

## Apothecary and Surgeon

William Rogers 1745 - 1820

Elizabeth Parry 1738 - 1802

### Elizabeth Parry's parents: Elizabeth Heron and Richard Parry

Elizabeth's mother was **Elizabeth Heron** born at *Vicar's Hill*, Lymington, Hampshire, on December 9th 1719, the seventh child of **Ann Vining** and **Captain Patrick Heron**, both from wealthy landowning families. *Vicar's Hill* was one of her grandfather John Vining's properties. In 1733 when Elizabeth Heron was about 14 years old, her mother Ann died and her father Patrick, left England for military service in North America, deserting his children. He remarried in Nova Scotia and never returned to England. Elizabeth Heron consequently came to live at 22 Penny Street Portsmouth, the home and business address of her grandfather and various members of her extended family.

**Richard Parry** was born on March 15th 1715 at Lymington where his family had property. It is believed that he was a captain in the Royal Navy, but few definitive records of his service or family background have been found. At the age of 22 on Christmas Day 1737 at nearby St. Thomas' Church in Portsmouth, he married Elizabeth Heron who had just turned 18. They had a son, John Vining Parry, who was born or baptised c1738 at Lymington, but died young leaving Elizabeth junior, who was born in the same year, as the only surviving child of this apparently unhappy marriage.

### Saved by her great-grandfather



John Vining, great grandfather of Elizabeth Parry junior.  
Source: *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers*

Richard Parry did not have a good reputation. John Vining's will had provided very well for all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including Elizabeth Heron, with a special note that her inheritance was only for her use and 'not (to pass) into the hands or for the use or benefit of her said husband (Richard Parry)'. On Elizabeth's death in 1748, Elizabeth junior inherited her mother's residual share from John Vining's will. It was fortuitous that John had seen a character flaw in Richard Parry, because subsequently Richard went to court to try to take his daughter's inheritance from her. Fortunately, he failed and was 'so strongly condemned by the judge that he was actually hissed out of court'<sup>1</sup> I have not found any mention of where he lived when his wife died, or when or where he died.

### Motherless at 10

Elizabeth senior was only 29 years old when she died. According to her sister Ann Elliott's bible, Elizabeth 'died after one week's illness, a violent cold, at Newport Isle of W. January O. S 1748 Aged 29 years, lyes [sic] in Newport Churchyard, or rather

burying ground, left only one daughter a child<sup>2</sup>. Elizabeth junior was therefore only about 10 years old when her mother died. I suppose her father being in the Navy, could not take care of her and so she was sent to live with her aunt Ann Elliott (nee Heron) at 22 Penny Street in Portsmouth, the same house to which her mother had been sent when she was orphaned at age 14.



22 Penny Street Portsmouth, originally John Vining's home, and later that of many members of the Heron and Elliott families, including Elizabeth Parry senior and junior. Destroyed by German bombing in WW2. Source: Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902)



Above: Ann Elliott (nee Heron), Elizabeth Parry junior's 'strict' aunt who looked after Elizabeth at Penny Street Portsmouth when her mother died. Artist unknown. Source: Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902)



Left: Memorial in Portsmouth Cathedral to the Heron and Elliott family. Photo: Euan McGillivray 2007

Ann Elliott, wife of solicitor John Elliott of Portsmouth and London, was described as a strict disciplinarian<sup>3</sup>, but perhaps this was a harsh judgement. From early in her adult life, she had taken on a lot of family responsibilities acting as mother for her

crippled sister Mary Heron<sup>4</sup>, her niece Cecilia Heron and Elizabeth junior, as well as bringing up her own child John Vining Elliott. Elizabeth lived with her aunt at 22 Penny Street until her marriage in 1769 - over 20 years.

### **William's mystery parents**

**William** was the only surviving child of **Cecilia** (maiden name unknown) and **Christopher/Cornelius<sup>5</sup> Rogers** of Bath. William was born at Bath on January 22nd 1745 and baptised at the Walcot Parish Church on February 19th 1745. He had a sister Fanny Rogers who was baptised in December 1748. She died and was buried at Combe Hay, Bath in April 1749. According to Rogers' family memoirs, Cecilia may have been the daughter of a Welsh clergyman. William's father must have died in 1749 also, although I can't find a record of his burial in the Combe Hay, Walcot or any of the other Bath registers. Nothing else is known about him.



Walcot St Swithins as it would have appeared at the time of William's baptism. Photo: Mary McGillivray 2016 from a booklet in the church.

### **Medical opportunities in Bath**

Now a widow, Cecilia Rogers, aged about 27, married Elizabeth's uncle, apothecary<sup>6</sup> and surgeon, 25-year old Charles Heron, who was practising at Bath at the time. I have found a record in the church registers of Radstock, Somerset, for July 15th 1749 of a marriage between Charles Heron of Bath and Cecilia Rogers, a widow of Bath. Radstock is not far from Combe Hay. If this is our couple, then their first child Frances (baptised January 7th 1749) was born before their marriage.

But what had brought Charles Heron to Bath? Apart from having a cousin, merchant John Vining Reade living there, his elder brother Andrew Heron, a medical practitioner, was also working in Bath. In 1741, 17-year old Charles was apprenticed to Andrew as an apothecary. Bath, even in the days before the building of the famous Royal Crescent, Grand Pump Room and the discovery of the Roman Baths, was in full swing with a growing population, and swamped with tourists and invalids visiting to take the healing waters. The architect John Wood the Elder had finished Queen Square in 1728, and in 1742 had completed the Bath Hospital (Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases). I'm sure that medical men - physicians, surgeons, apothecaries and druggists, would have been in high demand. This must have also encouraged young William to follow a medical career.



*The Bath* watercolour by Thomas Rowlandson from *Comforts of Bath* 1798  
Source: Collection of Yale Centre for British Art; Wikimedia Commons

### Childhood at *Fortnight Hill*

Charles and Cecilia produced four daughters and one son between 1749 and 1757. The first three children were baptised at Combe Hay church: Frances (1749); Ann (1750) and Charles (1752). The birth date and place of the next child Mary, is unknown, but the youngest, Cecilia, was baptised at St Thomas's Portsmouth in 1757.

At the beginning of their marriage, Cecilia, Charles and family lived at *Fortnight Hill*, at Combe Hay near Bath. Whilst there, William probably attended Bath Grammar School to learn Latin and Greek prepare him for the medical profession. According to the recollections of his daughter-in-law **Mary Ann Rogers**, William spoke fondly of his childhood at Bath and living at *Fortnight Hill*. One memory he told was when one day on his way to school in Bath, he attempted to kick a stone that was lying in a stagnant puddle, and his shoe being too loose, came off and was lost in the water. He had to go with one bare foot to school. Perhaps he got into a lot of trouble for this, which caused him to remember such a seemingly ordinary event.



*Fortnight Hill*, Combe Hay, near Bath. Cecilia, Charles and their children William, Frances, Ann and Charles lived here in the 1750s. Photo 1902. Today it is a luxury holiday rental. Source: The Family Paper of J.E.T. Rogers

Cecilia and Charles probably moved to Portsmouth by 1757 as this was when and where their youngest child Cecilia was baptised. By the 1760s they had moved to Southampton<sup>7</sup> and by the 1770s to Twyford, near Winchester.

## Learning midwifery

Meanwhile William was living independently in Meon Stoke, Hampshire undergoing his medical apprenticeship. Amongst the Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, is a scrap book that includes a remnant page from what is thought to be William's medical notes of 1767/8, when he was training in midwifery. The notes mention a Mr. Butler (a doctor by this name lived at Meon Stoke at that time), and the notes also mention Dr Mackenzie, who is probably Colin Mackenzie<sup>8</sup>, a famous man-midwife of London in the 18th century. Although it was a time when the study of anatomy and physiology was developing, midwifery by men was controversial and surgeons were usually only called for assistance to difficult births. Undertaking this training is evidence of William's dedication to his job.

In his notes William describes attending several childbirths in London:

'Labours

Sunday Novemb. 15th 1767 Called with two other Gents, Mr. Becket and Mr. Simpson, to a Labour designed for Mr. Butler (pupil to Dr. MacKenzie) this was at Mrs. Smiths Rosemary Lane. The woman was delivered of a Boy being her first Child in about an Hour after we came, Eight o'Clock in ye Evening.'

Another entry reads:

'Thursday Night 9 o'Clock Novemb. 18th 67, Went with Mr. Becket to a Labour in Carpenters Court, Bermondsey Street, and after sitting up all that Night, Friday Night and Saturday Night, besides being there ye greatest part of ye Intermediate Days ye Woman was safely delivered Sunday morning about 1/2 past 10 o'Clock of a fine Girl in ye natural way. NB This was her first Child, had ye Vener. Disease upon her and ye Reason of ye Bastardation of this Labour was ye premature flow of ye Waters as there was hardly any at all when ye Child was born.'

In another entry a sad note was recorded:

'Wednesday Night 12 o'Clock Decembr. 10th Called by Mr. Jones to go to a Labour at Salt Petre Bank but by ye neglect of their sending in time ye Woman was delivered witht. assistance before we cod. reach there of dead Child with a large Hydrocephalus. N.B. This was to have been my first Labour.

Rosemary Lane and Salt Petre Bank were both in the notorious London district of Whitechapel, which was well known for poverty and crime. This would have been more than a purely medical education for William.

## William and Elizabeth marry

As was usually the case, Elizabeth and William met through the family connections. William, as part of the Heron family went by his step-father's surname until he married which wasn't until he was 24 and Elizabeth was 31 years old. They married at St. Thomas' Church (now Portsmouth Cathedral) on March 25th 1769 just a couple of streets from Penny Street where Elizabeth was living with the Elliots. At the time of his marriage, William was living in the parish of Meon Stoke in Hampshire, and practising as a surgeon and apothecary.



St Thomas's Church (now Portsmouth Cathedral) prior to 20th century extensions would have looked very like this in the 18th century. Early 1900s postcard.

Source:

<http://apostcardaday.blogspot.com/2011/08/st-thomas-church-portsmouth.html>

### **The Baker's Arms, Droxford**

Very shortly after their marriage at Portsmouth in 1769, Elizabeth and William moved to Droxford where William would be the local doctor for the next 50 years. Just prior to their marriage, Elizabeth purchased the house where they were to live for the rest of their lives - the *Baker's Arms* (converted to an inn from at least 1877) and is still there today. Julian Rogers in 1902 describes it:

The panelled inn parlour was once the best sitting-room, and is probably in the exact condition in which William Rogers left it..... There are cupboards in the recesses beside the fireplace, in which, no doubt the old couple kept their best possessions in glass and china, and the same steep staircase still leads up to the narrow, low-pitched bedrooms above. Externally the house has undergone no change, but the low wall which once separated it from the roadway has been removed for the convenience of thirsty wayfarers.<sup>9</sup>

Today the *Bakers' Arms* incorporates a pub and a post-office.



The *Baker's Arms*, Droxford today. Photo: Euan McGillivray 2016

The *Baker's Arms*, Droxford early 1900s, once the home of William and Elizabeth Rogers from c1769 to c1804. Source: [www.thebakersarmsdroxford.com](http://www.thebakersarmsdroxford.com)



### Meanwhile, the Herons in Twyford....

In the 1770s William's mother, step-father and his sisters Frances, Ann and Mary lived in Twyford near Winchester. His sister Cecilia was living at Penny Street Portsmouth with their aunt Ann Elliott, and his brother Charles had gone to live with their uncle Benjamin Heron in North Carolina in the 1760s. Benjamin owned property, a plantation and slaves!<sup>10</sup> His aunt Ann Elliott complained of young Charles not keeping in touch with his family and not writing to his parents. He never returned to England.

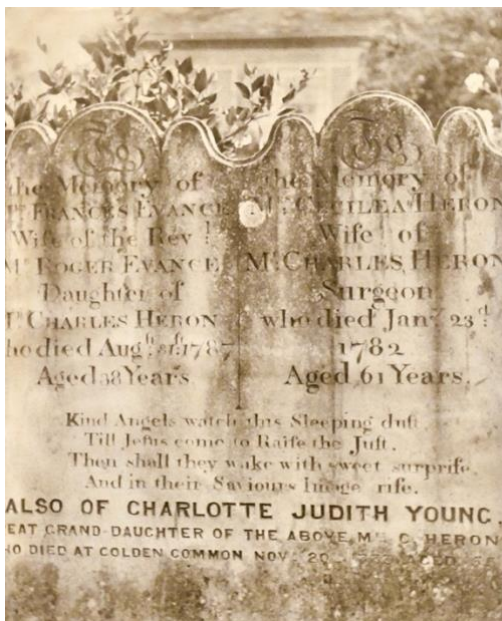
It appears that Charles senior was not doing so well in his medical business at Twyford and that may explain why two of the children were living elsewhere. A letter written in 1775 from Charles' sister Ann Elliott to her niece in America, says 'I'm sorry to tell you they (Charles and Cecilia) are very low in the world...' She then tells how she has 'taken Polly (Mary) & clothed her & placed her with her brother Rogers who has four children and but little business.' So, Mary went to Droxford (which is where she met her future husband). It is a mystery that Charles and Cecilia should have been in financial difficulty because, as a young man Charles inherited a lot of property from his grandfather John Vining, and in 1768 he inherited £500 from his brother Benjamin.

In June 1779 at St Mary's Twyford, Frances married Rev. Roger Evans, and in September of the same year at Twyford, Mary married James Biggs a farmer from Droxford. William was one of the witnesses to Frances's marriage. The other sister who married at Twyford was Ann. She married William Young, a local maltster in 1785, without her father's knowledge or consent. Cecilia junior married her cousin John Vining Elliott<sup>11</sup>, an attorney of Portsmouth, in 1781 at Chichester.

Perhaps the ageing mother Cecilia Heron and the ageing widow aunt Ann Elliott prompted these marriages, concerned about the girls' futures, and being an obvious strain on Charles' ability to provide for his family. Cecilia senior died in 1782 at Twyford and was buried in the Twyford churchyard. Charles wrote in his bible<sup>12</sup>:

'My dear wife died Wednesday morning at half past 10 o'clock being in the month of January 23rd 1782 and was buried in Twyford churchyard near the tomb of the late Rev. Mr Mildmay on the 27th following being Sunday aged 60 years. God's will be done.'

Ann Elliott died at Portsmouth in 1784. Cecilia's death was followed by that of her daughter Frances Evans aged only 38 years in 1787. Mother and daughter are buried next to each other, and in 1800 daughter Ann Young was also buried in the Twyford churchyard. William's sisters Mary and Cecilia both died in Portsmouth, Cecilia in 1824 and Mary in 1830 but Mary was buried at Droxford.



The burial in St. Mary's, Twyford churchyard of Elizabeth Heron, her daughter Frances Evans and granddaughter Charlotte Young. Photo: 1902 Source: *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers*.

Below: Painting of the church in St. Mary's, date and artist unknown. Photo: Euan McGillivray 2018



## Charles at West Meon

Shortly after his wife Cecilia's death, Charles had a medical practice at West Meon (and possibly also Bishop's Waltham). This is recorded in the Registers of Apothecaries Hall for 1783. When he died in 1804, William in nearby Droxford, took over his practice for a few months.



Charles Heron probably lived and practised at this house at West Meon. It later became *The White Horse Inn*, and now is a private home (right). Photo: 1902 Source: *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers*.

Right: the same house today. Photo: Euan McGillivray 2018



### Life at Droxford

A couple of hours walk down the road from West Meon is Droxford where William and Elizabeth spent the rest of their lives. (Also, in this village is where William's grandson **John Blyth Rogers** would later spend his married life and practise medicine, although with much less success and causing plenty of trouble.)

The 1792 *Universal British Directory* describes Droxford as 'a considerable village' with plenty of post and coach connections northwards to London and southwards to Gosport. G D Hope in his booklet: *800 Years in Droxford* (1980), points out that over the period 1750 to 1800 there was an increase in the power of the Parish Vestry but also an increase in the numbers of poor. William was a member of the Vestry in 1787 at a time when they sought to address the needs of the poor by building a poorhouse and cottages. But generally, issues such as repairs to the parish Bible, installing a wooden screen in the church for the vestry meetings, and changing the colour of the altar cloth were the ordinary items on the agenda. As William was a very religious man, he probably had a lot to say about these matters.

William was described by his great-grandson Julian Rogers, as 'a man of unengaging manners, and of severe, not to say irascible temper'. He was very pious, taking the family to church twice a day, and having family prayers at half past two in the afternoon straight after dinner, usually with a reading of two chapters from the Bible! He also had some odd habits such as 'going to church in pattens (a form of wooden shoe) on wet Sundays', and going 'to London twice a year to receive his dividends, walking the greater part of the distance'. But he also appreciated a craft beer: 'It was also his custom to have three brewings from the same materials, the resulting beverages being respectively known as *Randan*, *Middlerow* and *Spanker*.'<sup>13</sup>

In Julian Rogers' book he imagines the family's life at Droxford as 'deadly dull', with ill-lit rooms, containing novels 'with their prudish moralities', and plenty of religion.<sup>14</sup>

Elizabeth had already dealt with much in her life. Besides losing her mother when 10 years old and having to spend her teens and twenties with her strict aunt, as well as her father taking her to court, she also had to tolerate her husband William's eccentricities and strict religious habits in this secluded village.

### **A child adopted out**

At Droxford, Elizabeth gave birth to seven children: Elizabeth Ann (1770), William Heron (1771), Mary (1773), Charlotte (1775), **George Vining** (1777), Charles (1778), and Ann (1782). She would have been 44 when she gave birth to her last child. An interesting fact, is that the third child Mary was adopted out to Mrs. Mary Myngs, a wealthy Droxford widow, who arranged the adoption with the Rogers before the baby was born. This sounds very odd to us today when there doesn't seem to be a good reason with both parents living and seemingly well. But thinking back to Ann Elliott's letter of 1775 writing that William had 'but little business', and was to have his sister Polly come to stay, although she would have been about 20 years old, would have caused some economic strain. So, adopting Mary out to a wealthy woman would have been a way to secure her future which at that at the time may have seemed precarious. It seems extreme, and as far as I know the next four children of the family remained under their roof. Maybe it reflects William's eccentric behaviour, but this arrangement was not unheard of in those days. When Mrs Myngs died in 1805, Mary was left a generous legacy of £500. More about Elizabeth and William's children later.

### **Elizabeth's sudden death**

Elizabeth died suddenly at the age of 64, on Wednesday morning 29th December 1802. She is buried in the Droxford churchyard and later accompanied by William and his second wife. The inscription on Elizabeth's tomb reads:

'Sacred to the Memory of Elizabeth Rogers, wife of William Rogers, surgeon of this Parish, who on the 29th December 1802, Suddenly departed this life. Her afflicted Husband and 6 surviving Children, mindful of her virtues, with truth affirm her to have been a most affectionate wife, a tender Mother, a sincere friend and a pious, humble Christian.'

### **Elizabeth and William's children**

In about 1798 or 1799 Elizabeth and William's youngest child Ann died at the age of 17 years and was buried at Portsmouth. It is said she was 'a very beautiful girl'. Of their other daughters, Elizabeth Ann married a customs official of Portsmouth, Moses Heather. She was described as 'a woman of striking personality, of deep religious views, and filled with.....the altruistic spirit.' They had no children and she separated from her husband and lived at Bishop's Waltham where she died in 1835. The adopted-out daughter Mary, married Rev. James Thorold in 1800. They had four daughters and lived at Kencot, Oxfordshire where her husband was rector. It is said she was 'an extremely handsome woman'<sup>15</sup>. Mary died on Christmas Day 1818 at age 40. Charlotte, the Rogers' fourth child, married 'beneath her station' (according to some descendants<sup>16</sup>) Andrew Edney. They lived at Bishop's Waltham then Southampton and had three children. She died c1846.



Mary Thorold who was adopted out to Mrs Myngs. Artist unknown. Source: *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers.*

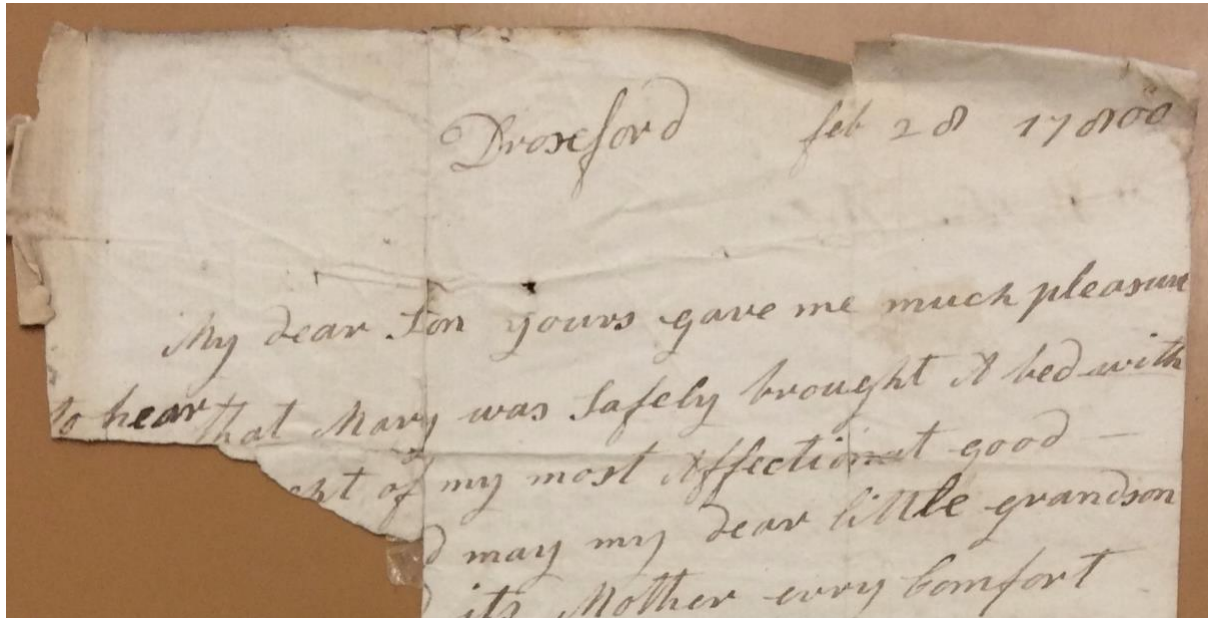


Kencot Church. Mary and her husband Rev. Thorold are buried in the churchyard. Photo: Euan McGillivray 2018

Two of Elizabeth and William's sons followed their father into the medical profession: William Heron Rogers married Mary Packman in 1801 and practised medicine at Gravesend in Kent. They had four daughters and William died at Gravesend in 1834; the other is our direct ancestor George Vining Rogers. The youngest son Charles Heron Rogers was a grocer and married Eleanor Slaughter in 1808. His date and place of death is unknown but it was probably before 1841<sup>17</sup>. His widow lived at Alverstoke, Hampshire and died c1854 and it appears they had no children.

## Grandchildren

Before she died in 1802 Elizabeth saw the birth of several grandchildren, one being the first child of her son George Vining Rogers, named George Vining Rogers, born in 1800. A torn remnant of a letter to her son has survived:



Section of Elizabeth Rogers's letter to her son George in 1800 congratulating him on the birth of his first child. Source: *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers*

Unfortunately, half of the letter has been torn off, but the little that we can read sounds warm and loving and gives us a tiny glimpse of Elizabeth's personality.

### **Droxford doctor**

Medical practice over the 18th century included apothecaries, surgeons, physicians and man-midwives. They were not always mutually exclusive, although a physician was regarded as a superior practitioner, better educated and usually only afforded by the wealthy. It was common to find one man as an 'apothecary, surgeon and man-midwife'. Not only in London, but particularly in the provinces, purely for practical reasons the specialisations had to be combined to adequately service the health requirements of the local rural and village populations. Apprenticeship to an apothecary and/or a surgeon was the usual and cheapest way of gaining qualification<sup>18</sup>. From the medical notes mentioned earlier it looks like William had taken it upon himself to also become a man-midwife and he may have attended one of the London teaching hospitals (St. Thomas's, Guy's or St. George's) observing consultations, treatments and operations.

A typical range of work for an apothecary-surgeon such as William would include surgical work such as mending fractures, dressing wounds and ulcers, draining abscesses, removing teeth, treating eye, skin and venereal diseases, as well as tending pregnant women and delivering babies. We can picture William going about his work from this description of a medical man from Somerset 'making his rounds on horseback with two large saddlebags containing ointments, lotions, bandages, and plasters, as well as instruments.' Between visits 'his time would be spent on the tedious and often smelly business of draining pus from infected wounds and abscesses and dressing chronically infected and suppurating lesions.'<sup>19</sup> Not glamorous work!

As an apothecary William would have dispensed medicines, maybe even making some himself but he would most likely be a retailer. According to newspaper advertisements, one such item he sold in 1789 was *Oriental Vegetable Oil 'For*

*Bilious and Other Complaints of the Stomach, Etc.'* Another was *Dr. Norris's Fever Drops*. In 1782 and 1783 advertisements for this medicine boasted 'one hundred and thirty cures'!

**Dr. NORRIS'S FEVER DROPS.**

*The Public are requested to peruse an Essay on the Virtues of these Drops, with the particulars of one hundred and thirty Cures, selected from a great number of cases, voluntarily addressed to Dr. Norris, with a view to benefit the afflicted; given gratis at the Doctor's house, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London, and by all other Venders of the Drops.*

**E**XPERIENCE has established this Medicine as the safest and most efficacious remedy in every kind of fever, whether inflammatory, putrid, malignant, bilious, nervous, military, or hectic. It also relieves gouty and rheumatic pains, and is a most incomparable remedy in the scurvy. In lowness or depression of spirits, complaints of the stomach or bowels, particularly the bilious and windy cholic, and even in the natural decays and infirmities of advanced Life, its cordial and good effects are singularly salutary. The above Essay will convince the most incredulous.

**T H E S E D R O P S A R E**

Sold in bottles at 2s. 6d. 5s. and 10s. 6d. at the Doctor's house as above, by J. Wilkes, Winchester; Mess. Baldwin, Maud, and Annets, Andover, Jaques, Chichester, Deacon, Cowes, Rogers, Droxford, Cooke, Farnham, Dawkins, port, Beeston, Lymington, Braffett, and Rule, Poole,

*Hampshire Chronicle*  
18th February 1782

A more substantiated service William offered was that of Small-Pox inoculator. This advertisement of 1784 includes prices and gives a good idea of the distances he would be required to travel:

**I N O C U L A T I O N.**

**W**ILLIAM ROGERS, Surgeon, DROXFORD, continues to inoculate Patients for the Small-Pox, on the following easy terms: Separate patients one guinea each; four or more, if within four miles, and ten or more, at a distance not exceed eight miles, at 10s. 6d. each. A larger number in proportion thereto, and distance.---Patients unprovided may be accommodated with board, lodging, careful attendance, and every usual necessary (tea and sugar excepted) at one guinea each. The utmost care and caution will be observed in the choice of the subject to be inoculated from, and diligent attendance will be given.

N. B. Black Down Farm-House, (an excellent situation for inoculation) at Ousebury, is now open for the reception of patients, finding themselves, on very low and advantageous terms.

*Hampshire Chronicle*  
March 1784

### **William remarries**

William Rogers remarried 18 months after Elizabeth's death, to Sarah Page the organist at the Droxford Church. William died in his 75th year on June 3rd 1820. The inscription on his tomb reads:

'Mr. William Rogers, Surgeon, who after more than 50 years spent in the arduous duties of his profession, which he performed with the most scrupulous and conscientious integrity, departed this life June 3rd 1820 aged 74 years.'



St. Mary's Church Droxford. The graves of William, Elizabeth and Sarah Rogers are opposite the main door. Photo: Euan McGillivray 2018



The Rogers' graves in Droxford Churchyard: from left, Sarah, William's 2nd wife; William; Elizabeth. Photo left: 1902. Source: *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers*. Photo below: Matthew Hill 2017



## Lost inheritance

Elizabeth Rogers had seen to it that her children inherited her wealth. But after her death, William influenced his children to allow him to use some of the money for his lifetime. They agreed but did not foresee their father remarrying at 50 years of age. So, when William died, his children's money was left in the will to their step-mother Sarah, and she lived to 87 years leaving very little over for her stepchildren.

Ann Hurley

2020

See my story **The Trials of a Long Life** for more about their son George Vining Rogers and daughter-in-law Mary Ann Blyth.

[hurleyskidmorehistory.com](http://hurleyskidmorehistory.com)

#### Notes

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<sup>1</sup> Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902) p 33

<sup>2</sup> Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902) p 32

<sup>3</sup> Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902) p 30-31

<sup>4</sup> According to Bertram M H Rogers, Mary Heron's bones were seen when some reflooring at St. Thomas's was done in the early years of the 20th century. She had a 'club foot'. (*The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers* - Bodleian Library Oxford)

<sup>5</sup> Has also been referred to as Charles Rogers. Descendant R. N. Gandy says: ' My belief is that Charles was not the Christian name of Cecilia's first husband but either Cornelius or Christopher, and probably Christopher for whoever made the entries in the church Register at Combe Hay must have been told that his name was by one who knows & probably by Cecilia herself, the notion that the Christian name of my grandfather's father was Charles may, I fancy, arrive from the fact that it was his step father's Christian name & that he was regarded all his early life as his step father's own son. (*The Family Papers of J.E. T. Rogers* - Bodleian Library Oxford)

<sup>6</sup> apothecary: 'is to attend on sick persons, and to prepare and give them medicines, either on his own judgement, or according to the prescription of the physician.' (*The Book of Trades or Library of Useful Arts 1811 Part 1* Ed. Hurley, Beryl - Wiltshire Family History Society)

<sup>7</sup> Charles described as apothecary and surgeon of Southampton in his brother Benjamin's will of 1768

<sup>8</sup> Mackenzie had run a midwifery school in St Saviour's Churchyard (today Southwark Cathedral) since the 1750s. Kirsty Chilton, "William Lowder: A Male Midwife in 18th-Century England", *Museum Highlights* (blog on oldoperatingtheatre.com), February 20, 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902) p 45

<sup>10</sup> The will of Benjamin Heron 1768

<sup>11</sup> This was his second marriage and it would seem that it was done out of duty to take her off his mother, Ann Elliott's hands. He was 19 years older than Cecilia.

<sup>12</sup> Transcribed in *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers* (Bodleian Library, Oxford)

<sup>13</sup> Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902) p 44-45

<sup>14</sup> Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902) p 46

<sup>15</sup> Rogers, Julian C. - *A History of Our Family (Rogers of Westmeon) 1451-1902* (1902) p 49

<sup>16</sup> *The Family Papers of J.E.T. Rogers* (Bodleian Library, Oxford)

<sup>17</sup> His wife is listed at Alverstoke in the 1841 census as 'Independent'.

<sup>18</sup> Up until the Apothecaries Act of 1815 apothecaries did not have to acquire standardised medical qualifications.

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<sup>19</sup> Loudon, Irvine - *The Nature of Provincial Medical Practice in Eighteenth-Century England* (1985)  
p12

Other resources:

*British Newspaper Archive* (British Library)

Combe Hay parish registers

Droxford Burials list from St Mary's and All Saints Church Droxford

*England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858* (Ancestry.com)

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