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Fanny Burney 1752-1840 lived 14 South Parade, Bath

a prolific writer from an early age until her death and her letters and diaries afford fascinating glimpses of English society in the latter half of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th. She loved Bath and visited the city frequently. In 1780 two years after the publication of her first and best-known novel *Evelina*, she stayed at 14 South Parade with Mr and Mrs Thrale the great friends of Dr Johnson. A bronze tablet on the house commemorates this visit

She married General Alexandre d'Arblay a French émigré when she was forty and lived with him in France until he was seriously wounded fighting against Napoleon in the Waterloo campaign. They then returned to England and settled in Bath until d'Arblay's death in 1818. Earlier she had written to a friend 'I wish to live in Bath, wish it devoutly, for at Bath we shall live, or nowhere in England. Bath is... the only place for us since here, all the year round there is always the town at command and always the country for prospect, exercise and delight'.

She died in the city she loved so well at the age of eighty-seven and was buried at Walcot Church

They Came to Bath

Notebooks, Memoranda, Diaries for the years 1814-15

Index Vol 8 **Ursula Ahmuty** nee x fl 1755-1814 pages 547, 550

Diary Entries (Berg) Nov 1814 to 7 Feb 1815

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Journals & Letters of Fanny Burney Vol 5 1801-1803

Index Vol 5 pages 435 & 438 notes 2 & 10

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Ursula Ahmuty fl 1755-1803 wife of the proceeding

Thomas Ahmuty fl 1789-1803 son of the above

23 Oct 1802

joint letter to Fanny from her sister Charlotte Broome & dau Charlotte Francis day after they arrived London from 2 month visit to France

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6 April 1803

letter from Fanny Burney, 54 Rue Basse, Passy to her sister Mrs Broome - Charlotte /Ralph Broome

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Ursula Ahmuty mother of 2 daus and 5 sons see husbands will prov 6 Oct 1794 widow of Col Arthur Ahmuty d1794 of East India Company Bengal Estab whom **Broome** had apparently known in this service

Charlotte Ann Burney

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m2 28 Feb 1798 **Ralph Broome** 1742-1805 Capt Bengal Army, stockjobber, political satirist, and author of *Simkin's Letters* in 1789

1 Ralph Broome 1801-1817

2 Miriam Broome natural dau

Valems 4 July 2004

Went to the library as according to the Albergotto hotel, George Eliot stayed there on a visit to Florence and I thought it would be interesting if any of her writings or the biographies made mention of her staying on the Via del Tornabuoni or near the Strozzi palazzo. Could find no reference but two shelves up noticed 12 volumes of the journals and letters of Fanny Burney 1752-1840, the social diarist, royal courtier and author of 'Evelina'. Remembering from the Queen Square book that her father, Dr Charles Burney, had a house there around the 1770's, thought it worth having a browse through.

My legs turned to jelly when, in the indexes to vols 5 and 8, found reference to Ahmuty - not our Thomas, but Ursula. Fanny makes a passing ref to Ursula in a letter she writes to her sister, Charlotte Broome, on the 6 April 1803. According to a footnote, Ralph Broome was in the EICo's Bengal establishment and knew Arthur.

Fanny married a French aristocrat and general, Alexander d'Arblay and lived in Paris for many years. Her next ref to Ursula is in Nov 1814 when she notes that, among others, Ursula has arrived in Paris and on 30 Jan 1815 that she leaves Ursula her visiting card. Fanny and Alex eventually retired to Bath and both are buried at St Swithins Church, here at the bottom of Guinea Lane, the same as Harriet and Alice.

To cap it all, the previous night on University Challenge, a question was asked about Fanny Burney as she was the first woman author to have a monument put up to her in Westminster Abbey's Poets Corner

9 July 2004 Re Fanny Burney - got out of library a biography of FB by Kate Chisholm.

In 1760 the family lived in Poland Street and Dr Charles Burney had the post of music master at Mrs Sheeles' boarding school in Queen Sq. known as 'The Ladies Eton.' Charles married for a second time in 1767 Elizabeth Allen and 'While Dr Burney was away in France and Italy, his resourceful wife sold her property in Lynn Regis so that she could afford to buy a house in **Queen Sq. Bloomsbury** that was large enough for both the Burney and Allen families. The house she chose, at the northern end of the square, had a literary connection - Dean Swift's friend, John Barber (Lord Mayor of London in 1733), had once lived there - which much gratified Dr Burney. Its rooms were elegantly proportioned, spacious and airy, and from the back looked across fields to the hilltop villages of Hampstead and Highgate.

Dr Burney arrived back from Italy on Christmas Eve **1770** after an absence of almost 7 months and went straight to **Queen Sq.** But he soon abandoned his family again, rushing off to stay with Mr Crisp in Chesington so that he could work on his book.... By Oct 1774 the Burneys had moved out of Bloomsbury and into a house in St Martin's St. off Leicester Fields.' Thomas and Mary moved to Queen Square in **1773** so they might have been acquainted with the Burneys. Charles had 9 children by his first wife and 2 by his second, Richard b 1768 and Sarah b 1772.

Our Alice and Harriet were similar in age so nice to think that maybe Mary and Mrs Burney socialised.

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SOURCES AND SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

from *Fanny Burney her Life 1752-1840* by Kate Chisholm
published Chatto & Windus 1998

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and author of *Simkin's Letters* (1789). Only child of Charlotte's marriage to Broome was Ralph 1801-17.