

Personalia of the Widow Deborah Thornton, <sup>Jan 18. 1771</sup> end of the

The late <sup>Widow</sup> ~~Mr~~ Deborah Thornton, whose Maiden Name was Walker, was born the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1699, & brought up in the Church of England. In the Year 1723 she was mar<sup>d</sup>. to her late Husband with whom she lived cheerfully & contentedly. She was awakened in the Year 1740 by the preaching of the late Mr. Delamotte & Mr. Ingham. In 1741 she became a Member of the Society at Spen. Altho' her Husband did not belong to the Socy, he laid nothing in her Way but rather was helpful to her that she should miss no Opportunities among the Socy. She became a Widow in 1746, at which Time she made a Covenant with our Sav<sup>r</sup> to become his entirely in Soul & Body. | She soon left her House & moved to Mr. & Mrs. Hunt at Gummeral, & her chief Concern was, to become better acquainted with our Sav<sup>r</sup> & his people. In order to be nearer the Cong<sup>n</sup> she moved to Widow Robinson in Pudsey. She was found frequently alone praying our Sav<sup>r</sup> to have Mercy upon her. | In 1750 she moved to <sup>Fulneck</sup> which she esteemed as a great Favour, & was employed in washing for the single Socy which she performed faithfully. In 1752 she was rec<sup>d</sup>. into the Cong<sup>n</sup>, which was a Favour she esteemed herself unworthy of, and which proved the Means of a new Work being begun in her by the holy Ghost, whereby she learned to know more of her deep Depravity & Unbelief; & in this her Distress she wept before our Sav<sup>r</sup>, begging Him to wash her in his precious Blood. In 1753. she had the Grace to be admitted to the holy Communion with the Cong<sup>n</sup>. She thought meanly of herself, but had that Confidence to our Sav<sup>r</sup> that she could venture to Him with all her Misery, as a poor sinner.



she served 6 years in the Kitchen of the Children's Bonyony  
where she did her Work very faithfully & diligently; but  
had also Opportunity of learning to know herself better &  
that she stood daily in Need of fresh Grace. Circumstan-  
ces requiring it, she moved into the Widows House, where  
the holy ghost began a new School with her, by which Means  
many Things were disposed to her which she had not  
attended to before, & which caused her often to weep with  
Concern of Heart on Account of her past Course & to  
pray our Sav<sup>r</sup> for a new Look of Grace, & that He would  
heal her wounded Heart with his Blood; He heard her  
Prayer & granted her Request, & she obtained Mercy as a  
Sinner. She was of an anxious Disposition, which,  
with her infirm State of Body, made her sometimes  
peevish among her frs; but she was soon a sinner about  
it, & thought meanly of herself. Her Sickness, which was  
a heavy One, caused her often to sigh to our Sav<sup>r</sup> to take  
her to Himself, if it were his Will. She swelled very  
much, but attended the Meetings diligently as long as  
she was able, & was afterwards glad to live under the  
Choir Meeting Hall where she was able to hear the frs  
sing in their Meetings & which was a Blessing to her.  
Her Election of Grace was weighty to & highly prized  
by her. She enjoyed the Communion 3 Times in her Room  
with great Eagerness, & thought each Time would be the  
last.

Capt. She slept but little in the Night, but often prayed  
our Sav<sup>r</sup> to have Mercy upon her, & in the Day she slept  
in a Chair. She was thankful for all the Kindness shown to  
her, & often wept with Tears that she was able to express  
her gratitude rightly for all the Mercy & Patience our Sav<sup>r</sup>  
had shown<sup>ed</sup> to her in her Course in the Cong<sup>n</sup>, but in this Point,  
said she, I must remain a great Debtor. She took great  
Delight in the Watch-Word Book, & frequently opened Verses  
in it for herself. What the frs related to her concerning  
Christmas & New-Years Night-Watches were very pleasing  
to her. She often said, My Time here will not be very long.  
When fr Cammerhoff wished her a happy new Year, she  
replied; I shall be compleatly happy when I am with Him,  
& I hope that will be soon. She did not seem to be worse  
than for some Time past, excepting that she was more  
swelled. The 2 last Nights she slept better than she had  
done for a long Time past. Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> fr Cammerhoff  
went into her Room as usual, & asked how she did? she  
answered; I am very poorly. She afterwards spoke ~~of~~  
~~several~~ of several Matters, so that her Dissolution  
did not appear to be so near, but she began to quiver  
being seized with a cold Fit, & immediately her Soul  
took Flight to its Mother City. We recommended her  
Soul to the Wounds of Jesus, being surprised at her  
sudden Departure.