

# THE EDGE FAMILY

The Edge Family is English. They originally came from Cheshire on the north west coast. John Edge, the immigrant to America moved to Middlesex County just west of London where he was active in the Quaker Church. He came to Philadelphia to join William Penn's Colony for the religious freedom it afforded. His sister, Sarah Edge, married Thomas Bowater in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Their daughter, Sarah Bowater, married John Beals whose daughter Phoebe married Charles Canaday.

This is the relationship of the Edge family to my Canaday family. Details on the Beals and Bowater families have preceded this Edge family history.

I will begin this history with one Thomas Edge from Frodsham in Cheshire, England.

## THOMAS EDGE

Thomas Edge was born in Frodsham parish of Cheshire County, England in about 1548. Thomas married Ellen Pyke (Pike) on July 21, 1574 in Frodsham. Ellen was born there about 1551.

They had at least one child, Richard, who is our lineage. I know nothing more of Thomas and Ellen Edge at this time.

## RICHARD EDGE

Richard was born on March 15, 1580 in Great Barrow, Cheshire, England. On October 27, 1602, he married Alice Bushel at Frodsham, Cheshire.

Alice was a daughter of Ales Bushel according to one researcher. She was born in Frodsham on May 7, 1579.

Their children were:

**ALICE EDGE**

**HARRYE EDGE**

**ELLEN EDGE**

**JOHN EDGE**

**GEORGE EDGE.** George Edge is our lineage.

# GEORGE EDGE

George Edge was born on October 28, 1614, more than likely in Frodsham, Cheshire. He married in about 1646 or 1647. His wife's name was Joan, but no one seems to know her maiden last name. Their first child was born in October of 1648, so a marriage date of at least a year earlier is most likely.

George and Joan lived all their lives in Cheshire. They lived for a while at Little Barrow in Cheshire. His death is listed as May 23, 1675 in Whitley, Cheshire. I do not know when or where his wife Joan died.

They were the parents of eight children, including two sets of twins:

**JOHN EDGE** born December 20, 1648 in Little Barrow, Cheshire, England. His wife's name was Jane I believe. They were married in Middlesex, England. There are references to a 'Jean' Edge in the minutes of the Nether Providence Meeting in Chester County, so her name could have been either Jane or Jean. I have no record at all of her last name. The family first lived in Cheshire in the town of Little Mollington. This may have been where they were married. John Edge became an early follower of the Quaker faith and they moved to Middlesex County just west of London. In 1680 he was cited for not attending the Church of England for some thirteen months. He is reported in those proceedings as living in the Parish of St. Andrews, Holbourne, Middlesex. He was fined some 260 pounds. Shortly thereafter he was imprisoned at the jail at Newgate for ten weeks. Like many other English Quakers, John took up the invitation of William Penn to come join his colony in America and be free of religious persecution. In about 1685, he and his family sailed to Pennsylvania and settled in the Quaker settlement at Nether Providence in Chester County just south of Philadelphia. John Edge had earlier purchased 125 acres of lands from William Penn by deed of lease and release dated March 21, 1681/2. This was the land in Nether Providence where he settled. His home was used as a Quaker meeting hall in the 1695 to 1698 time period. In 1701 Jean Edge was named an overseer. I assume this was his wife. John himself was chosen for that post in March of 1706. Jean Edge was again chosen in November of 1706, and again in October of 1711 and in March of 1714. John Edge died July or August of 1711 at the age of about sixty five years. His will was dated July 10, 1711 and it was proved on August 20, 1711, so he died in that time period. I do not know when Jane or Jean died, but it was obviously later than 1714. Her position was taken over by a Rebecca Minshall on May 26, 1718. This may well have been right after her death. I don't know for certain. John and Jane Edge had five children.

**Martha Edge** was the eldest and she died in 1681 in Cheshire.

**Mary Edge** was born about 1668. She married James Sharpless in Nether Providence on March 3, 1697/8 and died the following month on April 17, 1698. James was the son of John and Jane Sharpless of Cheshire who came to Pennsylvania in 1682 and were original settlers in Nether Providence.

**Abigail Edge** married Edward Woodward on May 24, 1705. Edward was the son of Richard and Jane Woodward of Worcestershire, England. They were original settlers in nearby Thornbury Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

**John Edge Jr.** was born in Chester County in May 1685. He was married in October of 1709 to Mary Smedley daughter of George and Sarah Smedley of Middletown Township. The Smedleys were from Derbyshire in England. John died in 1734. Mary

later married John Yarnall on November 7, 1739. Mary died in 1772 and John Yarnall died in 1775.

**Jacob Edge** was born in Chester County on May 8, 1690. In 1712, he married Sarah Jones, daughter of Rees and Hannah Jones of Chester County. Jacob died on April 7, 1720. Their children were:

**Hannah Edge** who married John Lea.

**Jane Edge** who married first Thomas Parke and then James Webb.

**Abigail Edge** who never married.

**Sarah Edge** who died at age eleven.

**MARY EDGE** was born October 20, 1650.

**DANIEL EDGE** born October 29, 1652.

**JOSEPH EDGE** a twin born October 29, 1652. Joseph went to Pennsylvania, probably along with his brother John and that family. It doesn't seem that Joseph ever married. He was on the same grand jury as John in March of 1686/7 in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

**SARAH EDGE** born July 1657. Sarah is our line. She came to Pennsylvania in 1683 with her brother John Edge. Sarah married Thomas Bowater on August 14, 1686 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Their lives were told in the BOWATER FAMILY HISTORY.

**MARTHA EDGE** a twin born January 6, 1658/9. She died on August 24, 1673 in Cheshire, England.

**REBECCA EDGE** the other twin born January 6, 1658/9.

**NATHANIEL EDGE** born February 16, 1671.