

## A Journey of Margaret Fox into Yorkshire, 1672

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THE journey here described by Rachel Fell belongs to a period of the life of Margaret Fox of which little appears. Her husband had left for America in the previous autumn, shortly after her discharge from Lancaster Castle, and we may presume that the time of his absence was one of comparative freedom from persecution for the residents at Swarthmoor Hall, which would enable M. Fox to help forward the Quaker movement by both pen and presence. Her youngest daughter, Rachel (*aft.* Abraham), then about nineteen, accompanied her on this journey.

The manuscript is a portion of the collection of the late James Midgley, of Rochdale, now deposited in D., and known as the Cash Collection.

wee Wente from Swarthmore the 19<sup>th</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> 2 month 1672 from swarthmoore to John Moors<sup>1</sup> that day 03<sup>2</sup> miles a metien there on the 1 day from thence on the 22 day of the same month to Cealle houes<sup>3</sup> 12 miles hade meeting there from thence to Bouten bridge<sup>4</sup> 6 mills from thence to thomas Goodhear[t]<sup>5</sup> of the forest 6 milles ameten there from thence to Peter Hadcastell<sup>6</sup> 4 milles

<sup>1</sup> John Moore resided at Eldroth in the parish of Clapham, N.W. Yorks. His wife was Mary, daughter of Thomas and Anne Camm. Their daughter Eleanor travelled extensively in the ministry (d. 1725). See *Camb. Jnl.* ; *Jnl. F.H.S.* ii. 35, ix. 203, x. 221.

<sup>2</sup> 03 must be an error for 30. The distance from Eldroth to Swarthmoor is given at the close of the MS. as 27 miles.

<sup>3</sup> *Scalehouse* is some four miles north of Skipton. A General Meeting was held here in 1658 of Friends from ten northern counties. Richard Scosthrop (1628-1661) was a native of this district. See *F.P.T.*

<sup>4</sup> Bolton *Bridge*, on the river Wharfe.

<sup>5</sup> The name *Goodheart* has not been found in the Yorkshire Registers or in Besse's *Sufferings*. *The forest* was probably the forest of Knaresborough.

<sup>6</sup> Peter Hardcastle (d. 1692) resided at Hartwith in the parish of Kirkby Malzeard, a small place in the Nidd Valley. Other members of the same family lived around.

from thence to Repone 6 miles thence to Hoske<sup>7</sup> 7 miles from thence to Borebee<sup>8</sup> 4 milles ameten there from Borebee to Stocksle [Stokesley] 10 miles from thence to Hamelltone<sup>9</sup> 4 milles ameten there from Hamelltone to Lasienbee<sup>10</sup> 5 milles from thence to Gisbroah 3 milles from thence to Leuerton<sup>11</sup> 5 milles had a meetien theare from thence to Lethe [? Lythe] 7 miles to Whitbee 3 milles a meetien there from thence to Carbroe [Scarborough] 12 milles had ameatien theare—from thence to Borlinton Key a metien there 12 miles from thence to Octon 8 milles thence to Mollton 11 miles thence to Thornton 6 miles ametien there thence to Molton agene 6 milles thence to Yorke 12 milles had ametien there thence to Tadcaster 8 milles ametien there thence to Leedies 10 milles a metien there. Thence to Harigate 10 milles ameatien there from there to Wilfm Readshaw<sup>12</sup> at Beckwithshaw 2 miles, from thence to Eadon<sup>13</sup> 7 miles ametien there thence to Josaway dosones<sup>14</sup> 7 milles from there to Edwarde Watekines<sup>15</sup> 7 thene to Ellderah 11 milles from thence to Swarthmore 27 milles on the 7 day of the 3 month 72.

<sup>7</sup> Perhaps intended for *Thirsk*—the distances before and after seem about right for this town. Friends have held property here since 1666. See *F.Q.E.* 1903, 353.

<sup>8</sup> *Borrowby* lies north of *Thirsk*. See the map of Yorkshire Meetings in J. W. Rowntree's *Essays and Addresses*. It was a considerable Quaker centre (*Jnl. F.H.S.* ii.).

<sup>9</sup> East and West Hambleton are small places west of Guisborough and near the present Nunthorpe railway station.

<sup>10</sup> *Lazenby* lies to the north-east of the last-named place and Guisborough south-east of *Lazenby*. John Whitehead declared Truth through these parts about twenty years before M. Fox's visit. (*F.P.T.*)

<sup>11</sup> *Liverton* became early a Quaker centre. It had seven surrounding places under its care (*Jnl. F.H.S.* ii. 75).

<sup>12</sup> Beckwithshaw is in the parish of Pannal. Readshaw's wife, Jane, died in 1667 and was buried at Scotton. The next year he married Ann Spence. William and Ann may have removed to Leeds; there is a record in the Registers of the death of William Readshaw in that town in 1703, and of his widow, Ann, in 1711, aged eighty-one.

<sup>13</sup> Perhaps, *Yeadon*.

<sup>14</sup> That is, *Joshua Dawson*, of Addingham (on Rachel Fell's lack of education, see *Jnl. F.H.S.* ix. 138).

<sup>15</sup> Probably *Watkinson*. There were Friends of this name residing at or near Scalehouse.

[Endorsement]

A Memorand<sup>m</sup> of a Journey Taken by my Honour'd Grand Mother Margr<sup>t</sup> ffox Into some parts of Yorkshire. Taken down (I see) by my D<sup>r</sup> Mother who had gone with my Grand Mother being her Youngest Daughter.

J. ABRAHAM.

Robert Barclay writes :

“ When I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them which touched my heart ; and, as I gave way unto it, I found the evil weakening in me and the Good raised up.”

*Apology*, prop. xi. sect. vii.

Eighth month 20, 1894. Met with a person to-day who had great respect for Friends and wanted to know about the way to become a member, to which I replied that it took a good deal to make a Friend and more to keep him when he is made. We could not manufacture them but when the Lord made them we wanted to own them.

*Joseph S. Elkinton*, 1913, p. 332.

In the year 1826, Richard Jordan in the Q.M. at Haddonfield [N.J.] spoke in a prophetic manner, describing what would happen to our Society in that place, closing with, “ If these things are not so, the Lord hath not spoken this day to me.” Job Haines, a Friend who had hitherto travelled with Richard Jordan and been in close unity with him for many years, spoke to him after meeting, stating that the communication had been very painful to him. Richard Jordan replied, “ I am not sensible that I have said any more or less than my Master bid me.” R. J. did not live to see the fulfilment of what he had declared, but Job Haines did, and would relate the above circumstance with tears, saying he had learned it was as important for Elders to mind their business as Ministers theirs.

*Joseph S. Elkinton*, 1913, p. 73.

James Daniel,<sup>1</sup> a Minister of Salem Q. M., being out on a religious visit, was at a meeting where he spoke very closely to an individual tainted with a spirit of unbelief ; said he could lay his hand on the man and said moreover that he had a book on infidelity in his pocket. It afterwards proved that there was an individual present toward whom Friends had extended much labor, and who had at that very time one of T. Paine's works in his pocket.

*Joseph S. Elkinton*, 1913, p. 40.

<sup>1</sup> See THE JOURNAL, x.