

## Ross by Fire—A Brotherly Appeal

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DEAR FRIENDS AND BRETHREN,

**J**N the tendering love of God & living fellowship of y<sup>e</sup> gospel of our Lord Jesus X<sup>t</sup>, we dearly salute yow, & herby give yow to understand, That an Epistle bearing date y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> mo: last from the Quarterly Meeting of friends in Berkshire was presented to, & now read in this meeting, setting forth y<sup>e</sup> great loss w<sup>ch</sup> two friends viz Rich<sup>d</sup> Brown y<sup>e</sup> older & Richard Brown the younger his son (living in distinct families, but near together, in y<sup>e</sup> parish of Thetcham near Newberry in Berkshire) have sustained by a violent fire w<sup>ch</sup> brake forth on y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>d</sup> mo: last past, & tho it was in y<sup>e</sup> day time, & much help came in, yet hapning in y<sup>e</sup> time of y<sup>e</sup> great drowth when things were extream dry, it burnt down to y<sup>e</sup> ground all their dwelling housing & outhousing w<sup>th</sup> two malthouses ffour hundr quarters of Mault ten quarters of barly, some wheat, three thousand wood faggots & much other wood for fuel, as also Dealboards, laths & much timber (the s<sup>d</sup> Richard Brown senr being by trade a wheelwright) so y<sup>t</sup> little was Saved, but some houshold goods, & tho some of y<sup>e</sup> grain was not quite consumed to ashes, yet was it good for little or nothing. The whole loss being computed was found to amount to nine hundred & twenty pounds & upwards, whereby they, who before, through y<sup>e</sup> blessing of God on their Jndustry, were capable to exercise hospitality & charity themselves, as occasion affored, & were serviceable in their places, have now little left to support themselves & their families. The consideration of whose distressed condition having deeply affected y<sup>e</sup> friends of y<sup>t</sup> County, they have by their s<sup>d</sup> Epistle recomēded their suffering case to this Quarterly meeting, w<sup>th</sup> desire y<sup>t</sup> this meeting will recomēd y<sup>e</sup> same to all y<sup>e</sup> faithfull friends belonging to this County, y<sup>t</sup> such as desire to be rich in good works, & are ready to distribute, may not miss of so inviting an Occasion to do good & to communicate, w<sup>th</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> kind of sacrifices God is well pleased.

Which matter this meeting taking into weighty consideration, in a compassionate sense of the great losses, & thereby low condition of those our suffering brethren, do hereby recomend y<sup>e</sup> same to y<sup>e</sup> several Monthly Meetings belonging to this County, y<sup>t</sup> friends may be stirred up in Christian charity & brotherly kindnes, to contribute freely to y<sup>e</sup> help & relief of those our suffering brethren, accordingly as the Lord hath enabled them & shall open their hearts therunto. And w<sup>t</sup> shall be so contributed, let it be brought to y<sup>e</sup> next Quarterly meeting, that from thence it may be returned to those friends in Barkshire in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Epistle named & appointed to receive it. So comitting yow to y<sup>e</sup> guidance of y<sup>e</sup> good Spirit, w<sup>ch</sup> leads into & preserves in y<sup>e</sup> way of truth

We therin remain Your friends & Brethren met together at our Quarterly meeting held at Weston Turfield for y<sup>e</sup> service of y<sup>e</sup> Church of X<sup>t</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> County of Bucks this 27<sup>th</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> tenth mo. 1699.

THO: ELLWOOD  
 JOSEPH STEEVENS  
 THO. OLLIFF  
 IN<sup>o</sup> PENINGTON  
 RICHARD MARKES  
 WILLIAM MARKS  
 NICHOLAS LARCUM  
 ALEX. MERRICK  
 JOHN COOKE  
 JOSEPH ROSE  
 DANIEL WHARLEY  
 JOHN COSTARD  
 JAMES SMITH  
 THO. REDMAN  
 JOHN PUDDIVATT

JOHN BIGGES  
 JAMES ALBRIGHT  
 DANIEL DANCER  
 JOHN WEEDON  
 JOSEPH WELCH  
 HENRY TREADWAY  
 WILL: GRIMSDALL  
 THOMAS CUBBIDG  
 ZACK THORNTON  
 JOHN WHITE  
 THOMAS WHITE  
 JOSEPH ALBRIGHT  
 JOSEPH GRAVENY  
 THO: EDMONDS

[Endorsement]

(top line torn)

at Weston Turfeild Bucks for a Collection through the meetings of ffrds of this County for ffrds relief y<sup>t</sup> suffered by fire near Newberry in Berkshire. 10<sup>th</sup> mo: 1699.

Copied from the original in possession of J. Albert Bright, 1915.