

No Memorial

EVE BODLEY buried 15 October 1845

Eve Bodley, the daughter of William Canute Bodley, was only two months old when she died on 10th October 1845.¹ Her birth is registered in the 3rd quarter of 1845² and her death in the 4th quarter of the same year.³

Eve's parents were William Canute Bodley and Jane Taylor, who had married on 8th May 1834. The marriage certificate shows that Jane was a widow of the parish of Holy Trinity.⁴ She had previously been married to Christopher Mardon Taylor, a Scrivener, living on Quay Hill, Exeter. Her maiden name was Jane Kingston and she came from Clyst St Mary. The marriage took place in the parish of Holy Trinity, Exeter on 18th December 1825.⁴ Christopher Mardon Taylor was buried on 10th September 1832, aged 33 years.⁵ As far as can be ascertained, Jane and Christopher only had one child, a son also called Christopher Mardon Taylor, who was born in 1830 in Exeter.



William Canute Bodley was baptized at St Mary Steps, Exeter on 25th April 1802. He was the son of George Bodley and Ann Parkin.⁶ Ann died in 1808, leaving George with 12 children (William was the 10th of these children).⁷ George was an Ironfounder and there is a comprehensive account of the family, written by David Cornforth and Anne Speight.⁸ There is also information in Grace's Guide to British Industrial History and so I have not dwelt on the family's iron foundry business.

William Canute and Jane had five children together, Paul, Jane Louisa, Bessy (Elizabeth), Marian and Eve and, of course, Jane's son, Christopher, had been accepted into the family. Jane's death is registered in the 1st quarter of 1854 in Exeter and William's in the 2nd quarter of 1858 in Exeter.³ Unfortunately, it is not known, at this stage, where William and Jane are buried.

The siblings of Eve Bodley

Paul was baptised on 28th August 1834 at St Mary Steps, Exeter.⁶ The family's address, at that time, is shown as Shilhay. As a teenager, he attended Magdalen House School where, in December 1848, he came second in the English prize for good marks.⁹ There is an amusing report in the Western Times, dated 1st September 1855, which reads "*Eighth Prize – A Gig and Pun Chase for 10s 6d. This was a most amusing contest – Mr Paul Bodley was the 'punter' and he kept his antagonist, the Why Not, at bay for the space of fifteen minutes and a half, amidst the cheers of the spectators. Just as the time was up he lost both paddles, and after striving to keep out of the way of the gig by means of the rudder, he was compelled to surrender. Mr Moss, jnr., one of the gallant crew of the Why Not, in his anxiety to catch the punt, fell overboard.*" Paul died in 1857 and was buried on 24th May that year in the parish of St Edmund on the Bridge. His address, at the time, is shown simply as "Island".

Jane Louisa (aka Louisa) was born circa 1837 according to the 1841 Census when the family lived in Bonhay, Exeter. The 1861 census shows Louisa (named as Louisa J) living at Roughmoor Farm, Bishops Hull, Somerset, employed as a Governess for the Bryant family. Later census reports show that she remained a Spinster (1901 and 1911 census). She died on 15th November 1916 and was, at that time,

living at 11 Verney Place, Exeter.¹⁰ She is buried in Exeter Higher Cemetery and is shown on the index as being of “Church” which, presumably, means Church of England.¹¹

Elizabeth (aka Bessy) was born circa 1839 according to the 1841 census. By 1861, she too had left the family home and was employed as a Governess for a family named Dunney. They lived at Town End, Winkleigh, Devon. She never married and, according to the 1901 census, lived with her older sister, Jane, at 11 Verney Place, Exeter. At some point, Elizabeth seems to have added ‘Huxtable’ as a middle name and, if this is the case, moved to London after the death of her sister in 1916. All later reports (Electoral Registers) show that she lived at 5 Marylands Road, Paddington until her death which was registered in the 2nd quarter of 1927.¹² She was 87 years old.

Marian was born circa 1841 in Exeter. Her birth is registered in the 3rd quarter of that year.² However, she was not baptized, in the parish of St Edmund, Exeter until 29th August 1866⁶! As with her sisters, Jane and Elizabeth, Marian never married. In 1871, she was living alone at 5 Parr (?) Street, St Sidwell, Exeter and working as a Dressmaker¹³ but, thirty years later, she was boarding, in the home of a family named Barton, at 5 Marylands Road, Paddington where she was working, on her own account, as a Dressmaker.¹⁴ Although her sister also lived at this address in the 1920’s, Marian seems to be the first member of the family to have lived there. Whether or not 5 Marylands Road was purchased by Marion is not clear but she went from being a ‘Boarder’ in 1901, to a ‘Visitor’ in 1911, to being shown as resident there in 1931.¹⁵ Marian died in 1933. Her death is registered in the 2nd quarter of that year in Willesden, Middlesex.¹²

Sadly, whilst this gives us a snapshot of the family, it does not help us to understand why little Eve appears to be buried all alone in the Exeter Dissenters’ Graveyard. It has been suggested that the reason may be that she had not been baptized but we will never know.

Sources

1. Register of Deaths, George’s Chapel, Exeter 1837-1882 (held at Devon Heritage Centre)
2. England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index 1837-1915 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
3. England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
4. Devon Marriages (www.findmypast.co.uk)
5. Devon Burials (www.findmypast.co.uk)
6. Devon Baptisms (www.findmypast.co.uk)
7. Exeter Flying Post, 10 March 1808
8. Bodley & Co. (www.exetermemories.co.uk)
9. Western Times 16 December 1848 (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)
10. England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills & Administrations) 1858-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
11. Burial Index Cards Exeter City Council (www.exeter.gov.uk)
12. England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
13. 1871 Census (www.ancestry.co.uk)
14. 1901 Census (www.ancestry.co.uk)
15. London, England, Electoral Registers 1832-1965 (www.ancestry.co.uk)

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