

Bray Doyly died in Adderbury, a wealthy man; he was buried in the Parish Churchyard on 2nd September 1696;* presumably that was at the behest of his family. He had no surviving children so he left most of the, considerable, cash-in-hand to his two married nieces, the daughters of his brother Robert who had died that same year (they were actually unnamed in his will as he only mentioned their husbands by name). Of his five brothers and one sister only his youngest brother Edmund had survived; Bray left him an annuity for his lifetime, worth £30 a year, from a property in Neithrop on the outskirts of Banbury.

By 1746 there were about fifty Quaker families left in Adderbury and by the last quarter of the eighteenth century the local Quakers were in serious decline with only sixteen people attending on Census day in 1851: the men and women's meetings merged. Adderbury's Meeting House was officially closed in 1910; but one local lady, Sophie Fanny Buck (whose family lived at Ivy House next to the Old Vicarage) insisted that she should have a key to the Meeting House so that she could continue to 'attend' on her own. Sophie, in the twentieth century, and well into living memory, continued to dress in the early conventional Quaker manner with a long black skirt and top and black hat; which she did until the day she died in the Quaker twelfth month (December) 1945. Unusually for a Quaker she has a gravestone – it is the large one sited just to the east of the Meeting House; presumably her family, who were not Quakers, had it put in place.

Adderbury's Quaker Meeting House still had a role to play in the twentieth century – a bit-part in the last war. Believe it or not but the local authorities allocated two evacuee families from the London blitz to live in the Meeting House; in a very old building that had no water or electricity. One can only imagine the feelings of young Londoners dragged away from their homes in London finding themselves stuck in such primitive, rural conditions.

* The Right Reverend William Beaw, as he properly was by 1696, was not only the vicar of Adderbury, *in commendam* he was also bishop of Llandaff, near Cardiff in South Wales. He chose to live in Chepstow which was neither near Llandaff nor Adderbury so it would have been most unlikely that he would have known of Doyly's death or even that he was to be buried in his church at Adderbury. Beaw *in absentia* employed two curates to administer the, then, vast parish of Adderbury, who would, no doubt, have just got on with Doyly's funeral and burial, collecting the appropriate fees on the way. See 'The Church Militant, William Beaw...' *C&CH* 14.6 (Summer 1999).