

HENRY MATTHEWS died 6th September 1841

Memorial 71

ELIZABETH WHITEWAY died 5th February 1829

ELIZABETH MATTHEWS died 31st December 1826

HENRY WILLIAM MATTHEWS died 24th March 1835

Henry Matthews and his twin sister Sarah were baptised twice. The first time the baptism was held privately on 27th August 1796¹ while the second time it was at Holy Trinity Church on 19th January 1797². Their parents, William and Tamar Matthews, had married nine years earlier on 18th April 1788 at St George in Exeter.³ At that time William was living in the Parish of St Edmunds on the Bridge and working as a Hotpresser.⁴ Tamar was from the Parish of St George's. Henry had two brothers and four sisters. His twin sister Sarah, died when she was 16 and was buried at Exeter, St Thomas where other members of the family were also buried in due course.⁵

An advert placed in the Exeter Flying Post on Thursday 11 September 1817 announced that William and Henry Matthews had taken over George Houghton's business at 101 Fore Street, Exeter. George Houghton had worked there with his father as a Chemist, Druggist, Tea Dealer and Grocer. George is also buried in the Dissenters Graveyard, see Memorial 85.

Henry married Elizabeth Whiteway Brown at Exeter, St George on 24 June 1820.⁶ Henry had signed a marriage allegation on 19 June 1820 to confirm that he was free to marry. Elizabeth was under the age of 21 and needed her father Edward's permission which he wrote to confirm on 10 June 1820.⁷ At the time of their marriage Henry was living in the parish of St Olave and Elizabeth lived in the parish of St George where they got married. Their first child, Matilda Matthews, was born on Christmas Day the following year. She was baptised at Bow Meeting House on 9th January 1822.⁸ The couple had two more children - Henry William born in 1824⁹, and Elizabeth born in 1826.¹⁰ Both of these

¹ Exeter, Holy Trinity, 1718A/PR/1/4 South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 8.4.17

² Exeter, Holy Trinity, 1718A/PR/1/4 South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 8.4.17

³ Exeter, St George, Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 8.4.17

⁴ "Hotpresser - A worker in paper or textile industries where product was pressed between glazed boards and hot metal plates to obtain a smooth and shiny surface." worldthroughthelens.com accessed 16.04.17

⁵ Exeter, St Thomas, 4781A/PR/1/4, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 12.4.17

⁶ Exeter, St George, Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 12.4.17

⁷ South West Heritage Trust DEX/7/b/1/1/1820/164 Marriage of Henry Matthews and Elizabeth Whiteway Browne.

⁸ RG4/Piece 965/Folio 157 Register of Births and Baptisms at the Bow Presbyterian Meeting House in Exeter, Devon 1687 - 1823 accessed on The Genealogist 11.05.2014.

⁹ RG4/Piece1085/Folio 22 Register of Births and Baptisms of George's Presbyterian Meetin House in the parish of Exeter, Devon from 1823 to 1836, with a Register of Burials from 1824 - 1837 accessed on The Genealogist 11.05.2014.

¹⁰ RG4/Piece1085/Folio 27 Register of Births and Baptisms of George's Presbyterian Meetin House in the parish of Exeter, Devon from 1823 to 1836, with a Register of Burials from 1824 - 1837 accessed on The Genealogist 11.05.2014.

children died in infancy and are remembered on this memorial. Elizabeth died on New Year's Eve 1826 when she was nine months old. In the burial register her name is given as Mary.¹¹ Henry William died on 24 March 1835 after a short illness when he was 11 years old.¹²

The children's mother died on 5 February 1829 following a lingering and painful illness.¹³ She was just 28 years old and was buried on 9 February 1829 when the family were living in the Parish of St Johns.¹⁴ Henry continued to operate his business from 101 Fore Street and placed regular advertisements in the papers for the products that he sold like that for *Goulet's Celebrated Gout Medicine* in November 1832.¹⁵ On Thursday 11 July 1833 Henry married his second wife, Elizabeth Ferris, at Brompton Holy Trinity in Kensington and Chelsea. Elizabeth was born in Exeter and was the daughter of the late John Ferris.¹⁶ The reason why they got married in London is not clear.

In 1834 major work was undertaken to lower Fore Street in Exeter. Props were used to support the houses and shops and the work proved to be very unpopular. A local tradesman wrote a diary which was printed in the *Western Times* and reported that on "Friday May 16 - Stood at my door all the day, no customers to attend to in the shop ... the gross receipts of all the trade on the hill throughout the day, amounted to three shillings and two pence, the greater part of which was taken by a landlord for drams of brandy; several persons having fallen into pits - much bruised and frightened, each had taken a drop to recover himself."¹⁷ As a consequence of this work Henry Matthews had to make considerable changes to his premises and increased the size of his paper warehouse. When the work was finished he ran a series of advertisements to encourage customers to visit the new premises where, he assured them, they would find stock which could only be equalled in London at very favourable prices.¹⁸

In April 1841 Henry Matthews put his drug business up for immediate sale. He stated that it was "...an improving business..." "...making a very handsome return and capable of being considerably increased..." Henry died later that year on 6 September at his home, Groveland Villa in Mount Radford. He was 44 years old.¹⁹ Henry had been a successful

¹¹ TNA/RG4/1085, Devon:Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 13.04.2017

¹² Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Saturday 28 March 1835, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 03.06.2014

¹³ *Western Times*, Saturday 7 February 1829 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 22.05.2014

¹⁴ Register of Births and Baptisms of George's Presbyterian Meeting House in the parish of Exeter, Devon from 1823 to 1836, with a Register of Burials from 1824 to 1837, RG4/Piece1085/Folio 8 accessed on thegenealogist.co.uk on 11.05.2014

¹⁵ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Saturday 3 November 1832 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 22.05.2014

¹⁶ *Western Times*, Saturday 13 July 1833, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 22.05.2014

¹⁷ *Western Times*, Saturday 24 May 1834, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 13.4.2017

¹⁸ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Saturday 18 October 1834, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 24.05.2014

¹⁹ North Devon Journal, Thursday 9 September 1841, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 13.04.2017

businessman and after a few small bequests he left everything else to his wife and only surviving daughter, Matilda. Elizabeth never remarried and Matilda remained a spinster.