

Mary Cranford buried January 1814
Harriet Cranford buried 18 January 1814

Memorial 79

Mary and Harriet Cranford were the daughters of George Gillard (sometimes written as Jillard) Cranford and his wife Mary Ann (or Marianne)¹.

Mary was born on 7 August 1810 and was baptised on 26 August by Rev. James Manning¹. Harriet was born on 28 August 1812 and baptised on 22 September, again by Rev. Manning¹. The girls both died in January 1814. Mary was three years old and Harriet 17 months¹. The entries in the burial record are next to each other but unfortunately, the date in the entry for Mary's burial is obscured. Harriet was buried on 18 January and there is an entry in the records of the Graveyard which says that the grave was opened for another daughter and the fee paid on 29 January².

George Cranford was baptised in Dittisham on 15 June 1775^{3,4}. His parents were Robert Cranford (1736-1778) and Elizabeth Gillard (sometimes Jillard) (1740-1834). The Cranford family were in business in Dartmouth and George's brother, Loud Cranford (1770-1849) is recorded there as a grocer, tea dealer, chemist and druggist^{5,6}. Another member of the family, Robert Cranford, founded the Dartmouth Chronicle and became mayor of Dartmouth in 1871⁷.

George was apprenticed to a Mr Jn. King, a stationer in Dartmouth in 1789⁸. By 1810 he was in Exeter where he married Marianne Giles at St Davids on 23 July. Both are described in the marriage register as "sojourners of the parish" implying that they weren't permanent residents at that time⁹. George already had a daughter, Georgiana who was born 15 August 1805¹ so Marianne may have been his second wife. Georgiana was baptised with Mary on 26 August 1810¹.

A list of Insolvent Debtors in prison in Devon appeared in The London Gazette of 20 July 1811¹⁰. It included George Jillard Cranford, formerly of Teignmouth, stationer, but late of Kingsbridge, schoolmaster. His fortunes must have improved quickly because Harriet was born a year later and George and Marianne later had two sons. Charles, born 13 July 1814 and baptised by Rev. James Manning on 27 September¹ and Frederick, born 20 July 1816 and baptised by Rev. Manning on 23 August¹.

No further trace of the family has been found to date which suggests that they might have moved out of the area or even overseas.

(all web pages below accessed March 2017)

1. The Genealogist.com - Non-Parochial BMDs, 1581-1970 . RG4 Piece 0965
2. Devon Record Office: DRO 3693D/B/1 Report and account book of Dissenters' Burial Ground, 1748-1832
3. FamilySearch.org - England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975
4. Findmypast.co.uk – Dittisham Parish Records
5. Pigot's Directory, Dartmouth, 1822/3
6. Pigot's Directory, Dartmouth, 1830
7. Western Times 5 April 1918 – Obituary of the widow of Robert Cranford
8. The Genealogist.co.uk – Public Record Office IR 1/34
9. Findmypast.c.uk – Exeter St David Parish Records
10. London Gazette, 20 July 1811