

Diary of Hannah Lightbody

(Apart from the headings in bold my original comments are in red – David Sekers’ responses are in black)

Diary seems to reveal that Currie was her physician, Yes. And as you had picked up, she admired him, and he her. I shall be writing more about their relationship. and seems to be the only source for Yates’ sermon on the Slave Trade which is given in outline form. Yes, Hannah’s diary is the only account we have of Yates’s sermon, but I need to amend the footnote to say that according to Yates’s obituary, summaries of the sermon were made and distributed at the time, though none has turned up.

It also appears to reveal that Hartley was indeed in Liverpool by an entry for January 8th 1787 and for April 26 1787, but a record of a visit to Bedford Square could record a visit to his London home on 22nd December 1787. Interesting surmise. It is not clear who is acting as her guardian. I do not think she had one. I have not attempted below to record every interesting relationship and event recorded by Hannah Lightbody but merely those points which most closely bear on my own MS. The view, although it is quite restricted in the sense of being that of a young woman of leisure, throws an astonishing light on the relationships between the Lightbody family, the Hodgsons and the society in which Currie and Roscoe moved at this time. When TH married Elizabeth L on 30 Oct 1781 she received 1/3 of her late father’s property in Garston under trusteeship of John Pares and John Lightbody. (Nick Lightbody papers) See 29 July 1787 below.

Some points of interest and for further clarification.

25th April 1787. Danced with R. Capstick? Seems to the record presence of Richard Capstick in Liverpool. From April 1783 Richard Capstick is recorded as resident in Tortola. From November 1786 he is resident in Dominica and by October 1787 he is resident in Liverpool. This represents his earliest noted presence in Liverpool after his stay in the West Indies. He made his will in 1788 and was dead by February 1790. all interesting stuff. Unfortunately Hannah Lightbody’s attention seems to have been elsewhere at the time of his death.

26th April 1787. (Mistakenly? 16th you are right!) suggests Mr Hartley and her two Bros called.

3rd July 1787. Appears to record looking after the Hodgson children? How many? How old? Entry for 11th March records EH giving birth to baby girl making 4 children. They were:

| Name | dob |
|--------------|-------------|
| Eliza | Aug 30 1782 |
| Isaac | Dec 31 1783 |
| Agnes | 6 Sep 1785 |
| Mary Tylston | Mar 11 1787 |
| Adam | Feb 27 1789 |
| Anna | Mar 25 1791 |
| Thomas | Oct 13 1794 |

19th July 1787. Rode to the Park (Toxteth Park – Arabella Nicholson) with Dr Currie and the Hodgsons.

24-29th July 1787. documents relationship with the Rawlinsons – guessed at in my MS. Also for 10th August but this appears to be Thomas Rawlinson and not Abraham which may require some thought and possible revision of ideas. Have I got them muddled? And who were Mr & Mrs R..e?

29th July 1787. footnote documents loan to Thomas Hodgson from J Pares secured on the Garston property inherited from Adam Lightbody – possibly this records the first evidence of the financial relationship with Pares who had capital in Caton Mill and the Hodgson’s need for more capital. This is prior to the collapse of Hartley. This might impact how one views the development of the Hodgsons

business from setting up independently of M. Barber (1771), and their acquisition of sufficient wealth to increase investment rapidly after 1783 with a hiatus ca 1786 and a maximum in ca 1790 followed by a rapid falling away in investment to ca 1792 and a final flurry of investment during 1793-7. Ideas that they had become wealthy from privateering might need to be adjusted not least in the significance of any wealth acquired.

3rd August 1787 introduces unknown Dominica connection, Mr Brayshay and footnote reveals letter from JH to TH in Gambia on 24th February 1771. This is interesting as records (if correctly recorded and interpreted) appear to have TH returning from Gambia in early February 1771 and the first TH & JH venture recorded as leaving Liverpool for The Gambia in March of 1771. Clearly in need of re-examination.

22nd December 1787 – during London visit – dined at Bedford Square – this may be at the home of Samuel Hartley.

25th December 1787 called at Mrs Thellussons – wife of the London banker? Miles Barber used this banker – but the visit may be unconnected with any close relationship as she mentions calling for a French lady called Martin.

31st December 1787 calls at Mrs Thornton's Clapham. What is the Hodgsons connection with "The Saints?" This is a question I have been unable to answer prompted by Adam Hodgson's evangelical views and his correspondence with Thomas Gisborne and later with Wilberforce. I think Hannah met this gang when a schoolgirl in the circle of Thomas Rogers, when he was leading the development the New Hackney Academy. Currie was in correspondence with Wilberforce by then. But Thomas Hodgson I doubt.

28th January 1788. Records outline of Yates' sermon on slave trade and on 3rd February lies awake recalling words of The Negro's Complaint.

4th and 7th of February 1788. death and funeral of E. Smith. Hodgson much affected? This is intriguing – I have no idea who he is.

11th February 1788. drank tea in Rodney Street with Mr Nielson – Nielson or a relative had been in Tortola/Dominica.

2nd March 1788. read Maraton with Dr Currie.

12th March 1788. went to hear Dibdin – to whom Maraton had been sent.

16th March 1788. supped at Curries talked of the Wrongs of Africa.

25th May 1788. called at Dr C's was treated with a sight of the manuscript? Another intriguing reference. It is not likely it was Roscoe's pamphlet nor Maraton. Could it have been Roscoe and Dannett's reply to Raymond Harris?

10th June 1788 hears of Hartley's failure. Hartley's interests in Fly were not transferred to Hodgsons until October 1790. Sally cleared in July 1788 with Hartley recorded as an owner. May reflect time to wind up his affairs? Hodgsons investments reach a peak in ca 1789 and fall away rapidly by 1792 when it appears they raised more money by mortgage of Caton property

12th June 1788. Brother Pares and Family came – all happy again. Implies a bail-out with respect to **Hartley's failure?** I should have added a note to say that Pares bailed him out (there is a ref in Nick Lightbody's papers to 'Demise of (Garston) land for securing £3000 & interest; Mr Thomas Hodgson to Mr John Pares; and appointment of the reversion of the same premises for securing Mrs Elizabeth Hodgson to the said Thomas Pares dated 28 June 1788. (signatories are John P, TH, Eliz H and John Lightbody). In Feb 1805 Thomas and John paid off £1500 to Thomas Pares.

23rd August 1788. Hodgsons, Curries, Bents at supper here. Footnote implies TH invested with Bents in slave voyages. IMHO the Thomas Hodgson who invested with Ellis Bent is not Thomas Hodgson of Caton. Possibly: I will need to revisit these sources

November 1788 – meeting with Sam Greg. This seems astonishingly informal. The involvement of the Kennedy's and Philips's is interesting. Mary Philips married Robert Hyde Greg, Elizabeth Kennedy married John Greg. Footnote 249 implies George Philips was a friend of Thomas Cooper. The Caton Mills at one stage were said to be operated by Hodgson and Cooper. I have no information on this Cooper. Thomas Cooper 1759-1838 was one of the most radical Manchester dissenters see ODNB. He was a calico printer.

27th Feb. 1789 AH born. Entry – and perhaps earlier entries imply the Hodgson's living at Paradise Street.

16th Sept 1789 in Caton dined at Mr Hudson's – supposed to be TH's mill manager married to his sister.

Yes, and thank you for this.