

Memorial 2

**J H L
16. M
1819
A.H. 47. 1824**

**This is probably a footstone, originally marking the grave of John Hurford Lake (JHL),
aged 16 months, son of John Lake and his wife Ann (A.H.).**

**John Hurford Lake was buried in April 1819 and Ann Lake died five years later in
November 1824, aged 47.**

JOHN HURFORD LAKE died 1819 ANN LAKE died 1824

Memorial 2

John Lake, mariner on H.M.S. Barfleur, married Ann Hurford at St Mary Major in Exeter on 28 October 1799.¹ John was the son of John and Elizabeth Lake and had been baptised at Bow Meeting House in Exeter on 11 June 1775.² No baptism record has been found for Ann Hurford.



Marker commemorating the burials of John Hurford Lake (JHL) in 1819 (aged 16 months and Ann Hurford (AH), his mother, in 1824 aged 47 years.

John had served in the Royal Navy for a number of years prior to his wedding. He was an L.M. or landsman³ on H.M.S. Culloden on the Glorious First of June in 1794 and also worked as a Steward's Purser on the same ship. He took part in the battle of Cape St Vincent on 14 February 1797. John continued to serve in the Navy after his wedding and was a Purser's Steward on H.M.S. Neptune at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805.⁴ After the battle HMS Neptune towed HMS Victory, which was carrying Lord Nelson's body, to Gibraltar.⁵

John and Ann's daughter Margaret was born on 30 September 1811 and was baptised at Bow Meeting House in Exeter on 20 October 1811.⁶ John Hurford Lake was born six years later on 21 December 1817. He was baptised at Bow Meeting House on 19 January 1818.⁷ He died aged just sixteen months and was buried in the Dissenters Graveyard on 4 April 1819. His mother died five years later and was buried on 22 November 1824 with her son.⁸

After John left the Navy he became a Saddle Tree Maker. The Exeter Itinerary and General Directory in 1828 shows that he was based in Paris Street in partnership with a Mr Elliot. The Spectator on 6 February 1835 noted that Elliot and Lake's partnership had been dissolved. Later that year Besley's Exeter Directory listed Lake and Western as Saddle Tree makers in Paris Street. John's daughter Margaret had married a William Mardon Western at Saint Sidwell in Exeter on 25 December 1834.⁹

¹ South West Heritage Trust; Birth, Marriage, Death and Parish Records; accessed on findmypast.co.uk 14.09.2019.

² RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687 - 1823; accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.03.2019.

³ A landsman was a seaman with less than one year's experience at sea en.wikipedia.org accessed on 16.03.19.

⁴ Naval General Service Medal Roll 1793 - 1840 Kenneth Douglas-Morris accessed online on 16.03.2019.

⁵ HMS Neptune (1797), accessed on en.wikipedia.org on 17.03.2019.

⁶ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687 - 1823; accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.03.2019.

⁷ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687 - 1823; accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.03.2019.

⁸ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687 - 1823; accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 15.03.2019.

⁹ South West Heritage Trust, Parish Marriages, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 16.03.2019.

In 1845, after John Lake had retired, the Exeter Flying Post reported that a cow that was being driven through Exeter became upset and ran off. After knocking down a young lad the cow butted and "...knocked down an old man who was proceeding up the street with some bundles and a basket. The old man was immediately picked up and placed in a chair. His forehead was bleeding, and he was insensible for some time ... We have since learnt that the old man who suffered so severely is Mr John Lake, a resident in one of Atwill's almshouses in the New North Road, and formerly of Paris-street, saddle-tree maker."¹⁰ The Exeter Flying Post later that year printed a short article on "A British Tar" which listed John Lake's service for the Royal Navy.¹¹

William and Margaret Western's first child Ann Lake Western died when she was nine months old and was buried in the Dissenters Graveyard. John Lake, her Grandfather, remarried after his first wife Ann died. John's second wife, Sarah, died in February 1848. John died a few weeks later on 7th March 1848. They were both buried in the Dissenters Graveyard but it is not known whether it was in the same grave as his first wife and son.¹² Although, therefore, this memorial only names two members of the family at least five are buried in the graveyard. There are other people with the surname Lake in the Burial Register but we have not been able to confirm whether they are related to John. There are no other burials recorded for the surnames Hurford or Western. Margaret Western moved with her family to London in the 1850s. She named one of her sons born in Bath in 1848, Nelson Lake Western, perhaps in recognition of her father's naval career as he was born soon after her Father died.¹³

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¹⁰ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Saturday 31 May 1845 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 16.03.2019.

¹¹ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 23 October 1845 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 14.03.2019.

¹² DRO 3693D/R1 Georges Meeting Burial Register 1837 - 1882, South West Heritage Trust.

¹³ England and Wales Births, 1837 -2006, 1848, Quarter 3, Bath, Somerset accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 17.03.2019.