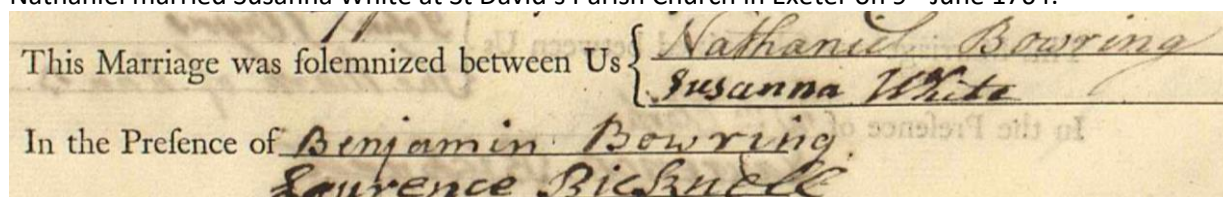


NATHANIEL BOWRING died 1781
SUSANNA BOWRING died 1809
HARRIET JANE BOWRING died 1824
WILLIAM BOWRING died 1827
JENNY BOWRING died 1827

Memorial 64

Nathaniel Bowring was the third son of Benjamin Bowring¹ and the younger brother of John Bowring who is commemorated on **Memorial 19**. Benjamin Bowring married Elizabeth Drewe (née Hole) in 1735 at Exeter Cathedral.² Benjamin had become a freeman of the city of Exeter in 1734 after his apprenticeship as a fuller with John Rice.³ Nathaniel was born in 1741⁴ and was also trained as a fuller.

Nathaniel married Susanna White at St David's Parish Church in Exeter on 9th June 1764.⁵



They had at least three children – William, Harriet and Benjamin Jnr (bap. 17th May 1778). Birth or baptismal records for Harriet and William have not been discovered to date. Harriet married William Tricks, a fuller, on 12th July 1795, and was buried in the Dissenters' graveyard on 5th May 1831 aged 64 suggesting that she was born in 1766/1767. William was aged 60 when he was buried on 7th February 1827, giving a birth date also in 1766/67.

Memorial 64 states that Nathaniel died on 11 June 1781 when he was forty years old. There is no entry in the burial register or the Burial Grounds Report and Account book for this date. An entry on 14 June 1782 however records that 2/- was paid for "Opening Grave for Mr Bowring."⁶ There is no corresponding entry in the burial registers. The Articles of Clerkship for Nathaniel's son, William Bowring, were signed on 29 May 1782 and state that Nathaniel was present at the time.⁷ It seems likely that the memorial stone is incorrect and he died in June 1782. Arthur Wardle's book on Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants says that Benjamin (Jnr) "...was only three years old when his father, Nathaniel, died at the comparatively early age of forty years and was buried at the Magdalen Street burial ground connected with the George's Meeting House in that city. All Nathaniel Bowring's family with the exception of Benjamin, were buried here."⁸

Nathaniel's wife, Susanna, lived until she was 74 years old. She had been baptised in Moretonhampstead on the 9 February 1735⁹, the daughter of Edward White. The burial register records "Susanna Bowring. Widow of Nathaniel Bowring - (Mother of William Bowring, Attorney) whose maiden name was White, a Native of Moretonhampstead. Resided for some years previous to her death at her

¹ Wardle Arthur C, (1938) *Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, 229pp.

² thegenealogist.co.uk accessed on 31.05.2017

³ Rowe, Margery M & Andrew M Jackson (Eds, 1973) *Exeter Freeman 1266 – 1967*. James Townsend & Sons Ltd, Exeter.

⁴ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) *Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, 229pp.

⁵ Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 25.08.17.

⁶ Dissenters Burial Ground; Report, Account etc, 1782 to 1832, 3693D/0/B/1, Devon Heritage Centre.

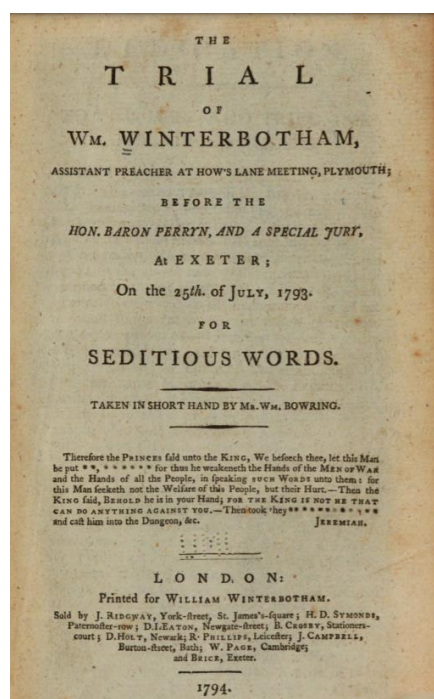
⁷ Articles of Clerkship, 1756 - 1874, accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 28.08.2017.

⁸ Wardle Arthur C, (1938) *Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, page 33.

⁹ moretonhampsted.org.uk accessed on 30.08.2017.

son's House in Bartholomew Yard, Exeter. Died after a few days illness, at her son's House, August 27 and was buried August 31, 1809"¹⁰ Her death was reported in the Exeter Flying Post on Thursday 31st August 1809 - "Sunday last died, at an advanced age, Mrs Bowring, widow of the late Mr Nathaniel Bowring, of this city, fuller".¹¹

Nathaniel and Susanna's son, William, became a well-respected lawyer. He lived and practiced in Exeter, at Bartholomew's Yard. He married Jenny Fouracre at St David's Church in Exeter on 16 May 1790.¹² Less than a month later on 12 June 1790 William became a Freeman of the City of Exeter - "June 12 1790 William Bowring of St Kerrian, gent, son of Nathaniel Bowring, fuller, by succession."¹³ William and Jenny had three daughters Frances, Mary Bodger and Harriet. Frances was born on 31 March 1791 and baptised at her parent's house on 14 August 1791. The family lived in the parish of St Kerrian.¹⁴ Two years later Mary Bodger Bowring was born on 2 March 1793 and was baptised on 19 January 1794.¹⁵ Their third daughter, Harriet, was baptised at her parent's house in St Kerrian on 8 March 1795 following her birth on 4 February 1795.¹⁶



William's abilities and interests were wide. He was a parochial commissioner and represented the parish of All-Hallows-in-the-Wall. In 1793 he recorded in shorthand the celebrated trial for seditious speech of William Winterbotham and this account was published the following year (see left).¹⁷ William "...served as clerk to the Exeter Commissioners and as secretary of the Royal Lancasterian School, later known as the Exeter British School Society. His name appears frequently in old records of that city, and he subscribed liberally to local charities."¹⁸ "A firm upholder of the cause against African slavery, he was also a staunch opponent of the property tax and a champion of the cause of religious toleration."¹⁹ In 1822 William subscribed to a book on "A Natural and Chemical Treatise on Agriculture". William and his wife Jenny both died in 1827 and were buried in the Chest Tomb marked by **Memorial 64**.²⁰

The final person commemorated on this memorial is Harriet Jane Bowring who died on 15 April 1824 when she was 11 years old. She was the daughter of Benjamin Jnr and Charlotte Bowring (née

¹⁰ RG4/336 Exeter Mint (Presbyterian) 1719 - 1810, accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 25/08/2017.

¹¹ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 31 August 1809, accessed on [britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) on 25.08.2017.

¹² Devon Marriages accessed on [findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) on 30.08.2017.

¹³ Rowe Marger M & Jackson Andrew M Eds. (1973) Exeter Freeman 1266 - 1967. James Townsend & Sons Ltd., Exeter, page 324.

¹⁴ RG4/0336 England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567 - 1970, Exeter, Mint (Presbyterian), 1719 - 1810 accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 31.08.2017.

¹⁵ England, Select Births & Christenings, 1538 - 1975, accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 31.08.2017.

¹⁶ RG4/0336 England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567 - 1970, Exeter, Mint (Presbyterian), 1719 - 1810 accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 31.08.2017.

¹⁷ "The Trial of Wm Winterbotham, Assistant Preacher at How's Lane Meeting, plymouth; Before the Hon. Baron Perryn and a special jury. At Exeter; On the 25th of July, 1793 for Seditious Words Taken in Short Hand by Mr Wm Bowring." London, Printed for William Winterbotham, 1794.

¹⁸ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) *Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, page 28.

¹⁹ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) *Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, Page 29.

²⁰ RG4/1085 Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) Burials 1824 - 1837, accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) 28.08.2017.

Price) and the granddaughter of Nathaniel and Susanna Bowring. Harriet Jane was born on 28th March 1813 and baptized at Bow Meeting House, Exeter, on 11th April 1813 by James Manning.²¹

Following Nathaniel's death Benjamin Jnr attended the academy attached to the Unitarian Chapel in Moretonhampstead where his mother's family lived.²² Sir John Bowring attended the same school ten years later and said that the roads were not passable by wheel carriages around Moretonhampstead and that "...everything was conveyed to and from Exeter on 'crooks' - bent branches of trees which were fastened to pack saddles..."²³ Benjamin Jnr trained as a watchmaker and married Charlotte Price on 8th October 1803 in Wellington, Somerset. She was the daughter of Charles Price of Wivelscombe, Somerset who was also a watchmaker. At the time of the marriage Benjamin was living in All Hallows parish in Exeter.²⁴ In his book '*Benjamin Bowring and His Descendants*' Arthur Wardle states that Benjamin and Charlotte had three sons but does not mention Harriet's birth or death both of which are recorded in the registers in Exeter. David Keir (1962) in his book '*The Bowring Story*' includes a family tree suggesting that Benjamin and Charlotte had five boys (William b. 1804, Charles Tricks b. 1808, Henry Price b. 1815, Edward b. 1819 and John b. 1824). Keir makes no mention of Harriet Jane. The first three boys were baptized in Exeter, as was Henry Price born in April 1811. It must be assumed that the latter died in infancy as a second Henry Price, son of Benjamin and Charlotte Bowring, was born on 28th April 1815 and baptized the following year (10th April).

Benjamin had opened his first shop in Exeter in 1803 just before his wedding. In 1811 Charlotte and an assistant were left to look after the shop while Benjamin travelled to Newfoundland to establish a similar business there. Benjamin moved between the two countries over the next four years before closing his business in Exeter at Christmas 1815. In 1816 "*...Benjamin Bowring and his wife, with their three sons, sailed by one of the first vessels of the season for Newfoundland.*"²⁵ No mention is made of Harriet and whether she travelled with them. An entry on 17 April 1824 in the Dissenters Burial Ground Report and Accounts Book reads "Cave for Mr W Bowring to inter his niece - daughter of Mr B Bowring. Leave to erect a tomb"²⁶ Two payments were received by the Graveyard; one for £1.10.00 and one for £2.2.0. Harriet Jane was buried on 21 April 1824.²⁷



Tuvalu 1984 50c stamp commemorating Benjamin Bowring, father of Harriet Jane and founder, in 1811, of the Bowring trading, shipping and insurance companies known in the UK as C.T. Bowring & Co. Ltd.

Although Benjamin Bowring did not return from Newfoundland to live in Exeter his eldest surviving son Charles Trick Bowring married Harriet Harvey at Moretonhampstead on 13 April 1833.²⁸ Harriet was the daughter of George and Susanna Harvey and was baptized in Moretonhampstead on 17 February 1811.²⁹

²¹ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting 1687 - 1823, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 30.08.2017.

²² Wardle, Arthur C (1938) *Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, page 34.

²³ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) *Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*. Hodder and Stoughton, London, page 34.

²⁴ Somerset Marriages Index Transcription, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 31.08.2017.

²⁵ Wardle, Arthur C (1938) "*Benjamin Bowring and his Descendants*". Hodder and Stoughton, London, page 40.

²⁶ Dissenters Burial Ground; Report, Account etc, 1782 to 1832, 3693D/0/B/1, Devon Heritage Centre.

²⁷ RG4/1085 Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) Burials 1824 - 1837, accessed on ancestry.co.uk 28.08.2017.

²⁸ England, Select Marriages, 1538 - 1973, accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 31.08.2017.

²⁹ RG4/444 Moretonhampstead, Cross Meeting, Presbyterian, 1672 - 1836 accessed on ancestry.co.uk 31.08.2017.

Charles' younger brother, Edward, who had been born in St John's Newfoundland, also married into a family from Moretonhampstead. In 1844 he married Emma White the daughter of Edward White. There is a memorial to Edward Bowring and his wife Emma at the Unitarian Chapel burial ground in Cross Street, Moretonhampstead. The family were living in Moretonhampstead at the time of the 1861 Census but they both later died in Surrey.

B. G. Coe August 2014

T. M. Varndell Amended and extended August 2017 and May 2021

Reference

Keir, David (1962) *The Bowring Story*. The Bodley Head, London, 448pp.