2006

Gardina's "Quakers and Baptists in Colonial Massachusetts" - Book Review

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Thomas Macy, from Salisbury, was a Baptist who was fined for sheltering Quakers caught in a storm. This story is dramatically narrated by John Greenleaf Whittier in his poem *The Exiles*. Tristram Coffin had shown Puritans that he disagreed with their law against lay preachers. Edward Starbuck had been accused by the Puritans of professing anabaptism. These founders of the Nantucket British community moved to Nantucket for the sake of religious liberty, to escape the stifling atmosphere created by the Puritans. Then Peter Folger, who became the key figure of Nantucket after 1664, had become a Baptist in 1660. He was sympathetic to the Friends' philosophy and was the spiritual guide of Mary Starbuck, who founded the Quaker community in 1708. As the works of Roland Warren (Mary Coffin Starbuck and the Early History of Nantucket [1987]) and Robert Leach and Peter Gow (Quaker Nantucket [1997]) show, Baptist and Quaker history are entangled in the history of the island. And considering that Nantucket had a majority of Quakers in the eighteenth century, Nantucket history is an important piece in the puzzle of the United States' Quaker history and its relations with Europe.

So the success of the 1991 book is not surprising to me. A comparison between Quakers and Baptists in Colonial Massachusetts is not just a footnote to the United States' colonial history, and deserved to be done in depth. The reprint is most welcome.

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