

This not only infuriated his family, but also thoroughly upset the local gentry, particularly those who served as magistrates, and the church – the ‘Establishment’. Bray very publicly refused to pay his tithes, being fined several times for his pains; for a respected member of the landed gentry to have anything to do with Quakerism, let alone embrace and encourage it, was definitely beyond the understanding of his social equals. Bray must have spent much of his time in Court, appearing in 1661 for the first time for refusing to pay his tithes, for which he was duly fined. He continued to refuse to pay them right up until his death in 1695.

There exists a detailed record, in the Quaker Book of Sufferings, of the first time Doily was charged with refusing to pay his tithes:

*Bray Doily, being prosecuted in the Hundred Court for 13s demanded for Tithe, demurred to the Jurisdiction of the Court, as having no Right to take Cognizance of tithe; this he produc'd some Statutes to prove, and the Jury, desiring to inspect them, were forbid by the Steward of the court, who arbitrarily order'd them to go out, with Directions to find for the Plaintiff. They accordingly found 13s Debt and the cost. Whereupon the court order'd them out again and said, they must find treble Damages, which they would not do. Nevertheless the Court proceeded as if they had, and gave Judgement accordingly. The same Bray Doily had about the same Time two cows worth 7 l. taken on pretence of an Outlaw.*

In practice the Court took just one of his cows recorded as worth £3.10s.

Doily was arrested three times for attending Quaker meetings and, on the third occasion, it was at North Newington, in Lord Saye's own parish of Broughton. He came before Sir Thomas Cobb, the Adderbury magistrate who heartily loathed Doily – Cobb ‘had a mind to hasten his preparation for banishment’ – meaning transportation as the law required for three such offences. Doily had a powerful friend in Sir Thomas Chamberlain of Wickham, a senior magistrate, who commuted Bray's sentence to two months imprisonment, paid his fine and then had him released; this of course deeply upset Cobb.

The vicar, the Reverend William Beaw, complained bitterly to his bishop that Doily would only employ Quakers, also he would not only fill his cottages with Quakers but from outside the parish too. Doily's acceptance of Quakerism prompted William Fiennes, the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Saye & Sele, to put pen to paper, writing an open letter to Bray Doily in 1659 (printed by Oxford University Press in 1660) with the snappy title