

## Elizabeth Lane PARR / POPE

Born 1752, married 13th September 1774 in Moretonhampstead, died 1824 in Exeter and buried in the Dissenter's Graveyard

See also the biography of **James Pope and Family**.

The story of Elizabeth, while not always directly associated with the Dissenter's Graveyard has many links with Dissenting ministers and with other Dissenting families and is therefore of interest.

Elizabeth was one of three daughters of William Parr, a dissenting minister, and Elizabeth Aysh/Ash of Moretonhampstead on the edge of Dartmoor. Moretonhampstead had a sizeable Dissenting community and there is evidence of connections between them and the Dissenting communities of Exeter. A booklet about St Andrew's Church in Moretonhampstead has a short chapter about Nonconformity and records that "Moretonhampstead experienced one of the earliest flourishes in England of Nonconformity. The new ideas took root as early as the 1590s. In 1744, it was recorded as the most dissenting parish in Devon and in 1779, not long after Elizabeth was married, the rector Thomas Flack noted that there were three dissenting meeting houses in the town."<sup>1</sup>

The Parr family can be traced back two further generations, first to John Parr who was also a minister and then back to Bartholomew Parr, from Exeter, who was married in 1689 to Elizabeth Yeates in Silverton.<sup>2</sup> A Bartholomew Parr was buried in St Kerrian in Exeter in August 1696.<sup>3</sup> The administration of his will was granted to his relict Elizabeth Parr in September 1696.<sup>4</sup> Their son John married Ursula Bidwell, in about 1712, possibly in Bristol, although she came from an Exeter family and was baptised at Bow Meeting by Mr Hallett and was the daughter of Hugh Bidwell of Trinity Parish. A note in the register states that she married Rev Mr Parr.<sup>5</sup> Her brother, another Hugh, married Hanna Pierce the daughter of the dissenting minister James Pierce.<sup>6</sup>

John and Ursula had three sons, Yeates, William and Bartholomew and one daughter, Ursula.

In 1713 John Parr was ordained in Okehampton after attending the academy of James Hallett II. John Parr was a member of the Exeter Assembly and one of the Devon ministers who refused to subscribe to the Orthodox Doctrine of the Trinity at the meeting of the Assembly in May 1719. The Non-Subscribers were led by James Hallett II and James Pierce, a relation of his wife.<sup>7</sup>

Bartholomew Parr became a surgeon. He married for the first time in 1740 to Sarah Rendell<sup>8</sup> and after her death in 1741 he married again in 1747 to Joanna Burges.<sup>9</sup> His eldest son was also a surgeon and is commemorated on a memorial in St Martin's Church in Cathedral Close Exeter.

In 1745 Yeates Parr married Elizabeth Lethbridge in Crediton. They had five children, John, Ursula, Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bill Hardiman and Ian Mortimer St Andrew's Church Moretonhampstead Published by the friends of St Andrew's

<sup>2</sup> 3359A/PR/1/2 Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust

<sup>3</sup> 4780A/PR/1/2 Devon Burials, South West Heritage Trust

<sup>4</sup> MURI 1-Vol 24 Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>5</sup> RG4/0965 (Presbyterian) 1687-1823

<sup>6</sup> England Select Marriages 1536-1973

<sup>7</sup> Pierce James Dictionary of National Biography

<sup>8</sup> 2165A/PR/1/3 Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust

<sup>9</sup> 2931A/PR/1/2 Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust

Ursula, the sister of Yeates, William and Bartholomew, married Roger Welsford of Crediton and they had ten children. Roger appeared in family documents and his son Giles was a Trustee named in Elizabeth Parr's will.

In 1750 William Parr married Elizabeth Ash/Aysh at Moretonhampstead.<sup>10</sup>

A marriage settlement recorded:

1. Elizabeth Aysh of Moretonhampstead, seamstress. 2. William Parr of Moreton, a clothier. 3. John Pinsent of Moreton, tallow chandler and Thomas Puddicombe of Moreton, woolcomber.

Premises: Messuage in Fore/Ford Street, Moretonhampstead. This land was left to Elizabeth in the will of Joseph Lane, Saddler of Moretonhampstead. [It may explain why their daughter Elizabeth was given the middle name of Lane.]<sup>11</sup>

In 1752 there is a record of Release of Fee between Yeats Parr of Crediton, Serge Maker; William Parr Moretonhampstead, Serge Maker and Bartholomew Parr, Exeter, Surgeon. These men were brothers confirmed in the will of Yeats Parr.<sup>12</sup>

In 1753: Lease and release: John Parr, Clerk, Moretonhampstead and William Parr, Bovey Tracey.<sup>13</sup>

The family remained in the area and two of the brothers worked within the wool trade.

Moretonhampstead was well known as a centre for serge making.

Between 1751 and 1764 William and Elizabeth had three daughters: Elizabeth Lane Parr, Susannah (Susan) Parr and Mary Parr.

On 28th August 1763 Ursula Welsford, the sister of Yeats, William and Bartholomew and wife of Roger Welsford died following the birth of her tenth child, Ursula, in Crediton, "*..before the melancholy internment of her tender mother*". Her father Rev John Parr baptised most of her children these are recorded on one page of the register and included deaths of some of the children.<sup>14</sup> Baptisms by family members was a common practice when a minister was a relation and were sometimes carried out at home, which could explain why there are few records of these baptisms.

In 1774 Elizabeth Lane Parr married Samuel Pope (Poope) of Exeter in Moretonhampstead.<sup>15</sup>

Bond and Oath for marriage Licence: Samuel Pope of St Leonards in the County of Devon and Elizabeth Lane Parr of Moretonhampstead marriage licence and bond to confirm details are correct. Bond taken out by Samuel Pope and Roger Welsford, the husband of Elizabeth's aunt Ursula.<sup>16</sup>

The Marriage Settlement concerned the land and buildings left to Elizabeth's mother in the will of Joseph Lane.<sup>17</sup>

In 1777 Rev John Parr died.<sup>18</sup> He had been a minister in Moretonhampstead from 1743-1775 when he retired due to ill health.<sup>19</sup>

In about 1777 the first of Elizabeth Lane and Samuel Pope's children, William Parr Pope was born.

---

<sup>10</sup> findmypast.co.uk English Marriages 1538-1973

<sup>11</sup> 4912M/T/16 Devon Heritage Centre marriage Settlement Moretonhampstead

<sup>12</sup> Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>13</sup> Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>14</sup> Piece 3558 Crediton Bowder Hill, (Presbyterian) 1735-1784

<sup>15</sup> Digital copies on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

<sup>16</sup> Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>17</sup> 4912M/T/16 Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>18</sup> Devon Burials 2916 A/PR/1/3

<sup>19</sup> Devon Will Index 1163-1999 3359A/PF/1/1/6

In 1778 another son, James, was born and he was baptised at Moretonhampstead Cross Meeting.<sup>20</sup>

On 4th August 1779 Yeates Parr wrote his will. He lived in Crediton and was a serge maker. He mentioned his son John, his daughters Ursula, Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary and his brothers Bartholomew of Exon, surgeon and William of Moretonhampstead, mercer. He was buried later that year.<sup>21</sup>

On September 6th 1781 a bond was issued and signed by John Parr of Crediton Yeoman, and Ursula Parr, Elizabeth Parr, and Sarah Parr and Mary of the same sire, Bartholomew Parr of Exeter, surgeon and Samuel Pope of Exeter Haberdasher in £800. Signed by all.<sup>22</sup>

In 1782 there is a record of a lease for Stooklands and Pratts lands in Silverton. William Parr, mercer, Moretonhampstead and John Parr, sergemaker, Crediton the nephew of William.<sup>23</sup>

On October 9th 1780 another son Samuel was born to Elizabeth and Samuel Pope. He was also baptised at the Moretonhampstead Cross meeting on November 7th 1780.<sup>24</sup>

Elizabeth Parr Pope was born in 1784 and baptised in Exeter at Bow Meeting.<sup>25</sup> Three more children were recorded: Bartholomew Parr Pope in 1790, Sarah Pope in 1792 and John Henry in 1793, all three were also baptised in Bow Meeting.<sup>26</sup>

On October 13th 1800 *Treleavens Diary* records; “Mr Wm Parr being on business at Whitestone was taken ill in the Palsey, he was drawn in a chaise to Exeter.”<sup>27</sup>

On November 5th 1800 Elizabeth Lane Pope’s father William Pope died. *Treleavens Diary* recorded: “This day died at the House of the Rev Edward Hills, Court, near Exeter Mr Wm Parr of Moretonhampstead aged 75; whose heart was the seat of every virtue that could adorn the man and the Christian.”<sup>28</sup> He was buried in the Dissenters’ Graveyard on November 9th<sup>29</sup> and his will was proved by the beginning of December. This had been signed on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1780/1786. Most was left to his wife who was sole executrix. He left his grandson William Parr Pope a watch.<sup>30</sup>

On October 12th 1802 Elizabeth Lane Pope’s mother died. *Treleavens Diary* reported: “Died this day aged 73 Mrs Parr widow of the late Wm Parr. About 11.00 this mornings was seized with the Palsy in the right side and in a few minutes became insensible and never spoke afterwards. She was quite well and cheerful when she was taken ill.” She was buried on October 17th in Moretonhampstead.<sup>31</sup>

On November 6<sup>th</sup> 1802 *Treleavens diary* recorded “a sale for the late Mrs Parr’s household goods and furniture.”<sup>32</sup>

By November 24th 1802 her will, which had been written in 1800 with an additional codicil in 1801 was proved. Her three daughters including Elizabeth Lane Pope were named as executrixes. She provided specifically for her daughters and her granddaughters making sure that the money should be for their

<sup>20</sup> RG/4/444 accessed on [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>21</sup> Muri 1-Vol 24 Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>22</sup> Muri 1-Vol 24, Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>23</sup> Devon Heritage Centre

<sup>24</sup> RG4/444 accessed on [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>25</sup> RG4/965 Bow Meeting

<sup>26</sup> RG4/965 Bow Meeting

<sup>27</sup> Treleavens Diary [moretonhampstead.org.uk](http://moretonhampstead.org.uk)

<sup>28</sup> [moretonhampstead.org.uk](http://moretonhampstead.org.uk)

<sup>29</sup> RG4/965 Bow Meeting

<sup>30</sup> Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858

<sup>31</sup> [moretonhampstead.org.uk](http://moretonhampstead.org.uk)

<sup>32</sup> [moretonhampstead.org.uk](http://moretonhampstead.org.uk)

sole use and not to be used by a husband.<sup>33</sup> One of these daughters Susannah was married to Theophilus Edwards who is recorded as the officiating minister in the details of other births and burials in the Nonconformist records.

There was provision of £100 for Selina Lethbridge who was described as a “granddaughter”, but there is no record of Selina as a granddaughter *sensu stricto*, she is possibly the daughter of William Lethbridge and Ursula Parr who was Elizabeth’s niece, the daughter of Yeates Parr. This Selina was born in 1790 and baptised by the Rev Rowland in Moretonhampstead in 1791.<sup>34</sup>

In the codicil a further £100 was left to Sarah Pope. Both Elizabeth Parr Pope and Sarah Pope had already inherited money from their father’s aunt Mary Drewe (further details of this will are in the biography of **James Pope and his Family**). Neither of them married and the 1841 census records them as living together being of independent means.<sup>35</sup>

Elizabeth Lane Pope’s youngest son, baptised as John Henry, died in 1811 and was buried in the Dissenters’ Graveyard.<sup>36</sup>

In 1824 Elizabeth Lane Pope died at the age of 72 and was buried in the graveyard.<sup>37</sup> In 1826 her son Bartholomew Parr Pope married Harriet Bowring at St Mary Steps, Exeter. The witnesses were William Bowring and Mary Bowring. Harriet was the daughter of William and Jenny Bowring who were both buried in the Graveyard.<sup>38</sup>

In 1830 Samuel Pope, the husband of Elizabeth Lane Pope, died and was buried in the Graveyard. He was described as a retired Haberdasher from the Parish of St Mary Major.<sup>39</sup> The last member of this family to be buried in the Dissenters’ Graveyard was Sarah Pope in 1848.<sup>40</sup>

Further details on the deaths of Elizabeth, Samuel and Sarah Pope can be found in the Biography **James Pope and Family**.

**Sally Dyer**

January 2022

---

<sup>33</sup> Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858

<sup>34</sup> Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>35</sup> 1841 Census

<sup>36</sup> Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>37</sup> Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>38</sup> Exeter Dissenters Graveyard Burial Records

<sup>39</sup> RG4/965

<sup>40</sup> RG4/965