

**ELIZABETH TAPRELL
CHINA TAPRELL
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Memorial 39

This headstone commemorates China Taprell, his wife Elizabeth and their infant daughter, also called Elizabeth, who died at the age of two.

China Taprell, who died in November 1828, aged 59, was a joiner¹. He does not appear as an independent tradesman in Pigot's Directory of Exeter of 1822/3, but his address was in the area of The (Cathedral) Close.

He married Elizabeth Cann on 11th January 1795 at St Mary Arches church in Exeter². They had a daughter, Mary, who was baptised on 1st November 1795 at St Mary Major³ and their younger daughter, Elizabeth, was born on 2nd February 1800 and baptised at the Castle Street Independent chapel, Exeter, on 22nd March 1801.⁴

According to the inscription on the headstone the infant Elizabeth died on 27th January 1804 aged 2 years. However there is a discrepancy here with her date of birth in February 1800. The account book for the Dissenter's Graveyard shows a payment of 8 shillings from Tapperell for breaking the ground for the burial of his child on 1st February 1802⁵. It is probable therefore that she died on 27th January 1802 and that the headstone, which was not erected until 1817, is incorrect.

Elizabeth, China's wife, who is also on this memorial, was buried on 27th April 1835, aged 69, and was still living in The Close at the time of her death⁶.

Their elder daughter Mary Taprell never married, and was shown in the censuses from 1841 to 1871 as living alone in The (Cathedral) Close, working as a corset maker⁷. She died in 1872, aged 78.⁸

Note the surname Taprell is frequently spelled Taperell.

B G Coe June 2014

¹England & Wales Non-conformist Burials: Devon: Exeter, George's Meeting (Presbyterian) Births Baptisms & Burials TNA/RG/4/1085) accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

²Devon Marriages. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

³Devon Baptisms. Archive Reference 2945A/PR/1/4 South West Heritage Trust. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk July 2017

⁴England & Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970. Piece 1205 Exeter, Castle Street (Independent) 1798-1817. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk June 2017

⁵Report and Account Book of Dissenter's Burial Ground 1748-1832 DRO3693D/0/B/1

⁶England & Wales Non-conformist Burials: Devon: Exeter, George's Meeting (Presbyterian) Births Baptisms & Burials TNA/RG/4/1085) accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

⁷1841 England census: Class: HO107; Piece: 266; Book: 4; Folio: 16; Page: 37.

1851 England census: Class: HO107; Piece: 1868; Folio: 312; Page: 13

1861 England census: Class: RG9; Piece: 1935; Folio: 15; Page 24

1871 England census: Class: RG10; Piece: 2063; Folio: 42; Page: 20 Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk June 2017

⁸England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk July 2017

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