

## The Testimony of Kendal Meeting Concerning Grace Chamber, Deceased, 1763.

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Grace Chamber (1676-1762) was a daughter of James Hall, of Monk Hesledon, Co. Durham, and his wife, Grace, widow of Anthony Pearson, J.P. She married Robert Chamber, of Sedgwick, near Kendal, in 1703. Letters from Grace Chamber to Thomas Story (1715), Joshua Toft (1743), and James Wilson (1753) are preserved in D., where are also letters to her from Benamina Padley (1724) and Samuel Bownas (1751).

The dates in the Registers do not quite agree with the age at death as stated in the Testimony.

This our Honourable, ancient friend whose Maiden name was Grace Hall was born at Monkhesledon in the County of Durham of reputable parents, and whilst young was virtuously inclined and when she grew up became a young woman of a strict exemplary Life and Conversation, remarkable for her plainness and simplicity in Apparel Manners and Deportment, being endowed with a good understanding and Benevolent Disposition.

About 60 years ago she was married to Robert Chamber a substantial friend of this Monthly Meeting who died not long since with whom and her friends she lived in perfect Harmony exerting her self to the utmost of her power to be serviceable in her day w<sup>ch</sup> gained her an extensive acquaintance amongst fr<sup>ds</sup> and others having occasionally free access to severall familys of Distinction in this and other parts of the nation to whom her affectionate visits were acceptable and of service and from whom she mett with that Civil and Courteous behaviour w<sup>ch</sup> was due to one possessed of her amiable Qualities. She had Considerable skill in surgery and in administring relief in many disorders, w<sup>ch</sup> she did without fee or view to reward and was much devoted to visitt the sick and those under affliction to whom she was greatly helpful, her openness and generosity to her fr<sup>ds</sup> and Hospitality to the poor were very remarkable of w<sup>ch</sup> many are witnesses.

Nor did her views terminate here for near 50 years ago she came forth in a publick testimony in w<sup>ch</sup> tho she was not Large yett truly acceptable to fr<sup>ds</sup>, and sometimes travelled abroad in that service and its worthy of being remark t that she was never known to be more strong and lively in her testimony than in the latter part of her time when her bodily strength was so much decayed that it was with Difficulty she could gett out to meetings, but having been exemplary in this and other respects she continued in and maintained her integrity to the Last. When far advanced in years and attended with infirmity's w<sup>ch</sup> accompany old age, she bore all with Christian patience and resignation to the allwise disposing Hand and finished a well spent Life accompany'd with an evidence of a future

well being at her House at Sidgwick near Kendal aforesaid, the 22<sup>nd</sup> 9 mo<sup>th</sup> 1762, and was decently interred in ffr<sup>ds</sup> burying Ground at Preston Patrick the meeting she belonged to the 26<sup>th</sup> of the same aged 85 having been a minister about 50 years.

Signed in and on behalf of our Mo Meeting held at Kendal in Westmorland 5/5 mo'th 1763

By

ISAAC WILSON  
 JAMES WILSON  
 THO<sup>s</sup> REBANKS  
 RICHARD SILL  
 NATHAN LEIGHTON  
 THO<sup>s</sup> GAWTHROP  
 JOHN HARRISON  
 ISAAC RIGG  
 JO<sup>s</sup> AIREY  
 DANIEL HAW [HORNE]  
 JOHN PACE  
 JOHN HARRISON [HARNSON]  
 THO<sup>s</sup> FFARRER  
 WILL<sup>m</sup> ALDERSON  
 THO<sup>s</sup> BLAMIRE  
 ISAAC MORLAND  
 THO<sup>s</sup> HARRISON  
 EDWARD HARRISON  
 THO<sup>s</sup> FFELL  
 JOSEPH COOPER  
 THO<sup>s</sup> CREWDSON  
 GEORGE BENSON  
 THO<sup>s</sup> KENDAL  
 JOHN MOORE  
 BENJAMIN FFRYER  
 WILL<sup>m</sup> WILLIAMSON  
 BENJAMIN DANSON  
 GEORGE STEWARDSON

DEBORAH LEIGHTON  
 RACHEL WILLSON  
 ELIZ<sup>a</sup> CREWDSON  
 ELIZ<sup>a</sup> DODGSON SEN<sup>r</sup>  
 JANE CROSFIELD  
 RACHEL CREWDSON  
 MIRIAM BOWEN  
 AGNES COPELAND  
 ANN ROWLANDSON  
 MA REBANKS  
 ABIGAL SMITH  
 MARY WAKEFIELD  
 ISABEL ROBINSON  
 RUTH SEAMEN  
 SARAH AIREY  
 ELLIN<sup>r</sup> KILNER [KILVER]  
 HANNAH PEARSON  
 ANN AIREY  
 HANNAH ATKINSON  
 ANN WILLIAMSON

Read & approv'd at our  
 Quarterly Meeting held at  
 Kendal in Westmorland, by  
 adjournment, the 5/5 mo<sup>th</sup>  
 1763 & signed in & by order  
 of the same by

ISAAC WILSON.

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I have heard an anecdote of an American Friend, who, being present at a meeting for discipline, held about that period [1790], and hearing a young man complained of for taking too active a part, remarked: "If it was not for the old men, the young men would set the house on fire; and if it was not for the young men, the fire would go out."

William Tanner's *Lectures on Friends in Bristol and Somersetshire*, 1858, p. 140.