

## Memorial 39

### **Elizabeth TAPRELL China TAPRELL Elizabeth TAPRELL**

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

China Taprell was baptised in Bere Ferrers near Plymouth on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1770 and was the son of Charles and Catherine Taperell.<sup>1</sup> (Note: the surname has many variants in the spelling). By his mid-twenties he had moved to Exeter along with his elder brother Charles; they both lived in the Cathedral Close and worked as joiners. (See **Taprell** biography).

China married Elizabeth Cann on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1795 at St Mary Arches church in Exeter.<sup>2</sup> They had two daughters; Mary, who was baptised on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1795 at St Mary Major<sup>3</sup> and Elizabeth, who was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1800 and baptised at the Castle Street Independent Chapel, Exeter on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1801.<sup>4</sup>

According to the inscription on the headstone the infant Elizabeth died on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1804 aged 2 years. However there is a discrepancy here with her date of birth in February 1800. The account book for the Dissenters' Graveyard shows a payment of 8 shillings from Tapperell for breaking the ground for the burial of his child on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1802.<sup>5</sup> It is probable therefore that she died on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1802 and that the headstone, which was not erected until 1817, is incorrect.

China died in 1828 and was buried on 21<sup>st</sup> November. In the burial register he was described as a joiner living at "College in the Close".<sup>6</sup> The college probably refers to the site of the old College of the Vicars Choral which by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century were let out as individual lodgings.

Elizabeth, China's wife, who is also on this memorial, was buried on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1835, aged 69, and was still living in The Close at the time of her death<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Devon Baptisms. Archive Reference 1237A/PR/1/2. South West Heritage Trust. Accessed at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>2</sup> Devon Marriages. Accessed at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>3</sup> Devon Baptisms. Archive Reference 2945A/PR/1/4 South West Heritage Trust. Accessed at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

<sup>4</sup> England & Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970. Piece 1205 Exeter, Castle Street (Independent) 1798-1817. Accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

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

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

<sup>7</sup> England & Wales Non-conformist Burials: Devon: Exeter, George's Meeting (Presbyterian) Births Baptisms & Burials TNA/RG/4/1085) accessed at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

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 maker.<sup>8</sup> She died in 1872, aged 78.<sup>9</sup>

B G Coe - June 2014

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<sup>8</sup> 1841 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](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) June 2017.

<sup>9</sup> England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915. Accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) July 2017.