

Stranger Friends Visiting Scotland, 1650-1797

Concluded from vol. xii., p. 181

1751

WILLIAM BROWN, Philadelphia, "who had with him JOHN PEARSON of Pardshaw, Cumb^d, but not Publick." JOHN CHURCHMAN from Pensylvania, SUSANNAH FOTHERGILL. MARGARET HARTLEY, Yorkshire, JOSEPH HARWOOD, Manchester, MATTHEW MELLOR. JOHN PEMBERTON, Philadelphia, ALICE ROUTH, Wensleydale, RUTH SEAMAN, Kendal.¹ These names, and most of those which follow, are taken from a record of "Visits of Publick Friends to Kelso Meeting" which was commenced in 1749 by Charles Ormston, the third Friend of that name in succession, and was kept up until the Meeting died out towards the close of the century. There are very few other records of the names of "Stranger Friends" to be found in the very imperfectly kept minute books of Edinburgh Yearly Meeting during the latter part of the eighteenth century.

1752

CATHERINE PAYTON, Worcestershire, accompanied by MARY ABBOTT, Northamptonshire.¹ Kelso was the first meeting visited, where, writes Catherine Payton, "my spirit was sorely distressed on account of Truths being almost forsaken by its professors, who are but few in that town." Journeying to Edinburgh, they had several public meetings by the way, one at North Berwick, "where I knew not that any meeting of Friends had been held before. We had a dark spirit in some to encounter before we could get a place to meet in, but at last we got a large granary. . . . There came many people and I admired at the solidity of their behaviour." At Linlithgow, where there was no longer any Friends' Meeting, "we got a small meeting in an inn with the town's people which was low though not quite dead." Of Edinburgh Meeting she sadly remarks that the state

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of the few professors of Truth there was "most distressing, a libertine spirit having carried away the youth, and an easy indifferent one prevailing amongst those farther advanced in years." At the conclusion of a very depressing narration, Catherine Payton remarks, "And here I may note to the honour of Scotland that in all the time I was in it I do not recollect hearing an oath or a curse uttered, except the word 'faith' might be accounted an oath." "Alas for England," she adds, sorrowfully.² PHEBE DODGE from Long Island, "who had for her companion BETTY SHAW, daughter of the late Hew Shaw, Gardener, of Durham Meeting, but not publick."¹ ABRAHAM FULLER, accompanied by THOMAS WILY, a young man of Cork, "not publick."³

1753

ELIZABETH BURR, Northamptonshire, with MARY REBANKS as companion "but not publick." WILLIAM LITTLE, Newcastle, GEORGE WAKEFIELD, Shields, EDWARD WALTON.¹

1754

This year the names of only two Ministering Friends appear in the Kelso Records, and neither of them can be described as "strangers":—ROBERT HARVEY from Old Meldrum in the North parts of this Nation," and MAY DRUMMOND.¹

1755

MARY JAMES from Pennsylvania, and ANN SUMMERLAND, Colebrookdale.¹

1756

JOHN ALDERSON, Westmoreland, accompanied by ANTHONY SAUL, Cumberland, the latter "not publick," SAMUEL NEAL from Ireland, accompanied by THOMAS CREWDSON, Kendal, "though not himself publick."¹ Samuel Neale seems to have visited all of the few Friends remaining in Scotland. At Edinburgh, he writes, "The meeting [on First-day] ended to more contentment than I expected, considering the wide and distant walking of some from the principle they profess." Of Friends at Ury he sorrowfully records, "The apostacy is glaring in this part of the world." At Inverary [Inverury],

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however, they had two "solid good meetings," and at Old Meldrum they found "a sensible body of those concerned at heart for the growth and increase of the Truth."⁴

1757

WILLIAM IMPEY, Saffron Walden.¹

1759

ANDREW BRADLEY, ABIAH DARBY and ANN SUMMERLAND, all of Colebrookdale, EDWARD WALTON.¹

1760

RALPH BAINBRIDGE "of Cornwood," ANDREW BRADLEY, JAMES KING, Newcastle,¹ JOHN STEPHENSON, Stockton-on-Tees, GEORGE WAKEFIELD, Shields,^{1, 5} THOMAS WARING, Herefordshire, CUTHBERT WIGHAM, Cornwood.¹

1761

JOSEPH JACKSON, Allendale, CUTHBERT WIGHAM, and THOMAS DOBSON, Carlisle, "not publick."

1764

HANNAH BROUGHTON, Norfolk, and MARIEN BOWMAN, Crook, near Kendal, "went through all the meetings in Scotland." MABLE WIGHAM, Cornwood, "BETTY" WILKINSON, Cockermouth, ANN KING, Newcastle, and GEORGE WAKEFIELD were all at Kelso. "Mable and Betty went through the Meetings in Scotland, the other Returned from this."¹ JAMES KING. SAMUEL FOTHERGILL and ISAAC WILSON, Kendal.⁵ These two Friends visited all the meetings of Friends in Scotland with the view of enquiring into the state of the Society, and of endeavouring to restore the discipline, which had become very lax. The editor of *Memoirs and Letters of Samuel Fothergill* remarks :

In several places the Monthly Meetings had almost ceased to be held, and it could not be ascertained who were and who were not entitled to membership in the Society. This lamentable condition continued for about twenty years after this period, when in 1784 John and Elizabeth Wigham from a sense of religious duty went to reside in Scotland. . . . Some other ministers were at the same time led to visit this nearly desolate part of the heritage Soon after this the discipline was in good measure restored, and a few solid Friends were raised up to conduct the affairs of the Society.

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Samuel Fothergill himself says of Edinburgh Meeting :

It is composed of a very few of our Society [nearly thirty, he says elsewhere] and few, very few of these worthy of the name. Several [of the town's people] came in to the meeting [on First-day], and behaved civilly; the state of the Meeting is indeed very low, but I need not particularise that place, the state of the Society in general is so, though I trust there is a little remnant preserved living.

There were only thirteen or fourteen Friends remaining at Ury, and Old Meldrum had now the largest numbers of members amongst the few Meetings still existing in Scotland. Samuel Fothergill was anxious that the two Yearly Meetings of Edinburgh and Aberdeen should be amalgamated, but did not press the matter "too vehemently," as he found William Miller of Edinburgh and Robert Barclay of Ury "inflexibly bent against uniting the Meetings." (The Union took place, however, in 1786, when the present "General Meeting for Scotland" was instituted, or "Half year's Meeting" as it was also called from the meetings being held twice a year, at Edinburgh in the spring and Aberdeen in the autumn.) The two worthy Friends from England seem to have had altogether a very exercising time, but, says Samuel Fothergill :

It is not right to complain . . . we ought to accompany the seed, and it is in this nation much depressed. The division amongst the Presbyterians is great, Seceder, and Seceder, and Seceders from them are almost daily making their appearance.⁶

1765

JAMES KING. MARY SIMPSON and her companion, SARAH HALL, both of Cockermouth: "Sarah was not publick."⁷

1766

JAMES KING, SUSANNAH FOTHERGILL and HELEN WRIGHT, Liverpool, JOSEPH OXLEY and JOHN ROPER, both of Norwich.⁷ Their first halting-place, says Joseph Oxley, was Kelso.

At Charles Armstrong's [Ormston's] an ancient Friend and minister. . . . His children married out of the Society, but through the precious visitation of the Almighty, his daughter so offending had taken a sober religious turn and sometimes appears in a few words in meetings.⁸

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This no doubt was Jane (Ormston) Waldie, the "Lady Waldie" of Sir Walter Scott's pleasant early memories.⁷ At Montrose they found only one family of Friends remaining. At Kingswells, near Aberdeen, there were "still a few honest good Friends. . . though they are poor as to this world yet rich in faith and good works." This place and Old Meldrum seem to have been almost the only bright spots in Scotland. Joseph Oxley, however, mentions with appreciation the kindness of William Miller of Edinburgh in entertaining Ministering Friends at his house and furnishing them with Guides "for many days together, the chief of which at his own cost." "Publick Friends" travelling in Scotland had laboured under many difficulties, finding "neither Guides but what they themselves provided nor Friends' houses to accomodate them." However, at the following Yearly Meeting "it was agreed that in future such expense should be defrayed out of the general stock."⁸

1767

JAMES KING. "BARBARY SHARPLESS alone in her way to the North & did Return by this [Kelso] again on her way to Settle Yorkshire to which she belongd." SAMUEL STOTT, "Edmds'Bury." JOHN TOWNSEND, London. RACHEL and DOROTHY WIGHAM, Cornwood.¹

1768

JANE CROSFIELD, near Kendal, with HANNAH WHITE, Alston " (not publick)." JAMES KING. ANN SUMMERLAND and MARGARET "GILPING," Colebrookdale. ESTHER TUKE, York, and "SALLY" PRIESTMAN, York " (the latter not publick)."¹

1769

THOMAS "ATALEY" [? of Newcastle]. JOSEPH BENNS, and JOSEPH JACKSON, both from Yorkshire. JAMES KING. THOMAS SUTTON, Cumberland. MABEL WIGHAM and "NELLY" WATE.¹

1770

DAVID DUCKITT, Cumberland. MARY RIDGEWAY and JANE WATSON, both from Ireland. "BARBARA SHARPLS who went into the North to Visite Friends &

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see his *Relations in Catness.*" JOHN STORER, Nottingham. "BETTY" WILKINSON.¹

1771

"SALLY" MARCH, Durham. WILLIAM HUNT and THOMAS THORNBURGH from North Carolina and ROBERT WILLIS from "The Jerseys, their Guides being JAMES KING and DAVID DUCKITT."¹

1772

"FRANSES" CLAPHAM, Sunderland, and JOSEPH PROCTER, Yarm. JAMES KING. "ANTHONY MASSON and JONATHAN HODGEN from the deals of Yorkshire near Sattle."¹

1773

WILLIAM "CRAW."¹ (In a letter addressed by William Crow to "Old John Elmsley," Old Meldrum, he describes himself as "Lieveing at Walton near Branton in Gilsland in Cumberland.")⁹ DAVID DUCKITT. JOSEPH DAVIS, Gloucestershire. JOSEPH HEATH, Coventry. JOSEPH JACKSON. JAMES KING. RACHEL WIGHAM and MARTHA JOHNSON, Cornwood.¹

1774

ARCHIBALD BALLFOUR from Ireland. "ABIAH DARBY and FRANCES DODGEN, Leek, Staffordshire: they went from this [Kelso] to Ed^r & Returned by Berwick and Alenwick at which Last two places they had Large Mittings in their townhalls with the inhabitants, &c." DAVID DUCKITT. BENJAMIN HIRD, Leeds. THOMAS WILLEY from Ireland.¹

1775

THOMAS COLLEY, Sheffield. THOMAS CUTFORTH, Newcastle. JAMES KING. RUTH FALLOWS, Leicestershire, and MARTHA WINTER, Nottingham.¹

1776

THOMAS ATTLEY. RALPH "BENBRIDG." WILLIAM CROW, accompanied by DAVID DUCKITT.¹ David Duckitt, writing to John Elmslie, tells of the safe return home of William Crow and himself

with Sheavs of Peace in our bosoms, after a toilsome (yet delightful) journey, having come from Aberdeen to Mountross in one day, from that

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to Perth in one day, and from that to Stirling where we had a good meeting at a publick house : the Landlord would take nothing for the house. I often say with thankfulness this is a different spirit from that which stoned and imprisoned our friends formerly. We had also a quiet good meeting at Glasgow and at Bedcow at Edenburgh and at alanwick in the town hall wher upwards of athousand people atended and it was to general satisfaction.⁹

ANN KING. MABEL WIGHAM.¹

1777

THOMAS CARRINGTON, Pennsylvania. THOMAS COLLEY. THOMAS CUTFORTH. BARBARA DRURY, Cockermouth. DAVID DUCKITT. JAMES HESSEY, n^r York. PHILIP MAIDEN, Sheffield. JOHN STEAD, Workington. THOMAS CORBYN, JOSEPH ROW, London, THOMAS FINCH, n^r London, and WILLIAM TUKE, York, " all four in a visit to Monthly Meetings in Scotland," were at Kelso in Eighth Month.¹

1778

WILLIAM " DOGING," Cumberland. BARBRA DRURY. DAVID DUCKITT. RUTH RITSON, Clifton n^r Penrith. THOMAS SUTTON. ESTHER TUKE. MABLE WIGHAM, Sunderland.¹

1779

JAMES KING. ESTHER MARSHALL, Leeds.¹

1780

ANN CHRISTY, London. JAMES KING. MARY RIDGEWAY from Ireland. JANE SHEPLEY, " Shifts Borrow," Dorset, and SARAH STEPHENSON, Melksham.¹ These Friends had " a close searching time " at Edinburgh. At Old Meldrum they visited families " to the number of about twenty, part of them scattered about the country." At Ury they were treated " with much respect " by Robert Barclay and his wife, though " not members of our religious Society." On their return they had

close painful labour visiting families at Edinburgh, as there was in some a sorrowful departure from ancient purity. . . . We were about a month and two days in Scotland, having travelled about five hundred miles, visited the six meetings and about twenty-six families.¹⁰

JANE WATSON. MABEL WIGHAM.¹

1781

RALPH BAINBRIDGE.¹ THOMAS CASH, Cheshire. THOMAS CUTFORTH, Bouton, Yorkshire. MARY ORMSTON, Newcastle. WILLIAM RATHBONE [Liverpool].¹

1782

THOMAS CASH. MARY PROUD and SARAH GRUBB, Yorkshire, with RALPH BAINBRIDGE.¹ The two Women Friends paid a general visit to Scotland and had almost everywhere "a painfully exercising time." They attended the Yearly Meeting at Edinburgh which was but a small gathering.

There were several who through the neglect of Christian discipline think they have a claim to the Society, as being the offspring of Friends. Others were like the Philistines in whose hands the Ark of the testimony is fallen, and esteemed by them a contemptible thing. There were also present a number of students from distant parts, whose parents are not only members of Society but some of them useful therein. . . . We had an exercising, close and searching opportunity . . . with those under profession with us and particularly the students.¹¹

1783

Under date Fourth Month 28th, the Kelso MS. records: "We had BENJAMIN HERD & JOHN BINNS, Yorkshire, at our meeting in Co with JOHN WIGHAM, Cornwood, all in their way to Edinburgh Yearly Meeting where they meet with THOMAS COLLEY & FILIP MAIDEN of Sheffield and JAMES BACKHOUSE of Darlington." WILLIAM CROW, Norwich. HENRY TUKE, York.¹

1784

"MORRAS BIRBEK," London. THOMAS CASH. ISAAC GRAY [from England; he seems to have died "n^r Charlemont" in the Fifth Month, when visiting Friends in Ireland, probably after attending Edinburgh Yearly Meeting]. JAMES KING. MEHATEBELL JENKINS from New England, and HANNAH OGDEN, Sunderland. REBECCA "JOHNS" [Jones] from Pennsylvania and CHRISTIANA HUSTLER [Bradford], WILLIAM MATTHEWS from Pennsylvania. REBECCA WRIGHT from "The Jerseys" and MARTHA ROUTH, Manchester. NICHOLAS WALN, Philadelphia.¹

1785

JOHN ABBOT, Ives. RALPH BAINBRIDGE and THOMAS CASH with WILLIAM "IRWING" as Guide.

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ELIZABETH HOYLAND, Sheffield, and ESTHER TUKE. PHILIP MADON. JOHN PEMBERTON and THOMAS ROSS from Pennsylvania. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR. HENRY TAYLOUR [? of North Shields].

1786

RALPH BAINBRIDGE. PATIENCE BRIGHTON. DEBORAH DARBY and ANN SUMERLAND. ZERAYAH DICK from America. GEORGE DILLWYN from New Jersey. DAVID DUCKITT. HENRY TUKE. JOHN PEMBERTON, ISAAC TAYLOR and THOMAS CASH.¹ These three Friends in the course of their travels reached the Orkney Islands. Leaving their horses in Caithness under the care of a Friend, a farmer, residing near Old Meldrum, and crossing the Pentland Firth by sailing boat, they reached Ronaldsha Island. Here, writes Isaac Taylor, they were entertained for "eleven days at the house of James Stewart, a person of considerable property and, with his wife, very kind, free and respectable: and indeed we have met with respect and great hospitality I think everywhere." They had many large meetings on the different islands, finding "the people in general disposed to attend and their behaviour commendable."⁹

1787

GEORGE DILLWYN. DAVID DUCKITT. JOHN PEMBERTON, who, writing from Cumberland after his visit to Scotland, remarks, "I feel more of the effects of hardships in our late journey now I am laid by, than when engaged. My mind then was so exercised I paid little attention to the shell."⁹

1788

THOMAS CASH. THOMAS GRIER from Ireland. SARAH STEPHENSON, accompanied by ESTHER BRADY, Thorn. HENRY TUKE " & Sister ANN."¹

1789

JOHN ABBOT. MATTHEW JOHNSON, Cornwood. TABITHA MIDDLETON, Northamptonshire. CATHERINE "TRUCKITT," Sheffield. HANNAH WIGHAM, Pontefract, " & a young woman from Leeds," says the Kelso chronicler "I think her name is STORRS: they had been a visit to the North of Scotland."¹

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1790

JAMES BACKHOUSE.¹

1791

EDWARD HATTON, Cork. REBECCA YOUNG [aft. Byrd] and SUSANNA APPLEBY, both of Shrewsbury.¹

1792

RALPH BAINBRIDGE. WILLIAM CROW "with REUBEN BINKS his Companⁿ Darlington." MARY DUDLEY [? London] and ELIZABETH PIM, Clonmell. HANNAH WIGHAM. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, WILLIAM NORTH and ROBERT FAIL, "a young man, all from Dublin, had a satisfactory Meeting at Kelso in their way to Edin^r."¹

1793

WILLIAM CROTCH, Suffolk. SARAH HARRISON from Philadelphia, and HANNAH GAYLAND, Liverpool. PRISCILLA HANNAH GURNEY, Colebrookdale, MARTHA HOWARD[? Haworth], Lancashire, and MARTHA ROUTH. HENRY TUKE¹

1794

SUSANNAH APPLEBY, Colebrookdale, and MARY LLOYD, Birmingham. SARAH STEPHENSON and MARY JEFFREYS JUN^r, Melksham.¹ These two Friends seem to have visited the South of Scotland only. They attended the General Meeting at Edinburgh :

First one for worship then one for business and in the evening the meeting for Ministers and Elders, all in degree owned. We had also after supper an heart tendering opportunity with the Friends out of the North.¹⁰

After visiting families in Edinburgh, they proceeded to Glasgow, where "the rude rabble followed our chaise as we rode along the streets, behaving very unhandsomely, of which" naïvely adds Sarah Stephenson, "our singular appearance might be the occasion." Next day they had a meeting "with a few who are in part convinced and a few other persons. It was a season owned by the Master with his good presence."¹⁰ DEBORAH TOWNSEND, London, and MARY [? Mercy] RANSOM, Hitchin,¹ Whilst visiting Friends at Edinburgh, Deborah Townsend was taken

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ill and died, at the house of George Miller, Ninth Month 22nd.

1795

MARY NAFCHTELL, Guernsey, and ELIZABETH TUKE, York. SAMUEL RUNDALL, Cornwall, with JOHN ROSS, Cumberland, "the former publick, had a very satisfactory meeting here [Kelso] in their Return from the north."¹

1796

WILLIAM FARRER, Liverpool. "SARRAH HARMINSON" [Harrison] and I. TALBOTT, Philadelphia. SARAH BIRKBECK, Settle, and SARAH SHACKLETON, Ireland. JOHN and ELIZABETH HOYLAND, Sheffield, and MARTHA SMITH, Doncaster. WILLIAM SAVERY, Philadelphia.² (These are the last entries in the Kelso records.)

1797

DEBORAH DARBY and companion. SARAH HARRISON and companion. HENRY TUKE, accompanied by George Miller and another Edinburgh Friend, paid an extensive visit to the West of Scotland in the autumn of this year. They had public meetings in most of the towns and in several villages—Glasgow, Greenock, Dumbarton, Luss, Oban, Tyndrum, Inverness, etc.—sometimes in the village inn or schoolroom, sometimes in the Mason's Lodge, once, at Inverary, "under trees in the Duke of Argyle's demesne." They were subject to "a deal of rudeness" in some of the towns near Glasgow. Probably WILLIAM SAVERY and WILLIAM FARRER.⁹

WILLIAM F. MILLER.

Winscombe, Som.

¹ MS. Records of Edinburgh Yearly Meeting.

² *Life of Catherine Phillips* [formerly Payton], 1797, pp. 38-41.

³ *Journal F.H.S.*, x. 254.

⁴ *Life of Samuel Neale*, 1845, pp. 48, 49.

⁵ MS. Records of Aberdeen Yearly Meeting.

⁶ *Memoirs of Samuel Fothergill*, 1843, pp. 447-452.

⁷ Lockhart's *Life of Scott*, 1839, i. 160.

⁸ *Life of Joseph Oxley*, 1837, pp. 278-282.

⁹ *Miller MSS.*

¹⁰ *Memoirs of Sarah Stephenson*, 1807, pp. 51-56, 122-124.

¹¹ *Life of Sarah Grubb*, 1796, pp. 46-50.