

6 The Romantic Period - Meeting again

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'.

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 denied
 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

