

EDWARD DAVEY died 28th January 1837
THOMAS DAVEY died 4th November 1837
MARY DAVEY died 21st February 1845
ELIZABETH DAVEY died 10th April 1849
JOHN DAVEY died 8th July 1852

Memorial 86

John Davey (c.1761-1852) was born in St Thomas, Exeter and worked as a painter in the parish of St Sidwell^{1,2}. He married Elizabeth Gibbs (c.1761-1849) at St Mary Arches on 11th December 1791³.

There are records of 5 sons born to John and Elizabeth. John, 30th September 1795; Thomas, 28th November 1797; Charles, 27th February 1799; Edward, 8th April 1801; and William, 7th August 1803. They were all baptised in their parents' home by the Rev. Theophilus Edwards⁴.

John and Elizabeth lived long lives. They are recorded in the census of 1841 living in Southernhay with their son Charles who was also working as a painter. The business seems to have done well as the family were employing two female servants¹. In 1844 they are listed in Pigot's Directory of Exeter as Davey and Son, painters and decorators at Upper Southernhay⁵.

Elizabeth died in 1849, aged 88^{6,7}. John continued to live in Southernhay with Charles and in 1851 was described as a painter and glazier employing 22 workmen. Charles was now a partner in the business².

John snr. died in 1852, aged 91⁶. Charles carried on the business until his death in 1862^{8,9}, probably in partnership with his brother John who also worked as a painter and decorator⁹. Their brother William was working in Fore Street as an "oil and colour merchant". He is also listed in Pigot's Directory for 1844 as an "oil merchant and artists' and painters' colourman" at 144 Fore Street Hill⁵.

John Davey jnr. married Mary Buxton on 29 December 1819 at St Mary Steps¹⁰. Mary was the daughter of Edward Buxton, a currier (a leather finisher) from Exeter¹¹. A son, Thomas Buxton Davey was born in their home at 9, James Street, Exeter, on 27 December 1831¹¹. In the future Thomas was to carry on the family business¹². Mary died in February 1845 and is remembered on this memorial stone with her parents in law⁶.

Little is known of the two other brothers Edward and Thomas. Both died in 1837.

Edward Davey (1801-1837) died on 28th January and was buried on 3rd February 1837. The service was conducted by the Rev. John Cropper, Minister at Georges Meeting. According to the burial record Edward was 36 years old and the son of Mr Davey, Painter. He was from the parish of St Sidwell¹³. The Western Times of 4th February 1837 reported his death "*... fourth son of Mr Davey, Painter ... the kindness of his disposition and his unassuming manners will long live in the remembrance of his friends ...*"¹⁴

Thomas Davey (1797-1837) died on 4th November 1837. The burial record gives his age as 40 and his occupation as an accountant. He was also from the parish of St Sidwell⁷. Again, an obituary was published in The Western Times of 11th November 1837 “... *after a few days illness ... second son of Mr Davey, snr. house and decorative painter ... the warm friend, the affectionate brother and the dutiful son ...*”¹⁴

(all web pages below accessed March 2017)

1. Ancestry.co.uk - 1841 England Census
2. Ancestry.co.uk – 1851 England Census
3. Findmypast.co.uk – Exeter St Mary Arches Parish Records
4. Ancestry.co.uk - England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, RG4:Piece 0336
5. Pigot’s Directory 1844 (University of Leicester – Special Collections on-line)
6. Memorial Inscription
7. Devon Record Office: DRO 3693D/B/1 Report and account book of Dissenters’ Burial Ground, 1748-1832
8. Ancestry.co.uk - England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966
9. Ancestry.co.uk – 1861 England Census
10. Findmypast.co.uk – Exeter St Mary Steps Parish Records
11. Genealogist.com – Public Record Office RG4: 5/130
12. Ancestry.co.uk – 1911 England Census
13. Ancestry.co.uk – England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, RG4: Piece 1085
14. Findmypast.co.uk – British Newspapers