

The Lloyds and other Quakers founded the first General Hospital (1779) which was in Summer Lane. The present day Hospital Street is the only reminder of this.

Walk to the Bull Street end of Steelhouse Lane and then up Colmore Row. Go left into the Great Western Arcade 4 (closed on Sundays).

This was the site of the first Quaker Meeting House and burial ground. The land was purchased by Quakers in 1661 and later sold to the Birmingham and Oxford Railway when a tunnel was built from Snow Hill to Moor Street. In 1702 the Meeting House and Burial Ground were relocated to Bull Street.

Go right along Temple Row and pass through the Cathedral yard to the south west corner 5.

Elizabeth Pemberton nee Lloyd (1673-1711) lived in the area of Colmore Row and Temple Row, and was the first Lloyd to move to Birmingham. Charles Lloyd II (1637-98) had lived on a farm, Dolobran, in mid Wales but had been imprisoned for holding a Quaker Meeting and for refusing to swear an oath. His son Sampson (1664-1725) came to Birmingham in 1698. Sampson bought mills in the Digbeth area and set up in business as a manufacturer of metal goods in Edgbaston Street. He married Mary Crowley, the daughter of a Stourbridge Quaker ironmaster.



Quaker Meeting House, Steelhouse Lane. [WK.B11/4123]



Town Hall by H. Warren. [WK.Town Hall 41]

Birmingham was friendly to dissenters. The 'Five Mile' Act didn't apply in Birmingham, which was not a corporate borough until 1838. This act debarred non-conformist clergy from coming within five miles of a borough.

Walk down Waterloo Street to the junction with Bennetts Hill 6.

The building now labelled Midland Bank Limited was built for the Birmingham Banking Co. It was designed by Thomas Rickman (1776-1841) a Quaker architect who built churches across Britain. Samuel Galton III helped Rickman's firm to become established.

Continue on Waterloo Street to the Town Hall 7.

John Bright, Quaker MP for Birmingham, and Joseph Sturge (1793-1859) made speeches in the Town Hall. One particularly significant meeting took place on August 1st 1838. This date marked the end of the apprentice system in the West Indies, a campaign that had become personally associated with Sturge. To mark the occasion Sturge led a march of schoolchildren from the Town Hall to Heneage Street where he laid the foundation stone for the Negro Emancipation School. The Town Hall was important in terms of Sturge's campaigning, even though before it was built he spoke against it because it would be used for staging oratorios which he considered immoral.

Go into Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery 8.

Look out for the plaque depicting the Tangye Brothers on the bend of the main staircase. They were makers of pumps and engines. They helped to fund the setting up of the College of Art in Margaret Street as well as the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

At the top of these stairs is the fresco of a Birmingham street scene painted by Joseph Southall. Formerly, Quakers would not have seen any value in artistic representation but he and several other Quaker artists moved away from the earlier strict interpretation of simplicity. One of Charles Lloyd the Banker's children, another Charles, had his family portrayed by Constable.

In Gallery 22 there is a portrait of Joseph Sturge, painted after his death. It contains representations of his life as a student of the Bible, as a peacemaker and as an anti-slavery activist. His brothers John and Edmund were likewise anti-slavery activists. Another brother Charles managed the corn factoring business and was Mayor of Birmingham in 1862/63.

In the Industry Gallery look out for the last stained glass window on the left. It is a World War II memorial window by Nora Yoxall (1892-1998), another Quaker artist, and reflects how Quakers value service to others, rather than the glorification of war.



Fresco: Museum stairway. [Brighton Winsor, 2008]