

Hanna Dyson

I was born at Heston in the parish of Heston in the Year 1728 My Father was a  
Cloth-maker In my young Years my parents sent me to School & till I was so  
Old that I could do some service at home I was of a very brisk & lively turn of mind  
And I perceived often that if God did not preserve me I should run into utter ruin as I felt  
My sinners & condemnation then to stir very much in me My Father & Mother was always  
for their Children going to ~~school~~ Church very Constant & I got a great liking thereto  
As I always held to here what I could there & when ever I went to Church I use to pray  
the Lord to bless me very earnestly & to bestow an all blessing on me I use to be very  
Much Concerned but did not then understand y<sup>e</sup> meaning thereof One time being in  
Very great Distress I went out in the Barn to pray & as I pray'd I wish'd to God  
that he would answer me my prayer and preserve & keep me to the end of my days  
and make me his faithful Servant but in a particular Manner I pray'd that he would  
give me his grace at that time which might endure throughout all the Days of  
My Life One Night I dreamt that we had Company & I going to attend  
On them on a Low flower I went to men the One ~~was~~ was Drest in dark clothes  
and the Other in a Long red Robe <sup>he that was in black</sup> One ask'd me whether of them I would choose  
I was asking I told him about my business he then ask'd me which of them  
too I should choose I then earnestly Looked on them both but did not directly give  
an Answer he said whether did I choose Heaven & Hell I said one always chooses

Heaven you know he asked me again which of us then do you chuse I answered him hastily not you but this and standing nearest him in the Red Robe I got hold on him he then smiled at me & bowed his Head I also moved to him and got hold of the robe and wanted to look what was under it he then smiled again and bowed his Head & said not yet I then was very much ashamed that I made so free with him but he held out his hand & smiled I then looking down to the ground lost sight of them both and so I awaked with a deep concern On my mind Just then about there was a great talk about some preachers that sung hymns & prayed & preached in Barns and particularly Miss Fingam who was just then come out of Jorde they called him an old found preacher and so my sis<sup>r</sup> and me went some Night to here, but he must that Night coming where he should have preached & so mist his way On my ride I went with some body who lent me a little hymn Book I learnt some verser there by which I use frequently to sing Soon after this my Mother fell sick & went in to a Convent and dyd I then thought I had lost one of my best friends I could have but being then left with my Father & Grandmother she was very good to me & kept me very close to my Book especially as sundays so that I might get amongst no saught of her Company soon after my Mothers Departure my Father also dyd <sup>his was really good & tender father was kind & loving</sup> I then when his service being in my 18 year I then begun to put more into things belong to the world which suited my inclination but as I had been brought up in another way I was not always satisfied there with because I did not there ways rightly thy



[illegible]

The began to think that I was better than her which caused a great disagreement between us Brother & Sister. October 1800 we got orders me to go to Trans. Hartsburg where I stayed near two years & from thence I removed to Clarkston to live with Sarah wife of Mr. Foster being engaged some where else & there I stayed from thence I removed in the Economy when it begun at Clarkston the same year the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May the Lord & I was received into the Congregation. Soon after I began to think very much about the Trans. & the year following I became a Candidate in Nov. when Broth. Johnas & Benoni was here & on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July I had the grace to be a sinner for the first time which in old was a very particular grace & Blessing for my poor heart & found it was a real good for my soul here I found my dear &aviour began a new school with me the next year after I removed from Clarkston to the home Economy where I stayed about a year & then I removed to the Low house to that Economy & from thence to the Top of the Hill. Near it was quite a new beginning to me & I found it often very needful to say our "Pater Noster" for grace to help me thro' with soon after I removed to the hall to night on the Brethrens & Sisters where I served about 2 years & time here I took on this as a great favour. I found it was a great Blessing to me to be amongst the Brethren & Sisters & to serve them next I removed in to the Choir House but then I found it despicable then ever I often prayed to my Lord to help me thro' with my things in after awhile I must the Lord supper on in account of which I did find it a will hard to bear more but I would have said that he would for give me and take me again as his poor sinner which he really did. Our dear Lord gave me leave to enjoy that highest good the next time after I must again but I had leave to go the time following. Now soon after that the place Congregation was schided which was put very close to us in the morning and was told us what would be required of every Brother & Sister in a place Congregation this was a particular matter to me and especially as times was very tried with me I could not just resolve what to do for we had it told by Bro. Johnas in the Great Hall which was really a striking matter to me after wards in our own meeting Hall at first it put me a little to it but soon saw there was no way but to give my self intirely to our Saviour to be his & what he pleased to do with me & that day I never forgot it soon after this I must be Trans. again then I began to reason very much & wondered what was the matter that things went so hard when by my self into the Bayring round and prayed our Saviour that he would make it clear to me if it was my right place to be here or no for I really was quite far & I did not know what to think & if he had some other view with me he would make me satisfied that how ever I might have some satisfaction my Lord some time I prayed our Lord that he had some other view with me that he would bless my heart & give me new grace which I felt he very often did.

Now I began to think whether I had done right or not with asking our dear  
sister but soon after I became quite satisfied & I was dear in my heart  
our dear sister was satisfied the things when on but poorly soon after it was  
told me concerning going to the 12<sup>th</sup> hour at Bedford I had not the  
least objection to make on this account but I found it so in my  
heart that if our dear sister & his Cong<sup>n</sup> ordered it I should me I was  
quite satisfied tho' I can't say but it caused me a deal of pain  
to leave this dear place Cong<sup>n</sup> where I had so sensible felt my  
dear dear nearness. I set out on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June in the year 60. with  
the blessing of the Cong<sup>n</sup> & on the 24<sup>th</sup> we arrived in Bedford in the  
12<sup>th</sup> hour. Here our dear sister & her school with me & I felt  
I stood in need of their kindness in a particular manner & I often kept saying  
with my dear sister to comfort me for I felt the want of this dear place  
Congregation so much that sometimes I could not be satisfied but after  
a while I began to be better satisfied for I believed it was the place for me  
~~I had my dear sister & her school with me & I felt~~  
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~~I had my dear sister & her school with me & I felt~~  
~~I had my dear sister & her school with me & I felt~~  
After a while there ~~was a great many people~~  
~~who were very kind to me & I felt~~  
~~that I was very much comforted~~  
Then I began to think that if I could leave the Brethren I should have  
nothing against it but as our dear sister who always stood before my  
heart comforted me at that time also not long after it was told me  
I should come again to fullneck which I received with a glad heart  
And when I got to my dear sister's house again I begged our dear sister to  
grant me both the old & new feeling which I can truly say he has done  
But I having every night I am much since the time of my coming  
it has often caused me perplexity on account of my coming thro'  
just at my dear sister's house being & here what our dear sister had to say  
to the Cong<sup>n</sup> it affected me very much I thought I must have agreed  
part there I often went to govt & beg our dear sister to make a new beginning with me  
And he did frequently sleep before my heart & comfort me. In Oct<sup>r</sup>  
I felt sick so that I thought ~~that~~ our dear sister would take me to himself but soon  
it did not happen at that time ~~our dear sister~~ has been again at school with  
which in the end has proved particularly sweet to me this dear sister has  
very kindly comforted me so that I often felt my heart very much which has  
made me think often our dear sister intended to take me to himself & I do  
enjoy his nearness in a particular manner