

CHARLOTTE ONGLEY / HARDY.

Born 1784: Died 1855.

Charlotte Sarell was the second child of Philip Sarell, Freeman of Exeter, and his wife Sarah. She was born in Exeter in 1784, and was baptised at St Mary Steps in Exeter on the 4th June 1784.

Her first husband was William Ongley, an officer in the Light Dragoons and with whom she had a son, Henry Sarell Ongley. William however died shortly after retiring from the army.

In 1821 on the 13th October, Charlotte remarried, having joined her brothers in Constantinople, where they were merchants with the Levant Company. Her second husband was Jonathan Hardy, who was also a merchant in the Levant Company.

The following year Richard, Charlotte's brother was married to Euphrosyne Rhasi and Charlotte and her husband were the witnesses, in the British Embassy Chapel in Constantinople.

Charlotte, her husband and her son from her first marriage, continued to live in Constantinople alongside the family of her brother. But she and Jonathan had no children themselves.

In due course, her son left home to become the Consul at Crete, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. He was appointed in 1837 to this position.

In 1841, Henry returns to Constantinople to marry Lucy, his cousin. Charlotte and Jonathan were witnesses at the wedding of her son, along with her brother Richard, who had to give his consent to the marriage as Lucy was only seventeen and therefore a minor.

Richard Sarell died in 1844 and Charlotte's youngest brother, Philip had previously died at Smyrna in 1839, so that she was by now the eldest of the Sarell family in Constantinople.

Jonathan Hardy became the Vice-Consul Chancellor in Constantinople on the 4th June 1845, a post he would retain through out the rest of Charlotte's life.

An indicator of the esteem that Charlotte and Jonathan Hardy were held in by their family, can be gauged from the names that her son and his wife gave their children, the eldest daughter was named Charlotte and the eldest son was named Henry Hardy Ongley.

Charlotte died in 1855 at Constantinople. Jonathan Hardy would outlive her by ten years.

He retired on the 7th February 1856, but continued to play an important role as the uncle to the children of Richard Sarell. He is recorded as being present at the wedding of Richard Sarell and Anna Maria Wilkin in 1857, at the wedding of Euphrosyne Sarell to James Crawford in 1862 and at the wedding of his great niece Helen Baltazzi to Albin Vetsera, in 1864. Jonathan Hardy was also remembered in Eliza Alison will

in 1863, in which his niece left him five hundred pounds.

When Jonathan Hardy died on 2nd September 1866, Henrietta Iwan Muller recorded in her journal:

“I received a letter from Anna Maria, announcing to me the death of dear Mr Hardy, which has grieved me exceedingly as I was truly fond of the dear old gentleman and he of me.”

With the death of Jonathan Hardy the last link between the Levant Company and the Sarell family was broken.

Note: In June 2008 I visited the graves of Jonathan Hardy and Charlotte, curiously in separate cemeteries of Constantinople. In the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery the inscription on the grave of Jonathon Hardy reads: “Here rest remains of Jonathon Hardy Esq. Born Nov. 29 1785. Honoured as a Merchant of the Levant Company for his integrity. Respected as Vice Consul and Cancellier for his fidelity; beloved by his Countrymen and friends of other nations for his virtue, gentleness and pleasant wit. He departed this life in the faith of CHRIST Aug.14.1866.” - [image of tomb](#).

Similarly the inscription on the grave of Charlotte Hardy in the English Cemetery at Haydarpaşa reads: “Sacred to the Memory of Charlotte Hardy, Beloved and devoted wife of Jonathon Hardy Esq. HMB Vice Consul and Cancellier of this residence. Died 4th August 1855 Aged 71 years.” - [image of tomb](#).