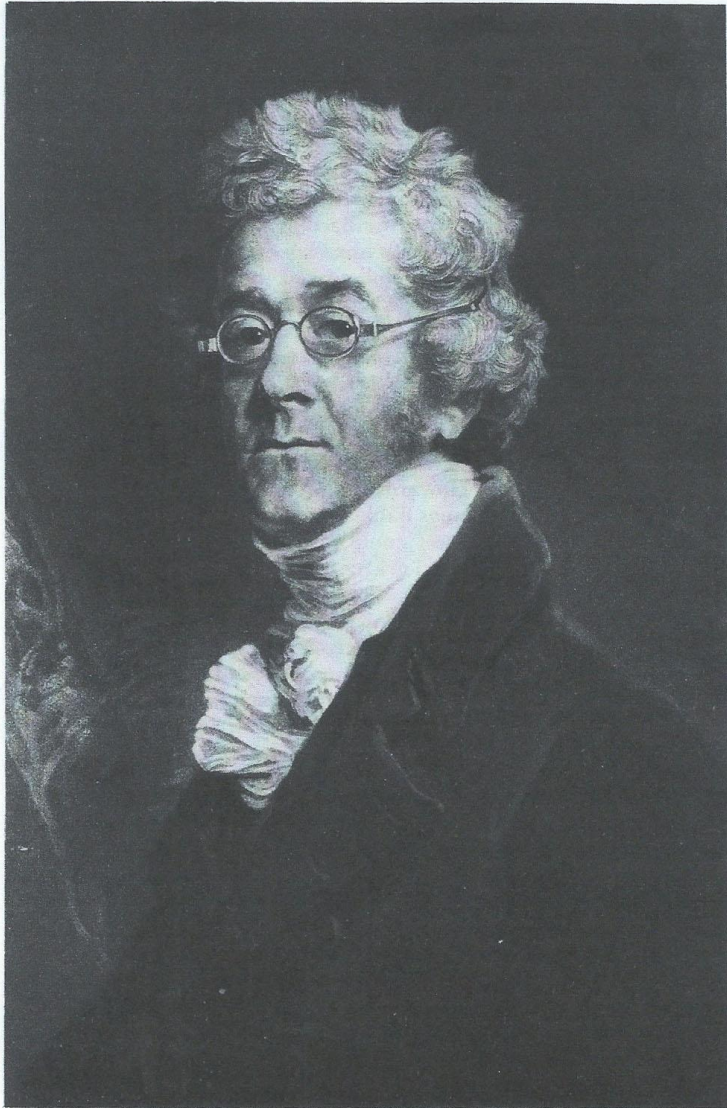


JOHN MILFORD died 13 May 1829
SARAH MILFORD died 1816

Memorial 18

John Milford, born on April 3rd, 1761, at 5 a.m., was the second son of Samuel Milford, co-founder in 1786 of the City Bank whose building at Broadgate still faces the Cathedral Green.



The “Universal Directory” of 1791 lists John as a merchant living in Magdalen Street and he was also described as a merchant in 1797 when he was one of the wealthy Lords Farmers who rented the Dean and Chapter’s properties in Thorverton, the parish from which the Milfords stemmed. He and his brother, Samuel Frederick, later an Exeter magistrate much concerned with penal reform, were clearly involved in their father’s import and export business at that time.

Samuel, the father, died in 1800, leaving John £1000 and property. John now became the senior partner of the

reconstituted City Bank, which he remained until his death in 1829, living in his large house in Magdalen Street that overlooked Trinity Church, close to both George’s Meeting and his Bank.

During the Peninsular War his firm was providing supplies to the British troops in Spain and Portugal. A representative he sent there in 1812 was the young, not yet knighted, Sir John Bowring. Bowring later recorded: “He was a man of singular expression of countenance, with large bushy powdered chevelure. He had a habit of putting up his spectacles on his forehead when about to say something severe – a power not wanting to him – and his energy found now and then

expression in terms somewhat intemperate. Few men enjoyed the pleasures of the table more than John Milford. He drank his port wine out of an enormous glass, and was fond of producing double – quart bottles, called magnums.....”

John and his wife, the former Louise Duval of Mount Wear House, Topsham, had seven children who survived to adulthood. One son, John, educated at Rugby and Cambridge, took over the Bank and commissioned the building of “Coaver”, the mansion off the Topsham Road which is now the Mess for staff at County Hall. John jnr was the grandfather of the publisher, Sir Humphrey Milford.

The Sarah named on the memorial stone was John and Louisa’s third child, who died unmarried in her early twenties. Other Milford Dissenters were buried in Exeter but there are no traces of their graves.