

Stranger Friends Visiting Scotland, 1650-1797

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1669

JOHN ABRAHAM of Manchester,¹ JOHN COX of York and JAMES HALLIDAY of Allartowne were present at the first recorded General Meeting of the Society in the South of Scotland, held at Edinburgh in the Fourth Month of this year, when a list of men Friends having been drawn up and various Monthly and Quarterly Meetings instituted, it was further "generally agreed wpon . . . that the two generall meetings the one of the north the other of the south meet at one generall meeting the first forth day of the 4th mon: 1670: at Edin^r." ² When the case of a Friend at Lessudwine came before the meeting, who had "twrned aside from the trwth & Loved this present world, the Love of God & the power of his Life stired in the hearts of freinds towards him generalie at present fowr freinds viz. James Halliday, John Cox, patrick Livingstone & George Keith [all Friends not belonging to Edin^r Q.M.] offered to goe visit him and w^t the consent of the meeting are to goe & retwrn ane answer to the nixt Monthly Meeting." ² Later in the year James Halliday travelled extensively in the North of Scotland and the Orknèy Isles.³

1670

JOHN COX and JAMES HALLIDAY both took part in the proceedings of Edinburgh Quarterly Meeting for Fourth and Sixth Months of this year.²

1671

SAMUEL CATER of the Isle of Ely visited Scotland in the autumn,⁴ and in the Eleventh Month he seems to have been a prisoner at Montrose "for the Testimony of Truth."⁵ The name of LEONARD FELL of Lancashire occurs as witness to a Friends' marriage at Drumbwy in Ninth Month.²

1672

JOHN COX, ESTHER BIDDLE, MARGARET FALSIT were all present at the Monthly Meeting at Aberdeen in Sixth Month, "in our new meeting house"; and a fortnight later, JOHN HAYDOCK and JAMES SYKES, two Lancashire Friends, were present when the meeting for worship continued from ten in the forenoon to nearly five in the afternoon, after which, the record adds, there was "no meeting abt affairs."³

1673

JOHN TYSO of London, and THOMAS ATKINSON "in the Duchy of Gloucester" [*sic*] were at Aberdeen Mid-Monthly Meeting in the Sixth Month, and, two months later, JOHN COX and RICHARD HUBBERTHORNE.³

1674

JAMES HALLIDAY attended the Yearly Meeting at Edinburgh; THOMAS DOCKRAY of Cumberland was at the Quarterly Meeting there in Sixth Month,² and afterwards was imprisoned in Aberdeen for thirteen weeks.⁶ (He visited Scotland five times in the course of his life.) SOLOMON ECCLES of London,^{2, 3} THOMAS FERN (probably Fearon) preached and warned "opposers of truth" in Aberdeen.⁶

1675

WILLIAM SEIGSWIECK and THOMAS ATKINS, two Friends "living near Yorok" were at Aberdeen.³

1677

JOHN WATSON was a prisoner at Aberdeen in the autumn.⁶

1678

CHRISTOPHER STORY of Cumberland and EDMUND WINN of Yorkshire visited Scotland together in Second Month. "The first meeting we had in that nation was at Allassudin [Lessudwyn near Kelso], where Walter Scott lived, that had been early convinced, and suffered for truth; and being a man of an estate, the meeting was kept in his house. But when we came, he refused to have the meeting in his own house, or to go to it where it was in another friend's house in the town, alledging, that

meetings were but a form, and every man might worship God as well in his own house as in a meeting ; and so withdrew himself. Both he, and several of his children that were once hopeful, forsook Truth and Friends, and the meeting was lost afterwards.”⁷

JAMES HALLIDAY attended Edinburgh Yearly Meeting and was one of four Friends who were willing to go to the next Monthly Meeting at Bimerside for the purpose of endeavouring to heal the breach among Friends at Lessudwyn.² ISABEL FELL of Swarthmoor was reported to be “on her way to Scotland” in Fifth Month.¹

1679

PETER FEARON and GEORGE ROOKE, both of Cumberland.¹⁴ These were probably the two worthy Friends who, it is recorded, traversed Scotland this year on foot “by the advice of that eminent elder George Fox,” because the Covenanters being then in open rebellion, the travellers would in all probability have been deprived of their horses : “And so following their master’s business in the innocency of the Truth, they were preserved and visited the meetings of Friends without much interruption or disturbance and had comfortable opportunities with them who were glad of their visit, having suffered greatly by the armies.”⁸

1680

ELIZABETH HUNTINGDON of Cumberland, and FRANCES LIDDLE were together visiting Friends in Scotland for three months early in the year. The former died shortly after her return home, “aged little more than 22.”⁹ CHRISTOPHER STORY.⁷

1681

JOHN BURNYEAT and PETER FERN (probably Fearon),³ GEORGE ROOKE.⁶ ROBERT WARDELL of Sunderland was at Edinburgh in the Ninth Month.²

1682

JAMES HALLIDAY,^{2, 3} ROBERT WARDELL.³

1683

JAMES DICKINSON and a young man belonging to a Meeting on the Scottish border journeyed on foot through-

out Scotland. They proceeded as far as Aberdeen, where they met with GEORGE ROOKE and ANDREW TAYLOR of Cumberland. Whilst they were at Aberdeen, they had a meeting on board a ship containing Friends bound for New Jersey.¹⁰

1684

JOHN BURNYEAT and JOHN TIFFIN of Cumberland visited Scotland together.¹⁰

1685

PETER FEARON and JOHN TAYLOR of Cumberland,³ the latter is said to have "travelled three or four times" in Scotland.

1687

JAMES FLETCHER of Lancashire visited Friends throughout Scotland.¹¹

1688

RICHARD ASHBY of London,³ ELIZABETH DICKINSON of Cumberland,⁹ WILLIAM FELL.³

1690

JOHN BAIN, a young man who died at Ury in the autumn whilst visiting Friends there. PETER FERN,³ JAMES DICKINSON, "and another Friend." "It was a time when there were great troubles in the nation, but the Lord preserved us in every way."¹⁰

1691

CHRISTOPHER STORY and THOMAS BLAIR were at Glasgow in Fourth Month, where they were barbarously abused; proceeding to the house of Hew Wood, a worthy ministering Friend at Hamilton, gardener to the Duke there, they penned an account of their sufferings, entitled *A Looking-glass for the inhabitants of the town of Glasgow.*⁷ JAMES HALLIDAY and ROBERT WARDELL were at a meeting in Glasgow in Ninth Month, whence they, with other Friends, were haled to prison, and in the evening the two English Friends were driven "out of the town although it was dark night."² ROBERT BARROW and JOHN THOMPSON of Westmorland; the former was at Kingswells, near Aberdeen, in Eleventh Month, whence he wrote a letter telling of the sufferings of Friends at

Glasgow.¹² TIMOTHY TOUNSON and WILLIAM FELL both of Lancashire.³

1692

JOHN BOWSTEAD of Cumberland,¹³ LEONARD FELL and his companion TIMOTHY HARRISON,^{2, 3} GEORGE ROOKE,¹⁴ ROBERT WARDELL.² THOMAS RUDD of Yorkshire, “who had a testimony through the streets and towns in Britain was put in prison in Ed^r (by on bailzie Chartres through the instigation of the priests) . . . but was let out the next day.”² THOMAS STORY of Cumberland, who also travelled extensively in Scotland this year, gives some interesting particulars of Thomas Rudd’s proceedings. It appears that the good man “had been several Times through the City and Colleges of Edinburgh, crying *Wo to the Sandy Foundation* with some other Words of the like Import.” Then as the Friends were about to leave Edinburgh after attending the Quarterly Meeting there, “the Concern returned upon Thomas Rudd to go again thro’ the City; and, after great Exercise and Travel in Spirit, he became willing, and went: And the most of his Message was in these Words, *Ho! all People; O All be warned this Day, to fear before the Lord, the mighty God of Heaven and Earth; and every one turn from the Evil of your Ways.* He had a Voice suited to the Measure of his Words, with an innocent Boldness in his Countenance, frequently lifting his Right-hand towards Heaven as he passed along, which was with a slow and grave Pace.” After his commital to the Tolbooth, Thomas Story and other Friends visited him there, supped with him and had a religious opportunity in “an Apartment made of Deal, called the *Quakers High-Room*, made by Friends in Time of greater Persecution for their own Convenience.” From Edinburgh, Thomas Rudd, Thomas Story and John Bowstead proceeded to the North of Scotland as far as Inverness, the two latter Friends sharing more or less in Thomas Rudd’s “Concern.”¹³ THOMAS WILSON, in company with JAMES DICKINSON, both of Cumberland, on their return from a visit to America, landed in the Highlands of Scotland and thence travelled home by land.¹⁰ JEAN HALL,³ BENJAMINE BROWN, “a deep man of experiences.”^{2, 3}

1693

THOMAS STORY, JOHN BOWSTEAD and THOMAS RUDD having returned to Ury early in First Month, parted company, T. R. revisiting Aberdeen, whilst the two other Friends proceeded to Leith and Edinburgh, and afterwards travelled through the West of Scotland, where they were rejoined by Thomas Rudd and had many stirring adventures.¹³ JOHN CARLISLE of Carlisle was at a meeting in Glasgow in Fifth Month, "and as he was att prayer there Came some young men who stoped his mouth and put a hat upon his head & last of all Caryed him by y^e arms down stairs unto y^e Close still praying as they Caried him and then they let him go & we satt down again."² GEORGE HALL and JAMES HALLIDAY were in Glasgow in Fifth Month, when, as the "Record of Sufferings" tells us, "We few in this place and some country friends w^t James haliday and Georg Hall from England [there were seventeen Friends in all, four of them women] being mett together two men Caled Elders with severall toun oficers came upon us who said they had orders from the magistrats to drag & draw us out to the streets q^b they did very violently & qⁿ they had brought us to y^e streett they seemed to leav us to y^e will of y^e rable but we said if y^e magistrats have sett you upon us yⁿ take us to y^m & not leave us to be abused by y^e rable yⁿ on of y^e Elders went befor us unto y^e provest and shewed him y^t he had been skealing [*i.e.* breaking up] y^e Qwakers meeting . . . & when he saw us Coming near him he sought to go away but on of us said is this to protect us, to send & drag us out and leave us to the hands of a Cruel rable, yⁿ he commanded y^e oficers to put us in prison y^e q^b they did in a naisty backe room . . . [where] there was not [any] seat . . . but y^e neasty floor."² REUBEN SATTERTHWAITE,⁹ GEORGE KNIPE and JAMES WYLDMAN, "three worthy young men in the service of the Gospel."³

1694

JONATHAN TYLER, MARY ROBINSON and MARGARET STORDIE.³ "A very worthy English woman Friend [HELEN STOCKDAILL] who had a singular presence of the Lord attending her."³ "A very honest ancient friend

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from Cork" JASPER TREGOES,³ THOMAS WILSON and WILLIAM GREENUP.¹⁰

"Dear JOHN GRATTON (an ancient and worthy friend) with his honest companion THOMAS ALDAM "were at Aberdeen Quarterly Meeting in Sixth Month"³: whilst ROBERT HILL, "an English Friend," had been there the previous month, and visited Edinburgh afterwards.³ PETER GARDNER "of Suffolk, a weighty man of a discerning spirit," had many remarkable meetings amongst Friends in the North of Scotland. He was taken ill of small-pox on his way home and "laid down the body" at Carlisle early in the following year. WILLIAM HYNDS and HENRY PAYTON of Worcestershire were at Aberdeen in Fourth Month; and JAMES LEECH of Berwick in the Eleventh Month.³ THOMAS WILSON and WILLIAM GREENUP.¹⁰

1695

"Dear Ancient LEONARD FELL . . . once again come to visit and Incourage [Friends] in the Ancient Spring of Life" with NICHOLAS JACKSON as companion. "Also two honest young men of Cumberland," named THOMAS WILKINSON and WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, the latter "a Scotsman born and of Scots parents."³ JASPER TREGOES.¹⁵

1696

REUBEN SATTERTHWAITE of Lancashire and GEORGE KNIPE of Lancashire travelled in Scotland together.⁹ ANTHONY SHARP of Dublin visited Scotland, probably during this year.¹⁴

THOMAS STORY accompanied by HENRY ATKINSON, "a very tender and hopeful young Man, but had not appeared in a publick Ministry; though Truth was working in him towards it."¹³

1697

JEAN AINSLEY and JEAN ROBINSON from Yorkshire,³ ELIHU JOHNSON and his companion JOHN BARTINSLE from Lancashire,³ AARON ATKINSON and WILLIAM ARMSTRONG from Cumberland.³ "Our dear friend DANIEL MONRO and his dear wife" [MARGARET] from London were the bearers of "an offering of love" from

the "London Correspondents" and another Scottish Friend for poor Friends in the North, there being "deep sufferings of many in Scotland by reason of a great scarcity of corn."³

1698

The following Friends, most of whom were "publick," were at Aberdeen in the course of the year: "MARY GREENHOW (maiden name Robinson) and her companion JANET LATIMER from Cumberland: dear JOHN CARLYLE YOR & JOHN TAYLOR, both publick: ELIZABETH WHITBY & ANN ORD from Yorksh. both publick: dear GERSHON BOOT [Boat] & JOSHUA NORTHBOLT from Ireland both publick: WILLIAM HORNOWLL of London and SAMUELL HUNT of Nottingham both publick: two sweet young lads on foot two brothers both publick friends called JONATHAN and THOS. HARRISONS; the 1st a Cumberl^d & the 2^d Northumberl^d Fr^d: two honest frinds from Cumber^d, Ancient DAVID PALMER & young JONATHAN OSTELL: two Yorsh. young men TIMOTHY TOWS and JOHN NESS; two worthy precious frinds from Cumberland GEORG BEWLY of Hyvegill & WILLIAM GREENOCK [Greenup]; 2 Fr^{ds} from Yorkshire JOHN RICHARDSON & his comp. SAMUELL PINDAR: honest CHRISTOPHER STORY of Cumb^d & his wife [BRIDGET]"³ This year probably SAMUEL BOWNAS of Westmorland and ISAAC ALEXANDER visited Scotland. "We set forward on foot," says Samuel Bownas, "visiting part of Cumb^d in our way, and I thought Isaac had very fine service, so much superior to mine that after him I was afraid to lessen or hurt what good he had done, & before him I was afraid to stand in his way."¹⁶

JOHN FOTHERGILL paid a general visit to Friends in Scotland ". . . And tho' we met with abusive Treatment in several Places, especially at Glasgow and Edinburgh, by the mobbish part of the People disturbing Friends Meetings, by casting Stones or any other matter at hand amongst them, which was a very frequent practice and continued many Years, yet we were preserved from any material Hurt."¹⁷

1699

SAMUEL WATSON of Yorkshire travelled in Scotland with his daughter MERCY and "an innocent Friend"

named JANET STOW.⁶ JAMES DICKINSON, accompanied by JONATHAN BURNYEAT, a lad of little more than twelve years of age, of whom James Dickinson remarks, "As he was very young and had not travelled in Truth's service before, a concern fell upon me for his preservation every way. The Lord was kind to us and bore up our spirits in all our exercises." They were at the Yearly Meeting at Edinburgh and suffered much from the violence of the mob. "A concern came upon Jonathan Burnyeat to write a warning to the inhabitants of that place which was afterwards put in print."¹⁰ HENRY MOLLINEUX and DANIEL RIGBY from Lancashire and JOSEPH PENINGTON of Cumberland "on a visit of Love."³ MARY MITCHELL of Sussex and SARAH RAYN of Yorkshire; the former fell sick of the small-pox at Aberdeen and died.³

WILLIAM F. MILLER.

To be continued.

- ¹ Maria Webb's *Fells of Swarthmoor Hall*, 1865.
- ² MS. Records of Edinburgh Yearly Meeting.
- ³ MS. Records of Aberdeen Yearly Meeting.
- ⁴ *Account of Stephen Crisp*, 1694, p. 38.
- ⁵ Joseph Smith's *Catalogue*.
- ⁶ *Jaffray's Diary*.
- ⁷ *Life of Christopher Story*, 1820.
- ⁸ *A Collection of Testimonies*, 1760.
- ⁹ *Piety Promoted*.
- ¹⁰ *Journals of Thomas Wilson and James Dickinson*, 1847.
- ¹¹ *The First Publishers of Truth*, pp. 148-151.
- ¹² *Collectitia*, pp. 365-366.
- ¹³ *Journal of Thomas Story*, 1747.
- ¹⁴ Ruddy's *History*, 1751.
- ¹⁵ *Journal of the F.H.S.*, x. 163.
- ¹⁶ *Life of Samuel Bownas*.
- ¹⁷ *Life of John Fothergill*, 1753.

the 24 of $\frac{2}{m}$ 1678.

John Ellson, Cotton Gadd, Thomas Ma[t]hewes and W^m Parker ar desired to aqwaynt the ffrynds of the bull & mouth meeting that Seuerall Poor resorts to this qwarter whom they cannot in Concience suffer to want that they desyre that they would soe consider off it as to lend a helping hand in this & such lyke cayses.—Minutes of Peel M.M. (in D.).