

JONATHAN EVANS died 12 October 1835

Memorial 66

ROSE EVANS died 11 October 1846

ANN EVANS died 15 April 1847

Jonathan Evans grew up in a family of nonconformists. His parents John and Elizabeth (nee Sainthill) had married in 1750¹ and all of their nine children were baptised at the Bow Meeting House in Exeter.² It is interesting to note however that the three people on Memorial 66 are the only people with the surname Evans recorded in the burial registers and account book for the Dissenters Graveyard.

Jonathan was baptised on 11 Sept 1757 at Bow Meeting House in Exeter.³ He followed in his father's profession and became a Salterer. When he was twenty nine years old he married Rose Luke by License on 19 July 1786 at St David's Church in Exeter. At the time he was living in the parish of St Mary Arches and Rose lived in St David's Parish.⁴ The witnesses were William Luke, Rose's father or brother, and Benjamin Evans, Jonathan's younger brother. William Luke was a grocer and tea dealer in Exeter where he lived with his wife Ann. Jonathan and Rose's first child, Jonathan, was born on 21 June 1787 and baptised four months later on 21 October 1787 at the Mint Presbyterian Meeting in Exeter.⁵ The entry shows that the family were living in the parish of St Mary's Arches. Ann Evans, their second daughter, was born on 8 March 1796. She was baptised at the Mint on 1 May 1796.⁶

By 1800 Jonathan and Rose had four children. They had all been baptised at the Mint. Jonathan faced financial problems in 1800 when he was made bankrupt. The London Gazette published on June 7 "BANKRUPTSJonathan Evans, of Exeter, dealer and chapman..."⁷ Two months later the Exeter Flying Post contained an advertisement "To be sold by the Assignees of Jonathan Evans, a Bankrupt, in the following lots..."⁸ The sale included Topsham Bridge Inn, some land, two new houses, a salt refinery and a house and shop adjoining Milk Lane, Fore Street, Exeter. The family may have moved out of Exeter at this time as their next child, Harry Smith Evan, was baptised at the Presbyterian Chapel in Topsham on 14 February 1802.⁹

This memorial records that Jonathan was an advocate for the cause of "...civil and religious..." liberty. One episode in the newspapers at this time illustrates the ongoing

¹ Exeter/Cathedral/3 South West Heritage Trust accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.4.2017

² RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.04.17

³ RG/4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.04.17

⁴ Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, St David, Exeter. Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.4.17

⁵ RG4/336 Exeter, Mint (Presbyterian): Births & Baptisms accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.4.17

⁶ RG/4/336 Exeter, Mint (Presbyterian): Births & Baptisms accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.4.17

⁷ Sherborne Mercury reprinted the announcement from London Gazette on Monday 9 June 1800 accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.4.17

⁸ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 7 August 1800, accessed on britishnewspapersarchive.co.uk on 14.04.17

⁹ RG4/1222 Topsham (Presbyterian) Births & Baptisms, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.4.17

debate about such matters. On 23 December 1809 a General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Devon and Exeter Bible Society was held at the Guildhall. Jonathan Evans was listed as a subscriber to the society.¹⁰ The following week a letter was published in the same paper warning people about the object of this society which the writer, "A Friend to the Establishment" said was to "distribute translations of the Bible *without any comment*, that is to put into the hands of the common people, a book, ...leaving them to deduce their own opinions from it..." He believed that it would be dangerous to allow the "...lower orders to deduce from the sacred volume their own opinion, or to wrest separate passages to the support of any doctrine to which their inclination leads them..." He noted that two of the three Secretaries to the society were dissenters. "Far be it from me to throw obstacles in the advancement of learning and piety; but let the society distribute at the same time *Prayer Books*, let the common people be kept within the pale of the establishment ..."¹¹

Jonathan Evans died on 12 October 1835 at his home in Windsor Terrace, St Sidwells. He was buried a week later when the George's Meeting Register recorded that he was 78 years old and that although he had worked as a salterer he was retired from business.¹²

A few years later at the time of the 1841 Census Rose and Ann Evans were living in St Sidwell. They were both shown to be of independent means.¹³ Rose was still living at No 4 Windsor Terrace when she died at the age of 88 on 11 October 1846.¹⁴ Her daughter, Ann, died only six months later aged 51 years.¹⁵ A month later the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette published an advertisement "No 4, Windsor Terrace, Summerland Street, Exeter. To be sold at Auction on Tuesday, May 18, 1847, on the Premises, - a variety of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE; China, Glass and Effects ... Sale to commence at Half - past Eleven."¹⁶

¹⁰ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 28 December 1809, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 15.04.17

¹¹ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 04 January 1810, accessed on findmypast.co.uk 15.04.17

¹² RG4/1085, Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian):Births, Baptisms & Burial, accessed on findmypast.co.uk 15.04.17

¹³ 1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census, HO107/268/2/9/13 accessed on findmypast.co.uk 15.04.17

¹⁴ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 15 October 1846, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 15.04.17

¹⁵ Western Times, Saturday 17 April 1847, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 15.04.17

¹⁶ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Saturday 15 May 1847, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 15.04.17