell: mother of Quakerism.* London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1949 092.4 FOX/ROS

Ross, Isabel. *Margaret Fell: mother of Quakerism.* 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed. York: Sessions Book Trust, 1984 092.4 FOX

Trevett, Christine. *Quaker Margaret Fell: religion and gender in a seventeenth century dissenting group.* [Oxford]: British Association for the Study of Religions Annual Conference, [1989] L 097 [Hist. 2/13]

Further printed material can be identified through the Library's online catalogue at [www.quaker.org.uk/cat](http://www.quaker.org.uk/cat)

### **Manuscript sources relating to Margaret Fell: pto**

### Manuscript sources relating to Margaret Fell

The Library holds the following unpublished sources on Margaret Fell

William Caton MSS Vol. 3 MS Vol. ~~Ss~~  
81

~~Copies of L~~ letters, mainly from early Friends, to Margaret Fell (1614-1702): copies made by William Caton ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Caton (1636-1665). Calendar and index at reference shelves : R002.8 C15

Spence MSS Vol. 3 MS Vol. 378  
Consists mostly of letters of Margaret Fell. For a list and index of Vol. 3 see by Craig Horle (1975) is on Library the reference shelves (file G4/SPE/1).

Swarthmore MSS MS Vols. 351-360  
Many papers at Swarthmoor Hall (Cumbria) were preserved by George Fox and Margaret Fell. The Swarthmoor MSS [note spelling] represent a partial reassembly of the papers by the Library ~~of the Society of Friends~~ into one collection. They consist of about 1400 letters and papers, dating from ~~the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.~~ the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There are transcripts at the Library reference shelves

~~The H~~household account book of Sarah Fell of Swarthmoor Hall, 1673-1678  
\_\_\_\_\_ MS Vol. 370

Abraham MSS MS Vol. 364  
Letters of early friends collected and passed down through the Abraham family of Swarthmoor Hall. Includes 25 letters written by Margaret Fell  
The MSS mss were calendared in The Journal of Friends Historical Society JFHS vol. 11 (1914), pp. 145-190, and more fully in in 1977 by Craig Horle: see Library reference file (G4/4/ABR/1 on the reference shelves).

Thirnbeck MSS MS Vols. ~~367-~~  
368 MS Vols. 367-368

Includes early letters of Margaret Fell and others; the collection includes transcripts.

Further manuscript material can be identified through the manuscript card catalogue in the Library Reading Room. Please note that material is listed under Fox, Margaret not Fell, Margaret.

### **Pictures of Margaret Fell**

There are no authenticated portraits of Margaret Fell taken during her lifetime, although there are 20<sup>th</sup> century representations, and the Library holds no images of her:

Horace M Lippincott, A Portraiture of the people called Quakers (Philadelphia, 1915: p70 and plate). MF pleading for Friends before King Charles II. Early 20<sup>th</sup> impression of an historical event. MF is shown from the back only, wearing bonnet. 090.7 LIP

Spence Etchings (Robert Spence): twentieth century etching of Fell family group : (MF standing, wearing a lace collar and hat) SE BOX 1/ 21aa, 21ab (loc. SR355/7)

The Library holds ~~some~~ images of ~~her home~~, Swarthmoor Hall, her home after her first marriage.

**Please see Library Visual Resources**

### **Further information**

#### **Library opening hours**

Tuesday ~~,~~ ~~Wednesday~~, ~~Thursday~~, Friday  
- 10.00am - 5.00pm

Cont. over

Please note the Library normally closes for one week in [the spring and in the autumn](#) ~~May~~. It is advisable to telephone or email prior to visiting. New ~~readers~~[library users](#) will need to complete a registration form and show proof of permanent address. The registration form can be downloaded from our website [www.quaker.org.uk/library](http://www.quaker.org.uk/library) or requested from the Library.

For further information or help in using the Library please contact us by email to [library@quaker.org.uk](mailto:library@quaker.org.uk), by telephone 020 7663 1135 or write to:

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