

The Journey of John and Anna Perry in 1789

A QUAIN little oblong manuscript book, in leather, with clasp, has been on loan from Joseph J. Green. It is titled: "Memorandum of J. & A. Perrys Journey into Yorkshire, with their son John for his Education; taking London Yearly Meeting & several Quarterly ones in their way as the following will direct," and is dated: Ipswich, 5 mo. 27th, 1789.

John Perry (1754-1824), son of Stephen and Elizabeth (Sims) Perry, of Mile End, was a clothier, of Ipswich. He married, as his second wife, Anna (Nancy) Candler, of Ipswich, daughter of Lawrence and Rose Candler¹, of Essex, on the eighth of Fourth Month, 1789, a few weeks before the tour described in the ms. and abstracted below. "Son John" was born in 1781, hence at this time about eight.

The trio set forth in a two-horse chaise, and, visiting friends and relations *en route*, "son John in good spirits drove the greater part of the way," arrived in London at the home of Elizabeth Perry, widow of Stephen Perry and mother of John. While in London they visited at several houses—"at Uncle Smiths,² and

at cousin Talwin's³ at Bromley who proposed calling to take us in their coach, but we prefer'd going in y^e chaise. Dined & drank Tea w^t them, walked into the Hot house, round their garden, a delightful spot, a noble Mansion, a Palace in Minutire; so affable & condescending as to show me each different appartment, even into kitchen & washhouse, desired the Gardiner to see if He could find a Bunch of ripe Grapes; a Cluster of y^e finest Muskquodine I ever saw was our treat. . . . We allso went down to Bromley Hall, Jo^s Fosters⁴, but the family not being at home we only walked round their extensive Gardens.

Meetings for worship were attended and various Ministers mentioned—"Thomas Colley⁵ in a beautiful manner concluded y^e Meets" "Rich^d Cockin⁶ w^t us, a valuable, pleasing enteligent young Man; great sociability in his Manner and Conversation instructive."

The Women's Y.M. received some notice in the Diary—Patience Chester⁷ was clerk, and Sarah Grubb⁸ assistant

—reports read and “pertinent remarks made”—Queries answered—“John Pemberton⁹ & Jas Thornton¹⁰ favor’d us w^t their companies”—epistles read and answered including one from Mehetabel Jenkins.¹¹ Among “many valuable women” present are mentioned Alice Rigg,¹² Mary Watson,¹³ Esther Brady,¹⁴ Martha Routh,¹⁵ Elizabeth Hoyland,¹⁶ Ann Summerland.¹⁷

Mention is also made of Dorothy Owen¹⁹, Sarah Beck,²⁰ Anne Miller,²¹ Sarah Crookshanks²² and several Friends from Ireland.

They met numerous Friends at meals at Joseph Row’s,²³ Thomas Pole’s,²⁴ William Tomlinson’s,²⁵ John Townsend’s,²⁶ and elsewhere.

One day our friends visited the printing works of “Brother Harvey,¹⁸” went through their offices, saw y^e manner of Printing, many different hands imployd; in one warehouse I observ’d above twenty women.”

On 6 mo. 9, the northern journey began. “Son John in good spirits, still looking forwards towards Yorkshire, not once expressing a desire to return to Ipswich”! Hertford Q.M. was attended—“a gloomy season, things appear’d low & dull” and then “Hertford Yearly Meeting—more lively & much openness.” Many Friendly visits were paid as they journeyed, and ready hospitality offered and accepted. Lincoln Q.M. was visited. Of Ackworth Mrs. Perry writes :

Went to y^e school, overlooking each department, which afforded real satisfaction more yⁿ my pen is able to set forth. I cannot describe my pleasure, equal to my feelings. O, that this Institution may never want support & due attention to y^e upholding of the present beautiful order, which must strike every sencible mind w^t a full beleif; there will from this care be many useful members of Society.

Then the school at Gildersome²⁷ was visited and Thomas Compton and his wife, and John Ellis.²⁷

Leeds M^o Meet^g was the largest I ever was at . . . a new Meeting House which is thought to be one of y^e largest in our Nation, contains two Thousand quite Comfortably, measures 72 feet in length, 48 do. in breadth, has 24 sash windows, 14 Pillars, Galleries all round, and 3 Entrances in front w^{ith} folding doors to each.

Of Q. M. at York we have a full record and the ministry of various public Friends noted—Mary Leaver,²⁸ David Priestman’s wife,²⁹ Phebe Blakes,³⁰ Mary Proud³¹—the last “Eminent, fluent & deep, beyond (I think) what

I ever heretofore sat under. Surely K. Phillips³² never exceeded ; her manner humble & out of meeting pleasing. These are they who lead y^e flock & draw them to the Wells mouth to be watered & refreshed."

The return journey was viâ Doncaster, Gainsborough, Grantham, Cambridge (" saw some of y^e young Parsons with their square trencher hats & other Priestly Robes, O such pride "), Bury, Needham (" to our esteemed W^m. Crotches ") and home 7 mo. 14th—" accomplished this agreeable journey 545 miles to much satisfaction." The expense of the journey, as detailed at the end of the book, totalled £11 15s. 3d.

Here we leave our friends, commending this method of imparting pleasurable instruction to the youth and thanking Anna Perry for writing, and later owners for preserving this little book. A. P. died in 1838, aged eighty-two, having borne several children, one of them being Stephen Perry (1796-1871), who became a prominent person in the Ipswich district.

We may follow the fortunes (or rather the *misfortunes*) of " son John " by the aid of the Diary he wrote, a book in the same *format* as that of his stepmother, into which he entered many particulars of his life between the years 1818 and 1842, and incidentally, other items of interest.

John Perry, the Younger (1781-1844), was a draper and salesman at Ipswich. In 1807 he married, *s.p.*, at Devonshire House, Maria, daughter of John Kincey, of Hackney, and later of Colchester. He was unsuccessful in business, but happy in his married life which, however, ended in 1838, leaving him " low and sorrowful " in " an empty house." After several changes in business, he left Ipswich in 1839 to seek a situation in London—" succeeded in obtaining some temporary employment among Friends, viz^t., to copy the Registers of Marriages, Births and Burials since the foundation of the Society." The work was neither congenial nor well paid.—" To-day I sat eleven hours at writing only for four shillings "—" closely engaged every day in my new occupation transcribing for which I am very badly paid "—" every day has been engaged closely & very laboriously in making the Registers for which I am miserably paid." ³³ 4 mo. 11, 1840 I gave up writing on the Registers, *without any regret*

having engaged with another, & much better occupation," as cashier at Christy & Co.'s, 35, Gracechurch Street, which situation he retained but a little over two years. He died at Albion Road, Stoke Newington, in 1844.

Appended are a few entries of Society interest :

Gracechurch Street Meeting house was burnt down by accident last 1st day morning [9 ix. 1821], also the Library.

7mo. 7th, 1822. Charles Parker, from Lancashire, died at Sam^l Alexanders at Needham—in the course of his journey on a religious^d visit to this country.

4th day night the 11th of 9th month, 1822, Alexanders & Co. met with a very heavy loss—a large parcel out of the Mail containing above £30,000 in their own notes and Bills.

9mo. 1841. In the afternoon went to the Methodist M^s in Church St, Spitalfields, in order to hear Elisha Bates from New York preach in which I was gratified & edified. This person was once a Friend and till about 4 years ago an eminent Minister in our Society.

NOTES

¹ Lawrence Candler was Y.M. clerk in 1795.

² Thomas Smith (c. 1725-1792) was a banker, of the firm of Smith, Wright and Gray. James Jenkins writes respecting him in his *Records* :

"I have understood he had been a clerk to Hinton Brown & Co. Bankers, & after leaving them commenced the business of a silver smith in the same street [Lombard Street] in which he was afterwards so many years a Banker."

Then follows considerable, and not entirely favourable reference to the firm—the partners being Thomas Smith, John Wright, and Henry Gray. "Thomas Smith was about the middle size, inclined to corpulence and, in his dress, formally plain. . . . He was such a perpetual smoker that both he and John Wright would sometimes (even in the morning) scent their shop almost beyond endurance."

Thomas Smith is to be seen, seated next the women on the lower facing seat, in the picture of Gracechurch Street Meeting, circa 1770 (see *Biog. Cata. Fds. Inst.* p. 769 reading *Thomas Smith for Joseph Smith*). He was known by the *soubriquet* of "Testimony Smith" from his frequent opening remark: "I have a testimony." His first wife was Elizabeth Underwood and his second, Mary Sims; his two daughters married into the families of Fox and Tregelles.

³ Joseph Talwin (c.1718-1793), of Bromley, was a brother of Thomas Talwin (the munificent benefactor of Devonshire House M.M.), and his executor. James Jenkins gives a long account of the dispute over some portion of Thomas Talwin's legacy to his M.M. (*Records*, pp. 160ff).

⁴ Joseph Foster (c.1761-1835) was a well-known philanthropist and for long interested in education (see Binns's *Century of Education*, 1908).

⁵ For Thomas Colley (1742-1812), see vol. x. p. 131 and elsewhere.

⁶ For Richard Cockin (1753-1845), see vol. xiii. p. 45.

⁷ Patience Chester (c.1742-1802) was the wife of Richard Chester, of Stoke Newington.

⁸ For Sarah (Tuke) Grubb (1756-1790), see vol. xv. p. 12. ; vol. xvi. p.

⁹ John Pemberton (1727-1795) was the youngest of the famous trio, of Philadelphia, Israel, James and John, about whom much has been written. He was in Europe in 1750-54, in 1783-89 and in 1794 till his death at Pyrmont in Germany. Many journals of the period refer to him—John Woolman, Sarah Stephenson, Rebecca Jones, David Sands, Frederick Smith, Elizabeth Drinker, William Savery, Robert Sutcliff. His own Journal forms vol. vi of *Friends' Library* (Phila). It was compiled by William Hodgson, Jr.

¹⁰ James Thornton (1727-1794) was born at Stony Stratford, in Bucks, and removed to Pennsylvania in 1750. On his marriage he settled at Byberry. He travelled many miles in the ministry. A letter from J. T. to James Phillips, written in 1789, is in **D**.

¹¹ Mehetabel Jenkins (1731-1815) was, prior to her marriage with Elijah Jenkins in 1755, Mehetabel Weymouth. She lived for some of her early years with her aunt, Tabitha Weymouth, afterwards Jenkins, a well-concerned Friend, and a Minister. Her married home was at Berwick, Mass. She was four years in England commencing 1783, and formed part of the deputation of women Friends to the Y.M. of 1784. Before returning home she "a little emptied" her mind by "some broken hints," addressed to the Y.M. of Ministers and Elders. She visited the English Friend, Sarah Stephenson, on her death-bed in Philadelphia in 1802. Several letters from and to her are in **D**.

¹² Alice Rigge (1728-1809), *née* Ecroyd, was a ministering Friend, of Kendal, wife of Isaac Rigge (1713-1777), maltster and grocer of that town. She was one of the party of women by whom the Y.M. of 1784 was petitioned in person for authority to establish a Women's Y.M.

¹³ For Mary Watson, *née* Fothergill (1750-1834), see vol vii. James Jenkins gives a pleasing pen picture of the Watson home at Waterford :

"In that city, I was among many young men who were employed as clerks, in Merchants' country-houses. . . . The present much esteemed minister of Waterford, Mary Watson (niece of Dr. Fothergill), was at that time the most accomplished of our female Friends, she was the wife of Rob^t Watson, one of our eminent Merchants, and to whose house I was often invited ; I dearly loved her company, not only because she was kind and courteous, but that to whatever subjects my enquiries were directed, I was always met with a ready answer, and she appeared to derive pleasure from the circumstance of frequently adding to my little stock of knowledge. But here again 'the green eye of jealousy' was opened upon me—the other young men saw no reason for my being selected and were willing to find any motive but merit on my part, for the partial notice with which she favoured the young Englishman" (p. 1036).

¹⁴ The principal source of information at present available respecting Esther Brady (1738-1822), formerly Marshall, later Clark, is the *Memoirs of Sarah Stephenson*, where we read of their travels together in the ministry in 1776, 1779 and 1788. According to the Registers, Esther Marshall, of Calverley, Leeds, married Thomas Brady, of Thorne, Yorks, in 1785. Her husband died in 1793 and in 1796 she married Timothy Clark, of Doncaster, who died in 1818, aged seventy one. In the Journal of Henry Wormald, while in York Castle, 1795-97 (ms. in **D**. see *F.Q.E.* vol. xii. p. 17) we read :

"In the afternoon we had the company of John Townsend from London, Esther Brady from Thorn, Hannah Murray, & several more. John Townsend & Esther both spoke very encouragingly" (p. 127).

¹⁵ For Martha Routh (1743-1817), see vol. xv. p. 13.

¹⁶ For Elizabeth Hoyland, aft. Walker (1761-1821), see vol. xiii. p. 163.

¹⁷ For Ann Summerland (1709-1798), see vol. x. p. 80.

¹⁸ There was a John Harvey living in an eastern suburb of London, who was a calico printer. He may have been the "brother Harvey" of the Diary.

¹⁹ In *Piety Promoted* we have a short account of Dorothy Owen (c.1751-1793), daughter of Rowland and Lowry Owen, of Dolgelly, in Wales. "She was remarkable for her diligence in the attendance of meetings for worship and discipline, from which neither distance nor weather kept her back, while of ability; and she frequently went nearly forty miles on foot in that mountainous country, to attend the monthly meeting, even when the inclemency of the season rendered it not only difficult but dangerous."

²⁰ Sarah Beck (1716-1799) was the daughter of Henry Sims, a linen-draper, of Canterbury, and Catharine (*née* Courthope), his wife. In about her twentieth year she married Thomas Beck, of London. "After many conflicts and deep baptisms, she came forth in public ministry" (Testimony), and travelled therein from time to time. In 1766 her husband and she removed into Essex and her later years were spent at Dover. In addition to the information given in her Testimony, there are records of S. Beck in *Family Fragments*, by William Beck, 1897.

²¹ Probably Ann Miller (1760-1842), wife of George Miller, of Edinburgh, and daughter of Alexander Tweedie, of Edinburgh. But there were other Friends of this name living at the time. See *Memorials of Hope Park*, 1886.

²² There are several names of Friends which appear under Cruikshank in the card-catalogue in D. but Sarah is not among them.

²³ Joseph Row (1722-1792) was a weaver of Duke Street, Spitalfields. He was an Elder and, according to James Jenkins, somewhat of a disciplinarian. J. J. writes of him: "I am reluctant in believing what I once heard of Joseph Row and his uncle Thomas Corbyn, that they held in light esteem such as had not, like themselves, been of innocent life and conversation during and from their youth upwards; but if so, I know not what they would have thought of the characters of King David, the Apostle Paul, Samuel Fothergill, Samuel Neale, and a thousand others." Sarah Row, his wife, was a Minister. She died in 1803, "exactly eleven years after her husband, in the same month, on the same day of the month, the same day of the week, and at the same hour in the afternoon" (*ibid.*). Of Joseph Row's maiden sister, Susanna (1719-1804), J. J. writes: "With her, green aprons disappeared in our meeting of Devonshire House."

²⁴ Thomas Pole (1753-1829) settled in London in 1781 as a practitioner in medicine and surgery, at 45, Cannon Street. He married Elizabeth Barrett, of Cirencester, in 1784. See *Thomas Pole, M.D.*, by Edmund T. Wedmore, 1908.

²⁵ William Tomlinson (1726-1805) lived at Ratcliff, near London. He died during the Yearly Meeting "suddenly at Joseph Cator's. This innocent old man preached at our afternoon meeting at Devonshire House last first day—on the Fourth day following he was buried at Ratcliffe." (*Records of James Jenkins*, p. 621.)

²⁶ Much has been written and printed respecting John Townsend (1725-1801), of Goodman's Fields, London, pewterer and Minister. "He was a short man, but very lively and energetic." When he crossed the Atlantic in 1785, the sailors on board said of him and his larger companion [Thomas Colley]: "The little 'un would thrash the big 'un with his hands tied behind him." (*British Friend*, 1874, p. 317; *Recollections of Spitalfields.*)

²⁷ John Ellis (1745-1828) was the schoolmaster of Gildersome school, where John Perry, Jr., was educated. Gildersome is five miles from Leeds. The school is mentioned in a list of fifteen schools for boys between 1760 and 1780 in *Education in the Society of Friends*, 1871. James Jenkins writes, *anno* 1799 :

“ I arrived at Gildersome & had the pleasure to find my old friend Jn^o Ellis, and his family all well ; Gildersome is a pretty little village situated about a mile and a half from the Bradford road and Jn^o Ellis's house and school is in a lonely situation a little beyond it” (*Records*, p.455). John Ellis was a son of John and Mary Ellis, of Sheffield and later of Mansfield. He married Mary Horsfall in 1774, who died in 1827, aged 76.

²⁸ Mary Leaver, of Nottingham (1720-1789), was the daughter of John and Ann Payne, of Newhill Hall, Yorkshire, (a house still in the same Quaker family) and married John Leaver (1711-1794) (the marriage not found in the Registers). She visited America 1773-1775. Shortly after her return she suffered the loss of her eldest daughter, Ann (1756-1777), of whom there is mention in *Piety Promoted* and some of whose dying sayings were printed. In the following year Mary Leaver wrote a letter of advice to her two remaining daughters Mary and Dorothy (*British Friend*, 1848, p. 89), full of motherly solicitude and affection, incidentally referring to their “ good natural capacities and comfortable competency of the good things of this life.” The advice to them “ to follow their sister's footsteps ” was unintentionally acted upon—Mary died in 1782, aged twenty-two and Dorothy in 1783, aged twenty. In some verses written by one of her sisters on the death of Ann (ms. in D.) there are references to “ gentle Henry ” who was “ left hopeless and forlorn ”—perhaps Ann's *fiancé*.

There was another and later Mary Payne who married a John Leaver of Nottingham, see *Smith of Cantley*, 1878, pp. 26, 126.

²⁹ This would be Elizabeth Priestman (1749-1797), wife of David Priestman, of Pickering, Yorks. She was the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Taylor, of London.

³⁰ Phebe Blakes (1741-1814) was a daughter of John and Sarah Marshall of Rawdon Meeting, and probably a relation of Esther Marshall, of the same district, who became Brady and Clark (see note 14). She married James Blakes, of Leeds, in 1784 ; he died in 1819, aged 71.

³¹ For Mary Proud (1742-1826), see vol. xv. p. 13.

³² Catherine (Payton) Phillips (1727-1794) was a very prominent Minister and probably also somewhat overbearing at times : James Jenkins styles her “ a great Autocratix ” (*Records*, p. 143 and frequent elsewhere).

³³ We are sorry to learn that one, at least, of the Friends employed in digesting the Registers was dissatisfied with the remuneration he received, for the result of the work has been of immense value. The following inclines one to think that the scale of payment was not very liberal. It is endorsed “ Address to the Meeting for Sufferings from those employed on the Registers, 5 mo. 1840.”

“ To the Committee of Sufferings on the Registers :

“ Understanding that in consequence of the Yearly Meeting, our operations must of necessity be suspended and presuming that our services may be required to complete the work after that period ; we the undersigned Transcribers and others respectfully submit the following to your consideration. viz.

“ That many of us have families entirely dependent upon our exertions for support, and as most probably we shall be unemployed during that period, our means of providing for them will necessarily be very limited ; that the healths of several of us have been injured by the close application which it

