

The house where Sabine was born?

'I was born on January 28th 1834, in a corner house, still standing, in Dix's Field, Exeter'.

SBG Early Reminiscences 1834-64 (1923) p3.

The birth certificate and parish register tell a slightly different story:

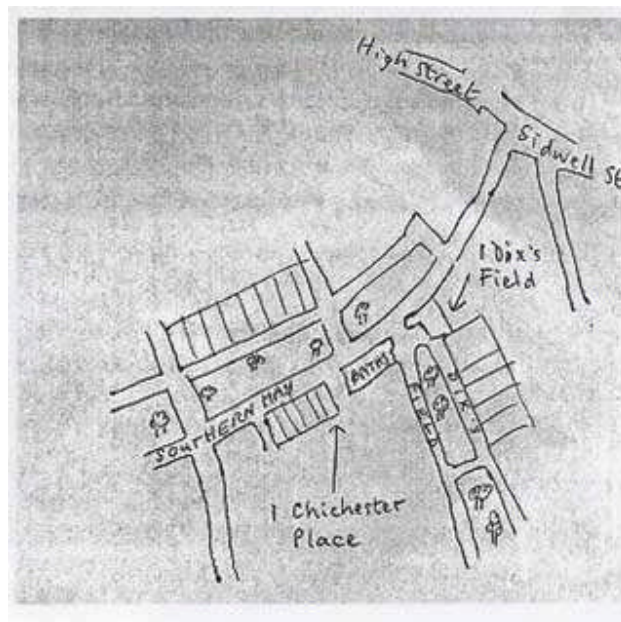
'Place of Birth: 1 Chichester Place'.

Chichester Place is a stucco'd terrace in classical style, separated from the corner of Dix's Field only (now) by Southernhay United Reformed Church and (then) by the Hot and Cold Baths. Sabine may have named Dix's Field rather than Southernhay East (of which Chichester Place is one block) to indicate precisely the section of Southernhay in which he first saw the light. Both Dix's Field and this part of Southernhay are in the parish of St. Sidwell, the church where he was baptised, and his parents had been married.

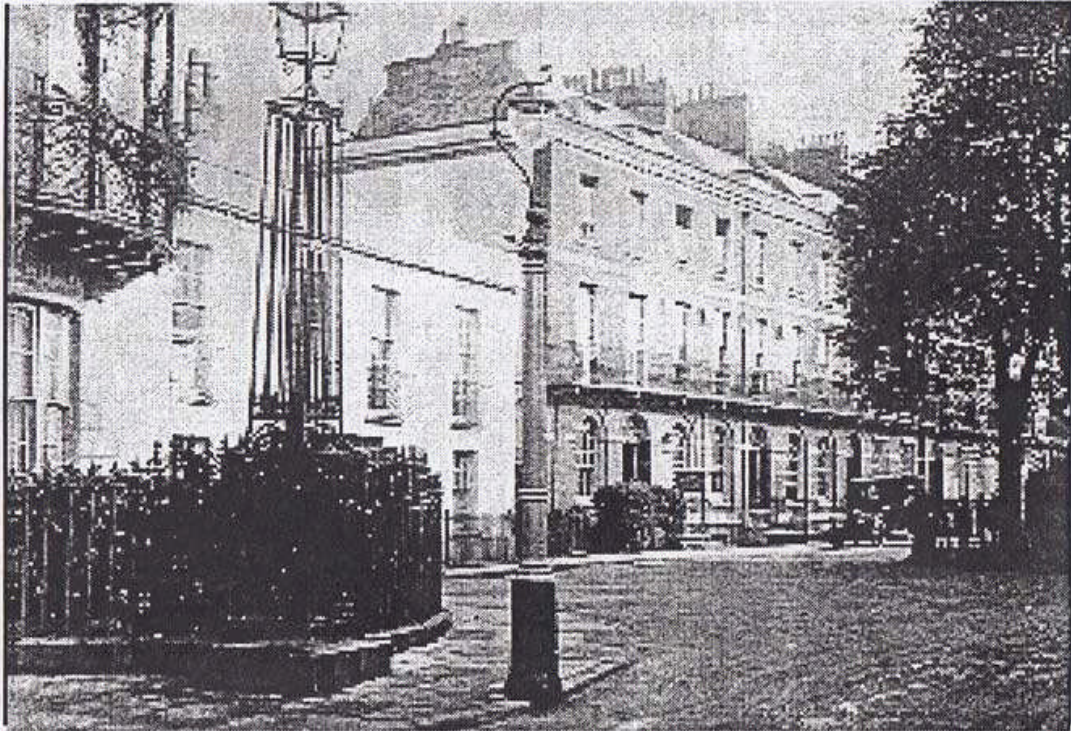
The Valuation of Exeter 1838 lists the occupiers, owners and rates due for each dwelling. Sarah Hill was at 1 Dix's Field, John Jackson at 1 Chichester Place.

If we put a plaque to SBG'S birthplace, should it be on Chichester Place (still standing, very elegant) or on the traffic island where 1 Dix's Field stood until the blitz of 1942?

SBGAS Newsletter 1997/98, No. 27, p. 8



Map of Exeter, Showing Dix's Field and Chichester Place



Entrance to Dix's Field showing part of the Regency House where SBG was born in 1834.

From Aspects of Exeter - P. Thomas & J. Warren



Chichester Place (Now Terrace) Southernhay East.

From 18th Century Exeter, Robert Newton