

families of Major and Topcliffe, and among them the marriage on September 15, 1674, of William Topcliffe to Joanna Major,<sup>7</sup> with the baptisms of two of their children, Joanna on Nov. 21, 1678, and William on Oct. 15, 1683.

## VII.

The Friends' registers at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate street, London, contain no records of any children of Anthony Pearson<sup>8</sup> but do contain these:

Grace Pierson, late of Ramshaw, daughter of Thomas and Grace Lamplough and widow of Anthony Pierson, married at Shotton, Durham, July 1673 to James Hall.

Grace, daughter of James and Grace Hall, born Feb. 13, 1676.

Grace Hall married to Robert Chamber, of Shotton, Nov. 13, 1703.

## VIII.

According to the article on Anthony Pearson by Mrs. Charlotte Fell-Smith in the Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. XLIV, London, 1895, he was born in

(7) What more natural than that this Joanna Major should be the daughter of Joanna Pearson who, as shown above, married John Major? Still there is a chronological difficulty. Pearson is stated by his biographer to have been born in 1628, though no authority is given for the date. As he died in 1665, if born in 1628 he would be but 37 at the time of his death, an unreasonable youthfulness for the large part he took in the public affairs of his time; and he could not of course have been the grandfather of a person married in 1674, only 46 years after the date of his own birth. May there not be an error in the year of his birth?

(8) Pearson having, as we shall see, renounced Quakerism at the Restoration, the rules of the society exclude his name from the Friends' records. His wife however appears to have remained true to her profession. His children, as we shall see elsewhere, followed their father back into the church of England; hence the fact of there being no records of them, either, at Devonshire House.