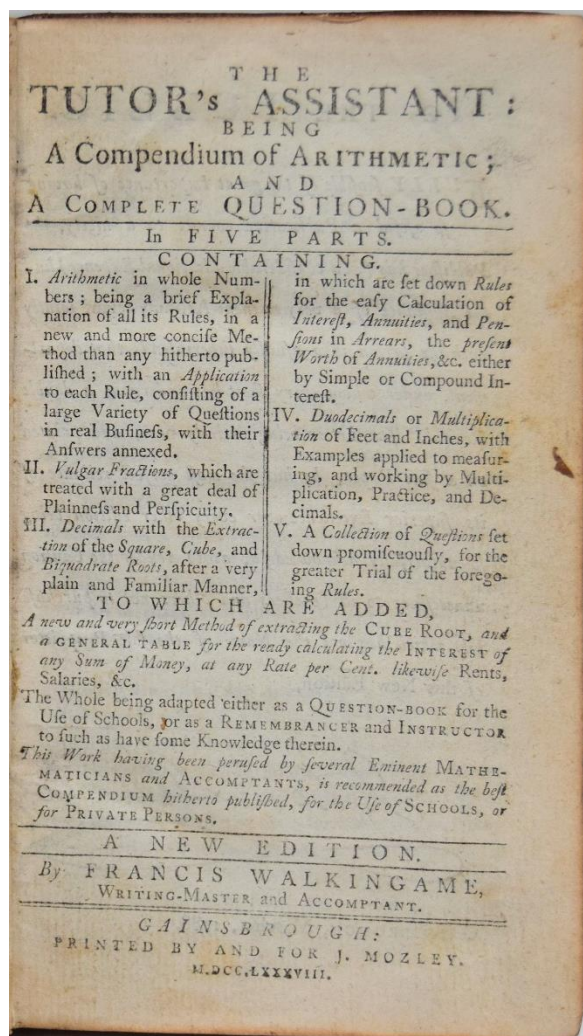


No memorial

John Walkingame Tatham buried 22 December 1832 aged 48
E. G. Tatham buried 22 December 1836 aged 58

In 1751 Francis Walkingame, a “*Writing-Master and Accomptant*” and formerly “*Master of the Boarding-School in Kensington*” published a book entitled “*The Tutor’s Assistant*”. It remained in print over the next 100 years with little alteration and it has been estimated that 275 editions appeared, with many other volumes modelled on, or ‘disguised versions of’ this “*Compendium of Arithmetic*”.¹



Francis Walkingame (b. 1723) married a Mary Hider in 1746 at Chiswick and they had at least ten children, although eight of them predeceased Francis (d. 1783).² Mary (née Hider) died in 1764 and Francis remarried later the same year, his second wife being Elizabeth Maria Steere.³ They married at St George’s Hanover Square in London and Elizabeth Maria was just 21; Francis was twenty years older. They had at least eight children, of whom all but one died in infancy.

In his will of 1783, Francis mentioned his sister Martha (b. 1731) and his daughters Mary, Elizabeth, Ann and Jane – the latter being the only surviving child of his second marriage.⁴ Francis’s wife Elizabeth Maria died in May 1781 when daughter Jane was only 4 months old.⁵

Martha’s had been a school mistress and her will written in 1789 gave more information about her nieces.⁶ Mary Walkingame ‘of Dulwich’ appears to have remained a spinster and Jane, the youngest, was living with her aunt until she came of age. Elizabeth had married Revd Edward Evans, vicar of Nun Ormsby in Lincolnshire in 1787 and Ann (baptised Ann Frances) had married Leonard Tatham at St George’s

¹ Wallis, P.J. (1956) Francis Walking(h)am(e) and “The Tutor’s Assistant”. *Notes and Queries*, 258-261.

² England, Boyd’s Marriage Indexes, 1538-1850. Accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk.

³ Westminster, London, Church of England marriages and banns, 1754-1935. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁴ England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills. PROB11>1780-1784>Piece1102 Cornwallis. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁵ London, Church of England burials. Camden>St Giles in the Fields, Holborn>1762-1813. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁶ England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills. PROB11>1789-1792>Piece1180 Macham. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

Bloomsbury on 1st September 1784.^{7,8} Leonard was from a branch of the Tatham family from North Yorkshire and in 1789 he and Ann were said to be of 'Lowfield near Ingleton'.¹

Leonard and Ann Frances had a son, who they named John Walkingame Tatham, and who was baptised at St George's Bloomsbury in November 1785 just two years after his grandfather Francis had died.⁹

When John Walkingame Tatham married in October 1806 he was recorded as a printer.¹⁰ He had been apprenticed in 1799 to William Pennington, variously described as a stationer, book-seller, printer, publisher and Alderman of Kirkby Kendal.¹¹ Pennington occupied part of a commodious shop on Stricklandgate in the centre of Kendal.¹² John Tatham's wife was Miss Ellen Garnett, daughter of Joseph and Ann Garnett of Kirkland, Kendal.¹⁰ Joseph and Ann Garnett had at least nine children baptised in the parish church and Ellen was the third oldest, baptised 27th July 1777.¹³

John and Ellen seem to have left Westmoreland soon after their marriage as their first born, Leonard Francis Tatham, was born in Liverpool on 20th July 1807 and was baptised the following month at Christ's Church in the city.¹³ A daughter, Ellen Garnett Tatham, was born on 21st April 1811 in Kendal, but she was not baptised until shortly after her marriage in 1835.¹⁴ Their third child John (later referred to as John Walkingame Tatham) was born in 1813 and baptised the following Spring at Lyme Regis in Dorset.¹⁵ It seems that the family had moved to the village of Hawkchurch on the east Devon-Dorset border. A Land Tax return dated May 1823 for Wyld Court (Hawkchurch) in the County of Dorset showed that John was listed as a proprietor owing 9s 6d tax and that he was also occupying land owned by the late Robert Tuckers assessed at 8 shillings.¹⁶ By 1825 John was a churchwarden in the parish of Hawkchurch, and shown to be a copyholder, Gentleman, and one of nine men in the parish qualified to serve on a jury.¹⁷ Other than the Squire, John was the only name listed as a Gentleman. From 1826 to 1832 his name appeared on Jury lists as a Freeholder and a Gentleman. The 1833 printed Jury List for Hawkchurch has his name crossed out in manuscript.

An advertisement in the 30th January 1832 issue of the *Sherborne Mercury* offered, "A Good FAMILY-HOUSE" to be let with immediate possession. The property was said to be situated in "the pleasant and healthy village of Hawkchurch" and consisted of a "parlour and kitchen on the ground-floor, and four bedrooms, with a good underground cellar". The property had various outbuildings, a good garden and a 1½ acre field – all for rent at £25. All enquiries to Mr Tatham of Hawkchurch.

⁷ London, Church of England Marriages and Banns 1754-1938. Wandsworth>St Mary Battersea>1754-1854. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁸ London, Church of England Marriages and Banns 1754-1938. Camden>St George Bloomsbury>1754-1798. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁹ London, Church of England Baptisms 1538-1812. Camden>St George Bloomsbury>1775-1812. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁰ *Cumberland Pacquet, and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser*, Tuesday 7th October 1806.

¹¹ UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811. Warrant 38, 28th February 1804. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹² Curwen, J.F. (1900). *Kirkbie-Kendall. Fragments collected relating to its ancient streets and yards: Church and Castle: Houses and Inns*. T. Wilson, Kendal.

¹³ England, Select births and christenings 1538-1975 accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁴ 1851 England Census. Devon>Alphington>All>1b. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁵ Dorset, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906. Lyme Regis>1813-1906 accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁶ Dorset Land Tax Returns 1780-1832 accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁷ Dorset Jury Lists 1825-1921 accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

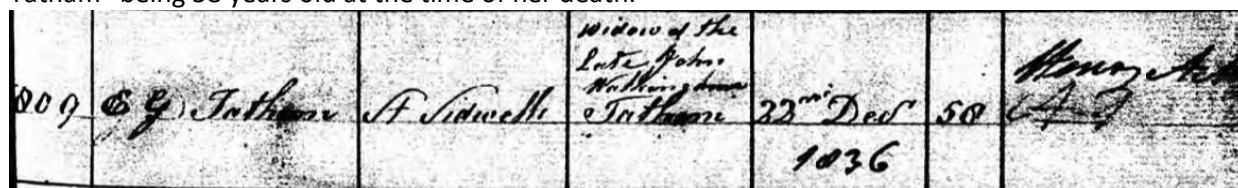
John Walkingame Tatham Snr died in Exeter and was buried in the Dissenters' graveyard on 22nd December 1832.¹⁸ As his death occurred just a few months after their relocation from Hawkchurch it is possible that he and Ellen moved to Exeter because of his failing health.



Their two younger children (Ellen would have been 21, and John just 18) seem to have relocated to Exeter as both were later married in that city – Ellen at St Sidwells in May 1835 to Lieutenant John Skinley RN a widower 25 years her senior; John to Elizabeth Stout, also at St Sidwells, on 8th April 1837. Ellen and John Skinley lived in Alphington until his death in 1857. John was documented to be a cabinet maker of Barnstaple at the time of his marriage, but shortly afterwards he “succeeded to the business of the late Mr J. Wilkinson, Chemist and Druggist” of Joy Street, Barnstaple.¹⁹

The will of John Walkingame Tatham was written shortly before his death in 1832. He bequeathed properties in Hawkchurch, Lyme and the remaining benefit of two premises in London to his wife and sons and made provision for his daughter Ellen.²⁰

Ellen, John W. Tatham's widow, lived in the parish of St Sidwells and was buried in the Dissenters' graveyard on 22nd December 1836 – four years to the day after her husband. She was recorded as “E G Tatham” being 58 years old at the time of her death.¹⁸



It is not known why John and Ellen, both baptised as Anglicans, were buried in the Dissenters' graveyard.

Ian M. Varndell
February 2023

¹⁸ England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1936. RG4>Devon>Presbyterian>Piece 1085 Exeter George's Meeting 1824-1837. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁹ *North Devon Journal*, Thursday 18 May 1837.

²⁰ England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills. PROB11>1832-1834>Piece1815 Farquhar. Accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk.