

## Stephenson, of Westmorland and Cumberland

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By the kindness of Robert Muschamp, of Heap Bridge, Bury, Lancs., a manuscript of 70 pages has reached D, picked up by him, "very dusty in a secondhand book shop," of which the following is a résumé with additional facts:

Introduction: "Anne Stephenson can collect only the following very few records of her Father's family. She leaves them for her Nephew and Niece, R. C. & M. A. Stephenson, after her decease. A.S. 24-8-59."

DANIEL STEPHENSON, 1ST ( -1752), was a Friend, living at Kendal in Westmorland. "He & his wife, Hannah, were both gifted and sensible, & acknowledged Ministers of the Gospel, & were married at Kendal."

The Diaries of John Kelsall give the name of Hannah Stephenson, of Kendal, among those of strangers present at the Welsh Y.M. at Bala in 1732.

DANIEL STEPHENSON, 2ND ( -1762), lived at the Cupola House at Whitehaven, in great abundance and luxury. When out, he carried a sword and wore a cocked hat, adorned with gold lacing and buttons, and dressed his sons in the same way save that the swords were shams. His wife was Sarah, daughter of Joseph Storrs, of Chesterfield, who lived to be ninety. When walking out she was always followed by a footman. Their children were Daniel 3rd, Sarah, Hannah and William. The family was much associated with that of the Earl Lowther, and the daughters danced and sang at the parties given by each family. It is related that, with the knowledge that strict Friends hung no pictures on their walls, Daniel Stephenson took down all his numerous possessions of that description and put them into a cupboard when some Friends were coming on a religious visit. Little Sarah, having seen and heard, met the Friends at the gate and said with much delight: "Oh, Friends, the pictures are all put in the cupboard."

In reduced circumstances the family retired to Douglas in the Isle of Man, where Daniel Stephenson died in 1762. His widow settled in Bristol in 1771, where she died in 1800.

DANIEL STEPHENSON, 3RD (1736-1818), son of Daniel and Sarah, went to America, owned many slaves and possessed land on which now stands the city of Washington, D.C. During the Revolutionary War he supported the cause of his native country and had to escape back to Europe, losing all his possessions in the New World (worth upwards of £30,000). The British Government granted him the sum of £7,000 in compensation and he made another fortune, "Keeping a chariot & fine horses & footmen behind." He married a non-Friend, Elizabeth Maddox, of Lancashire, but was not disowned. It is reported that one of his slaves

escaped, reached London, and was found on his master's doorstep in Guildford Street, Russell Square, becoming to the end of his days a faithful attendant. "Daniel left orders to be buried in the nearest Friends' burial ground & in the most simple style, but that his wife disobeyed, for it was as stately a funeral as I ever saw—ostrich feathers, full mourning, & four horses to the hearse, & four coaches, and between them a man who bore a huge board of feathers, the custom at that time. Between them who had the office of covering with the pall & the door-keepers & other Friends at the Bunhill Fields ground there was a complete struggle, the latter objecting to the determination of the former to introduce these appendages." "He was a very highly honourable & highly refined, nice, courtly gentleman."

SARAH STEPHENSON (1738-1802) was the elder daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Storrs) Stephenson, and was born at Whitehaven. The description given above of the life of her father would prepare the reader to learn that she was early given to dancing and singing and high life, but a serious illness and the influence of the visit of Elizabeth Ashbridge and Sarah Worrell, when she was residing in Worcester with her mother's sister, Hannah, wife of Samuel Corbyn, turned the current of her life into a more serious channel. The former visitor addressed her one evening in a weighty manner, remarking also: "What a pity that child should have a ribbon on her head." From Worcester Sarah went back to her parents, who, with her sister Hannah and brother William, were then residing at Douglas, in the Isle of Man. Eighteen months later she left the island and visited relations at Chesterfield, Worcester, and in the county of Wilts; and returning to the North she heard of the serious illness of her father, who died before she could reach home. The family scattered, and the mother, after a visit *en route*, settled with her relative, John Fry, at Sutton Benger in Wiltshire.

Sarah Stephenson began to speak as a Minister, was recorded as such and for many years travelled incessantly, Mary Jefferys (later Powell) of Melksham, Wiltshire, being her constant companion. In 1801, though she was in poor health, she and her companion crossed the Atlantic, and in 1802 her strength gave way and she departed this life in the city of Philadelphia.

Her niece, Anne Stephenson, records that once, when her aunt was at her home, her huge beaver hat was placed on the floor and the niece put her little feet alternately into the crown—"bright red morocco Shoes and silver clasps, the first made by Thomas Shillitoe, for he made all our Shoes then—it was at Tottenham—in the Terrace." "Mary Wright of Leeds records that when she was very young, walking in a street of London, under a visitation of soul that was calling her to follow the Lord, a Quaker lady entirely unknown to her, who had passed her some little distance, returned to her, stopped & uttered these words: 'Be thou faithful unto death & I will give thee a crown of life.' It was Sarah Stephenson." Her niece writes: "I have a faint remembrance of a mild, sweet face, a drab dress and clean white kerchief & apron & a much brighter one." The memoirs of Hannah C. Backhouse, Rebecca Jones

and Sarah Tuckett bear testimony to spiritual good received from Sarah Stephenson, and also the diaries of Samuel Dyer, of Bristol, in which are some thirteen references, the first reading: "Sarah Stephenson, a good young woman, appeared very lively & it had a reach over the people," anno 1773, and another: "Sarah Stephenson was at Bath, in her way to Bristol. She was much enlarged among them in addressing the different states & was very sweet & lively; owing to that mild sweet manner she has much place in many minds," anno 1791, 10 mo.

*Memoirs of Sarah Stephenson* were published in 1807.

Like her sister Sarah, HANNAH STEPHENSON (1745-1804) lived a frivolous and gay life until her conversion. Anne Stephenson remarks that she was less generally pleasing than her sister. At the age of twenty-two she also began a life of vocal religious service, first in Essex, later in London, and last in Bristol. Samuel Dyer refers to her repeatedly in his diaries—6 mo. 1782. "Hannah Stephenson, a friend from London, has come here to settle, she appeared today I thought acceptably." In 1792 she united with Mercy Ransom, Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young, in a series of family visits, but in 1799, the proposal of Samuel Dyer and H. Stephenson to visit families was met with a refusal by the Monthly Meeting—"a great deal was said by three friends against it, so for peace sake I relinquished the matter both as it related to Hannah & myself. But I was informed we were at liberty to begin a family visit, provided Hannah & I went by ourselves, which was not what we had in view." In 1804, 2 mo. 4, S. Dyer reported the death of H. Stephenson after a long illness. "She was an excellent spirited woman though not large in her gift as a Minister, but sound & lively."

WILLIAM STEPHENSON (1752-1822), the youngest child of Daniel, 2nd, and Sarah, was a silversmith of London. He married, in 1782, Hannah, daughter of Owen and Mary Weston, of London. His daughter Anne writes of persecution embittering his life through a series of years and of trouble in connection with his daughter Mary. He died at Folkestone.

Anne Stephenson concludes: "Since writing all the foregoing I have printed the genealogies of the Weston and Stephenson families." She was born in 1796 and died at Exmouth in 1886. The latest date in the book is 1878.

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THE SEPARATE MEETING AT MANCHESTER.—Richard Cockin to Mary Fox, Doncaster, 10 iv. 1842:

"The last account of the separate Meeting at Manchester was that several of the Friends who united with Isaac Crewdson in the separation have joined different denominations, and that as no fresh additions had lately been made to their number, it appears most probable if anything should prevent Isaac from the support thereof, the Meeting would be discontinued."