

## Memorial 17

**Sacred  
to the memory of  
Catherine  
The Beloved wife of  
Samuel Treleaven of this city  
who died 11<sup>th</sup> Jany. 1840 aged 57<sup>1</sup>**

Catherine's husband Samuel was also buried in the Dissenters' graveyard on the 3rd of March in 1850, although his name was not added to the headstone.<sup>2</sup>

Catherine's maiden name was Baird. She was one of three children that we know of born to Alexander and Martha Baird. Catherine was baptised at St Stephen's church on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1781.<sup>3</sup> Her parents were married in 1776 and it is through the marriage register that we know Alexander was a bookbinder by trade. The entry reads, '*Alexander Baird of St. Olaves an extraparochial place adjoining, Bookbinder and Martha Lobb of the same, widow*'. They were married on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December at St Mary Arches church in Exeter.<sup>4</sup> Martha's first marriage was probably to Isaiah Lobb on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December in 1775 at St Mary Major.<sup>5</sup> Her maiden name was Weeks, and they were married less than three months before Isaiah died. He was buried on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 1776 in St. John's Exeter.<sup>6</sup>

Martha married Alexander just a few months later. We know nothing of their life together and she died at the relatively early age of forty in December 1797. Martha was buried on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December at St Mary Major.<sup>7</sup>

One probable record for Alexander's death was that of Alexander Beard who was buried at St. Sidwells on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 1813 at the age of sixty-eight. It was noted that he had come from the workhouse.<sup>8</sup>

Catherine, their daughter, married Samuel Treleaven on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1806, with John and Susan Treleaven, Samuel's father or brother and sister, as witnesses.<sup>9</sup> Catherine and Samuel were both listed as being of the parish of Allhallows on the Walls but as there was no physical church in that parish from the civil war until the mid-nineteenth century it is uncertain exactly where they married. Samuel the son of John and Grace Treleaven of Moretonhampstead, was one of six children, John the eldest, Richard, Silvester, William, and Susanna. He was baptised at the Cross Street Meeting House in Moretonhampstead on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1783.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 Inscription from the headstone.

<sup>2</sup> Georges Meeting Burial Register (DRO3693D/R1) [www.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.swheritage.org.uk)

<sup>3</sup> St Stephen's Parish Record Transcription accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>4</sup> Parish Records accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>5</sup> as note 4.

<sup>6</sup> as note 4.

<sup>7</sup> St Mary Major Parish Record accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>8</sup> as note 4. Baird and Beard appear to be interchangeable in some of the records.

<sup>9</sup> Parish Register for Allhallows on the Walls, Exeter accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk) (FMP)

<sup>10</sup> Cross Street Meeting Registers accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Samuel's father John was a hairdresser, bookseller, 'sub distributor of legal stamps' and the first postmaster for Moretonhampstead.<sup>11</sup> He married Grace Hutchings at Moretonhampstead on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1781.<sup>12</sup> Samuel moved to Exeter possibly to undertake an apprenticeship or for work. He was recorded in the Exeter Militia List of 1803 as a bookbinder, residing in the parish of Allhallows on the Walls, aged 23.<sup>13</sup> Had he had been apprenticed to Alexander Baird, or employed by him?

Samuel and Susannah's son Samuel was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1806 and baptised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. A daughter Susanna followed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1810 and was baptised on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March the same year. Both baptisms were at George's Meeting.<sup>14</sup>

The 1841 census shows Samuel living in North Street in the parish of St Kerrian in Exeter, with his son and daughter.<sup>15</sup> Catherine had died the year before.<sup>16</sup> He was listed as a printer with his son an accountant and daughter a milliner.

In 1847 their home in North Street is advertised to be let. *"It has been the well known domicile for 29 years ..... of that highly gifted and talented FOREMAN of the Flying Post, Samuel Treleaven Senior, Esq."*<sup>17</sup> An 1848 directory listed him as, *'Samuel Treleaven, sen, editor of the FLYING POST, newspaper, 2 Castle Terrace, New North Road.'*<sup>18</sup>



After yet another move to Hill's Court in St. David's parish, Samuel died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1850. It is only after his death that we discover more about Samuel and the remarkable man that he was. *"The death of Mr Samuel Treleaven was noticed this week. As the venerable reporter of The Flying Post, for more than half a century, he was familiar to most old inhabitants of Exeter. He was born at Moretonhampstead in 1783; his father being post-master of that town."*<sup>19</sup> *In his youth, his power of memory was extraordinary. At that time, short-hand was not in common use among reporters; and Mr Treleaven became invaluable, and famous, for his mental faculty of retaining long speeches and intricate statements, without the aid of written notes. Such was his public value; in private he was a mild, good natured, kindly man, whose loss will be regretted by those who have often worked at his side."*<sup>20</sup>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.moretonhampstead.org.uk/texts/people/treleavens.ghtml> accessed 7/4/2021.

<sup>12</sup> Moretonhampstead parish register accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>13</sup> Exeter Militia List 1803 W.G.Hoskins, Devon and Cornwall Record Society 1972. The amended Act for Defence and Security of the Realm required every Parish to return lists of the names of all men between the ages of 17 and 55 with their occupation and family status.

<sup>14</sup> Georges Meeting Baptism Records accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>15</sup> 1841 census accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>16</sup> Georges Meeting Burial Register 1832 – 1882 (DRO3693D/R1) [www.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.swheritage.org.uk)

<sup>17</sup> The Western Times: Exeter, Saturday, October 23, 1847, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>18</sup> Hunt & Co's Directory and Topography of Exeter and Bristol.... accessed via [www.googlebooks.co.uk](http://www.googlebooks.co.uk) 13/4/2021.

<sup>19</sup> The Western Times: Exeter Saturday March 9, 1850, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>20</sup> As note 19.

In 1861 when Mr Robert John Trewman died the history of the *Exeter Flying Post* was printed. It had started as the *Exeter Gazette* by Shirley Woolmer, originally a member of Castle Street Independent Meeting. In the article they noted that Samuel Treleaven had started out as a bookbinder on the paper before taking over the editorial, literary and reporting departments.<sup>21</sup>

In 1886 another article noted that he had been seconded into reporting after an emergency at the paper. It also noted “*Mr Treleaven had a remarkable gift of memory. He could repeat any sermon that he heard - albeit that being “a Unit” it was deemed no good to his soul - for in those days Unitarianism was a heresy over which Exeter went frantic – so for the rest of his days the honest citizen did his duty.*”<sup>22</sup>

### **Samuel and Susan Treleaven**

After Samuel’s death the 1851 census recorded Samuel Treleaven, the son, aged 44, as an accountant, living with his sister Susan at 10, Hills Court, St David’s, with one servant, Mary Brock.<sup>23</sup>

Samuel followed in his father’s footsteps, not only is he listed as an accountant, but he was also connected to the *Exeter Flying Post*, the Exeter Literary Society and as we will see later as a tutor.

Unfortunately, in May 1855 Samuel petitioned for bankruptcy to the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors. The *London Gazette* noted he is ‘late of 10, Hill’s Court’ and in the gaol.<sup>24</sup> In June the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* reported that ‘Samuel Treleaven, accountant and Professor of Languages, obtained his discharge. The cause of the insolvency was stated to be the depreciation in the value of Railway and Mining shares and other losses.’<sup>25</sup> He appears to have had money problems for the rest of his and Susan’s lives.

By 1857, they had moved to Paris Street and were teaching at the Protestant Dissenters’ Charity School on Paris Street; Samuel was Master of the Boys School and Susan Mistress of the Girls School. There were according to the *Exeter Pocket Journal and Almanack* for that year upwards of one hundred pupils.

By 1861 and 1871 they were living at 21 Magdalen Street before their final move to Lansdowne Terrace in St Leonard’s by 1881. Samuel and Susan continued as private tutors for those with ‘higher pursuits and for those who had missed education’.<sup>26</sup> Mary Stone Brock who lived with them up until their deaths gradually grew from a servant to a school assistant and by 1871, she was shown to be a boarder in their household. Was this because of the hard times they had fallen on?

Both brother and sister were obviously held in high esteem. A ‘Gratifying Testimonial’ appeared in 1872, ‘*we are pleased to state that the pupils of Miss Treleaven, 21 Magdalen-street, have on breaking up for the Christmas holidays, presented her with a handsome electro tea-pot, as an assurance of her esteem and affection.*’<sup>27</sup>

<sup>21</sup> The Western Times, Exeter; Saturday November 9, 1861 accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>22</sup> The Western Times: Exeter, Tuesday, February 2, 1886 accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>23</sup> 1851 census accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>24</sup> The London Gazette, 8 May 1855 <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/> accessed 10/4/2021.

<sup>25</sup> The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, June 23, 1855, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>26</sup> Advertisement in The Western Times; Exeter, Friday December 13, 1872, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>27</sup> Trewman’s Exeter Flying Post, December 18, 1872, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

By 1883 we find Samuel and Susan 'reduced by misfortunes and the infirmities of age to a state of great distress', Susan was now an invalid and they had given up teaching. Efforts were being made to

gain enough votes from local subscribers to submit in November of that year to the National Provident Institution to secure Samuel an annuity.<sup>28</sup> He was being supported by many of his ex-students in this petition, which unfortunately was unsuccessful that year. He was, however, granted £5 on account of his being one of the six most aged candidates!<sup>29</sup> Success followed the next year but Samuel and Susan's relief was short lived as Samuel died on August the 5<sup>th</sup> in 1885 at Lansdowne Terrace at the age of 79.<sup>30</sup>

**Samuel Treleaven<sup>31</sup>**

*A quiet labourer in the field of thought,  
Not caring much for all the golden grain,  
His eager eye by every wildflower caught,  
Bright in life's sunshine, calm in sorrow's rain;  
His whole life dwelling on a History past,  
With the wise words of great souls on his tongue,  
The wearied heart has joined his friends at last-  
The greyhaired pilgrim joined the ever-young,  
Let us think of him as an absent friend,  
A fellow worker gone to his last rest;  
And as all to the one refuge wend,  
Judge him - as we would all be – at his best.*

Frank Curzon<sup>32</sup> August 7, 1885.

Susan followed just a few years later 'at an advanced age' on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 1889.<sup>33</sup> They are buried together, in Exeter Higher Cemetery marked by a gravestone given by Mary Stone Brock. In the same grave a still born child of a Mrs Warren's was also laid to rest on the same day.<sup>34</sup> Apparently it was a common practice for a stillborn baby to be buried with a recently deceased woman, in the same coffin. Mrs Warren would probably never have known where her baby's grave was.<sup>35</sup>

B G Coe, September 2014

Revised by Anne Amosford, April 2021.

<sup>28</sup> Trewmans Exeter Flying Post, September 26, 1883, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>29</sup> Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Daily Telegram, Thursday December 6, 1883, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>30</sup> Death record accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>31</sup> The Western Times, Saturday, August 15, 1885, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>32</sup> Frank Curzon had known Samuel through the Exeter Literary Society which they amongst others were instrumental in starting [https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Biography/DevonPoets/Curzon\\_F](https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/Biography/DevonPoets/Curzon_F) accessed 13/4/2021.

<sup>33</sup> Exeter Flying Post March 9, 1889, accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>34</sup> <https://exeter.gov.uk/people-and-communities/bereavements-services/burial-index-cards/>

<sup>35</sup> Information supplied by Friends of Higher cemetery.