

**William Balle** died 15th April 1798  
**Elizabeth Balle** died 22nd February 1812

Memorial 21

William Balle (c.1761-1798) died on 15 April 1798 and was buried 3 days later on 18<sup>th</sup> April. The burial service was conducted by Theophilus Edwards, Minister at the Mint Presbyterian Meeting and recorded in the Register of Burials from that Meeting<sup>1</sup>.

According to the entry in the Register William was 36 years old and worked as a saddler. He came from the Exeter parish of All Hallows on the Walls<sup>1, 10</sup>.

William's parents were probably Nicholas Balle and his wife Elizabeth (nee Salisbury). They were married at St Thomas the Apostle in Exeter on 29 April 1753<sup>2</sup>. Their son William was baptised on 22 February 1761<sup>3</sup>. Nicholas himself was a saddler. His death was reported in The Gentleman's Magazine of 1806 "*Aged 80. Mr Nicholas Balle, formerly a respectable saddler in Exeter*"<sup>4</sup>

Confirmation of William's occupation can be found in The Universal British Directory of 1791 which lists William Balle of New Bridge, Exeter as a saddler and linen draper<sup>5</sup>.

William married Elizabeth Wilcocks at All Hallows on the Walls on 21st June 1789<sup>2</sup>.

William and Elizabeth had three children; two sons, William and Thomas Balle and a daughter, Elizabeth Caral Balle. All three are named in their mother's will, made just before her death in February 1812<sup>6</sup>.

Elizabeth Caral Balle was born on 25 April 1794 and baptised by James Manning at Bow Presbyterian Meeting in Exeter on 27 April 1794<sup>7</sup>. She married James Pearse on 21 June 1814 at St Pancras, Exeter<sup>2</sup>. Their children were baptised at the Mint Methodist Chapel<sup>8</sup>.

No records have been found so far of the births of her brothers, William and Thomas but from later census returns it appears that both were born in Exeter; William around 1791 and Thomas around 1792<sup>9</sup>.

According to the Graveyard records the headstone on William and Elizabeth's grave was erected after Elizabeth's death in February 1812. "*Leave granted to Mr Balle to place a head stone at his mother's grave 10/6 paid 15 May 1812*"<sup>10</sup>

After her husband's death it appears that Elizabeth carried on trading in some way (possibly continuing as a linen draper) because in her will she left her son Thomas "*counters, shelves, scales and weights with all other my utensils in trade*". She also left him her dwelling house with the request that his sister Elizabeth should live there with him until she came of age and afterwards, until either of them married. Elizabeth was left money and a gold watch and William referred to as "*now in London*" was also left money<sup>6</sup>.

William can be traced in Stoke Newington, Middlesex in the 1841 and 1851 census returns. He was living with his wife, Alice and daughter, Maria at an address in the High Street and working as a draper<sup>9</sup>.

Thomas Balle married Mary Hele on 16 August 1814 in the parish of West Teignmouth, Devon<sup>11</sup>.

Thomas and Mary lived in Exeter and the baptisms of their children show them living first of all in the parish of St Pancras and later St Mary Arches. There are records of baptisms of five children at the Mint Methodist Chapel<sup>8</sup>. Mary was born in 1815; Thomas, in 1816; Elizabeth Wilcocks, in 1817; William in 1820; Charlotte Hele was born around May 1826 but died aged 14 months and was buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard on 25 July 1827<sup>12</sup>. Caroline Charlotte Hele was born in 1829.

Thomas ran a bookselling and stationery business from various premises in Fore Street<sup>13, 14, 15</sup> and High Street<sup>9, 14</sup>. He was also the librarian of the "Public Select Library"<sup>14, 15</sup> and a lottery agent for Swift & Co<sup>13, 14</sup>. After he retired his son William and daughter Caroline carried on the business<sup>9, 14</sup>.

Thomas was living in Stratton, Cornwall by 1871 with his daughter Caroline as his housekeeper<sup>9</sup>. He died there in April 1872<sup>16</sup>.

(all web pages below accessed March 2017)

1. Ancestry.co.uk - England & Wales Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1970 RG4 Piece 336
2. FamilySearch "England Marriages, 1538–1973",
3. Ancestry.co.uk - England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975
4. The Gentleman's Magazine 1806. <https://books.google.co.uk>
5. Universal British Directory of trades, commerce & manufacture. London 1791.
6. Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) Wills, 1384-1858 [database online]. TheGenealogist.com 2016
7. Non-Parochial BMDs, 1581-1970 [database online]. TheGenealogist.com 2016. RG4 Piece 965
8. Ancestry.co.uk- England & Wales Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1970 RG4 Mint Methodist
9. Ancestry.co.uk. England Census collection
10. Devon Record Office: DRO 3693D/B/1 Report and account book of Dissenters' Burial Ground, 1748-1832
11. FamilySearch "England, Devon Bishop's Transcripts, 1558-1887,"
12. Ancestry.co.uk – England & Wales Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1970 RG4 Piece 1085
13. Pigot Directory, Exeter, 1822 (<http://genuki.cs.ncl.ac.uk/DEV/Exeter/ExeterPigotPre1830.html>)
14. <http://bookhistory.blogspot.co.uk/2014/07/devon-book-trades-exeter-b.html>

15. Itinerary and General Directory of Exeter, 1828  
([https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Exeter\\_Itinerary\\_and\\_General\\_Directory](https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Exeter_Itinerary_and_General_Directory))
16. Ancestry.co.uk - England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915