

On Behalf of the King, 1745

THOMAS SAVAGE (1675-1754) was a son of Thomas Savage, of Clifton, Westmorland, and succeeded to his father's farm¹ at this place. He married Alice Hadwen, of Kendal, in 1699; she died in 1718. He was buried at Penrith, "a Minister about eighteen years."

There are several copies of the following letter, the original of which is in the possession of Gilbert Gilkes, of Kendal, and there is in **D** a letter dated 11 mo. 22, on the same subject addressed to Samuel Fothergill. In 1746, a pamphlet was published, entitled *A Summary Account of the Marches . . . of the Rebels, from the time of their coming into England, to the Re-taking of Carlisle by the King's Forces, under the Command of the Duke of Cumberland*, probably written by Thomas Savage, whose name is given as "T—s S—ge" (copy in **D**).

The event so vividly described occurred during the retreat of the Young Pretender, Charles Edward Stuart (1720-1788). He landed in the Hebrides, defeated the forces of King George II and advanced as far as Carlisle and Derby; then retreated and was crushed by the Duke of Cumberland at Culloden in 1746. The battle of Clifton, described by Savage, was the last fought on English soil. It took place on the 17th of December (Tenth Month), 1745.

Clifton 11mo. 29, 1745 /6

Esteemed Fr^d,

By this know thine I rec^d and shall hereby give thee hints of y^e Affair here, as it was from y^e beginning to y^e end. I being both Eye and Ear Witness of y^e truth thereof, but in y^e first place I cannot easily omit acknowledging y^e great Favour and protecting hand of Providence to us manifested in so great a danger as thou by y^e following Acc^t mayst understand.

First as to y^e rebels, when they came south we did not Suffer much, they seem'd to have a great assurance that

¹ Now known as Town End Farm. See *Trans. Cumb. and West. A. and A. Soc.*, new series, vol. xii. (1912), p. 141.

they would proclaim their King in London upon the 24th last mo. and crown him on New Year's day, and then they would send Geordy (as they call'd him) to Hanover, and they should tread down his turnip Garth dyke, highly disesteeming our Noble Duke² (calling him Geordy's Lad and Geordy's Wolley with many more opprobrious Speeches). But in their return North they were Cruelly Barbarous and Inhumane when here, for their heads gave them Liberty to plunder for 4 hours, and then to burn Lowther, Clifton Bridge and Penrith, and some say for 6 miles round, but thanks to y^e Most High, whose Power is above the Power of Man often preventing y^e Wicked from y^e prosecution of their designs which certainly was y^e Lord's doing in bringing forward our Noble Duke and his Men in y^e very hour of great distress; as for my part I must Ever Love and Esteem him as a Man of Worth.

Now I shall give thee to understand y^e Beginning and End of y^e Engagement. First; the Rebels Hussars being gone past to Penrith came riding back to my door in hast between 1 and 2 in y^e Afternoon, and in about 1 hour after came back again, driving up y^e rear of their Army with Whips to my door, and then some others took their place and they wheel'd and set themselves in Ambush against my Barn side, being so enclosed wth cross houses that our King's men could not see them till upon them. But we, not knowing their design, yet, firmly believed it to be Evil and so went into my house, but could not long be easy but ventured forth again, and looking about I Espy'd y^e heads of y^e King's men appearing upon a Hill, ab^t 400 yds south of my house, for w^{ch} my heart was in pain believing that a great numbr of them might be cut off before they were aware. So our Care was great to get y^e King's men Notice, for w^{ch} my Son ventured his Life and gave them Notice ab^t 300 yds before they came at y^e place when in y^e meantime they laid a second Ambush ab^t 100 yds nearer y^e King's men, and y^e King's Men with some Yorksh^r hunters came down and so soon as they were opposite to y^e 1st ambush y^e Rebels Fir'd upon them but did no Execution, and then issued out of y^e Ambush at my doors, and a furious Firing they had, the King's Men Acting y^e nimblest and quickest y^t ever my Eyes beheld, not

² William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland (1721-1765), third son of George II.

one of them receiving any harm ; some Horse followed y^e former so that in a few minutes y^e Rebels ran away like Madmen, and close by my doors one of y^e Rebels was bro^t down and taken, and another of them was also taken at y^e same time, who was their Cap^t Nam'd Hamilton, both w^{ch} were bro^t up to y^e Duke, then all was still for ab^t an hour in w^{ch} time I abode in my house, the King's men still standing on y^e Common, in w^{ch} time my Son³ went over a Little Green to see if he could get y^e Cattle bro^t into their houses, but seeing it was in vain came homeward again when 4 Rebels on horseback seiz'd him, calling him a Spy, and had him down under their horses feet, Swearing desperately many times they would shoot him, and 3 of them commanded y^e 4th to shoot him w^{ch} he first attempted wth his gun then pistol, but neither would fire, so he Escaped and came in. A little after w^{ch} I was grown uneasy to go out w^{ch} I ventur'd to do, and looking ab^t me I saw y^e King's Men standing upon y^e Common as before, and turning me about I saw y^e Rebels filling y^e Town Street North of my house, as also running down and lining y^e Hedges and Walls, even down to my house on both sides ; then I was in great pain for y^e Duke and his Men, it beginning to grow darkish, but I ventur'd my Life and stood a Little off and wav'd my hat in my hand w^{ch} some of them discovering, One came riding down towards me, and I called to him and bid him cast his Eyes ab^t him and see how y^e Town was fill'd, and y^e hedges lined, after w^{ch} he return'd, then a party was dismounted and came down to meet y^e Rebels, and in y^e time of Stillness as above they had sent off a party with their Horse to plunder and burn Lowther hall and was also plundering our Town leaving nothing they could lay their hands on, breaking locks and mak^s ruinous work even to our Victuals and little Children's cloaths of all sorts.

Now it beginning to grow darkish and y^e Rebels so thick ab^t my house that we had no hopes of saving our lives, we concluded to leave y^e house and get into y^e fields if we could, but in y^e middle of my Orchard we were parted by y^e Rebels, one part of us drove into y^e fields and the other part into y^e house severely threatened wth tak^s our lives, never expecting to see one another any more alive, and we were

³ Probably Jonathan, who appears to have been the only surviving son, b. 1712.

not only so, but a Son-in-Law⁴ and his Family were under y^e like circumstances, for they seem'd more severe upon us than upon others. Now to come to y^e matter above again we were not all got to our fireside, before y^e firing on all hands was dreadfull, w^{ch} continued ab^t half an hour, in w^{ch} time was kill'd of y^e King's Men 10 and 21 wounded, and y^e Duke's Footman taken Prisoner who was retaken and of y^e Rebels was killed 5⁵ and many wounded, and that night and early next morning there was 70 in Custody and after y^e heat of firing was over all seem'd still a little space, after w^{ch} some came and broke in at my Court Doors, then came to y^e house Door calling Sharply to open, but we believing it to be y^e Rebels, I would not open, when they began to be sharp and orders were given to fire (they supposing y^e house to be full of Rebels) but I call'd and said I would open as fast as I could, and y^e first words said to me were Can y^e Duke lodge here this Night to w^{ch} I answered wth pleasure. Yes. And pleasant and agreeable Company he was, a Man of good parts very Friendly and no pride in him ; much more on this head I could say if it would not be tedious to thee, but am like to think I'm already tedious, Yet I shall mention one thing more, very remarkable, w^{ch} was, our Cattle were all standing among the Slain Men, and not any of them hurt, as also those that were banished from our house and came in again next morning, w^{ch} y^e Duke's men said was a Wonder they were not all killed : our next Neighbour being shot at y^e same time. Thou mayst know also that I had y^e Duke of Kingston⁶ and Duke of Richmond⁷ wth ab^t 100 Men and as many horses.

One thing I have not yet mentiond w^{ch} was a thing erected by y^e Rebels, like a Scaffold behind a wall at y^e corner of my house, as we believ'd to cut off any that might come in at my Court, w^{ch} if it had not been so that they fled, y^e Noble Duke had stood a Bad chance there. But I am afraid thou canst scarcely read this, if thou thinks of showing

⁴ Thomas Savage's daughter, Mary, married William Sutton in 1730 and his other daughter, Hannah, married Josiah Walker in 1733. For their son, Thomas Walker, b. 1735, see below.

⁵ It is said that the tree under which the Rebels were buried is still standing.

⁶ Evelyn Pierrepont, second Duke of Kingston (1711-1773).

⁷ Charles Lennox, second Duke of Richmond (1701-1750), lieutenant-general, 1745.

it to any I would have thee copy over what thou thinks proper and then show it to whom thou wilt, Even if it be to y^e King I shall be easy because I know it to be truth.

I conclude thy friend

THO. SAVAGE.

In the diary of the travels in England of Samuel Smith (1737-1817) of Philadelphia, printed in Comly, *Misc.*, vol. ix. (1837), p. 127, we read, *anno* 1790 :

On our way to Kendal, we stopt at Thomas Walker's at a place called Clifton, where the rebel army in 1745 and some of the King's troops had a skirmish. Thomas Walker was then a lad, and being sent on an errand before it began, was in some danger ; but running off in a fright, he did not get home till next morning—to the great anxiety of his parents.

Obituary

WILLIAM CHARLES BRAITHWAITE (1862-1922).

Although numerous obituary notices have appeared respecting the life and work of W. C. Braithwaite, it is due that a brief reference to the value of his services as an historian should be made here—in a publication in which he took much interest, to which he was a valued contributor, and from which, for his historical work, he obtained a considerable amount of information.

W. C. Braithwaite's death will for long be felt as a great loss to Quaker historical research, for he readily placed his wide knowledge at the disposal of other workers, and his assistance was never sought in vain.

He was President of the F.H.S. in 1905-6.

In the Annual Report of the Library and Printing Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings is the following :

Only as time goes by shall we fully realise the loss to our work by the death of William Charles Braithwaite. He was one to whom the most difficult and varied questions could be addressed with the certainty of receiving a wise answer. His histories will remain a testimony to his scholarship, and their value is the greater because the historical facts have been interpreted in the light of the inner spirit of Quakerism.