

Memorial 72

**In Memory
Of ROBERT BOYD Esq Late
Of Brunswick Square DEPTFORD
WHO died 16th Feb 1813
Aged 27 Years
Also of ROBERT BOYD son of
The above who died March
1813 Aged 6 Months**

Robert Boyd was born in Prescott Street, Whitechapel to William and Mary Boyd.¹ He was baptised on 27th December 1785 at Nightingale Lane Meeting in Wapping.²

Robert had a relatively short life, dying at the early age of twenty-seven. He was buried on 23rd February 1813 in Exeter Dissenters Graveyard.³ A walled grave was made for him which cost £1.10.0d and was paid on the day of his burial. His son, also Robert was buried just a month later, on 25th March 1813. This time 7/6 was paid to bury him in the same grave. On 5th May the same year Sarah, Robert's wife paid £1.10.0d to place a stone on her late husband's grave.⁴

Robert Boyd (senior) was one of ten children, (William, Mary, Sarah, Grace, Helen, William, Robert, Maria, Charlotte, and John Errol). Four died in childhood and only two, Charlotte and Helen outlived their father. They were all baptised at Nightingale Lane Meeting.

The Boyd's originated in Kilmarnock, Scotland.⁵ It is written that William's father John Boyd had moved to London in the mid eighteenth century although some of his immediate family stayed in Scotland. William and his brothers, Errol and Matthew were in the shipping trade. All three were ship owners and merchants while Errol was also a sea Captain commanding some of the Boyd owned ships mainly to Canada.⁶ It is possible that Errol was at a dinner party attended by Samuel Johnson and James Boswell in 1781, Boswell wrote in his journal, *'to Wellclose Square, where we and my brother, and Mr. Braithwait of the Post Office, and Captain Boyd, a Kilmarnock man in the Canada trade, all dined with the Reverend Dr. Mayo, who gave a dinner to some of his friends every Monday'*.⁷

It appears that the brothers had numerous business enterprises many of which were with close family

¹Baptism records of Pell, St George's in the East, Nightingale, Old Gravel Lane (Independent), 1736-1829 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

² An independent Meeting later to be known as Pell Street Meeting.
<http://www.stgitehistory.org.uk/media/dissenters2.html>

³ www.edgt.org.uk

⁴ Report and account book of Dissenters burial ground 1748-1832 (DRO3693D/0/B/1) www.swheritage.org.uk and Georges meeting burial register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁵ 'The late Mr Robert Boyd Tytler', East Aberdeenshire Observer, Tuesday July 4, 1882 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁶ Information posted by Martin Wood
<https://mlarchives.rootsweb.com/listindexes/emails?listname=boyd&thread=6386239>

⁷ Dr. Mayo was minister at Nightingale Lane Meeting, see note 2 above.

members. William had '*Stock in the Commercial Sale Rooms Company in Mincing Lane now standing in the joint names of myself and my late son William Boyd*'.⁸ For a few years in the early 1800's, Buckle, Boyd and Buckle were convict ship contractors to New South Wales.⁹ All were subscribers to the Seaman's Floating Hospital founded in 1821.¹⁰

It is unconfirmed what William's wife Mary's maiden name was. One possibility that has been presented in family trees online is that of Mary Mann (a widow) who married one William Boyd on 9th December 1771 at St. Luke's Finsbury. Both signed their names with a 'X'.¹¹ Another and more plausible suggestion was Mary Warffe who married a William Boyd on 12th March 1774 at St. George's in the East the church associated with Nightingale Lane Meeting.¹² The Warffe's were known to the Boyd family, Mary's niece Sarah Brash would marry John William Buckle, William's son in Law in 1816 and a Mary Warffe (possibly the mother of Mary Boyd) died in the Paragon in 1798.¹³

When their first child was born William and Mary were living in Burr Street near the Tower of London in Wapping. By the birth of their third child Sarah in 1778 they had moved to the Crescent, Minories and by 1780 they were living in nearby Prescott Street, where Robert was born.¹⁴ By the death of their son John Errol Boyd in 1795 they had moved to the Paragon, New Kent Road.¹⁵ Both the Crescent and the Paragon were fairly 'new builds' just right for the enterprising Mr Boyd Esquire and his family.

In 1805 Mary Boyd died. The report writes that 'On Monday last, at Bognor Rocks, Sussex, the lady of Wm. Boyd, Esq. of the Paragon'.¹⁶ We don't know what she was doing in Sussex, whether she was visiting family or there for health reasons. She was buried in Bunhill Fields in common ground, eventually being moved to the family vault when it was built.¹⁷

Robert Boyd and his family are mentioned in Errol Boyd, his Uncle's Will of 1822.¹⁸ He names his executors as, 'my Brother William Boyd of the Paragon Kent Road Merchant John W^m Buckle of Mark Lane wine merchant and Broker and William Boyd Jun^r of Mark Lane wine merch^t and broker and Robert Boyd of Battle Bridge Wharf Coal merchant'. Although the Will was proved in 1822 long after Robert and his brother William died, it had been written in 1809 whilst Robert was still in business. At some point Robert visits Dawlish in Devon where he meets and marries Sarah Clark Tripe on 9th April 1807 at St. John's Church in Exeter.¹⁹ Witnesses to the wedding were Catherine and Mary Ann Culverwell and Joseph Clark.²⁰ Joseph Clark was a family friend and left property in his will of 1812 to Robert and his father William. We have not discovered yet whether he is a relation to Sarah. The wedding is reported in a London newspaper, 'The same day, at Exeter, Mr Robert Boyd, of London,

⁸ William Boyd's Will 1831 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁹ <https://www.danbyrnes.com.au/blackheath/ships3.htm> and <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-728075871/findingaid> accessed 12/11/2020

¹⁰ <https://seahospital.org.uk/history-shs/> accessed 14/11/2020

¹¹ Saint Luke's Finsbury Parish Register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

¹² Saint George in the East parish Register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

¹³ as note 11 above and Bunhill Fields burial and Memorial Registers accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

¹⁴ <https://100minories.lparchaeology.com/the-curious-denouement-of-a-once-grand-improvement/> accessed 4/11/2020

¹⁵ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol25/pp117-120> accessed 4/11/2020

¹⁶ Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser 21 June 1805. accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

¹⁷ Bunhill Fields burial and Memorial Registers accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

¹⁸ Errol Boyd Will of 1822 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

¹⁹ Exeter, St. John's marriage register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²⁰ See Joseph Clark biography www.edgt.org.uk

Coal Merchant, to Miss Clark, of the same place.²¹

Sarah Clark Tripe was born on the 29th March 1786 to Theophilus and Elizabeth Tripe of Dawlish.²² She was the first of five children, Sarah Clarke, Theophilus, Elizabeth Marke, Maria, and Reuben. Maria and Reuben both died withing a few years of being born.²³ There were many Tripe's in Dawlish and the surrounding areas; eight families being listed in the 1841 census.²⁴ Sarah's grandfather Gawin Tripe and great grandfather, also a Gawin (or Gawyn) were yeoman farmers at Smallacombe Farm just on the outskirts of Dawlish. Gawin her grandfather was also listed as a mariner on his wedding certificate.²⁵

Sarah's parents both died in their thirties, and within a few years of each other, leaving Sarah, aged fifteen, and siblings Theophilus and Elizabeth Marke thirteen and eleven, respectively.²⁶ Sarah married Robert Boyd as soon as she was twenty-one. Her brother Theophilus, a farmer, moved to Somerset where he and his wife Catherine (née Easton) lived with their family at Preston Farm in Milverton until his death in 1845.²⁷ Elizabeth Marke married Robert Marke, also a farmer, and settled in Blagdon, Somerset.²⁸ Both siblings had daughters called Mary Boyd possibly in honour of their sister.

Sarah and Robert had three children in their short married life; Mary, born 21st November 1808 in St. Olaves, Southwark was baptised on 31st December 1808 at Lock's Fields Independent in Walworth.²⁹ William was born on 20th December 1810 at Deptford (London) and Robert, born on 9th September 1812, both boys were baptised on 21st October 1812 at Bow Meeting in Exeter.³⁰

After Roberts death, Sarah moved away from Devon. We do not know exactly when, however by the time her father in law writes his Will in 1830, she is living in Newington Butts, Southwark. Probably in Church Row where her niece Mary Ann (née Buckle) the daughter of Robert's sister Sarah, lived with her husband Thomas Frederick Marson.³¹ Sarah died on 14th May 1832 aged 46 years. She never remarried. Her death was announced in the Public ledger and Advertiser of 9th May 1832, 'On Monday last, Mrs Robert Boyd, of Church Row, Newington Butts.'

Mary Boyd, Robert and Sarah's daughter, married Francis John Richardson on 10th November 1835. The North Devon Journal of 26th November reported, 'At Bromley, F.J.Richardson, Esq. of Langford, Somerset, to Mary, daughter of the late R. Boyd Esq. of Kenton, in this county, and granddaughter of the late W. Boyd Esq. of Plaistow Green, Kent'.³² Francis John was born in Fivehead Somerset also from farming stock. His parents Francis and Rhoda ran Langford Farm, Fivehead and this is where Mary and Francis John can be seen in the 1841 census.³³ By 1851 they had moved to Sheepdrove Farm

²¹ Sun (London) 13 April 1807

²² Dawlish, St. Gregory Baptism Records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²³ Dawlish, St. Gregory Burial Records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²⁴ 1841 census accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²⁵ Devon Marriage and Banns Records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²⁶ Dawlish, St. Gregory Burial Records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²⁷ Marriage record and census returns accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²⁸ Somerset marriage records accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²⁹ Walworth, York Street, Lock's Fields (Independent) 1804-1837. accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³⁰ Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687-1823 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³¹ The Marson family had been living in Church Row for several years, Pigots Directory of 1822 lists Thomas W. Marson and Thomas Fred. Marson, Attorneys, 14 Church Row, Newington Butts.

³² Newspaper report accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

³³ 1841 census accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

at Lambourn in Berkshire, now a model organic farm and wedding venue.³⁴

Unfortunately, at present the last mention of William Boyd, Robert and Sarah's son appears to be in his grandfather's Will of 1831.

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³⁴ <https://www.sheepdrove.com/> accessed 12/11/2020