

# Origins

This chapter looks briefly at the lives of the grandparents and parents of Edward Richardson and Jane Wigham, in the period before the latter were born.

## Grandparents

### John Richardson

John Richardson was born at Bog Hall, Whitby, on 1 April 1733.<sup>1</sup>

As the oldest son, his work probably needed by his father, he received little education. He continued to be employed in his father's business until he was about 25 years of age. His first attempt in business on his own account was in keeping a shop for the sale of meal, flour, &c., in Whitby; but this was pursued only a few months. About 1759 he moved north, and, on arriving in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, having to pass through Gateshead, and probably having a little knowledge of John Stead, he enquired for his house, seeking for lodgings. As he crossed the field in front of the house, he found their daughter Margaret standing at the door, and when he asked she invited him in; and it was finally agreed that he should take up his quarters there for the night.<sup>2</sup>

John Richardson and Margaret married on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1760, at Newcastle meeting-house. After the marriage, he took a small farm at Seghill East New Houses, near Cramlington, about seven miles from Newcastle, where their first three children were born. He remained on this farm about six years; but corn (during part of the time) selling extremely low—about six shillings per boll of two Winchester bushels<sup>3</sup>—he was unable to make the business pay sufficiently to support his family.<sup>4</sup>

Around 1765 the family removed to Pew Dean tannery, Low Lights—on the Tyne near North Shields—which John planted. It's said that, when they moved to Low Lights, one horse carried the family. He had his eldest son Isaac on the horse before him, his wife on a pillion seat behind him. His coat, probably still one of his mother's spinning, had long and capacious pockets. In one of these pockets was snugly ensconced a little John, and in another a little Margaret.<sup>5</sup>

He pursued the tannery business assiduously; but "tanning being subject to great fluctuations, he had for many years to wade through great straits and difficulties, and habits of great frugality were maintained". By careful management of his concerns, and enlarging his business only as his capital increased, without borrowing much money from others, he was able to maintain an honourable course, and was said to be remarkable for uprightness and integrity in all his dealings. He tanned hides and calfskins principally, but also tanned some sealskins, brought by the whalers, who at that date sailed to the northern seas from the port of Whitby. For many years, he worked hard in his tanyard, amongst his men, at the pits or in the drying sheds. He made good leather, and had a free

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<sup>1</sup> TNA: RG 6/1094; Richardson (1850) *The Annals of the Cleveland Richardsons*. Newcastle: 45.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1850): 45.

<sup>3</sup> A Winchester bushel, otherwise known as a U.S. bushel, equates to 34.24 litres (Wikipedia).

<sup>4</sup> RG 6/626; RG 6/1011; RG 6/1245; Richardson (1850).

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1850); Anne Ogden Boyce (1889) *Records of a Quaker Family: The Richardsons of Cleveland*. London: Samuel Harris: 66.

demand for it. He was a hard worker, sometimes exerting himself almost to the injury of his health, until his outward circumstances became more easy.<sup>1</sup>

Nearly four year's after his first wife's death he remarried, taking as his second wife Jane Nickle or Nichols, on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1785, at Newcastle. From this marriage there were two children, Aaron and Joseph.<sup>2</sup>

John Richardson was recorded as a minister shortly after his second marriage, and continued in this capacity about 14 years, speaking with much tenderness, humility and simplicity. He regularly attended monthly and quarterly meetings, and though he didn't travel much he attended Yearly Meeting several times. He was distrained for church rates in 1796.<sup>3</sup>

After three months of illness, he died at Pew Dean Tannery, Low Lights, on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1800, and was buried in the Friends' burial ground on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.<sup>4</sup>

### **Margaret (Stead) Richardson**

Margaret Stead was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1739.<sup>5</sup>

Following her marriage to John Richardson in 1760, the couple had eight children: Isaac (1761), Margaret (1763), John (1765), Isabell (1768), William (1771), George (1773), Elizabeth (1777), and Henry (1778). The first three were born at Seghill East new house, the rest at Low Lights.<sup>6</sup>

She is said to have been of a "grave serious, circumspect demeanour, guiding her children and her domestic affairs with much discretion." She was taken ill in August 1780, and died at Low Lights on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1781, being buried in the Friends' burial ground on the 9<sup>th</sup>.<sup>7</sup>

### **David Sutton**

David Sutton was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1736 at Scotby, near Carlisle.<sup>8</sup> He became a house carpenter, living with his parents till he was about 25, then moving to Newcastle. He married Rebecca Moor at Newcastle meeting-house on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1768.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1850): 48 & 53; Tyne & Wear Archives Service 161/433.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1850): 49; RG 6/348; TWAS Acc. 1570/2-4.

<sup>3</sup> George Richardson (1864) *Journal of the Gospel Labours of George Richardson*. London: Alfred Bennett; Richardson (1850): 51 & 86; *Newcastle Advertiser & General Weekly Post*, 5 April 1800.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1850): 59; Richardson (1864); *DQB*; *Newcastle Advertiser & General Weekly Post*, 5 April 1800; testimony, in minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167 & 168; RG 6/1245.

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1850).

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1850); *DQB*; RG 6/626; /1245.

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1850); RG 6/1245.

<sup>8</sup> RG 6/1388.

<sup>9</sup> RG 6/485; RG 6/776; RG 6/1011; RG 6/1260; RG 6/1334; RG 6/1388; Tyne & Wear Archives Service 1441/89; *Annual Monitor*, 1830; John William Steel (1899) *A Historical Sketch of the Society of Friends 'in Scorn called Quakers' in Newcastle & Gateshead 1653-1898*. London & Newcastle, Headley Bros: 117-9; Ruth Sansbury (1998) *Beyond the Blew Stone. 300 Years of Quakers in Newcastle*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Preparative Meeting.

He was made an overseer and an elder in 1773, which he remained for 56 years.<sup>1</sup>

Nine years after Rebecca's death, David Sutton married Margaret Dodshon, of Bishop Auckland, at Durham in 1792. About 1795 or 1797 he retired from business, and subsequently spent much of his time gardening.<sup>2</sup>

### **Rebecca (Moor) Sutton**

Rebecca Moor was born about 1734.<sup>3</sup> She married David Sutton on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1768, at the meeting house in Newcastle, where she lived at that date (at some stage she was described as "of Wheelbarrow Hall", which is in Scotby, Cumbria); a spinster, her parents are not named. The couple had three children: William (1770), Thomas (1771), and Deborah (1773).<sup>4</sup>

In 1772, 1781, and 1782 she signed testimonies to the lives of deceased friends, so appears to have been an active attender of Monthly Meetings. She died at Newcastle on New Year's Day 1783, her body being buried on the 5<sup>th</sup> January.<sup>5</sup>

### **John Wigham**

According to his own account, John Wigham was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Third Month 1749, at Hargill House, Cornwood, Northumberland. He was attracted to religion from the age of eight, as a boy being "frequently employed in taking care of sheep, all alone; and when so situated, my mind was often drawn to seek the Lord . . .".<sup>6</sup>

In 1769 he went to live with his grandfather, Cuthbert Wigham, partly to seek a wife as a way of distancing himself from the undesirable companionship he had been drawn into. At about this time he married Elizabeth Donwiddy, having seven children with her at Cornwood in the period to 1784.<sup>7</sup>

Around 1773 he began ministering in Friends' meetings, and thenceforth visited many of the meetings around England. He was well-regarded as a minister, being seen as "an example to the believer, in word, in conversation, in charity, in faith, in purity". In the early 1780s he felt he had been called to take his ministry into Scotland, and after much agonising the family moved to Edinburgh in April 1784, taking a small dairy farm, Cockmalanie, about two miles from meeting. In 1786 they moved to Aberdeen, to run a small grocery store, before moving again in 1788, taking a farm in Kinmuck, 14 miles north of Aberdeen.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Annual Monitor*, 1830

<sup>2</sup> Tyne & Wear Archives Service 1441/89; *Annual Monitor*, 1830; Steel: 119.

<sup>3</sup> RG 6/485; RG 6/1150.

<sup>4</sup> RG 6/1011; RG 6/1260; TWAS 1441/89.

<sup>5</sup> RG 6/485; RG 6/1150; TWAS 1441/89; Sansbury.

<sup>6</sup> RG 6/1271 gives birth date as 22<sup>nd</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> month 1749. John Wigham (1842) *Memoirs of the Life, Gospel Labours, and Religious Experiences of John Wigham*. London: Harvey & Darton.

<sup>7</sup> Wigham (1842); David Sands (1848) *Journal of the Life and Gospel Labours*. London: Charles Gilpin; George Richardson (1848) *Some Account of the Rise of the Society of Friends in Cornwood in Northumberland, especially in connexion with the family of Cuthbert Wigham*, London: Charles Gilpin.

<sup>8</sup> L.C. Coombes (1966) 'Wigham of Coanwood.' Overprint from *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4<sup>th</sup> ser. vol. xliv.

He and his wife found the state of the Society of Friends in Scotland very discouraging. They took it upon themselves to put the Society on a surer footing, and build up its influence in Scotland.<sup>1</sup>

In 1794 he left to spend three years travelling in North America, covering over 22,000 miles around the eastern seaboard from Nova Scotia to South Carolina. In the following three years, to 1800, he travelled a great deal round England, Wales, and the Channel Islands.<sup>2</sup>

In the early 1800s John Wigham was again away from the family home much of the time, principally living in Edinburgh around 1806–7, after which he went to live permanently in Aberdeen. His friend Elizabeth Fry described him in 1808 as “a nice old man in the lower line of life.”<sup>3</sup>

### **Elizabeth (Donwiddy) Wigham**

“Bette Dunwode”, as the contemporary register records her name, was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1747/8 (or perhaps 1748/9) at Ambroseholm, near Carlisle, her birth being registered by Scotby preparative meeting.<sup>4</sup>

As “Elizabeth Donwiddy” she married John Wigham in 1769, after which they went to live with Cuthbert Wigham. Their children were: Jane (1770), Rachel (1772), Amos (1774), Anthony (1776), Elizabeth (1779), John (1781), William (1783), Hannah (1788), and James (1790).<sup>5</sup>

Though prior to her marriage she was not especially religious, she became a Quaker minister a few years afterwards, actively supporting her husband and engaging in religious visits herself, around England, and twice to Wales and Ireland. In her domestic life she was “a pattern of industry and frugality”; and her ministry “was lively and fervent and although not adorned with much learning, was clear, sound and pertinent.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Robert White**

Judging by his age as recorded on his tombstone, Robert White was born in about 1718.<sup>7</sup>

He may have first married Ann Myers (? – ?) on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1755, at Gainford, Durham.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *DQB*.

<sup>2</sup> Wigham; Martha Routh diary, download from Earlham College library website.

<sup>3</sup> Sands; Wigham; Martha Routh diary; Fry diary entry, downloaded from Earlham College Library website; *DQB*; Coombes (1966).

<sup>4</sup> RG 6/1388; *DQB*; Wigham.

<sup>5</sup> RG 6/304; Richardson (1848); Wigham; Coombes (1966).

<sup>6</sup> *The British Friend* XXVI, citing the notebook of the late A. Cruickshank, Edinburgh; Wigham; *Journal of the Friends' Historical Society*, 1908, 5:204.

<sup>7</sup> Photographs of MI at Find a Grave; marriage bond and allegation; Durham Wills; FamilySearch has two individuals named Robert White baptised at Gainford in 1720, as well as three baptised in 1718, but appreciably further away in the county.

<sup>8</sup> “England Marriages, 1538–1973,” database, FamilySearch: 10 February 2018, Robert White and Ann Myers, 20 May 1755, citing Gainford, Durham, reference index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, FHL microfilm 90,786, 908,027.

He married (possibly secondly) Jane Gibson, on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1772, at Gainford. Their children were: Robert (1768), Ann (1770), and Nicholas (1773), all baptised at Whickham, Durham; and John (?).<sup>1</sup>

Said to have made his fortune in India, he became a farmer in Hopewell, Durham. Described as “of Hopewell late of Fishburn,” he died on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1787 (Hopewell is just north of Piercebridge, Fishburn about twelve miles west of Hartlepool). His body was buried at St Cuthbert’s churchyard, Darlington, Durham.<sup>2</sup>

### **Jane Gibson**

Jane Gibson was born in about 1746. Of Gainford, she married Robert White on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1772, at Gainford.<sup>3</sup>

Their children were: Robert (1768), Ann (1770), and Nicholas (1773), all baptised at Whickham; and John (?).<sup>4</sup>

She lived in Hopewell, and died on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1791, described at that date as of Branking Moor; her body was buried at St Cuthbert’s churchyard, Darlington.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Marriage bond and allegation; *Journal of the Friends' Historical Society* 10:2, 1913; FamilySearch; photographs of MI at Find a Grave.

<sup>2</sup> *Journal of the Friends' Historical Society*, 1913, 10:2; photographs of MI at Find a Grave; RG 6/203, /527. 6 RG 6/203, /527.

<sup>3</sup> Marriage bond and allegation; “England Marriages, 1538–1973,” database, FamilySearch: 10 February 2018, Robert White and Jane Gibson, 16 November 1772, citing Gainford, Durham, reference index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, FHL microfilm 90,786, 908,027; photographs of MI at Find a Grave.

<sup>4</sup> *Journal of the Friends' Historical Society*, 1913, 10:2; FamilySearch; photographs of MI at Find a Grave.

<sup>5</sup> RG 6/527; photographs of MI at Find a Grave.



## Parents

### Isaac Richardson

Isaac Richardson was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1761, at Seghill East new house, Earsdon, Northumberland. He was sent to live for a time with his grandparents at Whitby, in order to attend a Quaker-run school there.<sup>1</sup>

He moved to Newcastle in about 1785, taking on a tannery business at the White Cross, Newgate Street, at which he made considerable success. He married Deborah Sutton on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1795, and lived with her for many years at Spring Gardens, near Gallowgate.<sup>2</sup>

By 1800 he had entered into partnership with his brother William, in the dressing of various sorts of sheep leather. He continued in the tanning trade for the rest of his life.<sup>3</sup>

He wrote his will on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1805, in which the most significant provision was that his tanyard in Newgate Street was left in trust to his brothers until his two eldest sons reached the age of 21, at which point they could have it if they wanted it. As well as provision for his wife, children, and siblings, it's notable that he also left £100 to be divided among the workmen in the tanyard.<sup>4</sup>

### Deborah (Sutton) Richardson

Deborah Sutton was born at Newcastle on 2 June 1773, and began her schooling at Trinity Lane Friends' School, York, in 1786.<sup>5</sup>

Following her marriage to Isaac Richardson in 1795, the couple had eight children: David (1797), John (1799), Isaac (1800), Margaret (1802), Rebecca (1804), Edward (1806), Rebecca (1807), and Ann (1809). Four of them died young.<sup>6</sup>

### John Wigham

John Wigham was born on 2 September 1781, at Burnhouse, Haltwhistle, Northumberland. From his third year he grew up in Scotland.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RG 6/1245; Anne Ogden Boyce (1889) *Records of a Quaker Family: The Richardsons of Cleveland*. London: Samuel Harris.

<sup>2</sup> RG 6/226; RG 6/527; RG 6/628; Emma R. Pumphrey in John William Steel (1899) *A Historical Sketch of the Society of Friends 'in Scorn called Quakers' in Newcastle & Gateshead 1653–1898*. London & Newcastle, Headley Bros: 121–3, George Richardson (1850) *The Annals of the Cleveland Richardsons*. Newcastle.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1850); Mitchell's *Directory of Newcastle and Gateshead*, 1801; Benwell Community Project (1978) *The Making of a Ruling Class*. Newcastle; *Newcastle Chronicle*; widow's death certificate.

<sup>4</sup> TWAS DX 885/1/28.

<sup>5</sup> RG 6/1260; Richardson (1850); *The Mount School, York. List of Teachers and Scholars 1784–1816, 1831–1906*. 1906, York: Sessions.

<sup>6</sup> RG 6/226, /527, /628; Richardson (1850); Steel.

<sup>7</sup> RG 6/304; *DQB*.

He became a cotton manufacturer in Edinburgh, and is so described at his first wedding, to Ann White, on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1807, at Stockton.<sup>1</sup>

### **Ann (White) Wigham**

Ann White, of Lames[ley], was baptised on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1770 at Whickham, Durham.<sup>2</sup>

She was a convinced Friend, and said to have been a considerable heiress: her elder brother resented her joining Friends and her marriage in 1807, and left his money to a younger brother; but on the death of the latter, Ann inherited both fortunes.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RG 6/203; RG 6/527; *DQB*.

<sup>2</sup> Bishop's transcript.

<sup>3</sup> *Journal of the Friends' Historical Society*, 1913 10:2.

# Early life

## Edward Richardson

Edward Richardson was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1806, in St John's parish, Newcastle. On the day he was born his grandfather David Sutton was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting, held there; he repeated this service in April, August, and November.<sup>1</sup>

In February and May 1806 Isaac Richardson was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting held there, as appointed the previous day; in July and September he similarly attended in Sunderland.<sup>2</sup> In March, June, September and November David and Margaret Sutton represented Newcastle at Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held variously at Sunderland, Shields, and Newcastle; both were described as Elders.<sup>3</sup>

In July David Sutton was one of three Friends appointed to investigate Joshua Watson's clearness, and to publish his and Esther Watson's marriage intention at Newcastle first day meeting.<sup>4</sup>

In November 1806, at Newcastle Preparative Meeting, David Sutton presented accounts for the fund for the new meeting house, for which he had personally subscribed £100, as had Isaac Richardson.<sup>5</sup> That month Deborah Richardson was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Women's Monthly Meeting held there.<sup>6</sup>

In January 1807 Isaac Richardson was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting held there.<sup>7</sup>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1807 David Sutton of Newcastle, gentleman, and Margaret Sutton, his wife, with two others, signed articles of agreement for the purchase of a fee farm rent at Coundon, Durham, for which they were to receive fee farm rent of 8s. p.a.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/628; HO 107/2404 f469 p57; Boyce: 89; Ann R. Foster in Steel: 154; John Wigham Richardson (1877) *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson* Newcastle: 1; *Memoirs* of John Wigham Richardson (1911); minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167..

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167; from this point my coverage of Isaac Richardson in these minutes is not comprehensive.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, TWAS MF 180.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167 & 168.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167; from this point my coverage of David Sutton references in these minutes is not comprehensive.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1814, TWAS MF 194; minutes of Newcastle Women's Monthly Meeting 1803–14, TWAS MF 182.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167.

<sup>8</sup> TWAS Acc. 161/2.

In March and July 1807 Deborah Richardson was one of two representatives appointed by Newcastle Women's Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Newcastle and Shields respectively.<sup>1</sup>

In March 1807 Isaac Richardson and David Sutton were the two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting held there.<sup>2</sup>

From March 1807 to March 1814 David and Margaret Sutton represented Newcastle at the Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held every quarter.<sup>3</sup>

In June, September, and November 1807 Isaac Richardson was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting held variously at Sunderland, Shields, and Newcastle, the second representative in September being David Sutton and in November Joshua Watson; David Sutton also attended in August, October, and December, at Newcastle and Sunderland.<sup>4</sup>

Edward's sister Rebecca was born at Newcastle on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1807.<sup>5</sup>

Isaac Richardson was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting, held at Caselee in January 1808, and in April at Sunderland.<sup>6</sup> In March 1808 Deborah Richardson was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Women's Monthly Meeting held there; in November she was there again, this time accompanied by Esther Watson.<sup>7</sup>

Jane Wigham was born at Lothian Street, Edinburgh, on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1808. Though her mother, Ann (White) Wigham, lived another 15 years, she bore no more children.<sup>8</sup>

On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1808 the bark-mill, with two haystacks, in Isaac Richardson's tanyard near the White Cross, were consumed by fire.<sup>9</sup>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1809 David Sutton and Joshua Watson were the two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting, held there.<sup>10</sup>

David Sutton was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting, held at Shields

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1814, TWAS MF 194

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, TWAS MF 180

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167

<sup>5</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/628.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1814, TWAS MF 194; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167; minutes of Newcastle Women's Monthly Meeting 1803–14, TWAS MF 182.

<sup>8</sup> *DQB*; Strath Maxwell.

<sup>9</sup> 'Historical events: 1783–1825', *Historical Account of Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Including the Borough of Gateshead* (1827), pp. 66–88. [www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=43321](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=43321).

<sup>10</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

on 19 April 1809. Deborah Richardson represented Newcastle Women.<sup>1</sup>

Deborah Richardson was one of two Newcastle Women's representatives at Monthly Meeting held at Shields in June 1809.<sup>2</sup>

David Sutton was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting, held at Sunderland in July and September 1809, and at Newcastle in December.<sup>3</sup>

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1809 a remarkable incident took place, according to a letter from Eleanor Richardson to George Richardson:

We had last 5<sup>th</sup> day here a severe thunderstorm. My brother and his bride, W.R. and his bride with their attendants<sup>4</sup>, were at our friend D. Sutton's taking tea returning the Bride's visits, and had just done when it began to rain very heavy. M. Sutton desired her husband to go upstairs to shut down the window in their chamber. D.S. was within two yards of the window when a fire ball entered and directed its course across their bed, seized the bell wire, rent their bed post, in short, it went nearly all through the house, it broke all the glass in one window, 4 panes in another, 3 in another, and 2 panes in another window, tore up several boards in the floor where the wire took its course, and tore away the ceiling in the staircase in several places rent the book-case from top to bottom in the parlour. M. Sutton was sitting getting her tea after the others had done, and it overthrew the coffee-biggin, broke two saucers and one coffee cup, and much more too tedious to mention. The young folks were some of them much alarmed; R.R. so much so as to faint away. Dear D. Sutton appears thankful for his narrow escape, but if he had been taken I apprehend he is readier than most. I wish all were as well prepared.<sup>5</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1809 Edward's sister Ann was born at Spring Gardens, Newcastle.<sup>6</sup>

Isaac Richardson was among the earliest members of the Literary and Philosophical Society in Newcastle. He interested himself in schemes for the education of the poor, reading a paper in July 1806 on the Propriety of introducing the Mode of Instruction proposed by Dr Bell and Mr Lancaster. His efforts in this direction afterwards bore good fruit. His renewal of the suggestion in July 1808 led to the foundation of the Royal Jubilee School in 1810, providing a little free primary education for the poor. The 1812 report of the Lit. and Phil. describes him as "an excellent member." He was also treasurer of the Temperance Society in Newcastle.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168; minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1814, TWAS MF 194; minutes of Newcastle Women's Monthly Meeting 1803–14, TWAS MF 182.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1814, TWAS MF 194; minutes of Newcastle Women's Monthly Meeting 1803–14, TWAS MF 182.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>4</sup> There's a bit of a puzzle here: William Richardson married Sarah Priestman in 1804, so the use of the word 'bride' seems anomalous. The 1809 date is confirmed by Eneas Mackenzie's 1827 *Historical Account of Newcastle-upon-Tyne including the Borough of Gateshead*, which says that a storm of this nature "was experienced on the 3d of August in the following year [the last year mentioned having been 1808]. The house and furniture of Mr. David Sutton, in Prince's Street, were much injured."

<sup>5</sup> Steel: 90.

<sup>6</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/628; RG 6/629; Steel: 195–8.

<sup>7</sup> Emma R. Pumphrey in Steel: 121-3; RG 6/156–7; RG 6/160; book of extracts copied by E. Spence Watson.

David Sutton and Isaac Richardson were the Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting held at Sunderland in August 1809.<sup>1</sup> Isaac Richardson was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting, held at Sunderland in October 1809.<sup>2</sup>

Deborah Richardson and Esther Watson were the two Newcastle Women's representatives at Monthly Meeting held at Newcastle in November 1809.<sup>3</sup>

Edward's brother David died aged 12 on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1809, and was buried at Bunhill Fields, in London, on the 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

David Sutton and Joshua Watson were the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting held at Newcastle in December 1809.<sup>5</sup>

Isaac Richardson bought out the skinning and fell-mongering business of Joseph Arrundale, on Gallowgate, in 1809 (fell-mongering being dealing in skins and hides).<sup>6</sup>

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1810 Edward's sister Margaret died, still in her eighth year. She was buried in the Friends' burial ground at Newcastle on the 19<sup>th</sup>.<sup>7</sup>

David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting held at Sunderland in April and June 1810, at Shields in September, and at Newcastle in December.<sup>8</sup>

Isaac Richardson made a codicil to his will on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1810, to reflect the additional real estate he had acquired since 1805. Some bequests were increased, but the provision respecting the tannery remained unchanged.<sup>9</sup>

Edward's brother Isaac, not yet ten years old, died on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1810, and was buried at Newcastle on the 8<sup>th</sup>.<sup>10</sup>

At Newcastle Monthly Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1810, held at Shields, David Sutton was one of three Friends appointed to investigate Robert Spence's clearness for marriage.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 167.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1814, TWAS MF 194; minutes of Newcastle Women's Monthly Meeting 1803–14, TWAS MF 182.

<sup>4</sup> RG 6/228; RG 6/426; RG 6/777.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>6</sup> Benwell Community Project (1978) *The Making of a Ruling Class*: 15.

<sup>7</sup> RG 6/227; RG 6/228; RG 6/404, RG 6/627; RG 6/777.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>9</sup> TWAS DX 885/1/28.

<sup>10</sup> RG 6/228; RG 6/404, RG 6/627; RG 6/777.

<sup>11</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

Isaac Richardson suffered a long illness prior to his death, and for the benefit of his health made a number of sea voyages. On his return from Plymouth, on the last of these, his condition worsened, and he died aboard the *Derwent* at Sunderland, in the midst of his relatives, on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1810. His body was buried at Newcastle on the 28<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup>

Though his father died when he was only four, Edward found a second father in his uncle George Richardson. He was always delicate—he suffered from asthma—and this made him an object of care and tender solicitude to his mother, to whom he was always a dutiful and affectionate son.<sup>2</sup>

Deborah Richardson and Esther Watson were the two Newcastle Women's representatives at Monthly Meeting held at Newcastle in January 1811.<sup>3</sup>

David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting held at Newcastle in February, and December 1811, and at Shields in April. At the April meeting, with Hadwen Bragg, he had been given the keys to the safe holding the title deeds for the meeting-house.<sup>4</sup>

Isaac Richardson's will was proved at York on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1811. The tannery went into his brother George's trusteeship, pending John and Edward Richardson—his two surviving sons—reaching their majority. In the same period Deborah Richardson was paid £100 p.a. in quarterly instalments, and the interest of £2000, by the trustees of her husband's estate.<sup>5</sup>

At Monthly Meeting held at Sunderland on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1811, David Sutton was one of four representatives appointed to attend the next Quarterly Meeting, at Newcastle.<sup>6</sup>

On the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1811 Messrs George and John Dixon of Cockfield, Durham, entered into a bond with David Sutton, merchant of Newcastle upon Tyne, for £300 at 5 per cent.<sup>7</sup>

In December 1811 Deborah Richardson was one of two Newcastle women Friends appointed to attend Monthly Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> day.<sup>8</sup>

In April and October 1812 David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held there.<sup>9</sup>

In June and December 1812 Deborah Richardson was one of two Newcastle representatives at

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<sup>1</sup> Emma R. Pumphrey in Steel (1899), pp. 121-3; *Newcastle Chronicle*; RG 6/226; TWAS DX 885/1/28

<sup>2</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/628; Boyce: 89; Ann R. Foster in Steel: 154; Richardson (1877): 1; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911); minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting 1761–1814, TWAS MF 191.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1814, TWAS MF 194; minutes of Newcastle Women's Monthly Meeting 1803–14, TWAS MF 182.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>5</sup> Emma R. Pumphrey in Steel: 121-3; *Newcastle Chronicle*; RG 6/226; TWAS DX 885/1/28.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>7</sup> TWAS Acc. 161/3.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1761–1815, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

Women's Monthly Meeting, held at Shields and Newcastle respectively.<sup>1</sup>

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1813, with Hadwen Bragg, David Sutton was appointed to visit the newly-arrived Robert and Margaret Foster; they reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October that year.<sup>2</sup>

In 1813 Hadwen Bragg noted, in a letter to George Richardson and Daniel Oliver, that:

Our dear friend, D. Sutton, feels much stripped and tried when you are all absent. He keeps nicely in health, and is often looking in at the workmen in the Meeting House.<sup>3</sup>

In April 1813 David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Shields.<sup>4</sup>

In June 1814 Deborah Richardson was one of two Newcastle women Friends appointed to attend Monthly Meeting at Sunderland.<sup>5</sup>

In January 1814 David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Newcastle, and in August at North Shields.<sup>6</sup> In June he was one of four representatives from Newcastle appointed to attend the next Quarterly Meeting at Durham.<sup>7</sup> In September he was one of two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held at Sunderland.<sup>8</sup>

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1815 David Sutton was one of four representatives from Newcastle appointed to attend the next Quarterly Meeting, at Sunderland. He and Robert Foster he was also two of the four there again in September.<sup>9</sup>

“At the usual age” Edward Richardson was sent as a day-scholar to John Bruce’s school in Newcastle. There he was a favourite with his master, who considered him clever. For his age he excelled in Greek, which at that time wasn’t much studied in day schools.<sup>10</sup>

In January 1817 David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Newcastle.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Women’s Monthly Meeting 1803–1814, TWAS MF 182; minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1761–1815, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>2</sup> List of removals, Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>3</sup> Steel: 78.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1761–1815, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 168.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, TWAS MF 180.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>10</sup> Ann R. Foster in Steel: 154–5; *Memoirs* of John Wigham Richardson.

<sup>11</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

In March 1817 David and Margaret Sutton were the two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held at Sunderland.<sup>1</sup>

In September 1817 David Sutton and Robert Spence were two of four representatives from Newcastle appointed to attend the next Quarterly Meeting, at Newcastle.<sup>2</sup>

After a few years at Bruce's school, Edward was sent to Frederick Smith's school at Darlington, which ranked as a first-class school among Friends. There he was placed among the older pupils in the class-room with young men who had almost a collegiate training, under an able professor from the University of St Andrews. He made satisfactory progress in his studies, and took a good position as a classical scholar. On his return home he used to enjoy reading Greek with Robert Foster. He would never let his classics grow rusty, and was to take great pleasure imparting them to his children.<sup>3</sup>

In July 1820 David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Sunderland, and in November at Newcastle.<sup>4</sup>

In March 1821 David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held there, and was appointed as one of four representatives from Newcastle to attend the next Quarterly Meeting, at Sunderland. In December that year he was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held there, and in August 1822 at North Shields.<sup>5</sup>

In March 1823 David Sutton was one of four representatives from Newcastle appointed to attend the next Quarterly Meeting, at Newcastle.<sup>6</sup>

Jane's mother, Ann (White) Wigham, had a delicate constitution, and is said to have needed much loving care. She died on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1823, and was buried in Edinburgh on the 9<sup>th</sup>.<sup>7</sup>

The childhood of Ann Richardson, Edward's sister, was one of much indulgence, her health being delicate, and she was kept at home for education. Rebecca, her only sister, had died in early womanhood, so that her lot was a secluded one, and passed in close companionship with her mother, to whom she was a devoted daughter.<sup>8</sup>

On the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1824 David and Margaret Sutton were visited by Joseph John Gurney, who found “. . . the old man 88, and his wife a complete invalid. There was true life to be felt in their

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, TWAS MF 180.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>3</sup> Ann R. Foster in Steel: 154–5; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson*; John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson*: 1.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>7</sup> *JFHS* 10:2 1913; *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, 14 November 1823; *Blackwood's Magazine*, Dec 1823; *The Scots Magazine*, 1823-12-01.

<sup>8</sup> 1894 *Annual Monitor*; Steel: 195–8.

company.”<sup>1</sup>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1825 John Richardson wrote an account, in a letter, of his recent attendance at Quarterly Meeting at Sunderland, with Edward:

About 35 friends embarked on board the “Britannia” of two engines of 25 horse each, on second day morning at ¼ before eight, reached Shields at ¼ before 9, where 17 friends joined us, and Sunderland pier at ½ past 10, where 14 more made up the company. A fine, warm, westerly breeze, smooth sea, and smile on every face rendered the voyage delightful. We formed into social groups, or noticed the progress by the land objects, or pointed out the ships scattered about us, or paced the deck as inclination led us.

At the mouth of the Tees we took in Wm. Aldam and family for a short time, who are Friends from Leeds staying at Seaton, and who gave about a dozen urchins or sea-hedgehogs amongst us which they had been fishing for. As the tide had not risen sufficiently high we sauntered at the mouth of the Tees some hours, where a group of seals and a variety of sea birds interested us. We reached Stockton Quay a little after 6.

On third day night the wind had removed to the North-east, yet so little of it that friends embarked at ½ past eight on fourth day morning, without the slightest apprehension. We sailed finely down the Tees about 13 miles, but as we approached the sea the pilot, we took in, a little excited our fears by telling us he must go on to the Tyne as he could not re-land with his small boat on the coast for the breakers. As we got out to sea one after another fell sick. We stood against the wind, which was quite contrary, for some hours; the day was cold accompanied with small rain, which rendered it uncomfortable, yet only 3 or 4 of those quite knocked up went down to the cabin, of which poor brother Edward was one. In attending to him and getting him to bed, I fell sick, yet chose to lay on the deck. At last the captain not choosing to risk of anything giving way with such a valuable cargo on board, put back to Hartlepool, where we were all safely landed. The next consideration, after an unrelished cup of tea, was to get homewards. Wm. Aldam kindly sent his carriage with some, besides which there were 6 fish carts engaged for the “sick, the women, children and baggage.” After doing what we could to provide for our female friends, brother and I set off to walk, and reached Sunderland at ½ past 9 last night, 23 miles—thinking walking most likely to relieve our sickness, which indeed we found was the case. There were other companies of walkers, but as we set off between the carts, expecting they would overtake us, did not fall in with them. We left Sunderland at 5 this morning. Charles Bragg and I to Newcastle and my brother to Tynemouth. The “Britannia” is still lying weather bound at Hartlepool. The account of this curious journey has taken up so much room that I cannot give much detail of our Quarterly Meeting. It occasioned in this short journey a great mixture of pleasure and profit, as well as of toil or trouble than I ever met with, though I think upon the whole the novelty of riding in fish carts gave a kind of social enjoyment that was not disagreeable.<sup>2</sup>

In July 1825 David Sutton was one of two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Sunderland.<sup>3</sup>

On the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1825 Edward’s brother John married Sarah Augusta Balkwill, at Plymouth.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Joseph Bevan Braithwaite, ed. (1854) *Memoirs of Joseph John Gurney*. 2 vols., Norwich: Fletcher & Alexander I: 272.

<sup>2</sup> Steel: 93–5.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>4</sup> RG 6/192; RG 6/194; *Durham County Advertiser*, 22 October 1825/

In April 1826 Edward and John Richardson were among the twelve founder members of the Newcastle Book Society.<sup>1</sup>

In December 1826 David and Margaret Sutton were the two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held at Newcastle.<sup>2</sup>

On leaving school Edward worked as an apprentice in the tanyard in Newgate Street established by his father, in which he afterwards became a partner. As a young man he was fond of intellectual and scientific pursuits, and enjoyed entertaining his young friends with experiments in electricity and pneumatics. Many a happy evening was spent in this way. He had a decided aversion to metaphysics, considering that the human intellect, when turned too much inwards, was apt to prey upon itself. His highly practical mind led him to prefer natural science to abstract. He took a considerate interest in the apprentices of the tanyard, ten or twelve in number, whom he used to invite to his home, when he read to them, and showed them experiments with the electrifying machine and air pump. His tendency to pulmonary disease prevented his close attention to business, but his manner towards the workmen and apprentices was refined and courteous, and he is said to have been much beloved by them.<sup>3</sup>

After an education first at Bruce's School in Newcastle, and then under Joseph Sams of Darlington, John Richardson completed his apprenticeship in the tanning trade with his uncle John, at Bishopwearmouth, and entered into his father's tannery in Newgate Street, which he was to continue with Edward. They often combined with their business journeys the attendance of Yearly and Quarterly Meetings, travelling by coach or by sea, and took part in important meetings in London in the causes of the abolition of slavery, of international peace, of free trade, the anti-corn-law agitation, and the first meetings of the United Kingdom Alliance (a temperance movement, founded in 1852 by Irish Quaker Nathaniel Card)<sup>4</sup> in Manchester. The annual return of the whale and seal fishing ships to Hull, or to Peterhead, Fraserburgh, and Dundee, often took one or other of the brothers into Scotland, necessitating large purchases. John Richardson was always fond of gardening and the cultivation of vines. Many drives to visit the gardens and hot-houses of country gentlemen, to inspect the bark of newly felled timber (for use in tanning), or to and from a country house which he built in the valley of the Derwent, were later remembered by his children with lively delight.<sup>5</sup>

On returning home from a journey with his wife shortly after his marriage, John Richardson found the furniture of their dining room had been seized and taken away because he would neither serve in the militia nor pay for a substitute. In the Society of Friends John filled the office of Overseer and Elder, being appointed as Elder in about 1826.<sup>6</sup>

Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives to Monthly Meeting, held at North Shields, In April 1827. In August that year, described as of Spring Gardens, he donated ten guineas to the

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<sup>1</sup> Steel: 97.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, TWAS MF 180.

<sup>3</sup> *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson; Richardson (1877): 155.*

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Kingdom\\_Alliance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_Alliance).

<sup>5</sup> Steel: 140–2.

<sup>6</sup> Steel: 140–2.

Newcastle Dispensary.<sup>1</sup>

Margaret Sutton, David's second wife, died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1827.<sup>2</sup>

The 1827 Newcastle directory recorded David Sutton as a gentleman, of 16 Princes Street, and Deborah Richardson, of Spring Gardens, Newcastle.<sup>3</sup>

David Sutton made his will on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1827. By its terms, he left his messuage and appurtenances in Mosley Street to his grandson William Sutton (it was currently in his occupation), as well as £500, and £60 to William's mother Mary Sutton. He left Deborah Richardson £700, and £500 to each of her children. He left his house in Princes Street to his grandson Edward Richardson (it was currently in his occupation); his furniture and effects were to be divided equally among Deborah's children. £30 was left to each executor.<sup>4</sup>

On Christmas Day 1827 David was one of the two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held at Newcastle.<sup>5</sup>

In January 1828 Edward Richardson and his grandfather David Sutton represented Newcastle at Monthly Meeting, held at Newcastle.<sup>6</sup>

Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives to Monthly Meeting, held in September and November, at Sunderland and Newcastle respectively.<sup>7</sup>

Described as a tanner, of Newcastle upon Tyne, by October Edward's name was on the list of trustees for the meeting-house and burial ground.<sup>8</sup>

In December 1828 David Sutton was one of the two representatives from Newcastle at Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, held at Newcastle.<sup>9</sup>

In 1828 Deborah Richardson twice served as representative to Women's Monthly Meeting.<sup>10</sup>

Edward joined the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society in 1828.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169; *Newcastle Courant*, 11 August 1827.

<sup>2</sup> RG 6/226; *Newcastle Courant*, 23 June 1827.

<sup>3</sup> *History, Directory and Gazetteer of Durham and Northumberland*, 1827.

<sup>4</sup> TWAS Acc. 161/4.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, TWAS MF 180.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, TWAS MF 180.

<sup>10</sup> Sansbury.

<sup>11</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20041022210057/http://www.litandphil.org.uk/membersr.htm>; recorded in 1829 register.

Pigot's Newcastle Directory for 1828–9 found David Sutton as a gentleman of 16 Princes Street, Newcastle.<sup>1</sup>

David Sutton became ill in January 1829, and died on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, aged 92, having lived to see six generations of his family. He was buried on the 25<sup>th</sup> in plot 12 of the Pilgrim Street graveyard in Newcastle.<sup>2</sup> His will was proved on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1829, Edward and John Richardson acting as executors, for which each received £30. Their grandfather was described as a grocer, late of Princes Street in the Chapel of St Andrew, Newcastle upon Tyne. Deborah Richardson, David Sutton's daughter, inherited £700. Edward was still in occupation of David Sutton's house on Princes Street, and he inherited this house, together with £500 and a quarter of the furniture and effects.<sup>3</sup>

In his early twenties Edward sought the friendship of Jane Wigham, John Wigham's only daughter. The fame of her talents and accomplishments made an attempt to obtain her hand a somewhat anxious task. His visits to Edinburgh were times of great interest in the family circle. The Richardson house stood by the North road, and the 'Chevy Chase' coach passed their gate; and when it stopped to pick him up (this being before the coming of the railways), the little household would turn out to bid this beloved brother good speed on his important errand.<sup>4</sup>

## Jane Wigham

Jane Wigham was born at Lothian Street, Edinburgh, on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1808. At his daughter's birth in 1808 John Wigham was described as a manufacturer, of Lothian Street, Mid Lothian.<sup>5</sup>

In 1811 and 1812 J. & J. Wigham, Manufacturers and Silkmen, were said to have their premises at 6 Lothian Street, Edinburgh (by 1813–14 12 Lothian Street). By 1813 John junior had built a home for himself at 10 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh; he lived there for the rest of his life. A century later his grandson told a tale in this connection:

My grandfather once asked me how it was that, since Noah's Ark, men had been building ships and had not yet hit upon the right model.

"That may be so," I replied, "but have we not been building houses since Adam without arriving at a perfect dwelling?"

"I don't know about that," said he. "I built this house myself and I don't think it could be much improved upon."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pigot's *Directory*, 1828–9

<sup>2</sup> RG 6/228; RG 6/778; *Annual Monitor* 1830; *Durham County Advertiser*, 28 February 1829; Steel: 119–20 & 219.

<sup>3</sup> TWAS Acc. 161/4; Durham Registered Wills, DPRI/2/40 pp557-558.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 155; Boyce.

<sup>5</sup> Daughter's entry in birth digest (Scotland); Scotland Non-Old Parish Registers Vital Records.

<sup>6</sup> Letter to me from National Library of Scotland; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911): 19; *Post Office Directory Edinburgh*, 1850–1; *Post Office Directory Edinburgh & Leith*; death certificate; *Post Office Directory Edinburgh*.



10 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh; photo by Jenny Duncan, 2022

John Wigham senior published *An Address to Children* in 1814, and *Christian Instruction* in 1815.<sup>1</sup>

In 1818 John and Elizabeth Wigham were visited by Elizabeth Fry, who described them as “our beloved old friends”.<sup>2</sup>

In 1818 some Friends, notably John Wigham junior, participated in promoting an inquiry into alleged abuses and irregularities in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; the official report denied the more serious charges, but admitted some dislocation in consequence of an epidemic in 1817; several improvements were made.<sup>3</sup>

On the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1818 John Wigham Junr met Joseph John Gurney, on his visit to Edinburgh.<sup>4</sup>

Jane Wigham was an only child (although adulthood saw the arrival of half siblings), so may have experienced a degree of loneliness, but her childhood, with its friendships and intellectual pursuits, was described as very happy. A Miss Macgregor, in 1859, reminisced, having known her when she was a little girl, that “Everybody used to love Jane so much!” She studied Latin as a child, and used

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<sup>1</sup> *DQB*; the books themselves.

<sup>2</sup> Fry diary entry, downloaded from Earlham College Library website.

<sup>3</sup> “A.B.” *Rambling Recollections* (1867): 67; Logan Turner: *Story of a Great Hospital*, pp. 200-1; William H. Marwick (1954) ‘Friends in Nineteenth Century Scotland’, *JFHS* 46.1:10, Spring.

<sup>4</sup> *Memoirs of Joseph John Gurney with Selections from His Journal and Correspondence Part 1*: 154.

to read Horace together with her close friend Sarah Rickman. When she was young, the only novel ever allowed was Hannah More's *Coelebs in Search of a Wife*—no music, no dancing—just the thin end of drawing. Clearly, such restriction would enhance the interest of history and philosophy. They were read a good deal, and hospitality and good works took the place of amusements. She read every book in John Wigham's excellent library, and some more than once. With an extremely retentive memory, she seemed, in her after life, to have all these books in different languages in her head, and, being of an ardent poetic nature—from childhood she had a real gift for poetry—she infused a desire for knowledge into her children's minds, and set before them a high standard by which to measure their progress.<sup>1</sup>

In 1820 John Wigham attended Half-Year's Meeting at Aberdeen.<sup>2</sup>

William Allen met his aged friend John Wigham in July 1822, and noted that:

I was comforted in seeing the old veteran. His day's work is nearly done.<sup>3</sup>

In 1823 John Wigham junr was described as a shawl manufacturer.<sup>4</sup>

After being confined to her bed for several weeks Jane's grandmother Elizabeth Wigham, described as a resident of Broadfoord, Old Bachar parish, co. Aberdeen, died quietly on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1827. Her body was buried in the Quaker burial ground at Kinmuck on the 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>5</sup>

John Wigham felt the loss of his wife in 1827 very deeply. In this year he wrote a note to his daughter Hannah, giving her all his household furniture, so long as he retained the use during his lifetime—this was to prove the nearest thing to a will he ever wrote.<sup>6</sup>

In 1828 John Wigham lived at Broadford, north-west of George Street, Aberdeen. Though his own health was failing—he was nearly blind, as well as painfully lame—and he was long confined to his house, his mental faculties were unimpaired, and he continued to take a lively interest in the state of the Society of Friends. For several years the meetings of ministers and elders were held in his house.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1875; John Wigham Richardson:(1877): 1, 152, 205, 214–5; Eliza Wigham in : 161; *The Friend* Jan 1874, XIV:22.

<sup>2</sup> Nathan Hunt letters, downloaded from Earlham College Library website.

<sup>3</sup> William Allen material, downloaded from Earlham College Library website.

<sup>4</sup> *Post Office Directory* Edinburgh; L.C. Coombes: 'Wigham of Coanwood.' Overprint from *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4<sup>th</sup> ser. vol. xlv, 1966; *DQB*; Strath Maxwell.

<sup>5</sup> *Annual Monitor* O.S. 16:34; Wigham (1842).

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Record Office SC1/27/16 pp. 832-833 and SC1/36/16m pp. 1303-1308; *DQB*.

<sup>7</sup> Wigham (1842); *DQB*; Chalmers' *Directory of Aberdeen* 1828-9; RG 6/1155 locates him at "Broadford, Aberdeenshire".



## Middle years

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1830 the Monthly Meeting minute book records:

Edward Richardson of Newcastle, a member of this Monthly Meeting, having laid before us his intention of marriage with Jane Wigham, a member of Edinburgh Two Months Meeting, and having produced the requisite testimonials of consent from the parties concerned, we appoint James Gilpin, Robert Spence & John Mounsey to make enquiry into his clearness from all others in this relation, and report to our next; and James Gilpin is requested to give public notice thereof in Newcastle Meeting. The Clerk is directed to furnish Edward Richardson with a certificate of his orderly procedure, to take to Edinburgh Two Months Meeting.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> it further records:

The Friends appointed report that nothing has appeared to obstruct the proceedings of Edward Richardson, respecting his intended marriage with Jane Wigham; he is therefore at liberty from this Meeting to proceed therein, & the Clerk is directed to furnish him with a certificate hereof to take to Edinburgh Two Months Meeting.<sup>1</sup>

Edward Richardson and Jane Wigham married at Edinburgh meeting house on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. On the 14<sup>th</sup> July Edward was one of the Newcastle representatives at the Monthly Meeting held there, of which the minute book recorded:<sup>2</sup>

The following Notification of the marriage of Edward Richardson and Jane Wigham has been received & read; viz

“Newcastle Monthly Meeting is hereby informed that the marriage of Edward Richardson & Jane Wigham was accomplished at Edinburgh on the 28<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> month last.

By direction of Edinburgh Two Mo Meeting,

6mo 1830.

William Smeal J<sup>r</sup>, Clerk”

After their marriage, the Richardsons took up residence at Summerhill Grove, then a country suburb of Newcastle with an uninterrupted view of Ravensworth and the valley of the Tyne. John Wigham gave Jane £6133, to include £3000 which he regarded as due to her in right of her mother’s estate.<sup>3</sup>

In March Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Shields.<sup>4</sup>

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1830 Jane’s father, John Wigham, described as a silk manufacturer of Edinburgh, married his second wife, Sarah Nicholson. She brought—either then or later—£2000 into the

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>2</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/1149; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169; *The Friend*; *The British Friend*; *The Scotsman*, 1830-05-01; Richardson (1877): 155; Boyce; marriage digest (Scotland).

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 157; Steel: 66.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169

Wigham household.<sup>1</sup>

In June 1830 Edward was appointed to be one of four representatives from Newcastle Monthly Meeting at the forthcoming Quarterly Meeting held at Darlington.<sup>2</sup>

In June and September 1831 Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Shields.<sup>3</sup>

In July 1831 Edward was one of 45 men Friends who signed the certificate for George Washington Walker.<sup>4</sup>

At an Essay Society meeting at Summerhill, on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1832, Edward and Jane's two poems, intended for the *Aurora Borealis* annual, were read. According to Sarah Richardson, "Edward's much remarked upon as very *original* meter, or no metre at all but irregular verse." Jane had much intellectual ability, and was believed to have contributed to the *Aurora Borealis* under a nom de plume.<sup>5</sup>

Edward Richardson and Joseph Watson represented Newcastle at Monthly Meeting held there in February 1832.<sup>6</sup>

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1832 Deborah Richardson witnessed the birth of her granddaughter, Edward and Jane's first child, Anna Deborah Richardson, born at 6 Summerhill Grove.<sup>7</sup>

From 1832 through 1851 Edward and Jane were to have eleven children. Jane conscientiously performed her duties as wife and mother, and as mistress in the household. Though the uncertain and delicate health of her husband was a source of great anxiety to her, the education of her children "claimed her earnest care".<sup>8</sup>

On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1832 John and Sarah Wigham had their first child, and first half-sibling to Jane (Wigham) Richardson, namely John Thomas Wigham, born at 10 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.<sup>9</sup>

In October and December that year Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Shields.<sup>10</sup>

On at least one occasion in 1832 Edward's sister Rebecca acted as clerk to the Preparative Meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> RG 6/1155; Scottish Record Office SC70/4/82, pp. 479-543 and SC70/1/113, pp. 367-382; *DQB*.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>5</sup> Steel: 70 & 129; Sansbury.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>7</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/1149; John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson*: 2.

<sup>8</sup> Boyce; marriage digest (Scotland); Eliza Wigham in Steel: 161.

<sup>9</sup> Births digest (Scotland).

<sup>10</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169

Of the occasion she wrote:

Felt much anxiety of mind to-day, having to act as clerk to the Preparative Meeting when the four queries had to be answered. In thus endeavouring to lend a helping hand in the maintenance of the discipline of our Society, I do wish and even pray that my willingness to perform this little service may be blessed.<sup>1</sup>

In December that year Jane's grandfather John Wigham was again visited by William Allen, who noted:

He travelled extensively in America near forty years ago, on Truth's account. I well remember seeing him at my father's house at that time; myself and wife, then young and newly-married, received some tender and precious counsel from him, which has endeared his memory to us ever since, and made this interview exceedingly interesting to me. Its occurrence was occasion of deep gratitude; and truly comfortable was it to witness the precious savor of heavenly good that appears to rest upon him, and to season both his company and conversation. His numerous posterity forms no inconsiderable part of the Society of Friends in Scotland.<sup>2</sup>

In October 1833 Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held at Shields.<sup>3</sup>

The 1833–4 Newcastle directory shows the family home at 6 Summerhill Grove; the tannery, in which he was now, with John Richardson, a partner, was located at 66 Newgate Street—they were described as tanners, morocco leather dressers and glue makers. In 1836 the tannery was described as being at the White Cross, Newgate Street.<sup>4</sup>

Edward and Jane's daughter Caroline was born at Summerhill Grove on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1834.<sup>5</sup>

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March Jane's half-sister Sarah Elizabeth Wigham was born, at 10 Salisbury Road.<sup>6</sup>

That month Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held there.<sup>7</sup>

In April 1834 Edward became an annual subscriber of 10s. to the Gateshead Institution for training Female Servants. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of that month Edward and Jane were recorded as members of the first committee for the Friends' sabbath school, and Edward was named as one of the teachers. Jane was present at the sabbath school committee meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>. By late May Edward had given the school four books, a Bible, and a reference testament. He and Jane had donated £1 to the library.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Steel: 123–5.

<sup>2</sup> William Allen material, downloaded from Earlham College Library website.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 157; Ihler's *Directory of Newcastle & Gateshead*, 1833; Steel: 66.

<sup>5</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/1149.

<sup>6</sup> *The Friend*; A. Strath Maxwell (1969) *Scottish Society of Friends "Quakers": register of births, proposal of marriage, marriages, and deaths 1647–1878*.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of Friends' Sabbath School, Newcastle, TWAS MF 208; *Newcastle Journal*, 1834-04-12.

In June 1834 Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Shields.<sup>1</sup>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1834 John Wigham jun. was present at the top table at a large-scale breakfast at the Waterloo Hotel, Edinburgh, celebrating the abolition of slavery; he seconded a resolution.<sup>2</sup>

Edward's sister Rebecca Richardson, of Spring Gardens, near Newcastle, died on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1834, aged just 27. Her body was interred in plot 56 of the Friends' burial ground at Pilgrim Street, Newcastle. Two days after her death Jane made the following entry in the diary she kept of Anna Deborah's childhood:

Anna has improved much in talking lately, and her affections seem much developed. She often comes to me and says: "Anna 'ove Mamma very much indeed, very much indeed. Does Mamma 'ove Anna"? And, if I reply, "Yes, very much indeed," she often says: "Say very much indeed again, Mamma." On the death of her dear Aunt Rebecca, I told her that she was gone to Heaven, where she would be for ever happy, but that she had left us all, and we were very sorry, and that Anna would never see her again. She recurred to the subject, and I then told her that if she were a good girl, she would go to Heaven, too. She touchingly replied: "Anna does'nt want to go to Heaven away from Mamma." She has nearly learnt to put up the dissected map of Europe, and a Scripture puzzle she does quite cleverly. These are, at present, her favourite amusements, and she has an uncommon admiration of the moon and stars.<sup>3</sup>

In 1835 John Wigham jun. was President of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures.<sup>4</sup>

In January, February, May, and September 1835 Edward was paid £100 by John & Edward Richardson, the tannery partnership; there was a second payment in May, of £272-15.<sup>5</sup>

On the 11<sup>th</sup> March 1835, with Henry Brady, Edward was appointed by Newcastle Monthly Meeting to ensure that the marriage of Joseph Watson and Sarah Spence was conducted agreeably to good order, and to prepare abstracts of the marriage certificate.. The following day he witnessed the marriage, as well as that of Sarah's sister Mary to an unrelated James Watson, at North Shields. He reported the successful event at the Monthly Meeting at Shields on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.<sup>6</sup>

Jane and Edward's first son was born at Newcastle on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, and named after his father.<sup>7</sup>

On the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1835 Jane made an entry in her diary of Anna's childhood:

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>2</sup> *The Scotsman*, 2 August 1834.

<sup>3</sup> Steel: 123–5, 220; RG 6/226; *Annual Monitor* 1836; John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson*: 2

<sup>4</sup> *Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce & Manufactures. Founded in the Year 1785. Incorporated by Royal Charter in the Year 1786. 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1785–1945* (commemorative book); *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911); obituary of John Wigham, *The Scotsman*, 30 April 1862.

<sup>5</sup> Cash Book, John & Edward Richardson, TWAS Acc. 161/325.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169; RG 6/527; RG 6/1245.

<sup>7</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/1149.

Anna does not yet speak quite distinctly; she is a very lively child, rather irritable, but generally obedient. She deals greatly in comparisons, continually finding resemblances between things, and in this way she learns to read, and now knows a considerable number of little words. She delights in hearing stories read or told to her, and has a good memory. She is very active and healthy, though small of her age. She is very fond of her little brother, and, one evening, observing his great admiration of the candle, said, quite of herself: “He likes to look at the candle, little dear, he *would* be pleased to see the stars, and the moon, and the comet, and all those *bright things* up in the sky.”<sup>1</sup>

On the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1836 John Wigham jun. seconded a resolution at the first annual meeting of the Scottish Prison Discipline Society, advocating an educational approach to the punishment of juvenile delinquents.<sup>2</sup> He was one of the Royal Commissioners on Prisons for Scotland, and long took an active interest in that department. As a philanthropic measure, he had long advocated the establishment of reformatories for juvenile criminals on the system he had the satisfaction of seeing at length almost universally adopted.<sup>3</sup>

John & Edward Richardson paid Edward £100 on the 19<sup>th</sup> February.<sup>4</sup>

On the 24<sup>th</sup> February Jane Richardson signed the Monthly Meeting testimony to Thomas Richardson.<sup>5</sup>

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March Jane made an entry in her diary of Anna’s childhood:

Anna improves in learning to read and spell. She puts up cleverly four or five maps, and has some knowledge of the counties. In speaking of serious subjects, her remarks are very amusing—sometimes ludicrous. Looking at the picture of Mary looking to our Saviour, while Martha stands by a large fire, she observed with much gravity: “Mamma, I think Martha and Mary should ’nt take Jesus Christ *into the kitchen*.” Meeting with the word *Heaven*, she said: “Good people go there when they die, some people *ride up*”; then, seeing an involuntary smile in my face, she added: “Ma knows Elijah did.”<sup>6</sup>

On the 13<sup>th</sup> April John Wigham was appointed a director of the Forth Steam Navigation Company, at its inaugural meeting.<sup>7</sup>

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> June the tannery paid Edward £126-19-1.<sup>8</sup>

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July Jane’s half-sister Anna Mary Wigham was born, at 10 Salisbury Road.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson: 2*.

<sup>2</sup> *The Scotsman* 30, January 1836.

<sup>3</sup> Obituary of John Wigham, *The Scotsman*, 30 April 1862; William H. Marwick (1954) ‘Friends in Nineteenth Century Scotland’, *JFHS* 46.1:15, Spring.

<sup>4</sup> Cash Book, John & Edward Richardson, TWAS Acc. 161/325.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>6</sup> John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson: 2–3*.

<sup>7</sup> *The Scotsman*, 16 April 1836.

<sup>8</sup> Cash Book, John & Edward Richardson, TWAS Acc. 161/325.

<sup>9</sup> Births digest (Scotland).

On the 7<sup>th</sup> August Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Shields.<sup>1</sup>

On the 28<sup>th</sup> October 1836 the tannery paid Edward £60, with the note “To Torquay.” The cashbook—which resists ready interpretation—shows that the partners had accounts with the Northumberland & District Bank, Sir M.W. Ridley & Co., bankers, and the Newcastle branch of the Bank of England.<sup>2</sup>

Edward and Jane’s son John Wigham Richardson was born at Tor, in the parish of Tor Mohun, Devon, on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1837. The family were wintering in Torquay, on account of Edward’s delicate health. His brother and partner John kindly and willingly released him, whenever it was thought desirable, on health grounds, for him to leave home. He took many journeys for the benefit of his health, both by sea and land, often accompanied by his sister Ann. On one of these occasions they were shipwrecked. In 1837 they went to London by the Menai steamer to consult Sir James Clark, who recommended him to return home by a sailing vessel. Accordingly they embarked in a Newcastle trader, *The Bywell*, making her first voyage. The weather was threatening, and the captain crowded on all sail, hoping to have light enough to run into Yarmouth Roads and shelter for the night. But the storm of wind and rain increased. Edward and Ann were alone about six o’clock in the cabin, fearing no danger, when suddenly there came an awful shock, quickly followed by another and another. The vessel had struck upon the Newcombe Sands off Pakefield, and all hope that the ship would get off was taken away, for the rudder was soon lost, and she seemed to be breaking up by the violence of the waves. The men prepared to launch the boats; the first was swamped in the attempt, and the long boat shared the same fate. They were three miles from shore. They were in this state of exposure and uncertainty for about three hours, when the lifeboat from Lowestoft, with seventeen brave men, came to their rescue. Just a quarter of an hour afterwards the ship broke up. Edward lost everything except the clothes he wore. They reached the shore at about ten o’clock at night, where they received most kind attention from the Vicar of Lowestoft, Francis Cunningham, and his wife Richenda, who was sister to Elizabeth (Gurney) Fry. The Cunninghams took them to their house, and kindly sent them on to Norwich in their carriage to take coach for the North. In November 1837 Edward doubled his subscription to the Shipwreck Society.<sup>3</sup>

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1837 Jane made an entry in her diary of Anna’s childhood:

Anna is still tall and slight—very active and animated—appeared to gain much strength during our sojourn in Devonshire; has a good deal got over her shyness, but is a curious instance of shyness and boldness; still rather irritable and very high spirited, but devotedly affectionate, and generally obedient to Mamma. She can read nicely, write tolerably, and has some general intelligence, but an

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>2</sup> Cash Book, John & Edward Richardson, TWAS Acc. 161/325.

<sup>3</sup> RG 6/404; RG 6/1149; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911); *Newcastle Journal*, 1837-11-25. The wreck site is marked on the map at [heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/Monument/MSF46347](http://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/Monument/MSF46347). This source says the snow was built in 1825, so it can’t have been her first voyage. It gives this account: ‘Was seen to be on the SW end of the Newcome Sand at 7pm, showing night signals for assistance. A strong south-west gale was blowing accompanied by hail and rain. Two beach yawls tried to launch, but failed to do so, therefore Lt. Carter, accompanied by H Disney, a Trinity House pilot, with the assistance of many of the townspeople, managed to get the lifeboat off and, after three attempts, succeeded in taking out the master, nine crew and four passengers, named as Mr and Miss Richardson, Miss M Beckett and Mr. George Wilson. The ship was on her way home from London with a cargo valued at over 30,000, unfortunately not insured. She became a total wreck soon after the crew left.’

extreme dislike to all handicraft occupations. Is a thorough romp, and has less taste for hearing stories than formerly.<sup>1</sup>

John Wigham Richardson recorded two stories of Anna, which also feature her father:

An anecdote is told of Anna during this stay in Devonshire, at Torquay. She was then four years old. her father used to go out riding with another gentleman before breakfast; and, on returning one morning, they both dismounted, and Anna begged to be put on. The horses were left for a moment without anyone holding them, and they both started off at a canter to the stables. Anna quite quietly kept her seat.

About a year later, when she was riding with her father down that grassy lane which connects Ebchester and Lanchester, his horse caught a foot in a drain, and he was thrown heavily to the ground, and remained senseless for a few minutes. When he came to himself he found that the little girl had gone after his horse, and walking with her riding habit tucked up, was quietly leading the two animals back to where he was lying.<sup>2</sup>

In August John Wigham Richardson was taken to Aberdeen by sea, presumably with his family, on a visit to Jane's grandfather John Wigham, two years before the latter's death.<sup>3</sup>

In January 1838 Jane Richardson recorded:

In approaching the completion of her sixth year, Anna is a tall girl for her age; continues thin, but very active, animated, and healthy. Her mental powers have been developed with considerable rapidity. She now reads well—and writes very fairly—an exercise of which she is fond,—and can do very easy sums in addition and multiplication. She has lately improved in sewing, and can seam tolerably well when she takes pains. Her memory is retentive as to facts more than words, and she displays much quickness of perception and a comprehension rather above her years. She is fond of hearing poetry, and evinces some taste in the selection. Continues quite a romp, and does not amuse herself by reading so much as I expected. With regard to moral qualities, I hope there is considerable improvement. Her natural self-will, impatience, and irritability are certainly, in some degree, subdued, and she is decidedly more gentle, docile, and obedient, while her affection continues strong and ardent.<sup>4</sup>

Anna later recalled her mother telling the children stories from the *Odyssey*.<sup>5</sup>

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1838 John Wigham moved the vote of thanks at a public meeting, at which concerns were expressed at the manner of the implementation of the Emancipation Act.<sup>6</sup>

Elizabeth Fry visited John Wigham again in August 1838, recording:

He had been to her as “a nursing father” in the early part of her religious course.

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 3.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911): 5.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 4/

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1877): 100

<sup>6</sup> *The Scotsman*. 25 April 1838.

It was much like the meeting and interchange of parent and child, after long separation and many vicissitudes; and these last, as they had affected our dear friend in the interval, were freely spoken of by her, with that deep feeling, chastened into resignation, which so remarkably covers her subjected spirit, in relation to these affecting topics.<sup>1</sup>

Edward and Jane's daughter Elizabeth was born at 6 Summerhill Grove on 12 September 1838.<sup>2</sup>

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October the youngest of John and Sarah's children was born at 10 Salisbury Road, James Anthony Wigham.<sup>3</sup>

The 1838 Newcastle directory shows Edward Richardson living at 6 Summerhill Grove, a tanner in the partnership of John and Edward Richardson, tanners, Morocco leather and glue manufacturers, of 66 Newgate Street.<sup>4</sup> In July that year he subscribed £2 to the Royal Victoria Asylum for the Blind, as well as donating £2 to the Reception Fund for the Newcastle meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; in August that year he subscribed £10, and an annual subscription of 10s. 10d., to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Zoological and Botanical Society, and in September he gave a second subscription of £5 to the Newcastle Female Penitentiary. In December he donated a guinea to the collection for the children of Joseph Millie, who had been murdered in the Savings' Bank.<sup>5</sup>

Jane recorded, in January 1839, that:

Anna continues to grow tall, which seems rather to diminish her strength. She has made some progress in reading and writing—a good deal in spelling and sewing, and is gaining a slight knowledge of geography. She is very fond of reading to herself now, and altogether, shews a good deal of ability, but rather a want of application.<sup>6</sup>

Some time after this date Anna was sent to a Friend's day-school, and for a short time to one in Old Elvet, Durham.<sup>7</sup>

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1839 Edward and his brother John were signatories to an open letter to the Mayor of Newcastle, requesting that he call a public meeting with a view to petitioning Parliament over the corn laws.<sup>8</sup> That month, too—doubtless reflect his experience the previous year—he subscribed £5 to the Infirmary at Lowestoft, enlarging for the benefit of ship-wrecked sailors. The following month his tannery advanced the wages of the tanners in their employment, in consequence of the high price of provisions. In January 1840 he donated £1 to the Newcastle Total Abstinence Society's scheme for the monthly distribution of a temperance publication to every family in the

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Fry material, downloaded from Earlham College Library website.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169; birth certificate.

<sup>3</sup> Births digest (Scotland).

<sup>4</sup> M.A. Richardson's *Directory of Newcastle and Gateshead 1838*; daughter's birth certificate.

<sup>5</sup> *Newcastle Journal*, 1838-07-14, 1839-09-08, and 1838-09-29; *Newcastle Courant*, 1838-07-27, 1838-09-28, and 1838-12-14.

<sup>6</sup> John Wigham Richardson (1877): 4.

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1877): 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Northern Liberator*, issue 67, 26 January 1839.

town. In February that year John & Edward Richardson, of 66 Newgate-Street, advertised for sale the house and garden called Spring Gardens, with outhouses and stables, the whole containing nearly an acre. By September 1840 he had subscribed £1.1s. to the Newcastle Teetotal Society.<sup>1</sup>

For several years John Wigham was quite blind, which he felt to be a great privation. For about three weeks before his death, he suffered much pain and sickness. John Wigham of Broadford, Aberdeen, described as “late shawl manufacturer”, died early in the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1839, with very little struggle. He was buried in the Friends’ burial ground at Kinmuck, on the 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>2</sup> An inventory was taken of his effects. His whole worldly wealth amounted to £74/11/8, made up of household furniture (£26/10/9), body clothes, books and an old watch (£3/12/6), half a year’s rent on apartments in a house at Broadford (£2), and cash in the house, including the contents of an endorsed Bank deposit receipt (£42/8/5).<sup>3</sup>

On the 29<sup>th</sup> June that year John Wigham (junior) chaired a public meeting at the Merchants’ Hall in Edinburgh, at which the decision was taken to found the Anti-Corn-Law Association. He was appointed as a committee member.<sup>4</sup>

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August John Wigham addressed an open letter to the ratepayers of St Cuthbert’s parish, urging attendance at a public meeting to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup>, to look at fairer and better provision for the poor in Scotland. Has been one of 120 Managers appointed to conduct the affairs of the poor during the previous six years.<sup>5</sup> On the 24<sup>th</sup> *The Scotsman* reported that he had taken up the cause of poor widows with families, and had resigned his office as a Manager, saying that, having been offered the assistance of counsel gratuitously to conduct any legal proceedings that may be necessary, he had resolved to try, in the Court of Session, the first case that came to his knowledge in which the claims of widows were not properly attended to.<sup>6</sup>

In 1840 John Wigham nominated Mr (later Lord) Macaulay as member for Edinburgh.<sup>7</sup> On the 8<sup>th</sup> April, at a meeting at the Institution Rooms, Queen Street, he was among those elected to the

committee of a new Association for Inquiring into the Pauperism of Scotland.<sup>8</sup>

In June 1840 Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Shields.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Newcastle Journal*, 14 July, 8 and 29 September 1838, 12 January and 2 February 1839, 4 January and 15 February 1840.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1840; Wigham (1842); death/burial digest (Scotland), Scottish Record Office SC1/27/16 pp. 832-833 and SC1/36/16m pp. 1303-1308.

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Record Office SC1/27/16 pp. 832-833 and SC1/36/16m pp. 1303-1308.

<sup>4</sup> *The Scotsman*, 31 July 1839.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scotsman*, 3 August 1839.

<sup>6</sup> *The Scotsman*, 24 August 1839.

<sup>7</sup> *Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce & Manufactures. Founded in the Year 1785. Incorporated by Royal Charter in the Year 1786. 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1785-1945* (commemorative book); *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911); obituary of John Wigham, *The Scotsman* 30 April 1862.

<sup>8</sup> *The Scotsman*, 11 April 1840.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1834-78, TWAS MF 194.

By 1840 Edward had discontinued his teaching at the Friends' Sabbath School. In September of that year he subscribed a guinea to the Newcastle Teetotal Society.<sup>1</sup>

Edward, and presumably the family, went to spend the winter of 1841 at East Law (now Derwent Hill), Ebchester, a house belonging to his brother John. That year he subscribed £1 to the North of England Agricultural School.<sup>2</sup>



1-8 Summerhill Grove,  
from [www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk);  
© Bob Cottrell

In 1841 Deborah Richardson moved from Spring Gardens to 3 Summerhill Grove, Westgate, Newcastle, to be near her two sons, John and Edward, who had settled there. The 1841 census recorded her there, of independent means, living with her daughter Ann (of independent means) and two servants. One of her grandchildren later remembered that “in those non-teetotal days, the good old lady was very proud of her gooseberry wine.”<sup>3</sup>

In the 1841 census Edward Richardson is described as a tanner, living with Jane, their six children, and four servants, at Summerhill Grove, Westgate, Newcastle upon Tyne.<sup>4</sup>

The Scottish census recorded John Wigham, of independent means, with his wife and the children of his second marriage, and two servants, at (Blawlaward?), Logie, Perth.<sup>5</sup>

The census found Edward's brother John Richardson as a tanner, of East Law, Ebchester, living with his wife and seven children, with four female servants; also in the household was a 50-year-old Joseph Richardson, clerk, who may have been Isaac Richardson's half-brother.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Friends' Sabbath School, Newcastle, TWAS MF 208; *Northern Liberator & Champion*, issue 155, 26 Sep 1840.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911): 5; TWAS MF 188.

<sup>3</sup> Steel: 195; *White's Newcastle & Gateshead Directory*, 1847; death certificate; HO 107/824/10 f21 p34; John Wigham Richardson (1877) *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson* Newcastle: 2.

<sup>4</sup> HO 107/824/10 f21 p34.

<sup>5</sup> Census.

<sup>6</sup> HO 107/302/9 f3 p4. Isaac's half-brother has otherwise not been found in this census.

In 1841 he went to spend the winter at East Law (now Derwent Hill), Ebchester, a house belonging to his brother, John Richardson. That year he subscribed £1 to the North of England Agricultural School.<sup>1</sup>

Elizabeth Richardson's childhood was very happy. One of a large family, her parents fostered the intellectual interests of their children, so she had greater scope and a wider horizon than many girls of the period, and opportunities for the physical activity which laid the foundation for her good health and strength. She was sent to school at the age of three, attending for a year or so at a school in Westgate Road, just below the entrance to Summerhill Grove, kept by two Friends, Mary Jane and Phoebe Goundry.<sup>2</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1841 Jane give birth to another son, George William, born at East Law, Ebchester, Northumberland. In his infancy he was treated with calomel—mercury(I) chloride, once used as a laxative—and in his brother John's opinion he never fully recovered from this.<sup>3</sup>

John had a pony, on which he used to ride with his father:

One day he rode to see a schoolmaster who had opened out a small land-sale coal pit, and my father exchanged some phrases with him in an unknown tongue (doubtless Latin). This was Joicey, one of whose brothers worked in the pits.<sup>4</sup>

In January 1842, at a meeting of the Scottish Board for Bible Circulation, John Wigham was appointed to an interdenominational committee to oversee the implementation of the resolutions, namely the dissemination of cheap bibles.<sup>5</sup>

That month he chaired the meeting of the committee of the Anti-Corn-Law Association of Edinburgh, held at the Chamber of Commerce. Though expected to be among the Edinburgh deputies to the Anti-Corn-Law meeting held at London on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, he was not in fact one of the five who went.<sup>6</sup> He became chairman of the Edinburgh Anti-Corn-Law Association in 1842, and was to be one of the leading advocates of free trade, down to the triumph of the cause in 1846.<sup>7</sup>

Described by the *Annual Monitor* as “a diligent and faithful labourer in the Lord's vineyard”, in 1842 the memoirs of Jane Wigham's grandfather were published as *Memoirs of the Life, Gospel Labours, and Religious Experiences of John Wigham*.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson*: 5, 18.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1919–20; *Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson*; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911).

<sup>3</sup> Birth certificate; RG 9/3815; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson* (1911): 6; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calomel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calomel).

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1911): 6. The Joicey concerned was presumably George Joicey, whose brother James had a mining company; George's son James later became an MP, and became Baron Joicey in 1906.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scotsman*, 12 February 1842.

<sup>6</sup> *The Scotsman*, 2 February 1842.

<sup>7</sup> *Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce & Manufactures. Founded in the Year 1785. Incorporated by Royal Charter in the Year 1786. 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1785–1945* (commemorative book); Richardson (1911); obituary of John Wigham, *The Scotsman*, 30 April 1862.

<sup>8</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1840.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1842 the Richardsons had another son, named Isaac, like his grandfather. His Quaker birth note was read to Newcastle Monthly Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.<sup>1</sup>

In the spring of 1842 Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held there.<sup>2</sup>

Of 1842 John Wigham Richardson recalled:

One incident in this year impressed me very much. It was at No. 6 Summerhill Grove. My sister Anna, aged 10, was standing by the fire when her clothes took fire. She shrieked and ran out of the room, and at the door she met my mother, who laid her flat on her back, and with equal promptitude covered her with a door-mat. The whole affair was over in a few seconds, and my sister was only very slightly burnt.

It was, I think, in this or the previous year that I remember playing in front of the houses in Summerhill Grove, which at that time was not a thoroughfare, when my father came on horseback to say good-bye to my mother before going out to East Law. I was then four and a half years old. I said, "Oh, papa, take me." He replied, "Why not?" and told the nurse to put me up behind him, and so we rode the twelve miles. I have no doubt that my father was tenderly solicitous, but none the less I more than once, when jolting behind him, rued my rash request and felt ready to cry.<sup>3</sup>

In 1843 John Wigham acted as executor of the will of his sister Jane (Wigham) Cruickshank.<sup>4</sup>

In February and March 1843 John Wigham was listed as agent and correspondent for *The British Friend*.<sup>5</sup>

Edward acted as Treasurer of the Newcastle Peace Society in 1843, and again in 1849, so perhaps throughout this period.<sup>6</sup>

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 1844 John Wigham was one of four men appointed to collect subscriptions in Edinburgh and neighbourhood, for a Great League Fund of £100,000; a special fruit soir ee was held in the new music hall that day, to receive a deputation from the national Anti-Corn-Law League, including both Richard Cobden and John Bright.<sup>7</sup>

John Wigham chaired a meeting of the Anti-Corn-Law Association at the Chamber of Commerce on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, and was re-elected Chairman of the Association.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> GRO index; birth digest; *The Friend*; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 7.

<sup>4</sup> Information from Karen Yeoman.

<sup>5</sup> *The British Friend*.

<sup>6</sup> Steel: 81; *The British Friend*.

<sup>7</sup> *The Scotsman*, 6 January 1844.

<sup>8</sup> *The Scotsman*, 13 April 1844.

By mid- April John Wigham had contributed a guinea to the annual subscription for the Royal Infirmary.<sup>1</sup>

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July John Wigham was elected as a Director of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce.<sup>2</sup>

In 1844, at the request of miners of Northumberland and Durham, Edward signed an open letter to the Marquess of Londonderry, regarding the pitmen's strike.<sup>3</sup>

Jane Emily Richardson was born to Jane and Edward on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 1844, at Newcastle—their fourth daughter.<sup>4</sup>

In February 1845 Sarah (Nicholson) Wigham, Jane's stepmother, was appointed as a member of the committee for the Anti-Corn-Law League Bazaar to be held in Covent Garden Theatre, London, in May. In March, Jane, of Summerhill Grove, was elected to a committee of ladies to support the projected Anti-Corn Law League Bazaar.<sup>5</sup>

At about the age of seven Elizabeth went to school at Mrs Gethings', in Westmoreland Road, and afterwards (or perhaps before) in Elswick Row. While there she repeated all 54 verses of 1 Corinthians 15, and received fourpence as a reward. One of her schoolmates later recalled her great enthusiasm about a voyage to Edinburgh in the early days of steamships, and her tears on reading of the cruel treatment of Prince Arthur in the reign of King John.<sup>6</sup>

The Richardson children were not allowed sugar because it was slave-grown. The one deliberate lie that troubled Elizabeth's conscience was that as a little girl she asked her father for her Saturday penny earlier than usual, and when he asked her "What for?" she replied (knowing that she intended to buy sweets) "Nothing particular." Like all her family, Elizabeth was a horsewoman, and she was given a pony, on condition that she tended it entirely herself, and on it she used to gallop barebacked. She was only thrown once, when cantering up Benwell Lane. Later the family had a phaeton, and she grew familiar with harnessing and driving.<sup>7</sup>

Another daughter was born to Edward and Jane: Alice Mary, born at 6 Summerhill Grove on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1846.<sup>8</sup>

By February 1846 John Wigham was one of two Trustees of the Edinburgh Property Investment Company, which appears to have been essentially a building society.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Scotsman*, 13 April 1844.

<sup>2</sup> *The Scotsman*, 10 July 1844.

<sup>3</sup> *Newcastle Journal*, 1844-07-20.

<sup>4</sup> Birth digest; *The British Friend*.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scotsman*, 15 February 1844; *Newcastle Courant*, 1845-03-07.

<sup>6</sup> *Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson*; Richardson (1911); Herbert Corder, 'Elizabeth Spence Watson':1

<sup>7</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1919–20.

<sup>8</sup> Birth certificate.

<sup>9</sup> *The Scotsman*, 4 February 1846; by 29 January 1848 there were three Trustees.

In June and December 1846 Edward was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held there.<sup>1</sup>

In the summer of 1846 the Richardsons, with Jane's father John Wigham, holidayed by the seaside, at the village of Dirleton, not far from the Bass Rock; much of the lovely country around Edinburgh was explored on foot or in carriage excursions. For a number of years John Wigham rented a cottage, called Morton Cottage, at Langfieldry, close to the sea, near Prestonpans and Musselburgh.<sup>2</sup>

Anna later recollected a time, probably in her early teens, when

. . . I so disliked sitting still to sew more than half-an-hour at a time, that Papa promised me a watch when I had made six shirts for him—so that was quite a large bait to a greedy little fish like me; and I set to work, and in about three years—think of it, some of the poor slopwomen make a shirt in a day, and only get eightpence, I finished the task, and won the watch which Emmie now wears every day, at school, to keep her punctual to her classes.<sup>3</sup>

From 1846 to 1850 Edward Richardson jr was a pupil at Bootham School. Anna was at school in Lewes from 1846; her mother wrote to her weekly, Anna finding that “communications from thy own dear pen fall like soft and healing showers on my path, refreshing me in the oft-times lonely roughness of school, and shedding a halo of purer, better feeling round me.”<sup>4</sup>

Christmas 1846 was an unhappy one for the Richardson family, as their young son Isaac died at Summerhill Grove on Boxing Day, of water on the brain, aged 4 years and 10 months. All the children were brought home from school during his last illness. His body was buried in Westgate Hill General Cemetery on the 30<sup>th</sup> December. His mother's “passionate grief was soothed by Anna's ardent sympathy.”<sup>5</sup>

Ann Richardson visited Paris that year, and was assiduous in her appointed task of distributing New Testaments there. She filled the officer of an Elder of her meeting for a long period.<sup>6</sup>

Around 1846 George Catlin and his touring party of Sioux Indians—a precursor of what would become the Wild West Show—visited Newcastle. The entire group—a dozen Sioux men, with a woman, a baby, and a young boy—came to tea with the Richardsons one afternoon; Elizabeth fell in love with the young Sioux boy, and a model canoe and moccasins were bought for John. Subsequently Edward called on them at their lodgings at the corner of Grainger Street and Market Street; John recalled:

He first bought me a good pocket knife, which I presented to the Indian boy. His father saw it

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1911): 18; John Wigham Richardson (1877) *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson* Newcastle: 5; *Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson*; Scottish Record Office SC70/4/82, pp. 479-543 and SC70/1/113, pp. 367-382

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 172.

<sup>4</sup> *Bootham School Register* (1971); Richardson (1877): 5–10.

<sup>5</sup> Death certificate; burials digest; Elizabeth Spence Watson's 'Family Chronicles'; *The British Friend*, January 1847; *The Friend*, V.50:40, February 1847; *Annual Monitor*; Richardson (1877): 12

<sup>6</sup> Steel: 195–8.

and took it from him, at the same time striking him so brutally on the side of the head as to send him reeling to the other end of the room. This was sufficient to disillusion me as to the *noble savage*.<sup>1</sup>

The 1847 directory still shows the partnership of Edward and John Richardson, “tanners and glew manufacturers”; but by that year Edward’s nephew James Richardson had taken over from his father as partner.<sup>2</sup>

In March 1847 Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Sunderland.<sup>3</sup>

From a letter from Anna to her mother, dated the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1847, we learn that her father had suffered from rheumatism the previous year, but had benefited from horse riding before breakfast; also that her mother was fond of violets.<sup>4</sup>

In June 1847 *The British Friend* carried this announcement:

To the Anti-Slavery Women of Great Britain. The Edinburgh Ladies’ Emancipation Society intend forwarding a Box of Ladies’ Work, and other contributions, to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Anti-Slavery Bazaar, to be held at Boston, U.S., during the Christmas week; for the purpose of aiding the Cause of the Slave, by expressing sympathy with the labours of American Abolitionists, and raising funds for the Massachusetts Female Anti-Slavery Society. (Sec. Eliza Wigham)

Among those named to receive contributions by the 25<sup>th</sup> October was Jane Richardson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Jane and her step-daughter Elizabeth were the leaders of this Edinburgh Society. Of 6 Summerhill Grove, by November 1848 she was acting as Secretary to the Newcastle Ragged School for Girls, due to open on the 20<sup>th</sup> of that month; she had taken out an annual subscription of £1. In July 1849 she was again authorised to receive, at Summerhill Grove, donations for the Anti-Slavery Bazaar.<sup>5</sup>

In the summer of 1847 Edward and Jane, with the family, took lodgings at Whitburn, a charming seaside village a little north of Sunderland.<sup>6</sup> There was a terrific thunderstorm while they were there, in which a vivid flash of lightning made Jane, when driving in her phaeton, quite blind for several minutes. Her eyesight was never perfectly right again.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1911): 17–8, 24; Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson.

<sup>2</sup> White’s *Newcastle & Gateshead Directory*, 1847; catalogue of Tyne & Wear Archives Service.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>4</sup> John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson*: 11.

<sup>5</sup> *The British Friend*; ; C. Peter Ripley, Introduction to *The Black Abolitionist Papers, Vol. I: The British Isles, 1830–1865*, 1985: University of North Carolina Press (also published at [http://uncpress.unc.edu/chapters/ripley\\_black1.html](http://uncpress.unc.edu/chapters/ripley_black1.html)); *Newcastle Journal*, 1848-11-04; *Newcastle Journal*, 1848-11-25; *Nonconformist*, 1849-07-04. The *Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail* of 1886-10-25 claims that the women who purchased the freedom of Frederick Douglas were "Mrs Edward Richardson and Mrs Anna Richardson, probably assisted by Mrs Robert Forster and Miss Ellen Richardson"; I have found no other evidence for Jane Richardson's direct involvement, the benefactors usually being named as Anna and Ellen Richardson, only..

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1911): 24.

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1911): 24.

One dark night during the children's Christmas holidays, around 1847, Edward took his four elder children to see Lord Armstrong, (then Mr William George Armstrong, solicitor), exhibit his electrical machine. Edward had himself made a very good electrical machine which was often got out in the evenings and experiments performed. This was later presented to the Gateshead High School for Girls.<sup>1</sup>

In January 1848, at Monthly Meeting at Newcastle, Edward signed the testimony to Rachel Wigham.<sup>2</sup>

The Richardsons' tenth child, Ellen Ann, was born at Summerhill Grove on the 25<sup>th</sup> January that year.<sup>3</sup>

Jane Richardson had a great power of sympathy with the troubled and anxious, and to the young, the aged and the poor she was constantly ready with kind counsel and help. Even strangers were so drawn to her that, almost before they were aware, they told her their troubles. James Montgomery, the poet, had in 1837 established in Newcastle, a Society for visiting aged women. She took one of the poorest districts in the town, and continued diligent in the work till her increasing blindness rendered it impossible. The love and reverence which these poor people felt for her arose not so much from her gifts as from the loving sympathy which she showed them as fellow human beings.<sup>4</sup>

The late 1840s was the time of the potato famine in Ireland. In April 1848 John Wigham was convener of the committee working to aid unemployed labourers. John Wigham Richardson relates an incident of this period:

Our Grandfather, though one of the mildest of men, had a habit of occasionally, very occasionally, expressing himself rather strongly. During the Irish famine he had to distribute some Government relief, and was applied to, by a young man, for assistance. He was told that no relief could be given to able-bodied unmarried men. The next morning, the youth applied again, and stated that, after what he had been told the day before, he had got married forthwith. I well recollect my good Grandfather bursting out with – “Thou rascal, thou scoundrel, *get out of my library!*”<sup>5</sup>

Elizabeth Richardson remembered being taken to see her grandmother Deborah Richardson, when she was dying. She was rather a favourite of her grandmother's—she remembered once when she had thought her very good on a fourth day meeting, she took her to Bell the Confectioner's afterwards, and bought her 12 sponge cakes and 1lb of barley sugar. Jane Richardson locked them

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1911): 31–2. The electrical machine was what Armstrong called a hydroelectric machine, but was in fact an electrostatic generator. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armstrong\\_effect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armstrong_effect) notes that “At a demonstration at Newcastle's Lit and Phil, the crowds were so great that Armstrong could not gain entry through the door and had to climb in through a window, this requiring two ladders.”

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>3</sup> Birth certificate; *The British Friend*.

<sup>4</sup> *DQB*; Eliza Wigham, in Steel: 161.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scotsman*, 29 January 1848; Richardson (1911): 18; John Wigham Richardson (1877) *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson* Newcastle: 5, 122; *Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson*; Scottish Record Office SC70/4/82, pp. 479-543 and SC70/1/113, pp. 367-382.

up to be *gradually* consumed.<sup>1</sup>

Deborah Richardson died at Summerhill Grove on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1848, of decay of nature. Her body was buried in plot 5 of the Pilgrim Street meeting-house graveyard, on the 25<sup>th</sup>.<sup>2</sup> Ann Richardson felt her mother's death deeply, but it strengthened her bond with her brothers, "to whom she was a tender, loving sister, the constant sharer of their joys and sorrows."<sup>3</sup>

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September that year, at Monthly Meeting at Newcastle, Edward and Jane both signed the testimony to Daniel Oliver.<sup>4</sup>

In September John Wigham was one of five members of the General Board of Directors of Prisons in Scotland.<sup>5</sup>

On the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1848 John Wigham was on the platform of a public meeting of the Financial Reform Association, held at the Waterloo Rooms in Edinburgh. That month, with William Miller, he wrote a commendatory preface to the English edition of Adin Ballou's *Christian Non-Resistance*, "Once dismissed as a relic of the naïve and sentimental optimism of pre-Civil War America, [ . . . ] now recognized as an important contribution to the theory of nonviolent resistance."<sup>6</sup>

That year Sarah (Nicholson) Wigham was president of the Edinburgh Female Emancipation Society.<sup>7</sup>

By mid-January 1849 John Wigham was one of three Trustees of the Second Edinburgh Property Investment Company, the first having presumably proved a success.<sup>8</sup>

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1849 *The Scotsman* reported that, at a recent meeting of the Town Council, John Wigham had been a member of a deputation urging a reduction in the number of public houses within their jurisdiction.<sup>9</sup>

In July "Jane Edward Richardson" of Summerhill Grove was appointed to receive donations for the Anti-Slavery Bazaar.<sup>10</sup>

That year Anna Deborah and Caroline Richardson, aged 17 and 15 respectively, were listed as

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<sup>1</sup> Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1850); death certificate; Steel: 291.

<sup>3</sup> Steel: 195–8.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scotsman*, 20 September 1848.

<sup>6</sup> *The Scotsman*, 30 December 1848; Joseph Smith, *Descriptive catalogue of Friends' books*, vol. 2; description on Amazon.co.uk.

<sup>7</sup> Marwick: 46.1:12.

<sup>8</sup> *The Scotsman*, 17 January and 10 March 1849.

<sup>9</sup> *The Scotsman*, 25 April 1849.

<sup>10</sup> *The British Friend*.

teachers at the Newcastle Friends' Sabbath School.<sup>1</sup>

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1849 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, returning from Scotland with their family, stopped to receive an address on the High Level Bridge in Newcastle, which had been completed in June. Edward took his son John with him, but the latter wasn't allowed into the enclosure with him and had to stand at the very end of the platform.<sup>2</sup>

In December 1849 Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting there.<sup>3</sup>

When his large family were growing up around him, Edward was very watchful over them; he enjoyed mingling with his children in their pursuits, and taught them to be brave and daring, encouraging a spirit of self-reliance. He sought to train up his children in the principles of the Society of Friends, to which he was himself sincerely attached. He was fond of horseback exercise himself, and trained them when young in the love of it; his manner towards them was gentle and kindly. When a pony was bought for John, Edward ensured that his son did all the grooming himself. John recalled that the pony shied on their first morning together:

My father was quite angry and said I should hurt myself if I tumbled on the hard road. When we got on the Town Moor the pony set off at a gallop and I fell off again. On this my father laughed and said "Tumble off as much as thou likes, John, on the grass." Later on they got me a saddle or rather a pad into which a crutch for a girl could be screwed, and then my father offered me a shilling if I would ride a mile with the coin gripped between the saddle and my knee. I never succeeded in going more than a third of a mile. The hay, straw and corn came from the stables up Gallowgate way where the Glue Factory of J. & E. Richardson was situated.

He was always fond of horses—he kept two saddle horses—a nearly thoroughbred mare called Fanny, and (around 1856–9) a horse called Minniehaha. He had a large wagonette (they called it the car), in which he used to drive his family to various points of interest—once, around 1849, along the Roman Wall. John recalled:

I remember the merry laugh of my mother when she found me taking for the journey Parley's "Greek and Roman Mythology"—not after all a wholly unsuitable work considering the antiquarian nature of our expedition. [ . . . ]

Our turn-out was not very smart—and the harness least of all—and my mother pointed slyly to it when Anna read the lines [from Scott's *Marmion*]—

Blue was the charge's brodered rein  
Blue ribbons decked his arching mane;  
The knightly housing's ample fold  
Was velvet blue and trapp'd with gold.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Friends' Sabbath School, Newcastle, TWAS MF208.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 40–41.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1911); Elizabeth Spence Watson: 'Family Chronicles'; Ann R. Foster in Steel: 157; Richardson (1877): 94, 167.

In the children's early years fiction was mostly tabooed, though more serious works were allowed: *Paradise Lost*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *The Pilgrim's Progress*; Maria Hack's *Winter Evenings*; or, *Tales of Travellers* was a great favourite.<sup>1</sup>

In early January 1850 Jane was one of the women who presented a purse of twenty sovereigns to William Wells Brown, the guest at an anti-slavery soirée at the Music Hall in Newcastle.<sup>2</sup>

By 1850 the partners in the tannery had established the Elswick Leather works, in Shumac Street, Newcastle.<sup>3</sup>

Around 1850 Elizabeth Richardson was taught at home for a year by her elder sister Anna Deborah. She found her sister to be a teacher with intellectual ability, understanding, and sympathy, one with whom it was a real pleasure to learn.<sup>4</sup>

John Wigham Richardson was a pupil at Bootham from 1850 to 1852.<sup>5</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1850 Edward Richardson, with Daniel Oliver, was named as one of those to whom Newcastle Friends should apply if they wanted a gravestone. His brother John was one of five signatories to the minute of Newcastle Friends regarding gravestones.<sup>6</sup>

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1851 John Wigham was a signatory to a request to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh to convene a public meeting to look at the positive implications of the recent treaties with Spain and Brazil for the promotion of the extinction of slavery.<sup>7</sup>

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March John Wigham was on the platform of, and moved the motion at, a public meeting of the Edinburgh Financial Reform Association held at Queen Street Hall, to petition Parliament to look at ways of effectively implementing the new treaties.<sup>8</sup>

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1851 Edward was recorded by Monthly Meeting, held at Sunderland, as one of the trustees of Friends' property. In April and September he was one of the two Newcastle representatives at Monthly Meeting, held there.<sup>9</sup>

In the 1851 census Edward was described as a tanner master, living with Jane, seven children, two housemaids, and a cook, at 6 Summerhill Grove, Westgate, Newcastle.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 40.

<sup>2</sup> *Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury*, 1850-01-05.

<sup>3</sup> *Ward's Directory of Newcastle & Gateshead*.

<sup>4</sup> *Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson*; Richardson (1911): 35.

<sup>5</sup> *Bootham School Register* (1971).

<sup>6</sup> Steel: 217.

<sup>7</sup> *The Scotsman*, 10 January 1851.

<sup>8</sup> *The Scotsman*, 3 March 1851.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting, TWAS MF 169.

<sup>10</sup> HO 107/2404 f469 p57.

In the census John Wigham was described as late a merchant; his household included his wife, his son John Thomas, his daughter Sarah Elizabeth, a cook, a housemaid, and a gardener. John Richardson was a leather manufacturer, living with his two sons, a daughter, and three servants, at Elswick Lane, Elswick, Newcastle on Tyne; Edward jr was now working as a tanner. Ann Richardson was still living at 3 Summerhill Grove, Westgate. John Wigham Richardson was a scholar at Bootham, St Giles, York.<sup>1</sup>

Jane's half-sister Anna Mary Wigham was recorded as a scholar, at 45 High Street, St Michael, Lewes, Sussex. James Anthony Wigham was at Tranent, East Lothian.<sup>2</sup>

In the summer holidays of 1851 Edward took two of their children, Caroline and John Wigham Richardson, to see the Great Exhibition, accompanied by Ann Foster and his cousin Ellen Richardson. John recalled:

There was at that time furious war between the Midland and Great Northern lines and we got 2<sup>nd</sup>. class tickets—there and back—for five shillings. The line then went by Lincoln, where my father and I, along with the plenteously supplied luncheon basket, got separated from the ladies. In fact the train was divided and they went on ahead suffering pangs of hunger, while we were happy, eating sandwiches and apple turnovers and sharing them with our fellow passengers. Lodgings had been engaged for us in Sloane Square and that same evening we walked round the Exhibition in the bright moonlight. It seemed to my imagination a fairy palace. [ . . . ] The day after our arrival was devoted to seeing the wonders of this Exhibition. The crystal fountain and . . . but need I describe?

The Queen with Prince Albert and the Duke of Wellington had been going round one day before the hour of opening, and as we entered they were walking down the centre previous to leaving. The Queen was in a tantrum and was evidently pitching into poor Albert, who tried to look as if he didn't mind. The great Duke, with the stoop of old age, walked on looking neither to the right nor to the left. All eyes seemed to be turned upon him. [ . . . ]

While we were in London my father went into the city to call on his stockbrokers Messrs. Bragg & Stockdale, and was much surprised to find that they had not visited the Exhibition, nor did they seem to care to do so!<sup>3</sup>

Edward and Jane's eleventh and youngest child, Margaret, was born at 6 Summerhill Grove on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1851.<sup>4</sup>

In September that year Edward made a benefaction of £20 to the Newcastle Infirmary. In November he gave an address to the Westgate Temperance Society, chiefly on the evils of increasing the number of public houses by granting new licences.<sup>5</sup>

In 1851 Elizabeth was sent to a school at Lewes, in Sussex—run by two Friends, the sisters Josephina and Miriam Dymond—where Anna had been before her. Though this seems a long way

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish census; HO 107/2404 f243 p42, f469 p56; HO 107/2353 f230 p31.

<sup>2</sup> HO 107/1643 f387 p4; Scottish census.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1911): 48–50.

<sup>4</sup> Birth certificate.

<sup>5</sup> *Newcastle Journal*, 13 September 1851; *Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury*, 1851-11-08.

to go, one of the teachers, Sarah Rickman, was a friend of Jane's and there doesn't seem to have been a suitable school nearby. She was taken as far as London by Anna, staying in lodgings there a few days. She saw the sights of the city and the Great Exhibition. All her first year at Lewes she didn't come home, owing to the length of the journey; school terms then were two half-years, so she spent Christmas at Staines, with some Friends named Ashby. At the end of her first year she went to Nab Cottage with her family, in June, before the removal to Beech Grove. School life was Spartan: bread and butter only for breakfast and tea, with a spoonful of jam once a week. But there was plenty of out-door exercise in the fine air, more freedom than was allowed in most schools, and excellent teaching which inspired and stimulated the scholars. School began at 7 a.m., with an hour's work before breakfast. Among the subjects taught were English, German and Science. With another girl, Martha Gibbins (later Hack), at one point Elizabeth Richardson manufactured an electrical machine, with stool and Leyden jar all complete for the giving of shocks, to demonstrate to the girls. Elizabeth used to speak with great affection of the Dymonds, and looked back to her school days as very happy ones—as, indeed, did Anna. She left Lewes in her sixteenth year.<sup>1</sup>

6 Summerhill Grove was too small now for the large family, so Edward arranged to leave the house at the May term of 1852 and to reside at Beech Grove, a newly completed mansion which had been built for Matthew Bigge, one of the directors of the Northumberland and District Bank, rented for £180, which (at 4%) equated to a value of £4500. The house with about 16 acres of ground was in Elswick Lane, immediately to the east of the present Elswick Park (presumably in what is now Beech Grove Road). It was far too large for the Richardson's lifestyle, so it was altered so as to be practically two semi-detached villas with a common front door, the bell pull on the left or east side being theirs and that on the other side Edward's sister Ann's, she having been left on her own at 3 Summerhill Grove when Deborah Richardson died in 1848. Ann was to live there till she married, in 1858. The house was shaded on the north and east by groves of beech trees, and there were also very fine beeches on the west side in the grounds of Elswick Hall. At that time the town ended with the recently built East and West Parade, and the road past Beech Grove under the trees was considered a pleasant country walk. John Wigham Richardson even recalled the servants having gone out there at night to dance on the road to the strains of Langhorne the gardener's fiddle. When the May term came, the house was far from being ready, so Edward took Nab Cottage on the shores of Rydal Water for the whole summer. There had been some thought of going to Ullswater but it was considered essential to be within reach of a Friends' Meeting. Hawkshead meeting was some six or seven miles from Nab Cottage. Edward kept two saddle horses and the farmer at the Nab had a badly spavined mare which used to be hired for the occasion, as well as a two-wheeled car from the hotel at Grasmere. With John generally walking part way, the whole family succeeded in reaching the small meeting house, where Friends sat in quiet meditation, individuals only rarely moved to speak; John recalled that "I feel sure that my dear parents were thus employed, but with sorrow I may confess that it was far otherwise with me." At the time of the move to Beech Grove the elder children, Anna, Caroline and John, removed for the duration to High Close, a small farm house on the ridge between Grasmere and Langdale.<sup>2</sup>

Emma Richardson Pumphrey, Edward's niece, later recalled:

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<sup>1</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1919–20; Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson; Ann Craven (2004) 'Elizabeth Spence Watson: a Quaker working for peace and women's suffrage in nineteenth century Newcastle and Gateshead', MA dissertation, University of Newcastle upon Tyne; Richardson (1877): 252.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1911): 58–9; Ann R. Foster in Steel: 158; Ms Recollections of Emma R. Pumphrey, TWAS Acc. 474/11; John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson* Newcastle: 15–16. Beech Grove itself didn't last long: the house was to be demolished in about 1897. [sitelines.newcastle.gov.uk/SMR/1860]

It was the usual practice for our Uncle Edward to call in after breakfast for our father and they walked away together to the Tanyard in Newgate street. They were always *brother* John and *brother* Edward to each other, a lovely form of speech which died out with their devoted lives. And the same with the sisters in law, it was always *sister* Sarah and *sister* Jane between these busy mothers with their large households and ample means to provide for them.<sup>1</sup>

On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1852 John Wigham was on the platform of a meeting of the Lord Provost with the electors of Edinburgh; he said he had been intimately acquainted with the Lord Provost since the commencement of the Corn-Law agitation.<sup>2</sup>

A letter of Anna Richardson's, of the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1852, refers to "Mamma's principle of weekly dusting". The following day, writing of the lakes in Killarney, she says that "Mamma knows them", but no record of Jane's visit to Ireland has been found. In 1852 reference is made to Edward's "quaker clothes", some of which Anna had adapted for a poor neighbour at Grasmere.<sup>3</sup>

In September/October 1852 a letter by John Wigham was read to the Conference of the Friends of Peace. On the 5<sup>th</sup> October a letter from Edward was read to the town council, regarding the treatment of juvenile delinquents. In December 1852 he subscribed £1 to the fund for the workmen whose tools had been lost in a fire in Westgate Street. The following January Edward subscribed £2 annually to the Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Society for the Repression of Juvenile Crime, and the Reformation of Youthful Delinquents.<sup>4</sup>

In January 1853 John Wigham, of Salisbury Road, Newington, Edinburgh, signed a trust disposition and settlement—essentially a will. In it he made provision for his wife, and for all his children except Jane, for whom he had already provided (and more generously than he was now able to for the children of his second marriage). He had to make very specific provision for his youngest son, James Anthony, who "had severe convulsion fits which deprived him of speech and seriously impaired his mental powers so that it has been necessary for him to have a male attendant constantly". An 1854 codicil describes John Wigham's real estate in considerable detail: he still had a shop and a house in Lothian Street, as well as three other properties in Edinburgh. By 1855, however, he had given up Morton Cottage. In an 1856 codicil he bequeathed his horse and carriage to his wife.<sup>5</sup>

In February 1853 Sarah (Nicholson) Wigham was named as one of those to whom contributions could be made for a bazaar to raise funds to promote the Ocean Penny Postage, to be held in Manchester in April.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ms Recollections of Emma R. Pumphrey, TWAS Acc. 474/11.

<sup>2</sup> *The Scotsman*, 17 June 1852.

<sup>3</sup> John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson* Newcastle: 20–22.

<sup>4</sup> *The Scotsman*, 6 October 1852; *Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury*, 1852-12-04; *DQB*; *Newcastle Journal*, 19 February 1853.

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Record Office SC70/4/82, pp. 479-543 and SC70/1/113, pp. 367-382; Boyce; marriage digest (Scotland); Eliza Wigham in Steel: 161; Scottish Record Office SC70/4/82, pp. 479-543 and SC70/1/113, pp. 367–382.

<sup>6</sup> *The Scotsman*, 19 February 1853. The bazaar was held at the Exchange Rooms on 26 April. [[www.mancuniensis.plus.com/Chronology/Chronology1853FPX.htm](http://www.mancuniensis.plus.com/Chronology/Chronology1853FPX.htm), accessed 1 Nov 2006]

In March Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend the next Monthly Meeting, at Sunderland.<sup>1</sup>

In June Edward was inquiring after situations for his son John, initially asking their nearest neighbour, Robert Hawthorn, before settling on Jonathan Robson's steam-tug building establishment at the low end of Gateshead.<sup>2</sup>

During the 1853 epidemic of Asiatic cholera in Newcastle, most of the well-to-do inhabitants left the town and took up their quarters at Harrogate and such-like places, but Jane thought it her duty to remain, and daily visited the poor people of her district, fearlessly visiting the worst houses. The cholera outbreaks in Newcastle (119 had died there by mid September) were centred around Sandgate, which was not only worst for poverty, but was perceived as dangerous—claimed by *The Builder* to be worse than Cairo. John Wigham Richardson himself was attacked by the disease, prostrated by to violent throes of diarrhoea: “One of the servants happened to be outside and told my mother, who immediately administered a large dose of castor oil and then sent for a doctor”; the remedy took surprisingly quick effect.<sup>3</sup>

In June 1853 Edward contributed £50 to the Jubilee Fund of the British and Foreign Bible Society.<sup>4</sup>

John Wigham was part of a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce that met with Lord Curriehill on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 1853, regarding the Government Commission on the Mercantile Laws.<sup>5</sup>

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1853 Anna wrote to her sister Elizabeth, in Lewes, where their mother was also present. Their father had spent the previous evening with Anna:

It was very refreshing to have him last night after the children had gone to bed. Railway shares and their complex branched subjects discussed, as usual, for a little, and then the new electrotyping of Morocco [leather] and its difficulties, from whence to reflections on the different lots of men and women. I, rather lamenting over the want of definite aim in ours, but he asserting that it is far the nobler of the two, inasmuch as *they* are the drones immersed in work, and often drudgery—that is, if women were what they ought to be, upholders of every noble thing against all the sophistry of interest, and the insinuations of flattery with which men get us to be mere playthings, or try to do so, perhaps it would be fairer to say, so that the natural reasons for the cultivation of the intellectual powers are stronger than any other, because it is the disparity of intellect, and the narrow range of thought to which women habituate themselves, that cause all these evils.”<sup>6</sup>

In November 1853 John Wigham wrote a testimonial for John Brown, an escaped slave, published in 1855 as *Slave Life in Georgia. A Narrative of the life, sufferings, and escape of John Brown, a*

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1911): 68, 71.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1911: 70–71; DQB; Jonathan Mood, 'Women in the Quaker Community: The Richardson family of Newcastle, c. 1815–60, *Quaker Studies* 9/2 (2005):213.

<sup>4</sup> *Newcastle Journal*, 11 June 1853.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scotsman*, 31 August 1853. John Marshall, Lord Curriehill, was a Scottish judge and a senator of the College of Justice. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_Marshall,\_Lord\_Curriehill]

<sup>6</sup> John Wigham Richardson (1877), *Memoir of Anna Deborah Richardson* Newcastle: 26.

*fugitive slave, now in England.*<sup>1</sup>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1853 John Wigham was named as one of four founding Trustees of the Improved Edinburgh Property Investment Company, and on the 24<sup>th</sup> December as one of six Trustees of the Scottish Property Investment Company.<sup>2</sup> The latter was Scotland's first ever building society, founded in 1848, and still in operation, now as the Scottish Building Society, and the oldest building society in the world.<sup>3</sup>

In 1853 John Wigham Richardson trained as a draughtsman for Lloyds Register of Shipping, in Liverpool. From 1853 to 1856 he was apprenticed to Jonathon Robson, a steam-tug builder in Gateshead.<sup>4</sup>

In June 1854 Frau Voigt and her daughter Maria—who was to become the first object of John affections—stayed at Beech Grove. Maria “pleased my mother much by offering in the pleasant German fashion to wash up the tea-cups and saucers after breakfast, and my father liked her broken English.” Maria refused to teach John to waltz, after learning that his father disapproved of dancing.<sup>5</sup>

In July 1854 Edward attended the annual meeting of the Girls' Jubilee School.<sup>6</sup>

Jane's half-sister Sarah Elizabeth Wigham of Edinburgh, died aged 20, at the Bridge of Allan, near Stirling, on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1854. She was buried at Edinburgh on the 6<sup>th</sup> September.<sup>7</sup>

George William Richardson attended school at Bootham from 1854 to 1856.<sup>8</sup>

In September 1854 Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Sunderland the following 4<sup>th</sup> day. On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1855 Anna wrote, from Beech Grove:

We have had the huge bustle of a Christmas tree, and of the Q. and M. Meetings both together. Two lady guests in the house, K. Backhouse and E. Barclay, but not very much other company. [ . . . ] We had a very busy, animated Christmas; our tree really beautiful, and great profusion from it [ . . . ]<sup>9</sup>

In a letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> January she referred to her mother: “My mother has long wished to have Archbishop Leighton's works in the house [ . . . ].” And on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February to her mother: “I am

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<sup>1</sup> docsouth.unc.edu/neh/jbrown/jbrown.html.

<sup>2</sup> *The Scotsman*, 7 and 31 December 1853.

<sup>3</sup> www.scottishbldgsoc.co.uk/view\_company\_info.asp?fld\_company\_info\_id=19; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish\_Building\_Society.

<sup>4</sup> en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_Wigham\_Richardson.

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1911): 77.

<sup>6</sup> *Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury*, 1854-07-08.

<sup>7</sup> *The Friend* XII.142:196, October 1854; death/burial digest (Scotland).

<sup>8</sup> *Bootham School Register* (1971).

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194; Richardson (1877): 40–41.

much interested to hear of Papa's pleasure in Mrs. Browning [ . . . ]."<sup>1</sup>

After her return from Lewes, Elizabeth Richardson studied at the School of Art under William Bell Scott, who had links with the Rossetti circle. While there she became engaged to Robert Spence Watson.<sup>2</sup>

The 1855 Northumberland directory listed "Richardson John, & Edward, tanners, 66, Newgate-st. & glue manfrs. Back-lane; ho. Elswick Lane". In that year Edward's name was on the list of Friends and subscribers who saw the annual report of the Friends' Sabbath School.<sup>3</sup>

In April 1855 Edward and Jane paid a visit to their children Anna Deborah and Edward, who were in Paris at that time. Edward (II) had gone to study chemistry there, and his father had "dreaded for him the temptations of such a life." His objections had only been overcome by Anna's volunteering to accompany him. Jane had viewed the arrangement "with no little apprehension." A letter of Anna's, after their return, comments that her mother had been "bored with lectures".<sup>4</sup>

Anna returned from Paris early, her sister being ill. Margaret Richardson died on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, not yet four years old. Her body was buried in Westgate Hill General Cemetery on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Her sisters Anna and Elizabeth felt Maggie's loss deeply: "I felt as if I could not bear the parting, for I loved her passionately," wrote Elizabeth.<sup>5</sup>

At the end of August Jane had a cough. Edward was arranging for the publication of Anna's short biography of Granville Sharp. Anna noted that Edward liked the song "Come into the Garden Maud".<sup>6</sup>

In November Edward contributed £1 to the Highland Destitution Fund. Jane's half-brother John Thomas Wigham contributed 5s.<sup>7</sup>

In the summer of 1856 Jane stayed with the children at Ardrossan; Anna wrote "My mother is certainly better for her journey; so are the rest." John finished his apprenticeship at this time, and Edward was much pleased that his master offered to keep him on. Elizabeth visited Rotterdam that year.<sup>8</sup>

Around October John Wigham Richardson spent £5 he had saved during his apprenticeship on a framed engraving of the Highland Ferry, painted by Jacob Thompson, which he had heard his mother

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 41, 67. Archbishop Leighton is presumably Robert Leighton, 17<sup>th</sup> century archbishop of Glasgow; Mrs Browning was Elizabeth Barrett Browning, the poet, still living at that date.

<sup>2</sup> *DQB*.

<sup>3</sup> Whellan's *Directory of Northumberland*; minutes of Friends' Sabbath School, Newcastle, TWAS MF 208.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 46, 82 & 102.

<sup>5</sup> *Ts Reminiscences of Elizabeth Spence Watson*; Richardson (1911); death digest; Richardson (1877): 82.

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1877): 86, 88, 89. Granville Sharp was one of the first British abolitionists; it doesn't appear that Anna's biography was ever published, unless it was as an article in a periodical.

<sup>7</sup> *The Friend* XIII.

<sup>8</sup> Richardson (1877): 94–94; Richardson (1911): 83; diaries of Mary S.W. Pollard.

admire.<sup>1</sup>

In October Harriet Beecher Stowe and party stayed a week with John Wigham. Anna Deborah Richardson recorded with some amusement how John Wigham denounced their antiquarian tastes:

“musty old places, smelling of blood, it is mere infatuation to care for them. I like something *useful*, and see no good in the castles, and bungling walls. We ought to be thankful we live in better times, and know how to live at peace like sensible citizens,” &c., &c.<sup>2</sup>

The Stowe party subsequently stayed with the Richardsons at Beech Grove.<sup>3</sup>

Jane’s half-brother John Thomas Wigham married Elizabeth Weatherhead in 1856, in Newcastle.<sup>4</sup>

In December 1856 Caroline Richardson was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting.<sup>5</sup>

During 1856–7 John Wigham Richardson was a student at University College, London.<sup>6</sup>

My father went up to London with me to enter my name at the college and to get me suitable lodgings. It was dreadful weather and he could not help much . . . . My father had made me promise that I would never go to the theatre in London, and it was therefore not a little amusing that, one day after he had returned to Newcastle, she [ his landlady] told me that she sang in the chorus at Covent Garden, and could get me tickets for any theatre. It was very very tempting, but I am thankful to say that I kept my word to my father.<sup>7</sup>

In 1857 John Wigham acted as executor of his brother Anthony’s will.<sup>8</sup>

In January 1857 Jane was re-elected as Secretary to the Ragged School for Girls. In March she was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Sunderland.<sup>9</sup>

In the spring of 1857 Edward Richardson made a tour in the Pyrenees with his daughter Anna Deborah and his sister Ann. One object of this tour was to re-visit the French ministers, and others who had taken an interest in the Bible Mission, on which Ann, along with her cousins Henry and

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1911): 84.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 97, 98 & 100.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877), p. 98; JWR in Richardson (1877): 113–4 & 120; Richardson (1911).

<sup>4</sup> *The British Friend* XVIII.VI: 165.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>6</sup> *Bootham School Register* (1971); Richardson (1877): 101.

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1911): 85.

<sup>8</sup> Will of Anthony Wigham, PCC, PROB 11/2261 vol. 18 quire 858.

<sup>9</sup> *Newcastle Journal*, 1857-01-17; Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

Anna Richardson, had gone some years before.<sup>1</sup>

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, in Paris, Edward and his sister went to M. de Pressensé, and S. Blundel. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the Richardson party moved on to Pau, taking lodgings for a month. They took a carriage to Gavarnie and Bagnères de Bigorre at the start of May. Via Toulouse and Carcassonne they arrived at Nîmes, reflecting on Roman power at the arena there: Anna noted that “as Papa says, the Roman deserved the fate of death which has fallen to their nation and their language.” From there they passed to Lyons and St Étienne, returning to England some time after mid-May.<sup>2</sup> Much later, in 1869, Anna recalled visiting Fourvières, “where dear Father, Aunt Anne, and I saw Mount Blanc through the telescope of the observatory”.<sup>3</sup>

On the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1857 John Wigham was a member of a deputation to the magistrates, proposing a reduction in the number of licences.<sup>4</sup>

Some time between 1855 and 1859 Edward Richardson jr gave a talk to the Newcastle Scientific and Literary Society ‘On the Consumption of Smoke’. In the same time frame his brother John gave a talk there on ‘Astrology’; John was a member by 1855.<sup>5</sup>

In 1857 John was given his father’s permission to go to Germany, including a tour in Switzerland; he gave him £30 for expenses, and with £3 of his own he managed to stay away eleven weeks. After his return he told his parents of his feelings for Maria Voigt, “and I think they were much disappointed that I should have fallen in love with a lady, however admirable, who was neither a member of the Society of Friends nor an Englishwoman. Still they in no way opposed and were most kindly sympathetic, but they begged me to make no declaration until my prospects should be assured.”<sup>6</sup>

Edward paid a brief visit to the Lakes in October 1857, to see Anna and her brother George, who were visiting there. Later that month Anna noted:

I found all pretty well at home; my dear Mother looks better, C. very pale. The Rowlands are in the neighbourhood, and Papa has gone with them to Durham.<sup>7</sup>

Kelly’s *Directory* for 1858 has an entry for “Richardson, Edward & James, tanners & dressers of Morocco leather, roans, skevers &c. & glue manufrs. 39 Newgate st, Newcastle”.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 82 & 102.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 103–11. Presumably the first reference is to Edmond de Pressensé, a Protestant religious leader.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 247.

<sup>4</sup> *The Scotsman*, 29 April 1857.

<sup>5</sup> Steel: 101

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1911): 89, 99

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1877): 114, 116.

<sup>8</sup> Kelly’s *Directory of Northumberland and Durham*. Roan was “a soft flexible leather made of sheepskin, used in bookbinding as a substitute for morocco”; “skever” probably means ‘skiver’, defined by the *OED* as “A thin kind of dressed leather split from the grain side of a sheep-skin and tanned in sumach, used for bookbinding, lining hats, and other commercial purposes”.

Edward was one of the original twelve shareholders in the Derwent and Consett Iron Company, and was a partner in the Charlaw Colliery. He sold his share in the Consett Iron Company because he considered that Jonathan Richardson (no relation) had not treated him quite fairly in a horse transaction, and yet notwithstanding this he invested in the shares of a bank under the management of the same man. In 1847, when the Union Bank stopped payment, he had been in a position to offer pecuniary assistance to Joseph Watson, although this had been declined. He was not so fortunate ten years later. With his 400 shares, he was a major shareholder in the Northumberland and District Bank, which was not limited in liability. While in France Edward had discussed his financial situation with his daughter Anna, and she in turn subsequently, as Edward wished, consulted his friend Edward Smith, director of one of the Sheffield banks. Smith came to Newcastle in 1857 and advised him to sell his Bank shares, even at a heavy sacrifice. Edward and John Richardson generally joined together in their investments, and, on this occasion, John declined to sell. Naturally, since he held three times as much as Edward, the latter was much influenced by the opinion of a brother he'd always looked up to, and who was thus, and to this extent, prepared to back his convictions. Still, the shares were ordered to be sold, but the stockbroker suddenly fell ill and deferred the sale, and, in the meantime, the Bank stopped payment. Hard and bitter though it might be to a man with a large family, to find a large portion of his savings swallowed up this way, it was still harder to bear the suspense of not knowing what the calls might be, and this suspense was prolonged for a year and a half. The losses, though indeed very heavy, did not turn out to be ruinous, and ultimately, Edward came to regard them as blessings, which had "weaned his mind from earthly affections, and turned his thoughts to a higher life." The failure of the District Bank involved the whole family in pecuniary losses. In the thick of the crash, when everybody's credit was at stake, one of his workmen came to him, to say he had laid by about £400 from his wages; and, though he knew it would go scarcely any way, "if the master wanted it, the master should *have* it; and he didn't care if he never saw a penny of it again!". He warmly approved the settlement of the bank's affairs by the principal large shareholders taking over the Consett Iron Works at a very much reduced price, but declined himself to join. It seems strange that he should prefer to pay out large sums of money merely as calls and refuse to take in exchange shares in the Consett Iron Company, one of the most successful industrial concerns in the North of England. Even John Bright, in conversation with Anna, regretted her father's not joining the Iron Company. Edward believed himself to be under the direction of a higher power, and that what he was doing would be for the good of his children. His nephew David, perhaps more objectively, saw him become so ill with the stress of the bank failure that he doubted his uncle would ever work again. The failure of the District Bank in 1857 involved the whole family, and once again Jane's patience, faith, and courage were needed to help her husband through the worst of the crisis. As the liquidators were pressing for the sale of Beech Grove, Jane planned that some of the family should go abroad for the winter with Edward, changing places with those at home as the spring advanced; and that a moderate house should be taken in town and, in May, a cottage in the Lake District where Anna would live permanently, and others as they liked. The plan for Anna was subsequently put on hold, and in October 1858 she went to keep house for her grandfather in Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Benwell Community Project (1978) *The Making of a Ruling Class*, Newcastle; Richardson (1911); BT 31/317/1105; Richardson (1877): 112–3, 121, 137 & 141; *Annual Monitor* 1875; Sansbury (1998); *DQB*; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consett\\_Iron\\_Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consett_Iron_Company). There is a well-researched account of the bank failure and its implications for John and Edward Richardson in Tom McLean, Tom McGovern, Richard Slack, and Malcolm McLean's 2022 "[Quaker accountability regimes: The case of the Richardson family networks, 1840 - 1914](#)"; the authors note that "Within their socio-religious accountability regime, although John and Edward Richardson did not suffer 'disownment' as a result of the scandal, they did have to endure ritual self-condemnation and, in a visible sign of his failures, Edward ceased to wear the distinctive Quaker garb. However, the scandal revealed that the accountability processes of the Quaker Meeting House had failed to keep pace with the demands of a rapidly

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1858 Edward's sister Ann, of Beech Grove (and/or Elswick Lane) married Robert Foster, at Newcastle.<sup>1</sup> Henceforth they were united in much philanthropic work in the town, and in working with Newcastle Meeting. The Ragged School owed much to their care, and their home was host to much memorable social activity.<sup>2</sup>

The failure of the Western Bank of Scotland in 1858 similarly hit John Wigham badly, of which an indicator was that he was forced to give up his carriage.<sup>3</sup>

Anna used to tell an anecdote about the subscriptions of her Grandfather to charitable objects. One day a gentleman called to tell him how a certain society was getting on, and concluded by saying: "Now, do not think, Mr. Wigham, that I am going to tease you about your subscription. I know that circumstances with you are changed." The good old man turned away his face, and then looking up, with a tear in his eye, he said: "No! I will give thee my mite. It is only the pride of the old Adam which makes John Wigham shrink from seeing five shillings opposite his name, where there used to stand twenty pounds!"<sup>4</sup>

From October 1858 Anna Deborah Richardson kept house for him in Edinburgh. Jane visited her in Edinburgh (she had taken her own cottage) in early December that year.<sup>5</sup>

It appears that by mid-October Jane was planning to go south with Edward.<sup>6</sup>

After Christmas 1858 Anna wrote to her mother in the following terms:

I am going to write a note to thee all for thyself, about the bag. It is the handsomest I ever saw of its kind—most superb, and not at all too large for my taste and use. The fear I have that the steel may rust, is the one single drawback in the enjoyment of using it, but I will take great care of it, and rub it carefully, though I don't know what is best for this. I am very much obliged to thee for it, dear Mother; only sorry thou should'st have got me anything so costly; and I cannot yet transfer all the love I have for my old leather bag to it. Dos't thou remember giving me that one? I found thee in the study fastening tickets to thy gifts for the Christmas tree. This bag was in thy hand with a ticket fastened to it, but, of course, I did not know it was for me. Just then, kind, liberal Aunt Anne, sent in a trayful of rich looking things; and oh, sweet Mother, thy dear face fell, and thou said: "I am afraid my gifts will seem quite poor and unnoticed among these." I never wished so for untold wealth to crown thee with. I have hated Christmas trees ever since, and I love that old bag with all my heart, and as I could have loved nothing else on the tree besides. When I was forced to pull thy purple basket to pieces for want of room to keep it, I made a little votive scene of love and gratitude to myself, at Beech Grove, and placed the affection for the basket on the bag, which I can take care of as long as I live; and, at all events, here is a handsome one to enter on the inheritance of value, if such a time should ever come that I could not. All these things are very precious to me; they lie in the outskirts of that feeling in our natures which Jesus was so tender to, when He said: "a spirit hath not flesh and bones as

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changing business environment."

<sup>1</sup> Marriage digest; *The Friend* XV.188:153

<sup>2</sup> Steel (1899), p. 70

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 152.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 176.

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1877): 121, 122, 125, 136.

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1877): 131.

ye see me have.” My own darling Mother, I wish I could touch thy face now. These verses of thine, “ while we are walking through this wilderness,” &c., have been so much in my mind lately [ . . . ] I wish thou would’st come again, dear Mother, either before or after Papa’s visit—if that must be postponed. Thou art not well, yet I am sure, thou could’st bear the soft weather here. I was up on the Braids to-day, where we were together; all the air sweet with spring turf and gorse blossom, and the country blue with a coming tint of a March atmosphere. It was charming. I seem to be getting all the good things of life, in such overflowing measure now, and you, I doubt, are not. Do come, please, before very long, or I shall have to take a bad cold, by way of getting nursed ! Besides, Jane’s little sister is coming here to be trained into usefulness, so there will be two dots of servants to wait on thee. Did I tell thee that Grandpapa insists, in his kind way, that Papa shall *sleep* there? He wants to have the morning and evening talks with him, and I consented, because I know he will be much more comfortable, and will not need to get up quite so early to breakfast. How will he manage with our late dinner? I will do all I can to make it a good one, and, I believe, he will enjoy coming to see us; at all events, I should so exceedingly, that I wish he would be quick and try. I feel far too much indulged with his bounteous gift, and don’t like to keep it all for myself. Georgie has a great hankering after a desk, and it would be a treat to me to give him one. What dost thou say? And I could get a Greek Concordance and Phaedo, both of which I much want for myself, and lay by the remaining £3 for a future occasion. Did’st thou read Papa’s tender letter about the cabs? It touched me to the heart.<sup>1</sup>

In a letter to her father, of early 1859, Anna wrote:

I am glad to see the protest of the creditors against the demands of the liquidators; it shows what public opinion is. Is there no nearer prospect of a settlement for thee and Uncle John? It is a great shame to keep the richer shareholders hanging on in anxiety, as a reserve fund, to make good the shortcomings of others.<sup>2</sup>

In a letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1859 Anna reported:

You will sympathise with us in this fact, that my Father and Uncle have, at last, made a joint settlement with the Bank Liquidators, which only requires the Vice-Chancellor’s signature to become law. The terms are severe—I am not a liberty to mention them—but we feel the relief from anxiety a special mercy. My Father is remarkably well and cheerful, and braces his health by riding every day.<sup>3</sup>

In mid-February she wrote to her mother:

What a great trial and vexation you have gone through, dear Mother. I did not know the half of it, till Papa, told me. I don’t wonder thou has broken down under it.<sup>4</sup>

To her father she wrote:

I must send a few lines of sympathy and congratulation. I cannot tell thee how thankful I feel for this tolerably good termination to your anxieties, and that it should have been arranged before the east winds come is quite an additional boon. I entirely agree with thy hint about

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 131–2.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 142.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 146.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 149.

things “reverting to their former position” so far as we girls are concerned. It is far pleasanter to feel the good things of life due to the love and indulgence of a dear Father, than coming to our hands in any more immediate way; of course, it is all the same thing at the bottom; but then, a daily reminder of thy kindness to us, is of use. There is one thing I should like to suggest, and that is when the money is “reverted” thou should’st give a handsome sum to dear Johnnie to help him forward. I think if it were known he was likely to possess a fair capital, people might be inclined to make handsome offers to him. He has been so patient and cheerful all the time, when the Bank troubles really pressed more heavily on him than on any of thy children, that it would be a comfort to see him rewarded by a brighter state of things.<sup>1</sup>

As one of the largest shareholders in the Northumberland and Durham District Banking Company, its collapse in the dark days of 1857 naturally also involved Edward’s brother John in the loss of much of his property. No law for limiting liability was then in existence. The anxiety entailed by this disaster was grievous. Though a principal shareholder he had never had anything to do with the management of the Bank, nor did he have more knowledge of its financial condition previous to its stoppage than was made public. Nothing could then be done to avert the ruin and distress which its failure caused. For himself he humbly accepted the trial as a discipline and bore it with Christian fortitude; he often expressed his consolation at having brought up his family in a way which rendered it needless to make any great alteration in their manner or style of living. More than a year of suspense during the liquidation of the bank’s affairs told upon his health. The sale of his house and other property during this time of commercial depression was a most trying ordeal, but after settling with the liquidators of the insolvent bank in the spring of 1859, he went with his son James to Westmorland, on a visit for rest and change of scene, and when walking on the road between Shap and Kendal, one very stormy day, he was seized with an attack of apoplexy which proved fatal. He died on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1859 at the Plough Inn, Kendal.<sup>2</sup>

In June 1859, as the Richardsons’ private ledger records, Jane lent her husband £100, at interest. Possibly this reflects Edward’s concerns with another troublesome shareholding. He held shares in the Lombardo-Venetian railway, the value of which went down heavily in the summer of 1859, after France declared war on Austria—but in fact the year of the war was the best year which the railway ever had and enabled the company to pay a 15% dividend.<sup>3</sup>

Jane appears to have visited her daughter Anna that month.<sup>4</sup>

In mid- August it was recorded that John Wigham had subscribed 10s. to the Royal Infirmary.<sup>5</sup>

In September Edward, presumably Jane, and Anna made a tour of the Highlands and to Aberdeen. Anna wrote to her sister Caroline:

We had a most delightful journey, little Jessie [her pony] doing her duty famously. I had forgotten Stirling, and was quite surprised by the amount of interest in it. To Aberfoyle was beautiful, too. On First Day we trudged across to the Trossachs Church, where we had the

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877) 150–51.

<sup>2</sup> Steel: 140–2; *The Friend* XVII.197:97; *Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury*, 30 April 1859 gives place of death as Shapwells.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1911).

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 152.

<sup>5</sup> *The Scotsman*, 15 August 1859.

august company of the Prince of Wales,—a bonnie good-tempered looking fellow. He had Playfair and another gentleman with him, and as it was a heavy shower, all three set off and scampered like three school boys back to the inn. We were drenched going back; and Papa so much discouraged over mountain roads, that we gave up Inversnaid, and drove round by Balloch to this sweet place [Luss], where we are all very happy indeed.<sup>1</sup>

She later reported that they had attended public worship at the parish church at Crathie, in company with the royal household; the deacon dropped the collection box, and “The Queen went off into an agony of laughing, which she could only smother in her handkerchief.” Of Sir J. Bowring, whom (among others) they met at Aberdeen she noted that “Papa suspects he takes opium, as he largely defended the trade in that article.” “At Luss, we had several wet pic-nics, and Papa would have writing games played under the umbrella.”<sup>2</sup>

Concerned to settle his affairs, on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1860 Edward made his will, leaving his estate in trust, from which the income would be paid to his wife for her lifetime. His executors were to offer to sell his share in the tannery and leatherworks to his son George William. It was in the middle of this month that Edward and James had a relatively acrimonious exchange of letters, in which James proposed a three-way partnership between Edward, James, and his brother David, and Edward categorically refused to reduce the half share he had inherited from his father (from his will, it seems clear that James and David were already partners, but only with a quarter share each). At this time, too, he started his two eldest sons in business, buying for Edward jr a half share of the Blaydon Chemical Company, from their neighbour Robert Hawthorn, and giving to John Wigham Richardson the necessary capital (less than £5000) to start his shipbuilding firm (surely the “handsome sum” Anna had suggested the previous February).<sup>3</sup>

At the age of 23 John Wigham Richardson founded the Neptune Works at Walker on Tyne. This was one of the world’s first shipyards to build ships in steel. J. Wigham Richardson & Co. was “fairly established in the iron ship line”, as Anna put it, by February 1860. As to its prospering, “Papa seems to have no doubt but that it will.”<sup>4</sup>

Anna Deborah Richardson recalled that one day, at Beech Grove, as she stood before a portrait of Lady Richardson (wife of the explorer Sir John), whom Anna knew and admired, her mother came up to her “and said, in her low, gentle way, ‘take care not to set up an idol, dear.’”<sup>5</sup>

At Beech Grove the household had a little colony of four dogs, besides birds innumerable, a new red cow, and the two horses. It was at Beech Grove that Harriet Beecher Stowe stayed with the Richardsons in October 1856. At least once, Richard Cobden and John Bright together came to midday dinner. But at this time Edward decided they would have to leave Beech Grove. In 1860 they

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 156–57.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 157–58, 160. Sir John Bowring was Governor of Hong Kong, who had a prominent role in the Second Opium War with China. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_Bowring]

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1911); will and grant of probate; (probably) Edward Richardson correspondence in possession of Kate Wentworth; by 1871 Jane, too, seems to have had capital invested in John’s shipyard (letter from Anna Deborah Richardson, 27 December 1871, in Richardson (1877): 280.

<sup>4</sup> [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Wigham\\_Richardson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wigham_Richardson); Richardson (1877): 174.

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1877): 140.

took up residence at South Ashfield Villa, behind Wentworth Place, Elswick, Newcastle.<sup>1</sup>

On New Year's Eve 1860 Anna wrote that "not very far from Rye Hill, a house is being built that is to hold us all [ . . . ]".<sup>2</sup>

The move from Beech Grove may have happened rather earlier, though the history is somewhat confused for this period. On the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1858 Anna had written:

This place is sold now, and our household will be broken up in a few weeks. But, there is nothing very heavy upon us at present, thank you, beyond giving up a happy home; and, perhaps, such a feeling as that of wearing a tight dress after being used to a loose one, at all events, till we know what our circumstances really are. My Father's affairs are in chancery, so there is no likelihood of a speedy settlement, unless a compromise be agreed to in the meantime, and this is made probable by the trials that are going on up and down the country.<sup>3</sup>

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1858 she noted:

We are going away, from this dear Beech Grove, in November, and mean to live in town. George has been very poorly, and has gone to try Hydropathy, at Ilkley. My father is unwell, too, but all the rest are well. And we have a little colony of four dogs, besides birds innumerable, a new red cow, and the two horses. So there is plenty of life about us!<sup>4</sup>

The Christmas celebration in 1858 took place at "the same delightful home moved under another roof."<sup>5</sup>

In late November 1859 Anna found one of Edward's letters to her to be "queer, half-sarcastic".<sup>6</sup>

In 1860 John Wigham was a subscriber to a prodisestablishment society.<sup>7</sup>

On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1860 Anna wrote "Dear Mother's tract has become very precious to me since she left", but the tract reference remains opaque.<sup>8</sup>

In April 1860 Edward attended a "social tea-party for the anti-slavery champion George Thompson, in the Royal Assembly Rooms, Granger Street."<sup>9</sup>

In May 1860 Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend

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<sup>1</sup> JWR in Richardson (1877): 113-4 & 120; *Newcastle Journal*, 11 October 1856; Richardson (1911); death certificate.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 181.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 118.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 120.

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1877): 141.

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1877): 168.

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1877): 173.

<sup>8</sup> Richardson (1877): 175.

<sup>9</sup> *Newcastle Guardian and Tyne Mercury*, 1860-04-21.

Monthly Meeting at Shields.<sup>1</sup>

On the 14<sup>th</sup> May Edward's private ledger shows that he paid 13/10 for "Minnie showing", and 15/- for "Six & Eight do." These were evidently his horses. The ledger gives detail of payments for everything from coal to gold, poor rates, water, hay, straw and oats, &c.<sup>2</sup>

Ellen Ann Richardson started at Castlegate Friends' girls' school in York in October.<sup>3</sup>

George William Richardson was a student in Edinburgh that year; with him there was John Gregory White, later to be his brother-in-law.<sup>4</sup>

The 1861 census found Edward and Jane living with three of their children and four servants at 1 South Ashfield Villa, Elswick Lane, Newcastle. Edward was described as a leather manufacturer employing 40 men and ten boys. John Wigham Richardson was by now an iron ship builder, employing 40 men and 10 boys. George William Richardson was a leather manufacturer's assistant. Their sisters Anna Deborah and Caroline, both described as gentlewomen, were in a lodging house at 1 Mount Pleasant, Ilkley, Yorkshire. Their brother Edward was by now a manufacturing chemist, manufacturing chemical manure, employing 30 men; he was living with one servant at 3 Lovaine Place, St Andrews, Newcastle. Jane Emily and Alice Mary were scholars, at the Quaker school at Polam Hall, St Cuthbert's, Darlington. Ellen Ann was a scholar at the Friends' school in Drifffield Terrace, Micklegate, York.<sup>5</sup>

Edward's sister Ann and her husband Robert Foster, a bank manager, were living with three house servants at 31 Rye Hill, Elswick, Newcastle, in 1861.<sup>6</sup>

The census recorded John Wigham as a retired shawl manufacturer (now fund holder and proprietor of houses) of 10 Salisbury Road, St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, living with his wife, two children, and three servants (one of whom was his son's attendant—James Anthony Wigham was described as dumb and imbecile).<sup>7</sup>

John Thomas Wigham was recorded as a biscuit manufacturer employing 4 men, 1 woman, and 4 boys, living with his wife and daughter at 59–61 Northumberland Street, Newcastle.<sup>8</sup>

On census day, the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1861, Elizabeth Richardson was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Women's Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Shields on the following 4<sup>th</sup> day.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>2</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330.

<sup>3</sup> *The Mount School, York. List of Teachers and Scholars 1784–1816, 1831–1906.* 1906, York: Sessions.

<sup>4</sup> Letter from J. Gregory White to Evelyn Weiss, 24 February 1919, now at TWAS.

<sup>5</sup> RG 9/3548; RG 6/3680; RG 6/3815; RG 6/3818; *Bootham School Register* (1971).

<sup>6</sup> RG 9/3815.

<sup>7</sup> Census.

<sup>8</sup> RG 9/3821.

<sup>9</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women's) 1834–1878, TWAS MF 194.

John Wigham wrote a codicil to his trust deed in 1861, in which he bequeathed his “Watch and appendages along with my body clothing and whole other Contents of my Wardrobe” to his wife.<sup>1</sup>

For the last three years of his life John Wigham was often in great pain, which he endured with patient resignation, though it meant that he was unable to take any share in public affairs. He died, from decay of nature, at 3pm on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1862, at his home. The *Daily Review* obituary concluded: “In the death of Mr Wigham, the Society of Friends has lost one of its brightest ornaments, and this city one of its greatest and most enlightened benefactors.” His body was interred at the Pleasance Friends’ burial ground in Edinburgh on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.<sup>2</sup>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May Edward paid £39-0-0 for ½ year for “Jessie” and “Minnie”—presumably for stabling. He gave Jane £20-0-0 cash on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1861, and “Lizzie” (their daughter Elizabeth Richardson) £5-0-0 on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.<sup>3</sup>

Ellen Ann Richardson left Castlegate Friends’ girls’ school in December 1861.<sup>4</sup>

Edward’s ledger shows that he paid 10/- for “carrots, Horses” on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1861. South Ashfield was evidently a rented property, as the ledger shows quarterly payments of £27-10-0 for “Rent of Villa” in February, May, and August 1861.<sup>5</sup>

Despite their acquaintance with Harriet Beecher Stowe and her family, during the American Civil War the Richardson household felt exultant whenever they heard that General Lee and the Confederate army had gained a victory over the Northern armies. The Americans of the North were indignant at this attitude in England. They had expected that the sympathies of the old country would be aroused in favour of the side which was fighting for emancipation, even though at first this purpose, for political reasons, was not avowed.<sup>6</sup>

Edward Richardson was a highly cultivated man. He was able, at least to some extent, to converse in Latin, and to the end of his life was studying the Greek Testament with Anna Deborah, to whom he had taught the language. His son John pictured him vividly: “I can see him now sitting by the fire, crossing one leg over the other, and laughing at my little jokes, often quoting a bit of Latin or a well-worn proverb.”<sup>7</sup>

In 1862 Elizabeth, Emily, and John Wigham Richardson saw the sights of Paris.<sup>8</sup>

In September that year Edward began an annual £1 subscription to the local branch of the Royal

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Record Office SC70/4/82, pp. 479–543 and SC70/1/113, pp. 367–382.

<sup>2</sup> *DQB*; obituary of John Wigham, *The Scotsman*, 30 April 1862; death certificate; obituary, *Daily Review* (Edinburgh).

<sup>3</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330.

<sup>4</sup> *The Mount School, York. List of Teachers and Scholars 1784–1816, 1831–1906*. 1906, York: Sessions.

<sup>5</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330.

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1911); Richardson (1877).

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1911): 6 & 165–6; Richardson (1877): 162, 188.

<sup>8</sup> Robert Spence Watson collection, House of Lords RO Hist. Coll. no. 136; Richardson (1911): 159.

Lifeboat Institution. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of that month he paid “Eliz.” £5-0-0 cash. He paid a further £27-10-0 villa rent in November. Towards the end of that month Jane donated a parcel or box of clothing and materials to the Relief Clothing Association.<sup>1</sup>

In late October Anna wrote that “My Father and I have been in Westmoreland for a few days.” As she explained, “I have a little bit of land there, my dear Aunt’s gift, on which I mean, before long, to put up a tiny mountain nest for our smoke-choked lungs to clear themselves in.”<sup>2</sup> She later expanded on this:

In the autumn of 1862, my dearest Father and I went to Grasmere to choose a small piece of land, and after looking at sites about Boon Beck and Score Crag, decided on Heugh Folds, which belonged to Levi Hodgson. My Father was delighted with the view from it both ways, and entered upon the plan of building a cottage there with even more zest than I did. His kindness and care over every detail were unbounded. In January, 1863, I went to Grasmere again, and contracted for the foundations of the house; and in April, we took Wood Close, and stayed there some weeks, watching the men at work. My Father went up generally more than once every day to see them; and he planted ivy all round the boundary wall, and also put in many fox gloves collected on his walks, and the London pride on the top of the rock, by the gate, was planted by him.<sup>3</sup>

In the early morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1863 the tanyard in Newgate Street was destroyed by fire. Edward bore this fresh catastrophe with great resignation and calmness.<sup>4</sup>

On the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1863, at Monthly Meeting at North Shields, Henry Tennant and Robert Foster were appointed to enquire into clearness for the marriage of Elizabeth Richardson and Robert Spence Watson.<sup>5</sup>

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of that month the Richardson firm made an agreement with Walter Scott & Nicholas W. Reed, trading in Newcastle as builders and contractors as Scott & Reed, to build the Elswick Leather Works. These were to be built in a field situated between the River Tyne and Railway Terrace as per plans and specs, and were to be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> September that year 1863 for £1603; 4/5 of the amount of work done once a month to be paid. The new tannery was described as being “of a very substantial character, brick-built, well lighted and ventilated, this being the largest building of the kind in the north of England”.<sup>6</sup>

Anna continued her “Chronicles of Heugh Folds” as follows:

When we left Wood Close, we went to Mrs. Wilson’s in Borrowdale. I rode with my Father (we had Minnie and Jessie with us all the time) and the rest went by coach, and breakfasted at Keswick. While James went with Emily, and Alice, and Mrs. Westmacott, to see the pencil

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<sup>1</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330; *Newcastle Chronicle*, 11 September and 29 November 1862.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 182.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 185 & 187.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1911); Ann R. Foster in Steel: 160.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861-67, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>6</sup> TWAS Acc. 161/34; Stafford Linsley, [sine.ncl.ac.uk/view\\_structure\\_information.asp?struct\\_id=1140](http://sine.ncl.ac.uk/view_structure_information.asp?struct_id=1140) [link dead, page not archived].

factory, dear Mother sat in the inn knitting, and composed the following verses for me, which she dictated to Emmie on reaching Grange. They are a precious gift:—

**HEUGH FOLDS, MAY, 1863.**

“Fair scene for childhood’s opening bloom,  
“For sportive youth to stray in ;  
“For manhood to enjoy his strength,  
“And age to wear away in.”

WORDSWORTH.

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Where once the shepherd led his mountain flock,  
Where rest cloud-shadows from the changeful skies ;  
Beneath the shelter of the o’erhanging rock,  
Behold a modest habitation rise.

Far from the smoke that dims our murky day,  
The streets’ rude bustle, and the factory’s noise,  
Haunted by dreams of beauty far away,  
Its builder here seeks nature’s purest joys.

May such be ever hers! the glittering lake,  
The solemn mountains, and the leafy wood,  
And all things fair and beautiful, to make  
The sunshine of the heart in solitude.

And may the spirit of the great departed,  
In every gentle breeze, be breathed around;  
The highly gifted, and the noble hearted,  
Who made these hills and valleys classic ground.

And here may joyous children, hand in hand,  
Chase o’er the elastic turf with bounding feet :  
Gather rich treasures on the pebbly sand,  
Or in the brooklet sail their mimic fleet.

Here may youth revel in the sage’s lore,  
The blameless jest, the song, the poet’s lay:  
The rainbow hues that float the landscape o’er,  
Here may the pencil’s varied powers display.

And here may age spend many a peaceful hour,  
Gleaning the golden fields of memory;  
Or finding in each spring-awakened flower  
Bright hopes, and full of immortality.

And thus, Heugh Folds, founded upon a rock,  
Unmoved, though floods descend and tempests rave;  
Thus may thy inmates stand each adverse shock  
Of wind and tide on life’s uncertain wave.

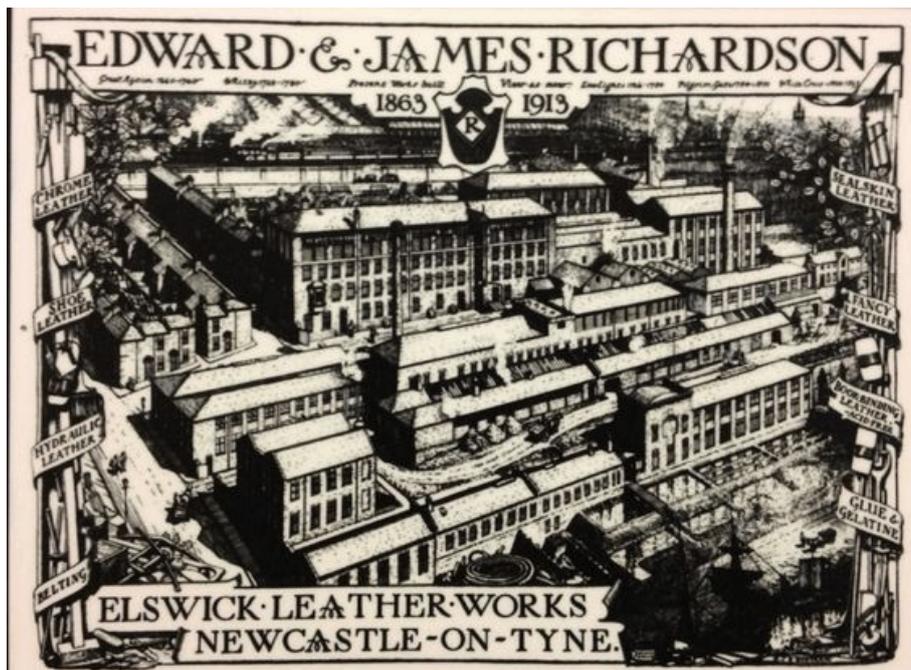
And guided safely by our Shepherd's voice,  
(Even as he led his chosen flock of old);  
In glad thanksgiving may they all rejoice,  
For ever gathered to the Heavenly Fold.<sup>1</sup>

My dear father smiled, as we left the Lake country, and asked me if I felt more of a patriot, now that I owned an acre of land? I had quoted John Bright to him, some time before, who once said: "No one could be a complete patriot, unless he owned a big of English ground."<sup>2</sup>

On the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1863 Elizabeth Richardson and Robert Spence Watson were liberated to marry.<sup>3</sup>

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May Edward paid Lizzie £10-0-0, doubtless for expenses connected with her wedding. Elizabeth Richardson married Robert Spence Watson at Newcastle Meeting House on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. The newly-weds honeymooned in North Italy and Switzerland, during which time they made the first ascent of the *Balfrin*. They returned home on the 20<sup>th</sup> July.<sup>4</sup>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1863 Edward & James Richardson made an agreement with Nicholas W. Reed & Robert Reed, builders and contractors, trading as N. & R. Reed, for the construction of two cottages on ground adjoining the new tannery, to be completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> November, for £400 on satisfactory completion.<sup>5</sup>



The Elswick leather works, as rebuilt in 1863

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877: 185–7.

<sup>2</sup> Richardson (1877): 187.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861-67, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>4</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330; Elizabeth Spence Watson: 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; *Alpine Club Register*: 368–9; *The Friend*, 1 August 1863: 196; *The British Friend*, 1 July 1863: 181; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861–67, TWAS MF 170; marriage certificate; *Reminiscences of Robert Spence Watson*; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfrin.

<sup>5</sup> TWAS Acc. 161/35.

Edward paid a further quarter's rent in September 1863.<sup>1</sup>

Jane Richardson was on the committee for the girls' Ragged and Industrial School at Newcastle that year.<sup>2</sup>

Edward visited Heugh Folds in the autumn of 1863. Anna Deborah recalled:

[ . . . ] my dearest Father had come over from Carlisle, where he had been on a visit with Mother. I shall never forget how he sprang out of the coach to greet me, at the "Swan." He looked very unwell. The weather was broken. The next day he went to Heugh Folds, and was very much pleased with the progress there. We had a delightful morning together. The view was brilliant; and he sat a long while on the painted seat below the rock, which I had had made for him. He luxuriated in the warmth of this seat, and said: "I shall often sit here, I think. There cannot be a finer feast for the eye in England, but we must remember it is only a vestibule." Afterwards, in November, I found, in his pocket book, the little bit of card on which he had made some calculations for me, while sitting there: and on the other side was written, in pencil: "I will lift up mine eyes beyond the hills unto the Lord, from whom my help cometh."

In the afternoon of that day, S. Crewdson, Dr. Hingston, and L. Hodgkin called. L.H. stayed to tea, and her husband and George Fox soon followed. We went to Heugh Folds again; my Father insisting upon it. He leaned on Geo. F., who kindly gave him his arm up the hill, but he looked very weak. The next morning he left me; a soaking wet day; and I had many fears for his comfort, often bitter fears, but he seemed no worse for that journey.<sup>3</sup>

On the 24<sup>th</sup> November Edward had intended to go with his family to Gilsland for a little change, but he had been out in the cold a few days previously, and had taken a chill, and during the night he was seized with severe pain. On the following day he was very weak, and not up to speaking. On the 26<sup>th</sup> he looked very ill, but spoke a few words cheerfully. On his son John going to take leave of him for the night he said to him very impressively yet cheerily, "John, my lad! I wish thee to know that when my Maker calls me to him, I shall go joyfully, yes joyfully!" It was arranged that Anna Deborah should watch by him during the night. He passed the hours quietly until about three or four o'clock in the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>, when he took a fit of coughing, burst a blood vessel, and suddenly died in her arms, with little pain, as she was supporting his head. His death certificate confirms that he died at home, from chronic bronchitis of long standing and three days of pleuro-pneumonia; he is described as a tanner master. His body was buried the following Wednesday (2<sup>nd</sup> December) in Westgate Hill cemetery.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330.

<sup>2</sup> Sansbury.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1877): 185 & 187. Dr Hingston must be Charles Hingston, MD, of Plymouth; George Fox was Hingston's brother-in-law; I haven't succeeded in identifying the other two guests.

<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson: 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; Richardson (1911); Ann R. Foster in Steel: 160; Richardson (1877): 188; *National Probate Calendar*; *Newcastle Journal*, 18 November 1863; notice of death, *Newcastle Courant*, 4 December 1863; death certificate; death/burial digest; *The Friend*, 1 December 1863: 297; *The British Friend*, 12 December 1863: 306.

## Jane's widowhood

It was a great trial to Jane that when Edward became ill and finally died in 1863, she was no longer able to see him and nurse him as she used to do. The loss of her husband was great, but she bore up, for her children's sake, with a brave spirit. "In times of trouble she was always strong and never gave way to a selfish sorrow."<sup>1</sup>

The account in Edward's private ledger was made up on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1863, but continued in the name of his executors.<sup>2</sup>

Edward's will was proved at Newcastle on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1864, his estate being valued at under £45,000 (£4.7 million, at 2021 values). It had initially been valued at £50,000, but was resworn at the lower figure in October 1865. He had appointed four executors and trustees: his brother-in-law Robert Foster, and his sons John, Edward, and George; each had been left 19 guineas for them to purchase a gold watch in his memory. The bulk of his estate was to be held in trust, the income from which was to be paid to his wife during her lifetime. His son George was to be invited to purchase Edward's share in the tannery and leatherworks, but it doesn't appear that he availed himself of this.<sup>3</sup>

In February 1864 Edward's executors were paid £93-2-11 from his estate.<sup>4</sup>

Around March 1864 Jane went to Wood Close, near Heugh Folds, before Anna finally moved into Heugh Folds on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.<sup>5</sup>

On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1864 John Wigham Richardson married Marianne Henrietta Thöl, of Brixton (daughter of John Philip Thöl, gentleman), at St Martin's parish church, Brixton, Surrey, by licence.<sup>6</sup>

The very next day it was reported to Newcastle Monthly Meeting at North Shields that John had married in a manner contrary to Friends' rules, and Charles Wilson, Daniel Oliver, and William Henry Holmes were appointed to visit him and report.<sup>7</sup>

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1864 Elizabeth (Richardson) Spence Watson gave birth to a baby, Mabel, at Moss Croft, Bensham, Gateshead.<sup>8</sup>

On the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1864 Newcastle Monthly Meeting received the following report on the meeting with John Wigham Richardson:

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>2</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330.

<sup>3</sup> father's will and grant of probate; [www.mswth.com/ppoweruk](http://www.mswth.com/ppoweruk).

<sup>4</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330. This is a little beyond the 19 guineas each had been left for the purchase of a gold watch, but perhaps was in fulfilment of this.

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1877): 188.

<sup>6</sup> Marriage certificate (which gives the bride's first names as Mary Anne Henrietta); *The Friend* IV.116, 1 May 1864.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861-67, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>8</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend* IV.146, 2 June 1864; *The British Friend* 1 July 1864, p. 179

He received us in an agreeable manner, and expressed his attachment to the religious principles held by our Society, and his desire to remain in membership; —he also informed us of his wife’s increasing appreciation of our religious views. We understand they are both in the regular practice of attending our Meetings on First day Mornings.

The minute was continued. On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1864 the decision was taken that there should be no further action.<sup>1</sup>

On the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1865 Edward and Jane’s first grandchild, Philip Wigham Richardson, was born at 32 Rye Hill, Elswick, Newcastle, where John Wigham Richardson was now living.<sup>2</sup>

That month Elizabeth Spence Watson spent two days in Richmond, Yorkshire.<sup>3</sup>

In March and October Jane was one of two women appointed by Newcastle Preparative Meeting to attend Monthly Meeting at Sunderland and Shields respectively.<sup>4</sup>

In April Elizabeth Spence Watson visited Heugh Folds. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May Nellie Richardson was “much hurt” when a chaise in which she was driving back from Little Langdale was overturned; as late as 1877 it was doubtful whether she had fully recovered.<sup>5</sup>

In June Jane visited Bamburgh.<sup>6</sup>

From mid-September 1865 the Spence Watson family holidayed in Wales, during which Elizabeth and Robert ascended Snowdon.<sup>7</sup>

For a few days in early October 1865 Elizabeth Spence Watson was in Teesdale with Robert.<sup>8</sup> In the spring of 1866 she had a severe attack of bronchitis, after which she spent three weeks in April at Heugh Folds.<sup>9</sup> In May she spent a week in London with Robert, staying at the Charing Cross Hotel.<sup>10</sup>

In June 1866 Jane was elected to the ladies’ committee of the Girls' Royal Jubilee School, in Croft Street, Newcastle.<sup>11</sup>

At Newcastle Monthly Meeting, held at North Shields on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1866, notice was received

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861–67, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>2</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend*, 1 March 1865: 71.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Preparative Meeting (Women’s) 1834–78, TWAS MF 194.

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement; Richardson (1877): 192, 196.

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1877): 193.

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>10</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>11</sup> NEWCASTLE CHRONICLE, 1866-06-16.

from Whitney Monthly Meeting, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, of the intention to marry of John Gregory White of Whitney and Jane Emily Richardson of Newcastle. Daniel Oliver and Robert Foster were appointed to investigate clearness to marry.<sup>1</sup>

After the end of July Elizabeth Spence Watson spent ten days in Wensleydale with Robert.<sup>2</sup>

On the 15<sup>th</sup> August, at Monthly Meeting held at North Shields, Jane Emily Richardson and John Gregory White were liberated to marry. Thomas Pumphrey and James Richardson (Jane's cousin) were appointed to ensure good order.<sup>3</sup> On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August Jane Emily Richardson married John Gregory White, MD, MRCS, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, at the Friends' meeting-house in Newcastle.<sup>4</sup>

Ruth Spence Watson was born at Moss Croft, Gateshead, at about 1 a.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1866. After the birth, Elizabeth was very ill, spending a month recovering.<sup>5</sup>

On the 20<sup>th</sup> December the executors of Edward's will collected a final £12-0-0 cash.<sup>6</sup>

As of the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1867 Jane was still receiving £5 p.a. interest on her loan to Edward. Interest was paid for the last time on Boxing Day that year.<sup>7</sup>

Jane attended Yearly Meeting in 1867. But that year some financial troubles were such a bother to her, and her son George's health was so indifferent, that the whole family went to spend the summer in Switzerland. By the 4<sup>th</sup> July she had been in Lucerne for some weeks. She was photographed there that month—Anna wrote on the 22<sup>nd</sup> that “Dear Mother is gone out to be photographed, but I fear she will come out like a Moor in these strong lights and shades.”<sup>8</sup>

At one point, while waiting in the cemetery at Lucerne, Jane “by the oddly oblique sight which still remains to her, had caught the outline of the shadow of one of the memorial crosses as it lay on the brilliantly sunny ground”, and was inspired to write the following verses:

Shadow of the cross of stone,  
Midst the graves and roses placed,  
Layest thou, though to vision weak,  
Clearly on the pathway traced.

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861–67, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861–67, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>4</sup> Marriage certificate; *The Friend* VI.69:203; *The British Friend* 9:236; minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1861–67, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>5</sup> Birth certificate; Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; *The Friend* VI.71:251; *The British Friend* 12:306.

<sup>6</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330.

<sup>7</sup> Private ledger, TWAS Acc. 161/330.

<sup>8</sup> Richardson (1877): 206, 209; Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

Pious hands the structure reared,  
Telling thus to wandering eyes  
How the Lord of Earth and Heaven  
Was for us the sacrifice.

Saviour! be thou ever near,  
Through the hours of life's long day;  
Unto all we hold most dear  
Be their Light, their Guide, their Stay.

In fair childhood's joyous morn,  
Bright with every radiant hue,  
Be unto the tender flowers  
As the gently falling dew.

Then, if youth's bright hopes must fade,  
And with grief the heart be bowed,  
Rise, oh Sun of Righteousness,  
Stretch Thy bow athwart the cloud.

When, in the noontide's sultry glow,  
Faint with care and toil we stand,  
Be a shadow from the heat,  
In a dry and weary land.

And when age comes stealing on,  
Saviour, still with us abide:  
Be Thy grace the softened light  
Of our peaceful eventide.

And though flesh and heart should fail,  
Ere the silver cord must sever,  
Be the trembling spirit's strength,  
And our portion, Lord, for ever.

Thus, where'er our lot is cast,  
'Neath a bright or cloudy sky:  
In the shadow of the cross,  
May we live and may we die.<sup>1</sup>

The Spence Watson family were in Switzerland and Italy from the 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 15<sup>th</sup> August that year, in August spending two days in Paris, visiting the Exposition.<sup>2</sup> While in Switzerland they made three recorded mountain ascents, of which that of the *Ortlerspitze*, on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, was only the second, or possibly the first, by a woman.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 211–12.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>3</sup> *Alpine Club Register*: 368–9.

In November that year Jane donated £10 to the collection for establishing workshops for the blind.<sup>1</sup>

At the beginning of December 1867 the Spence Watsons visited London, after two nights at Woodstock, later going on to Witley to stay at the home of Myles Birket Foster, Robert's uncle, and then to York.<sup>2</sup>

Around the late 1860s Elizabeth Spence Watson translated from German some large treatises on philosophical subjects which (her future brother-in-law) Dr Theo Merz was then writing.<sup>3</sup>

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1868 Emmie and John Gregory White had a son, Douglas, born at Woodstock.<sup>4</sup>

The next day John and Marianne Richardson had a daughter, Ernestine, born at Wingrove House, Westgate, Newcastle, her mother's home; John was described as an iron ship builder.<sup>5</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1868 Elizabeth Spence Watson, unusually depressed, noted:

In the last few weeks, I have not been very well, having been much troubled with cough & rheumatism. Often I have been much discouraged, not about my physical state, but because I seem to make so little real progress in anything that is good, & because I find the "being faithful in little things" so very hard. Ill temper so often given way to & excused to myself under the plea of being tired, or not feeling well—indolence, & neglect of what I choose to call little duties—how often all these sins beset me. And yet if I cannot be faithful in the little how can I be faithful in much? & how unless I myself strive more earnestly can I expect to teach the children to be gentle & patient? But what I want is not to reason or talk about these things—I believe I am conscious of many of my faults, & I doubt if a somewhat morbid self-analysis is likely to do good.<sup>6</sup>

At the beginning of May Jane spent a few days with the Watsons and others at Heugh Folds; the Spence Watsons were there three weeks.<sup>7</sup>

Early in July Elizabeth and Robert Spence Watson spent two days in Leeds. Around the same time Jane attended General Meeting at Ackworth—this may have been the reason for the Spence Watsons' visit to Yorkshire, too. By the 8<sup>th</sup> July Robert and Elizabeth were in Norway.<sup>8</sup>

On the 12<sup>th</sup> August it was minuted that Jane had been one of two women appointed by Monthly

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<sup>1</sup> *Newcastle Journal*, 1867-11-09.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>3</sup> *Reminiscences of John Theodore Merz* (1922). London: Blackwood (privately printed): 255.

<sup>4</sup> Birth certificate.

<sup>5</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend* VIII.4:118; *The British Friend* 4.99.

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; letters from Elizabeth & Robert Spence Watson to Jane, Caroline, and John Wigham Richardson, now at TWAS.

Meeting to visit Lucy Fenwick Watson on her application for membership.<sup>1</sup>

Shortly after Christmas 1868 Elizabeth Spence Watson had a mild attack of scarlet fever. On New Year's Day 1869 Anna noted that "My dear mother pets me up to such an extent, on the notion that I have become delicate, that Capua itself would have much less danger than this sunny attic."<sup>2</sup>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1869 a third child, Maurice, was born to John and Marianne Richardson, at Wingrove, Westgate, Newcastle.<sup>3</sup>

In the first three months of 1869, Anna being unwell and having been advised to seek the warmth of the Mediterranean, she and her sister Caroline journeyed in Italy. It appears that this was at Jane's expense, as Anna wrote (22<sup>nd</sup> February 1869) "[ . . . ] I cannot say how grateful I feel, dearest Mother, for thy liberality—and for dear Father's personal frugality which made it possible,—in giving us so large an addition to our education, as a visit to Rome."<sup>4</sup>

The next day she wrote "My mother tells us, to-day, she heard George Macdonald the other night give a lecture on Tennyson, and she is quite delighted; she happened to hear the line 'Beyond lay uplands prodigal of oil and hoary to the wind.'" On the 9<sup>th</sup> March, after visiting Albano, she wrote to Jane: 'We longed for thee and thy quotations from Horace, on the spot, and thought how thou would'st have enjoyed the ring of the ancient names.'<sup>5</sup>

In late March 1869 Elizabeth Spence Watson spent a week in Cullercoats, and four days in Helmsley, Yorkshire, with Robert.<sup>6</sup>

In May 1869 Elizabeth Spence Watson spent a few days at Woodstock. For about a week, not long after this, she visited London, staying at the Bedford Hotel; she took the children to the Crystal Palace.<sup>7</sup>

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September Anna wrote "I have to attend a "Quarterly Meeting," if you know what that is, with my dear Mother, at Kendal, and then she goes north, and I branch off to Windermere." At the beginning of November she noted that her mother had wanted the 8-year old Mabel Wigham to have the book *The Heroes of Asgard*.<sup>8</sup>

Some time prior to November Jane's brother John Thomas Wigham emigrated to Jamaica with his family. His wife Elizabeth died aged 36 at Hartford House, Jamaica, on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1869.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1867–74, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; Richardson (1877): 228.

<sup>3</sup> Birth certificate; *The British Friend* XXVII.4:102 (which gives the month of birth as March).

<sup>4</sup> Richardson (1877): 239

<sup>5</sup> Richardson (1877): 243

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>8</sup> Richardson (1877): 248, 250.

<sup>9</sup> *The Friend* NS X. Jan: 24; *The British Friend* Jan: 26.

Before the end of November Elizabeth and Robert Spence Watson spent three weeks touring Germany, visiting inter alia Dresden, Switzerland, Prague, Nuremberg, Heidelberg, Worms, Treves and Antwerp.<sup>1</sup> In December Anna Deborah Richardson commented, of the Spence Watsons' activities:

Lizzie is very well . . . I sometimes think he [Robert] works his wife too hard, for she has not so good a constitution as he, especially in their ridiculous Alpine and Norwegian pranks; where, for example, they will walk 40 miles over ice one day, and drive 70, in a rattling 'carriole,' the next; but, so far, the paralysis which I expect for them both some day, is happily warded off.<sup>2</sup>

Jane's tendency towards blindness was increasing. As her sight failed, she was still able to write to her children by means of an instrument called the 'noctograph'. By December 1869 she was quite blind, but still enjoying her life very much, spending her evenings quietly, with her children reading to her.<sup>3</sup>

On the 21<sup>st</sup> December Emmie and John Gregory White had a daughter, Margaret, born at Woodstock.<sup>4</sup>

In January 1870 Jane subscribed £2 to the Sustentation Fund of the Prudhoe Memorial Convalescent Home; and in February £1 to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne General Soup Kitchen. Shortly before February she visited London. At what may have been the same time, shortly before mid-February Elizabeth and Robert Spence Watson also visited London.<sup>5</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February John and Marianne's son Cecil was born at Wingrove House, Westgate, Newcastle.<sup>6</sup>

In March Jane had a cataract in the right eye surgically removed by Dr Bell Taylor of Nottingham, restoring the sight; but her left eye later had to be removed entirely. The operations were performed under chloroform. Anna was present at the first, giving the following account:

Thy letter and note were extremely welcome at breakfast time this morning, when Mother seemed well rested after a very good night. Thou wilt share our deep thankfulness that the operation is safely over. Eleven o'clock was appointed, but patients came in from the country, and Dr. Taylor could not leave them, so we waited one hour and three-quarters. This was trying, but I went on reading "Miss Austen," who amuses Mother greatly, because her style is precisely like dear E. Caudler's conversation ; and a quarter before one, Dr. Worth came, the assistant-operator, and then Dr. Taylor. Mother was so gentle and like herself, and glad the *poor*

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>2</sup> *Reminiscences of Robert Spence Watson*; Richardson (1877): 251; catalogue of Tyne & Wear Archives Service; Elizabeth Spence Watson: 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; letters from Elizabeth & Robert Spence Watson to Jane, Caroline & John Wigham Richardson, now at TWAS.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1875; Richardson (1877): 251-5; Mary S.W. Pollard letters.

<sup>4</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend* NS X.2.48.

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 1870-01-11; *Newcastle Journal*, 1870-02-14.

<sup>6</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend* NS X.Mar:70.

people had not been kept waiting. A table was arranged in her bed-room, on which she lay down, and the chloroform was given. The *chattering* stage of its administration is painful to an onlooker, but she soon became quiet and easy. Both eyes were done ; the whole time being about forty minutes. She then went to bed; has taken soup since, then a nice sleep, and then tea; and, though feeling weary, and her eyes smarting, is *very* nicely, and sends dearest love to all of you.

Each pupil is opened, but it has revealed cataract in at least *one* eye, but that will easily be removed when fit; and Dr. Taylor says the *general* condition of the eyes is very much better than he supposed. She has them, of course, bandaged up for a few days, and will stay in bed, and the room darkened for a while until the wound is healed; but kind faithful Sarah and I divide the attendance between us, read, chat, and work, and I trust she will not find it so very tedious. Read this morning's Psalms, and see how striking they are. We read them after breakfast, and dear Mother was cheered, and I know, felt the presence of our merciful Saviour in the room with her. She knew nothing of it till all was over, and was astonished to be told, and said the verse was in her mind of glorifying the Lord who has given such power unto men. If she sleeps well to-night, I think she will be much refreshed.

*Sunday.*



Jane (Wigham) Richardson

A fine day, but cold wind again—thank thee for thy most welcome letter. Mother has been down to dinner to my great delight, quite hearty and bright, and has been repeating hymns since. Sarah is gone for a walk while mother is resting, and she is coming down to tea again. If it were not for the pads on her eyes she could go out. [ . . . ] Dr. Taylor has not been here to-day. He told me yesterday that, during the operation on the pupils, he had cut away also the adhesion of the membranes, so that two, out of the three operations Dr. Walker, of Edinburgh, said would be necessary, and by far the most painful two, are already over, a reason for great hope, though, I fear, the cataract is going to prove, in the meantime, a serious hindrance to sight, so don't expect too much.<sup>1</sup>

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1870 Newcastle Monthly Meeting appointed Thomas Hodgkin and Frederick Taylor to visit Anna Deborah Richardson, who was reported to

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<sup>1</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1875 (which says the operation was in 1868); Richardson (1877): 251–5; Mary S.W. Pollard letters. Dr Bell Taylor died in 1909, having built up a strong reputation as an antivivisectionist and antivaccinationist. In 1908 he was consulted about cataracts by General Booth of the Salvation Army [[www.salvationarmysouth.org/booth/v2-28.htm](http://www.salvationarmysouth.org/booth/v2-28.htm)].

have resigned from the Society of Friends.<sup>1</sup>

In June Elizabeth Spence Watson spent three weeks at Grasmere, with the children.<sup>2</sup> She went from Grasmere to London, where she joined Robert for a tour of Austria. At Salzburg “we first heard of the declaration of the war, & most of the English beat a speedy retreat. We however expected letters at Vienna & were not inclined to curtail our journey for imaginary dangers”. From Weimar onwards they encountered difficulties, and return was delayed so long they missed Robert’s sister Nellie Watson’s wedding.<sup>3</sup>

On the 8<sup>th</sup> August Newcastle Monthly Meeting accepted Anna’s resignation, and Joseph Procter was tasked with informing her of this.<sup>4</sup>

In October 1870 Jane subscribed £5 to the Society of Friends’ War Victims Fund.<sup>5</sup>

Jane’s son George William Richardson, a leather manufacturer, died of lung disease on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1871, a month after his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. His body was buried in Westgate Cemetery, Newcastle, on the 10<sup>th</sup>.<sup>6</sup>

In 1871 Jane was still living at South Ashfield villa, on the interest of her money; with her there were her unmarried daughter Caroline, a cook, and two housemaids. She remained at South Ashfield until her death. In 1871 Anna Deborah Richardson, with no occupation shown, was living at Heugh Folds, Grasmere, with a cook and housemaid. Edward was living on his income from property, at 3 Lovaine Place, St Andrews, Newcastle, with one general servant. John Wigham Richardson’s business had grown enormously since the previous census: he appears as a shipbuilder and chemical manufacturer employing 1000 men, living with his wife and four children at Wingrove House, Elswick, Newcastle, with a cook, a housemaid, and two nurses. Elizabeth Spence Watson was living with her family at “Leasham” (Elysium) Lane, Gateshead. Emily and John Gregory White were living with their family and one servant in Holdenhurst, Bournemouth.<sup>7</sup>

In 1871 Ann and Robert Foster were still living at 31 Rye Hill, Elswick, with three servants.<sup>8</sup>

Jane’s half-brother James Anthony Wigham was now a patient at The Retreat, Gate Fulford, Yorkshire, the Quaker-run mental hospital.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1867–74, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement; *Reminiscences of Robert Spence Watson*; Richardson (1877): 251; catalogue of Tyne & Wear Archives Service; William K. Sessions (1991) *They Chose the Star*. 2nd edn, York.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1867–74, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>5</sup> *Newcastle Courant*, 1870-10-21.

<sup>6</sup> GRO index; 1872 *Annual Monitor*; burials digest; *National Probate Calendar*.

<sup>7</sup> RG 10/1178 f43 p26; RG 10/5076 f56; RG 10/5082 f92; RG 10/5084; RG 10/5278 f42 p9.

<sup>8</sup> RG 10/5075.

<sup>9</sup> RG 10/4753 f58 p59.



South Ashfield, Newcastle, c. 1870

On the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1871 the Spence Watsons had another daughter, Evelyn, born at Mosscroft, Gateshead.<sup>1</sup>

Jane attended Yearly Meeting in London in the spring or early summer, and after that went to Bournemouth, to visit her daughter Emily White.<sup>2</sup>

In August the Spence Watson family spent a few days in Rothbury.

That summer they holidayed in the Swiss Alps.<sup>3</sup>

A daughter, Theodora, was born to John and Marianne Richardson on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, at Wingrove House.<sup>4</sup> On the same day Emmie and John Gregory White had a daughter, Mildred, born at South Ashfield House, Newcastle-on-Tyne.<sup>5</sup>

At the end of November, in a letter to her mother, Anna Deborah Richardson wrote:

[ . . . ] I am grieved to hear thou art again ailing. Thou should'st make thy own health of far more importance than philanthropies, which I have grown quite to hate, so often do they damage thee: "Many widows were in Samaria," and yet, &c.; much less it is needful to visit women who have good husbands, a house to cover them, and no bother of children.<sup>6</sup>

A further letter at this time, from Anna to her mother, gives another reflected glimpse of Jane's life:

Thy very interesting letter with the account of the essay meeting, I meant to thank thee for yesterday, but C., I dare say, would acknowledge it. It is very pleasant to hear of what you do, and of thy being such a centre of enjoyment and usefulness to so very many people.<sup>7</sup>

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1871 Elizabeth Spence Watson noted that ". . . my time is almost entirely taken up with household work, & I have scarcely any leisure for reading."<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend* June:156; *Bootham School Register*.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>4</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend* NS XI.Nov:273 (which suggests 16 October).

<sup>5</sup> Birth certificate; *The Friend* NS XI.Nov:274.

<sup>6</sup> Richardson (1877): 277.

<sup>7</sup> Richardson (1877): 280–1.

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

For New Year 1872 Jane sent Anna and Caro a “pretty little almanack”.<sup>1</sup>

The Spence Watsons took a winter break in Teneriffe in January.<sup>2</sup>

In the first part of May 1872 Jane spent some time in Bournemouth with her daughters Emily, Alice, Anna, and Carrie. Around the same time the Spence Watsons spent a week in London, staying at the Bedford in Covent Garden.<sup>3</sup>

Jane’s stepmother, Sarah (Nicholson) Wigham, died at Newtown House, Carlisle, on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.<sup>4</sup>

In July or early August Jane spent ten days at Kreuznach with her daughters Allie and Nellie, but was summoned home (to Grasmere) by Anna’s increasing illness. Anna died at Heugh Folds on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1872, of albumenuria, having suffered from kidney disease all her life; Jane and Anna’s sisters were present at the death. Anna’s body was buried in Grasmere churchyard on the 8<sup>th</sup>.<sup>5</sup>

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August John and Marianne Richardson, Rosie Thöl (Marianne’s sister), and the Spence Watsons were in Grindelwald, the latter couple again spending a month mountaineering.<sup>6</sup>

Jane was an elder of her meeting,

... a faithful member of the Society of Friends, much attached to its principles, but very tolerant of those who differed from her in matters of belief. She was, in her general life, of a hopeful and gladsome spirit. It seemed as if it were given her to illustrate the principle of gladness, which she thought was sometimes wanting in the daily routine and in the public worship of even devoted Friends; even in her blindness, her powers of memory and imagination were such, that a stranger walking with her in the cherished scenery of Grasmere or Scotland, would hardly realise that she could no longer see the objects of which she spoke so enthusiastically. She rejoiced in the marriages of her children and the advent of her grandchildren.<sup>7</sup>

In Jane’s final years her health declined. In the autumn of 1872 she had a serious illness which caused the family much anxiety. Probably this was the attack of gastric flu she suffered in November that year.<sup>8</sup>

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November John and Marianne Richardson had a son, George Beigh Richardson, born

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<sup>1</sup> Richardson (1877): 281.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement; Richardson (1877): 284.

<sup>4</sup> *The Friend; The British Friend*.

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement; Craven; *The Friend* NS XII.Sept:221; Richardson (1877): 285-6.

<sup>6</sup> Letter from Elizabeth Spence Watson to Mabel & Ruth Spence Watson, TWAS Acc. 213/10; Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>7</sup> *Annual Monitor* 1875; Richardson (1911): 162.

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

at Wingrove.<sup>1</sup>

In the spring of 1873 Jane had more than one epileptic seizure, depriving her for the time of speech; after one attack she was unconscious for 40 hours. She had an epileptic fit in January, followed by another about a month later, as her daughter Elizabeth recorded:

The first was extremely alarming, but the last was still more so. The Doctors gave up all hope of her recovery. It was on a Sunday, & we were called to Ashfield in the afternoon. For 36 hours she remained in a state of complete unconsciousness, & most of that time we were watching round her bed expecting every minute to be her last. Contrary to all expectation she began to revive, & it became possible to give her a little nourishment. This was in the middle of the night, & I was with her at the time. I at first thought it was probably only the little glimmer there so often is in such cases just before death, & I had my sisters called. Marvellous to relate however, my dear Mother revived more, & more, & after a few days of great anxiety, we became very hopeful about her. She is now almost as well as she was before her attack, except that her memory is much confused. This however is improving, & we trust, before long, she may have entirely regained her wonted clearness. She is, as ever, active in every thought & deed to help others . . .<sup>2</sup>

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1873 Jane made her will.<sup>3</sup>

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March Jane's half-sister Anna Mary Wigham married Theodore Fletcher Nicholson, a Cumberland farmer.<sup>4</sup>

Elizabeth and Robert Spence Watson were in Glasgow for a few days in late March.<sup>5</sup>

By April Jane had subscribed £1 for E.J. Saleebey's Schools at Lebanon.<sup>6</sup>

On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1873 news of the engagement of her daughter Alice to Theodore Merz gave Jane satisfaction. She said she had "nothing but peace in the thought."<sup>7</sup>

On the 13<sup>th</sup> July Emmie and John Gregory White had a daughter, Hilda, born at Adelaide Villas, Bournemouth Holdenhurst, Christchurch, Hampshire.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Friend* NS XIII.Jan:21.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>3</sup> will and grant of probate

<sup>4</sup> "Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845–1958," database, FamilySearch: 9 March 2018, MARRIAGES entry for Anna Mary Wigham, citing Rathdown, 1873, vol. 2, p. 968, General Registry, Custom House, Dublin, FHL microfilm 101,252.

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>6</sup> *The British Friend* XXXI. Apr:81. Elijah G. Saleebey opened the first school at Brummana, a village overlooking Beirut, around this time, backed by Friends' subscriptions. The school was taken over in 1874 by Theophilus Waldmeier. The school is still managed by British Quakers, through a local board. [bhs.edu.lb/about-bhs/history/]

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>8</sup> Birth certificate.

The Spence Watsons took a mountaineering holiday that year. The last two weeks of August were spent with their family at Milburn Cottage, Suss; then for three weeks they were in Switzerland with Allie and John Wigham Richardson.<sup>1</sup>

At Newcastle Monthly Meeting (men and women together), held there on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, Alice Mary Richardson and John Theodore Merz were liberated to marry.<sup>2</sup>

Jane was ill for the whole of 1873. On the afternoon of Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> November,

... she was taken ill, & when I saw her the next day, she was scarcely conscious. From this time until her death, it was an anxious time of watching. Severe remedies were tried, but all in vain—for the last two days the only sign of life was her breathing.<sup>3</sup>

After fluctuations of sickness, extreme weakness, and unconsciousness, on the 30<sup>th</sup> November she became paralysed, and, after five days' apoplexy, died quietly on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. Her breathing "grew fainter & fainter, & at about one o'clock, we knew by its total cessation that our precious Mother was dead."<sup>4</sup>



Jane (Wigham) Richardson; from Steel

"Her face, which during that year of illness had gained much dignity and sweetness, bore the impress of perfect peace, as if she might have said, 'I have seen God's hand through a life time, and all was for the best.'"<sup>5</sup>

Jane's body was buried in Westgate Hill cemetery, Newcastle, the following Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> December, beside Edward and their three children, George, Isaac, and Maggie. There was a gathering at South Ashfield, on the evening of the funeral, at which friends and family spoke very impressively, and "with much weeping bore testimony to the innate nobleness of her character".<sup>6</sup>

Her daughter Elizabeth recorded:

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>2</sup> Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1867-74, TWAS MF 170.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; death/burials digest; *The Friend* Jan 1874 XIV:22; *The British Friend*; death certificate.

<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement.

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; death/burials digest; *The Friend* Jan 1874 XIV:22; *The British Friend*; *Annual Monitor* 1875; Richardson (1911).

Truly we have lost one, whose sweet & gentle influence can never be forgotten, & whose wide & generous sympathies made her universally beloved. She had passed through many sorrows, which seemed only to ennoble & sanctify her, so that her calm sweet face expressed the peace of her soul.<sup>1</sup>

Referring to Jane, her son-in-law Robert Spence Watson referred in a poem to . . . “the gentle Mother” . . . “we see that sweet unselfish smile which gladdened all our ill.”<sup>2</sup>

Her son John Wigham Richardson later wrote of her: “My dear mother, to love her was a liberal education!”<sup>3</sup>

Her will was proved at Newcastle on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1874, by her son John, her sole executor. After bequests of £100 to her (second) cousin Eliza Wigham, and £10 to her attendant Elizabeth Yorke, her residual estate (less than £2000) was divided equally between her children.

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Spence Watson, ‘Family Chronicles/Home Records’, and supplement.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Spence Watson, in *Wayside Gleanings*.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson (1911): 235

# Afterlives

## Siblings

After a gentle decline since the spring, Ann Foster died at The Quarries West, Newcastle on Tyne, on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1893, “the end, it may be said, of an uneventful life, yet one of unobtrusive beneficence.” Her body was buried in Elswick Cemetery, Newcastle.<sup>1</sup>

John Thomas Wigham died aged 64 at Kingston, Jamaica, on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1897.<sup>2</sup>

Anna Mary (Wigham) Nicholson died at Violet Bank, Annan, Dumfries, Scotland, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1904.<sup>3</sup>

James Anthony Wigham continued as an in-patient at The Retreat. He died there, of syncope, on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1885. His body was buried in York Friends burying-ground.<sup>4</sup>

## Children

Caroline Richardson never married. Of The Quarries, Newcastle, and of Heugh Folds, Grasmere, she died at Heugh Folds on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1916. Her body was buried in Grasmere churchyard.<sup>5</sup>

Edward Richardson, a gentleman, of Warkworth, Northumberland, died there on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1890. His body was buried in Warkworth cemetery.<sup>6</sup>

John Wigham Richardson had one more child, Felix Gabriel Richardson, on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1878; Felix died at Malvern School, from a gun accident, on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1894. A ship and engine builder, John Wigham Richardson had lost count of his workforce by 1881, stating the number of men he employed to be 1200 to 1500. In 1890 he became President of the North East Coast Institution of Engineers & Shipbuilders. A merger in 1903 created Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson Ltd, which became the most technically advanced ship building facilities anywhere and built the RMS *Mauretania* for Cunard, which was launched in 1906 and held the Blue Riband as the fastest liner across the Atlantic for 26 years. His entry in Wikipedia describes him as “one of the great figures of British industrial life, and a leading shipbuilder on Tyneside during the late 19th and early 20th century.” of Hindley Hall, Stocksfield, Northumberland, he died at 11 Nottingham Place, London,

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<sup>1</sup> *The Friend* XXXIII, 11 August 1893; *The British Friend* II September:268; *National Probate Calendar*; *Ellen Richardson and Ann Richardson Foster. In Memoriam*; Steel (1899): 195–8

<sup>2</sup> Jamaica, Civil Registration birth, marriage, and death records; *The Friend* XXXVII:526, 6 August 1897, *The British Friend* VI September: 260.

<sup>3</sup> *The Friend* XLIV:48, 15 January 1901; *The British Friend* XIII February:60; *National Probate Calendar*.

<sup>4</sup> GRO index; The Retreat registry of discharges and deaths; 1887 *Annual Monitor*. Syncope is essentially a symptom, namely fainting, which can be attributable to a variety of causes, which in this instance weren't specified.

<sup>5</sup> GRO index; *The Friend* 21 July 1916: 574; *Annual Monitor*; *National Probate Calendar*; *Newcastle Journal*, 10 July 1916.

<sup>6</sup> GRO index; *National Probate Calendar*; Find a Grave.

on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1908, and was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London. He left an estate of £92,000.<sup>1</sup>

Elizabeth Spence Watson had three further children: Mary (1875), Bertha (1877), and Arnold (1879). She became an active worker for Liberalism, peace, and women's suffrage, as well as a poor law guardian, and secretary to both the Committee of the Ragged and Industrial School for Girls and the High School for Girls in Gateshead. On top of this she was an indispensable support to her husband in his notable educational, industrial, and political career. She continued to live at Bensham Grove until her death there on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1919, from atheroma of the coronary vessels and pyelitis 19 days. She was buried in the Jesmond Old Cemetery in Newcastle on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The notice of her death in the *Northern Echo* bore the headline "GREAT LOSS TO THE NORTH".<sup>2</sup>

Jane Emily White and her husband had four more children: Mary Gladys (1874), Frances Emily (1876), Edward How (1878), and Edith Somers (1882). The couple, with one daughter still at home, were still living in Bournemouth in 1901, at 'West Knoll', Tregonwell Road; the household had a cook, a housemaid, and a parlourmaid. She died at West Knoll on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1903.<sup>3</sup>

Alice Mary Richardson married John Theodore Merz on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1873. They had four children: Charles Hesterman (1874), Norbert (1877), Theresa (1879), and Ernest Leisler (1881). From 1881 they lived at The Quarries, Grainger Park Road, Elswick, Newcastle, where in 1901 they had two housemaids, a kitchen maid, and a cook. She died at The Quarries on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1933.<sup>4</sup>

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1879 Ellen Ann Richardson married Arthur Heinrich Kühlmann, a Newcastle engineer, at Newcastle meeting-house. In 1881 they were living at 13 Marlborough Crescent, Acton, Middlesex; Arthur was described as an unemployed civil engineer, born in Venice. They had one son, Arturo Giovanni Denys Richardson, born in Florence in 1888, where they lived until about 1891. The couple seem to have separated not long afterwards. In 1901 Nellie was living alone in Whitley, Northumberland, but by 1911 she and her son were living in Letchworth, Hertfordshire. From 1919 she lived on her own in Torquay, where she died on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1925.<sup>5</sup>

## Grandchildren

In 1881 Philip Wigham Richardson was a boarder at Rugby School. In 1901 he was listed in the census as a shipowner and insurance broker, living with his wife, born in Cuba as Rosa America Colorado, two children (their first child had died in infancy), housemaid, cook, and nursemaid, at The Hawthornes, Half Moon Lane, Camberwell, London. Another child was born to a mistress in

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<sup>1</sup> GRO index; *The Friend* XLVIII:274, 1908-04-24; *National Probate Calendar*; 1881 census; Richardson (1911): 356; *The Making of a Ruling Class* (1978), Newcastle: Benwell Community Project; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Wigham\\_Richardson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wigham_Richardson).

<sup>2</sup> Birth certificates; *The Friend*; Elizabeth Spence Watson, 'Family Chronicles/Home Records', and supplement; Sansbury; Corder; Craven; *Annual Monitor* 1919–20; *Northern Echo*, 15 February 1919.

<sup>3</sup> GRO index; RG 13/1040 f96 p51; *National Probate Calendar*; children's birth certificates.

<sup>4</sup> GRO index; Minutes of Newcastle Monthly Meeting 1867-74, TWAS MF 170; *National Probate Calendar*; *The Friend*.

<sup>5</sup> Marriage certificate; GRO index; *National Probate Calendar*; son's naturalisation certificate and declaration; son's service record; RG 11/1354 f122 p46; RG 13/4805 f116 p36; RG14PN7577 RG78PN371 RD136 SD1 ED8 SN391; Alice Mary Merz, 'Family Notes', typescript.

1906, and fifth to his second wife, born Bertha Anne Greenley, in 1919. Philip became Chairman of P. Wigham Richardson & Co., as well as director of at least four other companies. He was MP for Chertsey, Surrey, from 1945 to 1949, and received not only the OBE but a baronetcy. He died at his home, Aldenholme, Ellesmere-road, Weybridge, Surrey, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1953.<sup>1</sup>

Ernestine Richardson continued to live at Wingrove House until her marriage to the Rev. Frank Alfred John Bealey on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1901, at St Anne's, Soho, London. Initially living in Bloomsbury, London, by 1911 they were living in Hatch End, Middlesex. At the time of her death in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1952, she had been living at 71 Princes House, Kensington Park Road, London W11.<sup>2</sup>

By 1891 Maurice Richardson was an actor, living in lodgings at 33 Oxford Street, Darlington. He married Frances Anne Hadnum on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1892, in Preston, Lancashire, and had a daughter in 1905. He was married again in 1929, to Madelaine Perette W. Mangin, at Ripon Cathedral. Of Hawkhurst, Kent, he died there on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1937.<sup>3</sup>

Cecil Richardson died at Newcastle the day after his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1885.<sup>4</sup>

In 1901 Theodora Richardson was still living at Wingrove House. On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1906 she married Colonel Thomas Herbert Minshall, at Oxford; the couple had three children. The family lived initially at Ottershaw, near Chertsey, Surrey. During the First World War she worked for the British Secret Service, but said she was working in the Foreign Office. After the war she lived in Kensington until at least 1930. Subsequently of Brenchley, Kent, she committed suicide on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1932, apparently "haunted by fears that she could never share and memories she could never escape."<sup>5</sup>

Though called to the bar, George Beigh Richardson became a marine architect, manufacturing engineer and shipbuilder, as a director of Swan Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd. He was also Chairman of the Blaydon Manure & Alkali Co. He married Isabel Margaret Finch on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1904, at St Andrew's, Girton, Cambridgeshire, and between 1905 and 1916 they had five children. By 1927 he was living at Lindum, Jesmond Park, Newcastle, where he died on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1935.<sup>6</sup>

Mabel Spence Watson attended successively the Gateshead High School for Girls and the Mount School, York. From 1883 to 1886 she took the mathematical tripos at Newnham College, Cambridge. She became a teacher at the Gateshead High School, and was the first lady tutor at the Newcastle College of Science. Until 1896 she continued to live at Bensham Grove. On the 9<sup>th</sup> April

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<sup>1</sup> GRO index; RG 11/3077 f130 p27; RG 13/492 f179; UK incoming passenger lists; *The Making of a Ruling Class* (1978); *The Times*.

<sup>2</sup> GRO index; RG 11/5055 f162 p24; RG 13/239 f66 p20; RG14PN7081 RG78PN347 RD130 SD1 ED14 SN177; *National Probate Calendar*.

<sup>3</sup> GRO index; RG 12/4042 f139 p28; *National Probate Calendar*; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson*: 338; *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer*, 17 January 1929; *The Times*, 15 February 1937.

<sup>4</sup> GRO index; *Memoirs of John Wigham Richardson*: 272-4.

<sup>5</sup> GRO index; RG 13/4773 f139 p21; *National Probate Calendar*; *Croydon Guardian and Surrey County Gazette*, 24 February 1906; Merlin Minshall (1975) *Guilt-Edged*. London, Bachman & Turner: 27.

<sup>6</sup> GRO index; *The Friend*; *The Times*; *Cambridge Independent Press*, 22 April 1904; Benwell Community Project (1978).

1896, at Newcastle Friends meeting-house, she married Hugh Richardson, science master at Bootham School. They had three children between 1897 and 1901. They lived at 12 St Mary's, York, till Mabel's death there on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1907, of scleroderma, leading to pneumonia.<sup>1</sup>

Ruth Spence Watson married Edmund Innes Gower, headmaster of the Friends' High School in Hobart, Tasmania, on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1912, at Colthouse meeting-house, near Hawkshead, Lancashire. She died in Hobart on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1914, of liver cancer, and was buried in the cemetery at Cornelian Bay, Tasmania.<sup>2</sup>

Evelyn Spence Watson attended Gateshead High School and The Mount, before becoming a resident mistress at The Mount, and later inspector in physical training for the Girls' High School Company. On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1898 she married Frederick Ernest Weiss, professor of botany at the University of Manchester, at Newcastle meeting-house. They had three children between 1900 and 1913. She died at Upper Norwood, London, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1959.<sup>3</sup>

In 1901 Douglas White was a solicitor, living in lodgings at 3 Doughty Street, St Pancras, London. He subsequently worked in British Guiana and the Leeward Islands. He died in Bournemouth on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1943.<sup>4</sup>

In 1891 Margaret White was a student of literature, and in 1901 was still living at West Knoll, Holdenhurst, Bournemouth. During World War I she worked as a housekeeper in a convalescent home in France. She died on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1945 at Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, where she had lived since at least 1921.<sup>5</sup>

Mildred White was still living at West Knoll in 1901. She married William Johnson Gill on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1901, in Berbice, British Guiana, and had three children between 1903 and 1907. Of Ringwood, Hampshire, she died on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1937 at Levallois Perrett, Seine, Paris.<sup>6</sup>

Of West Knoll, Bournemouth, Hilda White died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1899, aged 25.<sup>7</sup>

## Living descendants

Edward and Jane Richardson are believed to have at least 271 living descendants, as at the time of writing.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Friend; The British Friend; Bootham School Register; The Mount School, York. List of Teachers and Scholars 1784–1816, 1831–1906*; death certificate.

<sup>2</sup> *The Friend; The British Friend; The Times*; Elizabeth Spence Watson's 'Family Chronicles'.

<sup>3</sup> *The Mount School, York. List of Teachers and Scholars 1784–1816, 1831–1906; The British Friend; The Friend* 117:336, 13 March 1959; *The Times; National Probate Calendar*.

<sup>4</sup> GRO index; RG 13/140 f95 p18.

<sup>5</sup> GRO index; RG 12/901 f137 p62; RG 13/1040 f96 p51; RG 15/07973 RD176 SD4 ED2 SN31; *National Probate Calendar*; Alice Mary Merz, 'Family Notes', typescript.

<sup>6</sup> GRO index; RG 13/1040 f96 p51; *National Probate Calendar*; Alice Mary Merz, 'Family Notes', typescript.

<sup>7</sup> GRO index; *National Probate Calendar*.