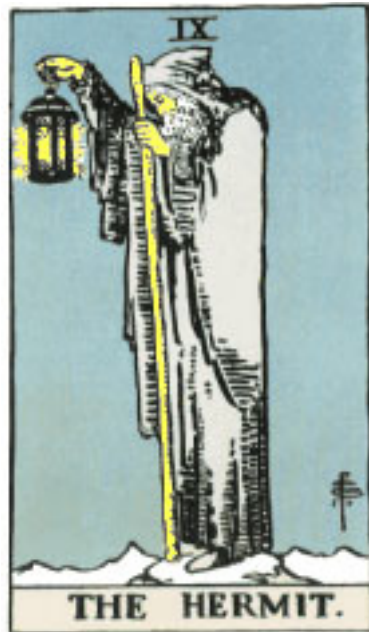


## FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY<sup>1</sup>



Written for a General Service, by  
him that truly and sincerely desires the present  
and eternal Welfare and Happiness of all Man-  
kind, all the World over, of all Colours, and  
Nations, as his own Soul;  
BENJAMIN LAY.

**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,  
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**

1. A silver cup, that had pertained to Benjamin Lay, was later in the possession of Roberts Vaux, Esq.



FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY

BENJAMIN LAY

GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM

1682

January 26, Thursday (1681, Old Style) [Benjamin Lay](#) was born in Colchester, England to [Friend](#) William Lay and [Friend](#) Mary Dennis Lay. With a twisted spine, he would reach an adult height of 4 feet 7 inches.

Table of Altitudes



Yoda	2 ' 0 "
Lavinia Warren	2 ' 8 "
Tom Thumb, Jr.	3 ' 4 "
Lucy (Australopithecus Afarensis)	3 ' 8 "
Hervé Villechaize ("Fantasy Island")	3 ' 11"
Charles Proteus Steinmetz	4 ' 0 "
<a href="#">Mary Moody Emerson</a> per FBS (1)	4 ' 3 "
Alexander Pope	4 ' 6 "
<a href="#">Benjamin Lay</a>	4 ' 7 "
Dr. Ruth Westheimer	4 ' 7 "
Gary Coleman ("Arnold Jackson")	4 ' 8 "
Edith Piaf	4 ' 8 "
<a href="#">Queen Victoria with osteoporosis</a>	4 ' 8 "
Linda Hunt	4 ' 9 "
<a href="#">Queen Victoria as adult</a>	4 ' 10 "
Mother Teresa	4 ' 10 "
Margaret Mitchell	4 ' 10 "
length of newer military musket	4 ' 10"
Charlotte Brontë	4 ' 10-11"
Tammy Faye Bakker	4 ' 11"
Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut	4 ' 11"
jockey Willie Shoemaker	4 ' 11"
Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec	4 ' 11"
<a href="#">Joan of Arc</a>	4 ' 11"
Bonnie Parker of "Bonnie & Clyde"	4 ' 11"
Harriet Beecher Stowe	4 ' 11"
Laura Ingalls Wilder	4 ' 11"
a rather tall adult Pygmy male	4 ' 11"
Gloria Swanson	4 ' 11"1/2
Clara Barton	5 ' 0 "





**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

Isambard Kingdom Brunel	5' 0 "
Andrew Carnegie	5' 0 "
Thomas de Quincey	5' 0 "
Stephen A. Douglas	5' 0 "
Danny DeVito	5' 0 "
Immanuel Kant	5' 0 "
<a href="#">William Wilberforce</a>	5' 0 "
Dollie Parton	5' 0 "
Mae West	5' 0 "
Pia Zadora	5' 0 "
Deng Xiaoping	5' 0 "
Dred Scott	5' 0 " (±)
Captain William Bligh of HMS <i>Bounty</i>	5' 0 " (±)
<a href="#">Harriet Tubman</a>	5' 0 " (±)
<a href="#">Mary Moody Emerson</a> per FBS (2)	5' 0 " (±)
<a href="#">John Brown of Providence, Rhode Island</a>	5' 0 " (+)
<a href="#">John Keats</a>	5' 3/4 "
Debbie Reynolds (Carrie Fisher's mother)	5' 1 "
Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher)	5' 1 "
Bette Midler	5' 1 "
Dudley Moore	5' 2 "
Paul Simon (of Simon & Garfunkel)	5' 2 "
Honore de Balzac	5' 2 "
Sally Field	5' 2 "
Jemmy Button	5' 2 "
Margaret Mead	5' 2 "
R. Buckminster "Bucky" Fuller	5' 2 "
Yuri Gagarin the astronaut	5' 2 "
William Walker	5' 2 "
<a href="#">Horatio Alger, Jr.</a>	5' 2 "
length of older military musket	5' 2 "
the artist formerly known as Prince	5' 2 1/2 "
typical female of Thoreau's period	5' 2 1/2 "
Francis of Assisi	5' 3 "
Voltaire	5' 3 "
Mohandas Gandhi	5' 3 "
Sammy Davis, Jr.	5' 3 "
Kahlil Gibran	5' 3 "





BENJAMIN LAY

FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY

GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM



Friend Daniel Ricketson	5 ' 3 "
The Reverend <a href="#">Gilbert White</a>	5 ' 3 "
Nikita Khrushchev	5 ' 3 "
Sammy Davis, Jr.	5 ' 3 "
Truman Capote	5 ' 3 "
Kim Jong Il (North Korea)	5 ' 3 "
Stephen A. "Little Giant" Douglas	5 ' 4 "
Francisco Franco	5 ' 4 "
President <a href="#">James Madison</a>	5 ' 4 "
<a href="#">Iosef Vissarionovich Dzugashvili "Stalin"</a>	5 ' 4 "
Alan Ladd	5 ' 4 "
Pablo Picasso	5 ' 4 "
Truman Capote	5 ' 4 "
Queen Elizabeth	5 ' 4 "
<a href="#">Ludwig van Beethoven</a>	5 ' 4 "
Typical Homo Erectus	5 ' 4 "
typical Neanderthal adult male	5 ' 4 1/2 "
Alan Ladd	5 ' 4 1/2 "
<a href="#">comte de Buffon</a>	5 ' 5 " (-)
<a href="#">Captain Nathaniel Gordon</a>	5 ' 5 "
Charles Manson	5 ' 5 "
Audie Murphy	5 ' 5 "
Harry Houdini	5 ' 5 "
Hung Hsiu-ch'üan 洪秀全	5 ' 5 "
Marilyn Monroe	5 ' 5 1/2 "
T.E. Lawrence "of Arabia"	5 ' 5 1/2 "
average runaway male American slave	5 ' 5-6 "
Charles Dickens	5 ' 6? "
<a href="#">President Benjamin Harrison</a>	5 ' 6 "
<a href="#">President Martin Van Buren</a>	5 ' 6 "
<a href="#">James Smithson</a>	5 ' 6 "
<a href="#">Louisa May Alcott</a>	5 ' 6 "
<a href="#">Johann Wolfgang von Goethe</a>	5 ' 6 1/2 "
<a href="#">Napoleon Bonaparte</a>	5 ' 6 1/2 "
Emily Brontë	5 ' 6-7 "
<a href="#">Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</a>	5 ' ? "
average height, seaman of 1812	5 ' 6.85 "
Oliver Reed Smoot, Jr.	5 ' 7 "



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**



minimum height, British soldier	5 ' 7 "
<a href="#">President John Adams</a>	5 ' 7 "
<a href="#">President John Quincy Adams</a>	5 ' 7 "
<a href="#">President William McKinley</a>	5 ' 7 "
<a href="#">"Charley" Parkhurst (a female)</a>	5 ' 7 "
<a href="#">Ulysses S. Grant</a>	5 ' 7 "
<a href="#">Henry Thoreau</a>	5 ' 7 "
the average male of Thoreau's period	5 ' 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
<a href="#">Edgar Allan Poe</a>	5 ' 8 "
President Ulysses S. Grant	5 ' 8 "
President William H. Harrison	5 ' 8 "
President James Polk	5 ' 8 "
President Zachary Taylor	5 ' 8 "
average height, soldier of 1812	5 ' 8.35 "
President Rutherford B. Hayes	5 ' 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
President Millard Fillmore	5 ' 9 "
<a href="#">President Harry S. Truman</a>	5 ' 9 "
President Jimmy Carter	5 ' 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
<a href="#">Herman Melville</a>	5 ' 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "
Calvin Coolidge	5 ' 10"
Andrew Johnson	5 ' 10"
Theodore Roosevelt	5 ' 10"
Thomas Paine	5 ' 10"
Franklin Pierce	5 ' 10"
<a href="#">Abby May Alcott</a>	5 ' 10"
Reverend <a href="#">Henry C. Wright</a>	5 ' 10"
<a href="#">Nathaniel Hawthorne</a>	5 ' 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
Louis "Deerfoot" Bennett	5 ' 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
<a href="#">Friend John Greenleaf Whittier</a>	5 ' 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
President Dwight D. Eisenhower	5 ' 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
<a href="#">Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots</a>	5 ' 11"
<a href="#">Sojourner Truth</a>	5 ' 11"
President Grover Cleveland	5 ' 11"
President Herbert Hoover	5 ' 11"
President Woodrow Wilson	5 ' 11"
President Jefferson Davis	5 ' 11"
<a href="#">President Richard Milhous Nixon</a>	5 ' 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
<a href="#">Robert Voorhis the hermit of Rhode Island</a>	< 6'



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

<a href="#">Frederick Douglass</a>	6 ' (-)
Anthony Burns	6 ' 0 "
<a href="#">Waldo Emerson</a>	6 ' 0 "
<a href="#">Joseph Smith, Jr.</a>	6 ' 0 "
David Walker	6 ' 0 "
Sarah F. Wakefield	6 ' 0 "
<a href="#">Thomas Wentworth Higginson</a>	6 ' 0 "
President James Buchanan	6 ' 0 "
President Gerald R. Ford	6 ' 0 "
President James Garfield	6 ' 0 "
President Warren Harding	6 ' 0 "
President John F. Kennedy	6 ' 0 "
President James Monroe	6 ' 0 "
President William H. Taft	6 ' 0 "
President John Tyler	6 ' 0 "
John Brown	6 ' 0 (+)"
President Andrew Jackson	6 ' 1"
<a href="#">Alfred Russel Wallace</a>	6 ' 1"
President Ronald Reagan	6 ' 1"
Venture Smith	6 ' 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> "
<a href="#">John Camel Heenan</a>	6 ' 2 "
Crispus Attucks	6 ' 2 "
President Chester A. Arthur	6 ' 2 "
President George Bush, Senior	6 ' 2 "
<a href="#">President Franklin D. Roosevelt</a>	6 ' 2 "
President George Washington	6 ' 2 "



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

Gabriel Prosser	6 ' 2 "
Dangerfield Newby	6 ' 2 "
<a href="#">Charles Augustus Lindbergh</a>	6 ' 2 "
President Bill Clinton	6 ' 2 1/2 "
President <a href="#">Thomas Jefferson</a>	6 ' 2 1/2 "
President Lyndon B. Johnson	6 ' 3 "
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.	6 ' 3 "
Richard "King Dick" Seaver	6 ' 3 1/4 "
President Abraham Lincoln	6 ' 4 "
Marion Morrison (AKA John Wayne)	6 ' 4 "
Elisha Reynolds Potter, Senior	6 ' 4 "
Thomas Cholmondeley	6 ' 4 " (?)
<a href="#">Franklin Benjamin Sanborn</a>	6 ' 5 "
Peter the Great of Russia	6 ' 7 "
<a href="#">Giovanni Battista Belzoni</a>	6 ' 7 "
<a href="#">Thomas Jefferson</a> (the statue)	7 ' 6 "
Jefferson Davis (the statue)	7 ' 7 "
Martin Van Buren Bates	7 ' 11 1/2 "
<a href="#">M. Bihin, a Belgian exhibited in Boston in 1840</a>	8 ' "
Anna Haining Swan	8 ' 1 "



**NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT**





**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1731**

Having very much worn out his welcome in the Barbados by describing white slavemasters there as “proud, lazy, tyrannical, gluttonous, drunken, debauched ... the Scum of the infernal Pit,” [Benjamin Lay](#) relocated his family to the North American continent.

[Perhaps at this point we may digress and speculate, as to the manner in which a person with a twisted spine might find himself led to empathize with human beings who –because they are slaves– have been obliged to lead stunted and twisted lives. Discuss.]

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?  
— NO, THAT’S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN’S STORIES.  
LIFE ISN’T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**





**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1736**

September: A “little hunchback” named [Benjamin Lay](#), 54 years old, who had relocated his family from the Barbados to Pennsylvania because of his fear of “the Evil and the Danger” of the institution of [human enslavement](#), sat in the quarterly meeting for business of the [Religious Society of Friends](#), in Concord near Philadelphia:

*9th Month, 1736, as I sat in Concord Meeting House, it was their Quarterly Meeting; I may say it was a sweet and comfortable time to me; it came into and arose in my mind, in Love of Truth, that if our Slave Keepers had been, or now would be faithful to God, the Truth, and would bring up their Negroes to some Learning, Reading and Writing, and endeavour to the utmost of their power in the sweet Love of Truth to instruct and teach 'em the principles of truth and righteousness, and learn them some Honest Trade or Imployment and then set them free; and all the time Friends are teaching them let them know that they intend to let them go free in a very reasonable time: and that our Religious Principle will not allow of such Severity, as to keep them in everlasting Bondage and Slavery.*

Friend Benjamin found that the response from other [Quakers](#) was to accuse that

*I loved the Negroes better than I did my Friends.*

However, Friend Benjamin was able to persuade the local printer [Benjamin Franklin](#) to run his material opposed to [human enslavement](#) through the presses. Franklin, you see, although he bought and sold negroes, and owned them himself for his personal use, was a believer in freedom of the printer, and had no objections to running any sort of materials through his printing presses, as long as this met with the stipulations of his personal religion (that is to say, that it was **paid for in full and in advance**).

**THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**





**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1737**

The press of [Benjamin Franklin](#) in Philadelphia printed ALL [SLAVE](#) KEEPERS THAT KEEP THE INNOCENT IN BONDAGE... for the author, [Friend Benjamin Lay](#).

Written for a General Service, by  
him that truly and sincerely desires the present  
and eternal Welfare and Happiness of all Man-  
kind, all the World over, of all Colours, and  
Nations, as his own Soul;  
BENJAMIN LAY.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT**

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**BENJAMIN LAY****FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY****GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

ALL  
SLAVE-KEEPERS  
That keep the Innocent in Bondage,  
*APOSTATES*

Pretending to lay Claim to the Pure  
& Holy Christian Religion ; of what Congregation  
so ever ; but especially in their Ministers, by whose  
example the filthy Leprosy and Apostacy is  
spread far and near ; it is a notorious Sin, which  
many of the true Friends of Christ, and his pure  
Truth, called *Quakers*, has been for many Years,  
and still are concern'd to write and bear Testimo-  
ny against ; as a Practice so gross & hurtful to Re-  
ligion, and destructive to Government, beyond  
what Words can set forth, or can be declared of  
by Men or Angels, and yet lived in by Ministers  
and Magistrates in *America*.

*The Leaders of the People cause them to Err.*

Written for a General Service, by  
him that truly and sincerely desires the present  
and eternal Welfare and Happiness of all Man-  
kind, all the World over, of all Colours, and  
Nations, as his own Soul ;

BENJAMIN LAY.

---

PHILADELPHIA:  
Printed for the AUTHOR. 1737.



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1741**

According to John F. Watson's ANNALS OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA,<sup>2</sup> the Philadelphia-area hermit [Benjamin Lay](#), who had been characterized not only as an "eccentric person" but also as "the singular Pythagorean, cynical, Christian philosopher," and who had been dwelling in a cave on the York road at Branchtown, near Dr. De Benneville's, in this year left his [hermit](#) cave:

and went to reside with John Phipps, near Friends' meeting house at Abington.



2. Watson, John Fanning. WATSON'S ANNALS OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA, A COLLECTION OF MEMOIRS, ANECDOTES, AND INCIDENTS OF THE CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS AND OF THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS OF THE INLAND PART OF PENNSYLVANIA FROM THE DAYS OF THE FOUNDERS INTENDED TO PRESERVE THE RECOLLECTIONS OF OLDEN TIME, AND TO EXHIBIT SOCIETY IN ITS CHANGES OF MANNERS AND CUSTOMS, AND THE CITY AND COUNTRY IN THEIR LOCAL CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS. Written between 1830 and 1850, published 1857



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1742**

According to John F. Watson's ANNALS OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA, [Benjamin Lay](#), who had been characterized not only as an "eccentric person" but also as "the singular Pythagorean, cynical, Christian philosopher," during the Friends General Meeting of this year:

stood in the market place, with a large box of his deceased wife's China, to bear his testimony against the use of tea! There with a hammer he began to break his ware piece by piece, but the populace, unwilling to lose what might profit them, overset him, scrambled for the China, and bore it off whole!

**THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**





**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1750**

William Williams, Sr. depicted the reclusive [Friend Benjamin Lay](#) in oil on a mahogany panel.



As we can see above, the depiction has Lay as standing in front of the grotto that served him as a study, holding Thomas Tryon's tract advocating healthful living.

In addition to his day duties at the Friends' English School in Philadelphia (this would become the William Penn Charter School), [Friend Anthony Benezet](#) set up an evening class for slave children which he ran from his own home.



The result of this would in 1770 be the Negro School at Philadelphia. From at least this decade, Friend Anthony would be firmly opposed to slavery. Initially, he was alone in such sentiments. He had a lot of work to do, if he wanted convince his Quaker brethren that slaveowning was inconsistent with their Christian doctrine.





**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

Quakers and the “American Revolution”:



Pennsylvania Quakers ... experienced significant harassment for their pacifism and neutrality. Their numbers were already greatly reduced by the disciplinary renaissance of the 1750s, and they faced a real schism from “Free Quakers,” who both supported the Revolution and rejected pacifism. As a result “orthodox” Friends found themselves hunted down in a colony they had founded and long governed. In May 1776 a stone-throwing mob forced Philadelphia Friends to observe a fast day that the Continental Congress had proclaimed. A Berks County mob shackled and jailed Moses Roberts, a Quaker minister, until he posted a \$10,000 bond guaranteeing his “good” behavior. Philadelphia patriots also exiled seventeen Friends to Virginia in 1776 for nearly two years so they would not interfere with revolutionary activities. Patriots celebrating the surrender of Cornwallis in October 1782 ransacked Quaker homes that had not displayed victory candles.

**DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.**



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

**1759**

February 3, Saturday: According to John F. Watson's ANNALS OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA, the 77-year-old [Benjamin Lay](#), who had been characterized not only as an "eccentric person" but also as "the singular Pythagorean, cynical, Christian philosopher," became suddenly ill while about a mile away from the home of John Phipps near Friends' meetinghouse at Abington, Pennsylvania, where he had been living, and was taken into the dwelling of his friend Joshua Morris where he died:

He was the first public declaimer against the iniquities of holding slaves. He was in communion with the Germantown Friends. It is to the honour of the German Friends of Germantown, that as early as 1688 they addressed the Philadelphia [Yearly Meeting](#) at Burlington, "protesting against the buying, selling, and holding men in slavery, and declaring it, in their opinion, an act irreconcilable with the precepts of the Christian religion."

**JOHN F. WATSON, I, 1855**

**JOHN F. WATSON, II, 1857**

**"MAGISTERIAL HISTORY" IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY**





**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"  
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



**Prepared: November 29, 2014**



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

*ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT*

*GENERATION HOTLINE*



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**

Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.  
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**



**BENJAMIN LAY**

**FRIEND BENJAMIN LAY**

**GO TO MASTER HISTORY OF QUAKERISM**



**BENJAMIN LAY**

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