

ELIZABETH BENNETT, died 08 August 1820
MARY LOVEYS, died 19 April 1825
JOHN BENNETT, died 13 August 1832
MARY BENNETT, died 12 August 1832

Memorial 27

Elizabeth BENNETT (née LOVEYS) was baptized on 26 January 1764 at Hennock Anglican Church, Devon.¹ Her parents were Aaron LOVEYS and Mary (née CLAMPIT). Aaron was baptized at Hennock on 28 April 1734 and Mary at Bridford on 20 September 1736.² They were married on 10 February 1763 at the Church of St James, Christow, Devon.³

Descendants of the LOVEYS families of Hennock and Christow in Devon have carried out extensive research and I see little point in replicating their work. Having received their permissions, I have given the titles of their Family Trees below. These can be found on www.ancestry.co.uk and they can be contacted via that route.



Elizabeth married John Bennett on 21 October 1799 at Holy Trinity, Exeter.⁴ They had two children, Mary, who was baptized at Holy Trinity on 30 November 1800 and John, baptized on 06 March 1803 at Holy Trinity.⁵

Elizabeth died on 8 August 1820 at the age of 56 years. There is no newspaper report of her death but on the same day, the graveyard Accounts Book shows, "New double grave for Mr Bennett's wife £1.10s".⁶ Two years later, in October 1822, 10/6 was paid for "Headstone for Mrs Bennett's grave".⁷

Nothing is known about **John BENNETT** prior to his marriage to Elizabeth LOVEYS. His sister-in-law, Mary LOVEYS, in her Will, written in May 1824, refers to him as a Cow Keeper.⁸ Besley's 1828 Directory refers to him as a Dairyman living at

Friars in Exeter⁹ and this is confirmed in the newspaper report of his death in 1832.¹⁰

Information taken from the graveyard Memorial in July 1894, states that John BENNETT died on 13 August 1832 aged 61 years. The Burial Register has no entry for a John BENNETT! However, there is an entry for a James BENNETT, died 12 August 1832 aged 61 years, a Milkman who lived in the parish of Holy Trinity.¹¹ I suggest that this may be our John BENNETT.

Mary BENNETT was the eldest child of Elizabeth and John. She was baptized on 30 November 1800 at Holy Trinity, Exeter.¹² It is unclear where Mary lived as an adult. Though she was a spinster when she died, at the age of 33, it cannot be assumed that she lived all her life with her parents.⁸ It has been suggested by a family researcher that, both being unmarried, she may have lived with her aunt, Mary LOVEYS as her companion. It would seem quite likely as, in her Will, made in May 1824, Mary LOVEYS bequeathed all her plate and china plus all her household goods, furniture and linen to Mary and her brother, John, to be divided equally between them.

According to the 1894 transcript of the Memorial stone, Mary died on 12 August 1832 and is buried in the same grave as her parents and her aunt, Mary LOVEYS (see below). The Memorial is said to show her as being 33 years old but this may be a year out. No entry can be found in the Burial Register but it would seem that other information is missing around that time. Unfortunately, the Accounts Book closes at the end of 1831. Although it cannot be confirmed, it is possible that Mary and her father, John BENNETT, died of the Cholera which was virulent in Exeter at that time.¹³

Mary LOVEYS was baptized on 11 July 1771. "... the daughter of Aaron Loveys Jun^r late of Meardon in Hennock but now of Bowden in Christow, and Mary his wife....".¹⁴ She was the sister of Elizabeth BENNETT (nee LOVEYS) above.

According to her last Will and Testament, made in May 1824, she remained unmarried. She left several hundred pounds, to be divided between her siblings, other family members and the nieces of her friend, James BOWDEN, Schoolmaster. In addition, three volumes of "*The Deposition of the People*" by Reverend Timothy KENDRICK, she bequeathed to her sister, Rose SMALRIDGE. A picture of the Reverend Joseph BRET LAND, prints of Reverend Micajah TOWGOOD and Dr. PRIESTLY plus lines written by Reverend Thomas Jarvis were bequeathed to James BOWDEN.⁸

Mary died on 19 April and was buried on 24 April 1825. The graveyard Accounts Book entry for 24 April 1825 reads "Opening Mr Bennett's grave and allowing it to be walled for Miss Loveys – £1.10s".⁶

Yvonne Hensman
October 2018

Reliable researchers' Family Trees on www.ancestry.co.uk
Daniel Tidball (No Nonsense Loveys Family Tree)
Karen Bellamy (Cross and Stooke Families)

Sources

1. Devon Baptisms (www.findmypast.co.uk)
2. England, Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
3. Marriage Register – Church of St. James, Christow
4. England, Select Marriages 1538-1975 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
5. Devon Baptisms (www.findmypast.co.uk)
6. Accounts Book held by EDGT
7. Burial Register held by EDGT
8. Will of Mary Loveys 1771-1825
9. Exeter Itinerary and General Directory June 1828 pub. T & H Besley
10. Western Times 18 August 1832 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
11. Burial Register held by EDGT
12. England, Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
13. The History of Cholera in Exeter in 1832 by Thomas Shapter.
14. England, Devon Bishop's Transcripts 1558-1887 (www.familysearch.org)