

Notices of Frances Dodshon in the Diary of Samuel Dyer, of Bristol

Frances (Henshaw, Paxton) Dodshon (*Jnl.* xxv. 88) spent some years in Bristol on two occasions and while in that city exercised her ministry in the meetings in Bristol and the neighbourhood. Samuel Dyer notes her presence in the years 1766 to 1773.

“ 1771. 6 mo. 12. I went to take leave of F. Dodshon and family, who are going to morrow to their new intended residence at Leek. It was an affecting season. She will be much missed ; she hath been much favoured since she hath been in this place, especially towards the latter part of her time.”

“ 1772. 12 mo. 31. Our dear friend Frances Dodshon was at the funeral of Jacob Player at Frenchay and was much favoured in her Testimony since she came here to this City, her coming was to try the Hotwell water for her youngest son, but he reaped no benefit, but died soon after he came.”

“ 1793. 8 mo. 11. I heard to-day of the decease of my old friend and valuable acquaintance, Frances Dodshon, whose memory is sweet. She was a considerable preacher, and frequently exercised in her gift, being well qualified for publick service. Her way has been much tried, and many and great afflictions have fallen to her lott, some of a peculiar kind.”

“ 1771. 5 mo. 12. I would not for get Wm. Dodshon, the husband of Frances Dodshon, for he was a loving-spirited man and an Elder of good esteem : I have often heard him relate the gracious dealings of the Lord with him in his youth, which used so to humble him that it caused him to shed many tears.”

The Bristol Registers record the death of Ralph Paxton in the year 1772.

In 1785 died at Kingsdown, Bristol, Ann Dodshon, of Leek, aged 45.

ROCHESTER SEPARATION. “ A Separation took place at Rochester [New England] among Friends under Timothy Davis and Benjamin Bumfus. Timothy returned to Friends, but B. Bumfus continued to hold his principles and the meeting house at Rochester, in which he held meetings till near his close, about two years since. In his last illness it is said he advised his hearers to return to Friends, and most of them have since been received at New Bedford, and the meeting house is again in possession of Friends, and a meeting held there.”

(*Journal of John Comly*, 1853, p. 260 ; *Comly, Miscellany*, 1837, vol. x. p. 50 (*Journal of Joshua Evans, sub anno 1793.*))