

CAROL STUART WATSON

*The Beall-Dawson House, c. 1815
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BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, QUAKER EDUCATOR

by Dorothy Pugh

His mind on the next day's July Fourth celebration, the 16-year-old apprentice scampered to the top of the ladder, planning to replace quickly the missing boards on the barn gable. As he reached over to pound the last nail, the ladder slid sideways, forcing the boy to grab the nearest board. It was loose and couldn't hold his weight; the boy plunged downward, his feet smashing into the hard ground. He was in agony. His back was wrenched, and both ankles were so severely sprained and swollen that his boots had to be cut off. The pain required opium pills.

Author's Note: Most of the information in this story was obtained from the *Autobiography of Benjamin Hallowell* by Benjamin Hallowell, published by the Friends' Book Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1884.

But it was not only his body that was suffering torment; mentally and emotionally he was in agony, too, for he was a deeply religious youth who had tried very hard to follow the teachings of the Good Father. In his interpretation of those teachings, his fall, and subsequent crippled condition, was a judgment visited upon him by God. Since he knew he had been doing the best he could to lead an exemplary life, he was devastated and spent days weeping.

Recovery of both ankles and back was still extremely slow, and, with the thought that he was permanently crippled, there was additional mental anguish, for how could he continue as a carpenter's apprentice, especially for a carpenter who also required help on his farm? But what was so painful and worrying to the young man, forcing an unwelcome change in his life plan, proved to be a blessing in disguise, for this lad was Benjamin Hallowell, future educator, lecturer, mathematician, astronomer, natural scientist, philosopher, philanthropist, Friends' minister, and farmer.

Benjamin Hallowell was born in Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on August 17, 1799, to Anthony Hallowell and Jane Comly Shoemaker. His ancestors were German, English, and Welsh, and they provided him with a birthright in the Society of Friends. He joined his older brothers, James and Joseph. Another brother, Benjamin, had died before he was born, and, in 1801, a sister, Mary, arrived.

But also in 1801, when he was only two-and-one-half years old, Benjamin suffered the first of many personal losses in his life. His father died, and it became necessary to break up the family. Joseph went to live with an uncle, while his mother took the other three children home to her widowed father's 100-acre farm near Philadelphia.

When young, Benjamin suffered from poor health, and his mother was constantly told that she would never raise that child. It seems likely that some of Benjamin's problems came from a milk allergy, as he always suffered nausea and heartburn after drinking his breakfast and supper milk. His morning discomfort often caused him to ask to stay home from school, but his conscientious mother would allow no malingering. When a new, severe teacher arrived at the school, Benjamin dreaded going even more as a large stick was often used on the students' backs. One day he hid his hat, knowing his mother would not send him out without it. But, in Benjamin's own words, "She was a very determined person," and, after Benjamin failed to find his hat, she simply tied her own bonnet on him! Lo and behold! A little further searching turned up his own hat, and he was off to school, never to try to escape it again. He later viewed this as a turning point in his life, because now he knew he could not get around his mother, and, surprisingly, he learned to enjoy school and did very well in his studies.

This little episode with his mother's bonnet made a lasting impression on Benjamin and probably contributed to his later success as a school disciplinarian. When he had his own school, he didn't just punish his boys but tried to make them see the error of their ways. He asked for explanations and took natural and appropriate action.

On March 16, 1811, when Benjamin was 11, his grandfather, Benjamin Shoemaker, died, and Benjamin was forced to go and live with his Uncle Comly and Aunt Sally Shoemaker, while his mother and younger sister, Mary, went to Uncle Samuel Shoemaker's. Benjamin was never to live with his mother again, although, while at the Shoemakers, he was able to visit her every three or four months by walking the eight miles to Uncle Samuel's. He also lost his brother, Joseph, who had died in 1808.

Happily for Benjamin, Uncle Comly and Aunt Sally were very fine, loving people who became his closest family. He went to school from November until April, especially enjoying the mathematical calculations necessary in geometry and surveying, and worked on the farm the rest of the year. His love of nature developed on his many solitary rambles through the woods and along the streams. He was uncommonly observant and later said, "All nature pleased me."

At this time, also, his Quaker training of a deep, simple faith in God was becoming the guiding force in his life. If he said or did things that were not right, he "found no peace at heart" until his mind promised no repetition or he had made amends. He later said, "Practical Quakerism consists in faithful obedience to the 'still, small voice' which is the voice of God speaking to the soul."

On October 8, 1814, when he was 15 years old, Benjamin Hallowell "packed up his wardrobe in a pocket-handkerchief" and marched off to the farm of his mother's cousin, Nathan Lukins, at Horsham, just two miles from his mother and sister. Lukins was also a carpenter and joiner who could make lovely mahogany secretaries with secret compartments and drawers. Benjamin became his apprentice, and, in the farming season, they did the field work during the day and then worked in the shop by candle light, where Benjamin remembered sometimes staying up after midnight making and polishing a coffin to be used the next day.

He enjoyed being at Lukins and was expecting to become a carpenter and perhaps a farmer when he suffered his disastrous fall from the ladder and was thrown into despair over his future. Searching for something the injured lad might do, his family thought of teaching, and he was sent to John Gummere's excellent boarding school at Burlington, New Jersey, just up the Delaware River. The scientific experiments at Gummere's opened a whole new world for Benjamin, and he later said that this entire experience from his fall onward was the "Unseen Hand of the Good Providence" guiding events. He attributed a lot of his later success to the influence and training of John Gummere.

After graduation and a year of teaching, Benjamin Hallowell applied for a job at the Fair Hill School in Mechanicsville (Olney), Maryland, which was run by the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends. He met with the school committee of Edward Stabler, Gerard T. Hopkins, Samuel Thomas, Isaac Tyson, and others at Baltimore and agreed to start at Fair Hill on December 1, 1819, at a salary of \$400 a year.

Benjamin Hallowell's first venture into Montgomery County turned out to be a rough one. He could find no public transportation to get him from Laurel, Maryland, to Fair Hill, and he ended up walking through the country over 10 miles in the dark. However, once there, he found a boarding school and farm run as a large, close family unit by the well-known Quakers, Samuel and Anna Thomas. Benjamin was very impressed with both of them and absorbed much religious and educational knowledge from Samuel, with whom he formed a close friendship.

While at Fair Hill, Benjamin renewed his love of nature, roaming the meadows and woods, and wrote some poetry which was published in the "Rural Visitor" in Burlington, New Jersey. He also suffered another family loss when his brother, James, died in the fall of 1820, leaving a wife and two small sons, Caleb and James.

That same year, Fair Hill was struck a terrible blow when both Thomases died within four months of each other. Fortunately, the school was able to survive, and Benjamin, although greatly saddened, continued teaching there.

Margaret Farquhar was hired as a teacher at Fair Hill in the spring of 1821, and she observed to a friend that Benjamin Hallowell was "no beauty, anyhow!" In September 1821, Benjamin left Fair Hill unexpectedly, without having another job and without giving any good reason for leaving. His actions are a mystery to this day, but one wonders if they had anything to do with the fact that he, despite being "no beauty," had become secretly engaged to Margaret Farquhar before he left.¹

For the next three years Benjamin taught at the Westtown Boarding School for Boys in Pennsylvania, successfully practicing his own benevolent discipline which required the boys to be responsible for their own actions. However, Benjamin was not above using a little bribery now and then. There was a door that the boys liked open and the superintendent liked closed, especially in the winter. One day the door couldn't be kept closed because the key was lost and just couldn't be found. Shortly before the noon meal, Benjamin told the boys that, if the key should miraculously show up by dinner, they could all go skating on the pond all afternoon. Within five minutes the key was found in the bottom of the dust barrel where the sweepings were thrown! In telling this story, Hallowell used one of his favorite sayings, "Everything can be moved if we touch the right spring."

In 1824, Benjamin and Charles Farquhar, Margaret's brother, decided to open their own school in Alexandria, D.C.,² where there was a thriving Friends' community. Now, at last, Benjamin made his engagement to Margaret Farquhar public. Charles rented a house on Oronoco Street, and Benjamin's mother readied it to welcome her son's bride whom she would not meet until after the wedding.

Benjamin Hallowell and Margaret Farquhar were married at the close of the Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting on October 13, 1824. After a "very nice and bountiful dinner" at Stephen and Hannah Wilson's, they headed for Alexandria in a hack with Phebe Farquhar and Catherine Leeke.

When they stopped to rest at the Lovelace's, six miles from Washington, Benjamin wrote to his Uncle Comly, and, aware of the famous Marquis de Lafayette's pending visit to Alexandria, he penned this little poem:

Each lover of liberty surely must get
Something in honor of LaFayette,
There's a LaFayette watch-chain, a LaFayette hat,
A LaFayette *this*, and a LaFayette *that*.
But I wanted something as lasting as life,
And took to myself a LaFayette wife.

They reached Alexandria in time for a very nice supper party given by Benjamin's mother and attended by many of the Alexandria Friends.

The next morning Benjamin and Margaret were standing in their open doorway when LaFayette came to visit their next-door neighbor, who was the widow of General "Light Horse Harry" Lee and the mother of Robert E. Lee. You can imagine their pleasure when the great man bowed to them both.

1. For further information on Fair Hill and Benjamin Hallowell's experiences there, see Dorothy Pugh, "A History of the Fair Hill Boarding Schools," *The Montgomery County Story*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (February 1978).

2. The Virginia part of the District of Columbia was returned to Virginia in 1846.

The Alexandria Boarding School opened on November 1, 1824, but there were no scholars until December when two of Margaret's brothers came from Fair Hill, paying \$20 a quarter board and tuition, and four day students attended at \$6 a quarter each. Although after six months Benjamin had 20 students, including four boarders, the school's first five years were desperate ones financially, and Benjamin had to rely on credit from local merchants when tuition was late coming in.

Both to ease the strain and to gain some publicity, Benjamin offered a course of evening lectures to the community on chemistry, natural philosophy, and astronomy at \$1 each or \$5 for a family. The lectures were an immediate success, the scientific experiments probably being the big attraction, as Benjamin had a fairly well-equipped laboratory for those days. He also gave private lessons to girls in their homes and had girls from other Alexandria schools attending his evening lectures.

Margaret returned to teaching when Mary Stabler, a Quaker friend, wanted her daughter educated and, knowing Margaret's ability, persuaded her to begin a girls' school.

On September 1, 1825, Margaret and Benjamin were blessed with their first child, James. However, he seemed to have a bilious fever, and, after Margaret remained weak and ill all fall and winter, Benjamin discovered that their home and school were in a very unhealthy location. In the spring he moved them to a larger house on the corner of Washington and Queen Streets which he rented from the Widow Hooe.³ Just before this, with the fledgling school less than a year old, Charles Farquhar had left to study medicine.

Later Benjamin rented a tobacco warehouse in the same block from the same Widow Hooe, which provided room for the school to grow. Benjamin and Margaret's family was also growing with the addition of a second son, Charles, in May 1827, and the twins, Mary Jane and Henry Clay, born June 16, 1829.

In 1827, Benjamin joined other Friends in forming The Benevolent Society which aimed to help slaves secure their legal rights. Although the Society was opposed to slavery and petitioned Congress to abolish it in the District of Columbia, they did not interfere with it illegally. They merely tried to help the slaves to know and attain their legal rights or, as Benjamin said, to "render assistance to such persons as were slaves and willed to be free at a certain time, in which case, if they were hired out of the state, or from the District of Columbia, they were *at once* entitled to their freedom on that fact being established." Benjamin and his nephew, Caleb Hallowell, personally liberated one family of 13 slaves. The Society was active until August 1831, when Nat Turner led his fellow slaves on a rampage in Southampton County, Virginia, killing 57 white men, women, and children, at which time the Society decided it would be wise to lower their profile.

By the end of 1830, the Alexandria Boarding School was doing very well, having benefited from some well-known students such as Angela Lewis, George Washington's grandniece, whom Benjamin had tutored, and Robert E. Lee and others who went on to graduate with distinction from West Point, resulting in a recommendation of Benjamin's school for preparatory work. Benjamin also gained publicity for his school by

3. Now named Lloyd House, this fine Georgian building has been restored as a special library for scholars of Alexandria and Virginia history.

his articles and correspondence in newspapers and scientific journals, covering such topics as the appearance of the heavens, the twinkling stars, how telescopes worked, and the causes of hail.

Just as things began to go well for the school, tragedy struck the Hallowell family, cutting it in half. On April 6, 1831, 22-month-old Mary Jane died of an inflammation of the stomach,⁴ and on July 9, after a mere 19 hours of illness, James who was almost six years old, succumbed to scarlet fever, followed by four-year-old Charles on July 11. In a little over three months, Benjamin and Margaret lost three of their four children. Only little Henry, Mary Jane's twin, was left. Benjamin said he felt as if the light of the world had gone out. Many years later, he was to write poignantly, "I had not yet learned that children are only lent"

After Charles died, Benjamin closed the school and took Margaret and Henry to Fair Hill, which was no longer a school but the farm home of Margaret's parents, Amos and Mary E. Farquhar. Leaving his wife and child there, Benjamin went on to Boston and New Haven to talk with scientists and educators at Cambridge College and Yale and to view the latest scientific apparatus, including an electromagnet.

He returned to Fair Hill and had Margaret and Henry safely back in Alexandria before August 20, when their daughter, Caroline, was born. In less than five months, they had lost three children and gained one.

On August 31 of that same year, the Widow Hooe died, and Benjamin bought the warehouse he was using as a school and, also, a sugar house next to it which he converted into a large, attractive, comfortable home. They moved down the street to it in May 1833, and Henry remembered carrying his little rocking chair there on moving day.⁵ Benjamin eventually combined these two buildings into an attractive, yellow brick complex capable of housing 100 people, which became affectionately known as "Brimstone Castle."

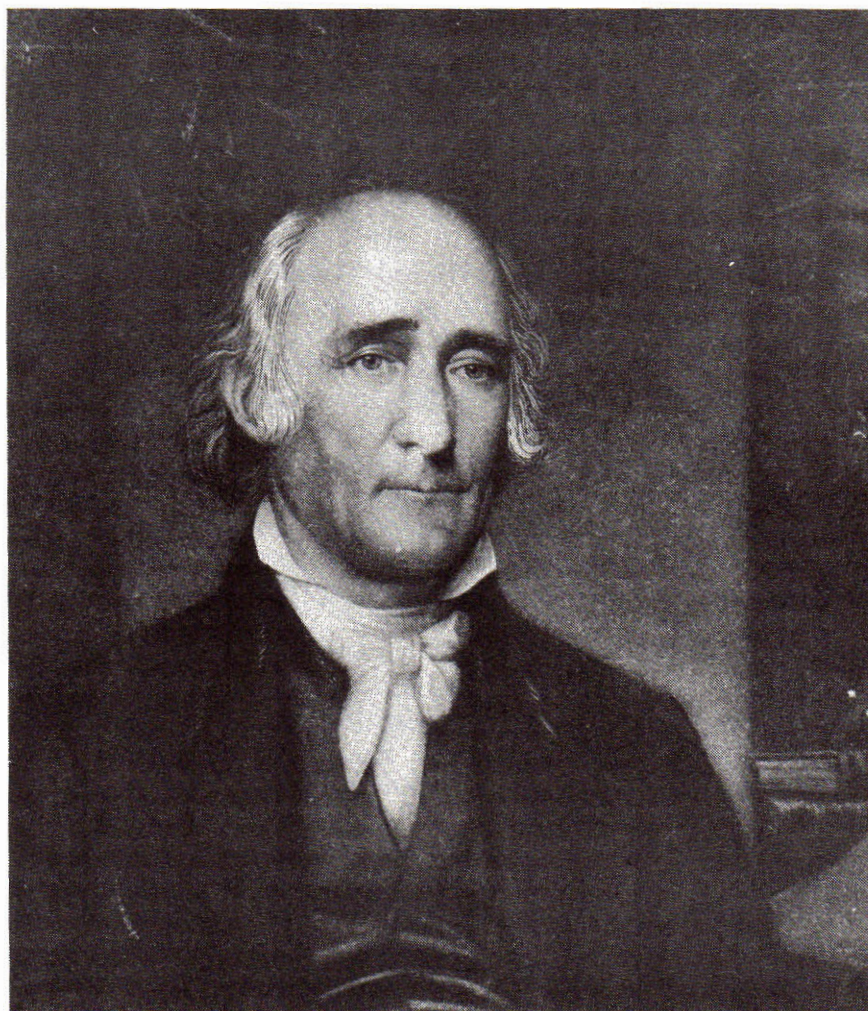
By 1835, Benjamin had students from 14 different states and territories, South America, Cuba, and England, among them numerous sons and grandsons of Congressmen, Cabinet members, Supreme Court Justices, and other well-known and influential men. Many of his students went on to make their own mark on the world in education, government, business, and the military, Robert E. Lee being the most famous. Obviously, Benjamin could have enlarged his school even more, but he wanted to know and be close to each boy. A massive, tall man with a long, heavy-featured face, he had a commanding presence which inspired respect and obedience from the most recalcitrant of boys. But the boys who came to Brimstone Castle also found a headmaster with a sense of humor, genuine concern for their welfare, and his own successful, creative discipline.

One wonders if Samuel Clemens had Benjamin in mind when he described Tom Sawyer's *modus operandi* in whitewashing fences. Brimstone Castle had a 95- by 18-foot sidewalk on the front and numerous other paths and walkways. When it snowed, Benjamin quickly hid all the shovels but one, and, early in the morning, began a solitary shoveling. Soon a boy would come out and insist on taking over, and Benjamin would "find" a second shovel. This was yielded to a second boy, and so on and

4. Henry Hallowell, *Reminiscences*, unpublished manuscript, p. 1.

5. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

so on. It seemed to work for all the years he had the school! With both students and servants, Benjamin always tried to create a climate where they "chose" to do the chore instead of having to be ordered to do it.



Benjamin Hallowell

In 1838, Benjamin Hallowell and some others, feeling a cultural lack in Alexandria, founded a Lyceum which was to have lectures once a week on some literary, scientific, or historical subject, to be followed by a debate on some topic, neither political nor religious. Benjamin was elected president of the organization, and the first lectures were held in the Alexandria Boarding School. By December 1839, the lectures had become so popular that, through money raised by stock subscriptions, the Lyceum, that impressive, Greek Revival building still ornamenting 201 South Washington Street, had been built to house the library and a small natural history museum and to provide an elegant noble setting for the distinguished lecturers and debaters.

In 1837, Benjamin Hallowell had begun acquiring land along Route 108 between Olney and Sandy Spring, including 56 acres with a log cabin on the south side of the road which he purchased from William Birdsall.⁶ He named his accumulated farm "Rockland" for obvious reasons. Someone said you could walk across the whole farm without once touching the ground! The farm eventually covered 320 acres on both sides of Route 108.

Benjamin built a large double house around the log cabin, and originally Margaret's brother, Granville, and his family lived in one half while her widowed mother with her remaining children occupied the other half. But, in 1842, Benjamin, suffering from exhaustion, gave Brimstone Castle to his nephews, Caleb and James Hallowell, and took over Granville's half of Rockland for his own family which by now included three more children, Elgar, Benjamin, Jr., and Mary. Granville had gone to practice medicine in Calvert County, Maryland.

By the spring of 1843, Benjamin considered himself a full-fledged farmer, being deeply involved in clearing, draining, and seeding the soil at Rockland. He puzzled his neighbors by spending \$136 clearing and preparing a meadow for timothy. They said it was more than the land was worth. But Benjamin was right all along because the timothy raised there brought in *over* \$136 *each* year!

On February 12, 1844, Benjamin and Richard Bentley of Bloomfield organized the First Farmers' Club which met monthly at members' houses to help each other to improve his operations. Today it is called the "Senior Club" to distinguish it from subsequent ones formed because the original club limited membership.⁷ Benjamin also delivered the first address to the Agricultural Society of Montgomery County at its first meeting in 1846.⁸

But Benjamin couldn't get away from academia that easily. It kept reaching out for him. In 1843 and 1844, he lectured on chemistry three days a week at Columbian College (now George Washington University) in the District of Columbia, and, in 1845, the Society of Friends asked him as a religious duty to help organize and be principal of a new high school in Philadelphia. While there he especially enjoyed his evening lectures which introduced him to people like Lucretia Mott, the well-known abolitionist and women's rights advocate, and her husband, James. However he wasn't happy at the school and left after a year. One suspects he really wanted to get his family back to Rockland where he had his carpenter shop, turning-lathe, smith shop, observatory, and library. In his autobiography he wrote, "I would have everything I wanted to interest and occupy myself and children and to give them a good practical education." He wanted each child to learn a mechanical trade.

But it was not to be. In the fall of 1846, his nephews wanted to give up the Alexandria Boarding School, and Benjamin took his family back there to take it over again. He added an observatory and fitted up his laboratory so he could instruct in chemical analysis.

6. Montgomery County Land Records, Book BS 9, p. 45.

7. Esther B. Stabler, "Cultural Activities in the Sandy Spring Area," *The Montgomery County Story*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (November 1967), p. 2.

8. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: 1882; reprinted Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), Vol. 1, p. 770.

By 1852, Henry Hallowell and Francis Miller, a local Quaker boy, had graduated from Yale and were ready to assist in running the school. It seemed like the first non-family member was to be involved in Brimstone Castle. But not for long, for in September Francis Miller wed Caroline Hallowell in the large lecture room of the school.

Henry and Francis Miller were partners and joint principals of the school in 1854 when Benjamin decided it was time for him to "take it easy." He built a handsome and most conveniently planned residence opposite the school on the east side of Washington Street. Since it was to be his retirement home, he and Margaret wanted it to have all the modern conveniences and be very comfortable, and it was. It was a two-story house situated so as to have an exquisite view of the Potomac and Maryland hills, and also of Washington and the Capitol.

Benjamin and his family moved there in September 1855 and turned the Castle residence over to Francis and Caroline. There was room for Henry to stay at Benjamin and Margaret's, even if he married.

Once again fate intervened when Henry's health failed, and he needed a complete rest. After spending eight months recuperating in Europe, Henry married Sarah Miller but was still unable to help with the school, so he and Sarah moved to Rockland.

Francis Miller wasn't happy in Alexandria either, wanting a smaller, rural school. So Benjamin gave him and Caroline 30 acres on the eastern end of Rockland where they built "Stanmore," moving there that summer. The Stanmore School for Boys was in operation from 1859 to 1867, when it became a girls' school with Caroline as principal,⁹ while Francis studied law in the District of Columbia.

Meanwhile, the Alexandria Boarding School was so successful that it turned away 100 prospective students in the fall of 1858, but poor Benjamin couldn't run it alone so he sold it to William S. Kemper of Charlottesville, who had two of his sons operate it.

In 1859, some wealthy Maryland planters, who were planning an agricultural college, sought Benjamin's opinion on such an undertaking. He offered his views and later agreed to serve as the first president of Maryland Agricultural College, which was to grow into the University of Maryland. He took the position because, in general, he agreed with the aim of this college, which was to develop an agricultural science. He had about a month in which to organize and prescribe the studies and discipline before his health deteriorated again and he had to resign.¹⁰

The next summer Benjamin, Margaret, and Mary moved permanently to Rockland. They had been spending the summers there anyway, and it became too burdensome to move back and forth. Benjamin and his family lived in one-half of the house, and Henry and his wife in the other half. Benjamin later saw the Good Father's hand in this move because the following spring brought the Civil War. He said he wouldn't have left his friends in Alexandria, but he also wouldn't have enjoyed observing what happened there.

9. Stabler, *op.cit.*, p. 9

10. George H. Callcott, *A History of the University of Maryland* (Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1966), pp. 137, 145, 148.

Unfortunately he had ex-students on both sides, and this probably helped him to follow other Quakers in trying not to read or discuss anything about the war. But somehow, Benjamin learned, while on a six-month trip to the West in 1863, that Lee had crossed the Potomac and invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania. Despite a continuing, warm, personal friendship with Lee, Benjamin rejoiced when Meade drove him back into Virginia. "It was impossible to avoid it. It was an instinctive outburst in favor of right, justice and freedom."

But ordinary life goes on, even during wars, and 1862 saw two happy celebrations in the Hallowell family when Mary married William Brooke, a local farmer, on March 6 and Benjamin, Jr., married Lydia Townsend in Philadelphia on October 15.¹¹ His brother, John Elgar, had married Anna Townsend in Philadelphia in 1856.

Mary and William Brooke built a house called "Avon" and had two sweet little girls before Mary died on November 29, 1864, when just 25 years old.

When Benjamin and Margaret had moved to Rockland in 1860, there were 57 Quaker families containing 187 members in the Sandy Spring area.¹² These people were exceptionally intelligent and cultured and were far ahead of their time in education, scientific farming, civil rights, and women's rights. The eminent Benjamin Hallowell, who had also been confirmed as a minister in 1859 in Virginia, was happily welcomed as a spiritual, scientific, and intellectual leader. He was an ornament this community could appreciate. He spent 17 years immersed in its intellectual, cultural, and social activities. He continued his lecturing (including a series on astronomy at the Smithsonian Institution), writing (including "The Young Friends' Manual," a guide for the youth of the Society), star-gazing, far-flung correspondence, and work in the Society of Friends. He was called an inspiring preacher¹³ and was active in the Baltimore Quarterly Meeting, working for pacifism and serving as secretary of the Standing Committee on the Indian Concern.

President Grant, realizing the unselfish interest the Quakers had in the Indians, wrote to Benjamin in 1869, suggesting that Friends be used as Indian Agents. After Benjamin replied, adding his own ideas which Grant accepted, the Northern Superintendency, which was six agencies in Nebraska, was assigned to Benjamin's committee. They accepted the assignment, and that summer Benjamin and other committee members took a tour of the Indian Territory, visiting all the tribes in Nebraska. They organized the agencies and sent a full report to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Despite all these activities, Benjamin was pulled back into education one last time when he served on a committee of Friends to found Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. It opened its doors in 1864 and today is an excellent private institution serving over 1200 students.

On February 26, 1875, Benjamin completed an autobiography written to please his daughter, Caroline H. Miller. He ended it with these words:

11. Roger Brooke Farquhar, "The Diary of Roger Brooke Farquhar," *The Montgomery County Story*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (February 1959), p. 3.

12. Roger Brooke Farquhar, "The Diary of Roger Brooke Farquhar," *The Montgomery County Story*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (November 1958), p. 9.

13. Roger Brooke Farquhar, *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Washington, DC: Roger Brooke Farquhar, 1962), p. 264.

"I have no feeling, *save of love*, for *any person anywhere*, nor do I feel that *any person owes me anything*, material or spiritual, or is under obligations to me; *all is fully paid*. I am conscious of never having *intentionally* wronged any one, although I may have done so by impulse, which I have continually striven, and with some success every year to overcome I therefore feel *at peace with Him and with the whole world*, and ready to depart at His *earliest summons*."

By 1875, six of Benjamin and Margaret's nine children were dead, the three in Alexandria back in 1831, a baby at seven months, Mary at age 25, and John Elgar on May 12, 1863, at age 27. But Benjamin and Margaret were cheered and comforted by their three living children and their 18 grandchildren.

Then, on May 1, 1875, after 51 years of marriage, Benjamin's cherished Margaret died. William Henry Farquhar, brother of Margaret and writer of the *Sandy Spring Annals*, said she "closed a long, useful and precious life."¹⁴ She must have been unusually able and energetic to have run a successful girls' school while producing nine children.

Henry Hallowell said the 76-year-old Benjamin missed Margaret terribly; life never was the same again for him. He had suffered from a chronic, painful disease for many years, and, by late summer of 1877, his body was growing weak. Yet he refused painkillers, wanting to die in peace and with a clear mind. He said his terrible sufferings were in accordance with fixed laws and must be right. He asked his children to smile and not weep, because God was with him, so all was bright and glorious for him. He died at 3:45 A.M., September 7, 1877, at age 78.

A throng of people gathered in the old brick meeting house at the edge of the forest in Sandy Spring to hear four Friends eulogize Benjamin Hallowell before he was gently laid to rest beside his beloved Margaret under a large poplar tree.

Tributes poured in, and glowing eulogies in newspapers as far away as New York praised his singular abilities as an educator, mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, and scientist. They mentioned his simple manners, his lack of pretension, and his outstanding religious devotion, benevolence, and integrity. His son, Henry, wrote of his "unselfish devotion to the highest views of usefulness," and Colonel T.H.S. Boyd was undoubtedly right when he said that Benjamin died "regretted and beloved by all who knew him."¹⁵ But probably the words that would have pleased him most were from the *Friends' Intelligencer* which described Benjamin Hallowell as the "ideal Friend."

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14. William Henry Farquhar, *Annals of Sandy Spring* (Baltimore, MD: Cushings and Bailey, 1884), p. 159.

15. T.H.S. Boyd, *History of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Clarksburg, MD: 1879; re-published Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Company, 1968), p. 96.

EPILOGUE

Henry C. Hallowell and his wife, Sarah M. Hallowell, operated a boarding school for girls at Rockland from 1878 to 1892.¹⁶ Henry followed in Benjamin's footsteps, lecturing, writing, and farming. He was a founder and long-time president of the Horticultural Society of Sandy Spring.

Rockland also served as a popular summer boarding house with its pleasant views and intellectual atmosphere. Benjamin would have been pleased to see the many lawn parties, weddings, dances, tennis matches, croquet tournaments, and horseback rides being enjoyed in those years there.

Rockland was sold out of the Hallowell family in 1941,¹⁷ and today it forlornly stands, boarded up and surrounded by grazing cattle, saved from demolition only by the efforts of local, preservation-minded people.¹⁸

16. Stabler, *op.cit.*, p. 10.

17. Roger Brooke Farquhar, *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland*, *op.cit.*, pp. 266-267.

18. Rockland is now on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

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