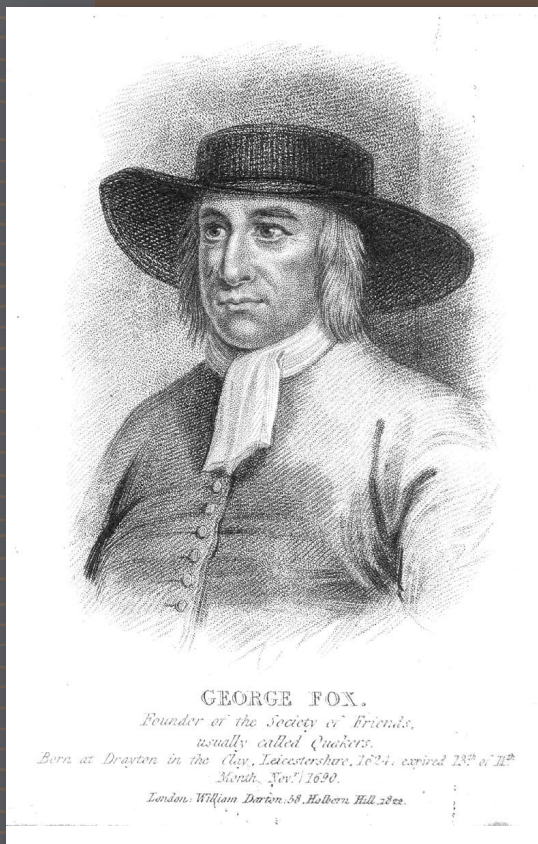


Who are the
Quakers?

“My Heart Did Leap For Joy”



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

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GEORGE FOX AND THE QUAKERS

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. In his Journal for the year 1647 he wrote,

I had nothing outwardly to help me, nor could tell what to do, then, Oh then, I heard a voice which said, ‘There is one even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition’ and then when I heard it my heart did leap for joy...and then the Lord did gently lead me along, and did let me see his love, which was endless and eternal.

In 1652 Fox had a vision on Pendle Hill of ‘a great people to be gathered’. He spent years travelling in the ministry, by foot and horseback, in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the American colonies, and Europe. Despite being imprisoned eight times, for a total of six years, in stinking and overcrowded prisons, Fox was able to form the scattered groups of ‘seekers’ into an enduring religious organization. Fox died in London in 1691.