

STORIES of New Jersey

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44 Chestnut Street, Newark, New Jersey

ELIZABETH HADDON

From England in 1701 a small wooden sailing ship set out on its two-month journey to America. On board was a young Quaker girl who was leaving her comfortable home in a London suburb to face the hardships of the long ocean trip and dangers of a strange new land where few white people lived. It was her plan to make a home in the wilderness where Quaker missionaries could rest from their travels and to be a nurse and teacher to the Indians. She decided this when she was very young, and Elizabeth Haddon did not change her mind despite the objections of her family.

John Haddon, Elizabeth's father, was a blacksmith who turned to the successful manufacture of anchors and ship supplies. Becoming more prosperous, he moved his family from Southwark, where Elizabeth was born in 1680, to the more healthy environment of Redriffe Parish not far from London. Three children, a boy and two girls, had been sacrificed to the diseases which bred in the dark, damp lanes of Southwark. In the new home, Elizabeth spent her girlhood in quiet play and study. Mrs. Haddon, who had been an accomplished musician on

the mandolin and spinet and a skillful embroiderer, did not teach these arts to her daughter. The Society of Friends, or Quakers, which Elizabeth's mother joined when she was married, considered such activities frivolous and forbade them.

The Society of Friends believed that men should not kill their fellow men even in defense of their country. Nor did they feel that they should raise their hats as a token of respect even to the King. One of their chief conflicts with the authorities arose over their refusal to pay taxes to support the Church of England, the official church of the kingdom. They disobeyed laws if their religion demanded and would never recognize the authority of the established church. The Quakers did not go unpunished.

John Haddon had seen members of his group dragged off to jail or flogged to death in the streets. He himself had been brought before the courts on several occasions and fined for attending Quaker meetings. In 1682, finally, the



Yew trees and boxwood brought from England by Elizabeth Haddon.

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