

The Life of the mar<sup>d</sup>. S<sup>r</sup> Ann Stead who departed  
to her Redeemer June 13<sup>th</sup> 1772.

She herself dictated the following to her Husband.

I was born at Bradford March 28<sup>th</sup> 1730 & educated in the  
Church of England. I grew up in a very careless Manner  
having no particular Thoughts or Concern about my Salva-  
tion. ~~At length~~ In the Year 1750 I was married to my present  
Husband who belonged to the Brethren's Society, but being  
gay & liking the World & the Ways thereof, I was much  
against his going to the ~~Broth~~ Meetings, which occasioned  
him to speak very seriously <sup>to</sup> ~~with~~ me, when he told me  
his Reasons for going among the Brethren, & that he for him-  
self was determined to continue his Connexion with them  
& adhere to the Doctrine he had heard of them, but would  
give me full Liberty to go ~~where~~ to divine Service  
whenever I chose. I was not satisfied long to go a dif-  
ferent Way to my Husband, & moreover seeing something  
more in him than I saw in myself & many others, I was  
drawn to go with him. In 1751 we moved to Pursey where  
I not only attended the Meetings of the ~~Broth~~, but also got  
acquainted with them to the blessing of my Heart, & soon  
after was received into the Society. About this time  
our Sav<sup>r</sup> began to labour powerfully on my Heart, &  
particularly did He make it clear to me what a wretched  
miserable Sinner I was, & I continued for some Time in  
great Distress of Soul, not knowing what to do or how  
I should be helped. In this Condition I once went in great  
Heaviness to a Meeting which Mr. Parminster held, during  
which the Lord manifested Himself to my Heart in his  
bloody Throne just as He expired on the Cross, and He  
assured me that He had blotted out all my Sins & received  
me as his Child. This was an Hour of Grace that has never



since been crased out of my Mind. Now I was full of Joy  
& Thankfulness for the Mercy He had shewn to my Soul, &  
ever since He has given me that Grace that at all times  
& amidst the farther Knowledge I had of my own Depravity  
I could always go confidently to Him with all my Concerns  
& cast myself with them upon his merciful Heart, & He  
has approved Himself gracious & faithful to me. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>  
1758 I was rec<sup>d</sup>. into the Cong<sup>n</sup> during an overpowering  
feeling of our Sav<sup>r</sup>s Love which melted my Heart in such  
a Manner as I am not able to express. Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> - 1761 I was  
admitted to the holy Communion, which Grace made me  
deeply ashamed, feeling my great Unworthiness. This  
caused me to ~~examine~~ examine more strictly into  
my own Heart, & which also proved the Occasion of my  
diving still deeper into his Heart of Love & experiencing  
more of the Grace which He had in store for me.  
to far her own Account.

She had a tender Heart to our Sav<sup>r</sup>, & spent her  
Time in Communion with Him. Her Marriage was  
blest with 10 Children 5 of whom went Home before  
her. She was in a poor State of Health before the  
Birth of her last Child in January & has never been  
well since then. In her Sickness her Children lay  
upon her Mind with much Concern, & she was <sup>exceedingly</sup> ~~troubled~~  
pained at thinking how it might go with them, but  
was obliged to commit them to the Mercy of God.  
She was tenderly occupied with our Sav<sup>r</sup>, <sup>and what He had done for her</sup> & had no Inclination  
for Conversation about any other Subject, but  
was all alive whenever He was spoken or sung of. The  
Time of her Sickness was a Season of real Grace & Blessing



to her Heart, & an extraordinary ~~My~~ presence of our  
Sav<sup>r</sup> was perceived by all ~~the~~ the Men & Women whenever  
they visited her, which made it a Comfort & Blessing to  
them. Her whole Mind was bent upon going Home.  
Being asked if she ~~was~~ should not like to recover again?  
She replied: "O No! I would mend again for a 1000 Worlds."  
Being asked by some of her Neighbours, if she was not  
afraid to die, & whether she had no dark Apprehen-  
sions at the Thoughts of being soon in Eternity?  
She answered: "No, I have neither Fear nor dark  
Apprehensions, but can resign my Soul to my  
Sav<sup>r</sup> with Joy & with the same <sup>composure &</sup> serenity as when  
I go to sleep at Nights, because He has granted me  
the Happiness to know Him as my Friend & Redeemer."

She had the holy Communion administered to her  
twice in her House, attended with an extraordinary  
Feeling of Grace. Thus she remained, an Edifica-  
tion to those who saw & spoke with her, till it pleased  
our Sav<sup>r</sup> to fetch her Soul to Himself in her <sup>43</sup> Year.