

SARAH DENNIS died 1833
GEORGE GRIBBLE died 1837
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Memorial 68

This memorial demonstrates how information can be lost over time. The 1894 transcription of the headstone clearly lists the three people shown above. By the time the transcriptions were done in 1984 Sarah Dennis' name was not fully legible and when the final transcription was completed in 2014 it was not recorded at all. Sarah Dennis died on 29 September 1833 and was buried on 6 October. The burial register recorded that she was aged 69 when she died and a widow who lived in the parish of Trinity.¹ Her husband, Thomas, had died in January the year before in Montague Street, Bristol.² In his will Thomas left everything to his wife. The will was written on 12 July 1830 when the couple were living in Exeter although it states that he was "...late of the city of Bristol..."³ Thomas and Sarah had married at St Edmund Parish Church in Exeter on 21 February 1780 when Thomas was said to be a Militia Man. Neither Thomas nor Sarah's will mentions any children that they might have had and no record of any baptisms have been found. Sarah's will is, however, much more detailed than that of her husband and provides the reason why two members of the Gribble family are recorded on the same headstone as she is.

George Gribble senior was baptised on 7 Jan 1810 at Holy Trinity in Exeter.⁴ His parents were John and Catherine Gribble who had married at St Mary Arches in Exeter on 15 March 1807.⁵ Catherine was the daughter of William and Amy Gravell and had been baptised at St Edmund's church in Exeter on 5th July 1786.⁶ William Gravell had married Amy Pitts nearly three years earlier on 5 November 1783 in Exeter.⁷ Amy was Sarah Dennis' sister and in her will Sarah refers to "... my niece Catherine the wife of John Gribble of Exeter Shoemaker..."⁸ George Gribble senior was her great nephew and had also received a bequest in his Great Aunt's will, "I give and bequeath unto George Gribble another son of the said Catherine Gribble the sum of one hundred pounds"⁹ (around five thousand pounds today).

George's father, John Gribble, died on 4th June 1833 after a long illness. The notification of his death in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette on Saturday 8th June 1833 said that he was a "... boot & shoe maker ... a man of strict integrity and deeply lamented by his numerous family and friends."¹⁰ He is buried with three of his children and is remembered on Memorial 16. George was John and Catherine's first son and was baptised at Holy Trinity church in Exeter on 7 January 1810.¹¹ John and Catherine had nine children, five boys and four girls. George, like his father, worked as a boot and shoe maker. Besley's Exeter Directory for 1835 lists "Gribble,

¹ RG4/1085 Devon:Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian):Births, Baptisms & Burials. Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 13.12.2017

² Bristol Mirror, Saturday 11 February 1832, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 13 December 2017

³ England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858 accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 13.12.2017

⁴ England, Births & Baptisms 1538 - 1975, 1718A/PR/1/28 Devon Heritage Centre, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 26.11.2017

⁵ Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 16.12.2017

⁶ Devon Baptisms, South West Heritage Trust, 3006A/PR/1/2 accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 17.12.2017

⁷ England Marriages 1538-1973, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 17.12.2017

⁸ England & Wales, Perogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858, Piece 1826:Teignmouth, Quire Numbers 1 - 50 (1834) accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 17.12.2017

⁹ England & Wales, Perogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858, Piece 1826:Teignmouth, Quire Numbers 1 - 50 (1834) accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 17.12.2017

¹⁰ Exeter & Plymouth Gazette, Saturday 8 June 1833, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 19.12.2017

¹¹ England, Births & Baptisms 1538 - 1975, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 27.11.2017

George, boot and shoe maker, holloway-street".¹² On 1st July 1832 George had married Susanna Browning at St Mary Major in Exeter.¹³ Their son, George, was baptised on 2 October 1836 at Holy Trinity in Exeter. They were living in Holloway Street and George was working as a Boot maker.¹⁴ George junior died only a few months later when he was five months old and was buried on 4 February 1837.¹⁵

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¹² Besley's Exeter Directory, for 1835 with the List of Voters; South-Street, Exeter; Printed and Published by Henry Besley, (Late T. & H. Besley); Directory Office; accessed on books.google.co.uk on 20.12.2017

¹³ South West Heritage Trust, Devon Marriages, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 26.11.2017

¹⁴ Exeter, Holy Trinity Baptisms, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 11.12.2017

¹⁵ RG4/1085 Devon:Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 11.12.2017