

NATHANIEL BOWRING died 1781
SUSANNA BOWRING died 1809
HARRIET JANE BOWRING died 1824
WILLIAM BOWRING died 1827
JENNY BOWRING died 1827

Memorial 64

Nathaniel Bowring was the third son of Benjamin Bowring¹ and the younger brother of John Bowring who is commemorated on Memorial 19. Benjamin Bowring married Elizabeth Drewe (nee Hole) in 1735 at Exeter Cathedral.² Benjamin had become a freeman of the city of Exeter in 1734 after his apprenticeship as a fuller with John Rice.³ Nathaniel was born in 1741⁴ and was also trained as a fuller. He married Susanna White at St David's Parish Church in Exeter on 9 June 1764.⁵ The memorial states that Nathaniel died on 11 June 1781 when he was forty years old. There is no entry in the burial register or the Burial Grounds Report and Account book for this date. An entry on 14 June 1782 however records that 2/- was paid for "Opening Grave for Mr Bowring."⁶ There is no corresponding entry in the burial registers. The Articles of Clerkship for Nathaniel's son, William Bowring, were signed on 29 May 1782 and state that Nathaniel was present at the time.⁷ It is not clear therefore whether he died in June 1781 or June 1782. Arthur Wardle's book on Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants says that Benjamin "...was only three years old when his father, Nathaniel, died at the comparatively early age of forty years and was buried at the Magdalen Street burial ground connected with the George's Meeting House in that city. All Nathaniel Bowring's family with the exception of Benjamin, were buried here."⁸

Nathaniel's wife, Susanna, lived until she was 74 years old. She had been baptised in Moretonhampstead on the 9 February 1735⁹, the daughter of Edward White. The burial register records "Susanna Bowring. Widow of Nathaniel Bowring - (Mother of William Bowring, Attorney) whose maiden name was White, a Native of Moretonhampstead. Resided for some years previous to her death at her son's House in Bartholomew Yard, Exeter. Died after a few days illness, at her son's House, August 27 and was buried August 31, 1809"¹⁰ Her death was reported in the Exeter Flying Post on Thursday 31st August 1809 - "Sunday last died, at an advanced age, Mrs Bowring, widow of the late Mr Nathaniel Bowring, of this city, fuller"¹¹ Susanna left three children when she died, William, Benjamin and Harriet.

Nathaniel and Susanna's son, William, became a well-respected lawyer. He lived and practiced in Exeter, at Bartholomew's Yard. He married Jenny Fouracre at St David's Church in Exeter on 16

¹ Wardle Arthur C, (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants"; Hodder and Stoughton, London

² thegenealogist.co.uk accessed on 31.05.2017

³ Rowe, Margery M & Andrew M Jackson (Eds) "Exeter Freemen 1266 - 1967" James Townsend & Sons Ltd, Exeter, 1973

⁴ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and his descendants" Hodder & Stoughton, London

⁵ Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 25.08.17

⁶ Dissenters Burial Ground; Report, Account etc, 1782 to 1832, 3693D/0/B/1, Devon Heritage Centre

⁷ Articles of Clerkship, 1756 - 1874, accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 28.08.2017

⁸ Wardle Arthur C, (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants"; Hodder and Stoughton, London, Page 33

⁹ moretonhampsted.org.uk accessed on 30.08.2017

¹⁰ RG4/336 Exeter Mint (Presbyterian) 1719 - 1810, accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 25/08/2017

¹¹ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 31 August 1809, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 25.08.2017

May 1790.¹² Less than a month later on 12 June 1790 William became a Freeman of the City of Exeter - "June 12 1790 William Bowring of St Kerrian, gent, son of Nathaniel Bowring, fuller, by succession."¹³ William and Jenny had three daughters Frances, Mary Bodger and Harriet. Frances was born on 31 March 1791 and baptised at her parent's house on 14 August 1791. The family lived in the parish of St Kerrian.¹⁴ Two years later Mary Bodger Bowring was born on 2 March 1793 and was baptised on 19 January 1794.¹⁵ Their third daughter, Harriet, was baptised at her parent's house in St Kerrian on 8 March 1795 following her birth on 4 February 1795.¹⁶

William's abilities and interests were wide. He was a parochial commissioner and represented the parish of All-Hallows-in-the-Wall. In 1793 he recorded in shorthand the celebrated trial for seditious speech of William Winterbotham and this account was published the following year.¹⁷ William "...served as clerk to the Exeter Commissioners and as secretary of the Royal Lancasterian School, later known as the Exeter British School Society. His name appears frequently in old records of that city, and he subscribed liberally to local charities."¹⁸ "A firm upholder of the cause against African slavery, he was also a staunch opponent of the property tax and a champion of the cause of religious toleration."¹⁹ In 1822 William subscribed to a book on "A Natural and Chemical Treatise on Agriculture". William and his wife Jenny both died in 1827 and were buried in the Chest Tomb marked by Memorial 64.²⁰

The final person commemorated on this memorial is Harriet Jane Bowring who died on 15 April 1824 when she was 11 years old. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Charlotte Bowring and the granddaughter of Nathaniel and Susanna Bowring. Benjamin was three years old when his father died. Following Nathaniel's death Benjamin attended the academy attached to the Unitarian Chapel in Moretonhampstead where his mother's family lived.²¹ Sir John Bowring attended the same school ten years later and said that the roads were not passable by wheel carriages around Moretonhampstead and that ..."everything was conveyed to and from Exeter on 'crooks' - bent branches of trees which were fastened to pack saddles..."²² Benjamin trained as a watchmaker and married Charlotte Price on 8 October 1803 in Wellington, Somerset. She was the daughter of Charles Price of Wivelscombe, Somerset who was also a watchmaker. At the time of

¹² Devon Marriages accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 30.08.2017

¹³ Rowe Marger M & Jackson Andrew M Eds. (1973) "Exeter Freeman 1266 - 1967" James Townsend & Sons Ltd., Exeter, Page 324.

¹⁴ RG4/0336 England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567 - 1970, Exeter, Mint (Presbyterian), 1719 - 1810 accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 31.08.2017

¹⁵ England, Select Births & Christenings, 1538 - 1975, accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 31.08.2017

¹⁶ RG4/0336 England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567 - 1970, Exeter, Mint (Presbyterian), 1719 - 1810 accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 31.08.2017

¹⁷ "The Trial of Wm Winterbotham, Assistant Preacher at How's Lane Meeting, plymouth; Before the Hon. Baron Perryn and a special jury. At Exeter; On the 25th of July, 1793 for Seditious Words Taken in Short Hand by Mr Wm Bowring." London, Printed for William Winterbotham, 1794

¹⁸ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and His Descendants", Hodder & Stoughton, London, Page 28

¹⁹ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and His Descendants", Hodder & Stoughton, London, Page 29

²⁰ RG4/1085 Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) Burials 1824 - 1837, accessed on ancestry.co.uk 28.08.2017

²¹ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and His Descendants", Hodder & Stoughton, London, Page 34

²² Wardle, Arthur C (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and His Descendants", Hodder & Stoughton, London, Page 34

the marriage Benjamin was living in All Hallows parish in Exeter.²³ Benjamin and Charlotte had three sons and their daughter, Harriet Jane. In his book 'Benjamin Bowring and His Descendants' Arthur Wardle states that Benjamin and Charlotte had three sons but does not mention Harriet's birth or death both of which are recorded in the registers in Exeter. Harriet Jane was baptised on 11 April 1813 shortly after her birth on 28 March 1813.²⁴ Benjamin had opened his first shop in Exeter in 1803 just before his wedding. In 1811 Charlotte and an assistant were left to look after the shop while Benjamin travelled to Newfoundland to establish a similar business there. Benjamin moved between the two countries over the next four years before closing his business in Exeter at Christmas 1815. In 1816 "...Benjamin Bowring and his wife, with their three sons, sailed by one of the first vessels of the season for Newfoundland."²⁵ No mention is made of Harriet and whether she travelled with them. An entry on 17 April 1824 in the Dissenters Burial Ground Report and Accounts Book reads "Cave for Mr W Bowring to inter his niece - daughter of Mr B Bowring. Leave to erect a tomb"²⁶ Two payments were received by the Graveyard; one for £1.10.00 and one for £2.2.0. Harriet Jane was buried on 21 April 1824.²⁷

Although Benjamin Bowring did not return from Newfoundland to live in Exeter his eldest surviving son Charles Trick Bowring married Harriet Harvey at Moretonhampstead on 13 April 1833.²⁸ Harriet was the daughter of George and Susanna Harvey and was baptised in Moretonhampstead on 17 February 1811.²⁹ Charles' younger brother, Edward, also married into a family from Moretonhampstead. In 1844 he married Emma White the daughter of Edward White. There is a memorial to Edward Bowring and his wife Emma at the Unitarian Chapel burial ground in Cross Street, Moretonhampstead. The family were living in Moretonhampstead at the time of the 1861 Census but they both later died in Surrey.

B G Coe August 2014

T Varndell Amended and extended August 2017

²³ Somerset Marriages Index Transcription, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 31.08.2017

²⁴ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting 1687 - 1823, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 30.08.2017

²⁵ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) "Benjamin Bowring and His Descendants", Hodder & Stoughton, London, Page 40

²⁶ Dissenters Burial Ground; Report, Account etc, 1782 to 1832, 3693D/0/B/1, Devon Heritage Centre

²⁷ RG4/1085 Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) Burials 1824 - 1837, accessed on ancestry.co.uk 28.08.2017

²⁸ England, Select Marriages, 1538 - 1973, accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 31.08.2017

²⁹ RG4/444 Moretonhampstead, Cross Meeting, Presbyterian, 1672 - 1836 accessed on ancestry.co.uk 31.08.2017