

Final Assignment: Pedigree Chart Number 32 Thomas Newport

"The subject of this notice," the obituary of Thomas Newport reads, "was a man of much reading and reflection; an ardent admirer of the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, with whose religious opinions his own was in harmony. Possessed of an amiable and peaceable disposition, the tenderest sensibilities, and a most benevolent heart, he could not but attract the kindest regard of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance."¹

The date of death was 12 November 1841¹; the place was his farm three miles due northeast of Lebanon in Turtle Creek Township, Warren County, Ohio^{1,2,3}.

Thomas Newport was the eldest of the twelve children of Jesse and Elizabeth (Long) Newport^{1,4}. He claimed 6 December 1759⁵ as his birth date, Sussex County, Delaware⁵ as his birth place, and the beliefs of the Protestant Episcopal Church⁵ as those to which he was born.

In 1772, Thomas Newport's parents sold⁶ their Sussex County, Delaware, land 7,8,9,10,11 and moved to live¹² on the tract Jesse had purchased in December 1771 in "...the forest of Murtherkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware..."¹³ Here, in December 1777, the family successfully requested membership in the Society of Friends¹⁴ and Thomas became active in the Society, attending not only one but two or three local religious meeting each week¹⁵, but also the monthly business meetings in Delaware¹⁶, Western Quarterly meetings in Chester County, Pennsylvania 17,18,19, and Yearly meetings of Friends in Philadelphia¹⁵. Decades^{20,21,22} after Thomas severed his formal connection with the Society of Friends²⁰, he would maintain a close association with Friends in his capacity of Corresponding Secretary of the Ohio Peace Society from at least 1818 to 1826^{22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31}. *insert(over)

On 28 May 1783³², Thomas Newport married a fellow Quaker, Rebecca Train³², at the Friends Meetinghouse that stood about a hundred yards north of the

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corporate limits of the (now) town of Magnolia in Kent County, Delaware^{32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41}. Of the 14 children^{42,43} that Thomas would beget, five^{42,44} would die young and another was the deaf mute son of whose moral and spiritual character Thomas was so proud⁴².

The U. S. Congress had already adopted a plan for the government of the territory west of the Alleghany Mountains⁴⁵ and the Quakers had already established the Westland Meeting for worship west of these mountains in Pennsylvania^{46,47,47a} when, nine days after the death of his first born in October 1784⁴⁴, Thomas requested that his membership and that of his wife be transferred westward⁴⁸. Hopewell, just north of Winchester, Virginia⁴⁹ was the nearest business meeting to Westland at this time and that was his request⁴⁸. From the Friend's minutes, it is apparent that Thomas and Rebecca left Delaware without the certificate of removal⁵⁰ and were received not at Hopewell, but Westland after a business meeting had been opened there in 1785⁵¹. In 1786 his name is found not only in the Westland Friends records⁵¹ but in the tax lists of Fayette County, Pennsylvania⁵².

Here, in June 1788, Thomas purchased a town lot on Front Street in Brownsville⁵³. In January 1792 Thomas and Rebecca sold this property⁵⁴ and purchased 103 acres⁵⁵ a short distance south of their town lot but still in the area now Brownsville Township^{56,57,58,58a,58b}. Leaving four children⁵⁹, Rebecca died^{5,59} between 12 December 1792^{60,61} and 25 September 1793²⁰ when it was reported that Thomas and another Quaker, Mary Evans, had been married by a magistrate *and too soon after the decease of his former wife.*²⁰

Between May 1796 and September 1797, Thomas and Mary sold this Pennsylvania land^{62,63,64} and moved their family⁶⁵ to what is now Ohio where Thomas, *was one of hundreds*⁶⁵ who *land he purchased is now the* purchased land⁶⁵. *The* southern most part of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base⁶⁹ in Bath Township Greene County about a mile south of the meandering Mad River⁷⁰; However, when Thomas paid his 1798 taxes⁷¹, it was a part of Dayton Township of Hamilton County of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio^{71,72}.

65,66,67,68

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While Thomas is reported to have already been in Warren County, Ohio, when it was created from Hamilton County in 1803^{73,74,75}, and to have established himself here by 1805⁷⁶, he does not appear on the tax lists of this county until 1806⁷⁷. In 1809 he briefly owned land^{78,79} here, but it was not until 1817 that he bought⁸⁰ the farm northeast of Lebanon that would not only be his permanent home^{2,80} but also belong to Mary until her death sometime in the spring of 1847² before the 27th of April⁸¹.

Towards the end of his life Thomas would write about his farm^{21,82,83} and describe his life; for example, in February 1836, he would relate that Mary ("...in her 75(th year) from the 12 of November .."²¹) for breakfast would have "...a little piece of light bread no butter. I drink 2 cups of good coffee, a piece of toast and butter and a little apple butter but Mary has cleared away the table, milked her 2 cows. We delight in living alone and doing our little work always helping one another....I belong to the temperate class...only a little some times as medicine..."²¹

Thomas gives 1790²¹ as the date he first read any of the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg which resulted in his conversion²¹ from the Society of Friends to a new Society: Swedenborgianism²¹. (The first public proclamation anywhere in the world of the theological views of this Swedish scientist was in Philadelphia in June 1784⁸⁴ where, later that year, the first of Swedenborg's theological books arrived in America and were sold at public auction⁸⁴. In Baltimore the first American sermon was delivered in 1792⁸⁵, the first American ordination occurred in 1798⁸⁶, and the first building for worship was consecrated in 1800⁸⁷. *By 1817* ⁸⁸ ~~The~~ first of the Annual Conventions of the Church convened in Philadelphia ~~in 1817~~⁸⁸ and *the mechanism of corresponding Secretaries was formed for opening and maintaining* Thomas was the first Swedenborgian in the territory now Ohio⁸⁹ and the tenth American to be ordained one of their Ministers^{86,90}. Delighting in singing¹⁵, in 1810⁹¹ he compiled and caused to be printed in Lebanon, Ohio, by a "...particular friend..."²² the first American publication devoted solely to Swedenborgian Hymns⁹².

communications among Swedenborgians throughout the U.S. ⁸⁸

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Within months of the establishment of the first two formal Swedenborgian Societies in Ohio (Cincinnati and Steubenville⁹³) in 1811⁹³, in January 1812^{5, 93, 94} Thomas established the Turtle Creek Society⁵ and, in 1816⁵, with his own books^{22, 23, 94} and some sent to him by Swedenborgians in Philadelphia^{22, 94, 94a}, he established the first free library for the circulation of Swedenborg literature in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky^{5, 59, 94}. In 1817¹ he established the Western Association to embrace the Turtle Creek Society and the Society in Indiana at the falls of the Ohio River⁵²²; at one time over 200 would come for meetings of the Association which were "...held in a handsome grove..."⁹⁵ on Thomas' farm⁹⁵. ← insert ①

In February 1818 Thomas wrote: "I formerly traveled considerably also in the Ministry of the Word, and always bore my own expenses.... I am so infirm in body that I cannot ride any length of time..."²² His ^{note: letter 27 Aug 1819 he preached Urbana/Springfield} last reported tour, later that year⁹⁵, was an eight day 100 mile trip to settlements along the southern Ohio and Indiana border^{95, 95b, 95c, 95d}.

← insert ② And, ^{recognizes ministers who} his letters, ^{among those who asked him how} ~~travelling~~. In 1826 he wrote³¹ that he had written over 1,612 letters as Corresponding Secretary of the Church and Corresponding Secretary of the Ohio Peace Society. The difficulties under which these letters were written can be imagined from his simple direct statement in ^a ~~one~~ surviving letter: "The ink freezes in my pen. I must lay it by for this evening."³¹ ^{And also wherever, Swedenborgians would travel to visit} "Father Newport and his Mary"⁸² and would report "...the pleasure of seeing our aged and primitive brother Newport whose praise was heard from the lips of all his neighbors."⁹⁶

And, "We received an earnest welcome from the loving old couple...The simplicity and innocence that appeared in every word and action were as beautiful as they are rare in this world. They talked almost incessantly, sometimes one, sometimes the other, and then for a moment both together, telling of their life, and of the Church..."⁸²

last # ←

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notes:

1. Lebanon (Ohio) Western Star, 19 November 1841, p.3 (Ohio Historical Society Library Archives microfilm # 19248).
2. Estate of Thomas Newport, Clerk of Common Pleas Court "Chancery Record," vol. 13, pp.190-203, Warren County Courthouse, Lebanon, Ohio (LDS microfilm # 1031416).
3. Frank A. Bone, "Map of Warren County Ohio," Complete Atlas of Warren County Ohio (Lebanon, Ohio: Frank A. Bone, 1891), plate 13: scale (ca 1:144,823), 36 x 24 cm.
4. Society of Friends Duck Creek Monthly Meeting, "Monthly Meeting Records 1705-1846," n.d., Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., 108, 137, 411 (LDS microfilm # 20390).
5. Thomas Newport letter "To the Editors of The Precursor," 19 January 1840, The Precursor 3 (June 1842): 160.
6. Worcester County Maryland Clerk of the Circuit Court, "Land Records Liber I," Maryland State Archives, Hall of Records, Annapolis. Md., 61-63 (LDS microfilm # 14537).
7. Walter A. Powell. "Fight of a Century Between the Penns and Calverts," Maryland Historical Magazine 29 (June 1934): 94, 100-01.
8. Clayton Torrence, Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland (1935; reprint. Baltimore, Md.: Regional Publishing Co., 1966), 427.
9. Dr. George W. Marshall, "Memoir of Brigadier-General John Dagworthy of the Revolutionary War," vol. 2 Historical and Biographical Papers (Wilmington, Del.: Historical Society of Delaware, 1895), 3-26.
10. Maryland State Archives, "Checklist of Indexes ... (at the)Maryland State Archives," 1986, Maryland State Archives, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md. ("Land Office (3 x 5 card) Index to Patentee 1634-1985" (Index # 54) and "Land Office (3 x 5 card) Index to Tracts 1634-1985" (Index # 55) but not in (tax) "Assessment

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11. Worcester County Maryland Clerk of the Circuit Court, "Land Records Liber E," Maryland State Archives, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md., 378-79 (LDS microfilm # 14535).
 12. Kent County Delaware Levy Court Commissioners, "Tax Lists 1726-1777," Kent County Courthouse, Dover, Del., no p.# (but lists for 1772-1777 inclusive)(LDS microfilm # 6494).
 13. Kent County Delaware Recorder of Deeds, "Book T1," Kent County Courthouse, Dover, Del., 193-95 (LDS microfilm # 6456).
 14. (same document as note 4), 286, 288, 289. (I miss op. cit.; can I get away with this if I don't overdo it?)
 15. Thomas Newport letter to Eli Baldwin, 6 June 1836, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, Mss. 2097 "Baldwin Family Papers".
 16. (same document as note 4), 298, 306, 309, 317, 351, 391.
 17. Ibid., 310, 351.
 18. Society of Friends, "Western Quarterly Meeting Minutes," n.d., Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College Swarthmore, Pa., 12, 44.
 19. T. ^{James} Chalkley Matlack, "Brief Historical Sketches Concerning Friends' Meetings of the Past and Present with Special Reference to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting," vol. 3 1938, The Quaker Collection, Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pa., 737.
 20. Society of Friends Redstone Monthly Meeting, "Minutes," n.d. (but typescript), Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., no p. # (but entries for 27 September, 25 October, 22 November, 27 December all 1793 and 24 January 1794).
 21. Thomas Newport letter to Eli Baldwin, 6 February 1836. Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, Mss. 2097 "Baldwin Family Papers".
 22. Thomas Newport. Corresponding Secretary, letter to Mr. Condy Raguet, Corresponding Secretary American Society for Disseminating the Doctrines of the New Jerusalem

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- Church, 23 February 1818, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
23. Vernal Report of the Western Association for the Dissemination of the Bible Doctrines of the New Jerusalem Church Principles, 4 April 1818, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
23a (over)
24. Thomas Newport, Corresponding Secretary Ohio Peace Society, letter to the Rev. Bishop and other Clergy of the Methodist Church in General Conference, 6 March 1820, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
25. Thomas Carroll letter to Thomas Newport, Corresponding Secretary Ohio Peace Society, 27 Oct 1820, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
26. Thomas Carroll letter to Thomas Newport, Corresponding Secretary Ohio Peace Society, 1 January 1821, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
27. John E. Foulke letter to Thomas Newport, Corresponding Secretary Ohio Peace Society, 25 August 1821, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
28. Bevin Bates letter to Thomas Newport, Corresponding Secretary Ohio Peace Society, 24 September 1822, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
29. Henry Holcombe letter to Thomas Newport, Corresponding Secretary Ohio Peace Society, 24 March 1823, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
30. Ibid., 21 January 1824.
- 31a. over
31. Thomas Newport letter to Rev. Mr. Holley and Hurdus, 24 January 1826, ~~Archives~~ of the Academy of the New Church, ^{Library Archives} Bryn Athyn, Pa.
32. (same document as note 4), 137.
33. David H. Burr, "Delaware and Maryland," A Universal Atlas Comprising Separate Maps of All the Principal Empires, Kingdoms, and States Throughout the World and Forming a Distinct Atlas of the United States (N.Y.: D.S. Stone, (1835?)) plate 41: scale (ca 1:1,192,659), col., 25 x 31 cm.

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34. John Thomas Scharf, History of Delaware 1609-1888, vol. 2 (1888; reprint, Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1972) no p. # (map of Delaware), 1130, 1134, 1153.
35. Jacob Price and Samuel M. Rea, A Map of the State of Delaware From Original Surveys (Philadelphia, Pa.: Robert P. Smith publisher, P.S. Duval printer, 1850), scale 1:130,000, 136 x 85 cm, Library of Congress Delaware maps.
36. Hazel Wright Reynolds, Flower of Caroon Manor (Baltimore, Md.: Gateway Press, Inc., 1982), 101, 103, 179-86.
37. T^{Thomas} Chalkley Matlack, "Brief Historical Sketches Concerning Friends' Meetings of the Past and Present with Special Reference to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting," vol. 3 1938, The Quaker Collection, Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pa., 700-06 and map no p. # (but titled "Southern Quarter").
38. (Delaware) State Highway Department, Official Road Map of the State of Delaware (Chester, Vt.: National Survey Co., 1938), scale (ca 1:244,280), col., 68 x 40 cm, Library of Congress Delaware road maps.
39. Michael Richards letter to Joy Jepson, 26 February 1987, original in the files of Joy Jepson, Silver Spring, Md.
40. U.S. ^{Department of the Interior} Geological Survey, Frederica Delaware Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) (Reston, Va.: U.S.G.S., 1956 photorevised 1982), scale 1:24,000, col., 58 x 45 cm.
41. Arthur Ray Dunlap, Dutch and Swedish Place-Names in Delaware (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1956), 41-42.
42. Thomas Newport letter to Eli Baldwin, 2 September 1837, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, Mss. 2097 "Baldwin Family Papers".
43. Will of Thomas Newport, Probate Court "Will Record 9," pp. 152-54, Warren County Courthouse, Lebanon, Ohio (LDS microfilm # 384225).
44. (same document as note 4), 138.

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45. Richard B. Morris, ed., Encyclopedia of American History (N.Y.: Harper and Brothers, 1953), 112.
46. Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends, Hopewell Friends History 1734-1934 (Strasburg, Va.: Shenandoah Publishing House, Inc., 1936), 86, 87.
47. T. ^{James} Chalkley Matlack, "Brief Historical Sketches Concerning Friends' Meetings of the Past and Present with Special Reference to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting," vol. 3 1938, The Quaker Collection, Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pa., map no p. # (but titled "Western Quarter of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting").
over 47a
48. (same document as note 4), 394.
49. Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends, Hopewell Friends History 1734-1934 (Strasburg, Va.: Shenandoah Publishing House, Inc., 1936), map no p. # (but titled "Hopewell and Immediate Vicinity").
50. (same document as note 4), 395-406, 408-14.
51. William Wade Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, vol. 4 (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1946), 17, 51, 52.
52. William Henry Engle, ed., Pennsylvania Archives, 3d series vol. 22 (Harrisburg, (n.s.): William Stanley Ray printer, 1897), 617.
53. Fayette County Pennsylvania Recorder of Deeds, "Deeds B," Fayette County Courthouse, Uniontown, Pa., 4-5 (LDS microfilm # 863548).
54. Ibid., 173-74.
55. Ibid., 178.
56. William Franklin Horn, "Brownsville and Redstone Townships Fayette County," The Horn Papers, vol. 3 (N.Y.: The Hagstrom Co., 1945), plate 2: no scale. 48 x 41 cm.
57. Franklin Ellis, ed., History of Fayette County Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pa.: L.H. Everts and Co., 1882), 424, 425.
58. G M. Hopkins and Co., Atlas of the County of Fayette and the State of

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Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pa.: G.M.Hopkins and Co., 1872), 7.

58a, 58b (over)

59. Thomas Newport letter to Eli Baldwin. 10 April 1837, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, Mss. 2097 "Baldwin Family Papers".
60. Warren County Historical Society, comp., "Warren County Ohio Cemetery Records," vol. 11 "Lebanon Cemetery." 1969, The Library of the National Society, Daughters of The American Revolution, Washington, D. C., 1, 13.
61. ^{The} History Warren County Ohio (Chicago, Ill.: W.H Beers and Co., 1882), 1027.
62. Fayette County Pennsylvania Recorder of Deeds, "Deeds C2," Fayette County Courthouse, Uniontown, Pa., 656-57 (LDS microfilm # 863549)
63. Fayette County Pennsylvania Recorder of Deeds, "Deeds C3," Fayette County Courthouse, Uniontown, Pa., 1083-84 (LDS microfilm # 863550).
64. Fayette County Pennsylvania Recorder of Deeds, "Deeds D," Fayette County Courthouse, Uniontown, Pa., 31 (LDS microfilm # 863551).
65. 13 July 1799 Petition to Congress by Citizens of Hamilton County Ohio, U.S.Archives, Washington, D. C., Record Group 233: Records of the U.S. House of Representatives 6th Congress, 1st Session (published as: Clarence Edwin Carter, comp. and ed., The Territorial Papers of the U.S., vol. 3 (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1934). 29-35.
66. Richard Peters, Esq., The Public Statutes at Large of the U. S. of A., vol. 2 (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1845). 112-14.
67. Cincinnati Credit Prior Final Certificate File 965, U.S. Archives Civil Archives Division, Suitland, Md., Record Group 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management.
68. Beverly W Bond, Jr., ed., The Correspondence of John Cleves Symmes (N.Y.: The Macmillan Co., 1926), 16-23.
69. U.S.Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Fairborn Ohio Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)(Reston, Va.: U.S.G.S. 1965 photorevised 1988),

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scale 1:24,000, col., 58 x 45 cm.

70. L.H.Everts, "Map of Bath Township Town 3 Range 8." Combination Atlas Map of Greene County Ohio (Chicago, Ill.: L.H.Everts and Co., 1874), plate 56: scale (ca 1:31,680) 42 x 32 cm.
71. The History of Montgomery County Ohio (Chicago, Ill.: W. H.Beers and Co., 1882), 278-82.
72. John H. Long, ed., Historical Atlas and Chronology of County Boundaries, 1788-1980, vol. 2 (Boston, Mass.: G.K.Hall and Co., 1984), 22, 275, 319.
73. Ibid., 377.
74. ^{The} History of Warren County Ohio (Chicago, Ill.: W.H.Beers and Co., 1882), 215-17.
75. Ophia D. Smith, "Adam Hurdus and the Swedenborgians in Early Cincinnati," The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly 53 (April-June 1944): 110.
76. ^{The} History of Warren County Ohio (Chicago, Ill.: W.H.Beers and Co., 1882), 261.
77. Ronald Vern Jackson and Gary Ronald Teeples, eds., Index to Ohio Tax Lists 1800-1810 (Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing System, Inc., 1977), no p. # (but page with surname Newport).
78. Warren County Ohio Recorder's Office, "Deeds Volume 3," Warren County Courthouse, Lebanon, Ohio, 18-19 (LDS microfilm # 391047).
79. Ibid., 44-45.
80. Warren County Ohio Recorder's Office. "Deeds Volume 6," Warren County Courthouse, Lebanon, Ohio, 370-71 (LDS microfilm # 391049).
81. Inventory of Estate of Thomas Newport at the death of Mary Newport, Warren County Ohio Probate Court, Warren County Courthouse, Lebanon, Ohio, "Record," vol. 10, pp. 573-75 (LDS microfilm # 965580).
82. Rev. John Randolph Hibbard, "Reminiscences of a Pioneer--XI," New-Jerusalem Messenger 44 (23 May 1883): 292-93
83. Carl Theophilus Odhner, Annals of the New Church (Bryn Athyn, Pa.: Academy

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of the New Church, 1904), 412, 440-41.

84. Ibid., 121-22.

85. Ibid., 165.

86. Ibid., 189-90.

87. Ibid., 195.

88. Ibid., 257.

89. Ibid., 152.

90. Ibid., 229, 250, 251, 256, 257, 265.

91. Hymn and Spiritual Songs for the use of the Christian Church Extracted from Joseph Proud's Composition (Lebanon, Ohio: Nathaniel McClean, 1810) (photocopy thereof provided by Urbana University Library, Urbana, Ohio, and in the files of Joy Jepson, Silver Spring, Md.).

92. Milo G. Williams. "Biographical Sketches of Early New Churchmen of Ohio and Indiana: The Reverend Thomas Newport," New-Church Messenger 55 (8 Aug 1888): 90.

93. W. Roberts, "Annals of the New Church in America," New Jerusalem Magazine 44 (February 1872): 396.

94. New Jerusalem Church, Reprint of the Early Journals of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem Church, part 2 (Boston, (n.s.): The General Convention, 1889), 56-57.

over: 94a

95. Robert Hinmarsh, Rise and Progress of the New Jerusalem Church (London: Hodson and Son, 1861), 305-06.

over: 95a, 95b, 95c, 95d, 95e

96. New Jerusalem Church, Reprint of the Early Journals of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem Church, part 2 (Boston, (n.s.): The General Convention, 1889),

88.

97. Thomas Newport letter to Eli Baldwin, 5 September 1834, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, MSS. 2097 "Baldwin Family Papers."

98. Thomas Newport letter to Eli Baldwin, 30 March 1835, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, MSS. 2097 "Baldwin Family Papers."