

= John Halifax , Gentleman (1910 film) =

John Halifax , Gentleman is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film is the first film adaptation of Dinah Maria Mulock Craik 's popular novel John Halifax , Gentleman and stars Martin Faust as John Halifax . The film focuses on John Halifax , an orphan who is taken in by a rich Quaker , Abel Fletcher . After a period of five years , John has become a foreman and he and Fletcher 's invalid son , Phineas , have become good friends . Despite Fletcher 's objections , John takes Phineas to the theatre . The trip is too much for Phineas and John carries him home , Fletcher becomes irate and drives John out of the house . Fletcher is soon confronted a mob of workers after closing the mill and throws the bags of grain into the river . John saves the life of Fletcher and his son and marries Ursula , the daughter of the richest man in town . The production credits are unknown , but the film was not directed by Theodore Marston . The film was released on December 2 , 1910 and was met with mixed reviews . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from December 3 , 1910 . It states : " John Halifax , an orphan , trudges to town to make his fortune . There he is befriended first by Ursula March , the daughter of the richest man in town , who gives him food , and later by Abel Fletcher , a rich Quaker . Fletcher 's invalid son takes a great fancy to John , and through his influence John is employed in his father 's mill . After five years of faithful work , John has risen to the position of foreman . He and Fletcher 's son , Phineas , had become fast friends . Against the wishes of his father , Phineas persuades John to take him to a theatre . The trip proves too much for the invalid , and John carries him home from the theatre in a fainting condition . Fletcher is furious with John , and drives him from the house . About this time there is a great discontent at the mill , among the workmen . Fletcher decides to close it down . After six weeks of starvation , the workmen and their families come in a crowd to the mill and demand that they be given the grain which is stored there . Rather than accede to their demands , Fletcher hurls the bags of grain into the river . This so infuriates the mob that they try to set fire to the mill and put an end to Fletcher . Unable to control the mob , John helps Fletcher , his son and Ursula , to escape . Finally he wins Fletcher 's consent to compromise with the men . Realizing that he owes his property and life to John , Fletcher asks his forgiveness for his former harsh treatment . John becomes Fletcher 's adopted son and wins Ursula for his bride . "

= = Cast = =

Martin Faust as John Halifax
Frank H. Crane
William Russell
Violet Heming

= = Production = =

The production and an adaptation of Dinah Maria Mulock Craik 's popular novel John Halifax , Gentleman . Originally published in 1856 , it would be reprinted numerous times and established itself as a " classic " over the passing decades . At the time of the film 's production Craik 's works were very familiar to audiences . The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil or Lucius J. Henderson . Sometimes the directional credit is given to Theodore Marston . The apparent origin of this error is from the American Film @-@ Index 1908 ? 1915 . Film historian Q. David Bowers consulted one of the co @-@ authors of the book , Gunnar Lundquist ,

and confirmed that the credit of Marston was in error . Theodore Marston worked with Pathé , Kinemacolor , Vitagraph and other companies , but there is no record of Marston working with Thanhouser . This error has persisted in several works including The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film . Cameramen employed by the company during this era included Blair Smith , Carl Louis Gregory , and Alfred H. Moses , Jr. though none are specifically credited . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions .

The only known cast credits are for Martin Faust , Frank H. Crane , William Russell and Violet Heming . The other cast credits are unknown , but many 1910 Thanhouser productions are fragmentary . In late 1910 , the Thanhouser company released a list of the important personalities in their films . The list included G.W. Abbe , Justus D. Barnes , Frank H. Crane , Irene Crane , Marie Eline , Violet Heming , Martin J. Faust , Thomas Fortune , George Middleton , Grace Moore , John W. Noble , Anna Rosemond , Mrs. George Walters . Bowers lists this as the first known credit of William Russell , formerly of the Biograph Company . Russell would become one of the most important actors of the company until his final departure in 1913 . It is not the earliest known appearance by Russell , as he is shown in a film still of A Thanksgiving Surprise .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on December 2 , 1910 . The film likely had a wide national release , advertising theaters are known in Pennsylvania , Michigan , Kansas , and Indiana . The film is cited by The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film as the earliest adaptation of John Halifax , Gentleman .

The film was received conflicting reviews by both The Moving Picture World and The New York Dramatic Mirror . The reviewer for the World said , " This well known story is rendered into a motion picture in a way that will please the most exacting The picture proves that a good rendering of even an old story is attractive . The audience apparently delights in the character of John Halifax . He is quite as good on the curtain as he is in the book , and there he has always been a favorite . The different parts are played to perfection . The character of the daughter and the ill son are both faithfully reproduced and seem to live before the audience . " The Mirror reviewer The film is not as well acted as Thanhouser pictures usually are . The strict character of the old Quaker is insufficiently expressed and is apt to leave the audience to guess why John is ordered out , and the strike scene is far from impressive . The mob to a man wave their sticks incessantly , instead of portraying intense rage as should have been done . " Bowers noted that the Mirror was not a neutral party in respect to the works of the Independent producers .