

Memorial 9

JOHN NATHANIEL WELSFORD
WILLIAM JOHN WELSFORD

died 20 July 1845
died 30 October 1834

John Nathaniel Welsford was born on 6th November 1802¹ and baptised on 13th October 1803 by the Reverend James Manning at Bow Meeting, Exeter.² His parents were Nathaniel Welsford and Margaret née Roope Larkworthy (see <https://edgt.org.uk/social-history.html> WELSFORD family).



On 10th May 1830, John married Harriet Haynes Roberts at St Sidwell's Church, Exeter.³ He was a printer and bookseller by profession and his business was in the parish of St Sidwell.⁴ Harriet was the daughter of William and Mary Roberts and she was baptised on 18th July 1798 at St Thomas the Apostle church, in the parish of St Thomas, Exeter.⁵

As far as can be ascertained to date, John and Harriet only had four children:

William John (born 24th May 1831)
Henry (born 12th April 1833)
William (born 31st May 1835)
Arthur (born 1839)

From 1831 to 1836 John Nathaniel's business premises were in the parish of St Sidwell and, specifically in 1834, in Cox's Building which was in Paris Street. In 1836 he moved to Gandy Street where he remained until 1840. His final move in 1841 was to Upper Paul Street where he remained until his death in

1845. The books printed and sold by him concentrated, in the main, on religious matters though one recorded was the Valuation of Houses and Lands in the City of Exeter made by Messrs Row, Cornish and Hooper by order of the Guardians of the Poor and the Improvement Commissioners completed 28th July 1838. Copies of this are held by Exeter University Library and Devon Heritage Centre.⁵

In 1841, John Nathaniel found himself in trouble with the law! On Saturday 7th August 1841 the following was reported in the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* under the heading "**THE LATE ELECTION FOR EXETER** "

"On Monday last, Indictments were preferred before the City Assize Grand Jury at the Castle, against Daniel Dingle, late of the parish of St Thomas, cabinet maker; John Nathaniel Welsford, late of St Paul, printer; and George Godbeer, late of St David's, cheese maker for a Misdemeanor under the following circumstances.....

Have you the same Qualification for which your Name was originally inserted in the Register of Voters for the City of Exeter (specifying the Qualification)? And it is by the same section enacted that if any person shall willfully make a False Answer to any of the Questions he shall be deemed guilty of an indictable Misdemeanor and punished accordingly".

The punishment was a fine or imprisonment.⁵ The outcome for John Nathaniel was not reported.

John Nathaniel died on 20th July 1845.⁶ He was buried in the Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard where his memorial shows that he was laid in the family vault. Following his death his wife, Harriet, continued to live in Upper Paul Street and carried on John Nathaniel's business keeping to printing religious books/pamphlets.⁴ Harriet's son, Henry, was still living with her in 1851 recording his occupation as Printer.⁷ By 1861 Harriet had retired and was living at Queen Street, Dawlish. Her son, William, a Commercial Traveller (Drapery), was also shown at the address.⁸ But, in 1871, she, William and his family were recorded at Gotha Villa, Portishead, Somerset.⁹

Harriet died on 28th August 1873 in Newport, Wales.¹⁰ It is likely that she was living, at that time, with her son, William, and his family (see below).

The children of John Nathaniel and Harriet Welsford

William John was born on 24th May 1831 and baptised on 16th July that year.² The Exeter Dissenters Graveyard Burial Register reported that he died on 30th October 1834 although a report in the *Exeter & Plymouth Gazette* of 1st November reports his death as being on 27th October in Paris Street, Exeter. Whichever date is correct, we know that William John was only three and a half years at the time of his death.

Henry was born on 12th April 1833 and baptised on 26th September that year.² In September 1857, he married Elizabeth Stone, the daughter of Robert Boucher Stone and Eliza (née Hill) at Bartholomew Street, Exeter.¹¹ His stationery business was at 12 South Street, Exeter. Robert Stone was also a stationer with his business being a short distance away on Fore Street Hill. In 1863 he moved his business from 12 South Street to 61 High Street "to more central and convenient premises".¹² Later advertisements show the address to be "two doors above Broadgate". In 1875 Henry had expanded his business to also selling curtains, paper hangings etc¹³ but, the following year there appeared a public notice in *The Evening Express* (27th March 1876) in which Henry reported that "at the suggestion of several influential friends" he had commenced business as an Auctioneer, Valuer, House and Estate Agent still at 61 High Street (opposite the Guildhall). Advertisements in newspapers show that his business had late been associated with Parkins and Gotto of London.

Henry and Elizabeth had three children, Ellen (b. 1858), Edith Eliza (b. 1861) and Alice Harriet who died in infancy in 1862. Sadly, Elizabeth died in Exeter on 1st May 1865 aged 33 years. Her death was registered in the second quarter of that year.¹⁴

On 2nd March 1867, Henry married Caroline Stone, the sister of his first wife, Elizabeth. Caroline was a spinster living at 35 Ladbrooke Road, Kensington & Chelsea in London, and they married in the church of St John the Evangelist, Ladbrooke Grove. Henry's residence at that time was stated to be in the parish of St Martin in Exeter.¹⁵

Henry and Caroline had seven children: Henry, Sidney, Edward John, Ernest Harold, Robert, Katherine Jeanette, and Frederick Charles. All were born in Exeter and in 1871, all were living at 61 High Street.⁹ By 1881, the family had moved to New Bridge Street.¹⁶ In 1882, Caroline died and was buried on 27th May in Islington, London.¹⁷ Presumably, this was at her request or the request of her birth family as they lived in London at the time of her marriage to Henry.

Nine years after the death of Caroline, when the 1891 census was taken, Henry was at the home of his brother, William, at Gold Croft, Newport. He is described as an Ambassador of Commerce. Where Henry resided from then until the 1911 census is unknown as, when that census was taken he was a visitor at 25 Belmont Road, Exeter. There is no-one else named Welsford at that address which appears to have been a small boarding house. Henry died in Edmonton, Middlesex in 1915. His death was registered in the 2nd quarter of that year.¹⁴

William was born on 31st May 1835 and baptised on 8th December in the same year.² He married Harriet Caroline Oakley at Clyst Honiton, Devon on 2nd November 1857.¹⁸ The marriage certificate recorded William's occupation as Warehouseman but the notice in the *Western Times* of 14th November 1857 stated that he was a Draper and Harriet was a Schoolmistress. Harriet was the daughter of Thomas Oakley and Caroline Maria (née Howell) who had been born in 1831 in Blandford Forum, Dorset.¹⁹

The 1861 census showed William, a Commercial Traveller (Drapery), to be at a residence in Queen Street, Dawlish, with his mother and three year old daughter, Harriet (or Caroline Harriet). His wife, Harriet Caroline, was at home in East Street, Blandford Forum with their one-year-old son, William.

At some point during the following 10 years, William and his family moved to live at Gotha Villa, Portishead, Somerset. Five of their children were living with them at the time: William, Minnie, Alice, Lilian, and May. The census showed that William (senior) was working away from home.⁹

William seems to have moved his family almost every 10 years! In 1881, he and his family were living at Arundel Villa, St Woolos, Monmouthshire, Wales. He was still working as a Commercial Traveller and living with him and his wife, Harriet, were three of their daughters: Caroline, a Governess aged 23, Alice, a Pupil Teacher aged 16, and Lilian, a Milliner aged 15.

William and Harriet remained in Wales, living at 56 Trafalgar Terrace, Swansea in 1911. All their children had fled the nest but their oldest child, Caroline, had married a Ship Broker in Monmouthshire in 1882. Their son, William, became a jeweller who, in 1920, was awarded the Freedom of the City of London – confirmed on 13th April 1920. His premises were at 19-21 Great Queen Street in Holborn.²⁰

William died in 1911 in Swansea, Wales. His death was registered in the 4th quarter of that year.¹⁴ Harriet was living in Macclesfield when she died at the beginning of 1917. She was buried on 31st January 1917 in Fairfield Cemetery, Derbyshire.²¹

Arthur was born in 1839 in Exeter. His birth was registered in the 4th quarter of that year.¹⁴ In 1861, Arthur was in trouble financially. He had taken over his mother's printing business at 1 Upper Paul Street some time prior to 1860. The business was Letter Press, Lithographic & Copper Plate Printing.²² A newspaper report showed that he owed money to several persons not named. A Deed of Assignment was drawn up with his Trustees, Augustus Cridland, a Warehouse man, and George Cooper, a Wholesale Stationer, both of Exeter. The Deed "granted and assigned all his personal and real estate and effects" to Cridland and Cooper upon trust. The final sentence in the newspaper report states "All persons indebted to the said Arthur Welsford, are hereby required forthwith to pay the amount of their respective Debts to the said Trustees, or one of them, or to their Solicitors, and not to pay the same to the said Arthur Welsford".²³

Arthur may have moved to London very shortly after the newspaper announcement shown above but his monetary problem was to follow him in the press. On 15th March 1862, *The Sun, London*, reported him as a "Declared Bankrupt of Red Cross Square, Cripplegate". However, within one week two other

newspapers had given different addresses for Arthur when reporting about the said bankruptcy. On 19th March, the *Blackburn Standard*, gave his address as Barnsbury Road, London and 3 days later the *Northampton Mercury* named the address as Lower Brunswick Terrace.

On 25th September 1870, Arthur died at Gotha Villa, Portishead, Somerset, the home of his brother William and family. The *Western Daily Press* reported that he was the third son of John Welsford as they had not taken into account John's first son, William, who died when only three years old. Arthur was buried at Portishead on 1st October 1870.²⁴

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