

## Memoir of the Single &amp; the Eleanor Briggs

I was born at Bulley in the Parish of Calverley, County of York, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 1752, and baptised by a Presbyterian Minister, my Parents being of that persuasion, but soon after joined the Methodists, who having at that time no Chapel in Bulley, they held their meetings in my Father's house. The Ministers who came at different times to preach, often pray'd the Lord to help Children, the names of Mr. Whitfield, Wesley, Greenshaw, Eastwood and many others I remember particularly, and have often in the sequel thought their blessing has rested upon us. When I was five years old I pray'd the Lord to take my Father to himself, after a tedious illness of two years, which brought my Mother into very distressing circumstances, a few days before his departure, he said that Mother with six children might be call'd to his side, that he might command us in prayer to the Lord and give us his last blessing, he said my Mother the Lord would care for her and us too, if she would only put her trust in him. It was a moving sight five helpless Children, with a Mother almost despondent and ready to faint with trouble, happily for her who knew in whom she believed and trusted in him with her whole heart, and amidst all her trouble she had faith that the Lord would never leave nor forsake her, and she was not put to shame. In my 11<sup>th</sup> year it happened to be where one of the Methodists was preaching which terrified me so much that for some days after I could do nothing but cry, his discourse was upon the state of the wicked after death, I thought I was one of those unchristian people, and must go to hell, I told my Mother my distress, she bid me pray to God to have mercy upon me, I did this as well as I could but thought I was so bad he would not grant my prayer, I beg'd her to pray for me that I might not be lost, she spurr'd me she did, and she was sure I should be saved if I was a good Child, however this did not satisfy me, an Uncle of mine who lives near Fulneck came often to our houses, he was one of the Brethren, I thought the next time I saw him I would tell him my distress, I was no anxious to see him and know what he would say to me that I went into a wood he had to pass then to meet him, he took me up in his arms telling me that God Almighty whom I was so much afraid of came into the world as a little Child, and lived a life of suffering upwards of thirty years on purpose to save sinners from being lost, this made a deep impression upon me, which I never lost tho' I have since run astray in various ways, yet my gracious Saviour kept his hand over me. A Gentleman in the town who took delight in visiting the poor and doing good came often to see my Mother, and was a great comfort to her, he sent me to school, and said when I was big enough she would take me into her own family, but I plead the Lord to order otherwise, my Mother being unable to provide for five Children was oblig'd to apply to the overseer for relief, he propos'd placing the two eldest girls out apprentices, this caused her great trouble, knowing that many were placed in families, where neither their souls nor bodies were cared for, she pray'd frequently to the Lord himself to make a way for us, and in answer to her prayer a friend of hers came in as overseer, to him she told her trouble, he gave her the choice of three places, the one she fix'd on for me was the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Charlesworth of Fulneck, I being the younger, he was surpris'd that she chose that for me, and asked me, at that time she knew nothing of the Brethren, and could only give a reason that it was impugn'd on her mind, it was the place for me, there provided my way and brought me to his chosen people, where thro' his grace remained, his all powerful hand has in mercy bear him over me, and to keep my ground even to this day, when I am completing my sixteenth committed to the care of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Charlesworth, and bound a pauper to him, my Mother entreated him not to let me be turned off the place, when my time was out with Pathetic kindnep, and assured her I shou'd not if I conduct ought, the time was now come when my Mother did must part, after an both sides, she pray'd the Lord to bless me, and bid me farewell among entire strangers, my much respected Master & Mistress' Fatherless Childs only eight years old, with the utmost tenderness will be rewarded by Him who takes notice of the smallest kind Child, especially to the friendless, I was put to a school kept in deep impression upon me, the school Master was not able to teach us

of work, but who never fail'd to tell as much of our Master, as she one day took us into the  
bedroom, as soon as the door open'd, she thought. Wretched me, O that I might one day  
live in this house, and while my companions were looking about them & slept soundly  
between the beds and practised myself in prayer to my Master to grant me this favor  
and complete as it was the Lord did not desean to hear me, for soon after my dear  
Master was appointed to the office of Minister & Warden of the Cong' and having  
only a room for themselves, and another for their servant they could not take me,  
now come on the trial what was to become of me? at that time no children

were permitted to live on the place where Parents did not belong, therefore my stay  
was much opposed, but my good Master failing bound by his promise to my Mother  
leg'd it ought be submitted to a director from the Lord, base as granted not only  
to remain in Sulnech but also to live in the St<sup>h</sup> House, previous to this Mr. Charleswood  
had obtain'd the promise of the Chor<sup>h</sup> Helper of the Single d<sup>r</sup>, Mr. Henry Vaughan  
to take me on promising on his part that I should not be trouble some to the family  
with regard to my living, she took me into her special care, and treated me with  
the tenderness of a mother, her memory will be ever dear to me a helpless orphan  
I trust the Lord has rewarded her in this world, and that she is now receiving the  
crowning reward in heaven, it was a severe trial to me when this de<sup>r</sup> plision  
was call'd to Gracehill as Chor<sup>h</sup> Helper of the St<sup>h</sup> there, but the Lord whom I trusted did  
not forsake me. I was rec<sup>d</sup> into the Con<sup>g</sup> "r" the year 1767. which prov'd a great  
 blessing to me, and I went on for some time happy and cheerful, but subsequently fell  
into a carelessly indifferent state, yet strong convictions that I was wrong follow'd me,  
good advice was but wanting, but foolishly disregarded, till it please the Lord to visit me  
with a fit of sickness which brought me so low that I was on the brink of the grave, when  
I was inform'd that the Doctor had given me up, & said I should soon be gone, it gave  
me a shock no words can describe, the fear that I must be lost for ever drove me in  
earnest prayer to the Lord to rescue me from that den of sickness, and not to permit  
me to be launch'd into eternity unprepared, it please him in mercy to grant my request

and I made many promises to him to begin again anew, but alas they were soon  
forgot when I got well, and I went on as before, till the Lord in mercy to his  
rebellious creature with another severe attack of sickness, it struck me with  
such a deep sense of my sinful state, that I fell on my face at his feet imploring his  
patience and forgiveness, and from that time I determined to follow the Lord thro'  
all whether hard or easy might be my lot thro' life. — On Oct<sup>r</sup> 1776 I had the favor  
to be spectator at the Holy Com<sup>union</sup> and July the 19<sup>th</sup> 1777 to partake of that high-  
est good I shall never forget that enjoyment, I had many difficulties to encounter  
in outward circumstances, apparently often impossible to be overcome but the  
help of my dear <sup>written me</sup> brought me thro', and about this time I was appointed to teach  
in the Children's school in Dadesey plan for some time it was in a very prosperous  
state, during the summer as many as Sixty in number, and some pleasing proofs

of our Saviors blessing became manifested at the departure of many of these dear  
young Children, from hence I was call'd into the St<sup>h</sup> House to have the care  
of the house, this situation I found one of peculiar difficulties, but here also  
did the Lord's help was sufficient to support me, now I will look  
in the way the Lord hath led me, to humble and prove me, and know  
was in my heart, to see how kindly he has led me on tho' at times I seem'd  
little, I had many hard struggles before I could bring myself to lie at  
the feet of my Savior, but one day when in the deepest distress I took the  
book and open'd the words for myself, the Lord thy God turned the curse into  
blessing, because the Lord thy God loved thee, it came with such power to  
me, as if spoken to me, and impossible as it seems'd I have less to wait,  
which constrain me to say is anything too hard for the Lord? — After this  
was plac'd to make a way for a place of rest to me, by enabling me to procure  
a little swelling of my own, the happy days I spent here can never be  
so often have come from the Chapel and prostrated myself before thy throne  
my Lord, his gracious visitations there constrain me to say with a word from  
thee is present here. Sulnech, O Sulnech much belov'd, Sulnech which is an  
object, every spot in thee is hallowed ground, thou'

Bundreds who have been trained up in thine, and brought to the knowledge of a Savior  
in that dear place, I thank the Lord may in future cause his face to shine upon it, to the  
end of days, that thousands yet unborn may be converted, and become witnesses of his  
salvation together with hundreds in my time who in that blessed place found grace  
and who will join me in an endless eternity to sing his praises for bringing us  
hither, I desire especially dear Savior to give thee unfeigned thanks for raising  
me up a friend who for fifty years has remained such, thro' all painful and trying  
circumstances, and now when I am old, and unable to help myself is willing to  
assist and care for me, I thank thee for giving her grace and patience to bear with my  
infirmitie with unexampled tenderness, merciful Lord be pleased to reward her for all  
her kind services, thou hast promised that a cup of cold water given in thy name  
to any of thy Children shall receive its reward, and I feel assured thou hast seen her  
kindness to me, and will repay her abundantly, most merciful Lord be pleased to accept  
of my grateful trees, for all thy gracious answers to my prayers at my life long  
day again thou hast fulfilled thy promise that thou will help thy poor unworthy crea-  
ture who calls upon thee in the day of trouble and I will do ~~all~~ <sup>as</sup> thou commandest  
glorify me, this 24<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>st</sup> is one of those never to be forgotten, I do indeed sit under his  
shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste, his banner over me was love, all around me  
was mercy the remembrance will remain dear as long as I remain in this poor  
tenement of clay, and when permitted to join the saints above my praises shall be  
turned to higher strains of gratitude to my dear Redeemer for his condescension to his  
poor worm for such unbounded favors, Gates will I never leave while I breath and  
have my senses from his merits I receive, pardon for my past offences, all the powers  
of my mind to my Savior are resign'd. — And now my dearest since it hath pleased thee  
to take to thyself my best earthly friend, I humbly entreat thee to heal the wound, nothing  
short of thyself can heal a broken heart, come thou and dwell within me, I desire to add  
thine for thy gift in her continued to me for sixty years, she was thine, not mine, and tho'  
separated by circumstances for 15 years, thou broughtest us together again, and went over  
refuge in all trials, we lived in love and harmony, our only object being to preserve a close  
communion with thee, after 22 years thus spent thou hast received her to thyself, I thank  
thee for her happy lot, I know she is receiving her reward for faithfulness to others committed  
to her care besides me, — And now I desire to thank thee for preparing a home for  
me here in Enfield when I was destitute, and raising up friends who provide for my  
wants, wait upon me, and treat me with kindness beyond what I deserve, also for  
many other friends who contribute to my comfort, one lady in particular, may thy  
blessing rest upon her & her sister, and a number of other friends, thou knowest them all  
whose bounty and sympathy for my afflicted state have wiped away many bitter tears  
I do not once more & humbly entreat thee to lay thy blessing on all those who feel for and succor  
the afflicted, and if the smallest things are noticed and rewarded by thee, the greater couldest  
to me cannot be overlooked, this is my comfort under a weight of obligations, which no  
but thy blessing can repay. — Mayer has been my support thro' life, and now  
is now the staff of my old age & may that precious gift be preserved to me many  
days. — O Prayer thou more of things unknown — Who can be poor if thy  
Thou wast the fountain of things unknown — And more than worlds of good  
brought of all beside — That bears the name or form of bliss — O, woe  
betrade — May God in mercy leave me this. —

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Mr. B. Broome,  
Subsec. Secy.



where her father was a Farmer, & at one  
time she resided with her parents  
at Chelmsford in the same county. We all  
hope to see you again.