

Georgiana Beckwith GILCHRIST died 15 July 1829

Georgiana Beckwith GILCHRIST was born in 1809 in St John's parish, Antigua, West Indies.

The Western Times, 18 July 1829 states, under 'Deaths' that Georgiana died on "Wednesday last, at Teignmouth, of a decline, Georgiana Beckwith Gilchrist, youngest daughter of William Gilchrist Esq. of Antigua".

At the time of her death, her parents and siblings were still living in Antigua¹. The reason for Georgiana to be in Devon remains a mystery. The sum of 8/- for the grave was paid on the day of her burial (18 July 1829) and a further amount of 10/6 on 23 July 1829 for the headstone. However, there is no information to show by whom these amounts were paid.²

Georgiana was the daughter of William and Maria Gilchrist (birth name – Rebecca Maria Harriet Gray). Both William and Maria were born in Antigua. Her two older brothers, William and James, died before their first birthdays. She had two older sisters, Elizabeth Grace, born 1801 and Jane Maria, born 1805.¹

William Gilchrist whose father, John, was a Surgeon³, was a Sugar Plantation owner who, along with his brother, James, owned many slaves.⁴ He died on 29 April 1831.

Though not entirely relevant to Georgiana, it is interesting to note that in 1832, her Uncle James was put on trial in Antigua for refusing to furnish slaves under his charge with the "*legal allowances of food and clothing*". The jury found him Guilty but there were disagreements between Members of the Court and the Guilty verdict was nullified.⁴

References

1. MATSON's & HART's Family Tree (Ancestry.co.uk)
2. Accounts Book & Burial Ledger for Exeter Dissenters Graveyard (EDGT)
3. History of the Island of Antigua – The Gilchrist family (ebook – online)
4. The Tourist: A Literary and Anti-slavery Journal 1832 – full report taken from Antigua Weekly Register 09 October 1832 (ebook – online)