

two-fourths of two full equal and undivided eighth parts of one full equal and undivided ninetieth part of ninety one-hundredths parts or shares of the Province of West New Jersey.\* Shortly after this, owing to the persecution to which the English Friends were subjected, and the fact that his daughter Hester had married John, son of Dr. Daniel Wills, one of the Proprietors of West Jersey, who was then living in Burlington County, Mr. Gardiner, with his whole family, immigrated to the town of Burlington. On his arrival he signed the "Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the Province of West New Jersey in America." This document was dated March 3, 1676, and subscribed by 158 persons, some of whom had signed in London on that date, and others in Burlington as they arrived in the province.†

He brought with him considerable estate, and immediately commenced the building of his dwelling-house, which, though made of logs, was of larger dimensions than any other among his neighbors, and was finished with more care and expense. In it, on the 28th day of the 6th mo. (August) 1681, was held the first yearly meeting of Friends in New Jersey. Before it was finished the Friends in Burlington held their meetings in a tent made of the sails taken from the vessels in which they crossed the ocean, but after that time the meetings generally assembled at his house until the completion of the "great Meeting-House." His subscription of £4 towards the building of it was the largest amount received.‡ "It was from y<sup>e</sup> house of Thomas Gardiner that y<sup>e</sup> horn was blown which convened y<sup>e</sup> Town Meetings," and he was doubtless one of the principal officers of the town. In 1680 his name appears in the Burlington court records as a freeholder and constable, but it is impossible to enumerate the offices which he held in other years, as the Town Book dates only from the year of his decease. His house, which was the most important in the early history of Burlington, was the second above Pearl, on the west

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\* Liber B B, West Jersey Deeds, p. 74.

† See Smith's *History of New Jersey*, and the original document at the Surveyor-General's office.

‡ Clement's *History of Newton Township*; James Boden's *History of Friends*; Minutes of Burlington Monthly Meeting.