

ELIZABETH BIDDER died 28 January 1844
ELIZABETH MARY BIDDER died 12 September 1822
HENRY JOHN BIDDER died 11 June 1838
WILLIAM BIDDER died 10 October 1844

Memorial 81

There are a number of families buried in the Dissenters Graveyard in Exeter who have connections with the meeting house in Moretonhampstead. William Bidder was baptised there on 25 December 1768¹ and married Elizabeth Parker in Moretonhampstead on 7 July 1793². William's parents, William and Ann (nee Harden) had married in Moretonhampstead on 16 June 1756.³



William and Elizabeth Bidder had nine children, six boys and three girls. Elizabeth Mary Bidder was their fourth child and her baptism was recorded by the Rev. Mr Rowland in the register at the Cross Presbyterian Meeting House in Moretonhampstead "March 2nd was born Elis Mary Daughter of W^m & Elis Bidder Baptized April 7th 1802".⁴ Henry John was their last child and was born on 22 September 1816. He was baptised the following year on 15 February 1817 by Thomas Edwards at the Cross Presbyterian Meeting House in Moretonhampstead.⁵

The chest tomb in the graveyard bears the inscription:

**ELIZABETH
WIFE OF WILLIAM BIDDER
DIED JANUARY 28 AD 1844
AGED 74
ELIZABETH MARY BIDDER
THEIR DAUGHTER
DIED SEPTEMBER 12 AD 1822
AGED 20 YEARS
HENRY JOHN BIDDER
THEIR SON
DIED JUNE 8 1838
AGED 21 YEARS
WILLIAM BIDDER
DIED OCTOBER 10 AD 1844
AGED 75**

¹ 2916A/PR/1/3 South West Heritage Trust. Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 16.06.17

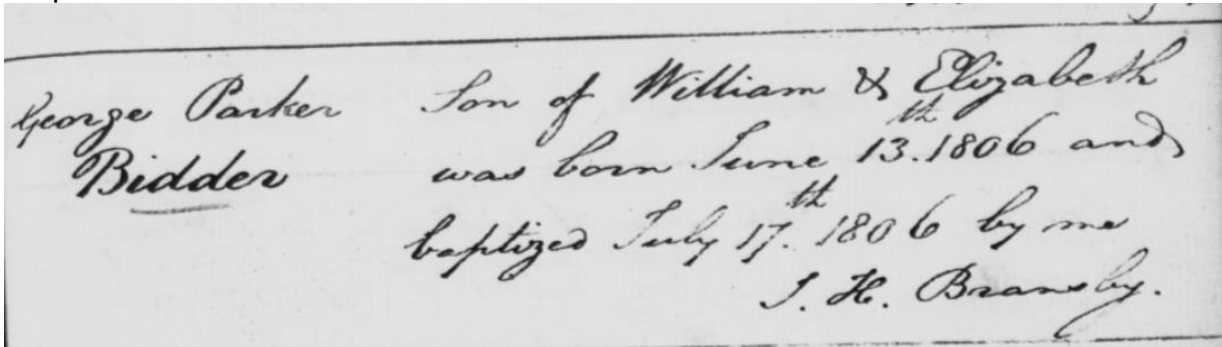
² Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust. Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 16.04.17

³ Devon Marriages, Moretonhampstead Register, South West Heritage Trust. Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 09.03.19

⁴ RG4/444 Moretonhampstead Cross Meeting (Presbyterian): Baptisms. Accessed on The Genealogist on 26.04.2017

⁵ RG4/444 Moretonhampstead Presbyterian (Cross Meeting) Baptisms accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 25.04.17

William and Elizabeth's third son, George Parker Bidder, was born on 13 June 1806.⁶ George became very well known as "The Calculating Prodigy" and travelled the country demonstrating his skills. He answered questions from Queen Charlotte in the winter of 1816 - 1817 and went on to study at Edinburgh University. George became a Civil Engineer and worked for many years on the railways with Robert and George Stephenson.⁷



George Parker Bidder Son of William & Elizabeth
was born June 13. 1806 and
baptized July 17. 1806 by me
J. H. Bransby.



George Parker Bidder 'the calculating boy'.

At some point William and Elizabeth moved to Exeter. They lived at Albany Place in St Thomas and it was here that Henry John (an unmarried tailor), William (a stone mason) and Elizabeth died. All three of the notices in the paper announcing their deaths refer to their relationship with George Parker Bidder "...the celebrated mental calculator..."⁸

Tessa M. Varndell
March 2019 rev. September 2019

⁶ RG4/444 Register of Births and Baptisms at the Cross Presbyterian Meeting House in Moretonhampstead, Devon. Accessed on The Genealogist on 26.04.2017

⁷ George Parker Bidder, 1806 - 1878 accessed on moretonhampstead.org.uk on 13.04.14

⁸ Western Times, Saturday 16 June 1838, Exeter & Plymouth Gazette, Saturday 12 October 1844 and Exeter & Plymouth Gazette Saturday 3 February 1844. Accessed on britishnewspaperarchive on 25.04.17