

## Memorial 34

### In Memory of **GEORGE Bryant** Died June 1819

The 1894 transcription from the Dissenters Burial Ground reads: *'George Bryant 5 June 1819 aged 87'*.<sup>1</sup>

There is no burial record for George, however we do know that ten shillings and six pence was paid between the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and June 1822 *'for headstone to G. Bryant's grave'*.<sup>2</sup> A death notice in the *Exeter Flying Post* states that George died, *'Saturday last at Exminster, aged 87, Mr George Bryant, formerly of this city, builder.'*<sup>3</sup>

George lived in Exminster, possibly for the last few years of his life after his marriage to his wife Ann (née Hunt). Both George and Ann had been married previously so when they married on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1796 in St Martin's church Exminster, Ann bore the name Hamley, widow and George was described as a widower of Holy Trinity, Exeter.<sup>4</sup> George would have been 64 and Ann about 46. George's first wife is something of an enigma at present.

One record shows the Banns of marriage for George Bryant and Grace Carpenter in October 1756 at Holy Trinity. Grace was from St Petrock's parish where the Banns were read.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately there is no actual wedding record extant. Another record shows a George Bryant of St Mary Arches Parish and a Prudence Butt of the same parish marrying on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1764, neither could sign their names but of interest is one of the witnesses, John Dunn.<sup>6</sup>

Both marriages are plausible for George however the first is more likely. The name Carpenter is used later as a middle name for one of George's sons. Unfortunately, the later burial records only state 'Mrs' Bryant and gave no Christian names. The name Bryant/Briant is also relatively common in Devon.

George and his wife had at least nine children; **Sarah** (c.1756-1840), **Grace** (I; 1759-1761?), **George** (1763-1797), **Isaac** (1765-1822), **William Dunn** (1767-1843), **Thomas Carpenter** (1771-1774?), **Abraham** (1773-1776?), **Grace** (II; 1776-?) and **Elizabeth** (1776-1796). Baptisms for only four of his children have been found so far; those of Grace[I], Thomas Carpenter, Abraham, and Grace[II], all at Holy Trinity.<sup>7</sup>

George was a joiner, carpenter, and builder by trade, probably the son of Isaac Bryant from whom he gained his freedom of the city of Exeter by succession on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1761.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Transcription by William Henry Hamilton Rogers [www.swheritage.org](http://www.swheritage.org)

<sup>2</sup> Report and Account Book of Dissenters Burial Ground 1748-1832 (DRO3693D/0/B/1) [www.swheritage.org](http://www.swheritage.org)

<sup>3</sup> Exeter Flying Post, 10<sup>th</sup> June 1819 accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>4</sup> Exminster parish records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>5</sup> St Petrock's parish records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>6</sup> St Mary Arches parish records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>7</sup> Holy Trinity parish records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>8</sup> Exeter Freeman 1266-1967 Ed. Margery M Rowe and Andrew M Jackson, Devon and Cornwall Record Society 1973.

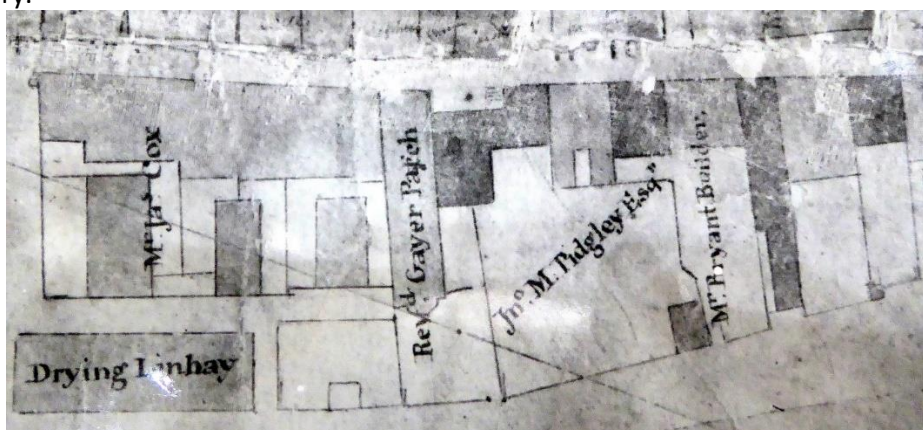
Isaac, George's father had married Jane Glanvill on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1731 at St. David's church, Exeter.<sup>9</sup> No records of any children other than George have been discovered so far.

A George Bryant, 'an adult person' was baptised at Bow Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1763 by Abraham Tozer but it is not known whether this is George born c.1732.<sup>10</sup>

Extant apprentice records for George, show him taking on William Walter as an apprentice on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1762 and again Isaac Chilcot on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1766.<sup>11</sup> In 1769 George (Briant) an Exeter carpenter took on one William Parkin as his apprentice for seven years.<sup>12</sup>

On June 21<sup>st</sup> 1774 George leased 'A Tenement consisting of five dwellings with gardens behind the same, adjoining to the West side of Mary Thomas's Tenement last mention'd'. The lease was to 'George Bryant joyner of part of those premises'. It was leased on the lives of George aged 11, Isaac aged 9 and William Dunn Bryant aged 5 sons of the lessee with a reserved rate of 12 shillings and 6 pence. A later hand noted that George the son was dead. The premises mentioned was on Maudlin (Magdalen) Street the next building after the Quaker Meeting House opposite the 'Presbyterians Burial Ground.'

Other Bryant property was on Holloway Street, shown in the 1819 Coldridge map and mentioned in the 1791 directory.



South side of Holloway Street

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 1794 both George and his son George jnr. were on the list of names who signed a resolution to ask the Reverend Joseph Bretland to supply the 'vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Revd. Abm. Tozer, as Pastor of the said United Congregations.'<sup>13</sup>

George's first wife we assume is the 'Mrs Bryant' who was buried on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1794 for which four shillings was paid two days before. She was sixty-eight.<sup>14</sup> By the time George senior died in 1819 he was living in Exminster. He was recorded in the 1798 Land Tax Redemption records as being a proprietor with Henry Chown as his tenant. He was also shown in the Devon Freeholders Book of 1799

<sup>9</sup> St David's parish records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>10</sup> Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687-1823, accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>11</sup> 'UK, Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811, accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>12</sup> As note 11 and see Parkin Biography [www.edgt.org.uk](http://www.edgt.org.uk).

<sup>13</sup> Minute book of George's Meeting, 1760 – 1817 (3693D/0/M/2) [www.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.swheritage.org.uk)

<sup>14</sup> As note 2 and note 10.

as living there.<sup>15</sup>

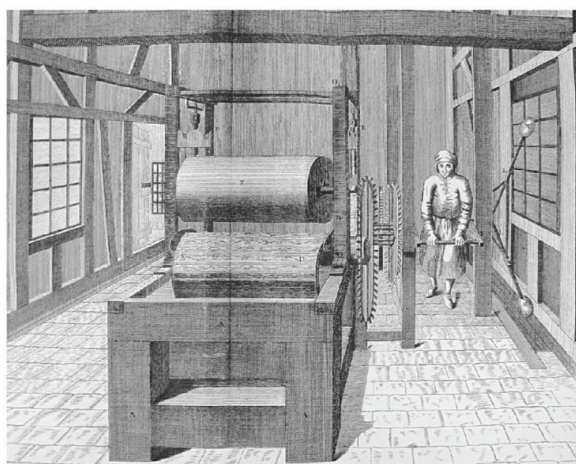
His death duty records of 15<sup>th</sup> July 1820 show that he left one hundred and eighty-nine pounds nineteen shillings and eight pence to his children, William Bryant of Exeter (builder), Isaac Bryant of St. Pancras Middlesex (Timber merchant) and Sarah the wife of William Parkin of Exeter (carpenter).<sup>16</sup>

Ann died on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1836, *'at the advanced age of 86'*.<sup>17</sup> In her Will, amongst other bequests, she left two pounds each to the daughters of her son in law William Bryant of Exeter, builder. She did not mention any precise locations of property but in the 1839 Tithe map apportionment list, Thomas Bryant her nephew is the landowner of numerous 'properties'. Her nephew Thomas Hunt occupied one of those called *'Bryants Old Garden'*.<sup>18</sup>

### George's children

There were four Bryant burials in the Dissenters' graveyard from 1761 to 1776 all paid for by Mr Bryant.<sup>19</sup> However the actual burial register records between 1757 and 1776 are missing so we do not know any names for the four interred. The first burial in 1761 was for a single grave for which five shillings was paid on 1<sup>st</sup> July. This could tie up with Grace[I]. In 1762 the grave was reopened for which two shillings and six pence was received on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Was this for an unknown child? The third burial in 1774 again cost two shillings and sixpence which was paid on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. This burial could be linked to either Thomas Carpenter, Abraham or even Grace[II] as could the final burial in 1776 which we know was for a child.<sup>20</sup> Two shillings and six pence was paid on 11<sup>th</sup> May for this opening.<sup>21</sup>

**George junior** (born c. 1763) the eldest of George's children mentioned in the lease of 1774 followed in his father's footsteps as a builder. He also married an Ann and they produced five children, George



(1787 - ?), Marianne (1788-1790), Thomas Carpenter (1791-1863), Ann (1793-1796?) and Grace (1796- ?). George was baptised at Bow Meeting and his siblings at George's Meeting.<sup>22</sup> In 1797 George junior was killed in an accident. The report of his death reads, *"Thursday last, Mr Bryant, second son of Mr Bryant, builder, at Exeter, while at work repairing a hot press, it suddenly gave way, and falling on him, crushed him to death"*.<sup>23</sup> In the report of his death (above), he is shown as the "second son." So it is assumed that one of the earlier child burials in the Dissenters' graveyard was possibly an older brother.

*A French cylinder hot press.*<sup>24</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Transcript at [www.foda.org.uk](http://www.foda.org.uk) accessed 4/11/2021

<sup>16</sup> George Bryant of Exminster, gentleman 1820 Death Duty (R26/459/f.170) microfiche accessed at National Archives, Kew.

<sup>17</sup> Exeter Flying Post 25 February 1836 accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.devon.gov.uk/historicenvironment/tithe-map/exminster/> accessed 19/11/2021.

<sup>19</sup> As note 2.

<sup>20</sup> As note 2.

<sup>21</sup> As note 2.

<sup>22</sup> As note 10.

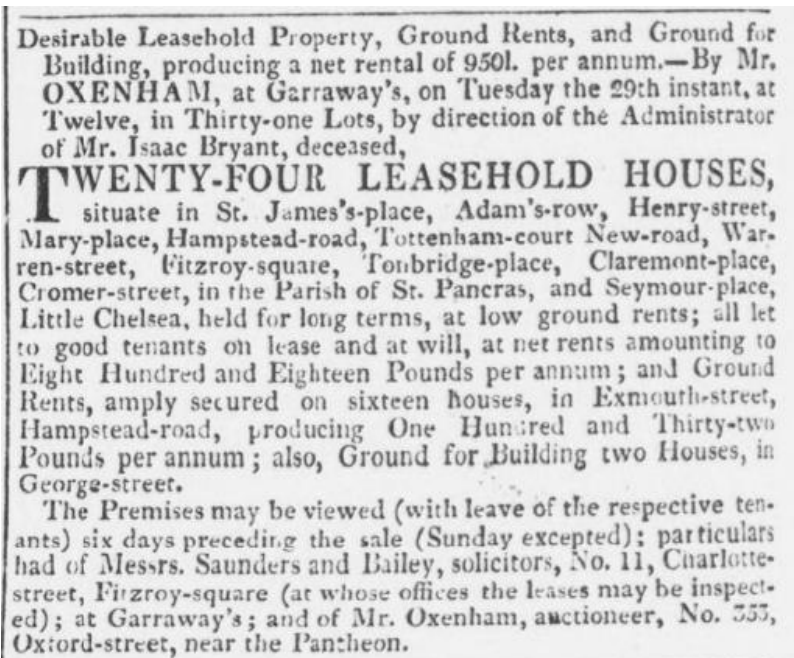
<sup>23</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1797 Bath Chronicle accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>24</sup> Encyclopédie méthodique: recueil des planches de l'Encyclopédie par ordre de matière, t. 8, Paris, 1790.

A hot press comprised two incised metal rollers that were heated. The cloth would pass between the two producing as the name suggests a pressed design or in the case of Calendering a moiré effect. *'In the north of England, the Leeds dyeing and finishing firm founded in 1783 by the Holroyd brothers had hot cylinders for calendering, and produced harrateens, chenys, moreens, and taboreens. The Holroyd ledgers show that hundreds of pounds were spent on castings and ironwork for new machinery. These examples suggest that practice of the technique remained close to the centres of worsted cloth manufacture of the period.'*<sup>25</sup>

**Isaac Bryant** (born c.1765) was apprenticed to his father George and gained his freedom of the city of Exeter by succession on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1798.<sup>26</sup> He married Ann Gorwyn on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1791 in Hittisleigh, between Exeter and Okehampton.<sup>27</sup> It appears that as early as 1794 he was living in Tottenham Place, St. Pancras, London.<sup>28</sup> As mentioned in his father's Will, Isaac was a timber merchant and eventually in business with his son Isaac junior until their partnership dissolved in 1817.<sup>29</sup>

Isaac senior died in September 1821 not long after his father. He was buried on 28<sup>th</sup> September at St James Piccadilly.<sup>30</sup>



Desirable Leasehold Property, Ground Rents, and Ground for Building, producing a net rental of 950l. per annum.—By Mr. OXENHAM, at Garraway's, on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> instant, at Twelve, in Thirty-one Lots, by direction of the Administrator of Mr. Isaac Bryant, deceased,

**TWENTY-FOUR LEASEHOLD HOUSES,** situate in St. James's-place, Adam's-row, Henry-street, Mary-place, Hampstead-road, Tottenham-court New-road, Warren-street, Fitzroy-square, Tonbridge-place, Claremont-place, Cromer-street, in the Parish of St. Pancras, and Seymour-place, Little Chelsea, held for long terms, at low ground rents; all let to good tenants on lease and at will, at net rents amounting to Eight Hundred and Eighteen Pounds per annum; and Ground Rents, amply secured on sixteen houses, in Exmouth-street, Hampstead-road, producing One Hundred and Thirty-two Pounds per annum; also, Ground for Building two Houses, in George-street.

The Premises may be viewed (with leave of the respective tenants) six days preceding the sale (Sunday excepted); particulars had of Messrs. Saunders and Bailey, solicitors, No. 11, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square (at whose offices the leases may be inspected); at Garraway's; and of Mr. Oxenham, auctioneer, No. 555, Oxford-street, near the Pantheon.

Isaac was a man of property and in 1823 his son retired selling their Timber yard and stock of 24 years standing on the Hampstead Road.<sup>31</sup>

**William Dunn Bryant**, George's youngest son and his wife Harriet's biographies are at [http://edgt.org.uk/uploads/3/4/6/9/34695614/no\\_mem\\_-\\_bryant.pdf](http://edgt.org.uk/uploads/3/4/6/9/34695614/no_mem_-_bryant.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> Hot press printing of worsted cloth: a precursor of roller printing, Philip A. Sykas, p. 101-112, Les archives de l'invention by Marie-Sophie Corcy, Christiane Douyère-Demeulenaere, Liliane Hilaire-Pérez.

<sup>26</sup> Exeter Freeman 1266-1967 Ed. Margery M Rowe and Andrew M Jackson, 1973.

<sup>27</sup> Hittisleigh parish records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>28</sup> London, England, Land Tax Records, 1692-1932 accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>29</sup> Bristol Mirror, 28 June 1817 accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>30</sup> St James records accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>31</sup> Morning Advertiser 28 August 1823 accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

**Sarah Bryant**, George's daughter mentioned in his Will married William Parkin. See the Parkins biography at [http://edgt.org.uk/uploads/3/4/6/9/34695614/no\\_memorial\\_-\\_parkins.pdf](http://edgt.org.uk/uploads/3/4/6/9/34695614/no_memorial_-_parkins.pdf).

**Elizabeth Bryant**, George's youngest child died in 1796 aged just twenty. She was buried on 11<sup>th</sup> January for which four shillings was paid on the 12<sup>th</sup> to open the grave.<sup>32</sup> We have no knowledge of Elizabeth except for the facts of her death.

**A Amosford** 2014 (Revised 2017 and November 2021)

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<sup>32</sup> As note 2.