

No Memorial

James MANNING (Reverend)
Lydia MANNING
Matilda Cooke MANNING
James MANNING

died 1831
died 1847
died 1810
died 1813

The **Reverend James Manning** was born on 25th August 1754 in Allhallows, Northamptonshire. His parents were William Manning and Elizabeth Bottrell (recorded on the birth certificate as Batterill).¹ Both parents were working as Woolstaplers at the time. A Woolstapler was someone who bought raw wool, graded it and sold it on to a manufacturer.

William and Elizabeth had married on 20th October 1741 in Welford, Northamptonshire. Elizabeth's surname was recorded as Bottrill (sic).² In 1762, William died and was buried on 12th March.³ It is recorded that Elizabeth had, in fact, wanted to marry Samuel Merivale before her marriage to William but her father objected. Samuel Merivale, had moved from Northampton to Tavistock but, following William's death, they rekindled their relationship. Samuel and Elizabeth were married on 8th October 1766 in Northampton All Saints.⁴ Elizabeth died in 1815 and was buried in the Merivale vault in the Exeter Dissenters' graveyard (see "Merivale" in Social History - www.edgt.org.uk).

James's stepfather, Reverend Samuel Merivale, was a Non-Conformist Minister. He placed James and his own son from his first marriage under the care of Reverend John Kiddell who kept a private seminary in



Tiverton for the education of young gentlemen. At the age of 16, James was moved to the Institution at Hoxton to complete his academic studies; thence to Thorverton for a short period before becoming a Pastor at George's Meeting in South Street Exeter (photograph left) on 22nd October 1777. James succeeded Reverend Towgood as Senior Pastor in 1782.

On 20th October 1777, James[I] married Maria Oke in Lyme Regis, Dorset.⁵ Maria was born in Axminster, Devon in 1756 and was the daughter of Walter Oke and Frances Enchmarch. Sadly she died in 1779 and was buried in St Thomas a Becket Churchyard, Thorverton, Devon.⁶

James[I] and Maria had only child, William Oke Manning, who was born in 1778. More information about him is given later in this biography.

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1. Birth Certificate – England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1936 RG5 Birth Registers 1742-1800.
 2. England, Select Marriages 1538-1973.
 3. Northamptonshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Births 1532-1812.
 4. Northampton Marriages (www.findmypast.co.uk)
 5. Sarum Marriage Licence Bonds (www.findmypast.co.uk)
 6. UK and Ireland, Find a Grave Index 1300's to current)
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On 17th August 1780, James married **Lydia Edye** at the church of St Michael the Archangel in Winterbourne, Gloucestershire.⁷ She had been baptized on 5th May 1760 at Lewin's Mead Society of Protestant Dissenters, Bristol and was the daughter of John Edye and Hannah King.⁸ Lydia's father was a Banker who died in 1794. He and his wife, Hannah, had six children of whom Lydia was the oldest.⁹

James and Lydia had three children: James[II], Lydia and John Edye. More about them is given later.

James[I] shared the ownership of a number of properties in the South West. However, in a Codicil to his last Will and Testament, he only referred to property in Dawlish (Higher and Lower Lammas Park).

When James[I] became ill in 1830, he was presented with a silver vase which cost more than 100 guineas. It was inscribed *"To the Rev. James Manning this Vase is presented by the united congregation of Protestant Dissenters assembling in George's Meeting House, Exeter, as a testimonial of their gratitude and respect for the zeal and fidelity with which he has discharged the duties of the Pastoral Office, in that place, for more than fifty three years"*.¹⁰

James[I] was instrumental in establishing the Lunatic Asylum in Exeter and was Vice President of the Devon County Hospital. He wrote and published many articles including *"A Letter to a Congregation of Dissenters"* in 1788, *"A Sketch of the Life and Writings of Micaiah Towgood"* in 1792, *"Exercises in Piety"* which he translated from the French in 1796 and *"An Apology for Christmas Day, a Sermon"* in 1822. He died in 1831 in Exeter and was buried in the Exeter Dissenters' graveyard on 13th September of that year. At that time, the graveyard was called Saints Rest. In his Will he records, specifically, that he does not want an expensive funeral nor any "unnecessary parade which appears to me in no way suitable to the humiliating view given us of human nature in death". It seems that there was never a memorial stone erected in the graveyard. However, there is a wall monument in what was the School Room of George's Meeting House (now a Wetherspoons public house).



The inscription reads,

"And now my fellow Christians of all denominations Farewell. My beloved wife and children, Fare ye well, may I meet you round the throne of our reconciled Father, with filial reverence, and mutual congratulations. Again Farewell! Farewell!!! J.Manning

Sacred to the memory of the Rev^d James Manning who for upwards of fifty three years was the beloved and respected Pastor of the congregation assembly in George's Meeting House, in him the poor have lost a kind benefactor, his family, a most affectionate husband, and his fellow citizens an active and steady friend. He was born at Northampton 25 Aug 1754 and died in this City 10 Sep 1831. Servant of God farewell."

7. Bristol, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538 - 1812

8. England, Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975

9. England and Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858

10. Biographies of Exonians (www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk)

His wife, Lydia, remained in Exeter, in the parish of Holy Trinity, where she appeared in the 1841 census. She died on 16th May 1847 in Heavitree, Exeter¹¹ and was buried in the Exeter Dissenters Graveyard. In her last Will and Testament, Lydia bequeathed *“All my real Estate and also all other my personal Estate” to her son, James, and her daughter, Lydia, to sell “as they see fit”*. James[II] was to “pay himself one moiety” of any monies raised and the remaining moiety to be given to Matilda, the wife of John Edye Manning *“for her life to her sole and separate use free from the control and not subject to the Debts, or engagements of her husband and after her death upon Trust to divide one moiety to be paid to my Grandsons Edye Manning, William Montague Manning, James Alexander Louis Manning, Arthur Wilcox Manning and Henry Manning severally and respectively share and share alike, and three eighths of such moiety to be invested”* in Government securities in England and New South Wales *“for the benefit of my three Granddaughters Hannah Jane Clarke, Elizabeth Botterill Townshend, Lydia Adelaide Matilda Manning”*. Again, Lydia’s Will makes it clear that the monies are for the sole use and benefit of the young women and not their husbands. There is also mention of a house in James Street, Exeter in that the fourth part *“of the said interest”* must go to her children.

In addition to the above, Lydia left 15 guineas to her son James[II] and the same amount to his wife, Clarissa, plus 5 guineas to each of their children. The same amounts were left to her son, John Edye Manning, his wife Matilda and their children. We may be able to ascertain from information given below the reason why John Edye Manning received so very little from Lydia’s Will.¹²

The children of Reverend James Manning

William Oke Manning, the son of James[I] and Maria, was born in 1778 and baptized on 17th November of that year at Bow Meeting.¹³ In 1795, William began his ministerial studies at John Horsey’s Academy in Northampton. This was an academy for training Dissenting Ministers. He remained there until 1798 when the Academy closed, briefly, and moved to New College, Manchester.¹⁴ New College had been founded in 1786 and was nondenominational *“to provide a comprehensive course of study for ministers and a preparatory course for those attending for the other professions and for business.”* Ministerial students were expected to follow a five year course of study though it seems he studied at New College and his one year at New College (he left in 1800) would have been added to his four years at John Horsey’s Academy.¹⁴ From New College, William became a Dissenting Minister at the Dissenting Meeting House, Bowl-Alley Lane, Hull where he remained until 1805 before turning his attention to a career in business in London.¹⁵ He became an Insurance Broker with Lloyds.

William married Joan Whatmore Gibson on 15th May 1806 at St Mary, Newington, Southwark.¹⁶ They had five children: Ann, Frances Catherine, Ellen Maria, Harriet Elizabeth, and Lydia Matilda.¹⁷ William died on 12th January 1859 and was buried in St Michael and All Angels Church burial ground, Mickleham, Surrey.¹⁸

11. www.findagrave.com

12. The Will of Lydia Edye Manning held at Devon Heritage Centre, ref. 1078/IRW/M/1391

13. England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1936

14. Dissenting Academies (www.dissacad.english.qmul.ac.uk)

15. History of Dissenting Meeting-House, Bowl-Alley Lane, Hull (The Monthly Depository of Theology and General Literature)

16. London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns 1754-1936

17. Morning Post 17th January 1859 (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

18. www.gravestonephotos.com

James[II] Manning, son of James and Lydia, was baptized on 27th February 1782 at Lewins Mead Presbyterian Chapel, Bristol.¹⁹ As a young man, his interests included history and antiquities. He was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn on 23rd June 1817 and married Clarissa Palmer on 7th September 1820 at Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.²⁰

In 1832, James was appointed as a revising Barrister, following the 1832 Reform Act and was appointed Recorder of Sudbury in 1836, and Oxford & Banbury in 1837. These positions he held until his death. He was raised to the position of Sergeant-at-Law in 1840 and was made Queen's Ancient Sergeant in 1846.

James[II] and Clarissa had five children: Clarissa Peach (born 25th July 1822), Rose Francis (born 26th June 1824), Emily (born 10th April 1826), Elizabeth Adelaide (born 1st March 1828), and Louisa (born 24th January 1830). The family home was in London but the first three children to be born, Emily, Elizabeth and Rose, were baptised at George's Meeting, Exeter, by their grandfather, the Reverend James Manning.¹⁹

Clarissa died on 15th December 1847 and, ten years later, on 3rd December 1857, James married Charlotte Solly, the daughter of Isaac Solly and widow of William Speir MD.²⁰ Charlotte was the first Head of Girton College, Cambridge. They had no children.

James[II] died on 29th August 1866 at his home, 44 Phillimore Gardens, South Kensington, London. The newspaper report, following his death, reported, *"His profound learning and his professional ability were recognized throughout Westminster Hall and, added to the sterling virtues of the man obtained from him, the marked respect of his brethren"*.²¹ He was buried at St Michael and All Angels Church burial ground, Mickleham, Surrey.²²

Lydia Manning, daughter of James[I] and Lydia was born on 27th October 1784 and baptized, by her father, on 28th November of that year at Bow Meeting, Exeter.²³

Very little is known about Lydia except that she remained single all her life and, in 1850, was living at 6, Baring Place, Exeter.²⁴ She had also resided at 18 East Southernhay, Exeter.²⁵ In a report concerning her deceased parents, it is recorded *"Lydia Manning, whose exemplary attention to her worthy parents ceased only with their existence"*.²⁶ Lydia died on 16th April 1870 at 7 Princes Buildings, Clifton, Bristol, in her 86th year.²⁷

John Edye Manning, son of James and Lydia was born on 26th April 1783 and baptized on 18th May that year at Bow Meeting, Exeter.²⁸ When he was fifteen, he began his training to be a solicitor and was articled to George Follett of Williams, Follett & Williams in Exeter.²⁹ Following the death of George Follett, he joined in partnership with John Williams in 1804 (Williams and, Son, and Manning).³⁰ On 1st

19. England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1936

20. England, Select Marriages 1538-1973

21. Western Daily Press 3rd September 1866 (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

22. www.gravestonephotos.com

23. England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1936

24. 1850 UK, City and County Directories 1600's – 1900's

25. England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations 1858-1995)

26. Exeter Flying Post, 21st June 1849

27. Western Times, 18th April 1870

28. England, Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975

29. National Archives Discovery

30. Exeter Flying Post, 31 May 1804

May that year he married Matilda Jorden Cooke at Almondsbury, St Mary, Gloucestershire.³¹

In 1806, when he was only twenty three years of age, John bought land in Dawlish which was part of the manor of Dawlish and was being sold at that time. He immediately set to work on the area known as Tunncliffe Waste which is, today, known as The Lawn.³² A huge amount of soil was moved to here to make what was a narrow brook, longer, straighter and wider. At the same time as this work was being undertaken, he had a large house built in the town, known as the Manor House, and continued to build on his property portfolio for the next four years until he owned ninety three properties in Dawlish.³²

The year 1810 was to be an *annus horribilis* for John and his family. In May 1810, **Matilda Cooke Manning** died; she was only four years old, having been born on 26th February 1806.³³ She was the first born of John and Lydia's eleven children and was buried in our Dissenters' Graveyard on 26th May 1810. Then, on the night of 10th November 1810, Dawlish suffered a terrible flood. *"The beautiful canal at Dawlish, with the bridges, are so entirely destroyed that not the smallest resemblance of its original form can be perceived. - The damage sustained by one gentleman at that place is estimated at not less than 10,000/".*³⁴ That 'gentleman' was John Edye Manning.

Whether or not John and Lydia were actually residing in Dawlish at that time is not known but we do know, by 1811, they were living there in a house named Sea Grove. Also that year, their family home in Magdalen Street, Exeter was advertised TO BE LET in the local press.³⁵

Following the flood, John set about remaking his 'canal' but his finances were stretched to the limit and, by the end of 1811, he was bankrupt.³⁶ Sadly, John and Lydia were to lose another of the children in 1813. Their fifth child, **James[III] Manning**, who was born on 29th July 1812 in Exeter, died on 7th March 1813³³ and was buried in our Dissenters' Graveyard. Within two years of this sad event, John and Lydia had gone to live in France, taking with them their four surviving children. Those children were: John Eyde jnr (born 22nd March 1807), Hannah Jane (born 2nd September 1810), William Montague (born 20th June 1811) and James Alexander (born 9th April 1814). There were to be five more children all born in France: Elizabeth Botteril (born 21st September 1815 in Le Havre), Lydia Adelaide Matilda (born 26th April 1817 in Normandy), Arthur Wilcox (born 28th November 1819 in Paris, Henry (born 20th February 1821 in France – specific place unknown) and Emily (born on 30th March 1823 and died 25th March 1824).³³ The family had returned to England in 1823, John "under the protection of the Insolvent Debtors' Relief Act". In 1824, he sold all his remaining property in England.³⁷

In 1828 John was appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. This appointment must have been made in England as he and his family did not arrive in Sydney, on the *Lord Melville*, until the following May.³⁷ The *Lord Melville* was undertaking a convict voyage, leaving London on 5th January 1829 and arriving in Port Jackson, Sydney on 6th May 1829. Clearly, John was not a convict so we must assume that such an 'important' person was given accommodation away from the convicts. The guard detachment on the ship was the 63rd Regiment of Foot.³⁷

31. Bristol, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns 1784-1937

32. The Lawn Dawlish by Tricia Whiteaway (a Dawlish Local History Group publication)

33. Kentish Gazette – 20th November 1810

34. Exeter Flying Post – Thursday, 28th February 1811

35. Article in Dawlish LHG Newsletter, June 2022, by David Allanach

36. Information provided by a descendant to www.wikitree.com

37. Lord Melville (1825 Ship) – www.wikipedia.com ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Melville_\(1825_ship\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Melville_(1825_ship)))

Things did not go well for John on his arrival in New South Wales. He complained, immediately, about the cost of living and continued to do so for the next nine years. However, in true John Edye Manning style, he took an active part in public life and acquired large land holdings. Financially, matters went from bad to worse and, in 1841, his offer of resignation was refused but he was suspended from office in 1842.³⁸ He returned to England in 1849 leaving behind at least four of his children: James Alexander (died NSW 1887) John Edye jnr (died NSW 1889), William Montague (died NSW 1897) and Arthur Wilcox (died NSW 1899).

John and Matilda returned to Dawlish where they lived at No.1 Teignmouth Hill. They were still there in 1851 with their daughter, Hannah, but later moved to 7 Princes Buildings, Clifton, Bristol. Matilda died on 12th October 1860 and John died ten years later, on 16th January 1870. Both were buried in Arnos Vale, Bristol Unitarian Cemetery, Bristol.³⁹

Note

Although I have concluded this social history of Reverend James Manning and his family as we have moved too far away from the Dissenters' Graveyard 'inhabitants', you may wish to continue following this family. In particular, Reverend James Manning's grandson, William Montague Manning KCMG, QC is worthy of more research.

38. Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 2, 1967

39. UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index 1300's – current.

Yvonne Hensman

September 2022.

Addendum

The following report of Revd James Manning's funeral appeared in the *North Devon Journal* on 22nd September 1831.

The remains of the Rev. James Manning whose demise we announced in our last, were deposited on Thursday, in the burial ground belonging to George's Meeting, generally known by the name of Saints' Rest, in Magdalene-street. He was followed to the grave by at least 300 of his congregation, and others who were desirous of paying a last tribute of respect to his memory. Mr. Manning's connection with the congregation assembling in George's Meeting-House extended to a period of 53 years, commencing in the year 1778, when he succeeded the Rev. Stephen Towgood, and became co-pastor with the venerable Macaijah Towgood, a circumstance to which Mr. Manning always referred with feelings of great satisfaction. In 1782, Mr. Towgood resigned the situation, and from that time Mr. Manning had successively associated with him, as colleagues, Mr. Tozer, Kenrick, Bretland, Carpenter, Hincks, and Acton, with whom he lived in agreeable and friendly intercourse. Besides the discharge of his duties as the pastor of a large congregation, Mr. Manning was the zealous and indefatigable friend of most of the public charities in this city. The Lunatic Asylum, and the Devon and Exeter Hospital shared a very large portion of his attention; indeed to the former, in its first establishment he gave great and efficient assistance. The benevolence of his disposition and the suavity of his manners, obtained for him the affection, esteem, and respect of a very large circle of friends and acquaintance; by whom his many virturs (sic) will be long held in affectionate and grateful remembrance.