

MOTHER ANN LEE'S JOURNEY
(1781-1783)

1. Mother Ann, with the elders and their followers, set out from Watervliet in May, 1781. They went directly to Benjamin Osborn's home at Tucconock (now Mt. Washington, Mass.). They stayed there about ten days, then left to visit Enfield, Conn.
2. The party arrived at David Meacham's, in Enfield, about 67 miles from their first stop, about June 1st. After staying in Enfield about a week, they went to visit John Maynor, in Grafton, Mass. (about 60 miles from Enfield).
3. Mother Ann and her friends stayed at Maynor's until Saturday, and then went to visit Daniel Wood, in Upton, 8 miles away. After staying over the Sabbath and Monday, the little group left Upton and headed for Harvard, arriving that same Tuesday evening at the home of Zaccheus
4. Stephen, in Still River.
5. After spending the night at Stephen's (which was within the boundary of Harvard) the group left, on Wednesday, and went to visit Isaac Willard, in Harvard, staying there about a week. Willard's house was within
6. sight of, and about a half-mile from the Square House where Mother Ann and the Elders lived, later.
7. In Dec. 1781, Mother Ann and the Elders journeyed to Petersham, about 40 miles from Harvard, arriving at Thomas Shattuck's house late in the evening. Although they were expected and awaited, for some unknown reason the little party proceeded on to the home of David Hammond, that same night.
8. The next day, being the Sabbath, they held a meeting at Hammond's, and many of the world's people attended. Elder James preached the gospel. On Monday another meeting was held, in the evening, and many people came to the house, including a company of lewd fellows who called themselves "the blackguard committee". Elder James again preached. The lights were knocked out, and three ruffians, painted black, rushed in and tried to capture Mother Ann. (see Testimonies, 2nd ed. page 74.)
9. Mother Ann and her faithful followers went back to Harvard, and visited Shirley and other nearby villages. Mother Ann left Harvard, accompanied by Mary Partington and the Elders, and went to Zaccheus Stephen's. Then they went to visit Isaac Willard, where they met Mother Lucy Wright and her former husband, Elizur Goodrich. From there they went back to David Meacham's, in Enfield, but they were forced to leave on the day of arrival, because of the threatening mob, which followed them to the ferry, about 8 miles away.
10. Crossing the river, the travelers went up to West Springfield; they re-crossed the river and put up at Scott's Tavern, in Kingston, where they stayed from Saturday until Monday. They then went to visit Amaziah Clark, in Grandby.
11. From Clark's they followed the Conn. River up to Peter Bishop's, in
12. Montague. They spent the night there, then returned down the river, five

13. miles, to Sunderland, where they crossed the river to the west bank.
14. In the latter part of March, 1782, the group went to Asa Brown's in Ashfield, where they stayed for about two months.
15. About May 29th, Mother Ann and the Elders left Ashfield and returned to Harvard, where they continued their work in Harvard, Shirley, and Woburn during part of the summer. In July, 1782, the opposition again became dangerous, and on Friday, August 16th, the leaders of
16. the Shakers left Harvard to visit Abel Jewett in Littleton.
17. On Sat. August 17th, they went on to Nathan Kendall's in Woburn.
18. Monday, August 19th, 1782 Mother Ann and the Elders left Woburn and went to William Morey's house in Norton. They stayed there about a week before starting again on their journeys.
19. From Norton the Church journeyed on to visit Morrell Baker in Rehoboth, where they stayed from eight to ten days, including a Sabbath then returned to Norton.
20. After visiting about three weeks in Norton, Mother Ann and her followers set out for Stonington, Conn.
21. At Stonington, they made their headquarters with Joshua Birch, but more mob violence forced them to leave on Friday, sometime toward the end of October, 1782.
22. That Friday night was spent at Elias Brown's house in Preston.
23. On Saturday the group left for Windham, where they stayed at Abbey's over the weekend.
24. On Monday they went to Ezekial Slate's house in Stafford, where they heard that the inhabitants of the town of Somers had forbidden them to come to, or through, that town. Mother Ann decided that she would defy them, and drove her carriage so rapidly through Somers that the natives did not know that they were passing through until they had already reached the outskirts of the town. Mother Ann and her friends went on to David Meacham's in Enfield, but the fury of the mob from that town and from Somers forced them to leave in a few days. This was in October 1782.
25. They crossed the Conn. River and went to Joseph Bennett's, in New Providence (now Cheshire) where they remained about four days.
26. From there the travellers went to Asa Brown's, in Ashfield, where they stayed until the spring of the year. They arrived in Ashfield about Nov. 1st, 1782. There were many meetings which were well attended. John Farrington counted 60 sleighs and some 600 people at one meeting.
27. On the last day of April, 1783, Ann Lee and the Elders departed from Ashfield, passed through Petersham, staying there one night and returned to Harvard. They visited in Shirley and Woburn until about June 1st. Ann Lee had a vision, while at Jeremiah Willard's, about a black man looking in the window, which warned her of grave

danger. On Sunday, June 1st, Mother Ann was at Elijah Wilds' house in Shirley when a mob surrounded the building and stayed all night in a very threatening mood. In the morning Mother Ann had Ennice and Elijah Wilds feed those of the mob who wanted food; after this breakfast there was a riot, and in thanks for the food the mob nearly choked Father James Whittaker to death. The mob took Father James and William Lee back to Harvard, after promising to protect them, and beat them unmercifully. This was the scene of "Father James' Tree", which soon withered, but stood for many years, as a reminder of the brutal treatment the two men received. Mother Ann and her followers left the vicinity in July 1783, and set off on a Saturday morning for Petersham.

THE TRIP HOME

28. Getting as far as Templeton, Mother Ann and her friends spent the night there before going on to David Hammon's in Petersham.
29. Another mob beset the leaders while they stayed with David. After spending about 12 days in constant danger and anxiety, Mother Ann and the Elders started their westward journey, crossing the Conn. River at Sunderland.
30. On Friday, July 18th, 1783, the travelers arrived at Joseph Bennett's house, in Chesire, Mass., and stayed for nearly a week, including a Sabbath.
31. Leaving Chesire, the leaders went to Richmond, where they made their headquarters at the home of Samuel Fitch, arriving there on Thurs. July 24th, 1783. They stayed there until the middle of the next week. They then went to Hancock.
32. At Hancock where they stayed with Daniel Goodrich, more mobs annoyed the Shakers. On Monday, August 4th, a huge mob, led by Valentine Rathbun, a preacher, molested the Church, so that Mother Ann returned to Samuel Fitch's, in Richmond, slipping out a back door.
33. The mob followed that night and a warrant was served on the leaders. Samuel and Dyer Fitch, and Elizur Goodrich were arrested and jailed in Barrington.
34. Mother Ann and the Elders left Richmond and returned to Hancock where, on Sunday, August 9th, they worshipped....so many people gathered to worship that three meetings had to be held. Nathan Daniel, and Ezekiel Goodrich opened their homes for these meetings, while Mother Ann stayed at Nathan's.
35. About the middle of the week, August 10th or thereabouts, Mother Ann decided to visit the Brethren in Barrington Jail, where she stayed a day or so.
36. On her return trip, Ann Lee stopped off at Elijah Slosson's, in West Stockbridge, where large meetings were held on Saturday and Sunday, August 15th and 16th, and many people from New Lebanon were visitors at these meetings.

37. On Monday, August 17th, Mother Ann went back to Samuel Fitch's, and thence to Nathan Goodrich's.
38. She stayed until Saturday, August 23rd, while more mobs, led again by Valentine Rathbun, gathered to threaten the leaders.
39. On Saturday, Mother Ann and the Elders set off for New Lebanon stopping for Dinner at Israel and Abigail Talcot's house, on the mountain between Hancock and New Lebanon. About 40 people ate dinner there, but no extra food was prepared. A miracle! After dinner they went on to David Shapley's, then on to New Lebanon.
40. They stayed at John Bishop's, thus fulfilling a prophecy that Mother Ann had made to Bishop that he would again see her in his own home. The famous orchard meeting was held here on August 24th.
41. On Monday, August 25th, the leaders left Bishop's home and went on to Hezekiah Hammond's place where they spent the evening. Late that night they went on to George Darrow's (the house was where the Darrow School meeting-house is now). On Tuesday they visited Reuben Wight. Then, with Joseph Meachem and Isaac Harlow, Mother Ann went to Josiah Skinner's, where she ate supper and held a meeting, with singing and dancing. On the same evening they went to visit John Spier (about 6 miles from John Bishop's, the way they went). They stayed there until Wed. August 27th, and on Thursday, August 28th, Indians visited them there, and Father James was enabled to converse with them in their own language, although he had no previous knowledge of it. On Friday, August 29th, Ann went to stay with Nathan Farrington, where they held an outdoor meeting. On the same evening Ann Lee visited Jabez Spencer in Stephentown.
42. On Sunday morning August 31st, they were warned of the gathering of a mob, so on Mond, Sept. 1st, 1783, Mother Ann Lee and the Elders returned to New Lanon. They stopped for a short while at Daniel Green's, about five miles from Spencer's, then one mile away, they stopped at Joshua Green's for food. They went on to Isaac Harlow's, about 8 miles from Spencer's, stayed the night and worshipped. Toward morning Hannah Keall, Lucy Wood and Mother Ann went on to George Darrow's, about five miles away. Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, the mob gathered at Darrow's for the famous New Lebanon riots.
43. Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, the meeting in the dooryard, after the riots, in the afternoon they went back to Nathan Farrington's and spent the night.

Thursday, Sept. 4th, at about ten o'clock, Mother Ann and the Elders departed for Watliet, where they arrived at 11 o'clock in the evening of Sept. 4th, 1783.

THE JOURNEY OF TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS!