

Memorial of Elenor Hughes 1825

Archives: Box 24

This Memorial is held by the Canadian Quaker Archives and Library in Newmarket, Ontario in Box 24.

Sam Hughes came to Yonge Street from Pennsylvania with his parents Job Hughes and Elinor or Elenor Lee. This memorial is written by Samuel Hughes in honour of his mother. His sisters Amy (1887 – 1863) and Abigail (1780 - ?) married brothers Stephen Bowerman (1773 – 1857) and Judah Bowerman (1779 – 1868) respectively and settled in Bloomfield, Prince Edward County. All were Quakers.

The Marion Cronk Fonds has several Hughes items including two journals by Sam Hughes. The finding aid for the fonds is [available here on the web site](#) of the Canadian Yearly Meeting Archives. See section 1-9 for the Hughes items.

The transcription was coordinated by Jane Zavitz Bond, archivist for Canada Yearly Meeting, and fully transcribed by Sheila Havard with minor formatting changes for posting by Randy Saylor. The text was transcribed as written. Transcriber notes are in square brackets. The memoir has not been proof read.

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[Page 11 – Box 24 - Copies for folders 1-11]

MEMORIAL OF ELENOR HUGHES

Who deceased March 9, 1825, at Gwilliniburg, (East), Upper Canada, aged about 74 years,

Freed from the load I long have bore,
My life from me has fled away;
I'll totter on my staff no more,

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Nor limbs shall tremble on the way.

Mine eyes – ne'er see the restless move –
Mine ears – ne'er hear the noisy tongue;
This song's the last I shall improve,
My friends, think on me when it's sung.

- 1st. When storms arose my spirit fled –
- 2d. My feet forbore to tread the path,
- 3d. Where cursing fell upon my head;
- 4th. Where FRIENDS appear'd inflam'd with wrath.

- 5th. Oh! give my last memorial place –
- 6th. Oh! think how deep I drew my sighs!
When e'er you curs'd my sons and grace,
Or light that was before mine eyes.

- 7th. To you relations far abroad,
Without your friendship I did die,
- 8th. Alone I trusted in my GOD,
And THE UNITED PEACE and I.

I'm now preparing for my home;
My friends in tears are weeping round,
(Belov'd by all, and scorn'd by none) –
My feet sinks deeply in the ground.

My sons, ne'er of me be asham'd –
My daughters, think on my cold breast;
For you my bosom once was pain'd,
But now it's quietly at rest.

Ye men who doth my body bear,
And gently lay me in my bed,
For my pale sheet make haste – prepare –
For soon your dwelling's with the dead.

The chamber's silent where [I lay]
In all the house how still [a] my feet –
A moving to my house of clay;
In worship – left an empty seat.

EXPLANATION OF SOME OF THE FOREGOING LINES,

- 1st. *When FRIENDS of Yonge-street ascended into rash judgments concerning religious doctrines.*
- 2d. *Ie. She could walk no more with them.*

- 3d. *Her heart or spirit loved these, whom others did despise and shamefully scorn.*
- 4th. *Where MEEK professors spoke, inflamed with zeal and anger.*
- 5th. *The peace of her latter days being worthy to be remembered; and conveyed to those who thought her far astray.*
- 6th. *Deep affliction, to see her dearest friends, her sons, and all the sense she had of truth and righteousness, despised.*
- 7th. *She had relations of note in Pennsylvania, amongst Friends, by the name of Lee, who had forbore any communication with her through the latter years of her life.*
- 8th. *God gave her great peace and satisfaction the latter part of her life, for which she appeared thankful, as being, (in her own opinion,) unworthy to live a life without sorrow.*

Being deeply afflicted with the loss of my above mentioned dear deceased MOTHER, I think it a duty I owe to God, and her remembrance to communicate something to the public mind, of the singular and latter days of her life. If critics should apprehend that I am partial in my kind respects to my MOTHER, I answer – My Father has a good MEMORIAL, recorded in a book of record belonging to the people who call themselves Friends, amongst whom he lived and died, as a well respected minister with his brethren. But my Mother being deprived of this privilege, (by a separation that took place in a meeting of Friends at Yonge-street, Upper Canada,) it therefore, makes it more necessary that I should improve [by] small abilities in preserving her Memorial, as I think her as worthy as her dear deceased husband, my father.

She was left in my care the later years of her life, with a sufficient property for her comfortable support, which, I can say in truth, and with a good conscience, I have not withheld from her – neither is it in the power of the creation to say that I withheld anything from her whereby she might be comforted.

She was educated amongst Friends, comely in her walking, and lived a life without [illegible] or blemish amongst them, until the singular instance took place in the Society which is above mentioned. After which she retired, and joined with them in worship no more; and, notwithstanding she was an elder amongst them, according to their order, she openly declared to a number of witnesses, that she could not walk in fellowship with their proceedings.

The instance was, a few singular expressions in doctrine, which seemed to bewilder and inflame three quarters of the assembly; but she being unmoved, with a few others, mercifully possessed a quiet mind, (while others, appeared in affrighted rage, like waters in a storm,) and so continued till her dying day.

She missed but one meeting for worship with her last illness, and that with regret. She lay like one in sound sleep about twelve hours, and with but little perceivable alteration breathed no more.

I now publicly own, to all my relations and friends, abroad and at home, far and near, that my feelings hath been often deeply grieved to hear the WORSHIP my mother and brethren performed the latter part of her life, so lightly spoken of; and hope that her unshaken and stedfast opinion will remain, by this communication, in remembrance of former friends that hath so practised till their dying day.

The above lines are published to satisfy the world, that there is peace and great satisfaction in the various forms of worship – hoping that these present confirmations will put a check on that opinion which thinks there is peace to be found in no way but their own.

The following names are witnesses of many of her peaceable and glad expressions that she made use of in the latter end of her life. She was educated amongst Friends, commonly called quakers, and left their Society at Yonge-street, because she apprehended that very rude and rash judgments prevailed amongst them.

MURDOCH McLEOD
GEO. HOLLINSHEAD
AMOS HUGHES
DAVID WILLSON
ISRAEL LUNDY
SAMUEL HUGHES
EBENEZER DOAN
JOHN DOAN
WILLIAM REID

RACHEL LUNDY
ELIZABETH DOAN
PHEBE WILLSON
REBECCA HUGHES
ELIZABETH E. DOAN
[illegible]
MARY HUGHES
REBECCA DOAN

In gratitude to her remembrance I pen the following lines and subscribe myself her affectionate son.

SAMUEL HUGHES

FAREWELL my aged Mother dear,
Thy [time] of life is over;
The cares and sorrows that are here,
Will never reach thee more.

Thou wast a guardian in my youth;
It was from thee I sprung,
And I'm affected with this truth,
Oh! on thy breast I've hung.

Thy breast afforded me support,
Thy hands did keep me clean,
Thy bosom was my safe resort,
Thine arms did take me in.

Thy watchful eyes around my bed
Did guard me while I slept,
Thine arm a pillow for my head,
Did sooth me when I wept.

A thousand thousand parent cares
Thou hadst for me when young,
To save me from the dangerous snares
that round – that round me hung.

Thou wast a hedge around my youth,
To keep my deeds from sin;
Thy counsels, like fair walls of truth,
Did keep my footsteps in.

But now thy toiling days are o'er,
And all thy pains doth cease;
And thou receives rewards that's sure,
I trust rewards of peace.

And I will keep thy memory bright,
For children still to view;
Thy deeds of virtue in their sight,
By Godly deeds I'll do.

And when my time of life is spent,
I will return to thee;
And hope with thee I'll rest content,
And then content with me.

N.B. The above deceased performed her worship from the time of separation from her former friends in a meeting Children of Peace, at Queen-street, Upper Canada.

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