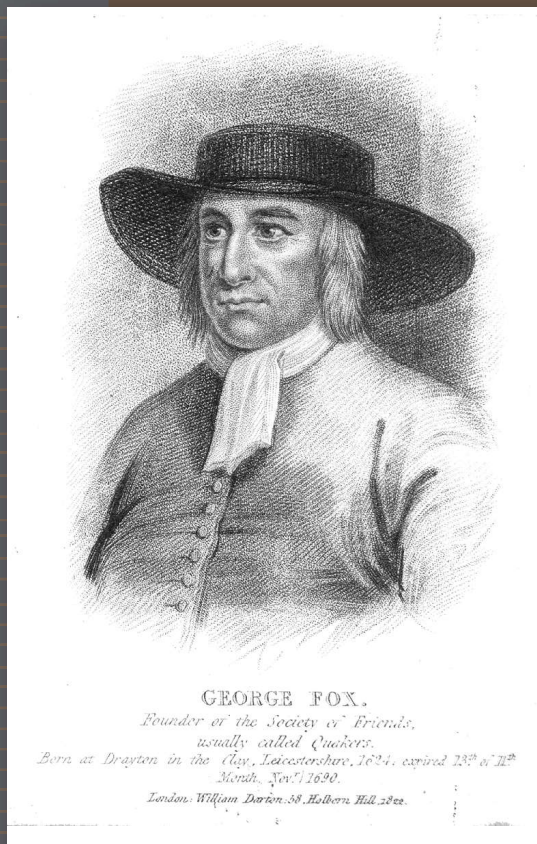


Who are the  
Quakers?

# “Be Patterns, Be Examples”



Picture of George Fox by Thomas Fairland.  
Printed by Darton in 1822. There are no  
authentic pictures of Fox.

© Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.  
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Out of the religious turmoil of seventeenth century England came the movement known as the Religious Society of Friends, later called Quakers. Small independent worship groups, called ‘seekers’, who opposed the Established Church, found new religious life from reading the Bible. These ‘seekers’ were organized by George Fox (1624-1691), the son of a Leicestershire weaver and a young and dynamic communicator of his religious experiences. He counselled his followers that they

**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.**

In 1652 Fox had a vision on Pendle Hill of ‘a great people to be gathered’. To realize this vision he spent years of travel in the ministry, by foot or horseback, in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the American colonies, and Europe. Despite being imprisoned eight times, for a total of six years, in foul, stinking and overcrowded prisons, Fox was able to form the scattered groups of ‘seekers’ into a religious organization. Quakers continue to answer that of God in everyone through worship and witness. Fox died in London in 1691.