

## No Memorial

### Samuel Parminter and Family

**John Parminter** d. 1751

**Samuel Parminter** d. 1752

**Mary Parminter** d. 1784      wife of Samuel Parminter

**Elizabeth Parminter** d. 1796

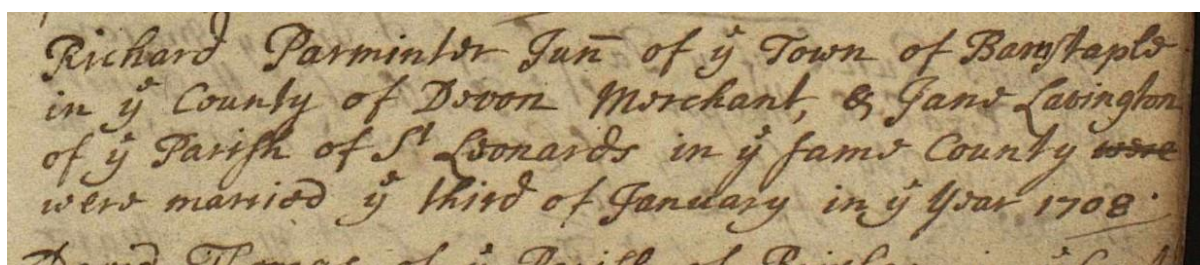
**Samuel Parminter** d. 1797

**Parminter** (child) d. 1760\*

**Parminter** d. 1764\*

There are numerous Parminters buried in the Dissenters' graveyard. They relate directly to two branches of the family: Samuel Parminter ( -1797) and his family and his nephew John Vowler Parminter's (1739-1792) family. Two queries remain (marked \* above), those of a Parminter child buried in 1760 for which the account book entry is '*Rec'd for opening a cave for Mr Parminters child of Lisbon 5/- paid 8 Feb 1760*'. It is possible that this was Margaret the daughter of John Parminter, Samuel's brother who was a merchant in Lisbon, Portugal.<sup>1</sup> The second query relates to '*Mr Samuel Parminter Rec'd for opening a cave 5/- paid 24 Sep 1764*'. Was this another child or family member?

Samuel Parminter (d.1797) was one of eleven possible siblings born to Richard and Jane (née Lavington). Richard (1710 -1756), Jane (1711-1776), John (1712-1780), Ann (1713- ), William (1713 -), Susana (1715-?), Andrew (1716-c.1799), Samuel (1717-1797), Mary (1719 -?), Elizabeth (1720-1806) and Margaret (1721-1780). See Appendix C in '*The A la Ronde Story: its people*'.<sup>2</sup> Samuel's father Richard (1676-1761) was baptised in Barnstaple on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1676.<sup>3</sup> He married Jane Lavington the sister of the Reverend John Lavington of Exeter's Bow Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 1708 in St. Leonard's Parish Church, Exeter.<sup>4</sup>



Marriage entry for Richard Parminter and Jane Lavington, 1708.

<sup>1</sup> A handwritten sheet at A la Ronde states that Margaret was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1759 and died the following February. NT 1312979.

<sup>2</sup> For more on the Parminters

<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwig9qLOmlyCAXVYXUEAHVwsB4sQFnoECCoQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devonmuseums.net%2Fincludes%2Fdocuments%2FBOOK%2520%2520-%2520The%2520people%2520over%2520COMPRESSED.doc&usg=AOvVaw01eIG74lOGpGmYqOh2mcOt&opi=89978449>

<sup>3</sup> England Births and Baptisms 1538-1975 accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>4</sup> Exeter St. Leonards records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)



Richard Parminter c. 1715-39 (A la Ronde © National Trust)

Richard and Jane lived in Broadgate House, Pilton near Barnstaple. *'Richard was by this time a collector of dues for H.M. Customs at Bideford and was among those registered as making an oath of allegiance to King George I, before the Justices of the Peace at Braunton on 17 Sep 1723 being described as "of Pilton, Gentleman" This Richard was prominent in the local community, being recorded in 1735 as a patron of Barnstaple Hospital and also of the Pilton United Charities which provided almshouses in the parish.'*<sup>5</sup>

Richard died in 1761. Some believe his wife Jane also died that year however the only mention in his will of Jane which was written in 1757 says, *'To be buried in the same sepulchre with my dear wife in Barnstaple church'*.<sup>6</sup> It is possible that Jane was already deceased by the time he wrote his will.



There are no records to show how Samuel ended up in Exeter, although we do know from his father's will dated the 11th of July 1757, that *'As my sons are settled at a distance from me'* he called on his grandson Joseph Greening to help with the administration.

We know from the list of Exeter Freemen that Samuel was apprenticed to William Gifford, a grocer in Exeter. In 1739 Samuel now a grocer and linen draper became a freeman of Exeter.<sup>7</sup> William was also master to John Fryer a relation of Samuel's by marriage.<sup>8</sup>

Silhouette of Samuel from A la Ronde, Exmouth ©National Trust.

<sup>5</sup> As note 2.

<sup>6</sup> Oswyn Murray collection of wills, abt. 1600-1800, MUR1, Vol. 24 Devon Heritage Centre (DHC).

<sup>7</sup> Exeter Freemen 1266-1967, Ed. Rowe and Jackson, 1973, Devon and Cornwall Record Society.

<sup>8</sup> See Fryer biographies [www.edgt.co.uk](http://www.edgt.co.uk)

Samuel married Mary Walrond the sister of John Walrond of Exeter and daughter of Henry Walrond, probably in the first half of the 1740's. Their first child Mary was born in 1745. Samuel also signed as a witness to his brother-in-law, John Walrond's marriage settlement on 4th August 1746.<sup>9</sup> No marriage records have been found yet for Samuel and Mary.

John Walrond, his wife Mary and their daughter Elizabeth Fryer Walrond are known to have been buried in the Exeter Dissenters' graveyard.<sup>10</sup>

Samuel and Mary had eight children and possibly more who are not recorded. Mary (1745-1792), **Samuel (1746-1752)**, Jane (1748-1819), **John (1750-1751)**, Ann (1755-1828), Samuel (1759-1803), Margaret (1760-1769) and **Elizabeth (-1796)**.<sup>11</sup>

As a grocer Samuel would have sold a range of imported goods such as tobacco, sugar, tea, coffee, chocolate, and spices. In the eighteenth-century grocers had an increasingly complicated supply chain and Samuel trading in Exeter would be in the right place for such imports. His network of friends and family who were cloth merchants would also stand him in good stead as a linen draper. He would not only supply Linen from Holland but probably also local wool cloth and silk from London and the continent. Adverts in local papers offered oranges direct from Seville and tea auctions at the Customs House on the quay. From the third quarter of the 18th century many of these commodities were central to the lives of many people.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately no adverts have been found directly relating to Samuel's own business, but it is believed he was situated somewhere near the Great Conduit at the top of Fore Street.

Samuel was born and baptised in the Parish Church at Pilton but by the time his first son was born his family worshipped at Bow Presbyterian Meeting in Exeter.

On 23rd July 1744 Samuel was elected one of the Committee of Thirteen of the three congregations. *'The committee met at Mr John Vowler's where were present himself, Mr Smith, Mr Sealy, Mr Conant, Mr Tho. Vowler, Mr R. Parminter, and Mr Gifford... when it was decided unanimously... that Mr Samuel Parminter be desired to succeed as one of our committee in the room of Mr Servington Savery deceased.'*<sup>13</sup>

As a committee member he was required to be involved with the general running of the chapels. Meetings were usually held in the homes of the members where decisions were made and acted upon. In January 1747 it was *'Agreed that Mr Will. Gifford have ye care to look after the repairs of ye meeting house at James and Mr Samuel Parminter to assist him.'*

It was in 1754 that Samuel took on his nephew John Vowler Parminter as an apprentice. Robert Newton in his book, *'Eighteenth century Exeter'* stated that *'Family connections were weighty qualifications for membership of the chamber'* (Exeter's governing body). Likewise, it appears that apprenticeships were often family affairs and therefore held some authority in religious circles too. John Vowler Parminter was elected one of the Thirteen in 1767.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Marriage settlement of John Walrond and Mary Fryer (96M/0/Box93/34B) DHC.

<sup>10</sup> See Walrond Biographies [www.edgt.org.uk](http://www.edgt.org.uk)

<sup>11</sup> Those in bold are buried in the Dissenters Graveyard.

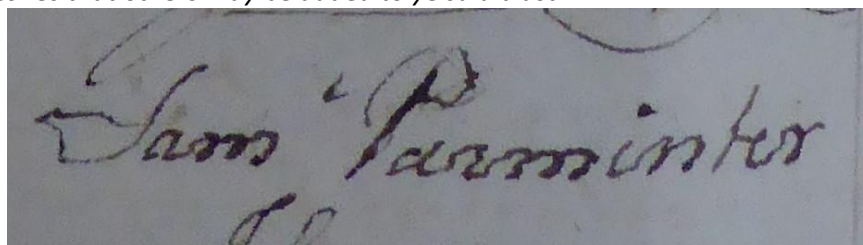
<sup>12</sup> Sugar and Spice: Grocers and Groceries in Provincial England, 1650-1830, Jon Stobart, Oxford University Press, 2012.

<sup>13</sup> James Meeting Minute Book (1687-1760) (3693D/M1) DHC

<sup>14</sup> As note 13.

Both Samuel and John Vowler subscribed to the new meeting, George's in South Street in 1759 and then worshipped there once it opened.

Sometime in 1774 Samuel was appointed treasurer of George's, a post which he appears to have kept until about 1778. In 1776 *'Mr Treasurer Parminter reported that he being the only surviving trustee for two hundred- and fifty-pounds stock in ye 4 per cent bank annuities for which Mr George Jeffery of London is agent – he desires that others may be added to ye said trust.'*



*Samuel's signature in 1782.*

In 1784 Mary, Samuel's wife died. She was buried in the Dissenters' graveyard on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The burial entry stated she was aged 64. Ten shillings was *'Rec'd for opening Mr Parminter's cave for Mrs Parminter'* on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Two days after her burial a notice appeared in the Exeter Flying Post stating that *'Tuesday died, after a lingering illness, which she bore with great resignation and fortitude, Mrs Parminter, wife of Mr Parminter, grocer, of this city.'* For more information on Mary's family see Walrond biography - <https://t.ly/qLGFv>.

Samuel wrote his will on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1784 - the same day he paid for the burial of his wife. He lived a further thirteen years until 1797 when he died at the age of eighty. The Exeter Flying Post of Thursday 23rd February reported that *'Last Thursday died in an advanced age, at his house in Magdalene Street, Mr Samuel Parminter, formerly an eminent grocer and linen-draper of this city.'*<sup>15</sup> His exact burial date is not known, but the account book shows that they *'Rec'd opening cave Mr S Parminter 10/- paid 23 Feb 1797'*.<sup>16</sup>

Samuel wrote in his will that *'all my said Lands Tenements Hereditaments whatsoever or wheresoever as well as all my stock in trade Book Debts Bills Bonds Cash or other securities Also my household goods Mines or shares of Mines and all my other chattels whatsoever to be equally divided between them (his children) share and share alike.'*<sup>17</sup>

## Samuel and Mary's children

**Mary (1745-1792)** – According to her burial record Mary was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1745.<sup>18</sup> No baptismal record has been found to date. She married William Lowder a medical student in 1768.

Mary's cousin John Vowler Parminter had married Mary Glass the daughter of Dr Thomas Glass of Exeter in 1762. Had Mary met William Lowder through the Glass family's medical connections? William's brother John Lowder, a banker, married Ann Glass (Mary's sister) in 1778. The Stamford Mercury reported on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1768 that *'Yesterday was married Dr Lowder, of Cannon Street, to Miss Parminter, of Exeter'*.

<sup>15</sup> Exeter Flying Post 23 Feb 1797 DHC

<sup>16</sup> Report and account book of Dissenters burial ground 1748-1832, (DRO3693D/0/B/1) DHC.

<sup>17</sup> Samuel Parminter's will (PROB 11/1289/210) accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>18</sup> England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1936 accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

William graduated as a Doctor of Medicine at Aberdeen on the 6th of March 1775. He is best known as a 'Male Midwife' and was a well-respected lecturer on that subject.



*Dr Lowder's silhouette from A la Ronde. © National Trust.*

For more information on William see <https://t.ly/iwaXN>.

Mary and William had five children Maria, Mary, William, Charles and Henry. All were baptised in the Moravian Church, Fetter Lane, London.<sup>19</sup>

Mary died in Chelsea in December 1792. William moved out of London and died at his house in Upper East Hayes, Walcot, Somerset on 24th October 1801.

**Samuel (1746-1752)** - Samuel was born in 1746 and baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> November that year at Bow by the Reverend John Lavington.<sup>20</sup> He died just five years later and was buried on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1752. Five shillings was paid by his father for opening the cave two days later.<sup>21</sup>

**Jane (1748-1818)** - Jane never married. She wrote her will in 1817 by which time she was living in Bristol. Mary wanted to be buried in the same grave as her niece Mary Lowder who had died in 1794 at the age of only twenty-two at the Hotwells of a consumption.<sup>22</sup> Jane died on November 26<sup>th</sup> 1818 and was interred on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.<sup>23</sup> They were buried in the Moravian Brethren's graveyard in Bristol.

**John (1750-1751)** – John did not live long. He was baptised on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1750 by the Reverend John Lavington but sadly died less than a year later. He was the first of Samuel's children to die. Samuel commissioned a cave for his son for which he paid fifteen shillings. He was interred on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1751.<sup>24</sup>

**Ann (1755-1838)** – Ann was baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1755 by the Reverend John Lavington at Bow Meeting. She remained unmarried until the age of fifty-two when she married the Reverend Richard

<sup>19</sup> The Moravian Church in Fetter Lane was the first of its kind to be established in England.

<sup>20</sup> As note 18.

<sup>21</sup> As note 16.

<sup>22</sup> The Bristol Hotwell, Vincent Waite <https://bristolha.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/bha001.pdf> accessed 19/10/2023.

<sup>23</sup> As note 18.

<sup>24</sup> As note 16.



Frome from Shoreditch.<sup>25</sup> They married in St. Sidwell's church in Exeter on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1807.

**Samuel (1759-1803)** – Samuel was baptised on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1759 by Abraham Tozer at Bow.<sup>26</sup> He was apprenticed to his father and gained the freedom of Exeter on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1782.<sup>27</sup> *'Samuel Parminter Junior, grocer, apprentice of his father, Samuel Parminter.'* In his will he wrote that he was late of Bath but now of Exmouth. Perhaps he had gone to Exmouth for his health. By the time he died he only had two surviving siblings, Jane and Ann to whom he left all he had.<sup>28</sup> He was buried at Withycombe Raleigh on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1803.<sup>29</sup>

**Margaret (1760-1769)** – Margaret was baptised on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1760 by the Reverend Aaron Tozer at Bow meeting.<sup>30</sup> There is a large gap in the records relating to burials for 1769 so it is probable that Margaret is also buried within Samuel's cave, but that cannot be confirmed.

**Elizabeth ( -1796)** – Unfortunately, very little is known about Elizabeth. She remained unmarried and possibly stayed in the family home with her father in Magdalen Street. It is assumed she was close to her cousin Elizabeth Fryer Walrond as they were both administrators to Francis Walrond, their uncle's goods. She died in 1796. In her will dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 1794, just two years earlier she leaves mainly small gifts of items to various family members including *'the 2naturss -- picture to Cousin Jane'*. Was this Jane Parminter of A la Ronde? There is no record of Elizabeth's actual burial apart from the entry stating, *'Rec'd opening Mr Parminters cave his daughter 10/- paid 10 Oct 1796.'*<sup>31</sup> Her will was left unadministered until 1838 when Joseph Hurlock another cousin was granted administration. This was perhaps due to the fact her father died just a few months after her.

## Samuel's siblings

**Richard (1710-1756)** - Samuel's brother was also on the committee of thirteen having been elected in 1737. It appears he was a councillor in Exeter and treasurer of the committee. *'And we desire Counsellor Mr Parminter will be for the future our treasurer and take care of our books and writings.'*

**Jane (1711-1774?)** remained unmarried (see silhouette right).

**John (1712-1780)** – of Fairlinch House near Branton. John was a successful wine merchant who owned a glass factory in Lisbon. He married Jane Arbouin (1712-1773) in Lisbon where his two daughters were born. The great Lisbon earthquake of 1755 ruined his business, but he managed to market a form of quick-drying cement which was used to rebuild the city and restored the family fortunes. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1780 in Branton, North Devon.



<sup>25</sup> Marriage allegation of Richard Frome of Shoreditch in London, clerk and Ann Parminter of Saint Sidwell in Exeter, spinster, 18<sup>th</sup> February 1807 (DEX/7/b/1/1807/77) DHC

<sup>26</sup> As note 18.

<sup>27</sup> Exeter Freeman 1266-1967, Ed. Rowe and Jackson, 1973, Devon and Cornwall Record Society.

<sup>28</sup> Samuel Parminter's will (PROB11/1400/133) accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>29</sup> Withycombe Raleigh transcripts accessed at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>30</sup> As note 18.

<sup>31</sup> As note 16.



Left. John Parminter c. 1740.

John's daughter Jane created A la Ronde with her cousin Mary.

**Ann (1713-?)** remained unmarried?

**William (1714- ?)** unknown.

**Susana (1715- ?)** unknown.

**Andrew (1716-c. 1799)** The baptismal entry for Andrew at Bow Meeting states 'Andrew son of my brother Richard and Jane Parminter August 2 1716 (Merchant of Pilton near Braunton)'. Andrew was a pupil of Dr Doddridge in Northampton in 1740 where he became a Presbyterian Minister in Long Buckby<sup>32</sup>. Fairly soon

after this he became a Moravian Minister in Bedford. In 1746 John Walrond the dissenting minister at Exeter, and Uncle of his sister-in-law Mary, Samuel's wife, wrote him a letter reproaching him with his defection to the Moravians.<sup>33</sup>

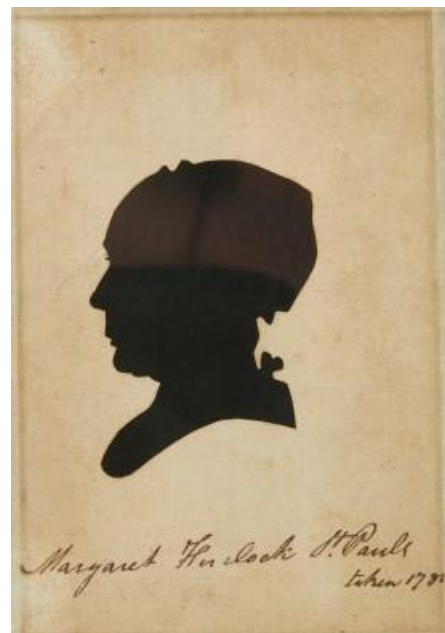
**Mary (1719 -?)** remained unmarried?

**Elizabeth (1720-1806)** remained unmarried.

**Margaret (1721-1780)** - married Philip Hurlock, a surgeon in 1750.<sup>34</sup> It is through Margaret's marriage to Philip that A la Ronde in Exmouth came into the ownership of Jane and Ann Sophia Parminter their granddaughters.

**Anne Amosford**

November 2023



The silhouette (right) from A la Ronde notes that Margaret died in 1780. © National Trust.

<sup>32</sup> Materials for the history of the town and parish of Wellington in the county of Somerset by Humphreys, Arthur Lee, 1913. [https://archive.org/details/materialsforhist00hump\\_0/page/354/mode/2up?q=parminster](https://archive.org/details/materialsforhist00hump_0/page/354/mode/2up?q=parminster) accessed 31/10/2023.

<sup>33</sup> Letter (MO562) Bedfordshire archives.

<sup>34</sup> For more on the Hurlock family and the Parminters of A la Ronde

<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwig9qLOmlyCAXVYXUEAHVwsB4sQFnoECCoQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devonmuseums.net%2Fincludes%2Fdocuments%2FBOOK%2520%2520-%2520The%2520people%2520over%2520COMPRESSED.doc&usg=AOvVaw01eIG74IOGpGmYqOh2mcOt&opi=89978449>