

The Life of Br. Benjamin Sheard,  
 who has wrote the following of him Self  
 I was born at Littleton in the parish of Bristol  
 Novr 30<sup>th</sup> 1715. my Parents being Presbyterians,  
 I was Baptised & brought up in the same Religion  
 when I was about 16 Years of Age my fornication  
 got the mastery over me, and let me in to all manner  
 of amusements as Singing, & Dancing and the  
 pleasures of this world, which I pursued with my  
 whole Heart for 3 Years, which was a great Grief  
 to my Parents, they admonished me many times  
 to cease of this ways, but all was to no purpose  
 for I found I could not help my Self, In April  
 1734. I was Married with my secret Bristol  
 church, In 1732 I had some Conversation  
 with a man who told me how he had been a wick  
 ed, and what Distress he had been in, & how  
 our Saviour had deliverd him, he lent me  
 a Book to read, called the Young mans Guide,  
 upon which I began to read, & to pray, & to reform  
 my Life, but this happy change did not last  
 long, but I fell soon in to my old course again,  
 untill the Year 1739 when Mr Ingham began  
 to preach and settled Soulely I went to hear  
 him, but I felt such a Condemnation in my heart,  
 thinking my Day of Grace was past, & that there  
 was no mercy for me, In this Situation I remained  
 for some time, but at last our Saviour gave  
 me



me a gracious Look and Refreshed my poor heart.  
In this happy feeling I went on for some time, I got  
more & more acquainted with the Lord which proved  
a great Blessing to my heart, but when I began to  
think well of my self I lost that happy feeling and  
became dry in my heart, but my dear Saviour  
showed me my deviation and I except to Him  
as a Sinner, March 20 1750. I and my wife  
had the grace & favour to be Received into the  
Congregation at Redneck which was a real  
Blessing for my poor heart, there I felt that  
our dear Saviour watched in the midst of  
His Congregation, and that I was one of His  
Family, Some times I wept on account of  
my faults & wants, and some times my  
heart was melted with mercy & forgiveness.  
In our married state our Saviour has  
Blessed us with 12 children viz 6 Sons &  
6 Daughters, all are gone before me  
Except 2 daughters who are under the  
Care of the Congregation, with my wife I  
have lived happy and agreeable  
to far his own willings.

He partook of the Lords Supper the first time  
with the Congregation Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 1750. He became  
an Acolyte of the Brethrens church in August  
1767. and he was one of our Committed Brethren

He was much beloved by his 13<sup>th</sup> & Sisters  
and by his Neighbors as a Man of God  
he had a tender heart to our dear Saviour  
and took Thase in the ~~with~~ real & was  
of the Congregation, And he was Little  
I mean in his own Eyes,  
he has been troubled with an Asthmatick  
Disorder for several Years, which he bore  
with great patience, He was however able  
to follow his Business, & come to the chapel  
till a few weeks before his End, he was  
cheerfully Religned to his dear Lord  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Hauptman  
had a very cheerful & loving Conversation  
with him about being ready, & without  
fear when our dear Lord calls one  
but no one did think that his End was  
so near, for on the 7<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon  
he got permission to leave his mortal  
Tent in the 59<sup>th</sup> Year of his age