

## The Romantic Period

The late eighteenth and early nineteenth century saw two to some extent competing philosophies, Romanticism and Evangelicalism. The Romantic Movement was in large measure a counter to the rationality of the Enlightenment, and was characterised by the popularity of music by Beethoven, poets such as Wordsworth and Coleridge, artists such as Turner and Constable.

In terms of people's views about death, as expressed in churchyard epitaphs, Romanticism stressed emotion and the importance of the family being reunited in heaven. The gravestones in this category fall into two sub-groups, those emphasising reunion and those which mention only the resurrection of the individual. In nearly all cases the influence of romantic poetry is discernable.

The statistical balance within the overall number of epitaphs (Table 2) is pretty clear. Over 40% are from 1800-1850, the core of the Romantic period, with only 20% after 1850. Although 'meeting again' has a higher than expected proportion for 1750-1799 (28% against 12%) three out of four are from 1797-99, which could easily be counted as within the Romantic period. None of the writers of epitaphs before 1750 (Table 1) expected to 'meet again'.

### 1 Resurrection - Meet again/family

- 1786 SE060 WRIGHT Richard 42  
Farewel (sic) my **wife and children** all adieu  
What in my power was I've done for you  
The days are gone that I did spend in pain  
But hopes through Christ to **meet with you again**.
- 1797 SW101 HARRIS Elizabeth 44  
O cruel death that wouldst no longer spare  
A loving **wife** a **mother** dear  
As great our loss may we requited be  
With endless bliss and **live in unity**
- 1798 NW027 WRIGHT Thomas 36  
Farewell my **wife** and **children** dear  
Whom I have left in grief and care  
But God will for you all provide  
If you make him your truest guide  
And he will raise your many friends  
To comfort you to your lives end  
Then you I hope **to meet again**  
In joys of heaven to remain
- 1799 SE1665 MARRIOTT Sarah 45  
Reader behold a friend sincere  
A truly virtuous **wife** lies here  
A parent dear whose tender care  
Did gain our love esteem and fear  
Whose loss each hour we live to mourn  
Bu she we hope to heaven is gone
- 1808 SW094 BEAKLEY Sarah 48  
When death takes **husband, wife or son**  
Content thyself and say God's will be done.  
Trust in thy blessed saviour and expect  
To **meet them all again** with his elect.

- 1823 SW102 HARRIS James 84  
 Farewell my dear and faithful **wife**  
 My **sons** and **daughters** too  
 Whilst I remain'd in mortal life  
 I did my best for you  
 But now the toil of busy life is o'er  
 I rest in hope that on th'eternal shore  
**We shall meet again** to part no more
- 1831 SE178 HORSEPOOL Richard 53  
 Not lost but gone before  
**Not lost but gone before**  
*Luke 8:52* Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said.  
*"She is not dead but asleep."*
- Death can never be denyed  
 But the dearest **friends** divide;  
 Lord grant that we **may meet again**,  
 In heaven forever to remain
- 1840 SW050 WALL Elizabeth 62  
 Our **husband's and children** too  
 We now must bid you all adieu:  
 But **you we hope to meet** above  
 To sing the great redeemer's love
- 1841 SW147 OLIVER John 62  
 Farewell my **wife and children** all adieu  
 What in my power was I've done for you  
 The days are past that I did spend in pain  
 Yet hope through Christ **to see you all again**
- 1877 SE003 HOLMES George 21  
 Weep not for me my **parents** dear  
 I am not dead but sleeping here  
 My end you know, my grave you see  
 Wait awhile and **you will follow me**  
*Luke 8:52* Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said.  
*"She is not dead but asleep."*
- 1881 NE049 MARSTON John 18  
 And art thou gone, forever gone, and left us here to weep,  
 Till we are called to follow thee, and in the grave to sleep?  
 But since thou could no longer stay to cheer us with thy love,  
 We trust **to meet with thee again** in yon bright world above
- 1886 SE146 TAYLOR Elizabeth 19  
 She is not dead but sleeping  
**Not lost but gone before**  
*Luke 8:52* Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said.  
*"She is not dead but asleep."*
- 1887 NW011 EATO Florence 18  
 Peacefully and happy she entered her rest  
 And art thou gone forever gone and left us here to weep  
 Till we are called to follow and in the grave to sleep.  
 But since thou couldst no longer stay to cheer us with thy love  
 We **hope to meet with thee again** in that bright world above

## 7 Resurrection - individual

- 1721 SE054 TEALBY Thomas 41  
I have had my part of worldly care  
When I was living as you are  
But now my body is laid in dust  
**Until the rising** of the just
- 1721 SE078 STEVENSON Mary 77  
In hopes to rise again interred here lies  
An aged matron vertuous and wyse  
Whose pious conduct and religious life  
Made her a loving **neighbour** and good **wife**  
Her peaceful soul to God she has resign'd  
And has a good example left behind.
- 1723 SE057 HUTCHINSON John 58  
O cruel death that would not spare  
A loving **husband** and a **father** dear  
Great loss to those he left behind  
Tho' **he eternal joys shall find**  
*(Variations on this theme are found in several other churchyards around the country)*
- 1729 SW127 WHITE John  
In hopes of a **joyful resurrection** here rest ye bodies of John White and of  
Fortune his wife \* \* \* 1728  
*(Amongst others, phrase occurs in prayer for Holy Saturday)*
- 1735 SW041 LUDLOW Richard 49  
Why should we strive with death that is so bold,  
That takes away the breath of young and old.  
Or why should we murmur or complain  
Since for to die is our **eternal gain**.
- 1753 SE119 HAND Sarah 65  
Here lies interred the earthly remains of Sarah Hand who resigned this  
transitory [life] in **hopes of eternal life**.
- 1756 SW056 LITTLE Ann 72  
I'm brought to death which all endure  
Sin made the wound but Christ the cure  
But at his coming hope to have  
A **joyful raising from the grave**
- 1769 SE100 SKINNER George 29  
Why should we strive with death that is so bold  
That takes away the breath of young and old  
Or why should we so murmur or complain  
To die in Christ is our eternal gain.
- 1771 SE027 LEE Thomas 50  
When time's grand period Heav'n and Earth's o'erthrown  
And gasping nature's last tremendous groan.  
Those, when the stars and men shall be no more  
Shall beauty to your ravaged form restore  
Then shall you shine with an **immortal ray**  
Improv'd by death and brightened by decay

- 1785 SE012 LEE John 21  
 Yea few who virtues sacred shrine reveal  
 Pause for a while and pay your tribute here  
 Where friendships generous and affections warm  
 Each social sweetness, which has power to charm  
 Sleeping composure, all trumpets sound,  
**Wake them to joys**, with which the saints are crowned
- 1778 SW146 PATCHET John 38  
 Lo at your feet stumbling in the dust  
 One who was faithful. Honest true and just  
 A good **companion** affable and free  
 A useful member of society  
 Within the grave his body's laid to rest  
 His soul we hope is mingled with ye blest,  
 In endless bliss **his maker's face to see**  
 And praise his name to all eternity.
- 1792 SE088 MOUNTAIN Helen 26  
 A mother long opprest with grief  
 Beneath this stone has found relief  
 A **father's** care and **grandsire's** love  
 Tis hoped **the're placed in realms above**  
 Where angels sit and ever sing  
 Loud praises to the heavenly King
- 1796 SW054 KELHAM George 55  
 Here rest a **father** and a **Mother** dear;  
 Who knew to gain, and to repay with love  
 Their faults were mortal and they lie bury'd here  
 Their virtues deathless soar'd with them above  
 There rest their spirits in those blissful skies  
 Till the last trumpet bids their dust arise
- 1796 SE040 SKINNER Richard 58  
 O cruel death! That would no longer spare  
 A loving **husband** and a **father** dear  
 Great is thee loss to those that's left behind  
 But he, we hope, **eternal joys will find**  
*(Variations on this theme are found in several other churchyards around the country)*
- 1800 SW097 WRIGHT John 70  
 Resigned to God, we here on earth commend  
 Two tender **parents** and two constant **friends**  
 Blest are the children who such parents have  
 As smile in death **in triumph o'er the grave**
- 1802 SE032 MELLOWS William 81  
 With deepest thought, Spectator view thy fate  
 Thus mortals pass to an immortal state  
 Through death's dark vale we hope they found the way  
 To the bright regions of **eternal day**
- 1806 SW141 HUSKINSON Robert 24  
 On these few lines pray cast an eye  
 No flattery they contain  
 They only who in Christ do die  
 In Christ **shall rise again**

- 1808 SE035 BARRATT Ann 20  
 My glass is run, my days are spent  
 My life is gone, it was but lent.  
 But God in Christ to me has given  
 Henceforth **Eternal life in Heaven**
- 1810 SE072 NOWELL William 69  
 Man, thoughtless man, whose moments quickly fly  
 Wakes but to sleep again and lives to die  
 And when this present fleeting life is o'er  
 Man dies to live and **lives to die no more**
- 1815 NW112 SCOTT Eleanor 24  
 My time was short like the winter's son  
 And to my parents grief I soon was gone  
 I also left a loving babe behind  
 In hopes a **crown of glory for to find**
- 1821 SE162 MARRIOTT Samuel 63  
 In the hope of **joyful resurrection** to eternal life  
*(Amongst others, phrase occurs in prayer for Holy Saturday)*
- 1821 SE009 WELSH Ann 36  
 Low here's concealed the partner of my care!  
 Whose candid prudence ever bore a share!  
 And must remain, **till that tremendous day,**  
 When stars shall fade and earth dissolve away
- 1827 SW040 LITTLE Elizabeth 63  
 With deepest thought, spectator view thy fate  
 Thus mortals pass to an immortal state;  
 Through death's dark vale we hope she found the way  
 To the bright regions of **eternal day.**
- 1834 SW083 STAFFORD John 71  
 He sleeps in peace and **waits for morn to come**
- 1839 SE126 DIKES Jenny 84  
 In hope of **Joyful resurrection** to eternal life  
*(Amongst others, the phrase occurs in prayer for Holy Saturday)*
- 1839 SE022 GOODACRE Sarah 87  
 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have the right to  
**the tree of life** and may enter in through the gates into the city  
*(Rev 22:14)*
- 1840 SE137 MOFFAT William 44  
 The memory of the past is blessed  
 The dead in Christ **shall rise first**  
*(Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first)*
- 1842 SE039 BREWSTER Robert 68  
 In hope of a **joyful resurrection** to eternal life  
*(Amongst others, phrase occurs in prayer for Holy Saturday)*
- 1852 SE038 WHITWORTH Hannah 59  
 In hope of a **joyful resurrection**  
*(Amongst others, phrase occurs in prayer for Holy Saturday)*

- 1852 **NE014** CARDEW Matilda 39  
Who departed this life in the hope of a **blissful immortality**
- 1853 **NW045** ROADLEY Joseph 80  
There is no age that death will spare  
All ages they must die  
Therefore to die let all prepare,  
**To live eternally.**
- 1880 **NE040** BACON Annie 22  
I look for the **resurrection** of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.  
*(Last sentence of the Nicene Creed)*
- 1899 **NW059** NICHOLSON Robert John 74  
*(Robert John)*  
By long experience have I known  
Thy sovereign power to save:  
At thy command I venture down  
Securely to the grave  
Where I lie buried deep in the dust,  
My flesh shall be thy care;  
These withering limbs with thee I trust,  
**To raise them strong and fair.**

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I have had my part of worldly care  
When I was living as you are  
But now my body is laid in dust  
**Until the rising** of the just
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