

Other names illegible

David Hillman was a fuller, listed as junior, so the son of another David Hillman, who appears to be remembered at the top of the memorial. David senior married Mary Nicholes on 5th November 1705 at Holy Trinity church. David junior was probably the David born on 17th April 1709, and baptised on 24th April at one of the Presbyterian Meeting houses.

He married Elizabeth and they had a son David, born in 1734 and a daughter Rebekah born in 1739, both also baptised as non-conformists. Records of other children may have been lost. He was probably the David junior, fuller, who is recorded in the Sun Fire Office inventories in 1739 and 1743 as the insurer of a dwelling house in The Friars, built of brick, timber and slated, valued at £70. His household goods and stock in trade were valued at £50. He also had a warehouse and workshop adjacent behind his house, also of brick, timber and tiled, valued at £30 in 1739, and £50 in 1743. His utensils and stock in trade increased in value from £50 in 1739 to £430 in 1743.¹ The total sums insured rocketed from £200 to £600 in only four years!

He became a freeman of the city in 1734, by virtue of having served an apprenticeship in the city with his father as master.² In 1742 he joined the Guild of Weavers, Tuckers and Shearmen, and was Master of the Guild in 1747.

In 1752 he subscribed for a copy of the "Discourse on All the Principal Branches of Natural Religion", volume 2, by James Foster. He was described as a Merchant in Exeter in the list of subscribers.

He died in 1754, apparently aged only 45. Elizabeth, his wife, died in 1779 and was buried with her husband in the family vault on 29th December.

¹ Chapman, S D (1978) The Devon Cloth Industry in the Eighteenth Century, p 71.

² Rowe, M M and Jackson, A M (1973) Exeter Freemen 1266 – 1967, pp 246 and 282.