

The Religious Society of Friends Northumbria Monthly Meeting

Winnowshill Visitors Book

Introduction:

The following extracts have been made from a visitor's book that was used from 1906 until 1999 by the occupants of Winnowshill Farm. Monthly Meeting Trustees presented a new book to the present tenant of the farm, Mr Knowles, in year 2000 in exchange for this book, which contains records of interest to Friends.

Memorandum at front of book by David Richardson:

Winnowshill is described in the History of Northumberland issued under the direction of the Northumberland County History Committee Vol. VI pp 219-220, but it may interest visitors to know a few further particulars respecting the burial ground & Meeting house placed here by the Society of Friends when they were numerous - at least in comparison with other dissenters. In 1653 George Fox writes in his Journal "I passed through Northumberland to Darren-water where there were great meetings. And the priests threatened that they would come. But none came. The everlasting Word of Life was freely preached and freely received: and many hundreds were turned to Christ their Teacher" "Then we passed onto Hexham where we had a great meeting a top of an hill. The Priest threatened that he would come and oppose us, but he came not: so that all was quiet: and the everlasting Day & renowned Truth of the Everlasting God was sounded over those dark countries and his Son exalted over all. We passed away through Hexham peacefully & came into Gilsland; a country noted for thieving."

Ten years later, in 1663, Fox writes - "when I had visited Friends in those parts & they were settled upon Christ their Foundation, their Rock & their Teacher. I passed through Northumberland"...."and then went to Darwin-water where we had a very glorious meeting. There came an ancient woman to me & told me her husband remembered his love to me & she said I might call him to mind by this token, that I used to call him the tall white old man. She said he was six score & two years old & that he would have come to the meeting but that his horses were all employed & I heard he lived some years after"

The following memoranda are taken from the record books of the Friends of Allendale Meeting which then comprised also Derwent dale.

In 1751 is recorded "No new meeting-houses built, yet one new meeting is settled at Newbegin once every month, at the house of Ann Makepeace, widow."

"Ralph Bainbridge came first among Friends about the year 1751 or 2, came forth in the ministry about the year 1754."

"Joseph Makepeace was born at Newbiggin in the parish of Shotley in Northumberland, as far as we can make out in the year 1710 and in the year 1762 he came forth in the work of the ministry."

In 1755 The Meeting is reported as held once a week.

In 1761 "Anthony Watson & Ralph Bainbridge are desired to take care to get some more seats placed in the meeting-house in Darwent & to bring the amount of their charge." £1.2.4 was the amount paid for them.

In 1761 a meeting for worship to be holden on the Fifth day of the week was agreed to.

In 1755 Joseph Makepeace of Newbegin refusing to pay tithes had taken from him 14 shocks of barley & 12 of oats valued £1.14.0 and next year for £8.9.4 & 10/- costs, 33 ewes & 30 lambs valued at £13.

Under date 29th of 5th month 1776 - this - "as Friends of Darwent, being now deprived of their usual meeting house, this meeting have petition Thomas Clavering for liberty to have some suitable

convenience at Winnishill and Anthony Watson and Joseph Watson are here desired to wait upon him in order to treat with him for the same." 27th of 6th month 1776 "Anthony Watson & Joseph Watson reported here that they waited on Thomas Clavering relating to a place for a meeting house at Winnishill & he appeared to be willing to forward Friends with everything in his power. This meeting desires Anthony Watson, Joseph Makepeace, Cuthbert Crozier & Joseph Watson to fix upon a proper place for the same & to draw up an estimate of the charge against our next meeting." The cost was estimated at £30, but there appears to have been paid out at various times in the year 1777 £42.17.8.

In 1781 An^y & Jos. Watson are appointed to get the Meeting house registered or licensed at the Northumberland Sessions.

The Trustees appointed in 1776 for the Meeting House and Graveyard were

Joseph Watson of Riding
Jacob Watson of Huntswell (?)
John Wigham of Bournhouse
Joseph Watson of Shildon
Cuthbert Crozier of Newbegin.

From 1773 to 1810 - eleven members were disunited from various causes, and several families left the neighbourhood.

In the year 1799 an appointment of Friends from another neighbourhood was made "to stir Darwen Friends up to hold their weak day meetings".

In 1809 Three Friends were appointed "to confer with Darwen Friends as to joining that Meeting with Allendale for business & carrying out the discipline of the Society". In 1823 The Winnowshill Meeting was discontinued there being only one member left. The late Robert Ormston of Healey House, a member of Newcastle Friends, used to attend the meeting at Winnowshill.

The lease of the Burial ground seems to have been for 99 years as it expired in the year 1876. (last burial 1877)

For a list of the interments in this burial ground, see end of this book. The records of the Births deaths & marriages up to the year 1836 was then sent to Somerset House, a copy is also in the custody of David Richardson of Wheel Birks, nr Stocksfield & The Gables, Elswick, Newcastle, by whom these notes are made - Jan^y 1906.

This book was placed in the hands of William Teasdale to be retained by him & the succeeding occupants of the farm of Winnowshill for the information of inquirers in the days to come.

The inscription on the lower end of the Burial ground, which faces south-east, reads

Consecrated

By 55 interments between the years 1718 & 1877

This old burial ground & adjoining meeting house of the Society of Friends are memorials of the preaching of George Fox, who in the year 1653 writes of
Derwentwater

The everlasting word of Life was freely preached over Those dark countries & many hundreds were turned to Christ their teacher.

Visitors records

The first entry is: H K McAllum - Riding Mill - Good Friday 1906.

There follow some sixty pages of visitor's names, addresses and dates, a few of the more recent entries being recognisably as those of Friends. For example, Ruth Dodds, Elizabeth A Forbes and Ann L Forbes of Newcastle upon Tyne Preparative Meeting visited on January 3rd 1946.

Later that year an entry states: "Some thirty Friends of Newcastle Monthly Meeting visited this burial ground on 15th Ninth Month 1946, Donald Ramage, Clerk, Newcastle PM".

A note inserted in 1966 reads:

"The new Derwent Reservoir was completed to supply water to South Shields and Sunderland, including a new road past Winnows Hill Farm. Great changes have taken place in the Derwent Valley with Espershields, Millshields, The Ridding and the better part of Winnows Hill land now being demolished and covered over with water, JW Potts, tenant at Winnows Hill at the time. " The last entry was made in July 1999.

List of Interments in Winnowshill

	Name	Date			Age	Residence	Description
		Year	Mth.	Day			
1	Beck, Esther	1790	10	21	11 wks	Newbegin North ^{ld}	Fasher(?) or miner
2	Blenk, Matthew	1791	5	21	1 yr	Blanchland	Son of Edw & Rebecca
3	Beck, Hannah	1794	7	19	5 yrs	Boltsburn, Durham	Daughter of Geo. Beck
4	Beck, Hannah	1790	9	21	41	Newbegin	Wife of Geo. (innkeeper)
5	Blenk, Edward	1828	7	7	78	Parish of Shotley	
6	Blenk, Rebecca	1836	6	1	88	Blenkland(?) Shotley	Widow
7	Dawson, Joseph	1784	7	11	49	Winnowshill	
8	Dickinson, Joseph	1788	4	29	57	Nelles hills North ^{ld}	
9	Foster, Hannah	1813	5	15	68	Winns hill	
10	Grozier, Elizabeth	1764	10	18		New Begin in Darwen	
11	Grozier, Cuthbert	1718	4	19		New Begin in Darwen North ^{ld}	
12	Keenlyside, Joshua	1787	5	16	70	Winoeshill	Husbandman
13	Lee, Joseph	1787	5	24	12	Blanchland	Son of John & Ann
14	Lee, Ann	1800	6	12	53	Blanchland	Wife of John
15	Makepeace, Thomas	1748	7	7		Newbigin, Shotley Par.	
16	Makepeace, Ann	1764	4	22		New-begin	
17	Makepeace, Ann	1767	9	17		New-begin	
18	Makepeace, Rebeckah	1770	1	5		Newbegin in Darwen	Wife of Joseph
19	Makepeace, Joseph	1779	12	1		Blanchland	
20	March, Jane	1786	8	26	24	Healy	Widow of Geo. March
21	Makepeace, Ann	1787	5	12	24	Winnoeshill	Wife of Joshua (miner)
22	Makepeace, Joshua	1797	12	2	55	Blanchland	
23	Taylor, John Watson	1797	7	23	18 wks	Blanchland	Son of John & Hannah
24	Taylor, Hannah	1797	9	26	26	Blanchland	Wife of John (mason)
25	Watson, Mary	1768	3	25		Parents at Shildon	Daughter of Jos. & Jane
26	Wilkinson, Elizabeth	1784	3	21	11	Darwend	Daughter of John & Hannah
27	Wilkinson, John	1786	10	4	55	Espershields	
28	Wilkinson, Hannah	1789	3	25	3 wks	Espershields	Daughter of Ann Wilkinson

	Name	Date			Age	Residence	Description
		Year	Mth.	Day			
29	Watson, Hannah	1790	3	5	83	New house	Widow of Anthony W.
30	Watson, Joseph	1798	3	19	65	Sildon	
31	Watson, Joshua	1798	8	25	24	Sildon	
32	Watson, Jane	1800	9	15	65	Blanchland	
33	Watson, Joshua	1803	6	11	68	Acton Mills	
34	Watson, Mary	1807	5	19	44	Milshields	
35	Watson, Isaac	1809	3	23	21	Millshields	
36	Watson, Margaret	1814	4	19	83	Blanchland	
37	Watson, Joshua	1815	4	29	55	Blanchland	

The foregoing were, with a few exceptions, members of the Society of Friends, but none of those following seem to have been members.

	Name	Date			Age	Residence	Description
		Year	Mth.	Day			
38	Blenk, Elizabeth	1838	3	22	49	Blenshland	
39	Hutchinson, Hannah	1839	4	28	87	Ruffside, parish of Edmundbyers	
40	Hutcheson, Matthew	1839	10	25	27days	Ruffside	
41	Westgarth, William	1841	5	1	50	Castleside, parish of Lanchester	
42	Hutchinson, Elizabeth	1841	5	16	41	Ruffside	
43	Nixon, Matthew	1845	6	8	93	Espershields (smelter)	
44	Brambles, Joseph	1846	3	11	5	Espershields	
45	Brambles, Anthony	1846	3	11	1	Espershields	
46	Infant daugh ^r of Wm. & Hannah Bolam	1846	10	1		Mill shields	
47	Nixon, Jason	1849	10	30	73	Espershields	
48	Bramley, George	1851	12	8	50	Wall house, Espershields	
49	Westgarth, Hannah	1854	4	8	64	Shotley Bridge	
50	Beck, Lydia	1858	3	5	8	Winners hill	
51	Beck, Thomas	1858	7	8	46	Winners hill	
52	Blenk, Joseph	1867	3	15	86	Blanchland	
53	Hutchinson, Jonathan	1872	1	11	86	Roughside	
54	Bewment, Joseph	1877	3	22	2	Espershields	

Of these 54 families a few particulars are noted

In 1772 John Bainbridge removed to Newcastle and

In 1776 Ralph Bainbridge & family followed him

1783 Tho^s Makepeace removed to Newcastle

1783 Mary Dawson & Ann Wilkinson removed to Staindrop

1784 Dorothy Makepeace & Hannah Dawson also removed there.

1784 Tho^s Pierson removed.

1788 John Philips & family removed to Staindrop.

1788 Hannah Wilkinson & family removed to Staindrop

1788 Phebe Wilkinson also removed there

1789 Joshua & Esther Watson removed to London

1790 Jane Watson removed to Barking

1797 Susannah Wilkinson removed to Staindrop

In 1797 Ann Wilkinson to the same place
1810 Cuthbert Grozier Watson moved to Staindrop
1813 Ann Watson of Milishiels moved to Newcastle
1815 Joseph Watson of Blanchland also went to Newcastle
Rebecca Blenk who died in 1836 was a Minister

Postscript

The spelling of names has been reproduced as accurately as possible. An uncertainty about a spelling is indicated by (?). It will be noted that spellings of place names vary; for example Winnowshill appears as Winners Hill, Winoeshill, Winnoeshill and Winnishill. It has been assumed that David Richardson has faithfully reproduced variations, where they occur, from the original.

The Visitors Book was added to the Northumbria (formerly Newcastle) Monthly Meeting records held on loan by the Tyne and Wear Archive Service in 2001.