

Why conjoined twins were once known as 'Siamese twins'



Conjoined twins Eng and Chang Bunker were born on 11 May 1811 in Siam, now called Thailand. They were joined at the chest and although the knowledge was not available at the time, it would have been possible to separate the twins using today's medical techniques.

At the age of 17 they joined Scottish merchant Robert Hunter's world tour exhibiting themselves. Their fame led to the term "Siamese twins" being coined to describe conjoined twins.

In 1839 they became American citizens and took the surname Bunker. Four years later they married two sisters Adelaide and Sarah Ann Yates. Chang had 10 children and Eng 11.

After suffering severe bronchitis, Chang died in January 1874 and Eng shortly afterwards. Their liver is on display at the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia.

Fonte: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22181528>
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