

Thomas Budd Biography

Thomas Budd

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Biography

Thomas Budd, a prominent seventeenth-century Quaker, was born in England but moved to New Jersey in 1668. He was active there as a proprietor for the Friends, particularly in Indian affairs, and in *Good Order Established in Pennsylvania & New Jersey in America ...* (1685), written during a trip to England in 1685, he recommended a comprehensive plan of public education which was largely adopted. A New Jersey town--Buddtown--was named after him.

In 1692, Budd became a chief supporter of George Keith, whose attempt to purify the Society of Friends through stricter membership rules and a more uniform orthodoxy created a massive upheaval in both England and America. Budd led several prominent colonial Quakers to secede from the Society of Friends and join Keith's Christian Quakers; he also wrote several works dealing with the resulting controversies. In 1692, amid a conflict involving the relationship of church and state, Budd, Keith, and Peter Boss were charged with seditious libel, convicted, and fined. Budd's account of the affair was published in *A True Copy of Three Judgments ...* (1692). Other polemical documents by Budd published in the same year are *A Brief answer to two papers procured from Friends in Maryland ...*; *A Just Rebuke to several Calumnies, Lyes and Slanders Reported against Thomas Budd*; *An Expostulation with Thomas Lloyd, Samuell Jennings, and the rest of the Twenty-eight unjust Judges ...*, by Budd and others; and *A Testimony and Caution to such as do make a profession of Truth who are in scorn called Quakers ...*, by Budd and John Hart. In 1693, Budd accompanied Keith to England, where their case was heard and rejected at the English Friends' Yearly Meeting; in the following year they and others reasserted their positions in *The Great Doctrines of the Gospel of Christ....* Afterward, Budd remained a schismatic, reiterating his opinions in "A Test for Truth Against Error" (written circa 1697) and eventually becoming a member of the Anglican church.