

The Court of Life of the Singers in Anna Shoemith.

I was born in Northampton in the parish of Halifax Aug<sup>12</sup> 1773 and  
bapt<sup>7</sup> J. 8<sup>th</sup> 1774 in the year 1778 I removed with my parents to  
Tutbury. I was of an uncommonly light span of mind caused much  
dissatisfaction to my dear parents during the course of years spent  
with them and also deprived my self of many privileges a stranger  
the children which brought a proved a great blessing to my own  
heart - and a comfort & joy to those about me. But my bad conduct soon overcame  
me especially if my parents forbore there reprove my trouble was properly  
at an end. Thus spent my time March 1<sup>st</sup> 1784 when I was taken into the  
great first choir from which time I begd my parents to get me a cello  
to live in the choirhouse. They bid me many circumstances of my unhappiness  
& desired me to seek out our Saviour for grace & goodness of heart to get more  
deeply grounded in the knowledge of my self and want of time. This made  
a great impression for a time upon me & caused me to turn to our Saviour to beg him  
in my prayers to alter & prepare my heart to be more to his mind in all my  
ways, and on overhearing my parent saying to each other that  
I had leave to live in the choirhouse this rejoiced me very much &  
made them with pains of heart to our Saviour to preserve and keep  
me to the end of all my days. In a fortnight I had the grace to  
remove into the choirhouse & continued for some time cheerful & happy  
but this enjoyment lasted not long for I became dry & indifferent to  
every thing that was good and orderly for one ~~attracted~~ <sup>attracted off</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup>  
great unhappiness of heart was my daily course especially on seeing  
first one & then another of my room companions made partners of the  
congregation. I was perplexed in mind & my heart I thought  
was quite miserable but this lasted not long for I took my own  
means & method to make it bearable by thinking highly & being off over  
every thing that was abiding to a full of God, yet a mind all this time

unhappy condition my precious Sa<sup>d</sup> kept his hand upon me and drew me as with cords of ~~love~~ so that I could not ~~move~~ withdraw my heart from his love & mercy & fell laborly to ~~serve~~ <sup>serve</sup> our my woe & want with a Thousand Tears ~~confessing~~ <sup>and</sup> found him whom My soul so much wanted in this paper of ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> heart My Sa<sup>d</sup> blis & comfort me as his pardoned one & he came his poor needy & dependant creature & by the first opportunity I gave out My heart unto My Labourer who bid me to keep close to to our Sa<sup>d</sup> as his ~~redeemer~~ <sup>friend</sup> & keep bound with him over all my wants & I might desire of having a happy course during all future years. July 17<sup>th</sup> 1768 I had the grace to be received into the congregation, which rejoiced me very much but my body and light hum of mind deprived me of making the best use of the blessed council & advice given by the Elders to me I would rather be drawn to follow those of my own turn of mind than otherwise ~~be drawn~~ <sup>delighting</sup> to seek for salubrity & stability of heart. Thus fare her own in the year 1770 our happily departed sister was received into the single sinners choir this made a change for some little time & she was moved into a sinners room but it was presently perceptible that her course & companions therein was of an unprofitable & painful consequence yet nothing could persuade her from it ~~because~~ <sup>because</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~turn~~ <sup>turn</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~mind~~ <sup>mind</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~turn~~ <sup>turn</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~mind~~ <sup>mind</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> ~~turn~~ <sup>turn</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~mind~~ <sup>mind</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~she~~ 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sought for grace as a needy sinner & bore her weakly <sup>will</sup> ~~Salmon~~  
with great patience it was appointed times on the first of July  
she enjoyed the Holy communion <sup>in the school room in</sup> with a melted & ~~inner~~ <sup>inward</sup> ~~to the~~  
~~by prayer~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~she~~ a little better she also participated with the  
congregation on the 11<sup>th</sup> <sup>th of the same month</sup> with a thankful & comfortable heart  
& thus continued in a happy expectation of her souls redemption  
feeling her to his arms & ~~honor~~ the consummation of  
all her desires was blessedly completed early in the morning  
of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August in the 20 years of her age