

THE DIARY OF WILLIAM GRIMSHAW OF HAWORTH, 1755 TO 1757

Few people seem to know of the manuscript life of William Grimshaw of Haworth, prepared by that indefatigable biographer-controversialist James Everett. Amongst the manuscript items which Everett collected for his biography—which was to be called "The Curate of Haworth"—is a diary in Grimshaw's hand, covering parts of the years 1755 to 1757. Everett said that this had been "hermetically sealed to the public for a period of seventy years," and since he wrote those words another hundred years have passed. At last, however, the seal is to be broken. Everett had prepared a paraphrastic transcription, but it is felt that students of early Methodism would prefer something more literal, with an occasional note by way of elucidation.

The diary consists of six quarto sheets, the first four forming one connected narrative, whilst the fifth is an extract, complete in itself, from a later period. The sixth sheet, or rather portion of one diagonally torn across, is probably the end of a section of the diary, or possibly of Grimshaw's belated attempt to keep a diary, as it contains writing on one side only. These six sheets have been carefully repaired and sewn together by Everett.

Joseph Williams of Kidderminster, describing an interview he had with Grimshaw in 1745 (see Myles: *Life and Writings of the late Rev. William Grimshaw*, pp. 12ff, and Laycock: *Methodist Heroes in the Great Haworth Round*, pp. 32ff,) speaks of Grimshaw's keeping two diaries in connection with his spiritual awakening about six years earlier. The manuscript evidence now before us, however, shows either that Grimshaw had a very short memory, or that Williams had misunderstood him, for Grimshaw is explicit that though he had previously *intended* to keep a diary, this was the first time that he had actually embarked on the enterprise.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of this diary, to many people at any rate, is the definite proof it gives of Grimshaw's preaching-journeys. It has been generally known that he travelled far and wide, and here we have a small cross-section of his labours. Omitting the references to Haworth

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(which he calls "home"), we see him visiting the following places, usually to preach, and often staying overnight :

1755. Sept. 15. Barcroft.
- 17. Oakes.
 - 18. Holdworth, Mixenden.
 - 19. Hoohole, Ewood.
 - 20. Snaboothe, Over Town.
 - 23. Cullingworth, Denham.
 - 25. Heptonstal, Colden, Rodwellend.
 - 26. Hoohole, Stoneyroyd.
 - 27. Mankinholes, Dobroyd.
 - 29. Lees, Hainworthshaw.
- Oct. 1. High Binns, Denham Park, Oakes.
- 2. Oakes, Holdworth, Mixenden.
 - 3. Sowerby Street, Ewood.
 - 4. Fearnly Lee, Snaboothe, Sowdens.
 - 6. Cullingworth, Denham, Over Town.
 - 7. Rush Hills.
 - 8. Baleden, Menstone, Otley.
 - 9. Otley, Addington, Silsden, Sutton, Newsham.
 - 10. Newsham, Scoles.
 - 16. Halifax, Ewood. (With George Whitefield)
 - 17. Rodwel End. Heptonstal. (With George Whitefield)
 - 23. Heptonstal, Sowdens.
 - 30. Mixenden.
 - 31. Ewood.
- Nov. 1. Snaboothe.
- 3. Denham. Cullingworth, Cuckow Nest.
1756. May 31. Kighley Par., Royde House.
- June 8. Bentlewood Green.
- 9. Bentlewood Green, Fenniscows, Lawnds,
 - 10. Lawnds, Marsh Lane.
 - 11. Rimmington, Gisburne.
 - 12. Gisburne, Thornton, Colne.
 - 13. Stanbury. (The only mention of any preaching away from Haworth Church on a Sunday).
 - 14. Barcroft.
 - 16. Widdup, Heptonstal.
 - 24. Lingbob, Manningham.
 - 25. Manningham, Leeds.
1757. Mar. 29. Rossendale.
- 30. Bacup.

Many of the above names will sound strange to the majority of people, even to those acquainted with the neighbourhood. Many of them are the tiniest of hamlets, right off the beaten track, and not mentioned in any Gazetteer. One or two the writer has failed to identify, after going carefully through the 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey maps for the very large area covered. There are, of course, a number of spelling differences between Grimshaw's time and ours, but

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apart from that, the following is believed to be a fairly accurate identification, with the approximate location of the places.

| NAME. | <i>Modern equivalent,</i> |
|-------------------|--|
| ADDINGHAM. | Addingham, 6 m.E of Skipton. |
| BACUP. | Bacup. |
| BALEDEN. | Baildon, 5 m.N of Bradford. |
| BARCROFT. | Barcroft, 1 m.NE of Haworth. |
| BENTLEWOOD GREEN. | Bentley Wood Green, 2 m.W of Burnley. Cf. Wesley's <i>Journal</i> iv: 469, where the place is unidentified. See also Moore's <i>Hist. of Wes. Meth. in Burnley</i> . |
| COLDEN. | Colden, 3½ m.NE of Todmorden. |
| COLNE. | Colne. |
| CUCKOW NEST. | Not seen on Ordnance maps. But E. Hargrove's <i>Yorkshire Gazetteer</i> , 1812, gives it as one mile from Bingley. Perhaps it is identical with the present "Crow Nest," ½ m.E of Bingley. |
| CULLINGWORTH. | Cullingworth, 3 m.S of Keighley. |
| DENHAM. | Denholme, 5½ m.W of Bradford. Grimshaw also refers to "Denham Park" on Oct- 1, 1755. |
| DOBROYDE. | Dobroyd (Castle), ½ m.SW of Todmorden. |
| EWOOD. | Ewood Hall, ½ m.NE of Mytholmroyd, which is 5 m.W of Halifax. There is another Ewood Hall ½ m.NW of Todmorden). |
| FEARNEY LEE. | Ferny Lee, 2 m.NE of Hebden Bridge. An alternative, but a little less likely, is the Ferny Lee ½ m.N of Todmorden. |
| FENNISCOWS. | ?? Feniscowles, 3 m.SW of Blackburn. From the context, however, this should be in the neighbourhood of Burnley, though it does not appear in the 6in. Ordnance Survey. |
| GISBURNE. | Gisburn, 10½ m.WSW of Skipton. |
| HAINWORTHSHAW. | Hainworth Shaw, 1½ m.SE of Keighley. |
| HALIFAX. | Halifax. |
| HEPTONSTAL. | Heptonstal. |
| HIGH BINNS. | High Binns, 1 m. SE of Haworth, ½ m.E of Oxenhope. |
| HOLDWORTH. | Holdsworth, 2 m, N. of Halifax. |
| HOO HOLE. | Hoo Hole, 1½ m. SE of Hebden Bridge. Sometimes called Hoo Hoyle, cf. Wesley's <i>Journal</i> v:373. |
| KIGHLEY. | Keighley. |
| LAWNDS. | Laund, 4 m.N of Burnley. |
| LEEDS. | Leeds. |
| LEES. | Lees, 1 m.N of Haworth. |
| LINGBOB. | Lingbob, 4 m.NW of Bradford. |
| MANNINGHAM. | Manningham, 2 m.NW of Bradford. |

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- MANKINHOLES.** Mankinholes, 2 m.E of Todmorden.
MARSH LANE. ?? Somewhere between Laund and Rimington Here it seems that Grimshaw's mother lived after his father's death.
- MENSTONE.** Menston, 3 m.SW of Otley.
MIXENDEN. Mixenden, 4 m.NNW of Halifax.
NEWSHAM. Newsholme, 2½ m.W of Keighley.
OAKES. The Oaks, 2 m.W of Bradford. Here on two occasions Grimshaw apparently stayed the night, preaching both on arrival and departure. Oakes, 2 m.NW. of Huddersfield, is almost certainly not meant.
 Otley, 10 m.NW of Leeds.
- OTLEY.** ?? Over Town, 2 m.SE of Burnley. This is rather doubtful, however, in the context. Possibly it is "Upper Town, Oxenhope", 2 m.S of Haworth.
OVER TOWN
- RIMMINGTON.** Rimmington, 5 m.NE of Clitheroe.
RODWELL END. Rodwell End, 1½ m.E of Todmorden. Given as Rothwell End on a Colne plan of 1786, which has been printed in several local histories.
 Rossendale.
- ROSSENDALE.** Rossendale.
ROYDE HOUSE. Royd House, 1 m.S of Haworth. There are many other places bearing the same name, but the context obviously indicates this particular one.
- RUSH HILLS.** Rush Isles, 2½ m.W of Haworth, on E. side of Ponden Reservoir.
SCOLES. Scholes, 1 m.NW of Haworth.
SILSDEN. Silsden, 4 m. NNW of Keighley.
SNABOOTHE. ?? Apparently somewhere SW of Haworth, and not very far away. but not on 6in. Ordnance Survey.
- SOWDENS.** Sowdens, ½ m.W of Haworth, Here was the Haworth Parsonage, in Grimshaw's time. For a brief description of it see Spence Hardy's *Grimshaw*, p. 280.
SOWERBY STREET. ?? Sowerby or Sowerby Bridge? 3 or 2 m.W of Halifax.
- STANBURY.** Stanbury, 1½ m.W of Haworth.
STONEYROYD. Stony Royd, 1 m.SE of Mytholmroyd, or 5 m.W of Halifax. Not the Stoney Royd 1 m.S of Halifax..
- SUTTON.** Sutton, 5 m.NW by W of Keighley.
THORNTON. Thornton-in-Craven, 6 m.SW of Skipton. There are many other Thorntons but this is obviously the particular one indicated in the diary.
WIDDUP. Widdup, 5½ m.SE of Colne.

FRANK BAKER.

(To be continued.)

THE DIARY OF WILLIAM GRIMSHAW
OF HAWORTH, 1755 TO 1757

PART II

The list of places mentioned in the first instalment of this article shows very clearly that during the period covered by this Diary William Grimshaw was not only the incumbent of Haworth Parish. He was also the chief preacher of the Methodist "Haworth Round" or Circuit, in addition to being its Circuit Steward—the first Circuit Steward in Methodism. We are privileged to follow, not only his labours of travelling, preaching, visiting, ministering to the sick, enlisting the help of other preachers such a George Whitefield and Benjamin Ingham; we are also permitted to follow the quickly-changing extremes of his moody temperament, so that at one moment he cries "Glory be to God!" whilst the next he is complaining of his "grievous temptations,"¹ whilst often his spiritual "frame" is neither hot nor cold, but "indifferent," i.e. moderate. It is also interesting to note his scorn of the Bishop's perfunctory Confirmation ceremonies at Halifax.

In common with the most 18th century writers, Grimshaw in his various manuscripts made free use of 'y' as the equivalent of the Old English character 'thorn' (ȝ) = 'th'. Thus we find the following abbreviations, y^t = that, y^e = the, y^m = them, y^s = this, &c. Other abbreviations which he commonly used were m^h = much, w^h = which, w^t = what, &c. Usually these have been transcribed as yt., ye., ym., ys., mh., wh., wt., although this admittedly makes the abbreviations difficult to follow. It is an interesting fact that, in order to mark an abbreviation, instead of using a full-stop, the common practice, Grimshaw nearly always used a colon. He also makes much use of the dash instead of the full-stop, or other punctuation marks.)

THE DIARY

" A D 1755 . . .

A Diary of my Life begun

Sepr. 14th. 1755: on wh. Day

I enter'd into ye. 40th Year of my age. . . .

1. The present writer has given much time to studying these temptations, and has embodied his findings in an essay, "Mad Grimshaw and his Covenants with God," which it is hoped will be published in the near future.

Sep^r 14th—It is now full twenty Years, since I was first affected wth Desires and Purposes after a Divine and Religious Life, and above sixteen Years, since I began to fall under more deep Concern, and about twelve Years, since I have Reason to believe I receivd the Peace of GOD thro Faith in the Blood and Righteousness of my Dear SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. - In all these Periods of Life, I have gone thro' manifold Trials & Tribulations, which wou'd take many large Volumes - Notwithstanding w^h, I have been, Glory be to God, wonderfully preserved, even unto this Day - It wou'd probably have been very useful & profitable for my Soul had I carefully, as many of GOD's Servants formerly, and at this Day many of them still do, keep a Diary of the most material Things that I have either done, or which have occur'd to me thro that Tract of Time. - I have sometimes thought to do so but hitherto never did - Of late I've sometimes thought it was too late, as my Days seem to be far spent, to begin such a Diary - But promising myself y^t Benefit thereby in some Degree still, w^h: I now may apprehend, I for want thereof have so long Time depriv'd myself of, I begin Now - - THIS DAY, being my BIRTH:DAY² - I renewed my Resolutions (if y^t possibly cou'd)³ as also my Vow & Covenant in the most solemn Manner to be in all possible Respects thro HIS Grace to be the LORD's for Ever - I preachd twice in Church, it being LORD's Day, with indifferent Freedom, receivd & administered the LORD's Supper - & sure the LORD blessed us - I have enjoy'd the LORD's Presence all Day. - This evening I administered the LORD's Supper again to a sick person & several persons y^t joynd with us - The LORD was with us - Glory be to HIS Great Name -

Sep: 15th—I preach'd at Barcoft ⁴ the LORD ownd us - We had, I hope a solid, edifying Meeting - I then assisted the Trustees the Remains of the Day in letting the pewing of the Church - My Soul was kept at peace all Day -

Sep: 16th—To Day I preachd four Times (Viz at Hainworthshaw, Denham. Lingbob & Oakes) - I afterwards

2. The traditional date for Grimshaw's birth, as given by portraits and biographers, is September 8th, 1708. The Diary shows this to have been a mistaken tradition.

3. probably an error for "cou'd". Everett reads, or rather paraphrases, "(if such a thing can possibly be conceived)"

4. This is written over "Hainworthshaw", which is scored through.

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conversd with the Society - The LORD was with me \diamond
Day -

Sep^r 17th—This Morning I preachd at Oakes, had a Sweet Meeting & afterwards visited four Sick Persons - I found y^r Souls in as good Circumstances, as I expected -

Sep: 18th—I have felt my Soul with GOD all y^o Day - I preachd at Holdsworth & Mixenden - Here I felt some Want of Liberty in the Beginning of preaching, but afterwards enow⁵ -

Sep: 19th—To Day I preachd at Hoohole & in the Evening at Ewood⁶ - GOD was in the Midst of us & has been with me all Day. I met and regulated the Society after preaching - O w^t a sad Thing it is to grow indolent, as some of them, I fear, have done, in prayer - This starves the Soul -

5. This sentence Everett, in his transcription, has paraphrased, "At the latter place I laboured under a want of liberty in the beginning of my sermon, but experienced more towards the close."

6. This is Ewood Hall, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE of Mytholmroyd. Here Grimshaw found his first wife, and here Grimshaw's son lived during the Diary period. A full elucidation of the family relations is very difficult, though desirable. Everett applied to John Crossley, Esq. Magistrate, of Scaitcliffe Hall, who supplied him with a genealogy, which, however, is not completely satisfactory, and whose evidence conflicts with statements in Wesley's *Journal*. It appears, however, that John Lockwood, who owned the Ewood estate, had four children, two boys, who died young, and two girls—Mary, who died in 1743 aged 30, and Sarah, apparently the elder. Sarah married John Sutcliffe, of Stansfield Hall, and after his death she married Rev. Wm. Grimshaw, dying in 1739. after about four years. She bore to Grimshaw two children, John and Jane. The Ewood Hall estate came to John Grimshaw through his mother, and as he had no children, though married, he left it to his half cousin, William Lockwood, who was the son of another John Lockwood, cousin of William Grimshaw's wife. William Lockwood died childless in 1771, having possibly married John Grimshaw's widow (Wesley's *Journal* v: 475.) Crossley says, however, that William Lockwood married the *sister* of John Grimshaw's wife, whilst Grimshaw's wife married after his death first John Sutcliffe of Hoohole, and then Rev. John Crosse, Vicar of Bradford. William Lockwood's younger brother John, born July 23, 1739, had a daughter Sarah, born 1779, who married the same John Crossley from whom Everett gained these details.

Ewood Hall was a home for the Methodist preachers both in the time of Grimshaw's residence, and until his widow's marriage with Rev. John Crosse of Bradford, on March 1st. 1774. Even after that date Wesley records his visits, saying 'I afterwards lodged at the Ewood, which I still love for good Mr. Grimshaw's sake.' (*Journal* vi: 229)

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For GOD will not bless, except we pray - I visited a dying Woman, but have small Hopes of her Salvation - O y^t people woud consider that Behold Now is the Accepted Time! -

Sep^r 20th—I visited a sick Woman, Glory be to GOD, alive unto GOD - I preachd at Snaboothe & Over Town with indifferent, but no considerable Freedom - The LORD enlarge my Soul & keep (me) close by HIS Side - I had enough of GOD's presence to know HE was with me; and might have had less & yet had that Glory, Glory be to GOD -

Sep^r 21st—Glory be to GOD this has been a sweet Sabaoth to my Soul - I had considerable Liberty while preaching both Morning & Evening in the Church - In the Way to Bradford to meet M^r Whitefield I was very happy—Liked well my Conversation with Him, particularly while He baptizd 4 Children - I came home with the Clerk late, trifled in my Conversation with Him, gave way to great temptation after I got Home - O what need have I to watch and pray? -

Sep: 22^d—This day I wrestled with my Lord for Pardon. I hope, found it & renewd my Vow most, religiously and solemnly . Paid Humphrey Wood for glazing the East, West & North Sides of our Church - In the Evening should have attended the Haworth Class, but was prevented by great Pain in my Head - LORD, w^t is Man! -

Sep^r 23^d—Preachd to Day at Cullingworth & Denham had good Meetings - The LORD was with me to Day - Glory be to the LORD.

Sep 24th—To Day I have no Reason to complain - GOD is gracious

Sep 25th—I preachd at Heptonstal, Colden & Rodwellnd and visited a sick person - This was a comfortable Day to my Soul & the LORD was with me everywhere - Glory be to HIS name! -

Sep^r 26th—I preachd at Hoohole & Stoneyroyd & visit: a sick person - O was with the LORD all Day! Praise the LORD, O my Soul! -

Sep^r 27th—Praised be GOD this has been a rich Day I meditated a little, O what a blessed Thing is Meditation! It is y^e Fewel of Divine Life, Love and Holiness! How sadly do we starve ourselves for want of more Attention to this Exercise - I have preached this Day with great Liberty at Mankinholes & Dobroyde - I hope that Fruit will follow - GOD grant it!

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Sep: 28th—To Day GOD has been with me, especially in the Great Congregation, and at the Holy Sacrament - Surely HIS Mercies never fail them, that fear HIM. -

Sep 29th—I preached to Day at Lees & Hainworthshaw Lord JESUS be praised, I have cause to believe THY presence was with me and the People - My Soul was with this Day refreshed, I have felt THEE near me all Day - I spent I hope, a profitable (time) with M^r Ingham - Praise the LORD, O my Soul, for all HIS Benefits. -

Sep^r 30th—To Day THOU, LORD hast been with Me, but I've trifled in my Conversation, nor have I improv'd the Golden Moments of it either as to my Spiritual or temporal Concerns, as I sh^d have done. LORD, I abhor myself for it. Be THOU, Merciful to me a sinner. -

Oct: 1st—To Day I must laud the LORD for HIS goodness to my Soul, I preachd at High Binns, at Denham Park & at Oakes. I hope the LORD blessd the Report at each place. Praise the LORD, O my Soul! -

Oct^r 2.^d—Preached at Oakes again, at Holdworth & at Mixenden and visited and exhorted two sick persons - My Soul was happy. I enjoyed a sweet Mein of Heart - Praise the LORD for this Day

Oct 3^r—This Morning with much power & plainness I preached at Sowerby Street to a large Congregation, and in the Even: at Ewood - I had a very wandering Mind this Day and could but meditate little, and therefore I count this a barren Day; For little Meditation makes a barren Heart. My Leanness, My Leanness! -

Oct^r 4th—To Day I preach at Fearnly Lee [&] Snaboothe; At the former place with much power at the latter with less, and afterwards at Sowdens, as I thought, with still less. tho my LORD, I believe blessd the Message at every place - My Soul, blessd be HIS Name, was much in Communion with the LORD, tho' some times troubled with wandering thoughts.

Oct^r 5th—To Day has been an high & a happy Day; The Word was blessd in the Great Congregation & the Lord, I hope I may say, made HIMSELF known to us in breaking of Bread - We had a sweet & lovely Feast - HIS Banner over us was love. - Glory be to GOD in the Highest!

Oct. 6th—To Day I have had no Cause to complain, tho' not one of the liveliest Days - I preachd at Cullingworth, Denham

& Over Town with indifferent Freedom - Blessed be the LORD! -

Oct. 7th—To Day I preach'd at Rush Hills - Let the Mason Work of the preaching House; and went out a collecting some Relicks of the Subscriptions for the Rebuilding the Church. - I have had a middling Day. - Blessed be GOD! -

Oct. 8th—I preachd at Baledon, Menstone & Otley. I met and exhorted the Societies at each place. And was very happy all Day in my Soul. - O my Soul, praise the LORD! -

Oct. 9th—I preach'd to Day at Otley, Addingham, Silsden Sutton and Newsham - It was a blessd Day to me, & I hope to many . I had much of the LORD's Presense in me and with Me. It was a Day of hard Labour - But how true, I find, is it He, that waiteth on the LORD, shall renew His Strength -

Oct' 10th—To Day I preachd at Newsham & Scoles - I have had much of the LORD's Presense: but this Evening I have trifled and some Heaviness is upon my Spirits. O LORD be THOU my Keeper, & so will I praise THY name!

Oct. 11th—I had this Day a solid Sense of the Divine Presense - Glory be to GOD

Oct. 12.—This is a high Day - The LORD was in the Midst of the Camp. M^r. Whitefield read prayers in the Morning and preach(ed) twice to a very numerous Audience (some 1000s of People) & assisted me in administering the LORDs Supper to a great Number of Communicants GOD gave M^r. Whitefield great Power in Preaching, & sent a Gracious Rain upon HIS Inheritance. - Praised be the LORD!
F. BAKER.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE W.H.S.

This was held on 15th July in Dr. Howard's classroom at Handsworth College, the President of the Society being in the chair.

Mr. Herbert Ibberson, the Treasurer, was unable to be present, but the statement of accounts duly audited by Mr.

The old Proverb says, Half is more than y^e Whole. Certainly Half the People who called themselves a Society, well united together are better than twice as many, who are only as a rope of Sand.

If the Country Societies are thro'ly regulated, they are well able to maintain One Preacher. Indeed they *must* for I will no longer burden others for Them.

If the elderly Man & Woman (You sh^d have told me their names) are real Xtians, let them come into y^e House directly.

If you are not yet cleansed from all Sin, Believe, & you shall be. I am, Dear Tommy,

Your affectionate Friend & Brother,
J. Wesley.

This letter has recently been acquired by one of our members to whom we owe permission to print it. It does not appear to have been published. Unfortunately there is nothing to identify "Tommy." Several of Wesley's correspondents were so addressed. But it seems very likely that the letter was addressed to Thomas Rankin. In volumes IV, V, VI and VII, of the *Standard Letters* there are 28 from Wesley to him. In 23 of these he is called "Dear Tommy," in the others "Dear Brother."

Samuel Franks was Wesley's Book Steward from 1759 to 1772.

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Concluded

Oct. 13th—To Day M^r Whitefield preachd at Kighley - It was a gracious Meeting & I was well filld & satisfied with GOD's Fulness. I had the LORD with me all Day. I buried a corpse & had great Liberty in my funeral Discourse. Praise the LORD, O my Soul -

Oct. 14th—To Day I have trifled - I have loiterd it away in doing little, or I fear, but little to GOD'S Glory - Let it not come into the Number of my Months - Be ashamed O my Soul before y(e) LORD for so embezzling thy golden Moments.

Oct. 15th—This Day I was at the Confirmation at Halifax. I saw little of CHRIST there. O that that Ordinance of the Church was more solemnly perform'd. - And more of the SPIRIT of GOD apparent in the poor, silly, ignorant, graceless Youth! - I sinnd this Day grievously. - Repented & am restored again - Praised be the LORD! -

Oct. 16th—To Day I met and attend(ed) M^r Whitefield at Halifax, He preachd a profitable Sermon on Rom: 8, 15th whilst the Bishop was confirming in the Church. It was a Confirmation Sermon indeed : I & Multitudes, I trust, were blessd. - In the Evening He preachd again at Ewood - This was a sweet Meeting. - I was angry with our Maid at Night. - LORD has THOU not pardond me!

Oct: 17th—To (Day) M^r Whitefield preachd at Rodwel End & Heptonstal - My Soul was much blessd under both Discourses & it was a good Day with my Soul. - Glory to GOD! -

Oct 18th—To Day M^r Whitefield went away from Ewood - I had a good Day. Blessed be the LORD! -

Oct^r 19th—To Day - The LORD has been with us in the great Congregation. My Message was blessd & it was well with my Soul til Evening when I fell into an indecent temptation¹ & my Soul was brought into much Heaviness - GOD be merciful to me a sinner - I will not let THEE go, til THOU bless me.

Oct. 20th—To Day I labour under the Weight of last Nights sin. LORD deliver my Soul - I know THOU wilt not cast me off for Ever.

Oct 21st—I think I provoked the LORD again - Surely may I not fear Hell - O how heavy is my Soul - Will the LORD be no more intreated? - I will not let THEE go. - Surely THOU wilt forgive.

Oct 22nd—To Day I labourd under the Divine Frown. I exhorted 5 or 6 Families Young & old to seek & follow the LORD, & preach'd once & prayed with a sick Man. - I hope not without a Blessing, I hope so, I say; but alas w^t does not guilty Conscience fear. - !

Oct 23^d—I felt my Soul more cheerful. I preachd with tolerable Liberty at Heptonstal. Did the Quarterly Day Business and met the Sowden's Class. - I hope I am restored - Glory be to GOD!

Oct: 24th—

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Oct: 25th—It has been indifferent with me til this Afternoon when I fell again into an indecent temptation - LORD w^t am I, when I turn my Eye f^m THEE - I preachd a

1. Probably not what we should call "indecent." A fuller elucidation of Grimshaw's temptations has been prepared by the present writer for the *London and Holborn Quarterly Review*.

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preparative Sermon for the Sacrament. Considering my Distress of Spirit, I believe I had more Liberty, than could well be expected - Not unto me, O LORD, but unto THEE be the Praise.

Oct 26th—I had a Blessed Hour with God this Morning - Humbled myself before HIM; Hope I was restored - Renewed my Vow with Him. Had a sweet Sacrament Feast & upon the whole a sweet Saboath, as I have had, I think, this long Time. - Now I'm got into my LORD's Favour again, O that I may never lose it more!

Oct: 27th—I have preach'd twice to Day with Freedom - The LORD has kept me all Day & I have been happy - Glory to GOD!

Oct 28th—To Day I've preach'd twice, but in much pain of my Head Rheumatic as I think - It has been a good Day in my Soul - Glory be to GOD!

Oct: 29th—

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Oct: 30th—A good Day - preach'd at Mixenden with much power - I felt much of GOD in my Soul - A Golden Day .

Oct: 31st—preach'd at Ewood with Liberty - Glory be to GOD, I have not lately had a better Day

Nov: 1st—This is a blessed Day, I preachd at Snaboothe - GOD surely was with us - Preach'd at Home a preparation Sermon for the Sacrament - This has, I praise GOD, been a Good Day.

Nov: 2 —This has been a Blessed Saboath - Tho' I have had many more lively Ones - At the Table, I believe, GOD was with us - Praise the LORD, O my Soul! -

Nov: 3^d—Preach(ed) at Denham, Cullingworth & Cuckow Nest. GOD was with us. This has been a precious Day - Glory be to GOD -

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(Some pages of Diary missing)

1756

From May 24th to the 31st inclusive omitted - I have during y^e Interval had some Temptations, but the LORD delivered me out of them, and I have for the most while had pretty Communion with my MASTER - Glory be to HIM for it -

June 1st—A Grievous temptation but deliver'd - preachd twice, LORD, pardon the sins of this Day: -

2^d—A Grievous temptation - Gave Way - Broke my Vow - Renewd it in the most solemn Manner - LORD, grant I may never violate it more - preachd once - Administered the Sacrament to a sick, aged Woman at Kighley Par: and I hope one in Grace - and attended at Night Royde House Class - Closed the Day, well - Glory be to God. -

3^d—A good Day - A tolerable good Class Meeting, - Solid tho' not very lively - However O y^t I may never have a worse Day - Glory be to my MASTER.

4th—A good Day - Sweet JESUS be praised - Amen -

5th—A good Meeting - A good Soul Day - free from much temptation - Glory be to God! -

6th—A blessed Whitsunday - much enlargement in Heart & preaching and especially at the Communion - Administerd the Supper to near 300 Serious Souls - Closed up the Day happily - Glory be to GOD.

7th—To Day preachd thrice - Exhorted once and a profitable Class meeting at Night - I met with Opposition f^m certain evil persons ab^t burying a Corpse, by w^h Disappointment of not burying the same to Day I am disappointed of preaching to 3 numerous Congregations to Morrow O, LORD lay not this sin to my Charge -

8th—Preach'd at a funeral - Had a Grievous usual temptation, but was delivered out of it - Praised be GOD, Went to Bentlewood Green in the Evening - The LORD was with me - Glory be to HIS'Ever Blessed Name! -

9th—Preachd at Bentlewood Green - Fenniscows - and Lawnds - Had a good Day meeting the Societies every where - Glory be to GOD!

10th—Preachd at Lawnds, Visited at Marsh Lane; but had a sore contention with my dear mother² - LORD renew her Heart and save her Soul for THY Mercy's Sake - Amen.

11th—Had a good Day - Preachd at Rimmington & Gisburen with Liberty and I hope not without a Blessing - Met the Societies - Glory be to GOD. I hope all goes well! -

12th—preachd at Gisburne, Thornton & Colne - Had sweet Meetings - Praise the LORD, O my Soul!

2 His father, or one of the same name, had died at Luddenden on April 21st, 1754, after which date his mother apparently went to live at "Marsh Lane," somewhere between Burnley and Rimmington.

PROCEEDINGS

13th—Had a good Trinity-Sunday - preach'd twice in the Church & once in Stanbury - Administered the Sacrament - Had a rich Day - but a sore usual temptation at Night after Family - The Lord pardon me!

14th—Preach'd thrice - Met Barcroft Class - Broke my Vow grievously and grievously gave way to my usual temptation. - Renew'd the Vow - GOD grant I may never violated (sic) more more - O be Merciful to me, a Sinner - Amen -

15th—Visited a sick person; preachd once & again at 2 funerals; Recruited a little from my temptation & the sorrow of it - The LORD save me!

16th—Preachd at Widdup & Heptonstal & with a sick person - Exhorted once. A better Day Glory be to GOD. -

19th—A Day of Net-mending; No preaching - Reading, Meditation and prayer have been my chief Exercise and Implantment - Glory be to GOD;

20th—I've had a rich Sabaoth but a Busy One in Church and elsewhere - I've visited a sick person & exhorted with with Liberty I hope & a Blessing. Glory be to GOD! -

21.—Preach'd four times - It was a rich Day surely - Glory be to GOD! -

22—Preach'd five times - A rich day indeed for myself, I hope & others - Glory be to GOD! -

23—Preach'd 4 times - Visited two sick Persons - A good Day - Glory be to GOD! -

24th—A dreadful Day! - Sorely tempted, and sorely gave Way - In a most solemn Manner renewd my Vow - so often renewd before and violated - Preachd at Lingbob & Manningham - In terrible Thunder & Lightening! w^h greatly frightened & awed y^e Congregation, I hope, to hear & receive y^e word - LORD grant, I may never forget this Day on divers Accounts! -

25th—Preachd at Manningham; attended the Court of Visitation at Leeds - Had a better Day - Glory be to GOD! -

26.—Preachd twice - Exhorted once - Visited 2 sick persons - Had an indifferent good Day - Glory, Glory be to GOD for it! -

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(Some pages of the Diary are now missing, and the remaining page is torn across obliquely, and is inscribed on one side only. The date Sunday, March 27th shows this to be the year 1757.)

WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

23.—Preachd to Day thrice - Much tempted - Gave some Way; but restored : And much Enlargement in Family Evening Prayer & Private Evening Prayer - Glory be to GOD - Amen -

24th—From this Day to the Saturday - Mar. 26th - Omitted - I have gone thro many Trials, resisted many great, and given way to some, but out of them all, Glory be to the LORD for ever, HE hath delivered me. - I have also during this Interval enjoy'd much Communion with GOD and have been generally speaking very happy in my Soul. O w^t Cause have (I) to repose my Trust and to Glory only in y^e Imputed Righteousness of CHRIST - Glory be to the TRIUNE BEING for it and for all HIS mercies thro' it - Amen. Amen.

[1757] Mar: 27th—I've had a good Sabbath . preachd twice - Expounded once - Glory be to GOD!

28th—Preachd once - A good Day Glory be to GOD! Amen

29th—A Stormy day into Rossendale - Preachd twice - Had a Love: Feast - A sweet Day - Glory be to GOD for it! -

30th—Preachd twice, Visited a sick Woman in Bacup - Rough and wet travelling, but pretty happy - Blessed be GOD! -
FRANK BAKER

Mr. Baker is at present gathering materials for a modern biography of Grimshaw, and would be glad to hear of any manuscript material relating to him.

EARLY METHODISM IN BRIDPORT.

Bridport, on the sea coast in the western part of Dorset, is in a county intimately associated with the Wesley family. John Wesley's great-grandfather, Bartholomew, became Rector of Charmouth, six miles west of Bridport, in 1640, and in 1650, he was also appointed to the near-by living of Catherstone. He was ejected as "a Commonwealth intruder" in 1662 when the Act of Uniformity came into force. Apparently he remained in the locality, preaching occasionally, and supporting his family by the practice of physic, in which his great-grandson was so deeply interested. A local belief is that he practised partly in Bridport.