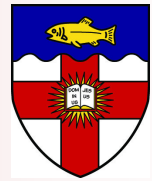


Centre for Baptist History and Heritage Studies

Re-sourcing Baptist History: Seventeenth Century Series Volume 1

William Kiffen and his World (Part 1)



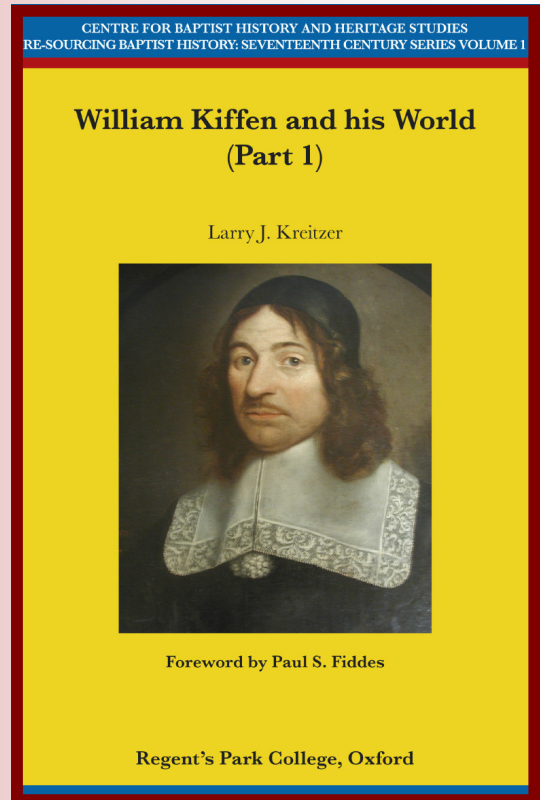
By Larry J. Kreitzer

The London merchant William Kiffen (c.1616–1701) is commonly regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Particular Baptists in London. For over sixty years Kiffen played a significant role in the complex world of the 17th century, with its volatile mix of religion, politics and commerce. He established himself in the early 1640s as the leader of a Baptist congregation, became an important contact for the Cromwellian Commonwealth and Protectorate, and was intimately involved in the political manoeuvrings of the royal courts of Charles I, Charles II, James II and William III. This volume seeks to explore several aspects of Kiffen's life which have not hitherto been given the attention they deserve, and offers ten specific studies which concentrate on key primary sources.



This is the first in the
**Centre for Baptist History and Heritage
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Seventeenth Century Series**

Larry J. Kreitzer is Tutor of New Testament and Tutor for Graduates at Regent's Park College, Oxford. He holds a Research Lectureship within the Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford, and is a member of the Society of New Testament Studies.



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'Kiffen was probably the best connected of the early Baptist leaders. MP for Middlesex from 1656–58, he was in contact with successive governments from Oliver Cromwell to William III. A merchant of substantial wealth, he was master of the Leathersellers' Company 1671–72 and a royal nomination as Alderman of the City of London in 1687. In Baptist life he was a principal spokesman for those Particular Baptists who opposed open membership. The first Baptist to write an autobiography, his portrait at Regent's Park College is one of the earliest likenesses we have of a Baptist leader. A man of such importance deserves all the care that Dr Kreitzer brings to his written remains as a skilled textual critic well experienced in handling New Testament texts.'

John H.Y. Briggs, Professor Emeritus, the University of Birmingham and Research Professor, the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague, Czech Republic

'In this, the first in a multi-volume study of the leading Particular Baptist, William Kiffen, Dr Kreitzer exemplifies what can be achieved through painstaking archival research. He has unearthed a wealth of material previously unknown to Baptist scholarship which necessitates the reappraisal of this key early Baptist figure, and sets a new benchmark for future Baptist historical studies.'

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'This work by Larry Kreitzer on William Kiffen is of immense significance for an understanding of the Baptist story in the seventeenth century. The ten studies in this volume, concentrating on primary sources, shed a great deal of new light on a central Baptist figure.'

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