

The Travels of William Baldwin in America, 1709

WILLIAM BALDWIN (1677-1720) was born at Gisburn, W.R. Yorks, but on his marriage he settled near Marsden, in Lancashire. His first companion in the New World was Hugh Durborow of Philadelphia, and, later, William Wilkinson (perhaps of Providence, R.I.) went south with him.

Early in Second Month, 1714, he and his family emigrated, calling on Friends on the southern coast of Ireland *en route* (THE JOURNAL, x. 214). He settled in Bucks County, Pa.

Wm. Baldwin having given this meeting a short and Satisfactory account of his Travells and Services on the Continent of America in Company with W^m Wilkinson. An Abstract is as followeth :

Leaving our family and friends in great love and Unity, J set forward on my Journey having had a good Passage in Eight weeks, J Arived safe at virginia the 16th day of the 3^d month, 1709, thence bending my Course direct for Philadelphia without visiting friends, where after some small stay, J found my way opened towards New England, soe leaving friends in love, and peace, with the comfort of a Companion, set forward through west and East Jarsey, taking meetings in Course to New York, where J visited friends, thence to Long-Island, in all which places we were favoured by Truth, and found an open Door to Receive Us, and our Testimony, after we had visited most of ye meetings on Long-Island, we went to Rhode Jsland finding their Quarterly meeting to approach we visited several Adjacent meetings and had good service, many Resorting to meetings soe were large, and the Religious care of friends for good order in that place was a comfort to us, soe went forward to new England. by Boston, Salem, Hampton and Dover, taking their Monthly Meetings in Course, in which places meetings were large, and found them in a Godly care for good order, and Truths prosperity tho' not free from Exer-

cises by Reason of some Tedious spirits that they have to deal with.

Soe now returning came by y^e same meet^s: to Providence Yearly meeting where were friends from many parts, we were tenderly favoured with Truth, and its Testimony was acceptable to friends & others, from thence to Dartmouth, visiting friends, soe to Nantucket, there is a Tender visitation on the Inhabitants of that place, Two Minist^s lately raised, where is a Meeting for worship, and a Monthly meeting and care for good order respected among them, we had divers meetings with them, where resorted most of the Jsland, soe may say a time of love to us, leaving them in union love & Tenderness, came to Narrow Ganset yearly meeting which was large, there being several friends from divers parts, many that were not of us, coming a great way to the same, it was a Thurrow Meeting of good Satisfaction, being comforted in seeing friends diligence in coming to these meet^s and doubt not but they have their reward. Thus having visited Rhoad Jsland and other Adjacent parts our unity being confirmed in the Truth, 'twas hard to part with one another, We left New England with peace of mind, and must say there is a sweet lively people there, meriting to be visited, soe came on to Cananicat divers from Newport accompanying us where we had a good meeting, soe to Kingstone meeting, being large, and comfortable, thence to Long Jsland soe visited friends meetings there, parting in much Sweetness, several friends accompanying us several miles came to Stratton Jsland, there had a meeting at John Shatwels,¹ where Truth was pretiously felt to our mutual comfort, soe passed through friends meetings in East and West Jarsey came to y^e yearly meeting at Philadelphia w^{ch} was large and held in a sweet solemnity, not only Respecting meetings for worship, but good order also, thence into Maryland to friends yearly-meeting at Tradaven-Creek, unto w^{ch} many friends and others Resorted, 'twas held four days,

¹ There was a John *Shotwell* who lived on *Staten* Island before removing to N.J. His father was Abraham Shotwell, "the founder of the Shotwell family in America" (*Lundy Family and Descendants*, 1902, p. 455), died in 1680 on Staten Island. John died at Woodbridge, N.J., in 1718. See *Annals of our Colonial Ancestors*, by Ambrose M. Shotwell, 1895-97.

wherein Truth was plentifully afforded to y^e bowing of many souls here, having the oppertunity to appoint divers meet^s on the Easternshore, we Generally saw friends in those parts to Satisfaction, thô meetings in some parts there are small and at great distances, friends glad of visits, being but few publick labourers, clear of y^t shore.

Crossed the Bay of Chespack, direct for Carolina had divers Meetings with friends in y^t provence, we found a General labour for Establishing Truth and Righteousness raised there and growing thô formerly neglected w^{ch} was a confirmation and strengthening to us in our service soe parting in Sweetness return'd to Chuckatuck in Virginia was at several meetings there, found them willing to give us all oppertunity possible to meet with them, where is a brightness on honest friends there Truths Testimony in good esteem among y^e people in General, several lately convinced a care for good order in that part, also having been at their monthly meeting took our leave of ffriends there in love soe went on to Appa-Mattacks was at friends Meeting—soe through New Kent meet^s small there and at great distance, this Inconvenience may be some cause of want of Zeal yet God was mercifully with us to our mutual comfort, soe past to y^e Westernshore of Maryland, visiting meetings too and again in these parts feeling Gods visitation upon them, that truly edified; clear of those parts came over Suskahannah into Pensilvania visited meetings in a more General Manner then before being at their General Monthly and Quarterly meeting friends fully attending them, thô we found y^e Exercise of the day heavy enough to wade under, yet Truth at times broke through for our help and comfort, soe 'twas an Uniting time and having seen the comfort of our labours J found my way opened for a Return, soe takeing our Solemn leave of friends of y^t province and having parted with my dear friend Will^m Wilkinson who had been my Companion more than six Months, came on to the halfe years meeting at Chester in Maryland where Truth appeared in a Melting manner to our comfort, so had again oppertunity to visit friends on the Easternshore w^{ch} was a Time of love to us in taking our Solemn farewell of each other, J may say

the Lord had raised in friends a General desire for my prosperity and preservation by Sea and Land—Passing the Bay had a fresh opportunity to visit friends on that shore more Generally and it was to us a Time of the Springing of love, in which the occasion was offered of taking our Solemn farewell of each other—soe parting in great Sweetness came on Board the friend ship on Potuxon River soe came down the Bay, making some stay at Kigatan (Kickahtan) had an opportunity to see frids^s at Chuck a Tuck in Virginia, were comforted in one anothers company and was glad to understand friends welfare there having been favoured with health soe as to see most friends upon the Continent in one Years time, was under an humble thankfulness therefore to our great Lord and Master, who to me was a sufficient reward.

And J may say J found them a people of a Generous Sp^t so y^t there was openness in the hearts and houses of ffriends, and like wise way made for me fully to discharge my self of that Testimoney for Truth w^{ch} J had to bear in those parts, soe in great Satisfaction left the continent and in abot^t 7 weeks came safe to y^e Jsle of Orkney in Company with two other ships and having several friends on Board ours we had many seasonable meetings with y^e Ships Crew, &c. who were loving to us, made three weeks stay on y^e Jsle of Pomona in w^{ch} time had divers meetings not only on Board our Ship but on y^e Jsland, and thô J could not understand that before y^t time any of our friends ever had a Meeting there yet several were reached and confessed to Truth, and believes as friends incline to fall in there in order to give them visits a meeting will be easily obtained several Expressing their love to me—telling me would J stay J need not fear a congregation, soe leaving them in tenderness and found the Lords love Js to them J landed at Shields in England soe came to my Native place, where under a Thankfull Remembrance of y^e Lords Providence & protection by sea and Land, our hearts were Enlarged to praise God, y^t is worthy forever.

WILL^m BALDWEN.

From Minutes of London Y.M. in the handwriting of Benjamin Bealing.