

BENJAMIN HEATH MALKIN LL.D..M.A.

High on the south wall of the Chancel at Cowbridge Church and often difficult to read as it is in the shade, is a memorial to Dr.Malkin, who died at Cowbridge on the 26th May 1842.

The same man also has a memorial to his memory in the Cathedral Church at Bury St.Edmunds, Suffolk. Here the tablet is in white marble with a medallian profile paid for by the former pupils of the Royal School at Bury St.Edmunds where he was Headmaster from 1809 to 1828.

He was born in London in 1769, educated at Harrow School and Trinity College, Cambridge. On leaving the Royal School at Bury he was appointed Professor of Modern History at the University of London.

Dr.Malkin's connection with Cowbridge was his marriage to Charlotte, daughter of Dr.William Williams for 52 years Headmaster of the Cowbridge School.

Dr.Malkin was an author of considerable merit but is best known in South Wales by his two volumes on the "Scenery, antiquities and biography of South Wales" from materials collected during excursions in the year 1803 - now book collectors items. He was given the Freedom of Cowbridge in 1831 when he was described as the "well known historian, writer and social reformer."

His widow, Charlotte, left a sum of £100 to form a trust for the poor at Cowbridge and this is recorded on the Charity Board at the rear of Cowbridge Church.

H.Thomas.

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Written by Hilary Thomas  
for the parish magazine  
1979

Cowbridge, November 1, 1830

My Lord,

A son of mine, lately deceased, has written for the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge a History of Greece which has been received with much approbation.... introduced into several of the public schools... both universities as a text book

Benjamin H Malkin

This letter, written to Lord Bute (NLW Bute L73/104) is sad enough, but Benjamin Heath Malkin had already published *A Father's Memoirs of his Child* in 1806, in which he told of the brief life of another son, Thomas Williams Malkin (1795-1802). Thomas was a bright little boy who learned to read and write early, and who amused himself by writing stories. He wrote about Allestone, an imaginary land, and created for it a calendar and dating system, a history and culture, and a geography - some achievement for a six-year old. Sadly, he died "of inflamed bowels", according to Dr Lister, in 1802.

SEE MALKINS IN 'OLD HALL'  
file

# Allestone

ALLESTONE WAS the imaginary land created by Thomas Williams Malkin (1795-1802). He was a precocious little boy who learned to read and write early and who amused himself by writing stories. At the age of six he died after a painful illness. To stop gossip that he was physically damaged from birth—always the distrust of the intellectual—his parents had an autopsy performed by a Dr. Lister, the attending physician. The conclusion was death due to “inflamed bowels,” no congenital defect was found.

A calendar and dating system, a history and culture, and a geography were created for Allestone. The stories may read a bit crudely but consider that they were written by a six year old child. One wonders what he might have done had he lived.

His father, Benjamin Heath Malkin, wrote *A Father's Memoirs of His Child* (London: Longman, Hurst, Rees & Orme; 1806) which tells of the brief life of Thomas Malkin. William Blake illustrated the book. Appended to the biography is this map of Allestone and all the Allestone stories.

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see page 61 in  
'Lambeth Buildings & People.'  
K MALKIN Parish

## **Chs06490-1 Malkin family research**

### **From Holy Cross church memorials :**

Benjamin Heath Malkin, born 23 March 1770; died 26 May 1812 (or 1842)

His wife, Charlotte, was born 27 January 1772; died 19 April 1859. She was the daughter of Thomas Williams.