

ELIZABETH GOVE died 13th November 1809
ELIZABETH HAWKINS GOVE died September 1811

Memorial 83

When the 2014 transcription of this memorial was recorded it was noted that in places it was barely legible. The upper half consisted of broken stone and it was classified as a "Headstone (floating)".¹ Only one person - Elizabeth Gove who died in 1809 - was thought to be commemorated on the memorial. The 1894 transcription suggests however that originally there were two names on the headstone "Elizabeth wife of Philip Gove, Nov 23 1809, 77 years . Also Elizabeth dau. of the above".² The transcriptions undertaken in 2014 do not include one for this memorial but the bottom half of the memorial was found during the renovation work in the graveyard in 2016.

Elizabeth Hawkins married Philip Gove on 30 June 1793 at Holy Trinity Church in Exeter. The register says that they were both living in Holy Trinity Parish at the time.³ Their first child, Charlotte, was born the following January and baptised at Bow Meeting on 2nd February 1794.⁴ Following Charlotte's birth Elizabeth had another six children, five girls and one boy. All of the children were baptised at Bow Meeting.⁵

Elizabeth's husband, Philip Gove, was a school master at Tuckers Hall in Exeter for forty two years.⁶ Tuckers Hall belonged to the incorporated trades of Weavers and Fullers. The building was divided into two large apartments. The ground floor was used for a time as a school "...where a master , appointed by the elders of the corporation, has a salary for teaching the sons of freemen belonging to the hall reading, writing, and arithmetic, gratis."⁷

Elizabeth died on Monday 13 November 1809. The Exeter Flying Post reported that she died "...after a lingering illness, which she bore with great resignation and fortitude ..."⁸ Her burial is recorded in James Manning's register on 18 November 1809.⁹ Her youngest child, Sarah Jane, was four years old at the time but had not been baptised until three

¹ "The Dissenters' Burial Ground, Magdalen Street, Exeter, Devon" Survey and Archaeological Recording. Prepared by Martin Dyer, November 2014

² Devon and Cornwall Record Society, Parish Information Files, Inscriptions of Unitarian Burial Ground 1894; Devon Heritage Centre.

³ Devon Marriages; South West Heritage Trust, findmypast.co.uk accessed on 15.04.17

⁴ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

⁵ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

⁶ Western Times, 11 May 1844, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 15.04.17

⁷ 'Civil & Ecclesiastical History of the City of Exeter and its environs (up to 1806)'. Jenkins, Alexander; 1841, W.Norton pp 15-16.

⁸ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 16 November 1809, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 15.04.17

⁹ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

months before Elizabeth's death.¹⁰ The memorial says that Elizabeth was a good wife, a tender parent and a faithful friend.

Elizabeth Hawkins Gove was Philip and Elizabeth's fourth child. She was baptised on 25 December 1802 at Bow Meeting. She died in 1811 and four shillings was paid to open the grave for her when she was buried on 1 September.¹¹ It is believed that she is the daughter referred to in the 1894 transcription of the memorial although another child born before this in 1796 had also been called Elizabeth.¹² It would appear that the Elizabeth born in 1794 must have died although there is no record of her death in the Burial Register or the Account Book for the Dissenters graveyard. An Elizabeth Gove was buried, however, at Holy Trinity on February 27, 1797.¹³ Unfortunately the records for Holy Trinity at this time do not record whether the person being buried was a child or an adult as so many others do. We do know that Philip and Elizabeth were married at Holy Trinity and that they were living in the Parish at this time.³

Philip Gove married his second wife, Maria Smith, on 17 July 1813 at St John's Church in Exeter. Philip lived in the parish but Maria came from Sidmouth. Their witnesses were Charles Smith and Mary Smith.¹⁴ Their first child, Marianne, was born the following July and baptised around the time of her first birthday on 19 July 1815 at Bow Meeting.¹⁵ Marianne was one of four other members of the Gove family to be buried in the Dissenters Graveyard. She died on 12 July 1837 after a "...lingering illness..."¹⁶ when she was 22 years old and was buried there on 16 July 1837.¹⁷ Her brother, Alfred, had been buried in the Dissenters graveyard on 13 September 1823 following his death when he was three years old.¹⁸ The account book notes that the fee of four shillings for opening this grave was finally paid in cash on 11 January 1825.¹⁹

Philip lived until he was 78 years old. The Western Times recorded his death on 11 May 1844, "May 5, Mr Philip Gove, aged 78, who was for 42 years school master at the Tucker's Hall in this city."²⁰ He had been buried a couple of days before this on 9 May

¹⁰ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

¹¹ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

¹² RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

¹³ Devon Burials 1718A/PR/1/4, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 16.04.17

¹⁴ Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

¹⁵ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk 16.04.17

¹⁶ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 20 July 1837, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 16.04.17

¹⁷ DRO/3693D/R1 Georges Meeting Burial Register 1837 - 1882, South West Heritage Trust

¹⁸ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.04.17

¹⁹ DRO 3693D/0/B/1 Report and Account Book of Dissenters Burial Ground 1748 - 1832, South West Heritage Trust.

²⁰ Western Times, Saturday 11 May 1844, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 15.04.17

when the burial register stated that he lived in the parish of St Sidwell.²¹ Maria lived until 1850 and was living in Trinity parish when she died. She was buried on 10 March 1850 aged 63 years.²² The announcement of her death in the Western Times said “The deceased was highly respected by many persons above her sphere, on account of her religious and moral worth, and she bore the pains of her last illness with Christian resignation, and fell asleep in Jesus, tranquilized by that certain hope which is the incomparable consolation of the poor.”²³

²¹ DRO/3693D/R1 Georges Meeting Burial Register 1837 - 1882, South West Heritage Trust

²² DRO/3693D/R1 Georges Meeting Burial Register 1837 - 1882, South West Heritage Trust

²³ Western Times, Saturday 9 March 1850 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 15.04.17