

PERKINGS

Memorial 12

*"To the memory of Margaret wife of John Perkins who died Sep 29th 1791 aged 36.
And of Elizabeth second wife of the above who died Jan 4th 1830 aged 78.
Also of the above John Perkins who died March 21st 1832 aged 70."*¹

John Perkins or Perkins; the name is variously spelt in different documents, was born circa 1762. He was a plasterer and hellier by trade (a hellier is another term for a roofer, tiler or slater). On 30th May 1785 he married Margaret Way at St Nicholas, Bristol.² She may have been the daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Way who was baptised at Morchard Bishop, Devon, on 8th June 1755.³



John and Margaret had a daughter, Mary Way Perkins, who was baptised at St Mary Arches, Exeter on 12th August 1787⁴. At that time middle names were not very common but there was a strong tradition of giving a child its mother's maiden name as a second name. Little Mary was only four years old when she lost her mother; Margaret died at the age of 36 on 29th September 1791 and was buried on 2nd October (the burial register gives her age as 35) at the Dissenter's Graveyard.⁵

Just under three years later John married again; his new bride, Elizabeth Tucker, was a widow and was around ten years older than he was. They were married at St Mary Arches, Exeter on 9th July 1794.⁶

The family later moved into the parish of St Mary Major where John and Elizabeth would still be living in the early 1830's. Both were long-lived by the standards of the age. Elizabeth was

aged 78 when she died on 4th January 1830; she was buried on the 10th January at the Dissenter's Graveyard.⁷ Two years later John, then aged 70, died on 21st March 1832 and was buried at the Dissenter's Graveyard on 25th March.⁸

¹Memorial transcriptions 2014, 1984, 1894 - Exeter Dissenter's Graveyard Trust.

²England Marriages 1538-1973 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

³England Births and Baptisms 1538-1975 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

⁴Devon Baptisms: Archive reference 332A/PR/1/2 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

⁵England and Wales Non-Conformist Burials; Devon: Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births Baptisms and Burials. National Archives Reference: TNA/RG/4/965 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

⁶Devon Marriages accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

⁷England and Wales Non-Conformist Burials; Devon: Exeter, George's Meeting (Presbyterian): Births Baptisms and Burials. National Archive Reference: TNA/RG/4/1085 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

⁸England and Wales Non-Conformist Burials; Devon: Exeter, George's Meeting (Presbyterian): Births Baptisms and Burials. National Archive Reference: TNA/RG/4/1085 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

What became of Mary Perkins? On 23rd June 1822 at St Mary Major a marriage took place between Thomas Pitham, a joiner, and Mary Perkins⁹ but it is not clear whether this was John's daughter or not; there were several families with the same surname in Exeter some of whom were also buried in the Dissenter's Graveyard. Thomas and Mary lived at Frog Lane where they had a son, Thomas, who was baptised on 30th April 1823 at St Edmund, Exeter.¹⁰ Elizabeth Pitham, an infant, who was buried at the Dissenter's Graveyard on 6th May 1823¹¹ was probably also Thomas and Mary's child and the account book records a payment of 8 shillings for the grave "for Mr Perkins' grandchild" on the same day.¹²

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⁹Devon Marriages accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

¹⁰Devon Baptisms accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

¹¹England and Wales Non-Conformist Burials; Devon: Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births Baptisms and Burials. National Archives Reference: TNA/RG/4/965 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk June 2017

¹² DRO 3693D/0/B/1 Report and Account Book of Dissenters Burial Ground 1748 – 1832