

**Certificate respecting James Graham and  
William Armstrong, from Long Island, 1717.<sup>1</sup>**

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James Graham, the sōne of William Graham, of Sikeside, in the Borders of England, in the County of Cumberland, was born in the yeare of our Lord 1684; And his parents, being honest friends, was carefull to give him good education, and to traine him up in the way in which he Should walke; and as he grew in yeares he grew in inocency. And his mother dyeing when he was but younge, She expressed her love to him in a great degree. And being dutyfull to his father and of an exemplary life amongst the youth where ever he went, his father allowed him great Liberty amongst honest friends whose company was very desireable to him; & dilligent he was in attending meetings, and carefull alsoe to walke answerably out of Meetings.

And in the one and twentieth yeare of his age the Lord gave him a gift of the Ministry, which was not with inticeing words of Mans Wisdome but in the power and demonstration of the spirit; and what he had to deliver many times was but Short, yet often soe much in the life and power that it had a reach over the meeting and a great place in the hearts of honest friends in his own Country and place of abode. And haveing a concern upon his Spirit at divers times to vissit friends in Severall places in this Jsland of Great Brittain, which in the unitty of friends he performed to his Comfort and Satisfaction; but that which mostly had remained as a concern upon his Spirit was to vissitt friends in America, and the Service to him Seemeing weighty, he patiently waited to See his way cleare, & much desired a sutable companion to goe along with him. And being inclinable to alter his Condition unto a married life, and proceeding according to the good order established amongst friends, he tooke Abigaell Story, the daughter of Christopher Story, to wife. And the concern still remaineing with him to vissitt friends in America, he was most free and easy in his minde,

<sup>1</sup> From an ancient MS. in the possession of Thompson Wigham, of Carlisle.

before he intangled himselfe with the affaires of this life to vndertake that Journey, And if it was the will of the Lord to performe that Service, and haveing the full vnitty and consent of ffriends and relaçons, he with his Companion, William Armstrong,<sup>2</sup> tooke Shipping at Whitaven, in Cumberland, about the begining of the 2<sup>d</sup> Mo<sup>th</sup>, 1716. And y<sup>e</sup> ship goeing to Dublin to receive passengers and other necessaries for there Journey, they had the privilege to be at there halfe yeares meeting, and to see friends to there comfo<sup>t</sup> and consolation, and from thence Sailed fo<sup>r</sup> Pensilvania, and all arrived Safely there in the . . . . mo<sup>th</sup>. And after some timie they sett forward to vissitt friends upon the maine Land of America, and by divers Certificats from friends and letters from perticulars, we have accoumpts (on this wise) that they preached the Gospell of our Lord Jesus X<sup>t</sup> faithfully to the comforting, Strengthening, & establishing of those that Love & feare God; and perticularly from the Yearely meeting in Flushing on Long Jsland, which was very large and peaceable. “ And there conversation (Say they) hath been amongst us in much plainness, meeknes & Love, in the peaceable Spirit of ou<sup>r</sup> Lord & Saviour Jesus X<sup>t</sup>, Soe that there Sweet life & powerfull Ministry hath made them very neare & deare unto us whilst amongst us, in which Love we part with them, praying to Almighty God to keep & preserve them in the same life and love unto the end,” &c., which Certificate from y<sup>e</sup> yearely meeting in Long Jsland was Signed by 40 friends; and amongst other accounts that we have received, we here [? insert] a Cobby of what was written and Signed at the seventh dayes meeting of Ministers in Philadelphia in Pensilvania.

#### THE LONG ISLAND CERTIFICATE.<sup>3</sup>

To ffriends in the County of Cumberland in Great Brittain or elsewhere, Greeting.

<sup>2</sup> William Armstrong was born on the border of Scotland and brought up a Presbyterian; he was convinced in 1690. He died in 1721, aet. 58. See *Piety Promoted; Christopher Story*, 1726, pp. 59, 60; *Thomas Story*, p. 658.

<sup>3</sup> From the original in the possession of Thompson Wigham, of Carlisle.

This is to certifie you all to whom these presents may come, that our dear friends, William Armstrong & James Graham, that came from the County of Cumberland abovesaid, have lately travailed about amongst us and visited most of our meetings, and have preached the Gospell of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully, to the comforting, strengthning & Establishing of those that fear & love God, and particularly in this our yearly Meeting, which hath been very large & peaceable ; and their conversation hath been amongst us in much plainness, meekness, and love, in the peaceable Spirit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, so that their sweet life and powerfull ministry have made them very near & dear unto us, whilst amongst us, in which Love wee part with them, praying unto Almighty God to keep and preserve them in the same life & love unto the end, to the honour and glory of his own great name, and to the comfort of his people, and to their own Eternall Joy and consolation.

Signed at our Yearly Meeting in Flushing on Long Island, the 27 day of the 3<sup>d</sup> month, 1717.

OBEDIAH LAURENCE  
 NATHANIEL SEAMAN  
 FRANCIS DOUGHTY  
 THOMAS TOWNSEND  
 JAMES CLEMENT  
 JOHN BOWNE  
 JOSEPH THORNE  
 JOSIAH QUINBY  
 JAMES CHICHESTER  
 THOMAS FERRINGTON  
 JOHN GRIFFIN  
 MATHEW FARRINGTON  
 JOHN ALLISON  
 ELIAS DOUGHTY  
 THOMAS FIELD  
 JOSH<sup>A</sup> LOW  
 JAMES COCK  
 HUGH COWPERTHWAITTE  
 ROBERT FIELD  
 SAMUEL BOWNE

JNO. RODMAN  
 SAMUELL BOWNE, jun.  
 ADAM MOTT  
 JOHN GRIFFEN, iuner  
 W<sup>M</sup>. BURLING  
 JOHN MOTT  
 CHARLES DOUGHTY  
 JOSIAH HUNT  
 JOHN RODMAN, junior  
 THOMAS GAILE  
 WILLIAM WILLIS  
 JOHN RYDER  
 JOSEPH LATHAM  
 RICHARD SEMAN  
 HENRY COCK  
 JOHN TITUS  
 THOMAS PEARSALL  
 JAMES JACKSON  
 BENIEMINE HOURLAND  
 (HAVILAND)  
 EDWARD BURLING