

No memorial

Garton Family

Flora Garton (buried 1814)
Marianne Garton (1819-1825)
Joseph Garton (1800-1835)

John Garton (buried 1819)
Ann Garton (1832-1833)
Elizabeth Garton (1830-1836)

Three generations of the Garton family were buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard in the early part of the nineteenth century. Flora Garton (ne Simmonds) who was the first wife of William Garton, their son Joseph and several of their grandchildren. The family seem to have had a rather fluctuating attitude towards religion; whilst a few of them were baptised at George's Meeting and some buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard many more of them were baptised in Anglican churches and buried in parish churchyards.

William Garton and **Flora Simmonds** were married at St Leonard's church in Shoreditch on 27th March 1796.¹ Their first child, William, was baptised on 3rd July 1796 at St Andrew, Holborn and he was followed by John who was born in 1798 but baptised on 26th May 1799 at St Leonard, Shoreditch. They seemed to be in no particular hurry to have their children baptised; their third son Joseph Josiah was born on 25th January 1800 and baptised on 23rd August 1801 and their fourth son Vaughan was born on 21st July 1802 and baptised on 28th August 1803, both at St Pancras Old Church in Camden. A daughter, Flora was born on 24th January 1804 and a son George on 31st October 1804. George was baptised at St Mary Magdalene in Woolwich on 17th March 1805.²

Soon after 1805 the family moved to Exeter where William began a long career spanning 33 years working as a foreman at Kingdon's ironworks. They joined the congregation of Bow Meeting and their four year old daughter Flora was baptised there on 24th January 1808 as was their youngest child Susannah who was born in Exeter on 10th February 1810 and baptised the following day.³

William's wife Flora died in 1814 at the age of 42 and was buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard on 1st May.⁴

Just over a year later William married Martha Bradley, who was also widowed, at St Kerrian, Exeter on 15th June 1815. William's occupation was recorded as a white-smith.^{5,1} They lived in North Street and had a son, Francis, who was baptised at St Kerrian on 19th August 1816.⁶

William and Flora's eldest son William had also married in 1815, on 17th September at Bedminster, Bristol, to Susannah Foley. They lived in Clifton, Bristol for a while and had three children; Mary (1816), John (1818) and Charles (1820). They then settled in Widcombe, Somerset where they had six more children and William worked as a bright-smith until his death in 1835.²

The next member of the Garton family to be buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard was **John Garton**, "infant", on 13th January 1819.⁷ The account book records a payment of 4/- for opening a grave for Garton's child. What is not clear from the records is whose child this was; perhaps a son of William senior

¹ The term white-smith referred to a tinsmith, pewter worker or to someone who finished iron and steel items by filing, burnishing or polishing.

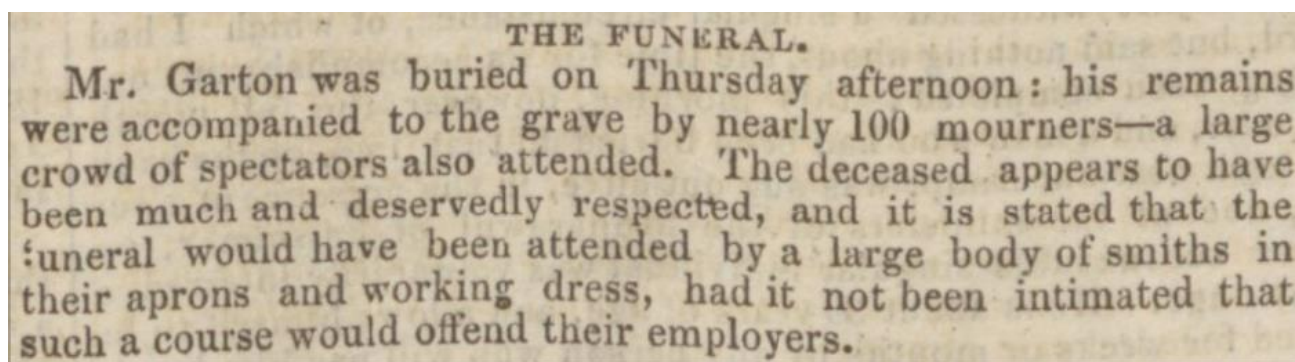
² Bright-smith was used synonymously for white-smith.

and Martha whose baptism has not been found or the son of William junior and Susannah who had been born in 1818.

It is possible that the Martha Garton (sic) who was buried at St Sidwell on 6th December 1818 aged 32 was William senior's wife⁸. He was certainly widowed by 1826 when, on 19th November at St Paul's church in Exeter, he was married for the third time⁹. His new bride was Sarah Bicknell (née Chown) who was the widow of William Bicknell. William Garton and Sarah lived in Gandy Street and then moved to Paul Street. They went on to have three more children; Emily Sarah in 1828, Henry Aaron in 1831 and Charles Chown in 1832, these three were all baptised at St Paul's church.¹⁰

William died on 26th May 1837 and the following day an inquest was held at the Bull Inn, Goldsmith Street in Exeter. The details were reported in the *Western Times* on 3rd June along with evidence from several witnesses:

On the previous Saturday (20th May) he had been called in by his employer and told that he was being demoted to a common journeyman. Until then he had been the foreman in charge of the smithery, smith's shop and foundry at Kingdon's, a position he had held for 33 years. He was given two hours to decide whether to accept his demotion or leave their employment. He went to see his son John, who by this time had his own ironmongery business, and told him he had been sacked. John tried to console him and offered him a place in his workshop. John saw him again on the Sunday when he seemed "*full of grief*" and on the Monday he came to work at John's but was agitated and "*at times seemed quite lost*". On Tuesday he was the same and on Wednesday said he had not eaten since Saturday. On Thursday he went to the shop of Thomas Penn, who was an apothecary, and said he had not slept for three nights, when advised to take a tincture of henbane he said that he had already taken laudanum. He died on the Friday morning and when the surgeons opened his stomach they found some crude opium which they believed to be the cause of death. The jury was asked to consider whether he took opium in order to procure rest or to end his life and if the latter whether he was in his right mind at the time. "*The jury found to the effect that his death arose from poison taken whilst in a state of temporary derangement*". Several of the jury thought that a month's notice might have prevented his taking it so much to heart.



THE FUNERAL.

Mr. Garton was buried on Thursday afternoon: his remains were accompanied to the grave by nearly 100 mourners—a large crowd of spectators also attended. The deceased appears to have been much and deservedly respected, and it is stated that the funeral would have been attended by a large body of smiths in their aprons and working dress, had it not been intimated that such a course would offend their employers.

This article was followed by a letter to the Editor from William's son Vaughan Garton thanking his friends who had paid their respects by accompanying his remains to the grave. "*Permit me also to add my sincere thanks to those numerous friends who were only prevented doing likewise by the MANDATE of their employers*".¹¹

At the time of his father's death Vaughan Garton was living in London where he had married Anne Barden in 1825. They had a son William Vaughan in 1837. Vaughan worked as an engineer. He died in 1864.

William Garton was buried on 1st June at St Paul's church in Exeter.¹² His widow Sarah was also buried there when she died in 1864; she had been the sextoness of St Paul's for 44 years.¹³

William and Flora's second son John Garton married Mary Ann Bowden on 24th January 1819 at St George's, Exeter.¹⁴ They lived in London for a short time and two daughters were born there; **Mary Ann** was baptised at St Andrew, Holborn on 27th June 1819 and Louisa was baptised at St Marylebone, Westminster on 8th July 1821.¹⁵ They then returned to Exeter where they had a son John Josiah, who was baptised at St Olave on 21st March 1824¹⁶, and a daughter Elizabeth who was baptised at George's Meeting on 13th March 1825. A few days later their eldest daughter Mary Ann (or Marianne) was buried at the Dissenters' Graveyard on 27th March 1825 aged five years. Three more daughters were baptised at George's Meeting; Ellen Flora on 25th December 1827, Emma on 26th December 1830 and **Ann** on 12th January 1833. Ann died aged 5 months and was buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard on 26th May 1833.¹⁷ Their youngest child, William Henry, was born in 1835.

During the early 1830's John was in partnership with his brother George. They advertised as *G. and J. Garton Smiths, Coppersmiths, Brass Founders, Iron and Brass Turners and Grinders* and had an establishment at Hutch Mill, Head Weir¹⁸ but their partnership was dissolved in February 1834.¹⁹ George died in 1839 and was buried on 10th March at St Mary Arches, Exeter.²⁰

By 1838 John appears to have been trading by himself from premises in North Street and by 1840 was in partnership with Ambrose Parker Jarvis, trading as Garton and Jarvis. In 1849 when Samuel Kingdon and his brother William retired Garton and Jarvis bought their ironmongery business, the origins of which could be traced back to 1661. The two businesses complemented each other and so this was a sensible financial move but there may perhaps also have been a sense of satisfaction for John in that he was now co-owner of the company that had caused his father such distress. The partnership of Garton and Jarvis was a great success, being awarded a prize medal for their stoves and boilers at the Great Exhibition of 1851, and lasted until the death of Ambrose Jarvis in 1862.²¹

John's wife Mary Ann died "from seizure of the brain" on 9th February 1859²² and on 25th September 1862 he married Sarah Vaughan at Holy Trinity in Plymouth.²³

In 1863 John Garton was joined in business by John Gould King and the company was renamed Garton and King, they traded as such until John Garton's death on 21st March 1867.²⁴

DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Garton, of the old established firm of Garton and King, ironmongers. The deceased gentleman expired at his residence, Eyton House, the Barnfields, this morning, at the age of 69. Mr. Garton was much esteemed by a large circle of friends. He was a sterling and consistent Liberal, and was at the time of his death one of the Improvement Commissioners.

*Express and
Echo 21st
March 1867*

Following the death of John Garton the business was carried on by his partner John King. Despite several subsequent changes of ownership in the intervening years the business which bears their names is still trading in Exeter to this day.

William and Flora's third son **Joseph Josiah Garton** moved to London where he worked as a paper hanger. He married Arabella Ann Simmonds at St Pancras chapel on 6th July 1828.²⁵ They had two children; Henry who was baptised at St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich in 1828 and **Elizabeth** who was baptised at St Giles in the Fields, Camden in 1830.²⁶ Then in about 1832 they moved back to Exeter and Joseph started working for Davey and Sons, painters, in Exeter. Their sons George and Josiah were born in Exeter in 1832 and 1834 and baptised at St Sidwell.²⁷ Joseph died aged only 35 in 1835 and was buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard on 27th December²⁸. His widow Arabella, who was pregnant at the time of his death, gave birth to a daughter, Emma Charlotte, who was baptised at St Sidwell in 1836.²⁹ Then, as a widow with a young family, she placed an advertisement appealing for charitable donations so that she could buy a mangle and washing utensils so that she could support her family.³⁰

TO THE CHARITABLE AND HUMANE.
THE attention of the public is respectfully solicited on
 the behalf of ARABELLA GARTON, Widow of the late
 JOSEPH GARTON, who was for the last Four Years in the employ
 of Messrs. Davey and Sons, Painters, of this city. The above
 named Joseph Garton, who was ill only a very short time, died
 about six months since, leaving a pregnant Widow and Five
 Children, the eldest being at that period under eight years of age.
 The said Arabella Garton, who was respectably brought up, has
 endeavoured since her husband's decease, to support herself
 and family by keeping a small shop, opposite Kekewich-place, St,
 Sidwells; but in consequence of the expences attendant upon her
 confinement, which took place last week, and the profits from the
 shop being too small to support herself and family, she is compelled
 to lay her case before a benevolent public, assuring them that it
 merits, and she trusts will meet with their kind consideration. A
 few friends who are well acquainted with her circumstances, have
 kindly interested themselves in her behalf, and any subscriptions
 that may be received, will be applied by them to purchase a Mangle
 and Washing Utensils, which, they doubt not, will enable her to
 provide for herself and family.
 Messrs. DAVEY and SONS, Upper Southernhay; Mr. BEAL,
 Ironmonger, North-street; or Mr. H. SPARKES, Bank, Cathedral
 Yard, have kindly offered to receive Subscriptions, and also answer
 any enquiries that may be made as to the truth of the above state-
 ments.

Western Times 16th July 1836

Later that year Joseph and Arabella's daughter Elizabeth died at the age of five and was buried in October 1836³¹ (no date is shown in the burial record). She was the last member of the family to be buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard.

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June 2023

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