

Yearly Meeting at Longtown, 1780

THE yearly meeting for worship which circulated in the counties of Chester, Lancaster, Westmorland and Cumberland, was held, in 1780, at Longtown, Cumberland, near the Scottish border.

A list of places where this circular Y.M. met, from 1699 to 1798, is in ms. in D. See xxi. 61-67.

Glasshouses 29th 4th Mon. 1780

Dear Friend

. . . As I got to y^e yearly Meeting at Long Town (in comp^y of my Sisters) and Thou seemed desirous in thy Last that I shoud hand Thee an account Thereof, I am now Sat down to attempt something this way, Though think myself Unqualified for a Task of this Sort.

We arrived at Long Town on Seconday y^e 17th where we found very good accommodations & every way Suitable for so Large a Company. The names of Publick Friends who attended were—Tho^s Colley, Esther Tuke, W^m Rathbone, W^m Jepson, W^m Dillworth, Isaac Wilson, Alice Rigg, Hanah Harris, Jane Pearson, Mble Wigham, Thomas Cash, David Duckett, Joseph Saul, James Graham, Jno. Wigham, Thomas Dobson, Jane Waldie (Kelso), S. Tuke, Jno. Rittson & his wife, Jno Hall & his wife, wth Several others.

Thirday Morning 9 °Clock began Select Meeting, & being Solicited by Some of my Worthy Wellwishing Friends to go there, I ventured in. It was a solemn Opportunity in w^{ch} E. Tuke, & Alice Rigg had y^e Principal Service in Testimony, & were lead in avery Plain Searching Manner to Speak too & Plead wth y^e Fore Rank of y^e People—and indeed came under Suitable Qualifications for y^e Service of y^e day. Jane Pearson, who is a beautiful Minister, before y^e Meeting broke up appeared in a lively Manner as a Seal & Confirmation to y^e Truth & expediency of their Testimonies. Y^e Queries were read & answered verbally. . . .

At 3 °Clock Afternoon began y^e Quarterly Meeting for y^e County of Cumberland in w^{ch} nothing material occurred. . . . Closed about 7 °Clock.

Fourth day Morning at 9, began y^e first Publick Meeting of Worship w^{ch} was held in a Booth (Erected for y^e Purpose) w^{ch} was not filled. Y^e People were very still & attentive. Our friend Esther Tuke open'd y^e Meeting in Prayer, W^m Rathbone, W^m Jepson, Alice Rigg, Thomas Colley & Esther Tuke appeared in Testimony, who were all acceptable our F^d T. C. seem'd particularly led forth. . . .

Afternoon Meeting began at 3 Clock & y^e Company Larger ; y^e Booth near filled, yet very still & quiet. . . . Thomas Colley closed wth a most extraordinary Prayer.

On Fifthday Morning at 8 Clock Meeting Conference . . . y^e Northern yearly Meeting Queries were read & answered by friends from each County. Tho^s Cash for Cheshire I tho't did it y^e best ; he has a most easy agreeable manner of expressing himself. Elihu Robinson Proved a good Clerk & y^e Meeting was agreed to be held next year in Westmorland & Penrith seems most likely for that Purpose.

Parting Meeting began at 3 o'Clock w^{ch} was very large, so much so that y^e Booth altho' Computed to hold 2000 People would not contain them all. The Throng was so great so that Friends were obliged to divide & hold another Meeting at same time in y^e yard adjacent. I was in y^e Booth. . . . Our dear friend Thomas Colley was largely led forth to the People . . . indeed he seems peculiarly Qualified & Gifted for These Services, and may very Properly be stiled an Apostle to y^e Gentiles. . . . A great number of Friends Books were distributed amongst y^e People, some said 800 volumns, w^{ch} were gone in a very little time. Several Priests attended y^e Meeting & some People from Dumfries 33 Miles off. Several expressed their Satisfaction in attending Them & in hearing y^e Truths of y^e Gospel declared & some in y^e yard, I was told, seem'd much affected. . . .

We returned home on Second^y Night last & may say That y^e Journey has been very agreeable & Satisfactory to me & wish it may tend to my Improvement in y^e best Sense. . . .

Thy obliged Friend,

JOSEPH KING.

[addressed]

Joseph Wood at New House

To be left at y^e Talbot in

Huddersfield

Yorkshire