**Richard James Garland, 1815–1903 [Draft]**

Garland – a sculptor and monumental mason – was son of William Garland, stonemason, and his wife Mary Ann, and was born on 23 September 1815. From about 1814, though possibly a little earlier, William Garland was in partnership with the builder Henry Fieldwick (as Garland & Fieldwick) based at a yard behind buildings that they probably themselves put up in 1814–15 at 16 Grosvenor Place, Camberwell Road, in south London. These included a house, later 86 Camberwell Road, flanking the yard entrance where the Garlands seem to have lived on its completion, though Richard was born in Newington and baptised there at St. Mary’s on 20 February 1816. At the 1841-61 censuses he was listed as a ‘Sculptor’ and in 1841 was still living with his father (then stated as a ‘Builder’ aged 50) at Grosvenor Place. He was also noted as of Camberwell when he married, at Walworth, to Ellen Kiddle (1826 –1912) of Carter Street in that parish in December 1849 (see *The Globe*, 21 December). The marriage produced eight [or nine?] children, the last born in 1865. In 1851 Richard and Ellen were living at 74 Albany Road, Camberwell and by 1861 had moved to 33 Brunswick Terrace, Newington. In 1871, after a move to 1 Addington Square, Camberwell he was listed as a ‘Marble Mason’.

William Garland lived to 1875 but his partnership with Henry Fieldwick (d. 1865) was dissolved on the latter’s retirement in April 1864. William then continued on his own for some years until succeeded by Richard, who does not seem to have been as competent since he became bankrupt in March 1874. Still at Addington Square in 1881 he was then described as a ‘Builder & Sculptor’ and in 1891– aged 75 – he and his 35-year-old son Alfred were both listed as ‘Monumental Artist’ and resident at 18 Derwent Grove, Camberwell. This was his last home and he was noted there in 1901 as a ‘Retired Builder’, living with sons Richard (50) and Alfred (45), both ‘Monumental Masons’. He died aged 87 on 22 August 1903, still recorded as of Derwent Grove, but his burial record at Norwood cemetery says that his body was removed from the Camberwell Workhouse in Constance Road. He had been admitted there as ‘alleged insane’ on 12 August but that was subsequently clarified as ‘senile dementia’ and he last ate on the 18th. His widow, Ellen, also ended her days in Camberwell, living at 523 Lordship Lane with her daughter Beatrice: she and her husband William Blaxland were in the steam-laundry business, Beatrice noted as a depot manager (aged 45) in 1911. Also there at the 1911 census were her Ellen’s sons Richard – no longer a mason but a ‘Parliamentary Agent’s clerk’ – and Alfred, listed as a ‘Cemetery monumental letter cutter’.

To date the only identified recorded works by Garland are two good marble busts of the optical instrument makers John Dollond (1706–61) and George Dollond FRS (1774–1852) both in the collection of the Royal Society. The former, obviously posthumous, was presented in 1843 by George Dollond and is said to have been made in that year, though whether itself dated is not clear: the latter appears to be undated and was presented by A.W. Dollond in 1903. It gives an impression of being from the life and, based on apparent age, was probably commissioned by or for the Dollonds in the 1840s. Apart from these, both Gunnis and Roscoe list considerable carved work by the firm of Garland & Fieldwick, including twelve funerary monuments. The first is dated by death of subject as ‘1807 (?)’ but could be later and the rest from 1815 to 1847, so it is possible that Richard Garland had a hand in some of them from the mid-1830s on.

*Summarized from Art UK discussion on Garland’s bust of George Dollond, January 2021*

PvdM 19. 1. 21