

Walker in Steelhouse Lane. There is a tradition that George Whitfield also preached in the same house when in Birmingham in October 1753. It is probable that the site of this house subsequently formed a part of the site on which Ebenezer Chapel now stands, which (if it were so) would thus have received early consecration.

It is interesting to add that the Methodists subsequently removed from Steelhouse Lane in 1764 to a disused theatre in Moor Street, which was opened for worship by John Wesley, and finally found a home in 1782 in the first chapel erected in Cherry Street, which also was opened by John Wesley. The later Cherry Street Chapel taken down for town improvement purposes was erected in 1823.

Almost contemporary in date was the formation of a Society of Baptists, which, originating in Bromsgrove, consisted at first of seventeen persons who met in a room in High Street, and subsequently growing in numbers purchased a plot of land forming part of Guest's cherry orchard, and in 1738 built a meeting-house in a road afterwards known as Cannon Street—a small society of Baptists which had existed for several years in Freeman Street, afterwards merging into the Cannon Street congregation.

Resuming the history of Carr's Lane meeting-house, after a succession of ministers, the Rev. Edward Williams, D.D., became minister in 1793 and remained till 1796. He was notably one of a little band who formed the London Missionary Society. To him succeeded the Rev. Jehoida Brewer, and it was during his ministry that the original meeting-house in Carr's Lane, which had existed from 1747, was replaced by a more prominent building which was opened for worship in 1802.

Towards the close of this year from some unknown cause a dispute arose amongst the society worshipping in Carr's Lane Meeting-house and grew to such proportions that the minister, the Rev. Jehoida Brewer, withdrew and with him the majority of the members and amongst them persons of influence and standing.

From this point the history of the section of Dissenters now worshipping in Ebenezer Chapel is supplemented by existing records.

The section of Carr's Lane Society which followed the fortunes of the Rev. J. Brewer found a temporary home in a disused circus in Livery Street. This circus had been previously occupied by the congregations of the Old and New Meeting when in 1792 they were burnt out of their chapels by a riotous "Church and King" mob. Their place of refuge thus became known as the "Union Chapel."

The seceders from Carr's Lane have left on record of the date of June 1803 a basis of Association remarkable for the boldness of assertion of Congregational principles as opposed to ministerial domination, and for the breadth of Christian brotherliness and charity.

The earliest record extant is a memorial to the Rev. Jehoida Brewer, as follows:

Birmingham, Jan. 18, 1803.

To the Rev. Jehoida Brewer.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—We the undersigned Protestant Dissenters of the Independent Denomination beg leave affectionately to represent to you that we very highly esteem your character and value your ministry, that we much lament and regret the interruption of your labours and the loss we have sustained thereby, and that it is our hearty wish and earnest request that you would resume your ministerial work amongst us and again preach to us who have long sat under your ministry with great delight and satisfaction, the good word of life. Feeling, as we hope to do, a love to the cause of Religion in general, having long observed, and still observing, a constant, numerous and serious attendance on the public work