



JOHN WILBUR, OF NEW ENGLAND

(1774-1856)

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Drawn by Henry Jacob, of Clonmel, born 1835, son of Henry and Lucy (Bewley) Jacob. He lived in India and Africa, and in U.S.A., where he died in 1905.

According to his *Journal*, Wilbur was at Clonmel, 19 to 22 Jan., 1854, aged 79½. Probably the sketch was made at this time.

Glimpses of Family Life in 1832

AMONG papers once in the possession of the Hargreaves family of Yorkshire and Cheshire is a manuscript giving an account of visits in 1832 to Friends in the north, south and east, in company with John Wilbur, of U.S.A. There is no name to it but it is clear from the *Journal of John Wilbur*, 1859, p. 149, that Ralph Neild was Wilbur's companion on his journey.

Ralph Neild (1788-1849) was a son of Joseph Neild of Hough. He married Mary Harper, of Frandley, in 1808, when he was of "Tabley, Cheshire, husbandman." His wife died in 1822, aged 32.

The knowledge of the outward circumstances of the families visited must have been obtained by close personal enquiry at the time of the visits and is, presumably, correct.

11mo. 6th, 1832—left home this afternoon in company with JNO. WILBUR, and spent the night at WILLIAM BOULTON'S, Manchester. 7th—pursued our journey to Sheffield, the day very wet and stormy and we got a little benighted, and much wet, but when we got there we were kindly received at our friend, WILLIAM HARGREAVES, he has a Son and a Daughter residing with him, the latter I consider a very valuable friend, whose kindness to us I shall not easily forget. We spent the night very pleasantly with them. 8th—were at their meeting morning and afternoon, and lodged that night at SARAH SMITH'S where a number of Friends were invited to meet us and the evening was spent very interestingly.

9th—we arrived at Doncaster and Lodged at RICHARD COCKIN'S, a fine old Friend, who has a Wife and one Daughter with him, the former is nearly deprived of her speech by a paralytic stroke, the same evening we called on MARTHA SMITH, who was in a very feeble state, but very lively in spirit, she appeared labouring under great difficulty of breathing, and she finished her earthly course about twelve days afterwards. 10th—we had a meeting with friends there, and dined at JOSEPH CLARK'S

who, with his wife and four young children, are a very interesting family.

That evening we arrived at Ackworth School and tarried two nights there, which was a great treat to me having felt much interested in that institution ever since I was a Scholar there. 12th—we arrived at Leeds, and had a meeting with friends that evening, and lodged at ROBERT JOWETT'S, who has a wife, and five children nearly grown up. 13th—we were at Rawdon, at our friend RICHARD THOMPSON'S, where we were very kindly entertained by him and his two Sons. 14th—left for Leeds again and Breakfasted at NEWMAN CASH'S, who is a Widower with five children, three Girls and two Boys. We arrived at York the same evening, and took up our abode at MARY BACKHOUSE'S, a very kind Widow, and were at their meeting on the 15th, this being first day, we dined with DAVID PRIESTMAN and his sister, both of whom are single and I judge likely to continue so. 16th—called on several friends, viz., ROBERT RICHARDSON and Wife, THOMAS BACKHOUSE and his sister SARAH, Widow MURRAY, Widow JANSON, and CELIA WILLIAMS, the later of whom has been confined to her bed for about eight years, and I thought her patience and resignation under affliction was a striking lesson to me, may I profitably remember it during the remaining part of my probationary state here.

17th—we left York for Thorn, and on our way dined at JONATHAN HUTCHINSON'S, at Selby, who has a wife and five interesting Children. Here we called on a few elderly friends, WILLIAM PROCTOR and Wife and THOMAS PROCTOR and his Sister, Brother and Sister to WILLIAM, we arrived at Thorn the same evening and had a meeting with the few friends there in MORDICAI CASSON'S house where we lodged, he has two Sons and one daughter, Who are all grown up. 18th—we arrived at Gainsborough (Lincolnshire) and Lodged at SIMON MAW BOWEN'S, his wife is very infirm, owing to having had a paralytic Stroke. 19th—we had a meeting with friends, and arrived at Lincoln in the evening, where a few who meet together as friends met us at the Inn for which opportunity I felt thankfull, there being no friends in this place. 20th—we had a meeting at Broughton, and

that night Lodged at JOSEPH BURTT'S, Junr., he has a Wife and two fine Children.

21st—travelled to Boston and lodged at THOMAS RICKETT'S, who has a wife and nine Children, three sons and Six Daughters, we were at their meeting on the 22nd and the same day travelled to Spalding, here we lodged at WILLIAM MASSEY'S, who has a Wife and son and Daughter. 23rd—had a meeting with friends here, and the same evening arrived at JONATHAN HUTCHINSON'S, at Gedney, where we stayed two nights, he is a valuable old friend and has a son and daughter residing with him and another son who is married, and has five nice Children who are often trotting over to see their Grandfather which delights him very much. 25th—we arrived at Wisbeach (Cambridgeshire), and lodged at JONATHAN PECKOVER'S, had a meeting with friends the 26th, and the same evening arrived at March, and had a meeting with friends that evening, and Lodged at THOMAS ROBERTS. 27th—we arrived at Downham (Norfolk), and lodged at HANNAH CLARK'S, a fine Mansion, she has two Daughters with her, both middle aged, one of them is a Widow, we had a meeting with the few friends there on 28th and the same evening arrived at Lynn, here we Lodged at JAMES BAYES, who has a very choice Wife and six Children, these two friends have joined our Society by conviction, and his Wife's Sister appears likely to follow their example, may she be enabled to hold out on her way was what I most earnestly desired for her. 29th—being first day we were at their meeting morning and evening, they were seasons which I believe will long be remembered by most that were present, this day we dined at SUSANNAH RANSOM'S (Widow), she has a niece resides with her, afterwards we called on a few friends who were advanced in years, and the next morning took breakfast with ANN BURLINGHAM (Widow).

30th—arrived at Wells and lodged at ISAAC GALES, and had a meeting with friends on the 1st of 12th month, after which we travelled to Holt the same evening, and Lodged at an Inn after having a meeting with about half-a-dozen people, the Husbands of whom had descended from friends, and the opportunity was, I thought, a favoured one. 2nd—passed on to North

Walsham, and had a meeting there which was very small, here we dined at THOMAS NASH'S, he has a wife and six children, most of whom appeared very delicate, the same evening arrived at Lammas, took tea at CR. DIXES, who has a wife and one son at home, and another son an apprentice at Wells. After tea we had a meeting here, and lodged at JOHN WRIGHT'S, he has a Wife and two sons and two Daughters grown up at home, and one of his daughters is the wife of JOSEPH CREWDSON, of Manchester. 3rd—arrived at Norwich, and attended their week-day meeting, and took up our abode at our very kind friends JANE GURNEY (Widow), she has with her four Grandchildren, two Girls and two Boys, sons and daughters of JONATHAN and HANNAH BACKHOUSE who are now both on a religious visit to friends in America.

4th—we had a meeting with friends at Tisbrough and returned to our quarters after taking dinner with COLEBY HOLMES and wife who have one little girl. 5th—we rested at JANE GURNEY'S, our home quarters, took tea this evening with LUCY AGGS and her Mother, the former is a minister. 6th—attended Norwich meeting morning and afternoon, to-day we dined with JOSEPH PAGE and Wife, the latter is blind, and a minister approved amongst friends, this evening we lodged at J. J. GURNEY'S at Earlham, a very spacious place, and though we were kindly entertained, yet I felt much more at home in many smaller establishments, he has a son and daughter by a former Wife, but none by his present one. 7th—we had a meeting at Windham with friends, and dined with THOMAS BAYES and his wife, who had six children, these friends are Brother and Sister to JAMES BAYES and his wife at Lynn; the same evening we had a meeting at Attleborough, and then drove to Harling and lodged at ROBERT EVERETTS, who has two sons by a former Wife, but no Children by his present one. We had a meeting with friends here on the 8th, and the same evening arrived at Tivetshall, and had a meeting with friends, and afterwards lodged at JAMES DIXES, whose wife is a Minister, here we met with two of their nieces, one a serious young friend, and the other a little gay, yet not without tender feelings.

9th—we arrived at Yarmouth, and lodged at

ABRAHAM SEWELL'S, who has a Wife and four Children. We had a meeting with friends here on the 10th, and the same day arrived at Pakefield and had a meeting with friends the same evening, here we lodged at ABRAHAM SCALES, who has a single sister keeps his house. Next morning, 11th—we breakfasted with two aged female friends, sisters to A. S., one of whom is a Minister, and has lost her sight, and afterwards travelled to Leiston, in Suffolk, and had a meeting there the same evening, here we Lodged at GUNDRY NEAVE'S, he has a Brother and Sister who reside with him. 12th—we arrived at Woodbridge and lodged at ANN JESUP'S, a widow aged about eighty-four years, she is BERNARD BARTON'S mother-in-law. 13th—attended meeting here and afterwards travelled to Ipswich, and were at their meeting in the evening, and Lodged at DYKES ALEXANDER'S, he is a Widower and has one daughter who keeps his house, he has likewise two sons who are married.

14th—we arrived at Sudbury, and had a meeting the same evening, and lodged at JOHN KING'S. 15th—rested this day and dined at WILLIAM KING'S, brother to JOHN, they are both valuable friends, WILLIAM has lately married. JOHN and his sister live together. 16th—we left Sudbury this morning and arrived in London in the evening, taking up our quarters at PETER BEDFORD'S. 17th—we were at Newington meeting, afterwards called on JOHN and SARAH GRUBB, who have one daughter at home, and one married WILLIAM KING, of Sudbury, they also have one son; called on JOHN LISTER who is ninety-five years of age, and he has two aged sisters live with him, we also called on EDWARD HARRIS and his Wife, who appeared a happy couple with one fine baby, then took dinner at WILLIAM ALLEN'S, where JNO. WILBUR Lodged and I lodged at JOHN FELTHAM'S. 18th—we called on several about Stamford Hill, and visited the Girl's School at Newington, then dined at JOHN KITCHING'S, who afterwards took us in his carriage to THOMAS SHILLITOE'S, where we met with our friend DANIEL WHEELER.

19th—returned to London after calling on several friends at Tottenham, viz., Two aged female friends whose names are STACEYS, ANN FORSTER and her four daughters, and son ROBERT, who all reside together. Their mother is

upwards of eighty years old and the children are advancing fast towards the meridian of life. Then after dining with JOSIAH FORSTER, we returned to our old Quarters, P. BEDFORD'S. 20th—being first day we attended Devonshire house meeting in the morning, and Grace Church Street afternoon, and Took tea with JOSEPH MESSER and his Wife, who have a nice family of little Girls, six in number. She has lately been acknowledged as a Minister.

21st—we attended the Quarterly Meeting of ministers and Elders which was the largest of the kind I had ever attended, afterwards we dined at CORNELIUS HANBURY'S, and there were a number of Strangers there whose company was very interesting to me. His Wife is daughter to JOHN SANI ERSON, and she is a very amiable woman in my view, they have three fine Children, two sons and one daughter. That night I lodged at JOHN FELTHAM'S, where I spent the evening very pleasantly. 22nd—breakfasted this morning at ARTHUR FRY'S, who had lately married ELIZA BENNELL, here I also met with ELIZA'S sister MARY, and I felt truly glad to have the opportunity of seeing them together, may we remember it to profit; after Breakfast I accompanied them to the meeting which was, I think, the largest Quarterly Meeting I ever attended, and I trust it was a time of refreshment to many minds present. We afterwards dined at a friend's in Bishopsgate Street, in company with ROBERT ALSOP and Wife and their son ROBERT, and Daughter MARY. After dinner we returned to our old quarters PETER BEDFORD'S, and spent a few hours there very satisfactorily, leaving the same evening about eight o'clock by the Mail for Norwich, where we arrived about ten the next morning and took up our quarters again at our kind friend's JANE GURNEY'S, where we rested until evening when we attended the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders; and the next day 24th—attended the Quarterly Meeting at Norwich which was but small, afterwards dined at our lodgings, and that evening I took tea at JOSEPH PAGE'S, whose wife is quite blind. 25th—attended a meeting appointed for JNO. WILBUR, which was a solemn time, may all who were present remember and profit by it. Dined at ROBERT BLAKE'S, who has a grown up

family, five sons and three daughters, and took tea with LUCY AGGS and her daughter, the latter of whom is a minister. My second time of being at this place was very unexpected to me, but it was truly gratifying to meet again with so many friends whom I had thought I never should have seen again, and I believe it was not less so to many of them for I am persuaded there are not a few amongst them of whom we shall long remember each other for good.

27th—left Norwich early this morning on my way home and with some difficulty arrived at Sheffield about 8 o'clock the next morning, and attended meeting there morning and afternoon, and lodged at my kind friends WILLIAM HARGREAVES where I was very kindly entertained, left there the next morning and arrived at home in the evening where I found my family all well, for which, and the many other blessings I am favoured to partake, my heart was filled with thankfulness to the author of all good, and sweet were the feelings, yea, very precious indeed was the peace, I was permitted to feel on sitting down by my own fireside, and taking a retrospect of my late journey, and I was led to contemplate upon the very many, very precious opportunities, I had been favoured with from time to time, not only in sitting down with friends in their meetings, but very frequently was I favoured to enter into feeling within their families where my lot was cast, and I humbly trust they with I, and I with them, may ever bear in remembrance that seasons of refreshment are not at our command. May all then patiently wait and quietly hope for that strength which can alone support in every time of temptation and conflict.

Readers of the above will have noticed a reference to the Hargreaves family of Sheffield, and especially to the daughter who was Lydia—"a very valuable friend whose kindness to us I shall not easily forget"—which kindness ripened into love and Ralph Neild married Lydia Hargreaves in 1839. She was the daughter of William and Rachel Hargreaves, and sister of the younger William (d. 1874). She was a minister thirty-one years. She died at Whitby in 1859. Many letters to her are in **D**.