

HENRY BIELFELD died 5th December 1795 aged 72
DIEDERICH ARNOLD BIELFELD died 31st October 1837
SUSANNA BIELFELD died 25th December 1840 aged 78
CAROLINE BIELFELD died 1st August 1845 aged 45

Memorial 6

Henry Bielfeld was born in Bremen and naturalized by parliamentary bill on 9 March 1756.¹ He is described in The Universal British Directory of 1791 as a merchant living/practising in Fore Street, Exeter.

In his will he leaves ten pounds to his servant and the remainder to his Nephew 'Diderick Arnold Bielfeld' who was also born in Bremen and naturalized on 10 May 1799.²

Diederick, a merchant and gentleman was certainly in Exeter by 1796 when he married Susanna Sanders on 19 March 1796 at Saint Mary Arches.³ They were both about thirty-five when they married which probably explains why they only had three children.

Henry Bielfeld is listed as a Merchant in Fore Street, Exeter in the 1791 Universal British Directory.⁴ He was a subscriber to the nonconformist church and therefore eligible to sit on the committee of 27 which was set up in 1776 to regulate the price and allocation of seating at George's Meeting.⁵

Diederick Arnold was also fully integrated in Exeter life. In a letter to 'CORNELIUS VAN VINKBOOMS ESQ ON THE EXETER EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS. Exeter 16 Oct 1821' he is mentioned amongst others. 'Application having been made to the principal persons of wealth and taste in the county for the loan of their pictures to form an exhibition for the delight glory and instruction of the inhabitants of Exeter the Earl of Morley Sir Thomas Ackland Lord Clifford Mr Bielfeld and others with a most praiseworthy alacrity supplied a few of their paintings.'⁶ As a collector of art, he left his son Henry 'all my paintings which are by the old masters'.

By the time of Diederick's death he also owned land in the Parishes of Harpford, Venn Ottery and Heavitree. He is listed in Pigot's of 1830 as a Gent, Heavitree.

Diederick Arnold and Susanna's children; Anna Henrietta born in 1798, Caroline in 1800, and Henry in 1802 were all baptised at Bow Meeting.⁷ In the 1841 census Caroline and Anna Henrietta are living in Fore Street, Heavitree. It appears their house was between Heavitree House (not the Heavitree House built by Richard Ford) and Homefield House where Charles Gordon Esq. the magistrate lived.

¹ Full text of 'Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization for aliens in England and Ireland' 1701-1800, Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 1923. <https://archive.org/details/lettersofdenizat2717hugu> (accessed 27/2/2017)

² As above

³ Ancestry.co.uk

⁴ As above

⁵ *Nonconformity in Exeter 1650-1875*, Allan Brockett, published on behalf of the University of Exeter by Manchester University press, 1962.

⁶ The London Magazine Volume 4, July to December 1821, London

https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=FsAYAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

⁷ Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687-1823 Births, baptisms and Burials. RG4/ 0965

Homefield House was eventually knocked down to build Heavitree United Reform Church.⁸ In the 1851 census after Caroline has died Anna Henrietta is now living alone in the same place.

Caroline and Anna Henrietta never married. Both were women of independent means after their parents died. They had one live-in servant who continued to work for Anna Henrietta until she died in 1855.

Henry their brother had moved to London where in 1841 he was living at 13, Rathbone Place in the house of Robert Mark an engraver. Described in the 1851 census as a Poetical and Historical artist, he exhibited works at the Royal Academy between 1837 and 1848.

On 14 July 1855 he married Ann Doeg at St. Marylebone Church just six months after his last sibling had died. Ann Doeg also had connections to Exeter as her siblings David, William and Mary all lived there. William is also buried in the Dissenters Graveyard as are some of Mary's children.⁹

We don't know whether Ann ever stayed in Exeter as there is no evidence for this yet; she was born in Canterbury. Ann was 43 and Henry 52 when they married and as far as we can tell they had no children. Henry and Annie (as she was known) were heavily involved in the Spiritualist movement; Annie as a medium. She died in 1876.¹⁰

Just one year later in 1877 Henry married Emma Bond (a widow three times over). It appears that Ann Doeg was a relation by marriage to Emma and had acted as a witness at Emma's first marriage in 1850.

By 1881 Henry and Emma had retired to Withycombe Raleigh, Devon where according to the 1881 census, he was living with Emma, a stepson Edwin T. Paine and also a niece, Emma Wake. By 1891 he is back in London with Emma and his niece Emma living on own means.¹¹ Many of his works are in private collections. He died in 1892.

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⁸Exeter Memories http://www.exetermemories.co.uk/em/_churches/heavitree-united-reformed-church.php (accessed 12/3/2017)

⁹ See details of Doeg and Linscott families at EDGT website.

¹⁰ Mrs Annie Bielfeld, obituary in 'The Medium and Daybreak' No. 320 Vol. VII, May 19 1876

¹¹ Ancestry.co.uk

The Bielfeld chest tomb was rebuilt by stonemason Andy French in 2016. During this time he noticed that there was an inscription on the underside of the ledger stone covering the tomb. The inscription commemorates a child, **NATHAN SPRIGG JEFFERY**, who died in 1756.

