Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.

George Fox, 1656
Take a walk through England and see the places George Fox and Margaret Fell lived and shared the message of Quakerism in its earliest days. You can still visit these places today, like Flat Fox and Fell did.
On the way to Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill is where George Fox had his vision of “a great people to be gathered.” In his Journal, Fox wrote, “As we went I spied a great high hill called Pendle Hill, and I went on the top of it with much ado, it was so steep; but I was moved of the Lord to go atop of it …”
The view from Pendle Hill

George Fox was 27 years old and had many questions about God and faith. On top of Pendle Hill, he experienced an opening of spiritual truth:

“I heard a voice which said, ‘There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition;’ and when I heard it my heart did leap for joy.”
George was invited to a place called Firbank Fell. There he found a people gathered together, and he preached to a crowd of over a thousand people on a hillside. They heard his message, and many decided to join with him. *The path he had found was the path they were seeking.*
George Fox began to share his discovery with more people. He walked the roads of Northern England, to find other people seeking a different way of living their faith. He found that many other people were also looking for deeper meaning in their lives, and a stronger connection to the Divine.

Many of these joined him. They called themselves Friends.
Saint Andrews Church in Sedbergh

Fox was thrown out of this church, and others, for interrupting the service to preach his message.

Not everyone welcomed George Fox’s message. It angered the priests in churches and others who liked the power they had, and did not want change. His message that God loves all his children equally threatened them.
Friends began to worship together in homes and other humble places, even a barn. These first meeting houses were very different from the decorated “steeple-houses” of most churches. Friends worshiped in silence, waiting to hear what God was saying to them. They believed they were trying to create the Kingdom of Heaven, here and now, by returning to a form of worship more true to what early Christians practiced.

Briggflatts Meeting is the second oldest meetinghouse in England. It was built in 1675 when it was still illegal for Quakers to worship together.
Fox visited Swarthmoor Hall, the home of Judge Thomas Fell and his wife, Margaret Fell. Fox preached at their home and at the village church nearby. His words opened Margaret Fell’s heart, and were an answer to her questions. She became a Friend, and her daughters became Friends, too.

Swarthmoor Hall became a meeting place and a haven for Friends.
Margaret Fell opened her heart and her home, and she organized and encouraged early Friends. We sometimes call her the “Mother of Quakerism” and later in her life she and Fox were married.

Margaret had the gift of hospitality, and you can still visit her home today and even stay overnight. All are welcome.
Swarthmoor Hall Today

There is a museum with dress-up clothes. You can pretend you are living in the time of Fox and Fell.

You can see Fox’s traveling trunk and bed that he used on many journeys.
Lancaster Castle (Prison)

Friends refusal to follow society’s customs landed them in trouble with the law. Local officials fined them and sometimes sent them to prisons such as Lancaster Castle, where they were treated harshly. Yet we know George Fox sang hymns as he was taken to prison, and there are many stories of Friends helping and caring for one another in hard times and places like prison.

*Their faith made them strong.*
Lancaster Meeting

The building in this picture replaced the original meetinghouse that was built in 1677. The Friends School in Lancaster was founded in 1690 and stood on the meetinghouse grounds.
Kendal Meeting

A new sign on an old meetinghouse. Quakers still worship here today. All are welcome!
We are part of a World Family of Friends

The testimony of Stewardship represented in the Faith & Play story “Love’s Way”
Where will you walk with Flat Fox & Fell?
Flat Fox and Fell:
Adventures with
George Fox and Margaret Fell

Photos and Story:
Sallie Welte
Candace Shattuck
Melinda Wenner Bradley

Learn more about:
George Fox
Margaret Fell Fox
Swarthmoor Hall
Quakers and Lancaster Castle
The Quaker Tapestry at Kendal

Faith & Play Stories, Inc. ©2020