

## Richard Lindley and His Writings

---

**R**ICHARD LINDLEY (c. 1721-1785) was a flax-dresser, of Darlington, and an Elder in the Society of Friends. He was the youngest child of Simon Lindley, of Darlington, by his wife Jane (Appleby).

He was one of the very numerous Diarists the Society has produced, and there are in existence in **D.** (presented recently, with other Lindley MSS., by Joseph J. Green, having reached him through the Robsons, friends of the Diarist) several little volumes of his writing.

Extracts from these little volumes follow :

(1) This is a list of visits of ministering Friends to Darlington Meeting between 1757 and 1766. The first entry is " 4<sup>th</sup> mo : 10<sup>th</sup> (1) [First-day] Abraham Farrington from New Jersey, & Joseph Harwood of Manchester, went next day to Yarm. R<sup>d</sup> Lindley, Guide. Edw<sup>d</sup> Pease lent his mare."

Other names include Edward Higginson (Godmanchester) in 1757 ; Alice Hall (Cumberland), Mordecai Yarnall (Philadelphia), Grace Chambers, " in y<sup>e</sup> 84<sup>th</sup> year of her age." Abiah Darby and Ann Summerland, Joseph White (The Falls, Pa.) in 1759 ; Lucy Ecroyd (Marsden, formerly Bradley of Bristol) in 1760.

On " 8 mo. 30, 1761 (1) Monthly meeting held here by appointment to accomodate y<sup>e</sup> following friends, who were Visitors pursuant to y<sup>e</sup> direction of y<sup>e</sup> Yearly Meeting, viz Sam<sup>l</sup> Fothergill, Jona<sup>n</sup> Rain, John Lindoe, W<sup>m</sup> Dillworth, Is: Wilson, Tho<sup>s</sup> Corbyn & Joseph Taylor, by whom several judicious remarks were made & solid advices given ; y<sup>e</sup> mee : held from 11 to near 6 o'clock."

In 1761 came James Daniel (West Jersey). In 1764 " no f<sup>d</sup> had an appointed mees here, but some fr<sup>ds</sup> from neighbouring Meetings or otherwise dropt in, without having occasion for a Guide," but next year " Catherine Payton & Hannah Shipley were at M.M." and later Nicholas Beeby and Joseph Saul (Cumberland).

(2) This volume covers the years 1767 to 1782, and records various meetings attended and the names of friends taking vocal part. The first entry is :

“ 1767 1<sup>st</sup> mo. 6 (3) Quarterly Meeting at Durham for discipline pretty agreeably conducted—and in the evening a publick meeting w<sup>ch</sup> was small but satisfactory. J. Procter, S. March, & J. Stephenson appeared & J. S. prayed. I thought y<sup>e</sup> meet<sup>s</sup> was favored.”

This year “ Samuel Stott (Edmundsbury) & John Townshend (London) returning from Scotland,” and later in the same “ Sally Taylor (Manchester) Jona<sup>n</sup> Rain (Crawshawbooth) at our meet<sup>s</sup>.” Mabel Wigham was present at a meeting “ favored with the meltings of tendering goodness.” May Drummond appeared in 1769, and in 1770 Mary Ridgway (Mt. Melick) Jane Watson (nigh Edendery) . . . J. W. first appeared since her coming this Journey, at Exeter about 8 mo : since & is very acceptable & able for y<sup>e</sup> time.” Robert Willis (New Jersey), William Hunt (N. Carolina), and Thomas Thornborough (N. Carolina) passed through the district in 1771, and in 1772 “ Rachel Wilson, Sarah (& Debo :) Morris (Philadelphia) ” ; in 1777 “ Thomas Carrington (Pensilvania).”

(3) “ 1783. 9 mo. 30 (3). Qu : Mee : at Durham, W<sup>m</sup>. Rathbone, T. Cash, J. Procter, R. Bainbridge, J. Steph<sup>n</sup> and M. Brantingham all app<sup>d</sup> T. Cash p<sup>d</sup>.”

“ 1784. 8 mo. 29. Nicholas Waln (Philadelphia), Morris Birbeck. N. W. appeared well especially at y<sup>e</sup> conclusion of his testimony. M. B. a few words also. N. W. d<sup>to</sup> (Give us of your oyl). a.m. [afternoon meeting] N. W. again & as in y<sup>e</sup> forep<sup>t</sup> of f. n<sup>m</sup>. [forenoon meeting] in a sententious broken manner, but substantial matter. J. B. agreeably & N. W. ag<sup>n</sup> w<sup>th</sup> 2 or 3 words. Mee<sup>s</sup> : low, but a degree of calm settlement, w<sup>th</sup> some cover<sup>s</sup> of sweet solid sense. They went next day to Richmond G[uide] W. Ianson.”

Later in the year Rebecca Jones of Philadelphia was in the district.

1785. “ 3 mo. 3 (5) Rebecca Wright (New Jersey) and Martha Routh (Manchester). . . . Rebecca seems to be a deep, sound, living minister.”

At the close of the Diaries Richard Lindley records visits to his sick-room by Esther Tuke, Elizabeth Hoyland, Hannah Wigham, and "old Thomas Ross," from Pennsylvania, who died shortly afterwards.

The date of the last entry is 30 x. 1785; the Diarist died eighteen days later.

(4) Account of Yearly Meeting of 1759.

(5) Account of Yearly Meeting of 1780.

Not the least interesting portions of the Diaries are the accounts of several Quarterly Meetings in York, attended by R. Lindley. These we intend to refer to later.

---



---

## Books Wanted

---

THE Library Department at Devonshire House has been engaged for some time in supplying Friends' literature to public and private libraries and other institutions, and has made up sets of various periodicals for the British Museum, Universities' Libraries, National Libraries of Ireland and Wales and many town libraries. It now appeals for help from those who have such literature for which they would be glad to find positions of usefulness.

Here follows a first list of Wants :

HAVERFORD COLLEGE, PA. :

Dublin Y.M. Proceedings, v.y. ; *Australian Friend*, v.y. ; *British Friend*, 1902 ; *Irish Friend*, vol. I. ; early London Y.M. Epistles and some later in original format ;

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES :

*Annual Monitor* before 1840, and some later ; *Friends' Quarterly Examiner* after 1905.

BRITISH MUSEUM :

London Y.M. folio Epistles, 1682, 1686, 1870, 1874, 1881, 1891, 1892, 1909.

ALLEN C. THOMAS, A.M., HAVERFORD COLLEGE, PA., U.S.A. :

J. J. Gurney's *Notes on a Visit to Some Prisons in Scotland*, 2nd or 3rd edition, or that of 1847 preferred.

Elizabeth's Fry's *Observations on the visiting etc. of female Prisoners*, 2nd edition preferred, 1827.

Also E. Fry's *Texts for every Day in the Year*, any edition.